

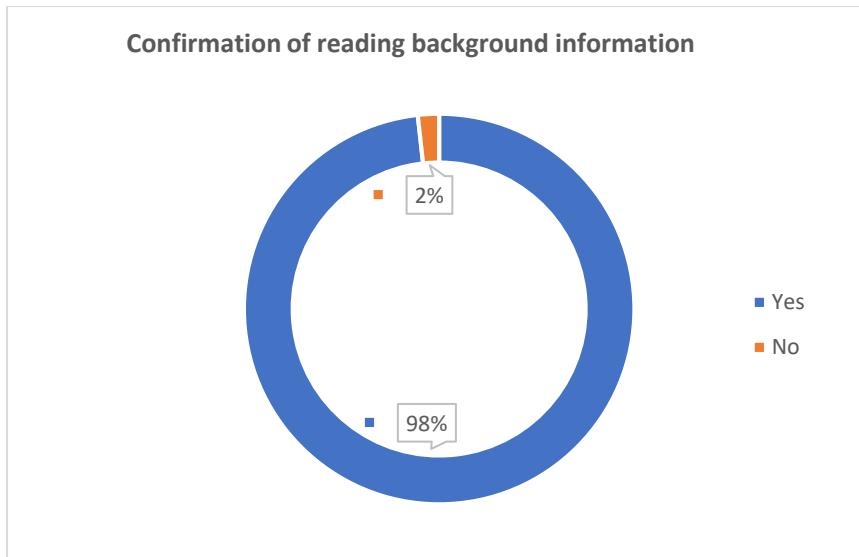
APPENDIX 1

Results from the IWC Local Council Tax Support Scheme Consultation 2021/22

The above consultation was undertaken between 1st August 2020 until the 30th September 2020. On completion, a total of 286 responses had been received. The charts below detail the responses received for each question asked of the participants.

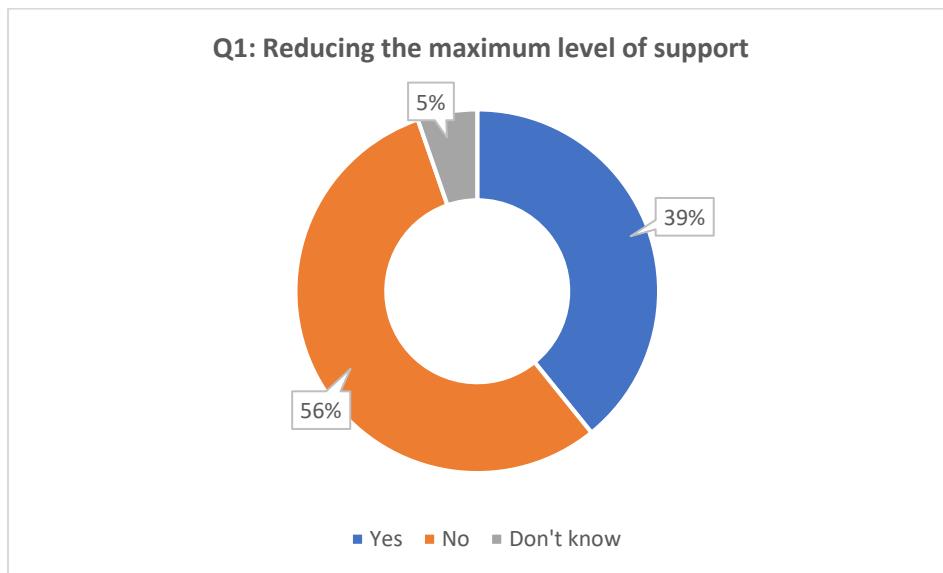
I have read the background information about the Local Council Tax Support scheme.

281 respondents indicated that they had read the background information about the Local Council Tax Support scheme, which equates to 98% of participants. 5 participants (2%) indicated that they had not yet read the background information which accompanied the scheme, as was indicated by the introduction to the survey. As an improvement from the previous year, respondents who indicated to not having read the background information were not able to progress through the survey and instead were redirected to a message page which contained a link to the background information while also thanking them for their interest in the survey. On completion of the background reading, these individuals were able to restart the survey if desired.



