



Department for
Communities and
Local Government

The Chief Executive
Principal Councils in England

Our Ref:
Your Ref:

04 February 2014

Dear Chief Executive,

Recorded Votes at Budget Meetings

I am writing to draw your attention to both a letter that Brandon Lewis MP, the Minister for Local Government, has today sent to your Leader, and to The Local Authorities (Standing Orders) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2014. You will see from the Minister's letter that the Government's expectation is that all councils will adopt at their budget meetings this year the practice of recorded votes - that is recording in the minutes of the meeting how each member present voted - on any decision relating to the budget or council tax. I enclose a copy of the letter.

The Regulations are available at <http://www.legislation.gov.uk/id/uksi/2014/165>. These Regulations make it mandatory for councils, as soon as is practicable after the Regulations are in force, to amend their Standing Orders so as to include provisions requiring recorded votes at budget meetings.

As the Minister explains in his letter, even where councils hold their budget meetings before the Regulations come into force, or before councils are able to amend their Standing Orders as a consequence of these Regulations, this does not prevent them from applying the practice of recorded votes to the budget decisions at that meeting.

Any queries on this letter should be addressed to Stuart Young at stuart.young@communities.gsi.gov.uk tel: 0303 44 42005.

Yours faithfully,

Paul Rowsell

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