



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

7 April 2014

BRIEFING NOTE:

SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – IMPACT OF THE WELFARE REFORM ACT

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 Since the last meeting of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, two evidence gathering meetings of the Scrutiny Panel have been held.

2 UPDATE

- 2.1 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 3 February 2014, Councillors considered a variety of background data:

Presentation: setting the scene:

- The Policy context and timetable for change
- An overview of the national Welfare Reforms: Setting a baseline position and measuring impacts

A number of research papers and reports in respect of the Welfare Reform Act were received.

The Scrutiny Panel approved the Community Impact Assessment for its review, a copy of which is published on the [Overview and Scrutiny webpage](#).

- 2.2 At the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 20 March 2014, the Scrutiny Panel devised its core questions that it will put to expert advisors and residents. Research papers were received which informed the evidence base of the review. A paper detailing best practice elsewhere was presented to the Scrutiny Panel.
- 2.3 The Scrutiny Panel will receive evidence from a variety of key expert advisors at its meeting on 3 April 2014. Further research papers will also be received.
- 2.4 The Scrutiny Panel will continue evidence gathering at its meetings scheduled for 8 May and 30 June 2014.
- 2.5 It is envisaged that the review will be concluded in July 2014; with the report of the Scrutiny Panel presented to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its September 2014 meeting.

3 RECOMMENDATION

3.1 That the update is noted.

Author: Tracy Tiff, Scrutiny Officer, on behalf of Councillor Lee Mason, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Impact of the Welfare Reform Act

21 March 2014