Explanation of variances 2025/26 – pro forma

Name of smaller authority: **Royal Sutton Coldfield 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 RESTATED £	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	4,626,695	4,315,074					Explanation of % variance from PY opening balance not required - Balance brought forward agrees	
2 Precept or Rates and Levies	2,250,599	1,870,702	379,897	20.31%	YES	YES		Council approved a Precept rise for 2025/26 at their meeting in Dec 2024 The Band D Precept for 2024/5 was £49.96 this rose by £10 to £59.96 for 2025/26 Council tax base 2024/25 37,444 x £49.96 = £1,870,702 Council tax base 2025/26 37,535 x £59.96 = £2,250,599 This followed a public consultation in Sept 2024 where residents supported an increase in the precept towards maintaining local amenities in light of projected cuts from the City Council.
3 Total Other Receipts	572,601	663,360	-90,759	13.68%	NO	NO		
4 Staff Costs	528,587	370,864	157,723	42.53%	YES	YES		No change in FTE. Increased costs relate to full year cost of all 7.5 FTE (4 members of staff recruited during 2024/25)
5 Loan Interest/Capital Repayment	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO		
6 All Other Payments	1,812,172	1,851,577	-39,405	2.13%	NO	NO		
7 Balances Carried Forward	5,109,136	4,626,695	482,441	10.43%	NO	YES		Earmarked reserves were increased by £357,398 during the year and there was an increase of £126,814 in Pride in Place Capacity Building Funds. Earmarked Reserves were increased to support key objectives in the Town Council's Strategic Plan that was approved in 2024. Significant increases include - £211k for Library and Community Centre Provision. The Town Council launched its own service in November 2025 when the City Council announced closure of three library sites in the town. £100k Heritage Restoration works. For repairs, improvements and increased access to Vesey Gardens - an asset that is due to transfer to the Town Council from the City Council. Pride in Place is a government initiative - the Town Council is the responsiblity body for the funding but the programme is ran by an independent Board. These funds are received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, and are ringfenced.
8 Total Cash and Short Term Investments	5,813,855	5,005,418	808,437	16.15%	YES	YES		An increase in funds held for Earmarked Reserves some ringfenced funds received from the Government's Pride in Place programme.
9 Total Fixed Assets plus Other Long Term Investments and Assets	132,609	159,513	-26,904	16.87%	YES	NO		The Asset Register contains long term loans made to the Town Hall. Repayments made during the 2025/26 amount to £29,000. 2 New laptops were purchased during the year at a cost of £2,096 and added to the Asset Register.
10 Total Borrowings	0	0	0	0.00%	NO	NO		