

SLCC

For Local Council Professionals

Local Markets, Local Councils and the High Street

September 2020

Update

- Covid-19 response
- Impact
- Code of conduct
- What's ahead

Covid-19 response

Open resource

Coronavirus (COVID-19)

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[Cemetery Management during Coronavirus Restrictions](#)

[Coronavirus Act 2020](#)

[Job Retention Scheme](#)

Covid-19 response

- Open Covid-19 resource
- ~ 50 new webinars
- Representation: audit, AGAR (through JPAG and SAAA)
- Close liaison with NALC: advice and lobbying

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Robert Smith
Chief Executive Officer

8 The Crescent

The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
& Local Government
2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

22 April 2020

Sent by email to robert.jenrick@communities.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Coronavirus Pandemic: Financial Support for Local Councils

The SLCC is the professional body for approximately 4,000 local council officers working for over 5,000 town, parish and community councils in England and Wales known generally as 'local councils'. We write on behalf of our membership – those hardworking local council officers who are, as you say in your letter, the backbone of their communities during this national crisis.

Since the passing of the Localism Act 2011 and the 'Transfer of Power of Competence', many local councils have been encouraged to do more. They have diversified their assets and services which principal authorities have encouraged them to do. They have diversified their assets and services which principal authorities have encouraged them to do. They have diversified their assets and services which principal authorities have encouraged them to do. Without the first tier of responsibility – operational and financial – for services such as libraries, and play areas, public conveniences, markets, and community centres, many communities would now be withered. The pandemic has had a significant impact on these services. In line with government guidelines, many of these facilities have closed. Revenues which they generate have been lost.

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The Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP
Secretary of State for Housing, Communities
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2 Marsham Street
London
SW1P 4DF

30 June 2020

Sent by email to robert.jenrick@communities.gov.uk

Dear Secretary of State,

Coronavirus Pandemic: Financial Support for Local Councils

We wrote to you in April on behalf of the 4,000 members of the SLCC and their concerns regarding the future financial viability of the town and parish councils which they serve.

While the Government has provided significant financial support to principal local authorities which it says should also cover the needs of town and parish councils, unsurprisingly – given their own dire financial circumstances – these higher tier councils are unable to release any of the support they have received. Some have been offered short term interest free loans which would add substantially to the precept in 2021.

Local councils provide a significant range of services and in many cases fill the gap of service delivery left by principal councils. In doing so, many have developed revenue generation beyond the traditional precept route. Local councils

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“Asks”

- Relief on business rates on community assets (inc. toilets)
- Permission to create “Covid-19 Revenue Recovery Package”
- Government grant for Council Tax Benefit payments

Impact

Impact

- Practitioners' – record attendance
- Leadership In Action
- Regional Seminars
- Branch events
- National Conference – virtual

CANCELLED

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Impact

- Uplift in online training
- Uplift in self-guided qualification
- Strong attendance at virtual branch events
- National Conference
- Conduct & standards

Code and standards

CSPL Report



Standards in public life

Feb 2019: Joint Taskforce formed



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Association of
Democratic Services
Officers



LLG
Lawyers in Local Government

Model Code of Conduct Review

Why is the model code of conduct being reviewed?

In response to:

- Recommendations made by CSPL
- Rising local government concern about the increasing incidence of intimidation and abuse and overall behavioural standards and expectations in public debate, decision making and engagement.

Draft CoC consultation



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COVID-19

Our support ▾

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Parliament ▾

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Publications

Events ▾

Code of conduct consultation 2020

The onset of COVID-19 and the measures that have been introduced to curb its spread have changed the workings of local government. Remote meetings and decision-making processes have been introduced, but these have not diluted the importance of high standards of conduct of local government elected members.

With more communication taking place remotely and online between members and residents, particularly through social media, there may be more difficult and heated discussions as some seek to express the fear, frustration and heightened emotions they are experiencing at this time. However, abuse, threatening and intimidatory communications continue to be unacceptable, and we have sought to address these issues in the draft code.

