Local Government and Communities Committee

Consideration of the Council Tax (Substitution of Proportion) (Scotland) Order 2016

Submission from Ron Ewing

With regard to the proposed increases in Council Tax relative to the banding, it should first be considered whether or not that banding is fair. In many situations, this is not the case.

In my own case, I live in a two bedroom semi-detached house in Johnstone. Both my wife and I are in our 70's, live in this house alone and have no children. Our sole income is based on pensions. The powers that be decreed many years ago that our house was band E.

We consider that our drain on local authority resources is minimal, compared with some neighbours who live in lower band houses with more occupants, thus representing a much bigger drain on resources. The proposals that we should pay even more is not very fair, especially considering that the planned increases appears to disregard those in lower band properties.

I believe that in the interests of fairness and before any increases are implemented, all homes should be re-banded, this time considering the situation of the occupants and their ability to pay. It is simply grossly unfair that pensioners should be made to pay more than others who are a greater drain on resources.

Yours sincerely,

Ron Ewing