

Sherwood Lodge
Bolsover
Derbyshire
S44 6NF

Date: 30th November 2012

Dear Sir or Madam,

You are hereby summoned to attend a meeting of the Executive of Bolsover District Council to be held in **Committee Room One**, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on **MONDAY, 10TH DECEMBER 2012 AT 1000 HOURS**.

Register of Members' Interest - Members are reminded that a Member must within 28 days of becoming aware of any changes to their Disclosable Pecuniary Interests provide written notification to the Authority's Monitoring Officer.

You will find the contents of the agenda itemised on pages 2 and 3.


Yours faithfully,



Chief Executive Officer
To: Chairman & Members of the Executive

ACCESS FOR ALL

If you need help understanding this document or require a larger print on translation, please contact us on the following telephone number:-

 **01246 242435**
Minicom: 01246 242450

Democratic Services
Fax: 01246 242423



EXECUTIVE AGENDA

Monday 10th December 2012 at 1000 hours
Committee Room One

Item No.		Page No.(s)
	PART 1 – OPEN ITEMS	
1.	<u>Apologies for absence</u>	
2.	<u>Urgent Items of Business</u> To note any urgent items of business which the Chairman has consented to being considered under the provisions of Section 100(B) 4(b) of the Local Government Act 1972.	
3.	<u>Declarations of Interest</u> Members should declare the existence and nature of any Disclosable Pecuniary Interest and Non Statutory Interest as defined by the Members' Code of Conduct in respect of: a) any business on the agenda b) any urgent additional items to be considered c) any matters arising out of those items and if appropriate, withdraw from the meeting at the relevant time.	
4.	<u>Minutes</u> To approve the Minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 19 th November 2012.	Previously circulated
5.	Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work & Skills Plan Update – April to September 2012. <i>Recommendation on Page 6</i>	4 to 6
	Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work & Skills Plan Update April to September 2012.	Separately bound document
6.*	Localisation of Council Tax and Welfare Benefit Reform.	To Follow
7.*	Strategic Risk Register.	To Follow
8.*	Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing Strategy Update. <i>Recommendation on Page 12</i>	7 to 12

PART 2 – EXEMPT ITEMS
The Local Government (Access to Information)
Act 1985, Local Government Act 1972, Part 1,
Schedule 12a.

Paragraph 3

- | | | |
|------|---|-----------|
| 9.* | Tender Evaluation Outcome - Temporary
Accommodation Alteration Works, Sherwood Lodge | To Follow |
| 10.* | Tender Evaluation Outcome – Depot Workforce
Training | To Follow |

* Denotes Key Decision

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	5.
Date:	10 th December 2012	Status	Open
Category	2. Decision within the functions of Executive		
Subject:	Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work & Skills Plan Update – April to September 2012		
Report by:	Partnership Consultant Programme Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Chief Executive's and Partnership Manager		
Director	Chief Executive Officer		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration Councillor E. Watts, Leader of the Council		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities. The use of Working Neighbourhoods Fund will affect the wider determinants of Worklessness by commissioning activity that takes account of the effects upon the wellbeing of residents in local communities in respect of their health, wealth and secure employment; all of which contributes to building sustainable communities in the district."

TARGETS

National Indicator (NI) 153 measured progress on reducing concentrations of worklessness within local authority areas, particularly those in receipt of the WNF. Specifically, the indicator measured the out-of-work benefits claimant rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods – these were defined as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) with a benefit claimant rate of 25% or more as at February 2007 (4 quarter rolling average).

A local target was negotiated within the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) to reduce the average claimant rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods from 28.7% to 25.7% by March 2011. To take account of the impact of the economic downturn this target was later revised to an average claimant rate in the NI153 areas that was 1.1 percentage points lower than that of the East Midlands.

Following the change of Government in 2010, NI153 figures ceased to be published centrally and the target is no longer active within the LAA. However, the Chief Executives and Partnership Team continues to calculate and publish the same 'out of work benefit claimant' data for the purpose of consistently monitoring the impact of the WNF programme.

VALUE FOR MONEY

The principles of Value for Money – economy, efficiency and effectiveness will be applied in all interventions considered

THE REPORT

Background

1. Executive Members will recall the Authority's award of Working Neighbourhoods Fund in 2008 (Minute No. 886 refers). The Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) was introduced as part of the Local Government Finance Settlement and was paid as one element of the Area Based Grant. It provides resources to local authorities to tackle worklessness and low levels of skills and enterprise in their most deprived areas.

The WNF allocation to Bolsover District Council was £7,066,100.

2. As part of the Council's approach to tackling worklessness, a Commissioning Framework was established to allocate the funding in two ways:-
 - i) the Local Authority's focus upon the people who are **already receiving benefits** and are unemployed and try to encourage them back into work and off benefits, and
 - ii) tasking the Local Strategic Partnership for Bolsover with identifying measures to address and **prevent the need to be in receipt of benefits** or become unemployed
3. All WNF has now been received by the Council as it was paid over the 2008-11 period. As the WNF is non-ringfenced it has been carried into future years to enable interventions and their impact to continue in the District.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work and Skills Plan Update

4. The attached report titled 'Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work and Skills Plan Update – April to September 2012' is the first six monthly update on the WNF and Work and Skills Plan, and replaces the quarterly WNF update reports disseminated in previous years.

This update aims to:

- Provide an updated spend/financial position for WNF monies allocated to the Council and Bolsover Partnership
- Report on activity currently taking place in relation to Working Neighbourhoods Fund planning, commissioning, and current activity in relation to securing additional funding
- Report on unemployment statistics for the district including an analysis of the National Indicator (NI) 153, Job Seekers Allowance claimant counts, and the number of 16-18 year olds Not in Employment, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Provide an updated Work and Skills plan for activity in the first six months of 2012/13.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

None.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: Detailed in the report.

Legal: None

Human Resources: None

RECOMMENDATION

That the report be received.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To ensure that WNF is targeted to best effect.

ATTACHMENTS: Y
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT:

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	8.
Date:	10 th December 2012	Status	Open
Category	Key decision included in Forward Plan		
Subject:	Strategic Housing Market Assessment and Housing Strategy Update		
Report by:	Housing Strategy and Enabling Manager		
Other Officers Involved	Head of Housing Planning Policy Manager		
Director	Director of Development		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor A. Tomlinson, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

COMMUNITY SAFETY – Ensuring that communities are safe and secure
CUSTOMER FOCUSED SERVICES – Providing excellent customer focused services
ENVIRONMENT – Promoting and enhancing a clear and sustainable environment
REGENERATION – Developing healthy, prosperous and sustainable communities
SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness, equality and lifelong learning.
STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – Continually improving our organisation.

It is anticipated that the Housing Strategy will be a high level strategic document, with links to a number of service areas within the Council, including Housing Services, Environmental Health, Planning Services and Regeneration. As such, the strategy will support the delivery of a number of the Council's corporate aims.

Having up to date housing needs information will allow the Council to a Housing Strategy which reflects the needs of our communities and targets resources effectively.

TARGETS

N/a

VALUE FOR MONEY

This report proposes a joint approach to assessing the District's housing market, which will enable efficiency savings to be made. Production of a housing strategy and up-to-date housing market information will allow the Council to target its resources effectively and make informed strategic investment decisions.

THE REPORT

Strategic Housing Market Assessment

- 1.1 The 2012 Scrutiny Review on the *Demand for Housing in Bolsover District* highlighted the importance of having accurate information on the District's housing market. The review noted that it's 'essential that the Authority achieve a good understanding of the local housing market to be able to ensure that housing is built that the community really needs and to bring about positive outcomes'. This is reflected in recommendation 5 of the review, which is to **'carry out a regular survey and assessment of housing demand and need; establish a reliable data gathering and cleansing process'**.
- 1.2 Assessing current and future housing need and demand is an important local authority function, as set out in legislation. The last assessment of the District's housing market was completed in 2007 through a joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA). This is now at the end of its life and no longer provides robust evidence to inform strategy, policy and planning decisions.
- 1.3 To take account of this, Planning Services recently commissioned a desktop review of the 2007 SHMA. While this provided an update to inform Local Plan development, the review highlighted the importance of undertaking a new SHMA in 2012, to fully update housing needs and market data and present an accurate picture of the District's housing market and the issues it faces.
- 1.4 The production of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment continues to be a requirement under the National Planning Policy Framework. This states that: *'Local planning authorities should have a clear understanding of housing requirements in their area. They should:*

Prepare a Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA) to assess their full housing requirements, working with neighbouring authorities where housing market areas cross administrative boundaries. The SHMA should identify the scale and mix of housing and the range of tenures that the local population is likely to require over the plan period which:
 - *meets household and population projections, taking account of migration and demographic change;*
 - *addresses the need for all types of housing, including affordable housing, and the needs of different groups in the community; and*
 - *caters for housing demand and the scale of housing supply necessary to meet this demand.'*
- 1.5 The value of strategic housing market assessments is in assisting policy and strategy development, decision making and resource allocation processes by:

- enabling local authorities to think spatially about the nature and influence of the housing markets in respect to their local area;
- providing robust evidence to inform policies aimed at providing the right mix of housing across the whole housing market – both market and affordable housing;
- providing evidence to inform policies about the level of housing required, including the need for different sizes and types of housing;
- supporting authorities to develop a strategic approach to housing through consideration of housing need and demand in all housing sectors – owner occupied, private rented and affordable – and assessment of the key drivers and relationships within the housing market;
- drawing together the bulk of the evidence required for local authorities to appraise strategic housing options including social housing allocation priorities, the role of intermediate housing products, stock renewal, conversion, demolition and transfer; and
- ensuring the most appropriate and cost-effective use of public funds.

- 1.6 There are planning risks associated with not having current and robust housing market and needs information. In any request for contributions under section 106 agreements or under condition, the Council must be able to demonstrate the housing need to meet the planning test. Without up-to-date and robust data the Council risks not being able to achieve any affordable housing on schemes. There is already some evidence of the Council being challenged in relation to its housing needs evidence as the existing SHMA is now widely recognised as being outdated.
- 1.7 As the 2007 SHMA is now out of date and is no longer considered to provide a clear understanding of the area's housing market, the local authorities within the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area are looking to complete a joint Strategic Housing Market Assessment. Undertaking this work jointly recognises the cross-boundary nature of housing markets, and allows the councils involved to draw efficiency savings from joint procurement and commissioning.
- 1.8 Due to the technical nature of undertaking SHMAs, as set out within the Government's Strategic Housing Market Assessments Practice Guidance (2007), this is not a piece of work that can be undertaken in-house with current staff levels and expertise. Based on previous commissions, it is anticipated that the cost of undertaking the SHMA will be in the region of £25,000, however this cost may be lower should all councils in the HMA decide to take part.

Housing Strategy

- 1.9 The Local Government Act 2003 places a requirement on local authorities to develop a housing strategy, setting out the vision for all

housing in its area and the priorities for housing and housing-related services in the district.

- 1.10 In 2008, the four authorities within the North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Market Area (HMA) commissioned a joint housing strategy. This strategy aligned the work of the authorities, and was designed to complement the Homes and Communities Agency's requirement for a Local Investment Plan, helping the partnership to draw down funding.
- 1.11 The North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Strategy expires in 2012, and while the partnership continues to work collaboratively it is felt that a joint strategy is no longer the best approach for the councils. This was formally agreed at the HMA's Executive Sounding Board in September 2012. The production of a new local housing strategy for Bolsover is therefore a key priority for Strategic Housing.
- 1.12 The new local housing strategy will be an overarching document which sets out the priorities for housing within the District, pulling together all aspects of the Council's housing activities. The strategy will cover all tenures and will provide a framework for future work and investment decisions.
- 1.13 To do this effectively the strategy will need to take account of the recent changes in national and local policy, including the welfare and social housing reforms, and the restructuring within the housing market caused by the economic recession. To understand how these have impacted locally, robust and up to date housing market and housing needs information is needed so that the Council can respond to local challenges in the housing market and the opportunities and threats brought about by the housing and welfare reforms.
- 1.14 The strategy will be developed through a collaborative approach, involving staff from across the Council. It is intended that the existing Housing Officers Project Group will oversee the production of the strategy, with a further cross-council working group being established as the project team.
- 1.15 Consultation will be an important element of the project work. This will include consultation with elected members, local residents, and partner organisations with a role in the strategy's delivery. The Council's User Engagement Officer will be asked to support with the development of a suitable consultation plan. It is important that the timescales for producing the strategy allow sufficient time for this element of the strategy's development.

ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 1.16 The need to deliver a SHMA is timely for the production of the Council's new local housing strategy. It will allow the housing strategy to be based on up-to-date and accurate information, and will provide the

opportunity for the Council to gather data on the wider housing market and needs of its residents, such as the impact of the welfare reforms, and the demand for newly prioritised government initiatives, such as custom build. It will also enable the Council to make investment decisions with confidence, as they will be supported by robust and current data on housing need and demand. It is therefore proposed that work to produce a local housing strategy is aligned with the schedule for completing the Strategic Housing Market Assessment, allowing the SHMA findings to inform the strategy's development.

