

# **Report to Housing Scrutiny Panel**

**Date of meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2013**

**Portfolio: Housing – Cllr D. Stallan**

**Subject: Welfare Reform Mitigation Action Plan  
Quarterly Progress Report**

**Officer contact for further information:**

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**Committee Secretary: Mark Jenkins (019992 56 4607)**



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## **Recommendations:**

**That the position with the latest Quarterly Progress Report on the Welfare Reform Mitigation Action Plan, as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013 be noted.**

## **Background**

1. In view of the significant effect that the Government's welfare reforms will have on the Council and residents, a Welfare Reform Mitigation Project Team was formed in September 2012, chaired by the Director of Housing and comprising officers from across the Housing Directorate and the Benefits Division, to consider and implement ways that the effects of the welfare reforms could be minimised – or at least reduced.
2. The Project Team formulated a Welfare Reform Mitigation Action Plan, which was adopted by the Cabinet in October 2012. The Action Plan identifies around 60 separate actions, with lead officers and target dates provided for each action, under 7 themes.
3. In addition to progress with the Action Plan being monitored at officer level by the Project Team, the Cabinet also asked the Housing Scrutiny Panel to monitor progress with the delivery of the Action Plan at its quarterly meetings, which it has done since January 2013.

## **Progress to date**

4. As expected, and as reported to the Scrutiny Panel in June 2013, after a period of intense activity by the Project Team and individual officers, there has been very little further progress with the Action Plan over the last quarter. This is because most of the remaining actions relate to issues on which the Government still needs to make decisions or issues which the Government needs to implement – particularly the proposed introduction of direct payment of housing benefit to Council tenants.
5. For this reason, the latest Quarterly Progress Report (as at 1<sup>st</sup> October 2013), has not been attached.
6. However, the table below gives the usual summary of the overall progress to date with the delivery of the Mitigation Action Plan, compared with the position reported to the Housing Scrutiny Panel at its last meeting in June 2013. As can be seen:
  - A further 2 tasks have been achieved since the last report;
  - Nearly two thirds of all the tasks have been achieved; and
  - Only 3 tasks that are able to be undertaken now, have not yet been achieved:

### Summary of Progress

Progress	Position reported to Housing Scrutiny Panel – June 2013		Current Position	
	No.	%	No.	%
Achieved	36	61 %	38	64 %
Almost Achieved	1	2 %	0	-
Good progress made	2	3 %	3	5 %
Limited progress made	1	2 %	0	-
Actions not yet required	13	22 %	11	19 %
Actions no longer required	6	10 %	7	12 %
<b>Totals</b>	<b>59</b>		<b>59</b>	