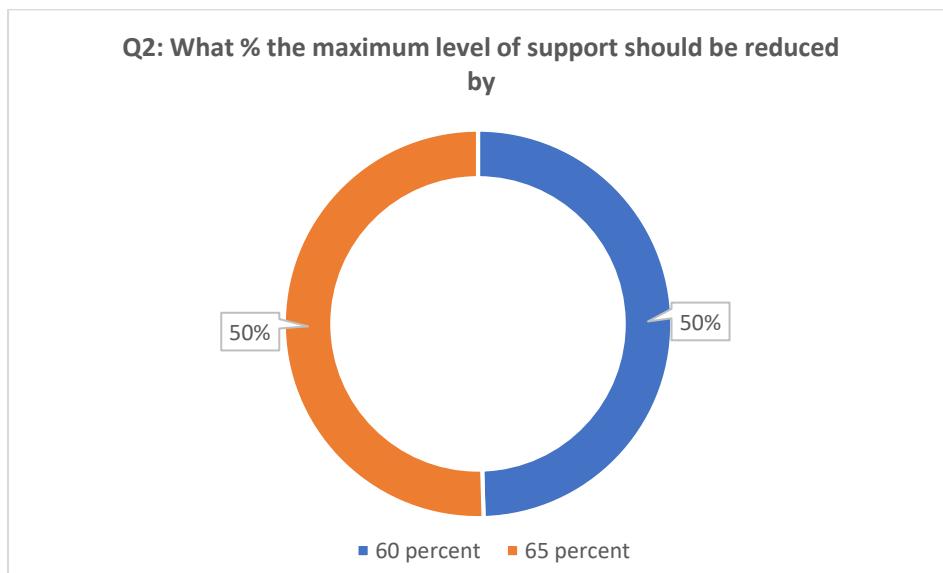
Question 1 [Option 1]: Do you agree with reducing the maximum level of support?

96 of the consultation participants (39%) indicated that they agreed with Option 1 – the reduction of the maximum level of support for working age claimants from 70% to either 65% or 60% (not yet specified), as proposed by the Isle of Wight Council. 136 participants (56%) did not agree with this option and 13 (5%) of participants responded that they were unsure whether they agree.



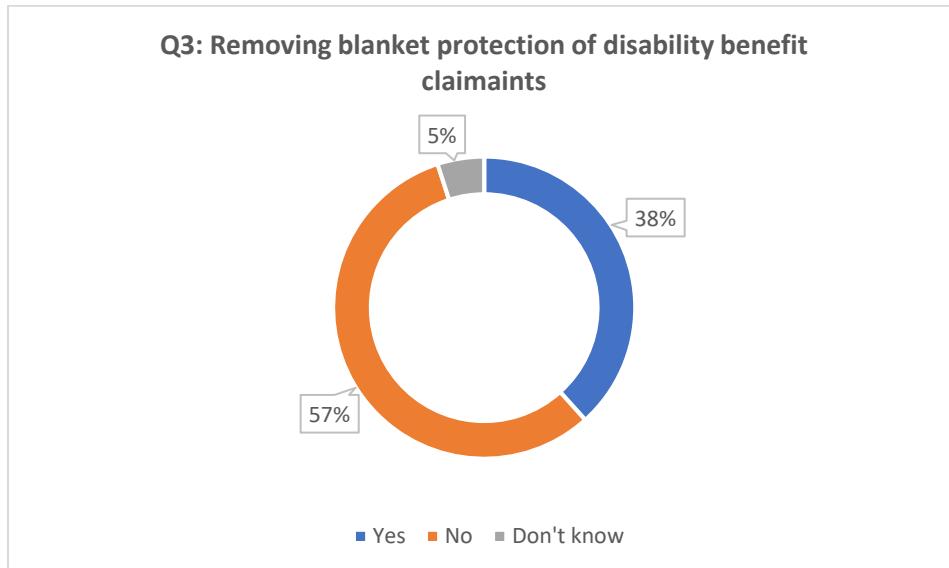
Question 2 [Option 1]: If yes, do you think the maximum level of support should be reduced to 65% or 60%?

Participants who agreed with reducing the maximum level of support to claimants were asked whether this reduction should be to 65% or 60% of maximum LCTS (a change from the current 70%). Of the 245 participants, 55 participants (50.5%) answered in favour of a reduction to 65% option and a further 54 participants (49.5%) answered in favour of a reduction to 60% option. 136 participants did not agree with the initial statement of Option 1.