- 1.17 A detailed project plan will follow, however the indicative programme of work is as follows:

Gain agreement to commission the SHMA from Executive	10 th December 2012
Circulate/publish SHMA tender	Prior to Christmas 2012
Deadline for submissions	Around the 20 th January 2012
Appointment of consultant	Early February 2013
Estimated SHMA project end date	June 2013
Estimated Housing Strategy sign-off	March 2014

The completion date for the housing strategy has been estimated to allow time for the draft and final strategy to go through the formal approval channels, and to allow time for consultation. This may be amended when a detailed project plan has been developed and when timescales for the SHMA's production have been agreed.

IMPLICATIONS

Financial: The cost of undertaking a SHMA is expected to be in the region of £25,000. The funding for this can be met within existing budgets from previous Planning Delivery Grant which has been set aside for this assessment.

Legal: There remains a statutory requirement to assess the District's housing market and identify housing priorities based on this information. The lack of up to date information could open up the future housing strategy to scrutiny and challenge. Robust and housing needs data is also urgently required to support the planning function and ensure that the Council can maximise the delivery of affordable housing.

Human Resources: A project team will be needed to work with the appointed consultants and ensure delivery of the brief. This can be done within current staff resources.

RECOMMENDATIONS

That Executive

- 1. agree to the commissioning of a Strategic Housing Market Assessment, in partnership with HMA partners, to support housing strategy and planning delivery;**
- 2. agree the use of circa £25,000 of Planning Delivery Grant to fund the assessment; and**
- 3. note that production of the local housing strategy will be aligned to allow the strategy to reflect the findings of the Strategic Housing Market Assessment.**

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

The joint North Derbyshire and Bassetlaw Housing Strategy expires in 2012 and it is important that the Council has in place a Strategy which provides the framework for delivering housing and housing related services in the district. In order that this strategy is robust and can stand up to scrutiny, it needs to be based on robust housing market and needs information, which is also required to support planning decisions.

ATTACHMENTS: **N**
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT:

Working Neighbourhoods Fund and
Work & Skills Plan Update
April to September 2012



CONTENTS PAGE

	Page No
Introduction	1
Working Neighbourhoods Fund Financial Allocations and Commitments	1
April – September Update	6
Unemployment Statistics	9
NI 153 Number of People Claiming Out of Work Benefits	
Job Seekers Allowance	
Not in Employment, Education and Training (NEET)	
Outputs	17
Work and Skills Plan – updated to end September 2012	18

Working Neighbourhoods Fund and Work & Skills Plan Update

Introduction

Welcome to the first Working Neighbourhoods Fund (WNF) and Work and Skills Plan Six Monthly Update which will replace the quarterly WNF update reports disseminated in previous years.

This update aims to:

- Provide an updated spend/financial position for WNF monies allocated to the Council and Bolsover Partnership
- Report on activity currently taking place in relation to Working Neighbourhoods Fund planning, commissioning, and future activity in relation to securing additional funding
- Report on unemployment statistics for the district including an analysis of the National Indicator (NI) 153, Job Seekers Allowance claimant counts, and the number of 16-18 year olds Not in Employment, Employment or Training (NEET)
- Provide an updated Work and Skills plan for activity in the first six months of 2012/13.

Working Neighbourhoods Fund Financial Allocations and Commitments

Bolsover District Council was allocated **£7,066,100** WNF for the period 2008-2011. As 2008/9 was a transitional year, following the cessation of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund, and a period of consultation and planning, the Leader of the Council agreed in 2009 to roll forward unallocated WNF into future years. This decision provided the Council and Bolsover Partnership flexibility to spend the funding wisely and achieve maximum impact over a longer period of time. This has been particularly important in the absence of any further Area Based Grant.

The purpose of the WNF is to reduce levels of worklessness and increase enterprise and skills in our most deprived communities. Bolsover District qualified for WNF as it had more than 20% of its Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) in the most deprived decile on the overall Indices of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) and was ranked among the top 40 districts on an equally weighted measure of key benefit claim rate and employment rate.

The WNF was allocated in two ways. Bolsover District Council allocated £3 million WNF to Bolsover Partnership to commission initiatives that focussed on **preventing worklessness**. The remainder of the WNF was focused on addressing the NI 153 indicator, to **reduce the number of people claiming benefits** in the worst performing areas. A Core Worklessness Group (CWG) consisting of the Leader/Deputy Leader, Officers of Bolsover District Council and relevant partners in relation to worklessness was established in 2008 to move this agenda forward.

Of the total WNF allocation, approximately £321K has been ringfenced for management and admin of the scheme over a five year period, and £6,352,586 has been assigned to projects through formal contracting arrangements bringing the total WNF commitment to **£6,702,159**.

Bolsover District Council and Bolsover Partnership have taken a strategic approach to the commissioning of activities using WNF; ensuring interventions meet an identified need and genuinely add value to existing services. This has only been possible through continuing the existing good working relationships with all of our key partners.

Details of WNF allocated to individual activities are detailed below, providing a breakdown between the CWG and Bolsover Partnership. Full details of activities can be found at www.lsp.bolsover.gov.uk.

Projects Commissioned by the Core Worklessness Group

Project Name		WNF 2008/09 – 2011/12 Actual	WNF 2012/13 Forecast	WNF Future Years	Total Approved
BizFizz - Clowne and Elmtton with Creswell	Clowne Enterprises	24,927	0	0	24,927
LEADER	BDC	66,000	0	0	66,000
Family Employment Initiative	CRT	273,681	0	0	273,681
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	TRUST	14,250	0	0	14,250
Grants to Voluntary Organisations	DUWC	82,095	0	0	82,095
Ways to Work	Rural Action Derbyshire	152,518	24,138	26,180	202,836
Public Sector Apprenticeship Phase 1	BDC	42,213	0	0	42,213
Bolsover Infrastructure Development Officer	BDC	70,032	40,412	0	110,444
Work for Yourself	Disability Dynamics	180,190	28,260	54,114	262,564
Free Legal Advice	Chesterfield Law Centre	52,956	1,600	0	54,556
Bolsover Apprenticeship Programme	BDC	601,397	321,699	1,000	924,096
Bolsover Employment and Enterprise Initiative	DNCC	0	23,278	30,416	53,694
Bus to Work	Chesterfield Comm Transport	46,138	0	0	46,138
Bolsover Intermediate Labour Market Programme	The Shaw Trust	407,150	0	0	407,150
Shirebrook Enterprise Centre	BDC	387,166	510,081	0	897,247
	TOTAL	2,400,713	949,468	111,710	3,461,891

Projects Commissioned by the Bolsover Partnership

Project Name		WNF 2008/09 – 2011/12 Actual	WNF 2012/13 Forecast	WNF Future Years	Total Approved
Bolsover Volunteering Project	CVP	156,434	0	0	156,434
Ways to Work	Rural Action Derbyshire	49,839	0	0	49,839
Financial Inclusion - Phase 1	CVP	10,300	0	0	10,300
Family Employment Initiative (Practice Nurse)	CRT	75,116	0	0	75,116
Raising Aspirations (Strands 1-3 – Young People)	DCC	770,704	250,999	0	1,021,703
Hot Prospects in Bolsover	Hot Prospects	80,944	0	0	80,944
Bolsover Financial Inclusion Project	CVP	347,861	0	0	347,861
Bolsover Enterprise and Training Initiative (BETI)	DNCC	160,179	0	0	160,179
Raising Aspirations (Strand 4 – Adults)	Chesterfield College	293,994	73,050	0	367,044
Raising Aspirations (Strand 4 – Adults)	CVP	131,728	0	0	131,728
Relationships and Self Esteem	SNAP	134,145	62,321	0	196,466
Nacro Pro-Active (contract terminated)	Nacro	4,824	0	0	4,824
Coaching, Leadership and Volunteering Academy	BDC	90,704	2,450	0	93,154
First Steps Farm	Rhubarb Farm	48,205	0	0	48,205
Disability Partnership Project	Disability Dynamics	69,337	0	0	69,337
Supporting Enterprise	BDC	76,271	1,290	0	77,561
TOTAL		2,500,585	390,110	0	2,890,695

TOTALS (CWG & LSP)	4,901,298	1,339,578	111,710	6,352,586
-------------------------------	------------------	------------------	----------------	------------------

April to September 2012 Update

Core Worklessness Group

The CWG has an overall allocation of £3,745,216, of which **£3,461,891** has been committed to date with a further ringfence of £50,000 to a pipeline initiative. This means that the CWG has approximately £233,000 for future commissioning activities to address key priorities including apprenticeships and transport.

Bolsover Partnership

Bolsover Partnership has an overall allocation of £3,000,000, of which **£2,890,695** has been committed to date with a further ringfence of £95,349 to continue the Raising Aspirations project aimed at young people. This leaves approximately £14,000 WNF remaining.

April to September 2012

WNF spend in Quarters 1 and 2 covering the period April to September 2012 was £816,440. This was against a forecast spend of £900,112 (91% forecast achieved). As a result of project work being undertaken in the first six months of the financial year, an additional £2,087,331 match funding has been levered into the district. This means that for every £1 of WNF spent, an additional £2.55 was levered into the district through other funding sources! The majority of this came from the European Regional Development Fund Priority Axis 2 via the development of the Shirebrook Enterprise Centre. During 2012/13 it is anticipated that around £2,530,000 will be used as match funding to the WNF, bringing in around £1.88 for every £1 WNF invested. This is a significant amount of leverage and demonstrates the value of area based funding and the wider impact it can achieve.

Help to Work Directory

The 'Help to Work' online directory has been completely revamped and is now available at www.helptowork.org.uk. This website provides details of organisations that can help people living in Bolsover District or Chesterfield Borough to find employment, to become self employed, to do some training or volunteering, and also to build self confidence. There is also support available to help with other underlying problems that might prevent people from taking advantage of opportunities that are open to them.

Each organisation featured in the Help to Work website has its own page containing information about its services, the 'Steps to Success' that it can support, and contact details. The website also includes a helpful search facility making it easy to search for different types of support that are available locally.

BIG Lottery Fund Talent Match

The BIG Lottery Fund Talent Match programme is a £100 million investment to deliver creative ways to help young people find work or start their own enterprising business. The fund is targeted at young people, aged 18-24 who have been unemployed for 12 months or more. An indicative allocation of £8.6 million has been ringfenced to the SCR LEP area (which includes Barnsley, Bassetlaw, Bolsover, Chesterfield, Doncaster, North East Derbyshire, Rotherham and Sheffield). Partners from the eight areas have been working together over the past 2-3 months to develop a prospectus that was submitted to the BIG Lottery on 5 November 2012.

The agreed target groups within the prospectus include young people with:

- Mild to moderate learning difficulties
- Low level mental health issues (depression, anxiety)
- Caring responsibilities (including young parents)
- An offending background, and
- Care Leavers

Central to the Talent Match programme are young people who are expected to be involved in designing/planning interventions, decision making and governance arrangements. The Raising Aspirations project, funded through WNF and led by Derbyshire Council, co-ordinated a consultation event for young people across Bolsover, Chesterfield, North East and Bassetlaw and has engaged the commitment of a number of young people from across the patch to be involved during the developmental stages.

Key elements of the programme will include:

- Positive engagement activities, building confidence and aspirations
- Peer mentoring
- Work experience placements, volunteering, internships
- Enterprise skills
- Navigating support

The timetable for the BIG Lottery programme expects to see prospectuses approved in January 2013, full development plans being drawn up from then onwards up to May 2013, and final approval from the BIG Lottery in June 2013. The Lead Agency for Talent Match in the SCR is Sheffield Futures.

SCR Apprenticeships Hub

The SCR City Deal proposition was approved by government in July 2012. The proposal includes:

£77.3 million skills programme over three years for SCR that creates 4,000+ *additional* apprenticeships and 2,000 *additional* opportunities for the upskilling of the existing adult workforce to Level 3 (equivalent to A level).

Ekosgen was commissioned by the SCR to examine options for the development of an Apprenticeship Hub which has the following principles:

- Business led and responsive to business need
- Provides support to allow smaller employers to take on apprentices
- Cover all geographical areas and sectors with a focus on priority/growth sectors which include advanced manufacturing, logistics and transport, creative and digital industries, retail, financial, professional and business services; and hospitality.
- Provide advice and guidance to employers
- Allow employers to choose apprentices and training provides with the support of the Hub where necessary.

Engagement with businesses via the different sectors is to be undertaken by intermediaries who will play a key role in supporting the recruitment of the apprentice, selecting appropriate training and provide ongoing advice and guidance throughout the apprenticeship. Tenders for intermediaries are due early December with interviews planned mid December 2012.

The model is based on an approach which has been successfully used in Sheffield for a number of years. Both Sheffield City Council and Doncaster Metropolitan Borough Council are in a position to commence delivery almost immediately. It is therefore being proposed that two low cost units are established in Sheffield in Doncaster to handle the management, administration and co-ordination of Hub activities and that their responsibility will be extended to oversee the operation of the Hub in other local authority areas as the model is moved out.

