



ARTICLE NO: 1E

**CORPORATE & ENVIRONMENTAL
OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY
COMMITTEE**

**MEMBERS UPDATE 2016/17
ISSUE: 4**

Article of: Borough Transformation Manager and Deputy Director of Housing & Inclusion Services

**Contact for further information: Claire Hall (07786 197194)
(E-mail: claire.hall@BTLancashire.co.uk)**

SUBJECT: REVENUES & BENEFITS SERVICE UPDATE

Wards affected: Borough wide

1.0 PURPOSE OF ARTICLE

- 1.1 To provide an update of the National and Local Developments which are directly impacting on the Revenues & Benefits Service, the Council and residents of the Borough.

2.0 BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Welfare Reform Act 2012 put in place significant changes to the benefits system. Members have received previous updates and verbal briefings on the roll-out of these reforms.
- 2.2 The report attached at Appendix A provides an overview of developments affecting the Revenue & Benefits Service over the next 12-24 months and highlights the potential impact of these developments.

3.0 CURRENT POSITION

- 3.1 Members are reminded that residents who are concerned about these changes can be referred to appropriate agencies for expert advice and guidance including, for Council tenants, the Rent and Money Advice Service.

- 3.2 There will be opportunity for any queries or issues arising from this update to be raised by interested Members via forthcoming 'drop in sessions'. These sessions will include representatives from the DWP and Revenues & Benefits Service. Members will be contacted to confirm arrangements.

4.0 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS/COMMUNITY STRATEGY

- 4.1 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. Whilst Welfare Reform has links to the economy and jobs and quality and accessible services, the article itself is giving information for which there are no recommendations for action.

5.0 FINANCIAL AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

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

6.0 RISK ASSESSMENT

- 6.1 Failure to manage the impact of Welfare 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.

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: Revenues & Benefits Service Update – Briefing Note.