Question 3 [Option 2]: Do you agree with removing the blanket protection of claimants in receipt of a disability benefit?

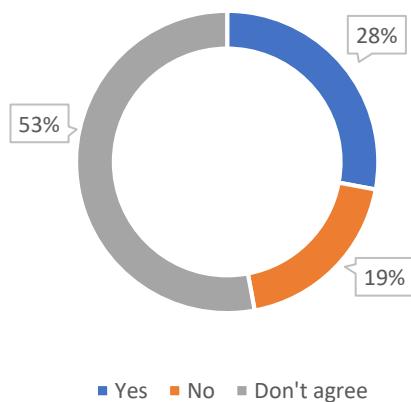
92 participants (38%) indicated that they agreed with Option 2 – to remove the blanket protection of disability benefit claimants who currently receive an automatic 70% of LCTS; removing the banding for disability benefit claimants in the process. 136 respondents (57%) did not agree with Option 2, and 12 respondents (5%) did not know whether they agreed.



Question 4 [Option 2]: If yes, do you agree with disregarding £50 per week of the household income for these claimants?

Participants who agreed with removing the blanket protection of disability benefit claimants were asked whether the £50 per week household income that they are eligible to receive through disability benefits should be disregarded as household income. Of the 240 participants, 67 participants (28%) answered in favour of the disregard while a further 46 participants (19%) in opposition to the disregard. 127 participants (53%) did not agree with the initial statement of Option 2.

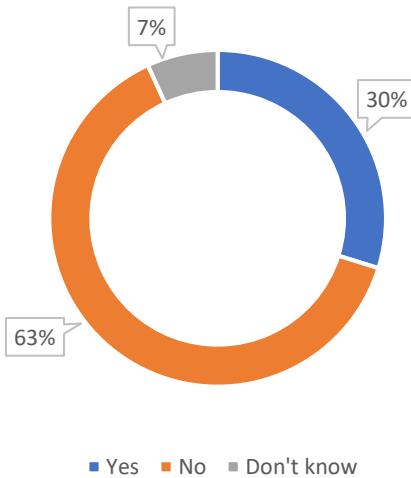
Q4: Whether the respondent agrees with disregarding £50 p/w household income for claimants



Question 5 [Option 3]: Do you agree with removing the Carers Allowance Disregard?

Option 3 proposes to remove the Carers Allowance Disregard while the amount of Carers Allowance would be taken into consideration when calculating an applicant's total weekly income. 70 participants (30%) agreed with this option and 149 participants (63%) indicated they did not agree. 16 participants (7%) did not know whether they agreed with this option.

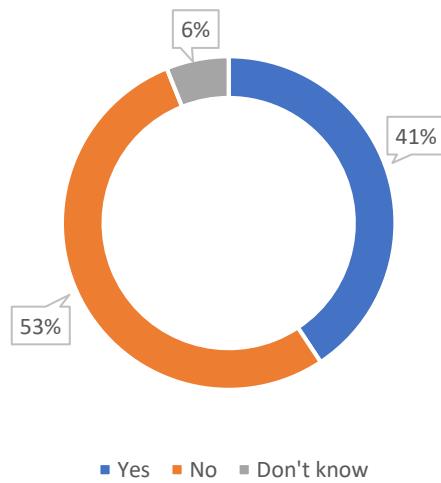
Q5: Agreeing with removing the Carers Allowance Disregard



Question 6 [Option 4]: Do you agree with reducing the current earnings disregard level?

Option 4 proposes to reduce the level of the current earnings disregard level to £20 per week or £15 per week (from the current disregard level of £30 per week). 94 participants (41%) agreed with this option and 123 participants (53%) indicated they did not agree. 14 participants (6%) did not know whether they agreed with this option.

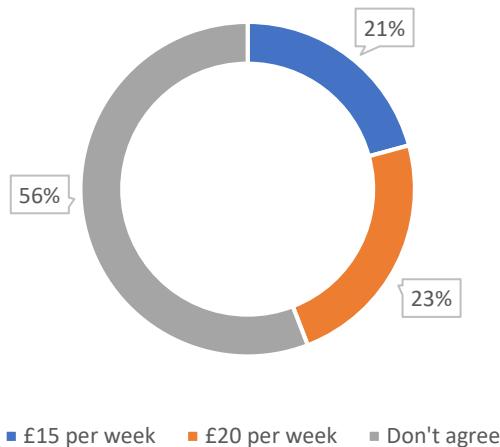
Q6: Reduce the current earnings disregard level



Question 7 [Option 4]: If yes, which disregard do you think should apply?