NOMS

The National Offender Management Service (NOMS) called for proposals to increase the number of social enterprises able to offer offenders the opportunity to gain skills and employment (and in doing so support environmental and social objectives). In response to this call for proposals, Bolsover District Council submitted an expression of interest to secure £50,000 to develop a legally constituted partnership to deliver employment related support to disadvantaged people residing within Bolsover, Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire.

Bolsover District Council was successful in passing the first stage of the application process and submitted a more detailed proposal at the end of October 2012. Between the first and second stages, a significant amount of work was undertaken to further develop the proposal, including a visit to NOMS on 13th September, accessing Technical Support on legal structures, business planning, governance etc, and hosting a workshop on 25th September 2012 with partners to consult on the proposed delivery model.

The role of the social enterprise will be to perform a support function to increase funding flowing into the area that can be used by partners to deliver support to the target client groups (those facing the greatest barriers to accessing employment). The NOMS funding of £50,000 would be used to create the social enterprise during 2013 as well as to secure revenue funding from 2014 onwards. The proposed social enterprise will formalise the Help to Work Partnership (established by Bolsover Partnership and Disability Dynamics Ltd, and formally known as the Bolsover Disability Partnership) which secured EU PARES funding earlier this year to continue partnership activities and extend into Chesterfield.

The social enterprise will have five main functions:

- Secure funding from various sources by bidding and making applications
- Undertake contract management where appropriate
- Undertake partnership development, extension and capacity building
- Provide a communications hub for partners
- Undertake evaluation and research in order to support bids, partner activities and influence decision makers

Recent discussions with Derbyshire Probation Trust have identified gaps in provision for offenders particularly around volunteering, self employment, in-work support and young offenders. The new social enterprise will aim to address these gaps, amongst others, by capitalising on available funding streams and opportunities to access resources.

Although NOMS would provide the revenue to cover start-up costs (if the Council's bid is successful), they do not anticipate the social enterprise being created solely to assist ex-offenders back into employment. The proposed social enterprise is intended therefore to support all disadvantaged clients back into work and so will include offenders but will also cover other groups including people with disabilities.

Unemployment Statistics

NI 153 Number of People Claiming Out of Work Benefits

National Indicator (NI) 153 measured progress on reducing concentrations of worklessness within local authority areas, particularly those in receipt of the WNF. Specifically, the indicator measured the out-of-work benefits claimant rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods – these were defined as Lower Super Output Areas (LSOA) with a benefit claimant rate of 25% or more as at February 2007 (4 quarter rolling average).

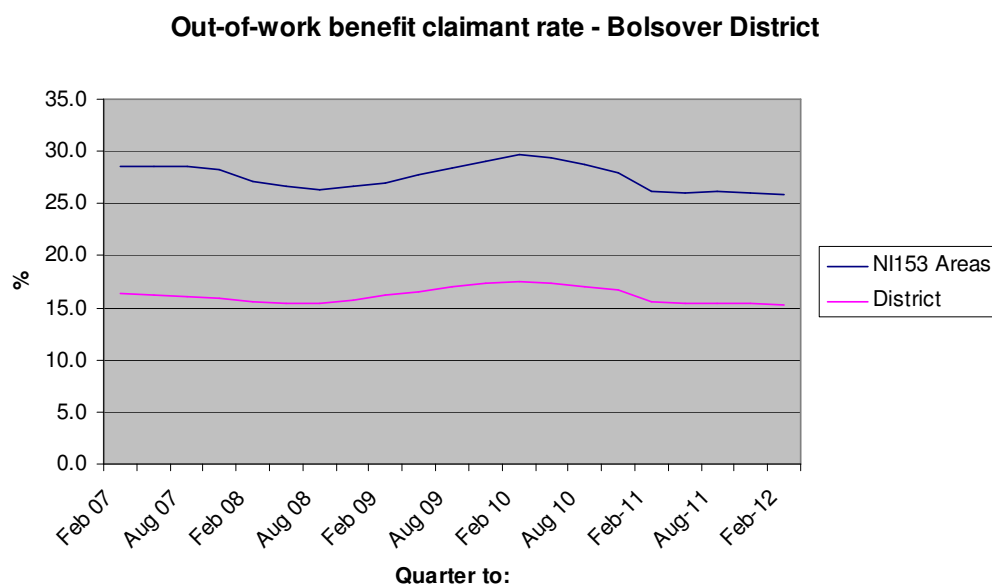
Within Bolsover district, six neighbourhoods fell into the ‘worst performing’ category:

- LSOA 004A (Bolsover North West)
- LSOA 004D (Bolsover West)
- LSOA 003C (Elmton-with-Creswell)
- LSOA 007D (Shirebrook East)
- LSOA 006B (Shirebrook North West)
- LSOA 003D (Whitwell)

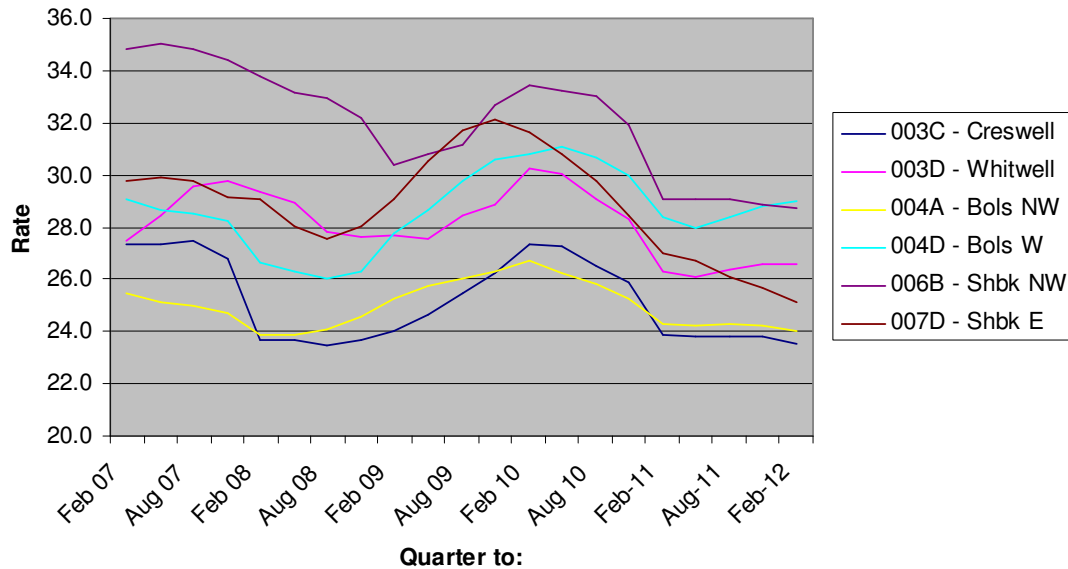
The CWG was established to allocate WNF with the explicit aim of addressing NI153. A local target was negotiated within the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement (LAA) to reduce the average claimant rate in the worst performing neighbourhoods from 28.7% to 25.7% by March 2011. To take account of the impact of the economic downturn this target was later revised to an average claimant rate in the NI153 areas that was 1.1 percentage points lower than that of the East Midlands.

Following the change of Government in 2010, NI153 figures ceased to be published centrally and the target is no longer active within the LAA. However, the Partnership Team continues to calculate and publish the same ‘out of work benefit claimant’ data for the purpose of consistently monitoring the impact of the WNF programme.

The charts below track the out-of-work benefit claimant rates for the six original NI153 areas and Bolsover District between February 2007 and February 2012.



NI 153 areas - Bolsover District



- Year on year, **ALL SIX** areas had a claimant rate **LOWER** than that in August 2010.
- Comparing 'like for like' between February 2007 (baseline year) and February 2012, despite the economic downturn **ALL SIX** areas had a **LOWER** claimant rate in 2012.
- Two of the six areas have a claimant rate of less than 25%.
- There are no areas reporting a claimant rate of over 30%.
- The average rate for the six areas (NI153 rate) fell consistently between February 2010 and May 2011, but increased by just 0.1 percentage points between May and August 2011.
- At 25.8% it remains **LOWER** than the 2007 baseline and is only 0.1 percentage points lower than the original target set through the Derbyshire Local Area Agreement which was later revised to take account of the impact of the economic downturn.

In total, THIRTY-THREE areas (70%) within Bolsover District had a claimant rate lower than that in the baseline year with decreases of between 0.1 percentage points in Bolsover West and 6.1 percentage points in Shirebrook North West.

NI 153: Out of work benefits claim rates in Bolsover LSOAs

LSOA	LSOA/Ward	Feb 07	Feb 08	Feb 09	Feb 10	Feb 11*	Feb 12	Variance Feb 2007- 2012	
001A	Balborough	4.5	4.0	5.1	6.2	5.8	5.6	1.1	↓
001B	Balborough	8.4	8.5	8.5	9.1	8.0	8.2	-0.2	↑
001C	Balborough	14.5	13.4	15.0	15.7	15.3	15.3	0.8	↓
001D	Clowne South	7.8	6.7	7.7	8.8	6.2	6.3	-1.5	↑
001E	Bolsover North West	12.0	12.8	13.2	13.2	12.2	12.7	0.8	↓
002A	Clowne North	21.2	20.5	19.8	19.4	17.0	17.4	-3.8	↑
002B	Elmton and Creswell	19.5	18.6	18.8	19.1	15.9	15.2	-4.2	↑
002C	Whitwell	8.1	8.5	8.4	9.3	8.2	9.2	1.2	↓
002D	Whitwell	16.0	14.5	14.9	16.5	14.7	14.3	-1.7	↑
003A	Elmton and Creswell	23.1	20.9	18.8	20.2	18.7	18.6	-4.5	↑
003B	Elmton and Creswell	20.3	19.3	21.2	21.2	18.8	20.3	0.0	↔
003C	Elmton and Creswell	27.3	23.7	24.0	27.4	23.9	23.5	-3.8	↑
003D	Whitwell	27.5	29.3	27.7	30.2	26.3	26.6	-0.9	↑
004A	Bolsover North West	25.5	23.9	25.3	26.7	24.3	24.0	-1.5	↑
004B	Bolsover North West	16.4	17.0	18.1	18.2	14.8	15.5	-1.0	↑
004C	Bolsover South	15.6	14.3	15.8	18.6	14.2	14.2	-1.4	↑
004D	Bolsover West	29.1	26.7	27.7	30.8	28.4	29.0	0.0	↔
005A	Bolsover South	7.3	5.5	6.6	7.5	6.2	6.3	-1.0	↑
005B	Bolsover South	18.7	17.8	17.6	18.7	17.4	17.8	-0.9	↑
005C	Bolsover West	12.0	10.6	11.0	12.6	10.3	11.0	-1.0	↑
005D	Bolsover West	12.6	11.9	12.5	13.7	10.9	11.6	-1.0	↑
005E	Pleasley	12.1	12.5	13.2	15.4	12.4	12.4	0.3	↓
005F	Scarcliffe	16.6	15.1	15.5	17.4	14.8	15.6	-1.1	↑
006A	Shirebrook Langwith	22.1	20.2	21.9	23.5	21.1	19.7	-2.5	↑
006B	Shirebrook North West	34.8	33.8	30.4	33.4	29.1	28.7	-6.1	↑
006C	Shirebrook North West	23.5	22.5	22.5	23.8	22.4	22.4	-1.1	↑
006D	Shirebrook South West	16.9	16.4	15.8	16.3	15.2	15.0	-1.9	↑
007A	Pleasley	18.0	17.1	18.4	19.3	17.2	16.2	-1.8	↑
007B	Scarcliffe	22.1	22.6	22.7	23.7	21.9	21.9	-0.2	↑

007C	Scarcliffe	18.8	17.7	17.9	19.0	16.9	15.9	-2.9	↑
007D	Shirebrook East	29.8	29.1	29.1	31.7	27.0	25.1	-4.7	↑
007E	Shirebrook South East	23.7	21.8	22.6	24.1	21.3	19.8	-3.9	↓
008A	Blackwell	11.6	11.6	11.1	11.6	11.4	10.2	-1.4	↑
008B	Blackwell	12.4	11.7	11.7	13.2	12.1	11.6	-0.8	↑
008C	Tibshelf	15.5	14.4	13.4	14.9	13.3	13.2	-2.3	↑
008D	Tibshelf	8.0	7.4	8.5	9.1	8.0	8.7	0.6	↓
008E	Tibshelf	17.4	17.6	17.7	20.0	18.2	18.1	0.7	↓
009A	Blackwell	14.2	14.2	15.8	16.8	13.9	13.6	-0.5	↑
009B	South Normanton East	11.6	12.6	12.0	14.6	12.5	12.7	1.1	↓
009C	South Normanton East	18.3	16.4	19.0	20.8	19.7	19.0	0.7	↓
009D	South Normanton West	15.0	13.8	14.6	17.4	16.0	15.0	0.0	↔
009E	South Normanton West	14.8	13.7	15.5	17.8	14.9	14.5	-0.4	↑
010A	Pinxton	14.2	13.5	13.2	15.4	13.2	12.9	-1.3	↑
010B	Pinxton	20.6	20.5	20.5	22.8	21.0	20.6	0.1	↓
010C	Pinxton	12.1	11.3	12.5	13.1	11.9	11.9	-0.1	↑
010D	South Normanton East	8.0	5.9	6.0	6.9	6.9	6.6	-1.4	↑
010E	South Normanton West	8.6	8.7	9.6	9.7	8.5	8.0	-0.6	↑
010F	South Normanton West	4.7	4.3	6.1	6.3	5.8	5.5	0.7	↓
NI153 Average		28.5	27.1	27.0	29.7	26.2	25.8		

