

## Explanation of variances 2025/2026

### Long Buckby Parish Council - Northamptonshire

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);
- a breakdown of approved reserves if the total reserves (Box 7) figure is more than twice the annual precept/rates & levies value (Box 2).

Section 2	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Detailed explanation of variance (with amounts £)
<b>Box 2</b> <i>Precept or Rates and Levies</i>	£142,125	£196,316	£ 54,191	38%	It was agreed by the PC at the budget meeting that the Reserves needed to be increased to a more suitable level and that a separate budget centre be generated for 2026-27 for infrastructure funds as there are plans to purchase the Library building.
<b>Box 3</b> <i>Total other receipts</i>	£36,159	£37,663	£ 1,504	4%	N/A
<b>Box 4</b> <i>Staff Costs</i>	£19,381	£ 26,618	£7,237	37%	The Clerk had an annual appraisal in 2025-26 which meant an increase in working hours per week and the website updating. This review also put the Clerk back on to the SCP pay scales which she was below for several years.
<b>Box 5</b> <i>Loan interest/ capital repayments</i>	Nil	Nil			N/A
<b>Box 6</b> <i>All other payments</i>	£177,749	£172,699	£5,050	3%	N/A
<b>Box 7</b> <i>Balances carried forward</i>	£100,605	£135,267	£34,662	34%	A higher precept in 2025-26 allowed services to continue to be maintained to a very good level, with funding continuing to be provided to the local charities and groups without an impact on the parish funds and allowing the reserves to carry forward to 2026-27.
<b>Box 9</b> <i>Total fixed assets &amp; long term investments &amp; assets</i>	£118,766	£118,766	£0	0%	The figure for 2024-25 was restated to the correct figure following a review of the Asset Register, which resulted in the Public Toilets building being reduced to the gifted value of £1.
<b>Explanation for 'high' reserves</b>	N/A				

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