SCHEDULE 3

Regulation 14

THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE ACT REFERENDUMS RULES

PART 1

Citation and interpretation

Citation

1. These Rules may be cited as the Local Government Finance Act Referendums Rules.

Interpretation

2.—(1) In these Rules "voter" means a person entitled to vote on his or her own behalf.

(2) Other expressions used both in these Rules and in the 1983 Act (as it applies to local government elections) have the same meaning in these Rules as they have in that Act.

PART 2

Provisions as to time

Timetable

3. The proceedings at the referendum shall be conducted in accordance with the following Timetable.

Proceedings	
Publication of notice of referendum	Not later than the twenty-fifth day before the day of referendum
Notice of poll	Not later than the sixth day before the day of the referendum
Polling	Between the hours of 7 in the morning and 10 at night on the day of the referendum.

Computation of time

4. In computing any period of time for the purposes of the Timetable the days mentioned in regulation 23(2)(a) to (c) shall be disregarded, and any such day shall not be treated as a day for the purpose of any proceedings up to the completion of the poll nor shall the counting officer be obliged to proceed with the counting of the votes on such a day.

PART 3

General provisions

Notice of referendum

5.—(1) The counting officer must publish notice of the referendum, stating the date of the poll.

(2) The notice of referendum must state the date by which—

(a) applications to vote by post or by proxy, and

(b) other applications and notices about postal or proxy voting,

must reach the registration officer in order that they may be effective for the referendum.

Poll to be taken by ballot

6. A poll must be taken at the referendum and the votes at the poll must be given by ballot.

The ballot papers

7.—(1) The ballot of every person entitled to vote at the referendum must consist of a ballot paper.

(2) Every ballot paper to be used in the referendum must be in the appropriate form in the Appendix.

(3) Every ballot paper must—

- (a) be capable of being folded up; and
- (b) have a number and other unique identifying mark printed on the back.

The corresponding number list

8.—(1) The counting officer must prepare a list containing the numbers and other unique identifying marks of all of the ballot papers to be issued by him or her in pursuance of rule 13(1) or provided by that person in pursuance of rule 17(1).

(2) The list must be in the form L1 in the Appendix or a form to like effect.

The official mark

9.—(1) Every ballot paper must contain an appropriate security marking (the official mark).

(2) The official mark must be kept secret.

(3) The counting officer may use a different official mark for different purposes at the same referendum.

Prohibition of disclosure of vote

10. No person who has voted at the referendum shall, in any legal proceeding to question the referendum, be required to state for which answer he or she has voted.

Use of schools and public rooms

11.—(1) The counting officer may use, free of charge, for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes—

- (a) a room in a school maintained or assisted by a local authority (as defined in the Education Act 1996^{M1}) or a school in respect of which grants are made out of moneys provided by Parliament to the person or body of persons responsible for the management of the school;
- (b) a room the expense of maintaining which is payable out of any rate.

(2) The counting officer must make good any damage done to, and defray any expense incurred by the persons having control over, any such room as mentioned above by reason of its being used for the purpose of taking the poll or counting the votes.

Marginal Citations M1 1996 c.56.

PART 4

Action to be taken before the poll

Notice of poll

12.—(1) The counting officer must publish notice of the poll stating—

- (a) the day and hours fixed for the poll; and
- (b) the question to be asked in the referendum.

(2) The notice of the poll must be published no later than the sixth day before the date of the referendum.

(3) The counting officer must, not later than the time of the publication of the notice of the poll, also give public notice of—

- (a) the situation of each polling station; and
- (b) the description of persons entitled to vote there.

Postal ballot papers

13.—(1) The counting officer must, in accordance with regulations made under the 1983 Act M2 , issue to those entitled to vote by post a ballot paper and a postal voting statement in the appropriate form in the Appendix, or a form to like effect, together with such envelopes for their return as may be prescribed by such regulations.

(2) The counting officer must also issue to those entitled to vote by post such information as he or she thinks appropriate about how to obtain—

- (a) translations into languages other than English of any directions to or guidance for voters and proxies sent with the ballot paper;
- (b) a translation into Braille of such directions or guidance;
- (c) graphical representations of such directions or guidance;
- (d) the directions or guidance in any other form (including any audible form).

(3) The postal voting statement must include provision for the form to be signed and for stating the date of birth of the voter or proxy.

(4) In the case of a ballot paper issued to a person at an address in the United Kingdom, the counting officer must ensure that the return of the ballot paper and postal voting statement is free of charge to the voter or proxy.

Marginal Citations

M2 See the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 S.I. 2001/341 (amended by SI 2001/1700, 2002/1871, 2004/226, 2006/752 and 2006/2910).

Provision of polling stations

14.—(1) The counting officer must provide a sufficient number of polling stations and, subject to the following provisions of this rule, must allot the voters to the polling stations in such manner as he or she thinks most convenient.

(2) One or more polling stations may be provided in the same room.

(3) The polling station allotted to voters from any parliamentary polling district wholly or partly within the voting area must, in the absence of special circumstances, be in the parliamentary polling place for that district.

(4) The counting officer must provide each polling station with such number of compartments as may be necessary in which the voters and proxies can mark their votes screened from observation.

Appointment of presiding officers and polling clerks

15.—(1) The counting officer must appoint and pay a presiding officer to attend at each polling station and such clerks as may be necessary for the purposes of the referendum.

(2) The counting officer may, if he or she thinks fit, preside at a polling station and the provisions of these Rules relating to a presiding officer shall apply to a counting officer so presiding with the necessary modifications as to things to be done by the counting officer to the presiding officer or by the presiding officer to the counting officer.

(3) A presiding officer may do, by the clerks appointed to assist him or her, any act (including the asking of questions) which he or she is required or authorised by these Rules to do at a polling station except order the arrest, exclusion or removal of any person from the polling station.

Issue of official poll cards

16.—(1) The counting officer must as soon as practicable after the publication of the notice of the referendum send to each voter and proxy an official poll card.

(2) The official poll card must be sent or delivered—

- (a) in the case of a voter, to his or her qualifying address, and
- (b) in the case of a proxy, to his or her address as shown in the list of proxies.

(3) The official poll card must be in the appropriate form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, and must set out—

- (a) the name of the relevant billing authority and of the voting area;
- (b) the name of the voter and his or her qualifying address and number on the register;
- (c) the date and hours of the poll and the situation of the voter's polling station;
- (d) such other information as the counting officer thinks appropriate,

and different information may be provided in pursuance of sub-paragraph (d) to different voters or to different descriptions of voter

(4) In the case of a voter who has an anonymous entry in the register, instead of containing the matter mentioned in paragraph (3)(b), the poll card must contain such matter as is specified in the appropriate form in the Appendix.

- (5) In this rule references to a voter—
 - (a) are to a person who is registered in the register of local government electors for the voting area in question on the last day for the publication of notice of the referendum; and
 - (b) include a person then shown in the register as below voting age if (but only if) it appears from the register that he or she will be of voting age on the day fixed for the poll.

Equipment of polling stations

17.—(1) The counting officer must provide each presiding officer with such number of ballot boxes and ballot papers as in the counting officer's opinion may be necessary.

(2) Every ballot box must be so constructed that the ballot papers can be put in it, but cannot be withdrawn from it, without the box being unlocked or, where the box has no lock, the seal being broken.

- (3) The counting officer must provide each polling station with—
 - (a) materials to enable voters and proxies to mark the ballot papers;
 - (b) copies of the register of electors for the voting area or such part of it as contains the names of the voters allotted to the station;
 - (c) the parts of any special lists prepared for the referendum corresponding to the register of electors for the voting area or the part of it provided under sub-paragraph (b);
 - (d) a list, in the Form L2 in the Appendix or a form to like effect, consisting of that part of the list prepared under rule 8 which contains the numbers (but not the other unique identifying marks) corresponding to those on the ballot papers provided to the presiding officer of the polling station.

