

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting17th July 2014

1. Title of Item/Report

Welfare Reform including Performance Monitoring

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented an update on quarter 4 monitoring of the outcomes / impact of Welfare Reform including emerging issues and to update on national developments with regard to welfare reform national rollout.

Previous reports had detailed the introduction of the Welfare Reform Act 2012 which set out Government's intention to reform the benefits & tax credits system to provide greater incentives to work. The report provided details of the fourth quarter's monitoring (2013/14) using the framework agreed by Members in July 2013. Performance data had been collected for a year and following a detailed review of data the report contained proposals for amending the performance framework.

A copy of the full year's data set and a revised schedule of measures for year 2 were attached to the report.

With regard to Employment and Support Allowance new sanction rules were applied from December 2012 for those claiming ESA. There were 3 decision categories were detailed within the report. Details and a breakdown of all 3 decision categories including figures for Stockton on Tees, the North East Region, All England and the 12 North East authorities was attached to the report.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of the report be noted;
2. The quarter 4 performance monitoring outcomes and observations be noted;
3. The suggested changes to the performance framework be noted and the new framework as the appropriate monitoring tool for welfare reform in the financial year 2014/15 be approved.

3. Reasons for the Decision

This report provides an update on the various welfare reforms, highlighting early indications of impact and areas of concern.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday, 25th July 2014

Proper Officer
21 July 2014