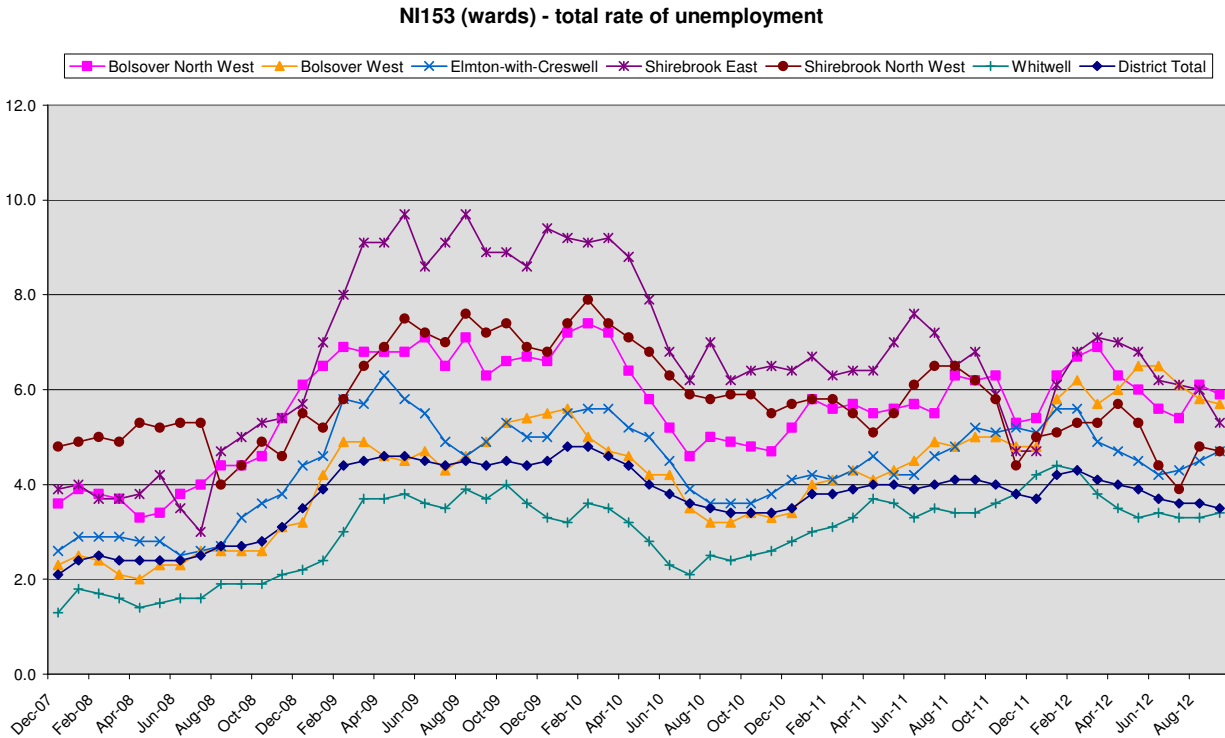
Key	
	Original six NI153 LSOAs
↑	Better performance
↔	No change
↓	Worse performance

* Feb 11 data amended based on 2010 Lower Super Output Area Population Estimates

Compiled by CEPT. Date Source Nomis.

Job Seekers Allowance

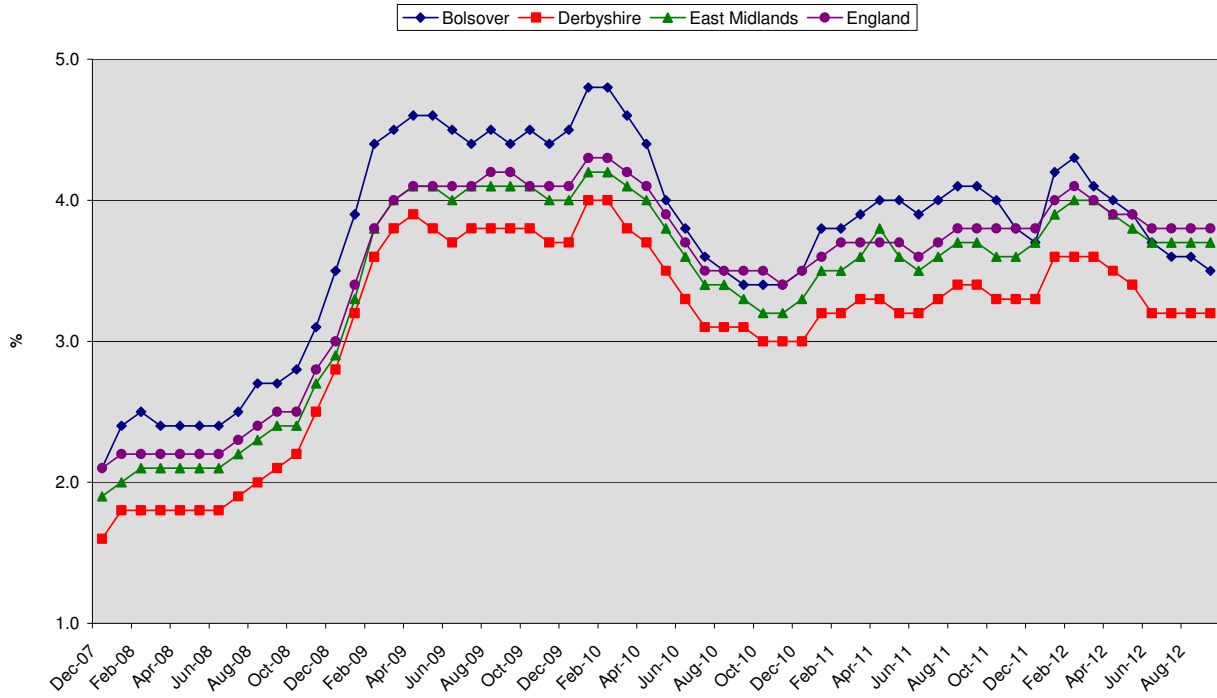
Due to the time lags associated with the release of NI153 data, monthly Job Seekers Allowance (JSA) claimant data can be used to provide a clearer picture of the impact of the economic downturn on the district. JSA data is only collected at ward level, not Lower Super Output Area level; however the chart below is useful in highlighting recent trends across the NI153 areas.



The chart below shows how the unemployment rate for Bolsover district compares with that of Derbyshire, the East Midlands and England. District level unemployment peaked during February 2012 at 4.3%, the highest rate since April 2010, but had fallen to 3.5% by September 2012. This was the lowest rate since December 2010 and was the first time since recording began in December 2007 that the district rate had been lower than the national average AND East Midlands average!

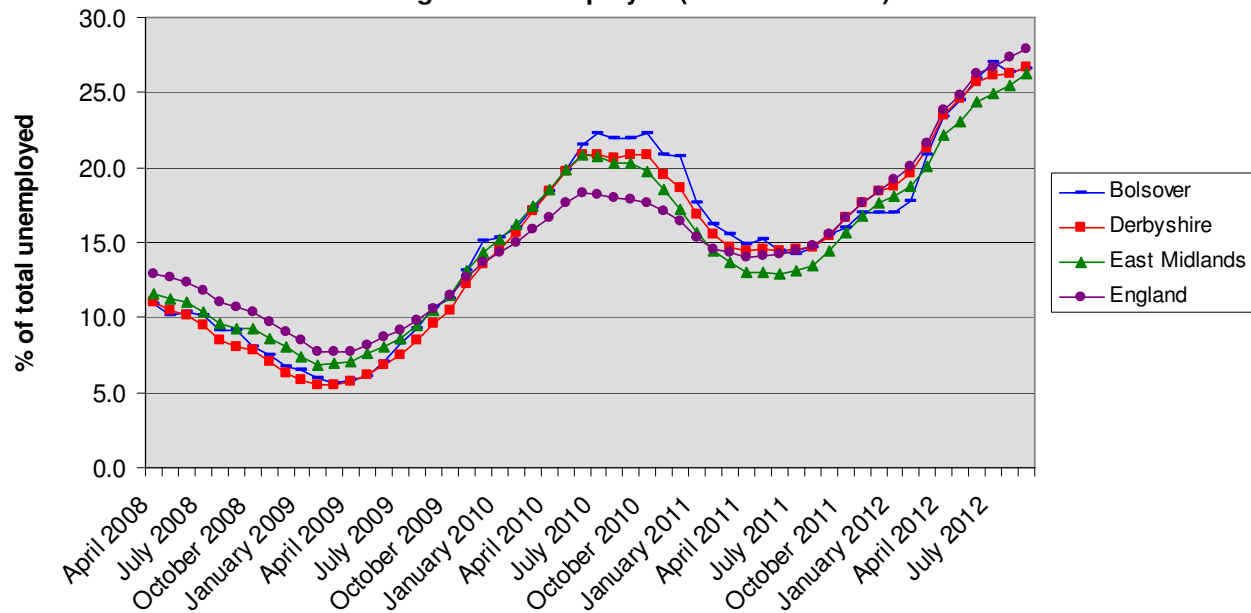
The impressive decrease in the unemployment rate during April and September this year can be attributed in part to the 500+ jobs created at Sports Direct, as well as other inward investments including Andrew Page and McDonalds at Markham Vale.

Total rate of unemployment across Bolsover District



Following recent increases in long term unemployment, the rate for Bolsover District stabilised in August 2012 but then saw a 0.2 percentage points increase in September 2012. Over the period April to September 2012, the district rate has increased by 3.2 percentage points. This rate of increase is in line with Derbyshire, but lower than regional and national increases with the District rate at 26.6 percentage points and Derbyshire and England rates at 26.7 and 27.9 percentage points respectively. All JSA claimants unemployed for 12 months + are mandated to DWP's Work Programme.

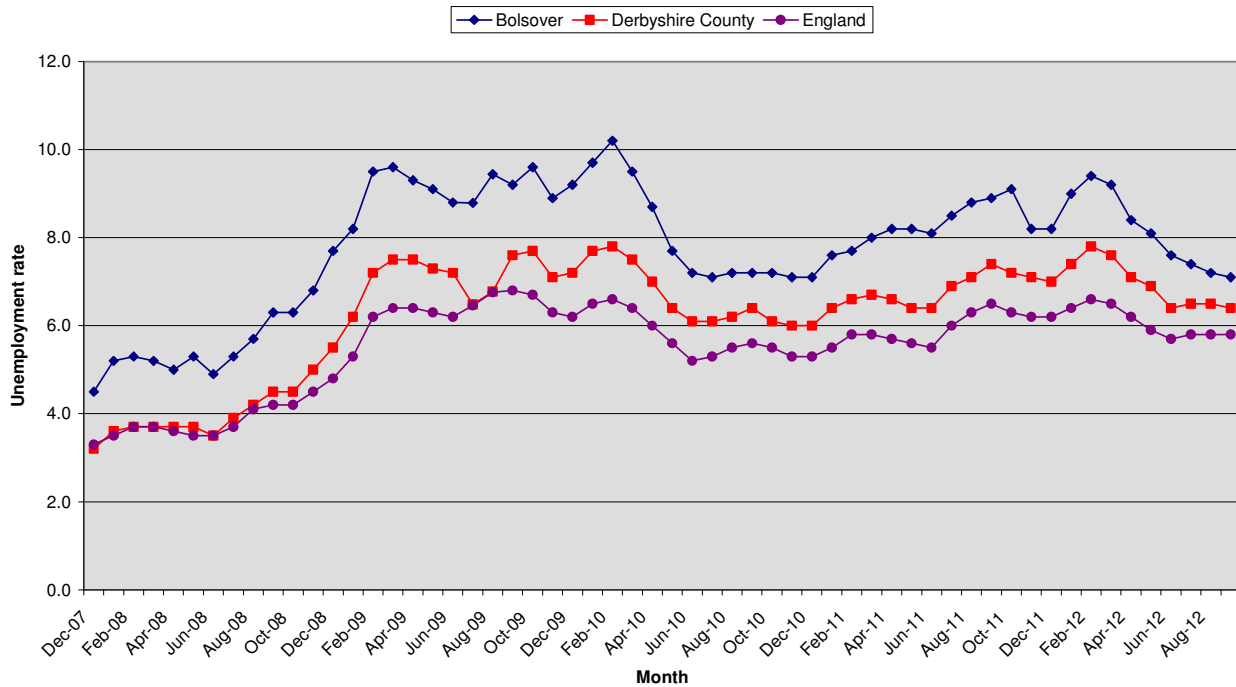
Long Term Unemployed (over 12 months)



Source: Office for National Statistics (Nomis)

The table below shows the proportion of young people (aged under 25 years) who are claiming unemployment related benefits. Youth unemployment in Bolsover District in September 2012 was 7.1% and has been falling consistently since February 2012 when it peaked at 9.4% (the highest it had been since February 2010). Although youth unemployment is higher in Bolsover District than it is in Derbyshire and England, the gap is closing between County and national rates. Since February 2012, Bolsover District has experienced a 2.3 percentage points reduction in youth unemployment, compared with 1.4 percentage points and 0.8 percentage points in Derbyshire and England respectively.