(4) The reference in paragraph (3)(b) to the copies of the register of electors includes a reference to copies of any notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act^{M3} in respect of alterations to the register.

(5) The counting officer must also provide each polling station with—

- (a) at least one large version of the ballot paper which must be displayed inside the polling station for the assistance of voters and proxies who are partially sighted; and
- (b) a device of such description as is set out in paragraph (9) for enabling voters and proxies who are blind or partially sighted to vote without any need for assistance from the presiding officer or any companion (within the meaning of rule 28(1)).

(6) A notice in the form in the Appendix, giving directions for the guidance of voters and proxies in voting, must be printed in conspicuous characters and exhibited inside and outside every polling station.

(7) The counting officer may also provide copies of the notice mentioned in paragraph (6) in Braille or translated into languages other than English as he or she considers appropriate, provided that these notices are accurate reproductions in Braille or that other language of that notice.

(8) In every compartment of every polling station there must be exhibited the notice "REFERENDUM on [*Specify name of authority in respect of which referendum is held*]'s council tax increase for the financial year [*specify financial year*]". Mark a cross (X) in the box on the right hand side of the answer of your choice. Vote ONCE only. Put no other mark on the ballot paper, or your vote may not be counted.".

- (9) The device referred to in paragraph (5)(b) must—
 - (a) allow a ballot paper to be inserted into and removed from, or attached to and detached from, the device easily and without damage to the paper;
 - (b) hold the ballot paper firmly in place during use; and

- (c) provide suitable means for the voter or proxy to—
 - (i) identify the spaces on the ballot paper on which that person may mark his or her vote;
 - (ii) identify the answer to which each such space refers; and
 - (iii) mark his or her vote on the space he or she has chosen.

Marginal Citations

M3 Section 13B of the 1983 Act was inserted by paragraph 3 of Schedule 2 to the Representation of the People Act 2000 (c. 2) and amended by section 11(3) of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22). Subsections (3B) and (3D) of section 13B were inserted by section 11(4) of the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c. 22).

Appointment of polling observers and counting observers

18.—(1) The counting officer may appoint persons to attend at polling stations for the purpose of detecting personation ("polling observers").

(2) The counting officer must appoint persons to observe the counting of the votes and the verification of the ballot paper account ("counting observers").

(3) In the following provisions of these Rules references to polling observers and counting observers shall be taken as references to polling observers and counting observers whose appointments have been duly made.

(4) Where by these Rules any act or thing is required or authorised to be done in the presence of the polling observers or counting observers, the non-attendance of any such person at the time and place appointed for the purpose shall not, if the act or thing is otherwise duly done, invalidate the act or thing done.

Notification of requirement of secrecy

19.— $[^{F1}(1)]$ The counting officer must make such arrangements as he or she thinks fit to ensure that—

- (a) every person attending at a polling station (otherwise than for the purpose of voting or assisting a voter or proxy with disabilities to vote or as a constable on duty there) has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of subsections (1), (3) and (6) of section 66 of the 1983 Act ^{M4}, as applied by Schedule 4; and
- (b) every person attending at the counting of the votes (other than any constable on duty at the counting) has been given a copy in writing of the provisions of subsections (2) and (6) of that section, as applied by Schedule 4.

 $[F^2(2)]$ In this rule, a reference to a constable includes a person designated as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (police powers for employees).]

F2 Sch. 3 rule 19(2) inserted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 4 (with reg. 1(4))

F1 Sch. 3 rule 19(1): Sch. 3 rule 19 renumbered as Sch. 3 rule 19(1) (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 4 (with reg. 1(4))

Marginal Citations

M4 Subsections (1), (2) and (3) of section 66 of the 1983 Act were amended by paragraphs 69, 82, 86(b) and 96 of Schedule 1 to the Electoral Administration Act 2006 (c.22); subsection (6) was amended by paragraph 3 of Schedule 3 to the Representation of the People Act1985 (c.50).

Return of postal ballot papers

20.-(1) Where-

- (a) a postal vote has been returned in respect of a person who is entered on the postal voters list; or
- (b) a proxy postal vote has been returned in respect of a proxy who is entered on the proxy postal voters list,

the counting officer must mark the list in the manner prescribed by regulations made under the 1983 Act ^{M5}.

(2) Rule 36(3) does not apply for the purpose of determining whether, for the purposes of this rule, a postal vote or a proxy postal vote is returned.

Marginal Citations

M5 See regulation 84A of the Representation of the People (England and Wales) Regulations 2001 S.I. 2001/341 as amended by S.I. 2006/2910.

PART 5

The Poll

Admission to polling station

21.—(1) The presiding officer must exclude all persons from the polling station except—

- (a) voters and proxies;
- (b) persons under the age of 18 who accompany voters and proxies to the polling station;
- (c) the polling observers appointed to attend at the polling station;
- (d) the clerks appointed to attend at the polling station;
- (e) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000;
- (f) the constables on duty; and
- (g) the companions of voters and proxies with disabilities.

(2) The presiding officer must regulate the total number of voters, proxies and persons under the age of 18 who accompany them to be admitted to the polling station at the same time.

(3) A constable or person employed by a counting officer must not be admitted to vote in person elsewhere than at his or her own polling station allotted to him or her under these Rules, except on production and surrender of a certificate as to his or her employment which must be in the form in the Appendix, or a form to the like effect, and signed by an officer of police of or above the rank of inspector or by the counting officer, as the case may be.

(4) Any certificate surrendered under this rule must forthwith be cancelled.

[^{F3}(5) In this rule, a reference to a constable includes a person designated as a community support officer under section 38 of the Police Reform Act 2002 (police powers for employees).]

F3 Sch. 3 rule 21(5) inserted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 5 (with reg. 1(4))

Keeping of order in station

22.—(1) It is the presiding officer's duty to keep order at his or her polling station.

(2) If a person misconducts himself or herself in a polling station, or fails to obey the presiding officer's lawful orders, that person may immediately, by the presiding officer's order, be removed from the polling station—

- (a) by a constable in or near that station, or
- (b) by any other person authorised in writing by the counting officer to remove him or her,

and the person so removed shall not, without the presiding officer's permission, again enter the polling station during the day.

(3) Any person so removed may, if charged with the commission in the polling station of an offence, be dealt with as a person taken into custody by a constable for an offence without a warrant.

(4) The powers conferred by this rule must not be exercised so as to prevent a voter or proxy who is otherwise entitled to vote at a polling station from having an opportunity of voting at that station.

Sealing of ballot boxes

23. Immediately before the commencement of the poll, the presiding officer must show the ballot box empty to such persons, if any, as are present in the polling station, so that they may see that it is empty, and must then lock it up, if it has a lock and (in any case) place his or her seal on it in such a manner as to prevent its being opened without breaking the seal and must place it in his or her view for the receipt of ballot papers, and keep it so locked and sealed or sealed (as the case may be).

