

**North Tyneside Council  
Report to Council  
Date: 21 January 2016**

**ITEM 10**

**Title: Welfare Reform and  
Work Bill 2015**

**Portfolio(s): Elected Mayor  
Finance and Resources**

**Cabinet Member(s): Norma Redfearn  
Councillor Ray  
Glendon**

**Report from Service Area;  
Responsible Officer:** Finance and Resources

**Janice Gillespie, Head of Finance.**

**Tel: (0191) 643 5701**

**Wards affected: All**

**PART 1**

**1.1 Executive Summary:**

- 1.1.1 Council accepted a motion at its meeting on 19 November 2015 with regard to the proposed Tax Credit changes contained within the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015. Council agreed to the request for officers to report back to Council.
- 1.1.2 However, as part of the Comprehensive Spending Review the Chancellor announced a revised set of proposals. The Bill continues through Parliament. Once a final position is clear the Mayor's Welfare Reform Task Group will report to Council and set out the overall effect the Welfare Reform and Work Bill may have on North Tyneside residents.
- 1.1.3 This report provides an update on the actions being taken.

**1.2 Recommendation(s):**

It is recommended that Council:

- (a) Note the content of this report, and agree to receive a further update at the Council meeting in March 2016.

**1.3 Forward plan:**

- 1.3.1 This report first appeared on the forward plan that was published on 11 January 2016.

## **1.4 Council plan and policy framework**

- 1.4.1 This report links directly to the priority 'Our people will be cared for and kept safe if they become vulnerable' in the 'Our North Tyneside Plan 2014 -2018'.

## **1.5 Information**

- 1.5.1 The Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015 was introduced in the House of Commons on 9 July 2015 and received its second reading on 20 July 2015. The Bill included a number of measures that would impact on residents.
- 1.5.2 The Bill progressed to the House of Lords after passing through its remaining stages of the House of Commons on 27 October 2015, following its examination by the Public Bill Committee. Although a number of government amendments were made to the draft Bill during its passage through the House of Commons, the Bill was defeated in the House of Lords on 28 October 2015 and currently remains at Committee Stage. Commencement dates for changes within the Bill have not all been agreed and will be required before they can be implemented.
- 1.5.3 Council accepted a motion at its meeting on 19 November 2015 with regard to the proposed Tax Credit changes. Council agreed to the request for officers to report back to Council, once the Chancellor had reviewed his proposals.
- 1.5.4 The Chancellor of the Exchequer agreed to review the Tax Credit proposals which were part of the bill following its defeat in the House of Lords, and has since announced on 25 November 2015 in his 2015 Spending Review and Autumn Statement that a number of proposed Tax Credit changes would no longer be implemented.
- 1.5.5 The Mayors Task Group will be considering the impacts of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015 over the coming months. The task group is made up of a number of partner organisations which was formed to monitor and provide governance around managing the impact of welfare reforms on the Council and our residents.
- 1.5.6 An interim report will be provided back to Council in March 2016 to provide an updated position.

## **1.6 Decision Options**

- 1.6.1 The following decisions are available to Council:

Option 1: Accept the recommendation at point 1.2 of this report.

Option 2: Reject the recommendation and advise Officers of other actions to be taken.

Option 1 is the recommended option.

## **1.7 Reasons for recommended option:**

- 1.7.1 Option 1 will provide some time for Officers to consider and analyse the implications of the Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015, and provide an interim report at the Council meeting in March 2016.

## **1.8 Appendices:**

None.

## **1.9 Contact officers:**

Janice Gillespie – Head of Finance, Tel. (0191) 6435701

Andrew Scott – Senior Client Manager Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services,  
Tel. (0191) 643 7150

Tracy Hunter – Client Manager Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services,  
Tel. (0191) 643 7228

## **1.9 Background information:**

- [Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015](#)
- [Report to Council 19 November 2015 – Item 5 Motions](#)

## **PART 2 – COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING**

### **2.1. Finance and Other Resources**

- 2.1.1 The Welfare Reform and Work Bill 2015 has a number of implications both for the Authority and residents. Full analysis will need to be undertaken to fully understand the impacts and information will be provided to Council as appropriate.

### **2.2 Legal**

There are no legal implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.3 Consultation/community engagement**

- 2.3.1 Engagement to provide information to residents and partners on the changes will take place as appropriate.

### **2.4 Human rights**

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

### **2.5 Equalities and diversity**

There are no equalities and diversity implications directly arising from this report

### **2.6 Risk management**

There are no risk management implications directly arising from this report

### **2.7 Crime and disorder**

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.

## 2.8 Environment and sustainability

There are no environmental and sustainability implications directly arising from this report.

### PART 3 - SIGN OFF

- Deputy Chief Executive  x
- Head(s) of Service  x
- Mayor/Cabinet Member(s)  x
- Chief Finance Officer  x
- Monitoring Officer  x
- Head of Corporate Strategy  x