

# Single Discretionary Award Consultation

## Summary of Results

**DATA IN THE REPORT:** This data is rounded up or down to the nearest whole percentage point. Therefore charts or tables may sometimes add up to 99% or 101%. If a table or chart does not match exactly to the text in the report, this is due to the rounding up or down when responses are combined. Results that differ in this way do not have a variance any larger than 1%.

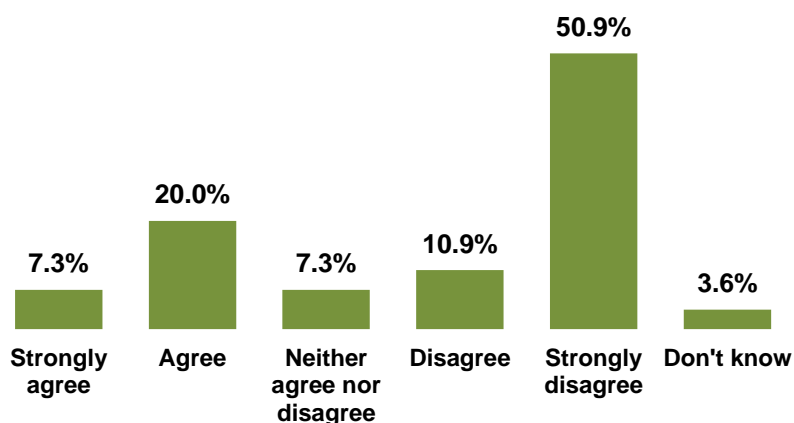
### About those taking part

- 55 people took part in this consultation during the period 23rd September to 3rd November 2019.
- The majority (87%) of those taking part did so as a resident of Derby rather than representing a local organisation or business.
- Just six of those responding lived in a household where someone was receiving a discretionary housing payment, 84.3% were not.

### Views on the proposed change

- The majority (61.8%) of those that responded disagreed with the proposal to make a change to the Single Discretionary Award (SDA) Policy, more than half (50.9%) actually strongly disagreed [Chart 1].
- Over 1 in 4 agreed with the proposed changes.
- Results have been analysed by the demographic characteristics of the respondents, there were no significant differences in opinion between groups.

Chart 1: How strongly do you agree/ disagree with this proposal?

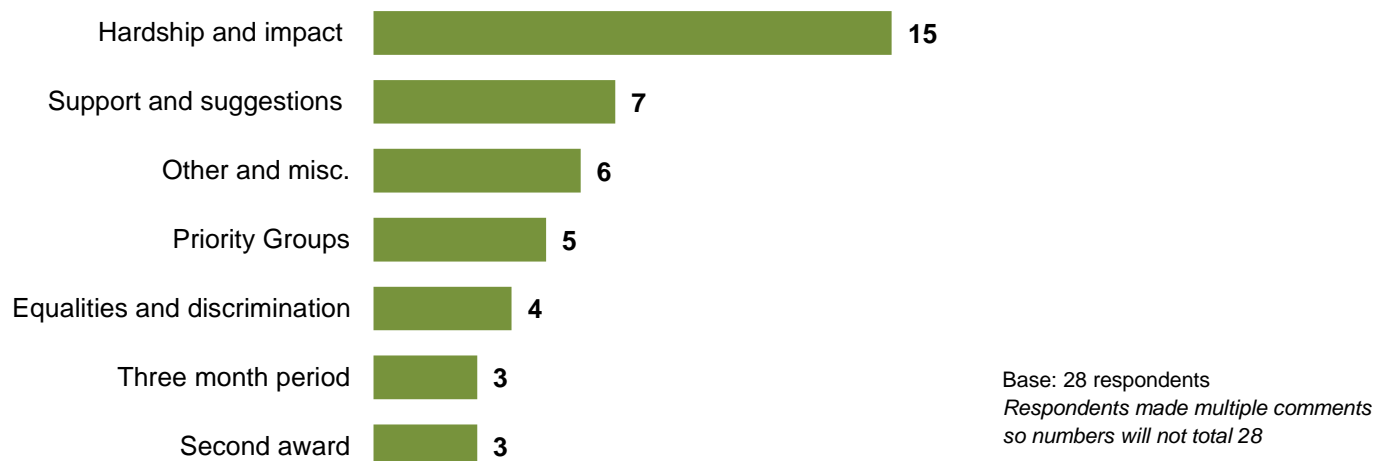


Base: 55 respondents

## Comments on the proposals

28 respondents gave further feedback on the scheme. The majority of their comments (15) related to the perceived impact and hardship the changes may cause to individuals and families that would be affected.