Questions to be put to voters and proxies

24.—(1) At the time of the application for a ballot paper (but not afterwards), the questions specified in the second column of the following Table—

- (a) may be put by the presiding officer to a person applying for a ballot paper who is mentioned in the first column, and
- (b) must be put if the letter "R" appears after the question and a polling observer requires the question to be put:

Q No	Person applying for ballot paper	Question
1	A person applying as a voter	(a)—Are you the person registered in the register of local government electors for this voting area as follows? <i>(read the whole entry from the register)</i> [R]
		(b)—Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this referendum, otherwise than as proxy for some other person? [R]

2	A person applying as proxy	(a)—Are you the person whose name
2	A person apprying as proxy	appears as AB in the list of proxies for this voting area as entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of CD? [R]
		(b)—Have you already voted here or elsewhere at this referendum as proxy on behalf of CD? [R]
		(c)—Are you the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of CD? [R]
3	a voter who has an anonymous	(a)—Are you the person entitled to vote as proxy on behalf of the voter whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the</i> <i>number</i>)? [R]
		(b)—Have you already voted here or elsewhere as proxy on behalf of the voter whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the number</i>)? [R]
		(c)—Are you the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild of the person whose number on the register of electors is (<i>read out the</i> <i>number</i>)? [R]
4	the question at entry 2(c) or	Have you already voted at this referendum on behalf of two persons of whom you are not the spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild? [R]
5	A person applying as a voter in relation to whom there is an entry in the postal voters list	(a)—Did you apply to vote by post?
		(b)—Why have you not voted by post?
6	A person applying as proxy who is named in the proxy postal voters list	(a)—Did you apply to vote by post as proxy?
		(b)—Why have you not voted by post as proxy?

⁽²⁾ In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, the references in the questions at entries 1(a) and 3(a), (b) and (c) to reading from the register shall be taken as references to reading from the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act.

(3) A ballot paper must not be delivered to any person required to answer any of the above questions unless that person has answered each question satisfactorily.

(4) Except as authorised by this rule, no inquiry shall be permitted as to the right of any person to vote.

Challenge of voter or proxy

25. A person must not be prevented from voting by reason only that—

- (a) any polling observer permitted to be present in accordance with rule 21(1) declares that he or she has reasonable cause to believe that the person has committed an offence of personation; or
- (b) the person is arrested on the grounds that he or she is suspected of committing or of being about to commit such an offence.

Voting procedure

26.—(1) A ballot paper must be delivered to a voter or proxy who applies for one, and immediately before delivery—

- (a) the number and (unless paragraph (2) applies) name of the voter as stated in the copy of the register of electors must be called out;
- (b) the number of the voter as stated in the register must be marked on the list mentioned in rule 17(3)(d) beside the number of the ballot paper to be issued to him or her;
- (c) a mark must be placed in the copy of the register of electors against the number of the voter to note that a ballot paper has been received but without showing the particular ballot paper which has been received; and
- (d) in the case of a person applying for a ballot paper as proxy, a mark must also be placed against his or her name in the list of proxies.

(2) In the case of a voter who has an anonymous entry, that person must show the presiding officer his or her official poll card and only his or her number shall be called out in pursuance of paragraph (1)(a).

(3) In the case of a voter who is added to the register in pursuance of a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (1) is modified as follows—

- (a) in sub-paragraph (a), for "copy of the register of electors" substitute " copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ";
- (b) in sub-paragraph (b), for "in the register" substitute " on the copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ";
- (c) in sub-paragraph (c), for "in the copy of the register of electors" substitute " on the copy of the notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ".

(4) The voter or proxy, on receiving the ballot paper, must forthwith proceed into one of the compartments in the polling station and there secretly mark his or her paper and fold it up so as to conceal his or her vote, and must then show to the presiding officer the back of the paper, so as to disclose the number and other unique identifying mark, and put the ballot paper so folded up into the ballot box in the presiding officer's presence.

(5) The voter or proxy must vote without undue delay, and must leave the polling station as soon as he or she has put his or her ballot paper into the ballot box.

 $[^{F4}(6)$ A voter or proxy who at the close of the poll is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purpose of voting shall (despite the close of the poll) be entitled to apply for a ballot paper under paragraph (1); and these rules apply in relation to such a voter or proxy accordingly.]

F4 Sch. 3 rule 26(6) inserted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 6 (with reg. 1(4))

Votes marked by presiding officer

27.—(1) The presiding officer, on the application of a voter or proxy—

- (a) who is incapacitated by blindness or other disability from voting in the manner directed by these Rules; or
- (b) who declares orally that he or she is unable to read,

must, in the presence of the polling observers (if any), cause that person's vote to be marked on a ballot paper in the manner directed by that person, and the ballot paper to be placed in the ballot box.

(2) The name and number on the register of electors of every person whose vote is marked in pursuance of this rule, and the reason why it is so marked, must be entered on a list (in these Rules called "the list of votes marked by the presiding officer"). In the case of a person voting as proxy for a voter, the number to be entered together with the proxy's name shall be the number in the register of the voter.

(3) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (2) applies as if for "on the register of electors of every person" there were substituted " relating to every person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ".

Voting by persons with disabilities

28.—(1) If a voter or proxy makes an application to the presiding officer to be allowed, on the ground of—

- (a) blindness or other disability; or
- (b) inability to read,

to vote with the assistance of another person by whom he or she is accompanied (in these Rules referred to as "the companion"), the presiding officer must require the voter or proxy to declare, orally or in writing, whether he or she is so incapacitated by his or her blindness or other disability, or by his or her inability to read, as to be unable to vote without assistance.

- (2) If the presiding officer—
 - (a) is satisfied that the voter or proxy is so incapacitated; and
 - (b) is also satisfied by a written declaration made by the companion (in these Rules referred to as "the declaration made by the companion of a voter or proxy with disabilities") that the companion—
 - (i) is a qualified person within the meaning of this rule; and
 - (ii) has not previously assisted more than one voter or proxy with disabilities to vote at the referendum,

the presiding officer must grant the application, and then anything which is by these Rules required to be done to or by that voter or proxy in connection with the giving of his or her vote may be done to, or with the assistance of, the companion.

(3) For the purposes of these Rules, a person is a voter or proxy with disabilities if he or she has made such a declaration as is mentioned in paragraph (1), and a person shall be qualified to assist a voter or proxy with disabilities to vote if that person—

- (a) is a person who is entitled to vote on his or her own behalf at the referendum; or
- (b) is the father, mother, brother, sister, spouse, civil partner, son or daughter of the voter or proxy and has attained the age of 18 years.

(4) The name and number in the register of electors of every person whose vote is given in accordance with this rule and the name and address of the companion must be entered on a list (in

these Rules referred to as "the list of voters or proxies with disabilities assisted by companions"). In the case of a person voting as proxy for a voter, the number to be entered together with the proxy's name shall be the number in the register of the voter.

(5) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, paragraph (4) applies as if for "in the register of electors of every person" there were substituted " relating to every person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ".

(6) The declaration made by the companion of a voter or proxy with disabilities—

- (a) must be in the form in the Appendix,
- (b) must be made before the presiding officer at the time when the voter or proxy applies to vote with the assistance of a companion, and
- (c) must forthwith be given to the presiding officer who must attest and retain it.
- (7) No fee or other payment shall be charged in respect of the declaration.

Tendered ballot papers: circumstances where available

29.—(1) If a person, representing himself or herself to be—

- (a) a particular voter named on the register and not named in the absent voters list; or
- (b) a particular person named in the list of proxies as proxy for a voter and not entitled to vote by post as proxy,

applies for a ballot paper after another person has voted in person either as the voter or his or her proxy, the applicant shall, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the provisions of rule 30, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as "a tendered ballot paper") in the same manner as any other voter or proxy.

- (2) Paragraph (4) applies if—
 - (a) a person applies for a ballot paper representing himself or herself to be a particular voter named on the register,
 - (b) he or she is also named in the postal voters list; and
- (c) he or she claims that he or she did not make an application to vote by post at the referendum.
- (3) Paragraph (4) also applies if—
 - (a) a person applies for a ballot paper representing himself or herself to be a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies;
 - (b) he or she is also named in the proxy postal voters list; and
 - (c) he or she claims that he or she did not make an application to vote by post as proxy.

(4) The person shall, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the provisions of rule 30, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as a "tendered ballot paper") in the same manner as any other voter or proxy.

(5) Paragraph (6) applies if, before the close of the poll but after the last time at which a person may apply for a replacement postal ballot paper, a person represents himself or herself to be—

- (a) a particular voter named on the register who is also named in the postal voters list; or
- (b) a particular person named as a proxy in the list of proxies and who is also named in the proxy postal voters list,

and claims that he or she has lost or has not received his or her postal ballot paper.

