

Explanation of variances

Name of smaller body: Harden Parish Council

The 'Practitioners' Guide' provides guidance on explaining significant variances. **Please provide full explanations, including numerical values**, for the following:

- variances of more than 15% between totals for individual boxes (except variances of less than £200);
- if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept value (Box 2).

Section 2	2014/15 £	2015/16 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
Box 2 <i>Precept or Rates and Levies</i>	7,800	11,745	3,945	51	<p>Harden's precept had been the same since the Parish Council was formed in 2007. Following increased spend on projects in 2014/15, including playground equipment, budget forecasts revealed that reserves would be substantially diminished.</p> <p>Salary and fixed expenditure amounted to £6,800 effectively leaving the Council with £1,000 per annum to fund activity.</p> <p>The Parish Council made an informed decision to increase the precept to ensure funds were available for future projects.</p>
Box 3 <i>Total other receipts</i>	3,674	2,391	1,283	35	<p>One off project grants received in 2014/15 were not duplicated in 2015/16 including Bradford MDC (Memorial Hall) £1,000, Village Society (playground) £2,406 and Harden WI (benches) £240. Total = £3,646</p> <p>Additional other income received in year included one off YLCA Transparency Code payment of £902, VAT repayment of £914, compensation payment of £100, environmental grant of £170 and support grant of £300. Total = £2,386</p>
Box 4 <i>Staff costs</i>	4,498	4,295	203	5	n/a
Box 5 <i>Loan interest/ capital repayments</i>	0	0	-	-	n/a
Box 6 <i>All other payments</i>	7,821	4,011	3,810	49	<p>The Parish Council incurred less project expenditure in 2015/16. In 2014/15 spend included playground renovation £5,500, World War 1 project £607 and Memorial Hall decoration £1,236. In 2015/16 the</p>

					Council budgeted for updating the parish plan and preliminary work on the war memorial (listing and repairs), to be taken forward by Cllr Kirkham. Due to her serious illness, these matters were not progressed in the year.
Box 9 <i>Total fixed assets & long term investments & assets</i>	3,506	2,957	549	16	An obsolete Toshiba laptop was disposed of in March 2016. Original asset value £549.
Box 10 <i>Total borrowings</i>	0	0	-	-	n/a
Explanation for 'high' reserves	Box 7 is 17,487 (less than twice Box 2) therefore no explanation required.				