

**Housing and Community Select Committee**  
**Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee – 24 September 2013**

**Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)**

**Review of Tobacco Control**

The final review report was reported to Cabinet on 11 July.

**Review of Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion**

The review will examine the early impact of the welfare changes introduced in April 2013 on the Council and partner agencies, and identify where policies will need to be reviewed in response. The review will also consider the wider aspects of financial inclusion, looking at a range of factors such as food banks, illegal money lending, and credit unions. There will be close links with the review Child Poverty.

Due to the fast moving nature of the issues under review, it was agreed that the Committee may make interim reports to Cabinet on a particular issue should the need arise.

At the meeting of 18 July the Committee received a presentation on the main changes to welfare reform, and the Council's response. Members also considered the welfare reform data set that will provide relevant performance information that will inform the review, and also be reported to Cabinet on a regular basis.

The Committee met on 12 September to consider the issue of food poverty and food banks in the local area, and receive evidence from A Way Out (a provider of a food bank service). The Committee also considered the early trends of welfare reform as reported by SBC's Welfare Rights Team, and Stockton District Advice and Information Service.