Participants who agreed with reducing the reducing the current level of earnings disregard were asked which reduction in disregard should apply – from £30 per week to £20 per week or £15 per week. Of the 231 participants, 54 participants (23%) answered in favour of a £20 per week disregard reduction while a further 48 participants (21%) answered in favour of a £15 per week disregard reduction. 129 participants (56%) did not agree with the initial statement of Option 4.

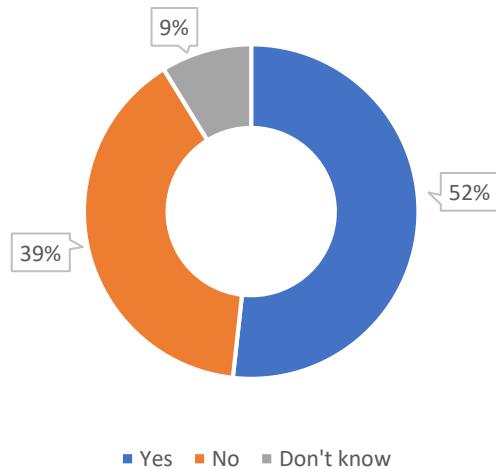
Q7: Which disregard should apply?



Question 8 [Option 5]: Do you agree with increasing the level Non-Dependent Deduction?

Option 5 proposes to increase the level of the Non-Dependent Deduction from the current level of £2 per week. 118 participants (52%) agreed with this option and 90 participants (39%) indicated they did not agree. 20 participants (9%) did not know whether they agreed with this option.

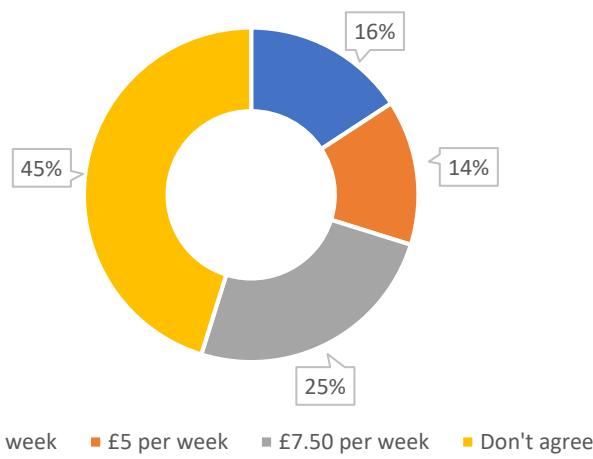
Q8: Increase the level of Non-Dependent Deduction?



Question 9 [Option 5]: If yes, which Non-Dependent Deduction should apply?

Participants who agreed with increasing the current level of Non-Dependent Deduction were asked which increase in weekly deduction should apply – from £2 per week to either £4 per week, £5 per week or £7.50 per week. Of the 228 participants, 36 participants (16%) answered in favour of a £4 per week deduction, 32 participants (14%) answered in favour of a £5 per week deduction and a further 57 participants (25%) answered in favour of a £7.50 per week reduction. 103 participants (45%) did not agree with the initial statement of Option 5.

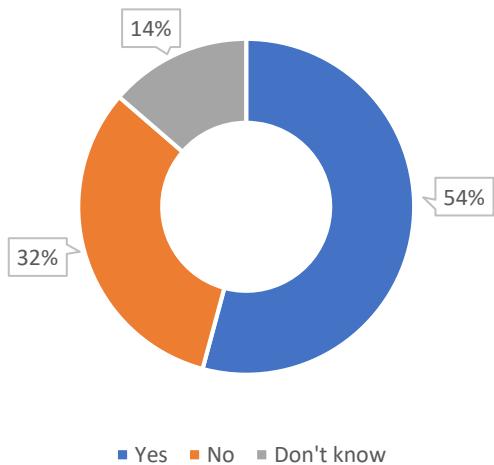
Q9: Which level of Non-Dependent Deduction should apply?



