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Understanding town and parish council precepts January 2013

January each year sees most town and parish councils approving their precept for the coming financial year which starts in April. Setting the precept is the end of the the budgeting process which good councils started in June/July of the previous year and involved their communities.

Some councils struggle to appreciate the details of how the precept is calculated and applied to residents.

CPALC (Communities, Parish and Local Councils) has 3 detailed explanations available to members.

“How is the precept calculated?” is a detailed example of how a town or parish budget is converted into the council tax band D amount

“How is the town or parish precept collected?” explains how the precept is collected from residents in the parish.

“How is the town or parish precept authorised?” covers the specific requirements of authorising the precept.

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