



Report of Head of Scrutiny and Member Development

Report to Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services)

Date: 18th February 2013

Subject: Welfare Reform – Draft Final Report

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

Introduction

1. At its meeting on 19th November 2012 Scrutiny Board (Resources and Council Services) agreed to undertake an Inquiry into Welfare Reform. It was agreed that the inquiry would focus on how the Council responds to those who may fall into financial arrears due to the changes. It was agreed that the inquiry would be undertaken by a working group of the Board.
2. The working group, consisting of Cllrs P Grahame, Macniven, S Bentley, Hardy and JL Carter, met on two occasions. The working group was supported by Steven Carey, Chief Revenues and Benefits Officer and colleagues from the Council and ALMOs/BITMO. In addition Cllr Atha, as Executive Lead advised the working group. The working group is grateful for these contributions.
3. A final inquiry report is currently being drafted and will be available to Scrutiny Board Members prior to the meeting but not before agenda despatch.

Recommendations

4. Members are asked to consider the draft inquiry report produced by the working group and to agree its recommendations.

Background papers¹

None used

¹ The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.