

NEASHAM PARISH COUNCIL

Analysis of Significant Year-on-Year Variances - Year Ended 31 March 2026

Basis of preparation: Figures are rounded to the nearest pound for AGAR Section 2. The 2024/25 figures are prior-year AGAR comparators. The 2025/26 figures are based on the 2025/26 cashbook, bank reconciliation and supporting finance workbook. The VAT refund not received by 31 March 2026 is not included in cash balances on a receipts-and-payments basis.

AGAR box	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation
1. Balances brought forward	17,665	20,241	+2,576	+14.6%	Brought forward from the previous year AGAR closing balance. The 2025/26 figure uses the prior-year AGAR comparator consistently.
2. Precept	10,470	11,000	+530	+5.1%	Increase following the Council's 2025/26 budget-setting process. This is below the usual explanation threshold.
3. Total other receipts	399	38	-361	-90.5%	Significant variance. 2025/26 includes the £37.55 correction/receipt, rounded to £38. No VAT refund had been received by 31 March 2026; £926.88 remains outstanding and is not included on a cash basis.
4. Staff costs	2,903	3,156	+253	+8.7%	Staff costs increased due to salary/PAYE payments during the year. This is below the usual explanation threshold.
5. Loan interest / capital repayments	0	0	0	0.0%	No loan repayments in either year.

AGAR box	2024/25 £	2025/26 £	Variance £	Variance %	Explanation
6. All other payments	5,390	10,893	+5,503	+102.1%	Significant variance. Main cause: replacement speed sign project - Elan City £5,160 plus DBC fitting works £401.28. Other 2025/26 spend included village/community events £1,350, J. Weighell memorial £807.98, garden/maintenance and general supplies.
7. Balances carried forward	20,241	17,230	-3,011	-14.9%	Balances reduced because payments exceeded income during the year, mainly due to the speed sign project and wider village/event/maintenance expenditure.
8. Cash and short-term investments	20,241	17,230	-3,011	-14.9%	Agrees to the year-end cash position and mirrors Box 7, as the accounts are prepared on a receipts-and-payments basis.
9. Fixed assets and long-term assets	31,797	36,957	+5,160	+16.2%	Significant variance. Asset register value increased from £31,797 to £36,957, reflecting the addition of replacement speed signs recorded during 2025/26.
10. Total borrowings	0	0	0	0.0%	No borrowings in either year.

Summary narrative for publication

The main year-on-year movement in 2025/26 was the increase in all other payments, largely due to the replacement speed sign project and related fitting costs. Overall reserves fell from £20,241 to £17,230 because payments exceeded income during the year. Other receipts were lower than the previous year because no VAT refund had been received by 31 March 2026; the VAT reclaim was still outstanding at year end. The Council had no borrowings.

Fixed assets increased from £31,797 to £36,957 in line with the asset register additions recorded for 2025/26.