

Grateful for the opportunity to comment on this policy review, the comments below represent my personal views as a domestic ratepayer.

I welcome the fact that the devolved administration has had the good sense to review the current system based on raising revenue for services from the householder as the sole source of revenue, which in its present form is unfair and does not provide for equality of treatment.

The fact that the total revenue must be raised from householders is wrong and this needs to be addressed, this is the fundamental flaw in the current rates system and means the burden is not spread fairly to all those who use or benefit from the provision of those services.

I therefore fully support a form of "local taxation scheme" so that all those in our society who use or benefit from the provision of the local services can pay for the services covered by the rating charges. Local taxation would be a fair method of raising the necessary funds.

The related matter of water charges, where the charge is based on the capital value of the property is not acceptable under any circumstance, these charges can be equally covered by a local taxation scheme. The only other acceptable alternative for water charges is the provision of a metered service to all households.