

shown. The Council thinks the backdate limit should be the same for Working Age people as it is for pensioners. Do you agree?

Yes – 68%

No – 22%

Don't know – 10%

5. Do you think that “good cause” should have to be shown ONLY for working age claimants? (A claimant would still have to show that their finances were the same for the period of the backdate request)

Yes – 45%

No – 34%

Don't know – 21%

6. Extended payments

At the moment, if a person is not in work (e.g only receiving Income Support) and is claiming Council Tax Benefit and then starts work, we continue to pay their Council Tax Benefit for a further 4 weeks. This is a “back to work” incentive designed to help people who will usually get paid in arrears for the work they have done.

It may be that a better work incentive, and one that supports people to want to stay in work, is that we extend such payments for more than 4 weeks. The Government has stated that any new Council Tax reduction scheme should include work incentives. What length of time do you consider would be a reasonable incentive for those returning to work to receive extended payments?

4 weeks – 27%

6 weeks – 15%

8 weeks – 34%

10 weeks – 3%

12 weeks – 21%

7. Should the Council create a Hardship Fund to support people suffering genuine hardship because of the above possible future changes to Council Tax Support?

Yes – 78%

No – 11%

Don't know – 11%

8. Do you have any general comments that you wish to make about the changes we are considering?

Many comments were made but there were no common themes or sufficient numbers to justify making adjustments to the scheme.