

## Explanation of variances – pro forma for local councils

### Ashton Hayes and Horton cum Peel Parish Council

The JPAG 'Practitioners' Guide' (paragraph 2.15 onwards) provides guidance on explaining significant variances. Please provide explanations 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).

<b>Section 1</b>	<b>2015/16 £</b>	<b>2016/17 £</b>	<b>Variance £</b>	<b>Variance %</b>	<b>Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)</b>
<b>Box 2</b> <i>Precept</i>	13345	13345	0	0	The Precept remained static this financial year
<b>Box 3</b> <i>Other receipts</i>	8272	1542	-6730	-81.3	The New Homes bonus ceased to be available to Parish Councils. Amounts received in grants towards the Neighbourhood Development Plan in the previous financial year were not required as the plan reached its final stages.
<b>Box 4</b> <i>Staff costs</i>	3738	4858	1120	30	This was the first full financial year following the appointment of a permanent clerk in November 2015. Additional hours were worked in September 2016 due to increased workload because of two extra meetings involving the Golden Lion and the Ashton House nursery and hours were subsequently increased by 5 per month.
<b>Box 5</b> <i>Loan interest/ capital repayments</i>	0	0	0	0	N/a
<b>Box 6</b> <i>Other payments</i>	8846	10593	1747	19.7	The main area of additional spend was the Parish Council support for legal fees associated with the prospective purchase of the WI Site, £1706.
<b>Box 9</b> <i>Fixed assets &amp; long term assets</i>	364	489	125	34	Addition of a new Canon all in one printer purchased with a grant received at the end of the 15/16 financial year.
<b>Box 10</b> <i>Borrowings</i>	0	0	0	0	N/a
<b>Explanation for 'high' reserves</b>	The council is presently supporting a working group who are looking at options to re-instate the only pub in the village, The Golden Lion. At present the council has committed £5000 to this project in the budget for the 2017/18 financial year. The council has also not yet spent the full grant allocated to the transparency code and will be purchasing a laptop with the funding received. In addition to this the council has seen a significant reduction in funding available through the New Homes Budget and grant sources. The budget for 2017/18 will draw on an additional £6446 from reserves in addition to the precept.				