

MIDDLESBROUGH COUNCIL

AGENDA ITEM 5

OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY BOARD

30 APRIL 2013

DEPARTMENT OF WORK & PENSIONS - BRIEFING

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1. To introduce representatives from the Department of Work & Pensions, in attendance to provide a briefing for Overview & Scrutiny Board, in relation to its work on Welfare Reform.

RECOMMENDATIONS

2. That the Overview & Scrutiny Board notes the content of the briefing today and considers how it would like to develop its consideration of the Welfare Reform topic.

Consideration

3. As the OSB will recall, at its last meeting, a set of terms of reference was considered and agreed, to help govern its work into Welfare Reform. The OSB expressed a wish to hear from the Department of Work & Pensions (DWP).
4. To that end, the DWP will be in attendance at the meeting today to provide a briefing on Employment & Support Allowance, Disability Living Allowance to Personal Independence Payments and a generic update on welfare reform.
5. This briefing will be a good opportunity for Members to hear detailed information on government policy from the relevant Department and ask any questions. The Board is asked to note that civil servants are not permitted to enter into a debate on the merits of government policy per se.
6. It is suggested that the Board takes note of the briefing to be delivered by DWP today, and makes any enquiries felt pertinent. Following the meeting today, it is suggested that the OSB widens its inquiries to other evidence sources, previously identified.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

7. No background papers were used to prepare this briefing paper.

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