

Explanation of variances – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Royston Town Council**

County area (local councils and pari **Hertfordshire**

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

Next, 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 £200);
- **New from 2020/21:** variances of £100,000 or more require explanation regardless of the % variation year on year;
- a breakdown of approved reserves on the next tab if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

| | 2019/20 £ | 2020/21 £ | Variance £ | Variance % | Explanation Required? | Automatic responses trigger below based on figures input. DO NOT OVERWRITE THESE BOXES | Explanation from smaller authority (must include narrative and supporting figures) |
|--|--------------|--------------|---------------|---------------|--------------------------|---|---|
| 1 Balances Brought Forward | 529,341 | 552,091 | | | | | |
| 2 Precept or Rates and Levies | 305,934 | 317,910 | 11,976 | 3.91% | NO | | |
| 3 Total Other Receipts | 255,010 | 191,415 | -63,595 | 24.94% | YES | | The Council's income streams were reduced due to COVID 19. The halls had to be closed losing hiring income of £45,103 compared to the previous year and car parking income was reduced by £18,662 compared to the previous year. |
| 4 Staff Costs | 332,623 | 213,241 | -119,382 | 35.89% | YES | | A member of staff was made redundant in 2019/20 which incurred extraordinary one off redundancy costs of a £12,600 redundancy payment and £45,474 early retirement pension top up costs. This has also meant that the annual salary, pension and NI costs of £56,380 have also been saved. This totals savings of £114,454 in the latest year which accounts for the majority of the difference in staff costs. Other small reductions were seen due to the council's halls being closed because of COVID 19 and therefore fewer caretaker wages were paid. |
| 5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment | 19,114 | 19,114 | 0 | 0.00% | NO | | |
| 6 All Other Payments | 186,457 | 192,813 | 6,356 | 3.41% | NO | | |
| 7 Balances Carried Forward | 552,091 | 636,248 | | | YES | VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED EXPLANATION REQUIRED ON RESERVES TAB AS TO WHY CARRY FORWARD RESERVES ARE GREATER THAN TWICE INCOME FROM LOCAL TAXATION/LEVIES | |
| 8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments | 548,266 | 627,969 | | | | VARIANCE EXPLANATION NOT REQUIRED | |
| 9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets | 3,983,851 | 3,968,055 | -15,796 | 0.40% | NO | | |
| 10 Total Borrowings | 256,887 | 247,986 | -8,901 | 3.46% | NO | | |