

I would like to make the following points in relation to your current consultation on Rates.

1. I oppose an system that is based on a Capital Value System. This is unfair as the price created for my property is market-led and therefore is a misinterpretation of the actual price of my home or the council services I use. There is no relevance between the two. The price of my home does not affect the services I use.

2. Disability relief should not being dependent on your home being adapted for the disability. The blind, some physically or mentally handicapped may not have any adaptations to their homes yet they should receive the relief.

3. There should be a 25% reduction for single person's occupancy of a house.

4. If the capital value system must be retained, then the maximum rates should be based on a home value of £300,000.

5. I oppose any rate relief for landlords. Any rate relief should be directed at students with relief given to them and not to their landlords. However it should be remembered that many areas where there is a high student population use a large proportion of local council services. This is not only something that the planning service should keep in mind when considering plans but something that should be reflected on landlords in cost.

6. An increase in the savings limit for pensioners should be granted before their rate relief is affected.

7. The maximum that people should pay for their rates be no more than 5 times the lowest rate bill, with the system generating no more revenue than had previously been generated by the old Rating System.

I trust that you will take these points in board in your consultation.