Explanation of variances 2025/26 – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **SPELSBURY PARISH 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	8,725	8,438					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	11,642	9,217	2,425	26.31%	YES	NO		Precept increased in 2025/26 through budgeting process. Clerk employment increased from £5510 to £5812 to allow for SCP increase and national increase. Adminstration increased from £709 to £739 to allow for contractual increases. Subscriptions increased from £200 to £285 to allow for Parish Online mapping software subscription and allowance for subscription increases. Parish maintenance decreased from £930 to £850, due to removal of bin collection service, this was partially offset by increase in allowance for general maintenance and playground inspection. Hall hire cost was increased from £160 to £180 to allow for hall hire rate increase. Website and email was reduced from £588 to £315 due to a change in provider. Asset line was increased from £0 to £500 to start to allow for replacement playground equipment. Project line was increased from £0 to £1860 to allow for replacement batteries for the SID, legal costs for the playground lease and replacement parts for the defibrillator.
3 Total Other Receipts	384	134	250	186.57%	YES	NO	Explanation not required, difference less than £500	
4 Staff Costs	5,822	5,529	293	5.30%	NO	NO		
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO		
6 All Other Payments	3,848	3,535	313	8.85%	NO	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	11,081	8,725	2,356	27.00%	YES	NO		Balances brought forward increased due to increase in precept. Some monies received in this financial year have been transferred into EMRs, £2710. Defibrillator - £260, playground lease - £1,500, asset replacement/maintenance - £500, parish maintenance - £350.
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	11,081	8,725	2,356	27.00%	YES	NO		Bank balance has increased due to increase in precept, with some monies received this financial year transferred into EMRs, as noted above
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets	20,831	20,494	337	1.64%	NO	NO		
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO		