



**NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**  
**OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**28 JANUARY 2014**

**BRIEFING NOTE:**

**SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – IMPACT OF THE WELFARE REFORM ACT**

**1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned Scrutiny Panel 1 to undertake a review regarding the impact of the Welfare Reform Act, the rationale being “to evaluate the effect of the Welfare Reform Act on the public and Council employees”.
- 1.2 At the inaugural meeting of the Scrutiny Panel, Councillors agreed the scope of the review; a copy is attached at Appendix A, for the Committee’s approval.
- 1.3 Membership of the Scrutiny Panel comprises Councillor Lee Mason (Chair); Councillors Joy Capstick, Elizabeth Gowen, Beverley Mennell, Dennis Meredith, David Palethorpe, Brian Sargeant and Danielle Stone. It was proposed by the Chair and agreed by the Scrutiny Panel that a Vice Chair be elected. It was agreed that Councillor Danielle Stone be elected Vice Chair of this Scrutiny Panel.

**2 UPDATE**

- 2.1 In discussing the rationale for the review, the Scrutiny Panel felt that the required outcome should be:

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the impact of Welfare Reform in Northampton.

- 2.2 The schedule of meetings comprises:-

January 2014 to July 2014

- 9 January 2014 - Scoping meeting
- 3 February - Evidence gathering
- 20 March - Evidence gathering
- 14 April - Evidence gathering

- 8 May - Evidence gathering
- 30 June - Evidence gathering
- 21 July - Approval of the final report

2.3 Meetings of the Scrutiny Panel will commence at 6.00 pm and will be held in the Jeffery Room, at the Guildhall.

2.4 In accordance with the Scrutiny Panel Protocol, the Chair of this Scrutiny Panel will provide written progress reports to future meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for information.

### **3 RECOMMENDATION**

3.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approves the scope of the Scrutiny review – The Impact of the Welfare Reform Act, as attached at Appendix A.

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Scrutiny Panel 1 – Impact of the Welfare Reform Act

10 January 2014