Question 10 [Option 6]: Do you agree with disregarding the housing element of Universal Credit as income?

Option 5 proposes to disregard the housing element of Universal Credit as income in the calculation for their LCTS. 123 participants (54%) agreed with this option and 73 participants (32%) indicated they did not agree. 31 participants (14%) did not know whether they agreed with this option.

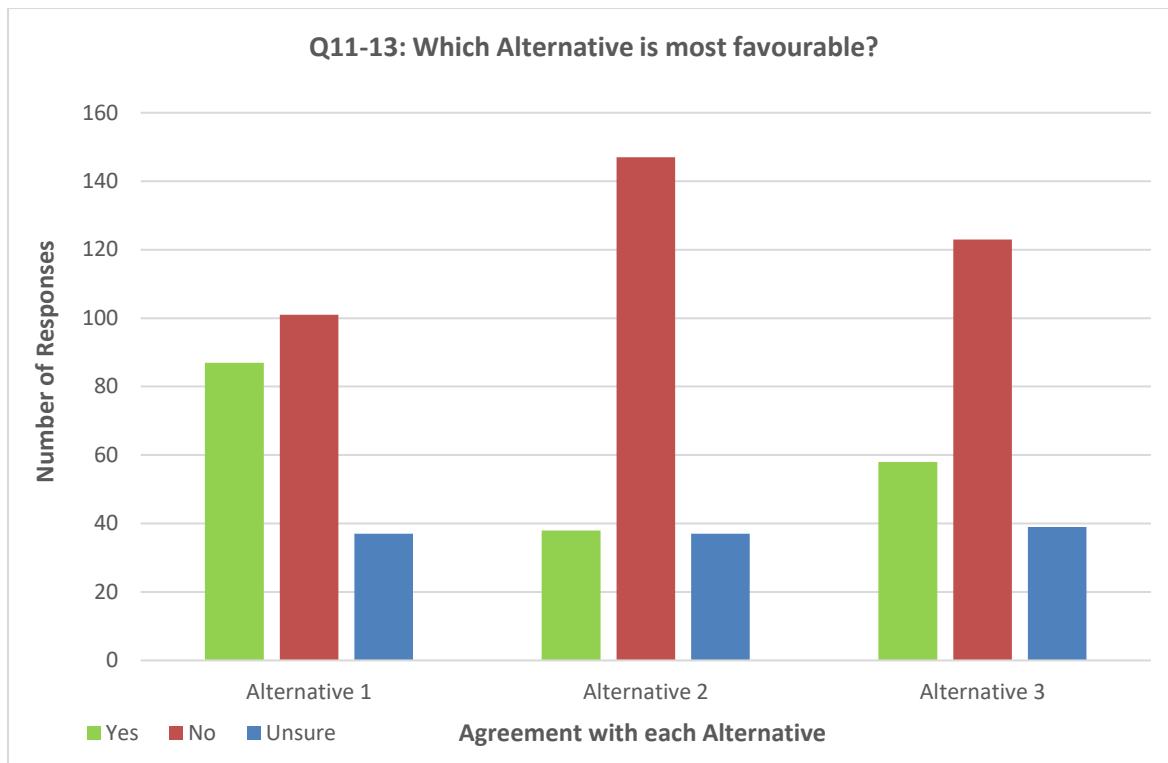
Q10: Disregard the housing element of Universal Credit as income?



Question[s] 11-13 [Alternative 1-3]: Do you agree with Alternative's 1, 2 and/or 3?

The consultation described a series of savings Alternatives to participants – whether the scheme should stay the same as it currently is (Alternative 1), whether there should be an increase in Council Tax (Alternative 2) or if saving should instead be found through reducing available budget allocation to current or prospective council services (Alternative 3).

The graph below illustrates the preference of the three Alternatives to the participants by asking whether they agreed or disagreed with each proposed Alternative. 87 participants (39%) indicated that they agreed with Alternative 1 whereas 101 participants (45%) indicated that they did not agree; while a further 37 participants (16%) were unsure. 38 participants (17%) indicated that they agreed with Alternative 2 whereas 147 participants (66%) indicated that they did not agree; while a further 37 participants (17%) were unsure. 58 participants (26%) indicated that they agreed with Alternative 3 whereas 123 participants (56%) indicated that they did not agree; while a further 39 participants (18%) were unsure.



