
SCRUTINY PANEL A
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 22 November 2012

Present: Daunt, Kaur (Chair), Mintoff, Parnell, Turner and Whitbread

Apologies: Councillor Matthew Claisse, Councillor Catherine McEwing and Councillor Adrian Vinson

4. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

The Panel noted apologies from Councillor McEwing. In addition the Panel noted that Councillors Parnell and Turner were in attendance as nominated substitutes for Councillors Claisse and Vinson, respectively, in accordance with Procedure Rule 4.3.

5. **DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST**

6. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Panel meeting on 25th October, 2012 be approved and signed as a correct record.

7. **WELFARE REFORMS INQUIRY MEETING 2: SETTING THE SCENE**

The Panel considered the report of the Senior Manager, Customer and Business Improvement outline the presentations that would receive at the meeting.

Deven Ghelani from The Centre for Social Justice gave a brief outline of his background and how he became involved in the universal credit.

He showed the Panel the “ready reckoner” that he had published on the web which allowed people to put in their information to see what they were likely to be entitled to under the universal credit scheme. It allowed people to see what a difference there would be in their household income if they were to start working.

Concerns were raised about the implementation of the new scheme and the effects that it could have on some people/ families.

Deven stated that there would be challenges, as there were with most major changes, however he believed that this was the right way forward and it would be important to ensure that the implantation was right and those people that needed support received it.

He said that it was his view that the localisation of council tax support should not have occurred as this was moving away from the concept of having something universal.

He said that the new system would offer support and incentives to those that wanted to get back to work. And that there would be conditions attached to working aged people claiming that meant they would have to be actively looking for employment.