Unemployment Rate of Young People <25 Years



Not in Employment, Education or Training (NEET)

Data is produced by Derbyshire County Council on a monthly basis, but from April 2011 the calculation method was changed in two significant ways:

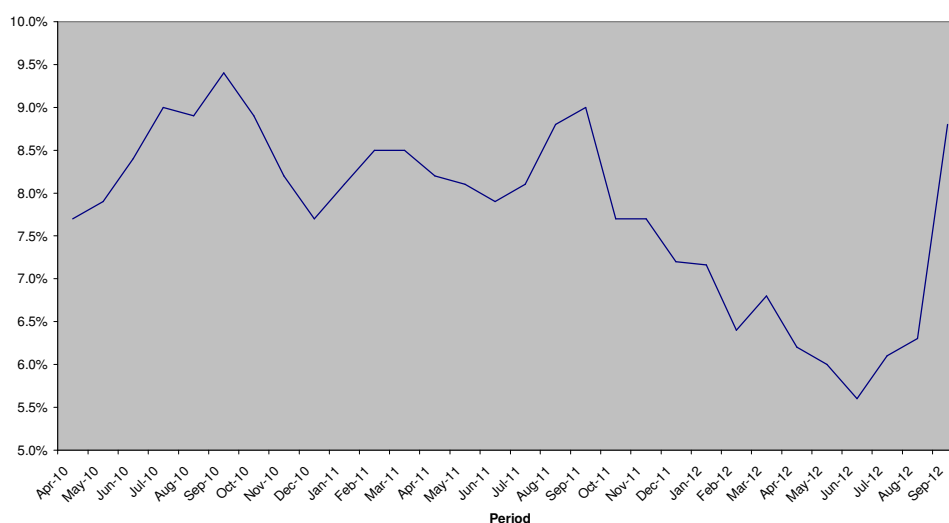
- Data is now calculated by residency. This is a positive change as previously a young person who was NEET would be classed as such within their place of residency. If that young person took up further education in a neighbouring authority they would be removed from the Bolsover district cohort and classed as EET in the neighbouring authority. This has been an issue for some time due to the lack of FE provision within the district. By basing the calculation on residency, the data will be a more accurate reflection of the post 16 destination of young people.
- The geographical areas on which the data is produced has changed from 'district' to 'locality'. This means that official district level data will no longer be available, and will be produced jointly for Bolsover and North East Derbyshire. North East Derbyshire NEET rates have historically been lower than Bolsover rates.

The changes above mean that the monthly NEET rates reported from 2011/12 onwards will be lower and not directly comparable with the figures from previous years. An additional level of reporting has been introduced within the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire locality. Multi Area Team (MAT) data is produced for smaller areas within each locality. Bolsover District comprises the following MATs:

- Bolsover
- Clowne and Creswell
- Shirebrook
- South Normanton
- Tibshelf

Data at this level is not yet publicly available, but can be used to calculate an approximate district figure. The chart below provides an indication as to the district trend since April 2010. This data has been produced by calculating the average of the MAT area rates and should therefore be used with caution.

*Bolsover District NEET Rate Based on Residency



The steep increase in the NEET rate in September 2012 is consistent with previous years and is expected to decrease significantly by November 2012 which is the key reporting period for NEET figures. Derbyshire County Council's Department for Education Adjusted NEET target for the Bolsover and North East Derbyshire locality is 6.3%.

Outputs

The following table identifies the outputs that have been achieved during April – September 2012, as well as those achieved since the WNF programme commenced in 2008/09. During April – September, WNF projects have reported a collective outcome of 33 people gaining employment during the period April to September 2012. This takes the total to date since the WNF programme commenced to 1,436. In addition, the Family Employment Initiative helped 68 people into work during the period.

During April – September 2012, 2,490 people 'signed off' the unemployment benefit claimant register in Bolsover district and 1,155 (46.4%) of these went into work.

Output Ref No	Output Description	2012/13 Cumulative Actual	Programme Cumulative Actual
1	No. of unemployed people gaining employment	33	1,436
2	No. of 16-18 year olds going into education, training or employment (that were previously NEET)	51	437
7	No. of new business start ups		98
8	Jobs created/safeguarded	2	381
9	Businesses assisted to improve performance	7	316
12	Sq metres of new or upgraded floor space	2,207	2,207
13	No. of employees benefiting from training	25	791
15	No. of people benefiting from debt management advice and guidance	63	912
16	No. of low income families taking up formal childcare	5	32
17	No. of people benefiting from health initiatives to reduce the teenage conception rate	36	344
27	No. of people accessing volunteering opportunities	33	508

Bolsover District Work and Skills Delivery Plan

Priority Theme 1: Supporting businesses to succeed

- 1.1 Increase the number of business start-ups
- 1.2 Support existing businesses to grow
- 1.3 Provision of business accommodation
- 1.4 Maximise resource opportunities for business support

Priority Theme 2: Promote activity that will directly create opportunities for individuals to gain employment

- 2.1 Increase the number of Apprenticeship opportunities
- 2.2 Maximise job opportunities for local people

Priority Theme 3: To raise the aspirations and confidence of all residents, particularly young people and families

- 3.1 Raise the aspirations of school aged young people
- 3.2 Reduce the number of 16-18 NEETs
- 3.3 Reduce worklessness amongst working aged residents

Priority Theme 4: Enhance access to transport, infrastructure, accommodation and finance for residents and businesses

- 4.1 Remove transport barriers to employment
- 4.2 Access to finance for SMEs
- 4.3 Increase opportunities for Bolsover residents to access affordable credit, debt and legal advice

Priority Theme 5: Promote the strengths of the district, such as tourism and leisure offer, to strengthen perceptions of Bolsover

- 5.1 Develop people's skills to work within tourism and leisure sectors
- 5.2 Promote the area's strengths to increase tourism

Priority Theme 6: Address the poor health of the Bolsover population with a particular focus on those with mental and physical disabilities

- 6.1 Increase the number of people with disabilities/health needs moving closer to the labour market

PRIORITY 1: SUPPORTING BUSINESSES TO SUCCEED

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets/Outcomes			Progress	Status
1.1 Increase the number of business start-ups							
a. Business start-up support for people with disabilities WNF page on Bolsover Partnership website	Disability Dynamics Penny Melville-Brown Tel: 01329 841814	Meeting between business support providers to map client journey and agree referral mechanisms	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	15 new businesses created in 2011/12 (WNF funded) ERDF and WNF funding secured. Procurement of sub-contractor completed (Disability Dynamics). Delivery commenced July 2012.	Ongoing to March 2015
			14 business start ups 14 new jobs created	9 business start ups 9 new jobs created	14 business start ups 14 new jobs created		
b. Deliver pre-pre start business start-up activity	DNCC Scott Knowles Tel: 01246 207207		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	ERDF and WNF approved. Project staff recruited August 2012	Ongoing to March 2014
				20 individuals supported 12 business ideas generated	40 individuals supported 24 business ideas generated		
c. Support for business start-ups WNF page on Bolsover Partnership website	NBV, Joanna Clarke Tel: 0115 970 5550	Meeting between business support providers to map client journey and agree referral mechanisms	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	26 business start-ups, 6 gaining employment, 20 jobs created and 2 business forums achieved in 2011/12 (WNF & LEO funded) Joint meeting of ERDF providers held 26 th September. Further meeting planned 19 th December	Ongoing to December 2015
			30 business start ups 35 gaining employment 2 business forums	NBV targets	NBV targets		
1.2 Support existing businesses to grow							
a. Support businesses	DNCC		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	27 people into work, 38	Ongoing to

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets/Outcomes			Progress	Status
with recruitment needs WNF page on Bolsover Partnership website	Scott Knowles Tel: 01246 207207		21 people into work 45 SME's assisted 155 people accessing training	20 businesses assisted to improve perf. 4 jobs created	40 businesses assisted to improve perf. 6 jobs created	SME's assisted, 141 people accessing training achieved in 2011/12 (WNF funded) ERDF and WNF secured for 2012-14 delivery. Project staff recruited August 2012	March 2014
b. Support existing businesses to grow WNF page on Bolsover Partnership website	NBV, Joanna Clarke, Tel: 0115 970 5550		2011/12 60 businesses supported	2012/13 NBV targets	2013/14 NBV targets	66 businesses supported in 2011/12 (WNF & LEO funded)	Ongoing to December 15
1.3 Provision of business accommodation							
a. Provision of additional business units in Shirebrook WNF page on Bolsover Partnership website	BDC Natalie Etches 01246 242389		2011/12	2012/13 2,207 sqm space 1 ha land redeveloped 5 jobs created 1 graduates placed 1 new businesses	2013/14 8 jobs created 1 graduate placed 6 new businesses	On track against project plan (WNF and ERDF funded).	Ongoing to March 2014
			Establish baseline		90% average occupancy within Shirebrook, Bolsover, South Normanton, Tibshelf and		

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets/Outcomes			Progress	Status
					Clowne business units		
b. Attract a major manufacturing company to Markham Vale http://www.sheffieldcityregion.org.uk/enterprise-zone	BDC Sonia Coleman Tel: 01246 242413	Local Development Order approved to simplify planning.	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Enhanced Capital Allowances agreed for Markham Vale.	Ongoing to March 2014
					Major employer attracted to Markham Vale	Andrew Page and Green Giant attracted to site.	
1.4 Maximise resource opportunities for business support							
a. Ensure opportunities to access funding for business support are maximised Funding Database , Bolsover Partnership website Business Bolsover website	BDC Jessica Clayton Tel: 01246 242334	Ensure funding database is updated regularly funding updates/news is promoted on LSP bulletins and Business Bolsover	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Database created (2011/12)	Ongoing to March 2014
			Funding database created	4 Business Bolsover e-bulletins Min. 2 ERDF bids approved	4 Business Bolsover e-bulletins	10 Business Bolsover e-bulletins (2011/12) 4 business support initiatives secured ERDF PA2 funding within the district (2012/13) 4 Business Bolsover e-bulletins (2012/13)	

PRIORITY THEME 2: PROMOTE ACTIVITY THAT WILL DIRECTLY CREATE OPPORTUNITIES TO INDIVIDUALS TO GAIN EMPLOYMENT

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
2.1 Increase the number of Apprenticeship opportunities							
a. Increase the number of private sector apprenticeships Link to feasibility study	BDC Laura Khella Tel: 01246 242242	Agree sectors to deliver pre-apprenticeship programmes Work with Sheffield City Region (SCR) to roll out the City Deal	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Feasibility study completed end Aug 2011 (WNF funded)	Ongoing to March 2015
			Feasibility study produced	20 apprentices recruited within private sector	2 Level 2 programmes delivered (10 per cohort) 200 private sector apprenticeships 100 adults upskilled	Successful bid to CRT. Working in partnership with the Colleges, DNCC, CBC and NEDDC to provide grants to private sector businesses taking on an apprentice. BDC is the lead partner. Starts 2012/13 SCR have been successful in securing £77m through City Deal to create private sector apprenticeships (2012/13)	
b. Extend the existing Apprenticeship Scheme within the public and VCS Bolsover Partnership website	BDC Laura Khella Tel: 01246 242302	Explore potential for creating a public/VCS apprenticeship scheme with the Royal British Legion for ex-service personnel and their spouses/children/dependents/carers	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	All 30 apprentices have completed their induction and commenced their apprenticeship during Feb/Mar 2012 (WNF & CRT funded)	Current scheme ongoing to March 2013.
			20 app'ships in the public sector created (18-24 years) 10 app'ships in the VCS (16-17 years)	21 apprentices achieving an NVQ L2		0.4 FTE post recruited to support apprentices (shared post with RA strands 1-2) Consultant's brief drafted to consider future role of the apprenticeship programme	
c. Green Deal	Groundwork	Develop local	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Discussions ongoing with	Ongoing to

