

Public Consultation Responses

Option 1: Principles of the current scheme:

- 67% of respondents agreed
- 18% of respondents disagreed; and
- 15% of respondents did not know.

Option 2: Maximum savings limit:

- 46% of respondents agreed with the reduction of the maximum savings limit to £9,000;
- 8% of respondents agreed with the reduction of the maximum savings limit to £8,000;
- 3% of respondents agreed with the reduction of the maximum savings limit to £7,000;
- 15% of respondents agreed with the reduction of the maximum savings limit to £6,000;
- 28% of respondents did not know.

Option 3: Minimum entitlement:

- 33% of respondents agreed with increasing the minimum entitlement to £2.50;
- 11% of respondents agreed with increasing the minimum entitlement to £3.00;
- 5% of respondents agreed with increasing the minimum entitlement to £3.50;
- 23% of respondents agreed with increasing the minimum entitlement to £4.00;
- 29% of respondents did not know.

Option 4: Removal of the Family Premium

- 33% of respondents agreed;
- 45% of respondents disagreed; and
- 22% of respondents did not know.

Option 5: Introduction of a banded Universal Credit Scheme

- 7% of respondents supported this scheme;
- 93% of respondents either did not agree or provided additional comments.

Due to the complex nature of UC and the impact it has on Council Tax Support customers, Officers have contact other Local Authorities who introduced a UC Banded scheme in 2018/19. Those authorities recommended a significant amount of testing to be undertaken, along with the potential support from the relevant software supplier to help write the scheme.

Also, having reviewed customer type, it is clear that, whilst officers would want to keep the scheme simple, there are additional household types which would need to be included within the banding.

As the timescale from approval of the scheme on 31 January 2019 to the scheme being implemented on 1 April 2019 is very tight, Officers would recommend that the UC Banded Scheme is delayed for 1 year, to allow for a

period of testing, along with ensuring the software is able to manage the approved scheme.

Option 6: Increase empty homes premium to 100%:

- 63% of respondents agreed;
- 23% of respondents disagreed; and
- 14% did not know

Option 7: Introduction of a Care Leavers Exemption

- 70% of respondents agreed;
- 9% of respondents disagreed; and
- 21% did not know

Option 8: Changes to unoccupied and unfurnished properties

- 26% agreed with option 1;
- 9% agreed with option 2;
- 44% agreed with option 3; and
- 21% did not know