

Councillor Paul Rooney
Scottish Labour Party
GARSCADDEN/SCOTSTOUNHILL - WARD 13
City Treasurer



Our Ref: PR/CF/0622tax

22 June 2015

Dear Sir/Madam

Glasgow Labour Group Response to the Consultation on Local Tax Reform

This response is provided on behalf of the Scottish Labour Party of Glasgow City Council in response to the consultation regarding the future of local taxation in Scotland.

This outlines the themes and principles which we believe should underpin the reform of local government finance. This letter should be considered as the formal response and no response will be submitted through the online survey as it did not provide adequate opportunity to make the points outlined below.

Glasgow Labour Group wishes the following points to be considered:

- The system of funding for local government is ineffective and unsustainable.
- Any discussion around the funding of local government, should not merely focus on the small percentage that is raised through the council tax. The Scottish Government's block grant to councils makes up over 80% of total council funding. This cannot be neglected.
- Councils can't merely serve to administer central Scottish Government decisions. There must be a stronger democratic link between taxation and representation.
- The distribution of funding from the Scottish Government to local authorities should be progressive and based on improving outcomes for the communities we represent. If we are to tackle poverty and inequality then funding will have to be allocated transparently.
- Any reforms to local taxation must be easy to understand if it is to be considered legitimate. It must also be easy for local authorities to collect.
- Any reforms must lead to a local tax regime that is stable and predictable.

Should any clarification be required concerning this submission then please do not hesitate to contact me.

Yours faithfully

Councillor Paul Rooney

Surgeries:

1 st Tuesday of each month	7.00 pm	Knightswood Community Centre, 201 Alderman Road
2 nd Monday of each month	5.00 pm	Knightswood Baptist Church, 183 Knightswood Road
3 rd Wednesday of each month	6.00 pm	St Brendan's Primary School, 170 Hawick Street

There will be no surgeries during school or public holidays.