

In response to your request for current views on this topic,

I consider an initial CAP of 8% of Gross Disposable Income is sensible, especially as demand driven inflation in the medium term (over the next five years) is likely to inflate the initial charge and CAP by 25% to 10% of Gross Disposable Income.

The effect of increased charges on people on low inflation Fixed Incomes will be considerable and push them towards a Rating Poverty demarcation line.

Ten percent is the threshold for Fuel Poverty and I presume this 10 percent Benchmark will be the defined threshold for Rates Poverty also.

So, best to introduce a sustainable CAPPED benchmark of 8% maximum.