

4 October 2018

Dear Colleague

PARISH ESTIMATES 2019/20

In accordance with usual practice, I enclose the Form P1 for completion on behalf of your Parish Council or Meeting. Please complete two copies of the P1; retain one copy for your records and return the other copy to us as soon as possible, and no later than 18 January 2019. If you have no precept requirements for 2019/20, please send back a nil return.

The Localism Act 2011 abolished Whitehall capping in England and instead provides local residents with a power to approve or veto excessive council tax rises. The main principle to be determined relates to the increase in Band D council tax (subject to certain adjustments) from one year to the next. The principles will be set out in the local government finance settlement in December, against which each local authority must determine whether its council tax is excessive by reference to the principles and, if so, arrange for a referendum to be held. For 2018/19 the Government increased the local authority tax referendum threshold for shire districts from 2% to 3%. The threshold is not yet known for 2019/20.


Parish Councils/Meetings ought to note that the Borough Council is required to include Parish precepts in its return to the Government of total spending plans. Whilst parish precepts have not so far been subject to the referendum threshold, the Government retains the power to apply the threshold to precepts of parish councils if it deems this necessary. This means that only essential increases in parish spending ought to be considered by parish councils.

The Council Taxbase for each Parish (that is the number of chargeable properties expressed as a full-year equivalent number of Band D dwellings, net of discounts etc.) will be assessed by the Borough Council in mid-December and will be available to you upon request. The Council Tax resulting from your Parish precept will continue to be shown separately on the Council Tax bills.

As was the case in 2017/18, the Borough Council will not be issuing any council tax support grant to parishes and, as such, the precept you demand will be wholly charged to tax payers.

Guidance notes are enclosed. If you have any queries as to how Form P1 should be completed, please do not hesitate to contact Angela Evans on 01423 500600 ext. 58563 or email: angela.evans@harrogate.gov.uk .

Yours faithfully



GRAHAM BYRNE
Corporate Finance Manager