

Item 11

To: Members of the Parish Councils Association
12 June 2006

PRECEPT NOTIFICATIONS AND COUNCIL TAX

The task of preparing the budget for 2006/07 was made easier by the co-operation of almost all colleagues in the parish councils who were able to notify me of their precept requests by the due date in early December 2005. I would first therefore wish to thank the clerks and chairs of all those councils for their assistance in this matter.

It is unfortunate that one parish was unable to meet not just that deadline but despite reminders in fact never did submit a written request for a precept. In the event, this parish did receive a similar precept payment to that paid in 2005/06 although such an arrangement would not necessarily pertain in future.

Such situations are however inherently unsatisfactory. The parish itself may not receive sufficient precept monies for its needs whilst the City Council must engage in unnecessary additional administrative work in chasing up any missing notifications. In recent years parish councils have generally adapted extremely well to the requirements of the earlier notification regime in terms of their precepts and I am sure I can anticipate similar assistance from colleagues in the parishes later in the year.

You will be aware that parish precepts are classed as part of the City Council's General Fund expenditure and are incorporated within the City Council's own estimates of expenditure as presented to Council. The 2007/08 budget timetable is expected to be broadly similar to that in 2006/07. Thus in order to meet this timetable I will require notification of all precepts not later than **1 December 2006**.

I will be writing to you all in the early autumn to formally request your precept information and enclosing the necessary documentation. This means however that your precept setting parish meeting needs to be held by the end of November at the very latest in order to comply with this deadline.

I would be grateful if at this stage you could make a note of this date in planning your precept setting meeting.

Finally you will wish to note that the arrangements for the distribution of concurrent grant are well in hand. Details of burial expenditure have been requested by 26 May and, assuming these are received, I anticipate that payments will be made to all qualifying parishes by the end of June at the latest. If the sums are available, I hope to be able to notify parishes of their entitlements at the meeting.

A BROWN
Director of Corporate Services

Corporate Services
Carlisle City Council
23 May 2006
DKS/CH
Acc / Parish Councils / PCA – Precept Notification 2006-07