(6) The person shall, on satisfactorily answering the questions permitted by law to be asked at the poll, be entitled, subject to the provisions of rule 30, to mark a ballot paper (in these Rules referred to as a "tendered ballot paper") in the same manner as any other voter or proxy.

Tendered ballot papers: general provisions

30.—(1) A tendered ballot paper must—

- (a) be of a colour differing from that of the other ballot papers;
- (b) instead of being put into the ballot box, be given to the presiding officer and endorsed by him or her with the name of the person who has marked a tendered ballot paper and that person's number in the register of electors, and set aside in a separate packet.

(2) The name of the person who has marked a tendered ballot paper and his or her number in the register of electors must be entered on a list (in these Rules referred to as the "tendered votes list").

(3) In the case of a person voting as proxy for a voter, the number to be endorsed or entered together with the proxy's name shall be the number in the register of the voter.

(4) In the case of a voter who has an anonymous entry, this rule and rule 29 apply subject to the following modifications—

- (a) in paragraphs (1)(b) and (2) above, the references to the name of the person who has marked a tendered ballot paper shall be ignored;
- (b) otherwise, a reference to a person named on a register or list shall be construed as a reference to a person whose number appears in the register or list (as the case may be).

(5) In the case of a person in respect of whom a notice has been issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act, this rule and rule 29 shall apply as if—

- (a) in rule 29(1)(a), (2)(a) and (5)(a), for "named on the register" there were substituted " in respect of whom a notice under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act has been issued ";
- (b) in paragraph (1)(b) of this rule for "that person's number in the register of electors" there were substituted " the number relating to him or her on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ";
- (c) in paragraph (2) of this rule, for "his or her number in the register of electors" there were substituted " the number relating to him or her on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act ".

Spoilt ballot papers

31. A voter or proxy who has inadvertently dealt with his or her ballot paper in such manner that it cannot be conveniently used as a ballot paper may, on delivering it to the presiding officer and proving to his or her satisfaction the fact of the inadvertence, obtain another ballot paper in the place of the ballot paper so delivered (in these Rules referred to as "a spoilt ballot paper"), and the spoilt ballot paper must be immediately cancelled.

Correction of errors on day of poll

32. The presiding officer must keep a list of persons to whom ballot papers are delivered in consequence of an alteration to the register made by virtue of section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act which takes effect on the day of the poll.

Adjournment of poll in case of riot

33.—(1) Where the proceedings at any polling station are interrupted or obstructed by riot or open violence, the presiding officer must adjourn the proceedings till the following day and must forthwith give notice to the counting officer.

- (2) Where the poll is adjourned at any polling station—
 - (a) the hours of polling on the day to which it is adjourned must be the same as for the original day; and
 - (b) references in these Rules to the close of the poll shall be construed accordingly.

Procedure on close of poll

34.—(1) As soon as practicable after the close of the poll, the presiding officer must, in the presence of the polling observers (if any), make up into separate packets, sealed with his or her own seal and the seals of such polling observers as desire to affix their seals—

- (a) each ballot box in use at the station, sealed so as to prevent the introduction of additional ballot papers and unopened, but with the key, if any, attached;
- (b) the unused and spoilt ballot papers placed together;
- (c) the tendered ballot papers;
- (d) the marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and of the list of proxies;
- (e) the lists prepared under rule 8 including the parts which were completed in accordance with rule 26(1)(b) (together referred to in these Rules as "the completed corresponding number lists");
- (f) the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll;
- (g) the tendered votes list, the list of voters and proxies with disabilities assisted by companions, the list of votes marked by the presiding officer, a statement of the number of voters and proxies whose votes are so marked by the presiding officer under the heads "disability" and "unable to read", the list maintained under rule 32 (correction of errors on day of poll), and the declarations made by the companions of voters and proxies with disabilities,

and must deliver the packets or cause them to be delivered to the counting officer to be taken charge of by that person; but if the packets are not delivered by the presiding officer personally to the counting officer, the arrangements for their delivery shall require the counting officer's approval.

(2) The marked copies of the register of electors and of the list of proxies must be in one packet but must not be in the same packet as the completed corresponding number lists or the certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.

(3) The packets must be accompanied by a statement (in these Rules referred to as "the ballot paper account") made by the presiding officer showing the number of ballot papers entrusted to him or her, and accounting for them under the heads of ballot papers issued and not otherwise accounted for, unused, spoilt and tendered ballot papers.

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PART 6

Counting of votes

Attendance at counting of votes

35.—(1) The counting officer must make arrangements for counting the votes in the presence of the counting observers as soon as practicable after the close of the poll, and must give to the counting observers notice in writing of the time and place at which he or she will begin to count the votes.

(2) No person other than—

- (a) the counting officer and his or her clerks;
- (b) the counting observers;
- (c) persons who are entitled to attend by virtue of any of sections 6A to 6D of the Political Parties, Elections and Referendums Act 2000; and
- (d) the Chief Counting Officer

may be present at the counting of the votes, unless permitted by the counting officer to attend.

(3) A person not entitled to attend at the counting of the votes shall not be permitted to do so by the counting officer unless he or she is satisfied that the efficient counting of the votes will not be impeded.

(4) The counting officer must give the counting observers all such reasonable facilities for overseeing the proceedings, and all such information with respect to them, as he or she can give them consistently with the orderly conduct of the proceedings and the discharge of his or her duties in connection with them.

(5) In particular, where the votes are counted by sorting the ballot papers according to the answer for which the vote is given and then counting the number of ballot papers for each answer, the counting observers shall be entitled to satisfy themselves that the ballot papers are correctly sorted.

The count

36.—(1) The counting officer must—

- (a) in the presence of the counting observers open each ballot box and count and record the number of ballot papers in it;
- (b) in the presence of the counting observers verify each ballot paper account; and
- (c) count such of the postal ballot papers as have been duly returned and record the number counted.
- (2) The counting officer must not count the votes given on any ballot papers until—
 - (a) in the case of postal ballot papers, they have been mixed with the ballot papers from at least one ballot box; and
 - (b) in the case of ballot papers from a ballot box, they have been mixed with the ballot papers from at least one other ballot box.
- (3) A postal ballot paper must not be taken to be duly returned unless—
 - (a) it is returned in the manner set out in paragraph (4) and reaches the counting officer or any polling station in the voting area in question before the close of the poll;
 - (b) the postal voting statement, duly signed, is also returned in the manner set out in paragraph (4) and reaches the counting officer or such a polling station before that time;
 - (c) the postal voting statement also states the date of birth of a voter or proxy; and

(d) in a case where steps for verifying the date of birth and signature of a voter or proxy have been prescribed by regulations made under the 1983 Act, the counting officer (having taken such steps) verifies that date of birth and that signature.

 $[^{F5}(3A)$ A postal ballot paper or postal voting statement that reaches the counting officer or a polling station on or after the close of the poll is treated for the purposes of paragraph (3) as reaching that officer or polling station before the close of the poll if it is delivered by a person who, at the close of the poll, is in the polling station, or in a queue outside the polling station, for the purpose of returning it.]

(4) The manner in which any postal ballot paper or postal voting statement may be returned—

- (a) to the counting officer, is by hand or by post;
- (b) to a polling station, is by hand.
- (5) The counting officer must not count any tendered ballot paper.

(6) The counting officer, while counting and recording the number of ballot papers and counting the votes, must keep the ballot papers with their faces upwards and take all proper precautions for preventing any person from seeing the numbers or other unique identifying marks printed on the back of the papers.

