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Meeting	Special Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date	13 December 2012
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Welfare Reform – Localisation of Council Tax Support and the Crisis Fund</b>
Report of Summary	Scrutiny Office  The Committee have requested to undertake pre- decision scrutiny of the following reports to Cabinet on 17 <sup>th</sup> December 2012:  Welfare Reform –Council Tax Support Scheme Welfare Reform –Crisis Fund

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Officer Contributors	Anita Vukomanovic, Overview and Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards Affected	All
Key Decision	N/A
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in	N/A
Function of	Committee
Enclosures	Appendix 1: Report to Cabinet on Welfare Reform – Council Tax Support Scheme Appendix 2: Welfare Reform – Crisis Fund
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## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

1.1 That the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee make comments and recommendations to the Cabinet on the following reports:

- 1) Welfare Reform –Council Tax Support Scheme
- 2) Welfare Reform –Crisis Fund

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

2.1 As set out in the attached reports to Cabinet.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Sub-Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.

3.2 The three priority outcomes set out in the 2012/13 Corporate Plan are:

- Better services with less money
- Sharing opportunities, sharing responsibilities
- A successful London suburb

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

4.1 To enable the Council's Overview and Scrutiny function to provide a constructive challenge to the executive, it is essential that the Committee have the opportunity to provide a robust, proportionate and timely challenge to the Executive decisions as they progress through the Council's decision-making framework.

4.3 Risk management considerations as they relate to welfare reform proposals are set out in the attached reports to Cabinet.

## **5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES**

5.1 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the role of the Panel is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role in relation to diversity and inclusiveness; and
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

5.2 Equalities and diversity considerations as they relate to welfare reform proposals are set out in the attached reports to Cabinet.

## **6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

6.1 As set out in the attached report to Cabinet.

## **7. LEGAL ISSUES**

7.1 Under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's executive arrangements are required to include provision for appointment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee with specified powers, including the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive.

7.2 Section 122 of the Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on the executive to respond to overview and scrutiny committees where the committee makes a report or recommendations to the executive.

7.3 Legal issues as they relate to Welfare Reform proposals are set out in the attached reports to Cabinet.

## **8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS (Relevant section from the Constitution, Key/Non-Key Decision)**

8.1 The scope of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is contained within Part 2, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution.

8.2 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees is set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules (Part 4 of the Constitution). The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee has within its terms of reference the following:

"To have responsibility for the review of the policy framework and development of policy and strategy not within the remit of other Overview and Scrutiny Committees."

## **9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

9.1 The Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee have requested to undertake pre-decision scrutiny on the following reports to Cabinet:

- 1) Welfare Reform – Council Tax Support Scheme
- 2) Welfare Reform – Crisis Fund

9.2 On the basis of that consideration, the Committee are requested to make comments, representations and recommendations to the Cabinet on Welfare Reform in relation to the attached reports.

**10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

10.1 None.

<b>Cleared by Finance (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>JH</b>
<b>Cleared by Legal (Officer's initials)</b>	<b>SW</b>