

# Commenting on the news that Surrey County Council is not going to hold a referendum on 15 percent council tax rise – Pearce

**Teresa**

**Pearce, Shadow Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government,**

commenting on the news that Surrey

County Council is not going to hold a referendum on 15 percent council tax rise, said:

“The

Government should not be trying to deal with the national social care crisis through backroom deals with sympathetic Tory council leaders in an attempt to avoid negative publicity.

“Across

the country, people are facing steep rises in their council tax bills, whilst the provision and quality of social care is declining. Council tax rises are nothing more than a short-term sticking plaster for a problem that needs long-term solutions. And they create a postcode lottery in social care, because they raise the least money in areas with the greatest need.

“There is

an unprecedented crisis in social care, with care providers handing contracts back to councils, 1.2 million elderly people living without the care they need

and delayed discharges causing huge pressure on the NHS. The Government must come forward with a long-term strategic rethink of social care funding, as well as urgent funding to stem the crisis which is hurting elderly and disabled people right now.”

Ends