

## Canvey Island Town Council - Essex

Explanation of significant variations on the Annual Return for the year to 31 March 2026

### Box 3 – Total other receipts

Variation increased by £6,312.

Variance of 20.69%

Description	2024/25	2025/26	Variance
Allotment Income	4116	4508	392
Donations	1254	0	-1254
Garden Trail Brochure Donations	285	856	571
Christmas Donations/Sponsorship	2970	2775	-195
CIL Income	3057	19832	16775
Grants Received	11495	3839	-7656
Interest Received	3623	3864	241
Misc. Income	3712	1150	-2562
<b>Total:</b>	<b>30511</b>	<b>36823</b>	<b>6312</b>

The Council have been unfortunate in 2025/26 with grant funding compared to last year, however, the most significant increase in income for 2025/26 is the CIL funds received increasing from £3,057 to £19,932 this financial year.

### Box 6 – All other payments

Variation increased by £27,330.

Variance of 16.44%

Description	2024/25	2025/26	Variance
Staff Training	1150	935	-215
Staff Expenses	33	20	-13
Rates	10729	0	-10729
Premises Costs	13981	6423	-7558
Premises Rent - Office	20617	8625	-11992
Telephone/Broadband	2165	2278	113
Stationery and Postage	810	986	176
Photocopier	2455	2508	53
Insurance	3016	2658	-358
Advert/Publicity/newsletter	100	83	-17
IT Costs	2446	2055	-391
Office Equipment/Clothing	457	6553	6096
Payroll administration costs	276	299	23
Internal Audit	430	430	0
External Audit	0	2035	2035
Vehicle Tax/Insurance/MOT	994	1039	45
Vehicle Expenses	123	208	85
General Expenses	25	75	50
Election Expenses	0	13540	13540
Members Training	0	212	212

Town Mayor Allowance	0	150	150
Subscriptions	3274	3256	-18
Room Hire	0	699	699
Lake General Maintenance	3941	12390	8449
Sea Front Gardens	6000	7730	1730
Christmas Events	9417	8353	-1064
Festive Lighting	10295	10270	-25
General Events Programme	393	651	258
Armed Forces	2122	2603	481
Hanging Baskets/Planter Maintenance	8705	8605	-100
Garden Trail	1129	1054	-75
Tidal Pool/Beach	6070	6070	0
Lake-Litter/Grass Maintenance	36367	39581	3214
CIWCG Partnership	500	500	0
Community Award / ATM	392	200	-192
Tidal Pool Joints	0	120	120
Lake - Play Area	200	370	170
Community Engagement Events	40	0	-40
Events Equipment	254	987	733
The Gunny Project	624	0	-624
Community Garden	39	36	-3
Wildflower Meadow	1520	1735	215
Allotment Costs	2752	3264	512
Band Stand	3715	3680	-35
Allotment Land	116	0	-116
Covid-19 Memorial Garden	2475	2107	-368
Grants	2000	1280	-720
Non-Budgeted Expenses	1036	6420	5384
The Gunny Project	3028	350	-2678
Project Management/Consultation	0	20117	20117
<b>Total:</b>	<b>166208</b>	<b>193538</b>	<b>27330</b>

The most significant increases in the year apart from average price increases have been costs for a By-Election of £13,540 and a Community Consultation project of £20,117. The Council moved office in March 2025 which has seen a decrease in its premises costs such as rates, rent and utility costs due to leasing space in an existing community building. This move has, however, incurred a slight increase in costs for office equipment for the replacement or purchase of new equipment/signage needed as part of the move and hall hire costs as we no longer have our own meeting space for Council meetings.

The external audit return was received late for 2024/25, and the cost of this audit was not paid to the correct financial year therefore this is showing as double in 2025/26. There has been an increase in maintenance requirements for the Canvey Lake open space following a recent tree audit which incurred costs not anticipated

There has also been an increase in non-budgeted expenditure for the purchase of items offset by grant funding received in 2024/25 and the current year of £3093.95 and a fee of £3326.00 charged for work to investigate a complaint made regarding the 2023/24 Annual Return.