

**EXECUTIVE RESPONSE TO THE REVIEW OF THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE
HOUSING AND COUNCIL TAX BENEFIT IMPROVEMENT PLAN**

Assistant Chief Executive

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report presents the attached Executive response to the review of the implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Improvement Plan undertaken by a working group of the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel.

2 SUGGESTED ACTION

That the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel:

- 2.1 **considers the response of the Executive to the review of the implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Improvement Plan which has been received by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission; and**
- 2.2 **refers the concerns identified in paragraph 3.1 to the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Working Group for attention.**

3 SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Executive agreed the attached recommended responses to the Working Group's report on the review of the implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Improvement Plan at its meeting on 15 September 2009. When subsequently noting the response at their meeting on 24 September 2009, members of the Overview and Scrutiny Commission raised concerns around the need to rationalise and clarify the content of letters sent to claimants, unknown conditions relating to loans and advances and the limited budget for Discretionary Housing Allowance. The Commission agreed that this Panel be asked to look into the latter matter. It is suggested that these issues be referred to the Housing and Council Tax Benefit Working Group for attention.

Background Papers

Review of the implementation of the Housing and Council Tax Benefits Improvement Plan by a working group of the Environment, Culture and Communities Overview and Scrutiny Panel, June 2009.

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