

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th July 2017

1. Title of Item/Report

Welfare Reform Update Q4

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the monitoring of outcomes and impacts of welfare reform and a summary of actions undertaken by the Council to mitigate against circumstances arising from the implementation of these changes.

Regular reports on welfare reform had been provided to Cabinet for several years, providing information on a range of indicators which showed how these changes were impacting on residents and service provision across the borough. These reports had also included detail on any updates the Council had received with regard to the further roll-out of welfare reform and interventions the Council was making to manage its impact on residents.

As part of the existing monitoring arrangements, trends had been identified and monitored such as heightened activity around benefit sanctions, increases in the use of local food banks and shifts in the rented housing sector from social to private landlords.

A basket of monitoring indicators had been developed and was attached to the report.

The monitoring framework was set out under the following issues:

- Advice and Information Services;
- Discretionary Housing Payments;
- Social Fund/Crisis Payments;
- Housing;
- Local Council Tax Support Scheme;
- Employment; and
- General/cross cutting.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The performance monitoring outcomes and observations provided be noted.
3. An additional class of local discretionary Council Tax discount of up to 100% for care leavers up to 25 years of age under Section 13A (1) (c) of the Local Government Finance Act 1992 be approved, and some minor changes be made to the existing scheme (at paragraphs 20 – 30 of the report).

3. Reasons for the Decision

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

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Welfare Reform Update Q4 as he was a Director of Thirteen.

Councillor Steve Nelson declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Welfare Reform Update Q4 as he was a Board Member of Tees Credit Union.

Councillor Jim Beall declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Welfare Reform Update Q4 as he was a Board Member of Tees Credit Union.

Councillor Ann McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 7 - Welfare Reform Update Q4 as she was a Member of SDAIS.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight, 21 July 2017

Proper Officer
17 July 2017