CITY COUNCIL – 13 OCTOBER 2014

REPORT OF THE DEPUTY LEADER

WELFARE REFORM – ONE YEAR ON

1 SUMMARY

1.1 This report presents an overview of the impact of the welfare reforms introduced since April 2013. In the context of the Council motion adopted in January 2014, setting out the Council's concerns of the effects of the welfare reforms, the purpose of the report is to provide Council with an update of the effects of welfare reform for Nottingham citizens and services and what actions have been and are being taken to respond and to mitigate the impacts for Nottingham citizens.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 To consider the impact of welfare reforms, introduced since April 2013, on Nottingham's citizens and economy.

3 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS (INCLUDING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION)

3.1 On 22 July 2014 Executive Board recommended that Council consider the impact of welfare reforms, introduced since April 2013 on Nottingham's citizens and economy.

4 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED IN MAKING RECOMMENDATIONS

4.1 None.

5 BACKGROUND

5.1 At the meeting of City Council on 27 January 2014, a motion was carried which set out the Council's concern about the effects of the cuts in welfare and local government spending on citizens and on the economy in Nottingham.

5.2 The report *Welfare Reform – One Year On* (appendix 1) presents an overview of the impact of the welfare reforms introduced since April 2013. The purpose is to provide an update for Council on the concerns raised by the Council motion in January 2014, note the impacts of welfare reforms for citizens and services and the actions that have been and are being taken to respond and to mitigate the impacts for Nottingham citizens.

5.3 The Welfare Reform Act 2012 became law on 8 March 2012. The Act introduces the most fundamental changes to the benefits and tax credits system for 60 years. The changes began in 2010 and will continue into 2014 and beyond. In 2013 a number of very significant changes to the funding and administration of welfare and benefits were introduced across England.

5.4 During 2012/13 Nottingham City Council responded to the Government's welfare reforms and tried as much as possible to mitigate the adverse effects of the reforms for the most vulnerable citizens in Nottingham. The Council continues to closely monitor its policies and works with partners to understand the ongoing impacts for citizens and services and to manage the risks.

6 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING VALUE FOR MONEY)

6.1 None.

7 RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES (INCLUDING LEGAL IMPLICATIONS, CRIME AND DISORDER ACT IMPLICATIONS)

7.1 Not applicable.

8 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT (EIA)

8.1 Has the equality impact been assessed?

Not needed (report does not contain proposals or financial decisions)

9 LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS OTHER THAN PUBLISHED WORKS OR THOSE DISCLOSING CONFIDENTIAL OR EXEMPT INFORMATION

9.1 None.

10 PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS REFERRED TO IN COMPILING THIS REPORT

10.1 Welfare Reform Act 2012

10.2 Council Motion – 27 January 2014

10.3 Welfare Reform – One Year On (Nottingham City Council Policy Alert)

10.4 Welfare Reform One Year On – Executive Board 22 July 2014

COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CHAPMAN
DEPUTY LEADER