

Considerations for any changes to the existing scheme

1. Keep 'as is' scheme or move to a 'banded scheme'
2. Remain cost neutral
3. Scheme to be more transparent and easier to understand for the customer
4. Provide administrative efficiencies by simplification
5. Maintain pension age scheme (including War pensioners)
6. Level of support for working age (maximum level currently 65%)
7. Minimum level of support (currently 50p per week)
8. Banded scheme – 'grid' design reflecting household composition and income ranges
9. Protections for customers requiring additional assistance.
10. Calculation of income – including disregards of certain income such as disability benefits, carers allowance, universal credit housing costs, minimum income floor for self-employed
11. Flat rate household earnings disregards to encourage work uptake and simplify scheme
12. Capital limit levels (currently £16,000)
13. Level of Non-dependent deductions (if any)
14. Claiming arrangements
15. Effective dates for new claims and change of circumstance cases
16. Backdating period (currently one month maximum)
17. Use of extended payment schemes (to encourage movement into employment or increase hours./income from current employment)