(7) The counting officer must verify each ballot paper account by comparing it with the number of ballot papers recorded by him or her, and the unused and spoilt ballot papers in his or her possession and the tendered votes list (opening and resealing the packets containing the unused and spoilt ballot papers and the tendered votes list) and must draw up a statement as to the result of the verification, which any counting observer may copy.

(8) Where rules 40 and 41 apply, as soon as is practicable after the counting officer has drawn up the statement as to the result of the verification, he or she must inform the Chief Counting Officer of its contents.

(9) The counting officer must so far as practicable proceed continuously with counting the votes, allowing only time for refreshment, except that he or she may exclude the hours between 7 in the evening and 9 on the following morning.

- (10) During the time so excluded the counting officer must—
 - (a) place the ballot papers and other documents relating to the referendum under his or her own seal; and
 - (b) otherwise take proper precautions for the security of the papers and documents.

F5 Sch. 3 rule 36(3A) inserted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 7 (with reg. 1(4))

Rejected ballot papers

37.—(1) Any ballot paper—

- (a) which does not bear the official mark; or
- (b) on which votes are given for more than one answer; or
- (c) on which anything is written or marked by which the voter or proxy can be identified except the printed number and other unique identifying mark on the back; or
- (d) which is unmarked or void for uncertainty,

shall, subject to paragraph (2), be void and not counted.

- (2) A ballot paper on which the vote is marked—
 - (a) elsewhere than in the proper place; or

- (b) otherwise than by means of a cross; or
- (c) by more than one mark,

shall not for such reason be deemed to be void if an intention that the vote shall be for one or the other of the answers clearly appears, and the way the paper is marked does not itself identify the voter or proxy and it is not shown that he or she can be identified by it.

(3) The counting officer must endorse the word "rejected" on any ballot paper which under this rule is not to be counted, and must add to the endorsement the words "rejection objected to" if any objection is made by a counting observer to the counting officer's decision.

(4) Subject to paragraph (5), the counting officer must draw up a statement showing the number of ballot papers rejected under the several heads of—

- (a) want of official mark;
- (b) voting for more than one answer;
- (c) writing or mark by which the voter or proxy could be identified;
- (d) unmarked or void for uncertainty.

(5) Where rules 40 and 41 apply, the statement referred to in paragraph (4) above is to be a provisional statement and as soon as practicable after the completion of that statement, the counting officer shall inform the Chief Counting Officer of its contents.

Decisions on ballot papers

38. The decision of the counting officer on any question arising in respect of a ballot paper shall be final, but shall be subject to review on a referendum petition.

PART 7

Declaration of result and disposal of documents

Declaration of result

39. Subject to rule 40 and rule 41, when the result of the poll has been ascertained, the counting officer must forthwith—

- (a) declare the result of the referendum;
- (b) inform the authority in respect of which the referendum was held of the result of the referendum;
- (c) give public notice of—
 - (i) the result of the referendum,
 - (ii) the number of ballot papers counted,
 - (iii) the total number of votes cast for each answer, and
 - (iv) the number of rejected ballot papers under each head shown in the statement of rejected ballot papers.

Chief Counting Officer's re-count

40.—(1) This rule and rule 41 apply where two or more referendums are held in respect of a precepting authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year.

(2) As soon as practicable after the conclusion of the count (which includes any re-count whether or not directed under this rule), the counting officer must draw up a provisional statement showing—

(a) the number of ballot papers counted by him or her; and

(b) the number of votes cast in favour of each answer to the question asked in the referendum.

(3) As soon as possible after completion of the provisional statement, the counting officer must inform the Chief Counting Officer of its contents.

(4) Once the Chief Counting Officer has received the report of any counting officer on the contents of his or her provisional statement prepared under paragraph (2) and under rule 37(5), the Chief Counting Officer may direct the counting officer to re-count (or further re-count) the votes.

(5) A re-count directed by the Chief Counting Officer under paragraph (4) may be of the votes in all the voting areas, or in such of the voting areas as he or she considers reasonable.

(6) A counting officer must proceed with a re-count as soon as practicable after receipt of the Chief Counting Officer's direction, and if not proceeding forthwith shall notify those counting observers entitled to be present at the re-count of the time and place at which he or she will begin to re-count the votes.

Counting officer's statement and declaration of result

41.—(1) When the Chief Counting Officer has determined not to direct that any re-count (or further re-count) must take place, he or she must direct the counting officers to draw up a final statement of the matters referred to in rule 40(2) and to provide final versions of their statements of rejected ballot papers.

- (2) The counting officer, having drawn up the final statement, must-
 - (a) forthwith inform the Chief Counting Officer of its contents; and
 - (b) as soon as reasonably practicable give the Chief Counting Officer notice of the number of rejected ballot papers under each head shown in the final statement of rejected ballot papers.
- (3) When authorised by the Chief Counting Officer to do so, the counting officer must-
 - (a) make a declaration of the matters referred to in the final statement; and
 - (b) give public notice of those matters together with the number of rejected ballot papers under each head shown in the final statement of rejected ballot papers.

(4) The Chief Counting Officer, having received notification of each of the counting officers' final statement referred to in paragraph (1) must—

(a) draw up a statement of—

(i) the total number of ballot papers counted, and

(ii) the total number of votes cast in favour of each answer to the question asked,

in respect of all the referendums which relate to the precepting authority's relevant basic amount of council tax for the financial year;

- (b) forthwith make a declaration of the matters referred to in subparagraph (a); and
- (c) as soon as reasonably practicable give public notice of those matters together with the number of rejected ballot papers under each head shown in the statements of rejected ballot papers.

Sealing up of ballot papers

42.—(1) On the completion of the counting at a referendum the counting officer must seal up in separate packets the counted and rejected ballot papers.

- (2) The counting officer must not open the sealed packets of-
 - (a) tendered ballot papers;
 - (b) the completed corresponding number lists;
 - (c) certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll; or
 - (d) marked copies of the register of electors (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and lists of proxies.

Delivery of documents to relevant registration officer

43.—(1) The counting officer must then forward to the relevant registration officer the following documents—

- (a) the packets of ballot papers in the counting officer's possession;
- (b) the ballot paper accounts and the statements of rejected ballot papers and of the result of the verification of the ballot paper accounts;
- (c) the tendered votes lists, the lists of voters and proxies with disabilities assisted by companions, the lists of votes marked by the presiding officer and the related statements, the lists maintained under rule 32, and the declarations made by the companions of voters and proxies with disabilities;
- (d) the packets of the completed corresponding number lists;
- (e) the packets of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll; and
- (f) the packets containing marked copies of registers (including any marked copy notices issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act) and of the postal voters list, of the lists of proxies and of the proxy postal voters list,

endorsing on each packet a description of its contents, the date of the referendum to which it relates and the name of the authority in respect of which the referendum was held.

(2) In this rule and in rules 44 and 45 references to the relevant registration officer are to the registration officer of the relevant billing authority.

Orders for production of documents

- 44.--(1) An order--
 - (a) for the inspection or production of any rejected ballot papers in the custody of the relevant registration officer; or
 - (b) for the opening of a sealed packet of the completed corresponding number lists or certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll or for the inspection of any counted ballot papers in the relevant registration officer's custody,

may be made by a county court, if the court is satisfied by evidence on oath that the order is required for the purpose of instituting or maintaining a prosecution for an offence in relation to ballot papers, or for the purpose of a referendum petition.

(2) An order for the opening of a sealed packet of the completed corresponding number lists or of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll or for the inspection of any counted ballot papers in the custody of the relevant registration officer may be made by an election court.

- (3) An order under this rule may be made subject to such conditions as to-
 - (a) persons;
 - (b) time;
 - (c) place and mode of inspection;

(d) production or opening;

as the court making the order may think expedient.