Chart 2: Comments on the proposed policy



Seven comments related to suggestions for helping SDA claimants...

***“Years ago, customers could not get DHP or CTS unless they had a money advice/budgeting consultation, they would be a good way forward now, as many expenses and living costs, can be reduced, such as internet, mobile phone, debts etc. They would then have proper advice on how to lower their outgoings, leaving more deposable (sic) income to pay the short fall in the rent.”***

Five comments related to priority groups. Some of the comments also raised concerns about priorities...

***“Your priority groups exclude most the vulnerable groups in our society. Including those who use substances who are more prone to homelessness and for who DHP’s maybe the only lifeline they have in retaining a property. Rates of homelessness are likely to increase.”***

Other comments supported the proposal in relation to priority groups...

***“The proposal to continue support to priority groups is welcomed. We recommend that families residing in temporary accommodation are classified as a “priority group”. Although the numbers are small (we currently have 7 families over or nearing six months support), those families will have an increased financial pressure of paying a high level of rent at a time when they are already homeless and may be incurring other temporary costs to travel further to school/work etc., if support was to end at the six month stage. The lack of suitable move on accommodation is outside of their control; hence it would be appropriate for ongoing DHP support to be made available to this group where under occupation applies.”***

Comments were often linked to the support and equalities issues. In particular issues surrounding single people...

***“It discriminated against single people with no children who are one of the most discriminated against groups in society. People try to do well on their own but sometimes need extra help. Not everyone has a partner or family to rely on.”***

Three comments related to the impact of the changes to the second award and there were some specific concerns about the impact of the three months without SDA support.

***“People on standard benefits are living off barely any income. DHP's and CTH's are a life line to most and stop people getting evicted etc. Taking away the 3 months would be catastrophic for people and will force a lot to lose their home and direct deductions/bailiffs for council tax arrears.”***

## Data Tables

### How strongly do you agree/disagree with this proposal?

	No.	%
Strongly agree	4	7.3
Agree	11	20.0
Neither agree nor disagree	4	7.3
Disagree	6	10.9
Strongly disagree	28	50.9
Don't know	2	3.6
Total	55	100.0

### Are you responding to this consultation as..?\*

	No.	%*
a resident of Derby?	47	87.0%
a local business?	1	1.9%
a local voluntary, community or third sector organisation?	1	1.9%
a local charity?	1	1.9%
a landlord?	2	3.7%
other?	7	13.0%
Total	59	109.3%

\*Respondents could select multiple answers, percentages will not total 100 (54 respondents gave 59 responses)

### Do you or someone in your household receive a discretionary housing payment?

	No.	%
Yes	6	11.8
No	43	84.3
Don't know	2	3.9
Total	51	100.0

### How would you best describe your household?\*

	No.	%*
A household without dependent children	26	48.1%
A household with dependent children	14	25.9%
A household with full and / or part time workers	21	38.9%
A household that includes a disabled person	9	16.7%
A household that includes a carer	4	7.4%
Total	74	137.0%

\*Respondents could select multiple answers, percentages will not total 100. (54 respondents gave 74 responses)

### Are you...? (gender)

	No.	%
Male	11	20.8
Female	42	79.2
Total	53	100.0

**Is your gender the same as you were assigned to at birth?**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	51	100.0
Total	51	100

**To which group do you consider you belong?**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Asian or Asian British - Pakistani	1	2.0
Black or Black British - Caribbean	2	4.0
Dual Heritage - White and Asian	1	2.0
Any other Dual Heritage background	1	2.0
White - English / Welsh / Scottish / Northern Irish / British	41	82.0
White - Irish	3	6.0
Any other ethnic group	1	2.0
Total	50	100.0

**Do you consider yourself to be a disabled person?**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	10	19.6
No	41	80.4
Total	51	100.0

**I consider myself to be?...(sexuality)**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
heterosexual/straight	39	75.0
bisexual	1	1.9
a gay woman/ lesbian	0	0
a gay man	2	3.8
Prefer not to say	10	19.2
Total	52	100.0

**Do you have any religious beliefs?**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Yes	13	25.5
No	30	58.8
Prefer not to say	8	15.7
Total	51	100.0

**If yes, to which religion do you belong?**

	<b>No.</b>	<b>%</b>
Christian	8	61.5
Muslim	1	7.7
Other	2	15.4
Prefer not to say	2	15.4
Total	13	100.0