

**ERNLLCA**

**REFERENDA PRINCIPLES**

**CALL FOR EVIDENCE**

ERNLLCA has been advised that the Government is, once again, to revisit the issue of whether or not parish and town councils should be subjected to referenda principles where any increase in the precept is in excess of 2%.

We contributed to a very successful campaign last year to discourage Government from going down this route. The Government has now published figures which show that the average Band D council tax for 2017/2018 has increased by 6.3% - for further information see

<file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/170329%20Council%20Tax%20level%20-%20HL6249.pdf>

Whilst 6.3% may seem a large increase, its monetary value is £3.63 per year!

In order to, yet again, persuade Government that applying referenda principles is unnecessary, we have to gather evidence to show that increases over 2% are needed to support local communities. To that end we have devised a very short questionnaire which I urge your council to complete.

**Please complete and return this form by Thursday 19 May 2017**, even if your council did not increase its precept above 5%.

**Without hard evidence, we will not be able to persuade Government to allow local people to make local decisions about local issues.**

The form is shown overleaf and is available on the ERNLLCA website.

Alan Barker  
Executive Officer  
ERNLLCA  
Suite 8  
Waters Edge Business Centre  
Malkin Road  
Barton upon Humber  
DN18 5JR

Tel: 01652 661617  
Email: [enquiries@ernllca.info](mailto:enquiries@ernllca.info)  
Website: [www.ernllca.info](http://www.ernllca.info)

18 April 2017

## REFERENDA PRINCIPLES - CALL FOR EVIDENCE

Name of Council:	
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Did your council increase its precept for 2017/2018 by more than 2%?	Yes	No
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If Yes, for what reason (please tick as many boxes as are appropriate):

Taken on a devolved service from the principal authority	
Developed a new service, using existing parish council powers, such as allotments or managing a closed churchyard	
New capital project which incurred borrowing and running costs	
Increased employment costs (pensions, NI etc)	
Rescued a failing local charity or voluntary group	
Increased the precept to help fund local organisations with their running costs	
Loss of Council Tax Support Grant	
Other (please provide details)	

Position of person completing this form (Chairman/Councillor/Clerk)	
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