Question[s] 14-16 [Alternative 1-3]: If the council was to choose these alternative options to make savings, what would be your order of preference?

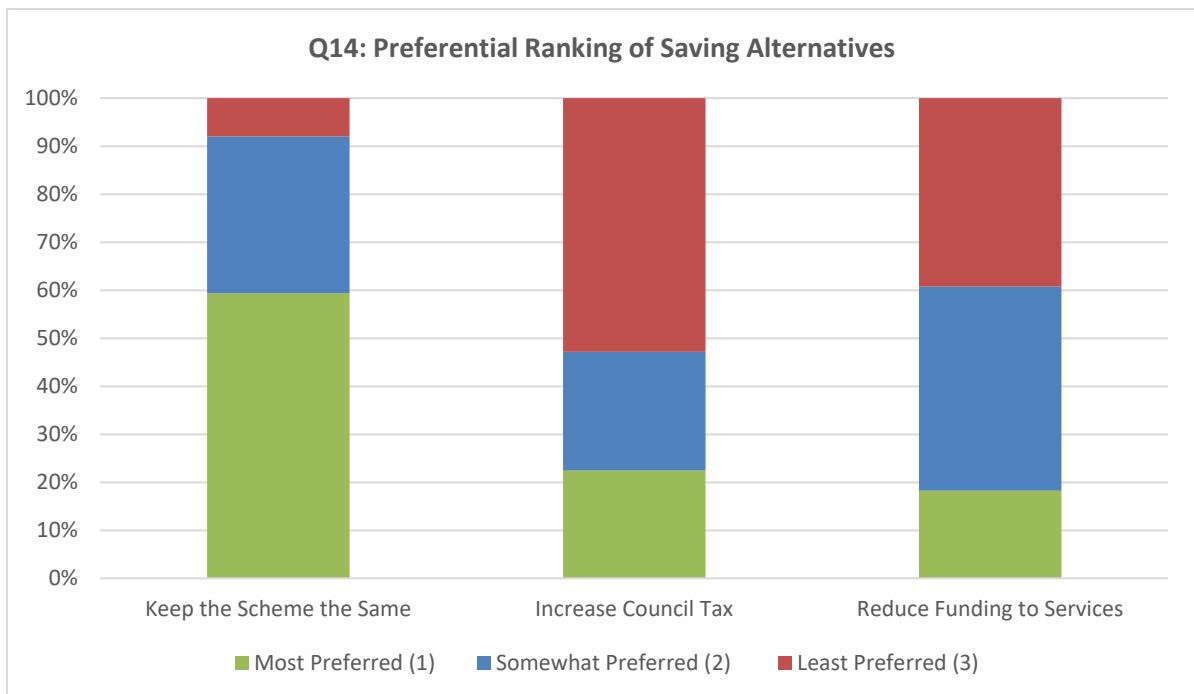
The table and graph below detail how the participants of the consultation ranked the Alternative options in order of preference from 1 – 3, where a score of 1 indicates the most preferred Alternative and 3 indicates the least preferred Alternative.

The table shows that 127 out of 199 participants stated their most preferred alternative was to keep the scheme as it is currently and 113 respondents stated their least preferred alternative was to increase the level of Council Tax.

The graph below visually displays the favourability of these different Alternatives, as stacked out of 100% totals to visualise relative preference against other options.

Order of Preference	Keep the Scheme the Same (Alternative 1)	Increase Council Tax (Alternative 2)	Reduce Funding to Services (Alternative 3)
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Most Preferred (1)	127	48	39
Somewhat Preferred (2)	70	53	91
Least Preferred (3)	17	113	84



Question 16: Are you, or someone in your household, getting Local Council Tax Support at this time?

Of the total 199 respondents, 88 participants (44%) indicated that they are in receipt of Local Council Tax Support at the time of the consultation while 108 participants (54%) answered that they were not. 3 participants (2%) did not know whether they are getting Local Council Tax Support at this time. As this question was part of the Equality Monitoring questions, responses were not mandatory. As a result, a further 87 participants chose to not answer this question.

The proportion of participants who are in receipt of LCTS at the time of the consultation

