



Keighley Town Council

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Sent by Email

Chairmen & Clerks

Town & Parish Councils within Bradford MDC District

26 August 2022

Dear Chairman & Clerk

Precept Payments – Local Council Charter

Ahead of the next Parish Liaison meeting, I wanted to provide some information to colleagues regarding an item we have asked to be placed on the agenda for discussion. The item relates to the payment of the annual precept to town and parish councils.

The current charter states in Appendix 4 paragraph 7 that: -

All local precepts will be collected by Bradford Council. Providing a Local Council's budget requirement is less than £250,000 the full amount will be paid over to the Local Council by the middle of April. If it is over £250,000, a first instalment of £250,000 will be paid in April and the balance in October.

For the current financial year, the Keighley Town Council precept is £729,824. Under the current arrangement we received £250,000 in April with the remaining £479,824 being paid in October. In practical terms this required the town council to operate for 6 months of the year on 34% of our overall income.

In the short term, this is manageable via the use of reserves for day-to-day cash flow, but it isn't sustainable in the long term.

Earlier this year I raised the issue with the Director of Finance at Bradford MDC, who advised the Parish Charter would need amending and a bespoke arrangement wasn't possible.

I appreciate this is a very niche issue to Keighley and doesn't impact the majority of town and parish councils within the Bradford District, but I am asking for your support in proposing an amendment to paragraph 7 in Appendix 4.



My proposal would be to amend paragraph 7 to read as follows: -

All local precepts will be collected by Bradford Council. Providing a Local Council's budget requirement is less than £250,000 the full amount will be paid over to the Local Council by the middle of April.

If it is between £250,000 and £500,000 a first instalment of £250,000 will be paid in April and the balance in October. If it is over £500,000 50% will be paid in April and 50% paid in October.

With the additional clause I don't think any town or parish council will receive any reduction in their precept payments made each April. I am hopeful your council will support the amendment to the Parish Charter and recommend that Bradford MDC adopt the amendment ahead of 2023/24 financial year.

If possible, please can the letter be shared with your chairman and/or your representative on the Parish Liaison Group.

I have cc'd the letter to Jonathan Hayes, Parish Liaison Group Co-ordinator and Councillor Abdul Jabar the Chairman of the Parish Liaison Group.

Should you have questions please don't hesitate to contact me.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joe Cooney', written in a cursive style.

Joe Cooney
Town Clerk