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
Link to DECC website	Trevor Witts Tel: 01246 570977	provision to roll out the Green Deal Any partnership Bolsover joins as part of Green Deal will create local apprenticeship opportunities			5 apprentices recruited	Sheffield City Region (SCR) model for roll out. The SCR LEP board has approved this approach. Groundwork is an accredited installer of 7 Green Deal measure	March 2014
2.2 Maximise job opportunities for local people							
a. Partnership working to maximise job opportunities created through inward investment. www.businessbolsovr.com/locate-in-bolsover	BDC/JCP Laura Khella Tel: 01246 242302 Bev Weston Tel: 01246 344524	Work with BDC planning/legal to incorporate local labour clauses in Section 106 agreements Work with the Sector Skills Council for Construction to implement Employment and Skills within procurement and inward investment	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	North Eastern Derbyshire Strategic Employment Partnership (NEDSEP) meeting bi-monthly. Ongoing information sharing of inward investment developments across north eastern Derbyshire Presentation to senior officers and Members from Sector Skills Council for Construction Apr – Sep 2012: McDonalds 25 new job opportunities. 24 completed training and 16 into work (64%) Andrew Page 20+ jobs (1 st wave), 45 completed training and 11 into work (55%) - further 8 with details	Ongoing to March 2014
			Minimum 40% of jobs through sector routeways secured by Bolsover residents	Minimum 40% of jobs through sector routeways secured by Bolsover residents	Implement Employment and Skills Plans within procurement activities		

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
						held for 6 months for further work opportunities.	
b. Develop/delivery training programmes in response to unfilled vacancies	JCP Bev Weston Tel: 01246 344524	Monitor JCP live unfilled vacancies and emerging industry opportunities to facilitate training & skill development Pre-apprenticeship programmes (2.1a) cover the skills gaps identified	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Welding and hospitality identified as skills gaps. Consistently high demand for health and social care jobs and future demand for warehousing/logistics anticipated.	Ongoing to March 2014
				2 short courses delivered	2 short courses delivered		
c. Deliver initiatives to improve chances for local people to access work	Laura Khella Tel: 01246 242302	Organise a 'Meet the Employer event' annually	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Meet the Employer event took place March 2012 (approx 45-50 people attended)	Ongoing to March 2014
			1 Meet the Employer event		1 Meet the Employer event		

PRIORITY THEME 3: To RAISE THE ASPIRATIONS & CONFIDENCE OF ALL RESIDENTS, PARTICULARLY YOUNG PEOPLE, FAMILIES AND PEOPLE WITH DISABILITIES

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
3.1 Raise the aspirations of school aged young people							
a. Deliver the Raising	RA Project		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs:	Ongoing to

Aspirations Programme to school aged young people LSP website Link to DCC Multi agency teams' plans	Manager, Clare Talati Tel: 07800 955252 Multi agency teams, Brenda Towse Tel: 01629 533190		45 pupils increasing attainment at KS4 100 KS4 students attending motivational events			24 pupils increasing attainment at KS4 950 KS4 students attending motivational events (2011-13 WNF funded)	March 2013
b. Deliver the RAiSE project within secondary schools to raise aspirations and reduce levels of teenage conception Bolsover Partnership website	SNAP Developm't Project Janice Cooper Tel: 01773 510882	Secure mainstream funding for 2012/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: Project delivered in 3 schools benefiting 210 young people (2011-13 WNF funded) April – September 2012: Delivered in 3 schools, 36 beneficiaries. Comic Relief bid submitted October 2012	Ongoing to October 2012
			Work with 72 young people across 3 secondary schools	Work with 50 young people across 3 secondary schools			
c. Deliver enterprise activity within the five secondary schools to improve enterprise skills across the school curriculum. Bolsover Partnership website	BDC, Natalie Etches Tel: 01246 242389	Secure additional funding for 2012-14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: 729 students improving enterprise skills (WNF/LEO funded)	Completed - funding bid submitted for follow-on programme but no further funding secured to date.
			700 students improving their acquisition of enterprise skills across 5 secondary schools				
d. Deliver a programme that gives young people an opportunity to experience vocational training.	Bolsover and Staveley Learning community Jacqui Kinch Tel: 07810 506975	Secure mainstream funding	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 achievements: 195 young people involved 191 qualifications achieved (mainstream funding) Apr – Sep 2012: 109 current Yr 11 learners	Ongoing to March 2014
			40 young people having taster sessions across the 5 secondary	45 young people having taster sessions across the 5	Funding outstanding		

			schools 40 vocational qualifications achieved	secondary schools 45 vocational qualification s achieved		33 current Yr 10 learners 4 secondary schools (Bolsover, Heritage, Shirebrook & Tibshelf) - shows decline of vocational courses as a result of Govt Education Policy and school funding	
--	--	--	--	---	--	--	--

3.2 Reduce the number of 16-18 NEETs							
a. Provide support for teenage parents, those with drug/alcohol problems and those that have been NEET for 6+ months and provide targeted support for school aged y/p identified as potential NEETs to reduce increase of this stat at October Bolsover Partnership website	Raising Aspirations Manager, Clare Talati Tel: 07800 955252	Embed approach with the new Multi Agency Team (MAT) structure Secure ongoing funding to March 2014.	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: 161 NEETs supported 125 into EET (2011-13 WNF funded) Youth Contract aimed at 16-17 yr old NEETs –Groundwork has secured prime contract for region. April – September 2012: 42 NEETS supported 34 into EET	Ongoing to March 2014 with potential to extend to September 2014
			150 NEETs supported	150 NEETs supported			
			Progress 115 NEETs into EET	Progress 90 NEETs into EET			
3.3 Reduce worklessness amongst working age residents							
a. Deliver Family Employment Initiative Bolsover Partnership website	CRT Amanda Siddle Tel: 07979 558628	Map current employment support provision and identify evidence based gaps/duplication Identify sources of referrals and need Secure additional funding (explore Royal British Legion and other funding opportunities)	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: 132 people into work (CRT, WNF and BDC funded) FEI delivery in Bolsover currently funded through CRT. Apr – Sep 2012: 237 engagements 68 into work 76 into training 13 into voluntary work	Ongoing
			126 unemployed people into work	108 unemployed people into work 324 engagements 108 into training 36 into voluntary work			

b. Deliver personalised employment/skills development programmes to unemployed/economically inactive Bolsover residents Bolsover Partnership website	Chesterfield College Emily Williams Tel: 07909 780194	Secure additional funding for 2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: 71 achieving accredited qualification 16 positive progressions 12 sustained progressions (WNF funded) 2012/13 WNF and ALF funded April – September 2012: 9 Accredited qualifications 7 Positive progressions 1 Into Employment	Ongoing to March 2013
			69 achieving accredited qualification 18 positive progression 12 sustained progression (13 wks)	69 achieving accredited qualification 27 positive progression 18 into employment			
c. Engage with other employment support providers (Work Programme, Working Families Everywhere, Acorn Training, Disability Partnership)	Laura Khella 01246 242302	Maintain contact with prime contractors	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outcomes: Directory updated 4 briefings from prime contractors April – September: Revamped Help to Work website went live 1 briefing from WP prime	Ongoing to March 2014
			Help to work directory updated 2 briefings from prime contractors	Help to work directory updated 2 briefings from prime contractors	2 briefings from prime contractors		
d. Deliver informal	CVP		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs:	Completed

<p>learning opportunities, supported by Learning Champions to build self esteem and learning progressions</p> <p>LSP website</p> <p>Link to Adult Education website</p>	<p>01246 823852</p>		<p>5 into employment 7 2 unemployed people in accredited learning 33 OCN L2 16 Community Learning Champions recruited</p>			<p>8 people into empl't 130 undertaking accredited learning 47 achieving OCN L2 14 CHC's recruited (WNF funded)</p> <p>External evaluation completed</p>	
<p>e. Provide volunteering opportunities for unemployed/ economically inactive residents</p> <p>Bolsover Partnership website</p>	<p>Bev Weston, JCP</p>	<p>Ascertain volunteering activity across district and identify gaps</p> <p>Identify partners that are able to offer residents work experience</p>	<p>2011/12</p> <p>10 people into work 6 vol opps created 72 people volunteering 75 placements across: construction Horticulture Retail Conservat'n</p>	<p>2012/13</p> <p>50 placements across: construction Horticulture Retail Conservat'n</p>	<p>2013/14</p> <p>50 placements across: construction Horticulture Retail Conservat'n</p>	<p>2011/12 outputs: 16 people into work 107 vol opps created 196 people volunteering (WNF funded) 9 people into work 64 vol opps created 64 placements across Construction, Conservation and Horticulture (mainstream funded)</p>	<p>Ongoing to March 2014</p>

PRIORITY THEME 4: ENHANCE ACCESS TO TRANSPORT, INFRASTRUCTURE, ACCOMMODATION AND FINANCE FOR RESIDENTS AND BUSINESSES

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
4.1 Remove transport barriers to employment							
a. Provision of moped and bike hire, and vouchers for bus and taxis to enable people to get to work Bolsover Partnership website	RAD Sandie Abberley 01629 821923	Secure additional funding for 2013-14 to match WNF Work with DCC to mainstream Wheels to Work and Community Transport	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: 95 people into work 13 x 16-18 year olds going into EET (WNF funded) 2012/13 CRT, DCC and WNF funded April – September 2012: 13 People into Work 3 Into EET 2013/14 WNF funded	Ongoing to March 2014
			60 into work 7 x 16-18 year olds going into EET	76 into work 4 NEETs into EET	76 into work 4 NEETs into EET		
b. Improve transport links to major employment sites	Bev Weston, JCP Laura Khella, BDC	Respond to large employer recruitments through provision of accessible transport Communicate transport needs to DCC	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Ongoing discussions re Sports Direct transport difficulties	Ongoing to March 2014
					All major employment sites have a bus route		
4.2 Access to finance for SMEs							
a. Provision of finance to support the growth of Bolsover SME's CRT website – BV page	NBV, Joanne Clarke Tel: 0115 970 5550	Promote grants available to business start ups	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	ERDF business support, mapping and dissemination in September 2012	Ongoing to December 2015
4.3 Increase opportunities for Bolsover residents to access affordable credit, debt and legal advice							
a. Deliver the Bolsover	Lorna	Work with partners to	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs:	Ongoing to

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
Financial Inclusion Strategy Link to the FIS Bolsover Partnership website	Wallace 01246 823852	secure additional funding to continue to provide services	209 people rec'g debt advice 3 one-stop shops 767 people accessing benefits advice £707K benefits recovered 7 new CU union collection points 150 new CU members			209 people receiving debt advice 3 one-stop shops 1,624 people accessing welfare benefits advice £689K benefits recovered 7 new credit union collection points 122 new CU members (WNF funded) Financial Inclusion Forum meets quarterly	March 2014

PRIORITY THEME 5: PROMOTE THE STRENGTHS OF THE DISTRICT, SUCH AS TOURISM AND LEISURE OFFER, TO STRENGTHEN PERCEPTIONS OF BOLSOVER

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
5.1 Develop people's skills to work within tourism and leisure sectors							
a. Equip people with the skills to access employment in the field of physical activity, sport and leisure Bolsover Partnership website	BDC		2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: 10 people into jobs 125 people volunteering (WNF/PCT funded) 2012/13 WNF/PCT funded April – September 2012: 29 Accredited qualifications	Completed
	Jenny Carter 01246 593058		4 people into jobs 4 x 16-18 yr olds going into EET 146 people volunt'g 1340 voluntary hours delivered	7 accredited qual'ns gained			
5.2 Promote the area's strengths to increase tourism							
a. Support employment/ enterprise in tourism by increasing investment in the tourism economy through new and repeat visitors Creswell Crag	CHT Ian Wall Tel: 01909 720378	Secure additional match for 2013/14	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: 2 new exhibitions and 25 events organised (Lottery funded and CHT funded)	Ongoing to March 2014
			2 new exhibitions 10 events organised	2 new exhibitions 10 events organised	2 new exhibitions 10 events organised		

PRIORITY THEME 6: ADDRESS THE POOR HEALTH OF THE BOLSOVER POPULATION WITH A PARTICULAR FOCUS ON THOSE WITH MENTAL AND PHYSICAL DISABILITIES

Objectives	Lead	Actions	Targets			Progress	Status
6.1 Increase the number of people with disabilities/health needs moving closer to the labour market							
a. Improve access for people with disabilities to employment/ training Disability Dynamics Page on Bolsover Partnership website Help to Work website	Disability Dynamics Penny Melville-Brown 01329 841814	Explore opportunities through the Royal British Legion Explore social enterprise potential to expand Disability Partnership	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	2011/12 outputs: Online directory available and 19 updates 7 partners workshops 3 employer workshops (WNF funded) April 12 – November 13 PARES and partner funded Bid submitted to National Management Offender Service for social enterprise set up costs October 2012	Ongoing to December 2013
			On-line directory available July 2011 7 partner and 3 employer workshops	200 referrals 110 starts 17 job outcomes	150 referrals 90 starts 33 job outcomes		
b. Provision of District Nurse provision to support people with mental health issues to get back into work FEI page on Bolsover Partnership website	NHS Derbyshire/ FEI		2011/12 targets: 50 people supported with their health needs 2 people with LD moving into employment 9 people with LD making a +ve progression towards employ't 6 carers receiving health assessment			2011/12 outputs: 65 people supported with their health needs 1 people with LD making a +ve progression 4 carers receiving a health assessment (WNF funded)	Completed March 2012
c. Integrate employment within health and promote through CCG's	Judy Derricot, NHS Derbyshire Tel: 01246 242465	Seek tenders in response to commissioning opportunity by October 2012	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Commissioning brief drafted	Ongoing to March 2014
			Develop the evidence base and strategic approach to influence change	Develop a pilot with one CCG. Use learning to extend infl and change Support the NHS	Use learning to extend influence and change Support the NHS		

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	6.
Date:	10 th December 2012	Status	Open
Category	Key decision included in Forward Plan Part of the Budget and Policy Framework		
Subject:	Localisation of Council Tax and Welfare Benefit Reform		
Report by:	Director and Assistant Director of Corporate Resources		
Other Officers Involved			
Director	Director of Corporate Resources		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor E. Watts, Leader of the Council.		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all Council Services by maximising the potential use of Council resources.

