

## Consultation response pro-forma

### Local Government Finance Settlement 2020-21: Technical Consultation

If you are responding to this consultation by email or in writing, please reply using this questionnaire pro-forma, which should be read alongside the consultation document.

You should save the pro-forma on your own device, from which you can complete the survey at your own pace, and submit when you are ready.

There are 9 questions in this survey. You do not have to answer every question should you not wish to. The comments box will expand as you type into it should you need more space.

Should you wish to attach further evidence or supporting information, you may attach and send this with the pro-forma.

Please **email responses to:**

[LGfsettlement@communities.gov.uk](mailto:LGfsettlement@communities.gov.uk)

Alternatively, **written responses should be sent to:**

Local Government Finance Settlement Team  
Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government  
2nd floor, Fry Building  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
SW1P 4DF

Your opinions are valuable to us. Thank you for taking the time to read the consultation document and respond.

#### **Your Details (Required details are marked with an asterisk (\*))**

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Phone Number	

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**Are the views Expressed on this form an official response from a:**

Fire and Rescue Authority

## **Question 1**

**Do you agree with the Government's proposed methodology for the distribution of Revenue Support Grant in 2020-21?**

Yes

## **Additional comments**

The proposed distribution method seems sensible and provides stability against a background of considerable uncertainty.

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## Question 2

***Should central government eliminate negative RSG in full through forgone business rates receipts?***

Yes

## **Additional comments**

The proposed approach seems consistent with the push for greater stability and certainty.

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## Question 3

***Do you think that there should be a separate council tax referendum principle of 2% or £5, whichever is greater, for shire district councils in 2020-21?***

No comment

## **Additional comments**

Similar flexibility is requested for fire and rescue authorities – see response to Q4 below.

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## Question 4

***Do you have views on the proposed package of council tax referendum principles for 2020-21?***

Yes

### **Additional comments**

The Authority does not agree with the principles proposed for principal local authorities. The current principles allow for shire district councils in two-tier areas to raise council tax by up to 2% or £5. The offer for shire districts to have the freedom for a £5 or 2% uplift is being made despite the fact that the relevant precepts are significantly higher than the average fire precept. The government should set referendum principles which allow for consistent investment in reform arising from HMICFRS recommendations and increased fire protection activity following lessons learnt from the tragic fire at Grenfell.

We therefore ask the Government to allow fire and rescue authorities to increase council tax by up to £5 in order to allow improvements to fire safety and to save lives.

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## Question 5

*Do you agree with the Government's proposals for social care funding in 2020-21?*

No comment

**Additional comments**

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## Question 6

**Do you agree with the Government's proposals for iBCF in 2020-21?**

No comment

**Additional comments**

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## Question 7

***Do you agree that there should be a new round of 2020-21 New Homes Bonus allocations for 2020-21, or would you prefer to see this funding allocated for a different purpose, and if so how should the funding be allocated?***

No comment

**Additional comments**

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## Question 8

***Do you agree with the Government's proposed approach to paying £81 million Rural Services Delivery Grant in 2020-21 to the upper quartile of local authorities, based on the super-sparsity indicator?***

No comment

**Additional comments**

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## Question 9

***Do you have any comments on the impact of the proposals for the 2020-21 settlement outlined in this consultation document on persons who share a protected characteristic? Please provide evidence to support your comments.***

Yes

No

No comment

## **Additional comments**

The fire and rescue service targets it's activity at the most vulnerable in society and therefore any reduction in available resources is likely to have an impact on those needing additional support, such as elderly and disabled people.