The LGA has committed to reviewing the current model member code of conduct, as recommended by the Committee on Standards in Public Life's report into [Local Government](#)

Local Government Association Model Member Code of Conduct

The Local Government Association (LGA) is providing this Model Member Code of Conduct as part of its work on supporting

What's ahead

The Local Council Sector

2020

8,885 councils in England whom issue a precept

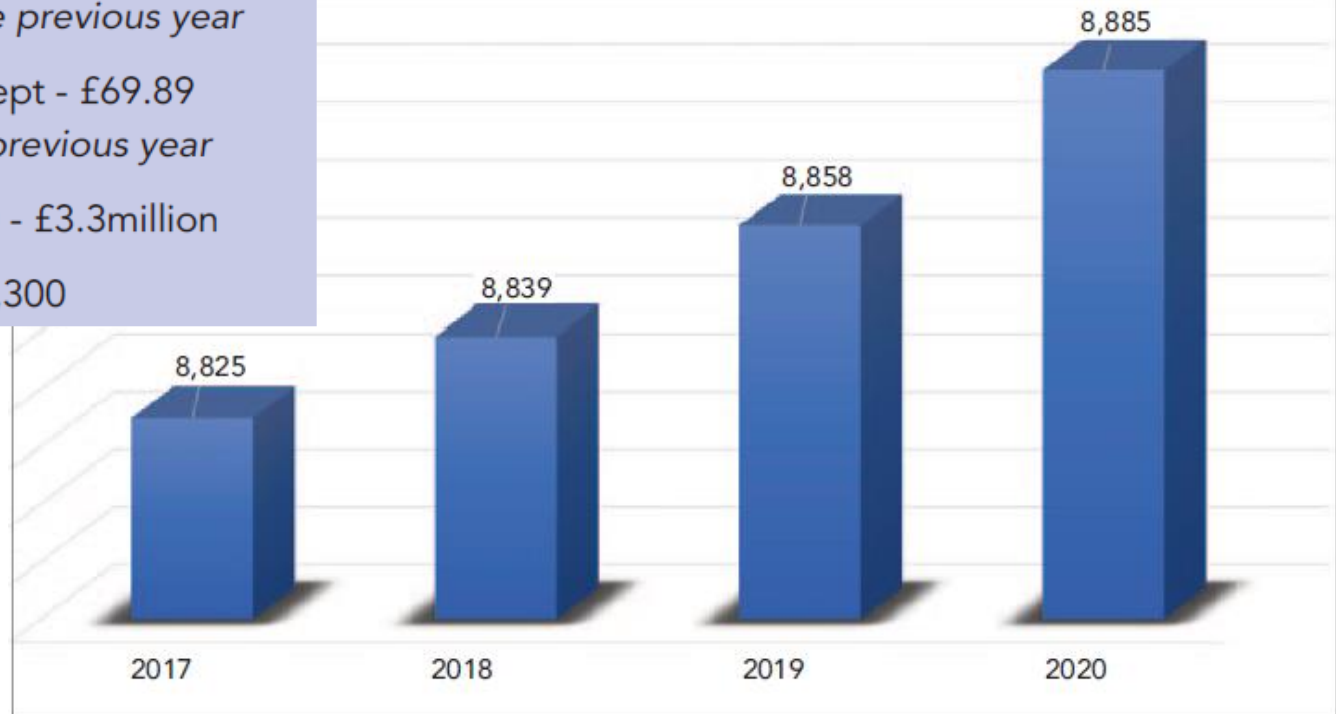
Total Precepts - £596 million
- 7.4% higher than the previous year

Average Band D Precept - £69.89
- 4% higher than the previous year

Range of precepts: £0 - £3.3million

Average Precept: £58,300

Precepting councils in England
2017 - 20



What's ahead

- Local Government Reform white paper
 - More elected mayors & unitaries: Dorset, Bucks, Northants...
- Non-Domestic Rates (Public Lavatories) Bill
- Planning white paper
- Financial – precept cap referendum principle
- Principal authorities – focus elsewhere (planning, retail, vacancies etc.)
- Redmond review

What's ahead cont.

- Climate change and the green economy
- Recovery from pandemic: “Building Back Stronger” ...

The role of local councils

- “Step into the space”
- Active role in promoting town centre
- Stimulate High Street footfall
 - Events
 - Markets (traditional, speciality, charity etc)
 - “Breeding ground” for retail regeneration
 - Work with BID (partnership for funding)

What can a market do for you?

- Employment
- Local economies
- Local tourism
- Promotion and outlet for local food and crafts
- Promote footfall
- Opportunities for restart for unemployed
- Low cost platform for start ups



Summary

- Opportunities for local councils to work with local communities to generate footfall
- Councils can potentially have a louder voice in shaping the future of their town. At the heart of that can be a local market



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Thanks & questions?