SOCIAL INCLUSION – Promoting fairness and equality. In developing a proposed scheme for the localisation of Council Tax the consultation process has been used to assess the potential impact of any proposals upon fairness and equality.

TARGETS

None in a direct way but all targets will be affected by the Council's finances.

VALUE FOR MONEY

This report is intended to ensure that the Council has in place an agreed Local Council Tax Support scheme with effect from April 2013 as required by Government legislation. Agreeing an appropriate scheme will facilitate the effective operation of our Council Tax arrangements.

THE REPORT

- 1.1 In the 2010 Spending Review the Government announced its intention to introduce a localised system for council tax support from April 2013 to replace the current national Council Tax Benefit (CTB) system. As part of a wider package of public expenditure reductions and reforms to the welfare benefit system the proposals are required to deliver a 10% reduction in expenditure. The Government's commitment is being implemented via the Local Government Finance Bill. With regard to the welfare system Localisation of Council Tax Support is part of a wider set of reforms through which the Government seeks to improve incentives to work and target resources more effectively.

- 1.2 The Government will provide funding based on 90% of the national forecast of council tax benefit expenditure for 2013/14. This funding will have the effect of reducing each authority's council tax requirement which will partially offset the reduction in the council tax base arising from the new support discounts. Under the current arrangements authorities are fully reimbursed for the costs of all relevant expenditure.
- 1.3 While the Government is seeking a reduction in the level of expenditure it also expects vulnerable groups to be protected. At a national level the legislation will protect those of state pension age at current benefit rates. Local authorities are required to consider the needs of vulnerable groups of working age as part of the process of developing a local scheme.
- 1.4 While the focus of the changes is on the reform of the benefits system the Government has also announced changes to the discounts and exemption powers which regulate the level of Council Tax collection. In particular these changes allow local authorities more discretion over the level of discount given in respect of empty and holiday homes. From April 2013 local authorities will no longer be limited to charging a maximum of 90% in respect of holiday homes, as the new regulations will allow them to charge full Council Tax. The reforms also remove the 6 month exemption period from charging Council Tax to empty properties which means that local authorities will be able to charge for properties either immediately they become empty, or after a locally set exemption period.

2 Designing and Consulting on a Local Scheme

- 2.1 Following on from the Government announcing its intended changes the Council has been working to develop a local scheme. Initially it was hoped to develop a Derbyshire wide scheme but this has not proved possible because of a variety of factors including in particular the demographics of each district area. The demographics are particularly important as the percentage of working age against those of pensionable age claiming benefits is a key determinant of the local cost of the proposals. While a Derbyshire Wide scheme has not proved possible the Council has continued to consult with its nearest neighbouring Council's Chesterfield and North East Derbyshire in order to seek to develop a local scheme based on the same broad principles to simplify the scheme for local residents and to minimise the risk that residents in one area are more adversely affected than those in a neighbouring area.
- 2.2 The first stage in the process of developing a local scheme was that all local authorities responsible for issuing Council Tax bills were required to:
 - a) Consult any major precepting authority which has power to issue a precept upon it;
 - b) Publish a draft scheme in such manner as it saw fit; &

- c) Consult such other persons as it considers are likely to have interest in the operation of the scheme.

The Bill places a duty on billing authorities to make a localised council tax reduction scheme by 31 January 2013. Once adopted the local scheme must stay in place for one year but authorities will need to consider on an annual basis whether to revise or replace their local scheme.

- 2.3 In the light of these requirements Executive at its meeting in August 2012 considered a range of draft proposals which were agreed as the basis of consultation. The public consultation began on the 3 September 2012 and closed on the 29 October 2012. The outcome of that consultation are summarised in section 3 to this report below and in **Appendix 1** attached.
- 2.4 The position as set in the earlier report of August 2012 has been complicated by the fact that on 16th October 2012 the Government announced what amounted to a new option for local authorities in respect of their localised Council Tax Scheme for the 2013/14 financial year only. The Government's proposals for 2013/14 included making available a one year grant to those local authorities who adopted a scheme which was in accordance with the Government's view as to what constituted a well designed council tax support scheme which maintained positive incentives to work. The Government has set aside £100m nationally to fund the costs of the scheme. To be eligible for grant a local scheme would need to ensure the following:
- Those who would be on 100 per cent support under current council tax benefit arrangements pay between zero but no more than 8.5 per cent of their council tax liability in 2013/14.
 - The taper rate at which benefits are reduced as people move back into work is not increased above 25 per cent.
 - There is no sharp reduction in support for those entering work.
 - Local authorities do not impose large additional increases in non-dependant deductions.
- 2.5 Where the billing authority adopts a compliant scheme the Government grant will be distributed to both the District Council in its role as billing authority and to the other authorities which precept upon the Collection fund (Derbyshire County Council, Police Authority, Parish Councils and Fire Authority. A subsequent announcement by the Government has indicated that the authorities serving Bolsover would be eligible for a total grant of £163,000 (BDC £28k, DCC £111k, Police £17k, Fire and Civil Defence £7k).
- 2.6 While Executive is being requested to approve a scheme for recommendation to Council it should be noted that some key financial aspects of the settlement will not be available until the wider Local Authority Financial Settlement which it is currently understood will be available on the 19 December. In particular we will not know until the

wider settlement is announced the level by which grant will be reduced in order to enable the Government to achieve its objective of securing a 10% reduction in council tax benefit expenditure. Officers are, however, of the view that this will need to be managed as part of the agreement to the Council's overall Medium Term Financial Plan. It does, however, need to be noted that the grant settlement will also have an impact upon other local authorities – including Parish Councils - which precept upon the Collection Fund and they will also need to manage the position.

- 2.7 With respect to Parish Councils they are affected by the reform of the Council Tax Benefit in that they depend upon the council tax as their main and often only source of income. One of the key features of the Government's reform is that it operates by reducing the Council Tax base, which will impact on the level of income that a Parish Council will receive for its precept. Under the Government's Consultation paper which was issued in August 2012 it seemed likely that the reform would be managed by the Parish Councils' funding being distributed by way of an unadjusted Council Tax base i.e. one that was not reduced to reflect the number of residents on benefits within the Parish area. The Government's response to the Consultation Paper which was published in late November 2012 came to the view that the Parish Councils should in effect share in the financial penalties and rewards associated with the introduction of the localisation of Council Tax.
- 2.8 Given that the scheme which is proposed locally is largely a self financing one it is anticipated that the financial impact upon the Parish Councils overall will be minimal, and for the majority of Parish Councils existing income will continue to cover expenditure in respect of 2013/14. In a situation, however, where a Parish Council has a large number of benefit claimants – whether they be pensioners or people of working age – then the tendency for income to fall short of expenditure in the proposed local scheme may have an impact upon a limited number of Parish Council. If the Parish had also suffered from a general stagnation or reduction in its Council Tax base then the Parish Council may see a significant 'gap' opening between income and expenditure levels. Where there was a significant 'gap' the Parish Councils have – like all other local government bodies – two broad options. The first of these options is that they reduce expenditure accordingly, or the second is that they increase their precept. Council Officers will work with Parish Councils in order to ensure that the introduction of this legislation is effectively managed.
- 2.9 While the Government is clearly intending that District Councils should pass funding down to the Parish Councils the Consultation concluded that in line with the wider localism agenda there would not be a legislative duty to pass down funding. Officers' view, however, is that it would be appropriate that such funding be passed on as this would appear to be necessary for the effective funding of a local scheme. In particular Executive should note that if a decision were taken not to passport this funding then the benefit would go to the Collection fund

and be divided amongst all the authorities which precept upon the local Collection Fund. That recommendation will, however, need to be agreed by Council. In terms of the actual detail regarding the grants to be passported this Council will not, however, be informed of the level of grant actually available until late December 2012. It should be noted that officers will need to divide a total grant figure from central government for all Parish Councils into an amount that will be provided to each Council. Officers are seeking to calculate this allocation on the basis of the Council Tax benefits payments in each Parish Council.

- 2.10 On the basis that Executive accepts this recommendation Officers will write to Parish Councils informing them of the position. Once details of the grant settlement have been received in late December then the District Council will write to the Parish Councils providing details of the level of grant which they will be eligible to receive, which will put them in a position to better appreciate the impact upon their 2013/14 budgets.

3 Outcome of Consultation Process

- 3.1 As set out above the consultation process regarding the introduction of a local scheme of Council Tax Support concluded at the end of October 2012. The consultation process effectively fell into two parts. Firstly, the Council commenced a process of consultation with the major precepting authorities who issue a precept – or a charge against the local Council Tax. The key theme was that all raised their concerns about the impact of the failure to adopt a fully funded scheme upon their budgets. This reflects the fact that all are facing a requirement to secure significant reductions in their level of expenditure, with that requirement for expenditure reductions being increased if the localisation of Council Tax reform is not fully funded.
- 3.2 The more intensive element of the Consultation process consisted of the work undertaken with local residents. This involved a range of public meetings, together with the development of a dedicated area for comment on the Council's website. The outcome of this consultation process is set out in a report which is provided within Appendix 1 to this report. In terms of specific issues which emerged the consultation was supportive of the proposal that war pensions and child benefit should be disregarded as potential options to offset the reduction in the level of Government grant. It was also clear that a significant number of those who were consulted were opposed to having to pay a proportion of the Council Tax. The main thrust for this opposition, however, does not appear to have been any opposition in principle to the proposal but the fact that it would constitute a further burden on those who were already struggling to make ends meet.
- 3.3 As part of the consultation process the Council has continued its partnership working with local advice agencies holding regular liaison meetings with Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, the Citizens Advice Bureau, Royal British Legion, Chesterfield Law Centre and

Release. The meetings which operated across Bolsover and North East Derbyshire Councils have provided an opportunity to update the agencies on the Council Tax and Welfare Reform agenda, to share best practice and to consider whether the range of services provided by the various agencies will provide an effective package of support to local communities. In addition to enabling consultation regarding the general principles of the proposed reforms consideration has also been given to the more operational issues which will arise should a scheme be implemented. The agencies have been consulted on the Council's Debt Collection policy and their comments will inform our Local Council Tax Support scheme Equalities Impact Assessment concerning the impact of our debt collection arrangements on vulnerable people. As part of the management arrangements for Localisation of Council Tax it is important that the Council has a clear and transparent debt collection policy which optimises collection rates whilst recognising the support required by those facing financial hardship. An outcome of the work that has been undertaken is that the Council is looking to adopt the UK Good Practice Protocol for the Collection of Council Tax Arrears which has been developed by the Local Government Association, National CAB and Advice agencies. These proposals will further strengthen the existing arrangements of the Council.

- 3.4 The Consultation process has also facilitated training to front line staff who took part in the consultation and who are increasingly facing enquiries from Members of the public regarding the impact of welfare reform. There has been strong partnership working with other bodies including both the Advice Agencies and this partnership working which has developed out of the consultation process should assist in ensuring that issues arising from the implementation of the proposals are minimised.

4. ISSUES/OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 4.1 Following on from the consultation exercise the Council has effectively three options between which it can choose and the section below sets out the issues which Members need to take into consideration in deciding which scheme to adopt.
- 4.2 The legislation specifies that if Bolsover District Council as billing authority fails to agree a council tax reduction scheme on or before 31 January 2013 then the default scheme will apply. The default scheme reflects the existing Council Tax Benefit scheme which would continue to operate against the background of a 10% reduction in the level of Government Grant. Under the default scheme the reduction in the level of government grant will fall directly upon the local authorities. The local authorities including this Council, DCC, Police, Parish Councils and Fire would need to identify corresponding savings to cover the loss of Government grant. It is clear that such savings would have an impact upon front line services across the County. On the assumption that the Council received government grant and implemented the changes to

Holiday Homes and empty properties accepting the default scheme would be at an overall cost to the authorities in the area of £145,000.

