

COMMUNITY GOVERNANCE REVIEW – OSWESTRY

Schedule of comments received following publication of the final proposals document

	Comments from	Summary of Comments Received	Officer Response
1.	Leny & Stuart Cato	<p>Thank you for sending a copy of the Final Proposals regarding suggested Boundary Changes which would affect us in Broomhall Close. We fully understand the proposals and rationale and accept them apart from one crucial issue.</p> <p>The proposal to change the Council Tax Precepts would mean a significant impact on what we currently pay, which we consider unacceptable. Our property is currently rated in Band F so it is not entirely sure what the increase would mean for us, but we estimate at least by plus 2.5%. This is unacceptable for the following reasons:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The change is being made for purely bureaucratic reasons. 2. It is against the Government criteria of not increasing Council Taxes this year. 3. We are pensioners (I am 76) and already are feeling adversely the effects of other increases. 4. The proposed increase would in fact be a tax on us to allow us to register our votes locally instead of at a distance. <p>May we suggest that these changes be absorbed and/or the precept for Oswestry Town adjusted to the same as Oswestry Rural.</p>	<p>The original complaint regarding Broomhall Close, Broomhall Lane and Trefonen Road was that the the Polling Station is some distance from the area. The final proposals document discusses the issues that were considered by the Council's Community Governance Working Party when drawing up the final proposals, see in particular paragraphs 3.4 and 3.5.</p> <p>When considering the appropriateness of a proposal, the Working Party had to take into consideration a number of factors in particular:</p> <p>Electoral Equality - which is discussed in part 5 of the final proposals document and Effective and Convenient Local Governance which is considered in part 8 of the final proposals document.</p> <p>Details about Council Tax also needs to be considered as part of the final proposals but do not override the needs for Electoral Equality and Effective and Convenient Local Governance.</p> <p>As you will have seen from the final proposals document the Working Party has considered the</p>

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			<p>wider picture of Oswestry Town in its consideration of the proposals not just in terms of the internal warding arrangements, but also its relationship with the adjoining parishes and the likely housing development over the next 5 years. The proposed changes to the eastern boundary will ensure that properties built on the development site over the next 5 years and beyond are included in Oswestry Town. The proposals will also give you and your neighbours as electors for the area a democratic voice in the arrangements for Oswestry Town Council.</p> <p>I have obtained further information regarding the level of Council Tax for a Band F property.</p> <p>For the 2011/12 year</p> <p>Total Council Tax paid on a Band F property in Oswestry Rural Parish - £2,159.62 (Oswestry Rural Parish Council proportion £23.13).</p> <p>Total Council Tax paid on a Band F property in Oswestry Town - £2,229.41 (Oswestry Town Council proportion £92.92).</p> <p>The Council at its meeting on 23 February 2012 will be asked to approve the final proposals for adoption. Your comments and concerns will of course be reported to that meeting.</p>