



Stephen Benton
Council Tax and Valuation Tribunal Policy
Team Leader
LGF2
Zone 5/H6
Eland House
Bressenden Place
LONDON SW1E 5DU

Web site: www.odpm.gov.uk

12 October 2004

COUNCIL TAX INFORMATION LETTER 6/2004

This is Council Tax Information Letter 6/2004. The topics covered in this letter are:

- **Council Tax Revaluation in England: Consultation on publication of property information**
- **Select Committee on Local Government Revenue: Government Response**
- **Civil Partnership Bill**

Council Tax Revaluation in England: Consultation on publication of property information

We are seeking views on increasing the information published as part of the English council tax valuation list to improve accessibility and transparency. Our consultation paper (entitled The Council Tax Revaluation in England: Publication of Property Information) was issued today and specifically seeks views on whether:

- the council tax valuation list should include certain property attribute information to assist taxpayers' understanding of the basis on which valuations for property banding are made;
- the Valuation Office Agency (VOA) should publish the list in draft from 1 September 2006, prior to its coming into effect from 1 April 2007, in addition to local (billing) authorities, in order that taxpayers may check them;
- the VOA should publish the draft list on their website;
- the VOA should issue a notice to each council tax payer incorporating property information including the sales evidence upon which the banding has been based.

Any changes would be in relation to the new lists which – under legislation in the Local Government Act 2003 – will take effect from 1 April 2007.

The consultation paper can be obtained from 0870 1226 236 or on the ODPM website at www.local.odpm.gov.uk

The press release of today (12 October) can be found at http://www.odpm.gov.uk/pns/displaypn.cgi?pn_id=2004_0243

We invite responses to the consultation questions and any other comments by 4 January 2005. Please send paper responses to Ronnie Gasper, LGF2, ODPM, Zone 5/H5, Eland House, Bressenden Place, London SW1E 5DU or e-mail responses to counciltax.consultations@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

A summary of the responses to this consultation will be published by 29 March 2005 on the ODPM website.

If you have any enquiries, please contact Phill Kirk on 020 7944 4193 or fax to 020 7944 4179. Email: council.tax@odpm.gsi.gov.uk

Select Committee on Local Government Revenue: Government Response

The Government published on 11 October its response to the ODPM Select Committee report on local government revenue. This can be viewed at <http://www.local.odpm.gov.uk/finance/balance/selectcom.pdf>.

Civil Partnership Bill

The Civil Partnership Bill, which will create civil partnerships between same sex couples, starts its passage through the House of Commons today, with its Second Reading. Commons Committee stage is scheduled to start next Tuesday (19th) and, subject to Parliament, it is hoped that the Bill can complete its remaining stages by the end of the current Session. The main change for council tax will be to create joint and several liability for same sex couples. We will also need to amend a number of statutory instruments to reflect the new civil partnership arrangements. We aim to implement all the changes by the end of 2005.

If you have any enquiries, please contact David McDonald on 020 7944 4206 or fax to 020 7944 4179. Email: council.tax@odpm.gsi.gov.uk



STEPHEN BENTON