

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE QUERY AND ACTION LOG 2016/17

1 February 2017

Meeting and agenda item	Question or request for action	Response or current status
8 December -Welfare Reform Spotlight	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How do we provide clear pathways to advise people especially those in the poverty trap that is preventing them from climbing out of welfare dependency? • How do we work with our partner agencies? • What practical support do we actually offer families regarding Universal Credit? • How can the Council and its partners identify any issues those in receipt of benefits will have with the introduction of direct payments? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A fact sheet is being prepared for Councillors to enable them to advise their constituents and their dependents; • There is a Welfare Reform Task Group that is made up of key agencies specifically looking at the impact of welfare reform and the actions that will help to mitigate the impact. It has developed a robust Action Plan to provide information and advice in preparation for the introduction of Universal Credit. Practical Advice is also available from the local Food Banks and other VCS organisations and the Council will be looking to provide personal budgeting and digital inclusion support. • The Council and its partners identify any issues that arise through the joint working between the Council's benefits service and Job Centre Plus. This is being enhanced in preparation for Universal Credit; and • The Council along with other councils, via the LGA is highlighting concerns directly with the Department for Work and Pensions to address the implications of direct payments.

4 January 2017 –Budget Scrutiny	Provide information on recent population growth and job creation in the Borough	Information provided for the Committee as part of the additional budget information data set.
16 January 2017 –Budget Scrutiny workshop	Additional information requests in relation to specific savings proposals and general benchmarking and comparative cost information	Information provided for the Committee as part of the additional budget information data set.