Explanation of variances 2025/26

Name of smaller authority: ALCESTER TOWN COUNCIL

Insert figures from Section 2 of the AGAR in all Blue highlighted boxes

Now, please provide full explanations, including numerical values, for the following that will be flagged in the green boxes where relevant:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £500);
- variances of more than £100,000 must be explained even where this constitutes less than 15%;

Please ensure variance explanations are quantified to reduce the variance excluding stated items below the 15% / £500 / £100,000 threshold

	2026 £	2025 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation Required? Is > 15%	Is > £100,000	DO NOT OVERWRITE THE BOXES HIGHLIGHTED IN RED/GREEN	Explanation (must include narrative and supporting figures) Note: If an explanation is required for the variance of Box 4 and the explanation refers to a change in hours or a change in pay rates, please could you note the previous hours/rates and the updated hours/rates
1 Balances Brought Forward	247,338	254,698					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	410,120	369,340	40,780	11.04%	NO	NO		
3 Total Other Receipts	104,559	192,442	-87,883	45.67%	YES	NO		The Town Council had unusual one-off income in 2025 which was not repeated in 2026. This included £20,750 Rural England Prosperity Fund grant for the squash courts renovation; £25,757 UK Shared Prosperity Fund grant for the Rural Enterprise Hub and £38,917 s106 grant for public open spaces.
4 Staff Costs	252,576	228,323	24,253	10.62%	NO	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	20,120	31,553	-11,433	36.23%	YES	NO		The loan repayment figure for 2025 was higher than usual due to one repayment being taken on 2nd April 2024 rather than 31st March 2024 as expected. Please see reporting explanation last year. The loan repayment figure for 2026 has returned to its normal level.
6 All Other Payments	219,609	309,266	-89,657	28.99%	YES	NO		The reduction in Receipts from 2025 to 2026 reported for Box 3 above resulted in a reduction in Payments accordingly. In 2025, one-off exceptional expenditure was incurred for squash court renovation £20,750, rural enterprise hub project £25,757, footpath resurfacing £17,942 and new play equipment £23,843. This expenditure was not repeated in 2026.
7 Balances Carried Forward	269,712	247,338	22,374	9.05%	NO	NO		
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	267,137	248,065	19,072	7.69%	NO	NO		
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets	680,426	679,270	1,156	0.17%	NO	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	72,698	90,344	-17,646	19.53%	YES	NO		The Town Council had three separate loans with the Public Works Loan Board. One was repaid during the year resulting in a reduction of total borrowings. One of the other loans is also nearing repayment therefore in line with the annuity repayment system more capital than interest is being repaid on that loan.