

Second Major Review - Possible Review Topic - Implementation of Benefit Changes

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REASON FOR ITEM

To be given a presentation on the Committee's possible second review topic of the Municipal Year: The Implementation of Benefit Changes.

OPTIONS OPEN TO THE COMMITTEE

The Committee is asked to give consideration to undertaking a review which will look at the Implementation of Benefit Changes, and if agreed, asking officers to submit a draft scoping report to the next meeting of the Committee

INFORMATION

1. At the last meeting of the Committee held on 14 December 2016, discussion took place on potential review topics for the Committee to consider.
2. If Members recall the following possible review topics were mentioned:
 - The Welfare Benefit Reforms and the Changes being Implemented, eg the new benefits cap.
 - Home Ownership in the Borough - the success of it.
 - Right to Buy Scheme.
 - Asylum seeking children in the Borough.
 - Loneliness.
3. After discussion with officers, the Chairman of the Committee has suggested that the Committee give consideration to a review which looks at how the new Benefit changes are to be implemented. For this meeting, the Council's Benefits Manager will attend the meeting to provide the Committee with the background to the topic.
4. Subject to the Committee's approval to undertake the review, a draft scoping report will be submitted to the February meeting, together with witnesses being invited to attend.
5. For Member's information there is a paper produced by London Councils sometime back which details the benefit changes for 2016/17 and 2017/18 (Appendix A). Please note many of the comments in the comment field are out of date.

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