

Notice of Motion No. 36

Capping Town and Parish Councils

From Baroness Scott of Bybrook OBE and Councillor John Thomson

To consider the following motion received in accordance with the Council's Constitution:

"The Council has received notification of a consultation from the Department for Communities and Local Government which includes the suggestion that a referendum would be needed if a Town and Parish Council wished to increase its precept by more than 2 per cent.

Specifically;

- For the first time, referendum principles will apply to Town and Parish councils for which the Band D charge is higher than £75.46 and the total precept is over £500,000.
- However, those Town and Parish councils where a service had been transferred from a local authority would not be subject to the referendum principle, providing certain conditions are satisfied.
- The government is also prepared to consider extending the referendum principles to all Town and Parish councils.

Preamble

Towns and Parishes receive no government money therefore the level of precept should be decided locally and not by government. As far as a referendum is concerned this would impose extra costs on the Town or Parish that chooses to have one, putting additional pressure on the precept.

Towns and Parishes are the core of local democracy and should not be fettered and undermined by government.

Motion

That Council agrees that a cap should not be imposed on town and parish councils, that it responds to the consultation robustly and uses other contacts to influence the consultation.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/consultations/local-government-finance-settlement-2017-to-2018-technical-consultation>