

Appendix A

1.1 A consultation exercise was conducted over the period 5th November 2018 to 2nd December 2018 and advertised in a press release. An on-line survey form was placed on the Council web-site and consultation forms were available at the Contact Centre, Area Housing Offices and libraries. Information was also sent to members, precepting authorities and various third sector agencies.

1.2 Summary of Responses

- a) A total of 23 responses were received. 8 were completed on line and 15 written responses received.
- b) All 23 responses were completed by individuals with no one indicating they were completing on behalf of an organisation.

1.3 Responses to the Three Discretionary Areas

I. Ability to Increase the standard Extended Payment Period of 4 weeks.

Question 1 on the consultation form:		
Discretionary element	Proposal	Responses
The ability to increase the standard extended payment period of 4 weeks given to people after they return to work when they have been in receipt of a relevant qualifying benefit for at least 26 weeks.	The Council proposes that the existing 4 week standard extended payment should remain unaltered. Do you think this is reasonable?	<p>23 responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 14 said it was reasonable. • 8 said it was not. • 1 said "don't know".
	If you indicated no to the above, please outline what you consider the period should be?	<p>Of the 8 who thought it was not reasonable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1 opted for no extended payment. • 2 for 2 weeks. • 3 for 6 weeks. • 1 stated other. • 1 made no selection. <p>There were 2 'please specify' responses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 2 months to allow monthly payments • At least 26 weeks

II. Discretion to increase the amount of War Disablement and War and War Widows Pensions which will be disregarded when calculating income.

Question 2 on the consultation form:		
Discretionary element	Proposal	Responses
Discretion to disregard part or the whole amount of War Disablement Pensions and War Widows Pensions when calculating income.	The Council proposes to continue to disregard all of this income, as it is currently disregarded for Council Tax Reduction. Do you think this is reasonable?	<p>23 responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 said it was reasonable. • 5 said it was not. • 2 answered “don’t know”

III. Ability to backdate the application of Council Tax Reduction Awards for more than the standard period of 3 months prior to the claim.

Question 3 on the consultation form:		
Discretionary element	Proposal	Responses
The ability to back date the application of Council Tax Reduction awards for customers for more than the standard period of 3 months prior to the claim.	The Council proposes to keep the maximum back date available to the 3 month statutory period. Do you think this is reasonable?	<p>23 responses.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 16 said it was reasonable. • 5 said it was not. • 2 answered “don’t know”.
	If not, what period do you think is reasonable?	<p>Of the 5 who thought it was not reasonable,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 opted for a period of 6 months. • 2 for 12 months.