

Council

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The Rt Hon Sajid Javid MP

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D ~ D ~ d, J. m., Stan,

Thank you for your letter of 8 March about the Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014, which I read with interest.

These Regulations were introduced in order that authorities included in their standing orders the requirement to record any votes on the budget, taken at their budget meeting. It's important that, as part of the democratic process, decisions made by members are transparent and accessible to the local electorate. This is key in ensuring members retain the confidence of those whom they were elected by.

As such, there will be a record, in the minutes of the meeting, of how each member present voted on the budget (such as how they voted on the council tax or the issuing of the precept in the case of precepting authorities). The policy aim was to increase the transparency and accountability of local authority decision making on the critical issues of the annual budget setting out its spending decisions and the setting of council tax. With recorded votes, electors and local taxpayers are able to clearly see how those who represent them voted on the issue of the local tax which impacts directly on all council taxpayers in the area.

There are no current plans to revoke this requirement.

RT HON SAJID JAVID MP

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