(4) In making and carrying into effect an order for the opening of a packet of the completed corresponding number lists or of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll or for the inspection of counted ballot papers, care must be taken that the way in which the vote of any particular person has been given shall not be disclosed until it has been proved—

- (a) that that person's vote was given; and
- (b) that the vote has been declared by a competent court to be invalid.
- (5) An appeal lies to the High Court from any order of a county court under this rule.

(6) Any power given under this rule to a county court may be exercised by any judge of the court otherwise than in open court.

(7) Where an order is made for the production by the relevant registration officer of any document in his or her possession relating to any specified referendum—

- (a) the production by the relevant registration officer or his or her agent of the document ordered in such manner as may be directed by that order shall be conclusive evidence that the document relates to the specified referendum; and
- (b) any endorsement on any packet of ballot papers so produced shall be prima facie evidence that the ballot papers are what they are stated to be by the endorsement.
- (8) The production from proper custody of—
 - (a) a ballot paper purporting to have been used at any referendum; and
 - (b) a completed corresponding number list with a number marked in writing beside the number of the ballot paper,

shall be prima facie evidence that the person whose vote was given by that ballot paper was the person whose entry in the register of electors or on a notice issued under section 13B(3B) or (3D) of the 1983 Act at the time of the referendum contained the same number as the number written as mentioned in sub-paragraph (b) of this paragraph.

(9) Save as by this rule provided, no person shall be allowed to inspect any rejected or counted ballot papers in the possession of the relevant registration officer or open any sealed packets of the completed corresponding number lists or of certificates as to employment on duty on the day of the poll.

Retention of documents

45. The relevant registration officer must retain for one year all documents relating to a referendum forwarded to him or her in pursuance of these Rules by a counting officer, and then, unless otherwise directed by an order of a county court, the Crown Court, a magistrates' court or an election court, must cause them to be destroyed.

PART 8

Appendix of forms

Note:-The forms contained in this Appendix may be adapted so far as circumstances require.

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in Schedule 1

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Corresponding Number List L1

Corresponding Number List L2

Form of Postal Voting Statement

Official Poll Card (to be sent to a voter voting in person)

Official Postal Poll Card (to be sent to a voter voting by post)

Official Proxy Poll Card (to be sent to an appointed proxy voting in person)

Official Proxy Postal Poll Card (to be sent to an appointed proxy voting by post)

Form of directions for the guidance of the voters and proxies in voting

Form of Certificate of Employment

Form of declaration to be made by the companion of a voter or proxy with disabilities

I^{F6}Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in Schedule 1

F6 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (26.2.2013) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2013 (S.I. 2013/409), regs. 1(1), 3, **Sch. 2**

Form of Ballot Paper: Question in referendum as specified in Schedule 1

Front of ballot paper

Part of the council tax in your area goes to	
For the financial year beginning on 1st Aprilhas set an increase of in the amount it charges.	5
If most voters choose 'yes', the increase will be	
If most voters choose 'no', the increase will be instead.	
Do you wantto increase the amount it charges by	?
Do you wantto increase the amount it charges by Vote only once by marking a cross (X) in the box next to your choice	?

Back of ballot paper

Ballot Paper Number

Other Unique Identifying Mark

Council referendum on [insert date] [name of voting area]

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Corresponding Number List – L1 (to be used at a referendum taken alone)				
Voting Area:				
Date of Poll:				
Sheet No:				
Ballot Paper Number		Unique Identifying Mark	Number on electoral register (to be completed only in respect of ballot papers issued to postal voters and proxies voting by post)	
		-		

Corresponding Number List – L2 (to be used in polling stations at a referendum taken alone)	
Voting Area:	
Date of Poll:	
Polling Station:	
Sheet No:	
Ballot Paper Number	Number on electoral register
a data da	

^{F7}Form of Postal Voting Statement

F7 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(a), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))

Postal voting statement [Space for ball		
Referendum on the Council Tax increase for		
[insert name of authority]		
Date of referendum [day] [date] [month] [ye	ear]	
Important – you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your completed ballot paper for it to be counted.		
Please read the instructions carefully and	l use a black pen.	
* Name Ballot pape	r number	
* Counting Officer to insert name but omit where se voter	nt to an anonymous	
(!) Check that the number on the back of your ballot paper matches the number shown above. If these do not match, call us immediately on (insert helpline number).		
I am the person the ballot paper numbered above was sent to. My Date of Birth is: My Signature is: (You must sign inside the box) * Counting Officer to omit box where the voter has		
been granted a waiver		
We will check this information against our recor	ds for security.	
It is an offence to vote using a ballot paper that use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper to vote more than once at the same referendum appointed as a proxy).	r. It is an offence	
Counting Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropria	te.	

Instructions for voting by post

Please read through carefully. If you need help, please call us on [insert helpline number]

- For your vote to be counted, you must fill in and return this postal voting statement with your ballot paper.
- Make sure you have filled in the date of birth *[and signature] box[es] on this postal voting statement.
 - *Counting Officer to delete where voter has been granted a waiver.
- Vote only once by putting a cross X in the box next to your choice.
- Do not mark the ballot paper in any other way or your vote may not count.
- We must get your postal vote by 10pm on [day] [date of poll]. If you miss the post, you can hand it in at our office or at any polling station used for the referendum before 10pm on [day] [date of poll].
- After receiving this postal vote, you cannot vote in person at a polling station in this referendum.

Getting help

- If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling the helpline on [insert helpline number]. The person helping you must not tell anyone how you voted.
- Please call the helpline if you require copies of this form or guidance in Braille or languages other than English.
- If you make a mistake, or lose your postal ballot paper or this statement, you can
 get a replacement. Call us immediately as we can only issue a replacement
 before 5pm on [day] [date] [month]. If you apply after 5pm on [day
 before poll] we can only issue a replacement if you return this ballot pack by
 hand.

Electoral fraud is a crime. It is an offence to vote more than once at the same referendum (unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person).

The Counting Officer issued this statement. Counting Officer to add pictorial guidance as appropriate.

I^{F8}Official Poll Card (to be sent to a voter voting in person)

Front of card

F8 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(b), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))

Poll card	Your details:
Referendum on the Council Tax increase for [insert name of authority]	 [Voter's name and qualifying address details here]
	* Counting Officer to omit where poll card sent to an anonymous voter. Poll card to an anonymous voter must be delivered in a sealed envelope
	Number on register:
Date of referendum [day] [date] [month] [year]	
	** [You do not need to take this card with you in order to vote.]
Voting information	** [You must have this card with you. You cannot vote without it.]
Polling day	** If anonymous voter omit the words in the first set of brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of brackets.
Voting hours	the second set of brackets.
Your polling station will be	[Insert helpline and other details including website].

Please turn over

Back of card

This space for map or other information such as helpline and website details	If you are away or cannot go to the polling station on [day] [date of poll] you can do one of the following:
	 Apply to vote by post. Completed applications must reach us before Spm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you are given a postal vote, you will not be able to vote in person at this referendum.
	OR
	 Apply to vote by proxy (this means someone else can vote on your behair). Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. If you appoint a proxy, you can vote if
It is an offence to:	you wish, but only if your proxy has not already voted on your behalf and has not got a postal vote
 vote more than once at the same referendum, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person 	for you.
 vote as a proxy at the same referendum for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild 	If after 5pm on [the sixth day before the date of the poll] you are unable to vote in person because
 vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not 	you: Have a medical emergency, or
allowed to vote	 Learn you cannot go to the polling station because of work reasons
If you need any help or to find out if your polling station is accessible, please contact us. [Counting Officer to add contact details including website if appropriate]	You can apply to vote by proxy. Completed applications must reach us before 5pm on [day] [date of deadline]. To find out how to apply, call the helpline immediately.
If undelivered return to: [insert return address]	The Counting Officer issued this card.

