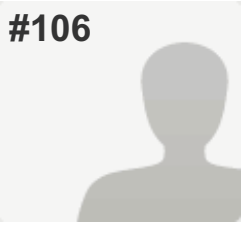


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COMPLETE

PAGE 2: RESPONDENT INFORMATION

Q1: Please tell us a little about yourself

Forename	John
Surname	Page
Title (e.g. Mr/Ms/Mrs/Miss/Dr)	Mr

Q2: Would you be happy to be approached by the Commission for further discussion about your submission?	Yes
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Q3: Do you consider yourself or your organisation as from or representing?	don't know / not applicable
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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 and name available, but not my 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.

It is not a progressive or fair system.....it does not secure a fair contribution from those who have greatest wealth

It contributes to unsustainable and socially unjust house price inflation

It does not foster local democracy and accountability

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 am strongly in favour of a Land Value Tax

I have reviewed the paper produced by Andy Wightman for the Scottish Greens and believe that this is the way forward. Andy's paper proceeded on the basis that his LVT would be revenue neutral.....whilst this may be necessary in the short term, I think that quite quickly there should be a move to increase the tax take from the land asset value. My reasons for this are as follows:

1. Increased LVT will free up land firstly for housing and secondly for wider development especially in rural development

2 I am assuming that local business taxes will be swept away in a LVT system (with the existing and hopefully increased burden following purely on the land values of individuals and businesses) and this will be a boost for the development of SMEs

Both of these points will provide businesses, jobs and homes for young Scots (especially in less populated areas) and will see the economic and population growth that we need.

(All of us are fully aware of the "Project Fear" type hysteria....."Mugabe takes over Holyrood".....that will face these proposals from the vested interests of those who benefit from the current system. Fortunately, Civic Scotland is now well capable of handling this expected response.

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?

Local Govt in Scotland is anything but local. This needs to change.

We need to make the savings from the economies of scale that flow from large council organisations' "back office" functions.....but smaller councils should make the decisions about spending priorities at a much more local level. Lesley Riddoch spells this out much better than I can in Blossom

Such local empowerment needs a lot of hard work and negotiation about spending priorities at the different levels.....but that is a necessary consequence of real local democracy and is possible given the progressively informed and empowered electorate in Scotland

(I am conscious that I have not made specific reference to how these ideas would affect me personally. Here goes.....I am retired and spend some of my time doing voluntary work in Glasgow where I have a small flat and on Arran where I have a small house.

1 I am quite prepared to pay up to 15% more by way of land tax on these two properties (including removing any second home reduction)

2 I expect LVT to progressively reduce house price inflation

3 I expect SMEs to benefit substantially especially in places like Arran

4 I expect some of the additional revenues on education in inner city Glasgow)

We are on the brink of a new Scotland.....LVT is an idea whose time has come.....the MSM will say it is the end of civilisation as we know it.....no one believes them anymore and it is time for Scotland to act like it is already a better nation

Call for Written Evidence

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.

Speak to local Women for Indy groups?