

UPDATE ON WELFARE REFORMS SINGLE MEETING TOPIC

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REASON FOR ITEM

To provide the Committee with an overview of how the Housing Benefits changes will affect Local Authorities across London and to help inform what the ramifications for Hillingdon may be.

OPTIONS AVAILABLE TO THE COMMITTEE

To question the witnesses about the Housing Benefits changes and the findings from the DWP Welfare Support Pilot work being conducted by other Local Authorities.

INFORMATION

1. The Committee is responsible for undertaking the 'policy overview' role in relation to Social Services, Health and Housing. This role is outlined at the start of the agenda.
2. Previous experience from both Hillingdon and other Councils indicates that the Committee can have the greatest impact by focusing on a particular topic at one or several meetings.

BACKGROUND

3. At the 27 February 2013 meeting, the Committee decided not pursue its review of **Housing and Benefit Changes and the Impact on Hillingdon Residents from January 2013** due to the changing Government timeframe. Instead, the Policy and Overview Committee agreed to examine Feedback on the DWP Welfare Support Pilots as a single meeting topic.
4. The following witnesses are anticipated at the meeting:
 - **Perry Singh**, Assistant Director of Housing, Regeneration & Major Projects, London Borough of Brent
 - **Angelo Iuliano** (IRRV Tech), Benefits Operations Manager, Southwark Council

PART 1 – MEMBERS, PUBLIC AND PRESS

SOCIAL SERVICES, HEALTH AND HOUSING POC – 27 MARCH 2013

LINES OF ENQUIRY

It is expected that this meeting will cover following_lines of enquiry:

- To consider a pan-London perspective of the benefits reforms and how these relate to Hillingdon
- To understand the impact of the reforms for Local Authority Housing, in particular: Over-occupation policy and single room rates
- To understand the wider implications of the reforms on employment opportunities, the potential rise in homelessness and the reduction in accommodation available for the most vulnerable

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

(To Follow)

SUGGESTED COMMITTEE ACTIVITY

Question the witnesses, adding supplementary questions as appropriate.