[^{F9}Official Postal Poll Card (to be sent to a voter voting by post)

]

Front of card

F9 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(c), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))

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Postal poll card

Referendum on the Council Tax increase for [insert name of authority]

Date of referendum [day] [date] [month] [year]

Voting information

We will send your postal vote around [day] [date] [month] [year] *[addressed to:]

*[Voter's name and address]

Please turn over

Your details:

- [Voter's name and qualifying address details here]
- * Counting Officer to omit in both places where poli card sent to an anonymous voter. Poli card to an anonymous voter must be delivered in a sealed envelope

Number on register:

Your postal vote

- You will receive a postal vote for this referendum because you asked to vote by post.
- · You will not be able to vote in a polling station.
- If you have not received your postal vote by [day] [date] [month] call [insert helpline number].

Back of card

How to vote

- When you receive your postal vote, read the instructions carefully.
- Your postal vote includes your ballot paper and a postal voting statement.
- Complete both of these and return them immediately.
- We need to receive your postal vote by 10pm on [day/date of poll].
- If you need information in another format, please call our helpline below.
- If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling our helpline:

[Insert helpline and other details including website]

If you lose your postal vote or make a mistake

- Please phone the helpline immediately.
- We can only issue a replacement postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline].

If you would rather vote in person, or ask someone else to vote on your behalf, you must cancel your postal vote before 5pm on *fday/date of deadlineJ*. For more information, please call the helpine.

It is an offence to:

- vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper
- vote more than once at the same referendum, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy at the same referendum for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote

The Counting Officer issued this card.

If undelivered return to [insert return address]

I^{F10}Official Proxy Poll Card (to be sent to an appointed proxy voting in person)

Front of card

F10 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(d), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))

Proxy poll card		
Referendum on the Council for [insert name of authority]		Your details: * [Proxy's name and qualifying address details here] * Counting Officer to omit where poll card sent to the proxy of an anonymous voter. Poll card to proxy of an anonymous voter must be delivered in a sealed envelope.
Date of referendum [day] [date] [m [year]	onth]	
Voting information		
Polling day		You will receive a proxy vote
Voting hours		** [The person named on the back of this card] [Another person] has appointed you as a proxy to vote on their behalf at this election.
Your polling station will be		** [You do not need to take this card with you to vote.] [You must have this card with you when you vote. You cannot vote as a proxy without it.]
		** If sent to the proxy of an anonymous voter omit the words in each of the first sets of brackets, if not omit the words in each of the second sets of brackets.
		[Insert helpline and other details including website].

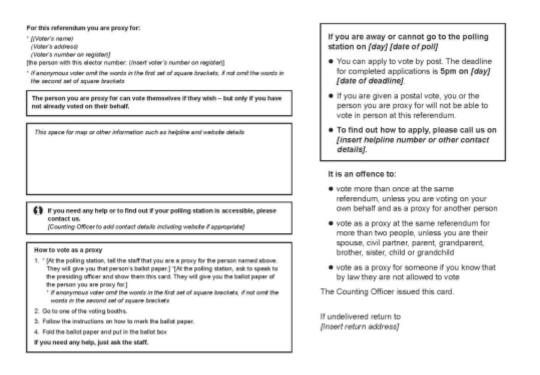
Please turn over

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[^{F11}Official Proxy Postal Poll Card (to be sent to an appointed proxy voting by post) Front of card

F11 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(e), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))

Proxy postal poll card	
Referendum on the Council Tax increase for [insert name of authority]	Voting as a proxy
	The person named on the back of this card] [Another person] has appointed you as a proxy to vote on their behalf at
Date of referendum [day] [date] [month] [year]	** If sent to the proxy of an anonymous
	voter omit the words in the first set of brackets, if not omit the words in the
Voting information	second set of brackets.
We will send your postal vote around [day] [date] [month] [year] *[addressed to:]	Your postal vote You will receive a postal vote for this referendum because you asked to vote
* [Proxy's name and qualifying address details here] * Counting Officer to omit where poll card sent to the proxy of an anonymous voter. Poll card to proxy of an anonymous voter must be delivered in a sealed envelope.	 by post. You will not be able to vote as a proxy in a polling station. If you have not received your postal vote by [day] [date] [month] call [insert helpline number].

Please turn over

Back of card

For this referendum you are proxy for:

- * [(Voter's name) (Voter's address)
- (Voter's number on register)]

[the person with this elector number: (Inserf voler's number on register)]

* If anonymous voter omit the words in the first set of square brackets, if not omit the words in the second set of square brackets

How to vote

- When you receive your postal vote, read the instructions carefully.
- Your postal vote includes your ballot paper and a postal voting statement.
- 3. Complete both of these and return them immediately.
- We need to receive your postal vote by 10pm on [day/date of poll].

If you need information in another format, please call our helpline below.

If you need help to vote, you can ask someone you know or get independent help by calling our helpline:

[insert helpline or other details including website]

If you lose your postal vote or make a mistake

- Please phone the helpline immediately.
- We can only issue a replacement postal vote before 5pm on [day/date of deadline].

If you would rather vote in person, you must cancel your postal vote before **5pm on [day/ date of deadline]**. For more information, please call the helpline.

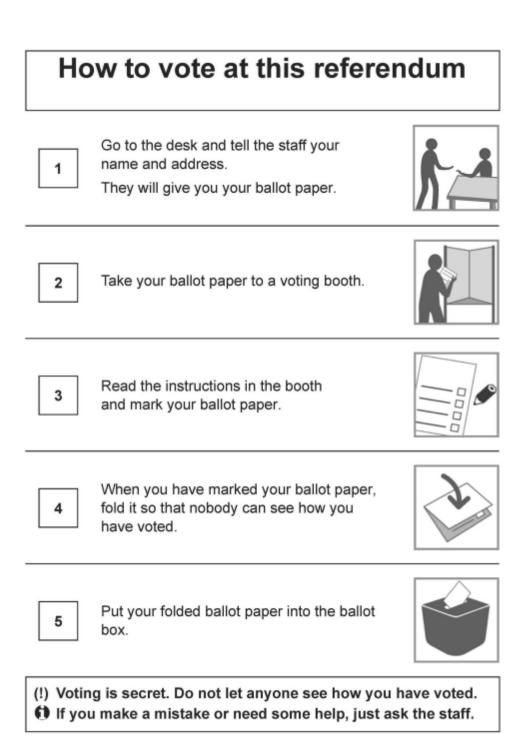
It is an offence to:

- vote using a ballot paper that was not sent for your use or interfere with another voter's ballot paper
- vote more than once at the same referendum, unless you are voting on your own behalf and as a proxy for another person
- vote as a proxy at the same referendum for more than two people, unless you are their spouse, civil partner, parent, grandparent, brother, sister, child or grandchild
- vote as a proxy for someone if you know that by law they are not allowed to vote
- The Counting Officer issued this card.

If undelivered return to [Insert return address]

 I^{F12} Form of directions for the guidance of the voters and proxies in voting

F12 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(f), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))



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[^{F13}Form of Certificate of Employment

F13 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(g), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))

Certificate of Employment	
Referendum on the Council Tax increa	ase for [insert name of authority]
Voting area of [insert name of voting area]	
Date of referendum [day] [date] [month] [year]	
The person named below is entitled to vote at any p and surrender of this certificate to the Presiding Off	colling station in the above voting area on production icer
I certify that	(name of voter)
	in the register of electors for the voting area o in person to the polling station allotted to them at this e above date for a purpose connected with this referendun
Signature Cou	inting Officer/Police Officer (Inspector or above)**
Date	
* The voter's number can be found on the poll card whic announced, or can be checked by contacting the Elec ** Person completing the form to delete whichever does	toral Registration Officer.



