



New Romney Town Council – Press Release



Precept 2016-17

New Romney Town Council can confirm that it has set its precept for 2016-17 at £158,170.00, despite rising costs to the Town Council and engagement in a number of on-going capital projects which will bring new amenities to the Town, as well as the requirement, during 2016, to comply with new auto-enrolment legislation. This Precept requirement for 2016-17 will, regrettably, result in an increase in the Town Council element of the Council Tax which equates to an increase of 8.84% on the average Band D Council Tax Bill. This, in real terms, equates to an increase of £5.00 per year or £0.50 per month spread over the 10 month payment period.

New Romney Town Councillors were very mindful of the current economic climate when recommending committee budgets and in, therefore, achieving only a small cost-of-living increase of 2.0%, despite ever-increasing costs to the Council and ensuring that the Town Council continues to engage in undertaking a number of capital projects that will enhance and improve the local area and benefit the local community. However, it has also been necessary for the Town Council to plan financially to comply with new legislation that requires auto-enrolment of all eligible staff into a pension scheme during the forthcoming financial year, the associated costs of which – not only in respect of pension contributions but in either additional staff hours relating to the management of auto-enrolment and pensions or the contracting out of payroll services due to the complicated and on-going nature of additional responsibilities that this legislation brings – have resulted in an unavoidable additional funding requirement.

The total Town Council budget for 2016-17 was set at £164,470.00. However, it was agreed that £6,300.00 be funded from the Precept Reserve Fund in order to off-set any increase to the local tax-payer as previously promised. Taking into careful consideration Shepway District Council's Band D Tax Base Calculations, the Town Council was, therefore, able to approve a Precept that, despite taking account of the substantial and unavoidable financial challenges which auto-enrolment has presented, has resulted in the smallest possible increase to local tax-payers.

Councillor Patricia Rolfe, Mayor of New Romney, observed: 'Despite ever-increasing financial pressures, New Romney Town Council has set its 2016/17 budget and balanced the need to adhere to Government imposed legislation with the duty to maintain Council-owned assets and amenities.'

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