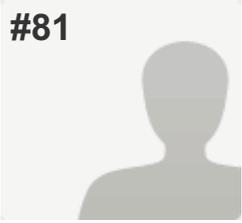


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PAGE 2: RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Q2: Would you be happy to be approached by the Commission for further discussion about your submission?	Yes
Q3: Do you consider yourself or your organisation as from or representing?	an urban area
Q4: I am responding as an:	An individual

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Q5: You have indicated that you are responding as an individual. Do you agree to your response being made available to the public on the Commission's web site?	Yes
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Call for Written Evidence

Q6: If you have agreed to your response being made available to the public, please tell us if we may also make your name and address available.

Yes, make my response available, but not my name and address

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Q7: You have indicated that you are responding on behalf of an organisation. The name and address of your organisation will be made public on the Commission's web site. Are you content for your response to also be made available?

Respondent skipped this question

Q8: Which of the following best describes your organisation?

Respondent skipped this question

Q9: Please provide a short description of the main purpose of your organisation.

Respondent skipped this question

PAGE 6: TELL US WHAT YOU THINK

Q10: CURRENT SYSTEM OF COUNCIL TAX: To what extent does the current system of council tax deliver a fair and effective system of local taxation in Scotland? Are there any features of the current system that you wish to see retained or changed? Please illustrate your answer with any examples from your own experience.

The current system is unfair in part.

Lower earning/net worth households pay a significantly higher proportion of earnings on council tax than higher earning/net worth households. In addition to this, the universal citywide setting of the council tax banding is a source of unfairness given the disparity in the access to amenities.

Generally the services which deal with Environment, Education, Libraries and Recycling seem to work fairly for all. It is leisure and access to publicly owned/funded free to access amenities through out the city which appears to be unfairly funded as there are more barriers for citizens from deprived areas and proportionately fewer free to access amenities exist in deprived areas.

An example of this would be the galleries in Edinburgh; they are not all easily accessible from deprived areas by public transport and parking in and around them is costly. To compound this disparity in access you have areas like Granton where there is a huge area of land given over to intrusive, ugly National Galleries buildings designed to facilitate the storage and restoration of artwork, however there is no public access to these facilities at all.

Initial property purchase price is a good starting point for understanding the income/net worth of individuals, this should be retained rather than attempting the unnecessary, costly assessment of individuals.

Q11: REFORM OF LOCAL TAXATION: Are there alternatives to the current system of council tax that you think would help to reform local taxation in Scotland? What are the main features of these, and why do you think they would deliver improvement? Do you have any examples of why this is the case?

I believe that council tax should be based on a number of factors including the initial purchase price of a property. By using a range of factors in setting more flexible banded rates in each locality (not citywide), for example:

- . Value of property (initial purchase price + annual factors for rising values)
- . Free to access amenities available in a specific locality
- . Deprivation levels of specific locality

I believe that if someone lives in an area where the publicly maintained/funded amenities are good, they are more likely to make use of and enjoy the benefits of the jobs and infrastructure which they also bring such as cafes, shops and social activities, exhibitions, festivals, etc. The cost of properties in those areas will reflect this in part, however, the on going cost of maintaining those amenities should be a less proportionate burden for those who have less opportunity to use them and have a greater cost incurred in their attempts to use them.

Council tax payment should more reflective of the benefits of access to publicly owned/maintained facilities. The reduced relative burden for lower income areas/households should in turn give greater opportunity for this group of citizens to afford access to the facilities which are funded through the council tax collected.

Q12: LOCAL PRIORITIES: How well do you think that communities' local priorities are accounted for in the way that local taxation operates at the moment? If there is room for improvement, how should things change? Do you have any ideas or examples about how this could improve people's lives?

I do not think that communities' priorities are currently accounted for very well, but by assessing the local tax contribution more fairly, we could improve the opportunity of access for all and redress the balance over time.

Better affordable transport links could improve access and as a result reduce disparity between communities access to amenities. Outlying deprived areas are often serviced by poor transport connections, meaning lengthy and/or costly journeys to access jobs and services, often requiring two buses to many destinations. Better funding for transport is difficult for the council to achieve but by reducing council tax to reflect this issue in the effected areas and increasing the council tax to reflect better infrastructure in wealthier areas, a more equal Edinburgh might be possible.

Q13: FURTHER INFORMATION: We would like to keep the conversation going. Please tell us about any events, networks or other ways in which we could help achieve this.

Respondent skipped this question