F14 Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted (6.4.2014) by The Local Authorities (Conduct of Referendums) (Council Tax Increases) (England) (Amendment No.2) Regulations 2014 (S.I. 2014/925), regs. 1(3), 8(h), Sch. 1 (with reg. 1(4))

Declaration for the companion of a voter with disabilities				
Referendum on the Council Tax increase for [insert name of authority]				
Date of referendum [day] [date] [month] [year]				
A voter with disabilities is a voter who has made a declaration that he or she is so incapacitated by his or her blindness or other disability, or by his or her inability to read, as to be unable to vote at this referendum without assistance. In this form, "voter" means the person casting the vote at the referendum and includes a person voting as a proxy.				
Part 1 To be completed by the voter's companion				
Companion's name				
Companion's address				
Voter's name				
[Only for use if the disabled voter is acting as a proxy] Voter is acting as proxy for:				
Elector's number [If the disabled voter is acting as a proxy, this is the number of the person for whom the voter is acting]				
I have been requested to assist the voter named above to record their vote at this referendum. I declare that:				
 I am entitled to vote as a voter at this referendum 				
 I am the *spouse/*civil partner/*parent/*brother/*sister/*child of the voter with disabilities and am 18 years of age or over 				
*Please delete whichever does not apply				
AND (2) • I have not previously assisted more than one voter with disabilities at this referendum. If I have assisted one other voter their name and address is:				
[Complete if appropriate] Name and address of other person assisted				

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NOTE – It is a criminal offence to knowingly make a false statement in this form.				
Companion's signature		Date		
Part 2 To be completed by the Presiding Officer				
I, the undersigned, being the Presiding Officer for:				
Polling station		Voting area of		
Hereby certify that the above declaration was signed in my presence.		Presiding Officer signature		
Date		Time (exact)		

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Changes to legislation:

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Changes and effects yet to be applied to :

- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 forms substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 Sch. 5 Pt. 1
- Sch. 3 forms modified (temp.) by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 17(2)
- Sch. 3 forms modified (temp.) by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 17(3)
- Sch. 3 Appendix Form substituted by S.I. 2022/1309 Sch. 4 Pt. 1
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(17)(b)Sch. 9 Pt. 1
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(17)(c)Sch. 9 Pt. 1
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(17)(d)Sch. 9 Pt. 1
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Form substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(17)(e)Sch. 9 Pt. 1
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Forms substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 7 Pt. 1
- Sch. 3 Table of Contents words inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(2)
- Sch. 3 Pt. 8 Table of Contents words inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(17)(a)

Changes and effects yet to be applied to the whole Instrument associated Parts and Chapters:

Whole provisions yet to be inserted into this Instrument (including any effects on those provisions):

- Sch. 3 rule 17(5A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(2)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 3 rule 14(5) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(4)
- Sch. 3 rule 17(5)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(6)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 3 rule 17(6A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(6)(b)
- Sch. 3 rule 24(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(7)(b)
- Sch. 3 rule 24(5) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(7)(e)
- Sch. 3 rule 26(1A)-(1M) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(8)(b)
- Sch. 3 rule 27(1A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(9)(b)
- Sch. 3 rule 28(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(10)(b)
- Sch. 3 rule 29(7) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(11)
- Sch. 3 rule 30A inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(12)
- Sch. 3 rule 34(1)(da) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(13)
- Sch. 3 rule 42(2)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(14)
- Sch. 3 rule 43(1)(da) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(15)
- Sch. 3 rule 44(1A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(16)
- Sch. 3 rule 21(1)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 7(2)(a)
- Sch. 3 rule 36(3)(e) and word inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 7(2)(b)(ii)
- Sch. 3 rule 24 modified (temp.) by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 15(2)(3)
- Sch. 3 rule 17(9) omitted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(2)(a)(iii)
- Sch. 3 rule 26(1)(a) omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(8)(a)(ii)
- Sch. 3 rule 26(3)(a) omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(8)(d)
- Sch. 3 rule 17(5)(b) substituted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(2)(a)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 2(1) substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(3)
- Sch. 3 rule 24(3)-(3B) substituted for Sch. 3 rule 24(3) by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(7)
 (c)
- Sch. 3 rule 17(5)(a) word omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(6)(a)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 36(3)(c) word omitted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 7(2)(b)(i)
- Sch. 3 rule 24 Table words inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(7)(a)
- Sch. 3 rule 24(4) words inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(7)(d)
- Sch. 3 rule 24(1)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(3)(a)
- Sch. 3 rule 26(2) words omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(8)(c)

Sch. 3 rule 24 table words omitted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(3)(b)(ii) Sch. 3 rule 28(3) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(2)(b) Sch. 3 rule 15(3) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(5) Sch. 3 rule 26(1) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(8)(a)(i) Sch. 3 rule 27(1) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(9)(a) Sch. 3 rule 28(2) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 52(10)(a) Sch. 3 rule 24 table words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(3)(b)(i) Sch. 3 rule 24(2) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(3)(c) Sch. 5 rule 17(6A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(3)(a)(ii) Sch. 5 rule 2(1)(za) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(3)(a) Sch. 5 rule 2(1)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(3)(c) Sch. 5 rule 14(7) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(4) Sch. 5 rule 17(5A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(6)(a) Sch. 5 rule 17(8A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(6)(b) Sch. 5 rule 26(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(7)(b) Sch. 5 rule 26(5) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(7)(e) Sch. 5 rule 28(1A)-(1M) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(8)(b) Sch. 5 rule 29(1A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(9)(b) Sch. 5 rule 30(2A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(10)(b) Sch. 5 rule 31(7) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(11) Sch. 5 rule 32A inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(12) Sch. 5 rule 36(1)(da) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(13) Sch. 5 rule 44(2)(aa) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(14) Sch. 5 rule 45(1)(da) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(15) Sch. 5 rule 46(1A) inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(16) Sch. 5 rule 23(1)(ba) inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 7(4)(b) _ Sch. 5 rule 38(7)(e) and word inserted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 7(4)(c)(ii) Sch. 5 rule 26 modified (temp.) by S.I. 2023/1147 Sch. 2 para. 15(2)(3) Sch. 5 rule 17(11) omitted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(3)(a)(iii) Sch. 5 rule 28(1)(a) omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(8)(a)(ii) Sch. 5 rule 28(3)(a) omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(8)(d) Sch. 5 rule 17(6)(b) substituted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(3)(a)(i) Sch. 5 rule 26(3)-(3B) substituted for Sch. 5 rule 26(3) by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(7) _ (c) Sch. 5 rule 2(1)(a) word omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(3)(b) Sch. 5 rule 38(7)(c) word omitted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 7(4)(c)(i) Sch. 5 rule 26 Table words inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(7)(a) Sch. 5 rule 26(4) words inserted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(7)(d) Sch. 5 rule 26(1)(b) words inserted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(7)(a) Sch. 5 rule 28(2) words omitted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(8)(c) Sch. 5 rule 26 table words omitted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(7)(b)(ii) Sch. 5 rule 12(4)(b) words revoked by S.I. 2018/1310 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1389, reg. 2) Sch. 5 rule 17(10) words revoked by S.I. 2018/1310 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1389, reg. 2) Sch. 5 rule 38(9)(a) words revoked by S.I. 2018/1310 Sch. 1 Pt. 2 (This S.I. is amended by S.I. 2019/1389, reg. 2) Sch. 5 rule 30(3) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1309 reg. 9(3)(b) Sch. 5 rule 15(3) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(5) Sch. 5 rule 28(1) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(8)(a)(i) Sch. 5 rule 29(1) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(9)(a) Sch. 5 rule 30(2) words substituted by S.I. 2022/1382 reg. 54(10)(a) Sch. 5 rule 26 table words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(7)(b)(i) Sch. 5 rule 26(2) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1147 reg. 16(7)(c) Sch. 5 rule 17(10) words substituted by S.I. 2023/1225 reg. 7(4)(a)