



**ARTICLE NO: 1E**

**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL  
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY  
COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2015/16  
Issue: 1**

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**Article of: Transformation Manager**

**Relevant Managing Director: Managing Director (Transformation)**

**Contact for further information: Mr John Unsworth (01695 587180)  
(E-mail: [john.unsworth@BTLancashire.co.uk](mailto:john.unsworth@BTLancashire.co.uk))**

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**SUBJECT: WELFARE REFORM UPDATE**

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Wards affected: Borough wide

## **1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE**

- 1.1 To provide an update of the Government's Welfare Reform programme with a particular focus on Universal Credit (UC) and Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS) and the impact on the Borough.
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## **2.0 BACKGROUND**

- 2.1 The Welfare Reform Act 2012 put in place significant changes to the benefits system.
- 2.2 Members have previously received updates and briefings on the roll-out of welfare reforms. The last briefing was given in January 2015 specifically around Universal Credit by the Director of Revenues & Benefits (BTLs) and the Employer and Partnership Manager (DWP).
- 2.3 The report attached at Appendix A outlines the continued implementation of welfare reforms in West Lancashire, and their impact on the borough.

## **3.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY**

- 3.1 There are no significant sustainability impacts associated with this article and, in particular, no significant impact on crime and disorder. The article has no significant links with the Sustainable Community Strategy.

## **4.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 Reports are produced for Cabinet and / or Council as appropriate to ensure that any financial implications from the reforms are considered and addressed.

## **5.0 RISK ASSESSMENT**

5.1 Failure to manage the impact of Benefit Reforms is included as a Key Risk on the Council's Strategic Risk Register. This report provides an update on how these reforms are being managed to provide assurance to Members that appropriate action is being done to address the issues involved.

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### **Background Documents**

There are no background documents (as defined in Section 100D(5) of the Local Government Act 1972) to this Article.

### **Equality Impact Assessment**

This article is for information only and does not have any direct impact on members of the public, employees, elected members and/ or stakeholders. Therefore no Equality Impact Assessment is required.

### **Appendices**

Appendix A: Welfare Reform/Universal Credit Briefing Note