

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Report

The Discretionary Elements

There are three distinct areas of discretion within the Regulations and Flintshire County Council proposes to exercise these as follows:

1. Not to increase the “extended payment period” to more than four weeks when an applicant starts work. This rule currently acts as a good incentive measure under CTRS and it makes sense to maintain it in line with the Housing Benefits (HB) Extended Payment rules, which are also set at four weeks. This measure will result in approximately £20,948 of expenditure in 2013/14
2. To continue to disregard all War Disablement and War Widows Pensions as income. This measure will result in approximately £32,284 of expenditure for 2013/14. Continuation of this discretion would follow a long precedent and maintain the link with the Authority’s treatment of this income for HB purposes.
3. To maintain the standard three month backdating provisions for pensioners when a good reason for failing to claim earlier is shown. This reflects the current position with regard to CTRS and HB and payments in respect of backdating will result in approximately £29,375 of expenditure in 2013/14