4.3 Executive should note that in respect of all the schemes for consideration as outlined within this report that Officers are proposing that the Council takes advantage of the changes introduced by Central Government in respect of Empty and Holiday homes. These changes to the regulations are a separate issue to the question of funding a localised Council Tax scheme but the greater discretion that has been provided to local authorities by the Government is clearly of assistance in addressing the issue of funding the localisation of Council Tax. In making any decision regarding a recommendation to Council, Executive does however need to be aware that these increased charges will have an adverse financial impact on a number of local residents. This impact will be felt more strongly in Bolsover than in other areas because currently Bolsover makes a 50% charge for empty and holiday homes, whereas the majority of local authorities had previously moved to a 90% charge. A typical situation that is likely to arise is where a property is inherited from recently deceased relatives, but is in a poor condition and proves difficult to sell. While acknowledging that these proposals will create a difficult financial position for a limited number of residents, officers are of the view that on balance this is an essential part of a scheme which covers the increased costs which have arisen as a result of the Government's changes to the Council Tax Benefits arrangements. Crucially, it also helps to minimise the impact on those local residents of working age currently in receipt of Council Tax benefit.

4.4 In response to the Government's initiative in respect of the localisation of Council Tax Executive agreed a range of approaches at the meeting of August 2012 that provided the basis on which the Council went out to consultation. The key elements of proposed local scheme were as follows:

- Benefit would be paid to cover as a maximum 85% of the Council Tax liability, leaving local residents to pay a minimum of 15% themselves. Assuming they were living in a Band A property then the Council Tax Liability would be in the region of £150 p.a. for a couple or £110 for a single person.
- The Council was also proposing that it took advantage of the Government's new regulations in respect of Empty Homes and Holiday Properties.
- Finally, the Consultation process considered the exemption on the requirement to pay for empty properties from 6 to 3 months.

When taken together the above measures resulted in a local scheme which would be fully funded on the basis that the actual reduction in the level of Government Grant was in line with the indicative figures provided to local authorities and that assumed levels of collection were achieved.

4.5 The final option is that the Council decides to accept the Government Grant that was offered in the announcement of October 2012, such grant to be made available on the basis that the Council adopted a scheme which is compliant with what the Government considers to be best practice. The key features of a compliant scheme are as follows:

- Benefit would be paid to cover a maximum of 91.5% of the Council Tax liability, leaving local residents to pay a minimum of 8.5% themselves. Assuming they were living in a Band A property then the Council Tax Liability would be in the region of £85 p.a. for a couple or £60 for a single person.
- The Council would also implement the Government's new regulations in respect of Empty Homes and Holiday Properties.
- The Council would also take advantage of the ability to reduce the exemption on the requirement to pay for empty properties from 6 to 3 months.

4.6 An overview of the three schemes that are being considered is given below.

	Default Scheme	Local Scheme	Gov Grant
	£000's	£000's	£000's
Direct Grant Loss	700	700	700
Benefit Adjustments			
• Pay Benefit at 85% of Entitlement	N/A	(400)	N/A
• Pay Benefit at 91.5% of Entitlement	N/A	N/A	(220)
• Assume Local Funding of War Pensions disregard	10	10	10
Council Tax Discounts and Exemptions			
• Full charge on Holiday Homes / Empty Properties (Up from current 50% charge)	(300)	(300)	(300)
• Reduce exemption on payment from Holiday Homes Empty Properties from 6 to 3 months.	(100)	(100)	(100)
Government Grant			
Bolsover District Council	(28)	N/A	(28)
Derbyshire County Council	(111)	N/A	(111)
Derbyshire Police	(17)	N/A	(17)
Derbyshire Fire and Rescue	(7)	N/A	(7)
Cost of Scheme / (Contribution to Collection Fund Reserve)	147	(90)	(73)

On the basis of the above figures, Officers are of the view that a default scheme with the exemptions on empty properties removed and Government Grant would result in additional costs of £147,000. In a situation where no action was taken in respect of the exemptions on empty and holiday homes then the shortfall on the Collection Fund would amount to £547,000 on the basis that the Council would remain eligible for Government Grant. Secondly, a scheme in line with that originally proposed by the Council as the basis of consultation in August 2012 would generate a surplus in the region of £90,000. Finally, a scheme in which Council Tax entitlement was paid at 91.5% would result in a surplus on the Collection Fund of £73,000.

- 4.7 Executive should note that the figures provided in the above table are at this stage estimated, but they do provide the best information currently available regarding the financial impact of the three options considered in this report. In particular Members should note that the level of actual grant reduction of £700,000 is based upon an estimated figure provided by Central Government based upon 2011/12 data. It is understood that actual details concerning the reduction in Council Tax grant will be provided during December 2012 as part of the wider local government funding settlement. Other figures concerning the additional income that would be generated by the various options are based upon an estimate of the Council Tax base and upon losses on collection.
- 4.8 Officers have considered the above position in the light of the Consultation process. The two main issues to emerge from the Consultation were the concerns raised by those claiming benefits concerning the difficulties of managing the impact of having to pay a proportion of Council Tax out of a very low fixed income, against the concerns raised by the other precepting authorities concerning the impact on frontline services if the loss of Council Tax Benefit grant was not offset by increasing other income to the Collection Fund.
- 4.9 On the basis of the above consideration Officers would recommend that Bolsover adopt a scheme based upon the acceptance of Government Grant, paying benefit at 91.5% of entitlement and removing discounts in respect of empty and holiday homes. The scheme minimises the impact on those residents of working Age claiming Council Tax benefit, while coming relatively close to producing a fully funded scheme thus minimising the pressure to reduce the level of public services provided by local authorities and related organisations.

5 Community Engagement

- 5.1 A full communications and engagement plan has been developed and implemented in partnership with other Derbyshire authorities. An eight week formal consultation period running from September till the end of October has been undertaken involving a variety of different stakeholders including benefit claimants, non-claimants, community and voluntary groups, advocacy groups and precepting authorities. There was also a helpline available for all stakeholders to assist them

to take part in the consultation and answer any questions. This consultation process has informed the outcome of the schemes which Officers have recommended for the implementation of the localisation of Council Tax.

6 Equality Issues

6.1 Council tax support is intended to provide financial support to some of the most vulnerable groups in society. The Government has already given a commitment to protect those of state pension age but does not intend to prescribe in statute which other vulnerable groups must be protected. Instead, local authorities have been required to take into account existing duties in relation to vulnerable groups in designing their schemes. The following duties must therefore be considered:

- The public sector Equality Duty;
- The duty to mitigate the effects of child poverty; and
- The duty to prevent homelessness.

6.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment (EIA) has been prepared which was informed by the process of consultation with local residents. The outcome of that process of consultation is set out in Appendix 1 to this report and therefore the EIA is not reproduced in full within this report as the details provided by those whom the scheme will impact upon is considered by Officers to provide a more comprehensive insight into the issues. It should be noted that officers are continuing to further develop the EIA in conjunction with the advice agencies and that final details will be provided to Council as part of the January report.

6.3 With regard to the Localisation Of Council Tax initiative the proposals that have been considered by the Council are intended to apply uniformly to all benefit claimants and do not seek to protect particular groups from the impact of the changes. Changing some of the calculation parameters (income disregards such as child benefit, non-dependent deductions, capital savings) would secure some significant savings. For example removing the child benefit disregard would have raised in excess of £100,000. However, given that the existing benefit system has been developed to protect a number of disadvantaged groups the position has been adopted that this Council should continue to operate wherever possible within the guidelines set by and the existing framework of recognising need. Thus, for example, removing the Child Benefit disregard from the calculation of eligibility for Council Tax benefit was considered to have a disproportionate impact upon a particular group and was unlikely to be acceptable within the context of child welfare legislation.

7 Risk Management

7.1 There are a range of risks associated with the introduction of a Localised Council Tax Benefit scheme. Central to the scheme is the Government's localism agenda under which powers are transferred

from central government to local authorities. With the transfer of powers there is invariably a transfer of risk.

- 7.2 The first group of risks concerns what might be termed operational issues. Under current arrangements local councils are responsible for the local administration of a scheme which is effectively prescribed by central government. While local authorities will continue to be constrained in their choices by both national legislation and by the IT systems available to administer the scheme there is a limited increase in local discretion. It is important that local authorities are able to develop a robust scheme which has been the subject of appropriate consultation in order to avoid the risk that their scheme will be subject to challenge. Given that there are likely to be further significant changes or developments in the scheme during the first year of operation (2013/14) further ongoing work will be necessary to mitigate these risks. Likewise, the scheme will need to be cost effective in administering Council Tax support.
- 7.3 The second set of risks is financial. Under existing arrangements Central Government basically funds the cost of the scheme and therefore an increase in the level of demand due to an increase in the number of people reaching retirement age, an increase in the number of people out of work, or an increase in the take up rate in respect of benefits are effectively funded by Central Government. Under the new arrangements these costs will fall upon the local authorities who are funded from the Collection Fund. Given that changes in the number of elderly people in an area, fluctuations in take up level and changes in employment levels are to a large extent outside of the control of local authorities there is relatively little that can be done to mitigate these risks. In addition the localised Council Tax scheme is being introduced at the same time as a more widespread reform of the benefits system. It is possible that reforms to the various strands of current benefit arrangements may have an unforeseen impact upon the circumstances of local residents which may be detrimental to the effective operation of the proposed Council Tax arrangements.
- 7.4 The approach adopted locally will require that local authorities are able to develop a scheme which recovers the reduction in the level of government grant. There are a number of issues such as the demographics of an area, the robustness of the local economy, collection rates and changes in the housing arrangements of local residents which may undermine the financial viability of the scheme. These are likely to feed through into the collection rate for Council Tax and to the extent to which the collection rate falls below the budgeted level then the scheme will come under increasing financial pressure.
- 7.5 In addition to what might be considered to be the Strategic Risks which are outlined above Officers have given consideration to what might be classed as operational risks in their recommendations concerning an appropriate scheme. One of the key reasons for officers recommending that we introduce a scheme which will be eligible for Government Grant

is that this grant should effectively cover 25 % of the overall cost of the scheme. This income is certain, whereas the other income options within the scheme do involve recovering relatively small amounts of money from that on low income, or from collecting money in relation to empty homes or holiday homes where the owners may have options for minimising the impact of such charges.

8. IMPLICATIONS

Financial:

- 8.1 With regard to the general financial background the Government is proposing a 10% cut in the level of grant that has traditionally been provided in order to cover the costs of Council Tax benefit. With effect from April 1st Local authorities are required to fund this loss of government grant from locally raised income or reductions in expenditure.
- 8.2 While it is the District Council – as billing authority – which is responsible for the operation of Council Tax benefits the financial aspects of the reform are being managed by way of the Collection fund. The Collection fund is the account into which all income from Council Tax is paid before being distributed to the various authorities, namely the County Council (69%), the District Council (13%), the Police Authority (10%), Parish Councils (4%) and the Fire and Civil Defence Authority (4%). Given that the scheme is managed through the Collection Fund the costs and risks of the scheme are borne by all the authorities within the Collection Fund. Thus the biggest financial cost of any scheme would fall upon the County Council which is 69% of the Collection Fund, whereas the District Council is only 13%.
- 8.3 In developing and considering a scheme for the localisation of Council Tax this Council needs to take into account the fact that to the extent to which it is not fully funded then it financially disadvantages itself and the other local authorities within the local Collection Fund. It needs to balance these costs to the local authority bodies against the fact that any of the measures to increase income into the Collection Fund will have an impact upon local residents.
- 8.4 Having considered the various options available to the Council Officers are recommending that the Council adopts an option based upon securing access to Government Grant. Given that this option secures some £163k of Government Grant it minimises the impact upon local residents of the introduction of the localisation of Council Tax. Given that this grant is in effect guaranteed it reduces the level of risk around securing the necessary level of income to balance the Collection Fund. It should, however, be noted that this grant is only available for a one year period and that the Council is likely to be required to collect these resources from local residents in future financial years.

- 8.5 On the basis that Members agree the recommendations as set out within this report it is anticipated that Bolsover District Council will not face any additional direct costs arising out of the localisation of Council Tax initiative. There are some indirect costs which will fall upon this Council. These costs arise because the District Council is responsible for administering the Collection Fund. Firstly, the requirement to collect large numbers of relatively small sums will increase our Collection Costs. Officers are of the view that costs will be increased by a figure in the region of £25k p.a. although we will seek to cover these costs by efficiency measures rather than through the employment of additional staff. Secondly, under the current arrangements the Council in effect gets a financial benefit when it secures the repayment of overpaid Council Tax Benefit. This is worth some £70,000 p.a. to the Council currently but from April 2013 will become in effect part of the income within the Collection Fund. The overall costs to this Council of these indirect costs changes is therefore anticipated to be in the region of £100k which will need to be reflected in the budgets in respect of 2013/14.
- 8.6 Finally, it should be noted that the Localisation of Council Tax sees a clear transfer of risk from central to local government. In particular the level of Government grant to fund the cost of council tax benefit is fixed and if the number of local people claiming benefits increases then those costs will fall upon the Collection Fund and ultimately those authorities which receive income from it. In a situation in which the income to the Collection Fund falls below the estimated level then this will need to be recovered by a corresponding increase in income in future years.

Legal:

- 8.7 These are covered throughout the report which has been written in response to proposed changes in legislation.

Human Resources

- 8.8 None

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **That Executive notes the requirement to operate a localised Council Tax benefit system with effect from 1 April 2013, and considers whether to accept the recommended option as outlined within this report as the preferred scheme to propose for adoption by the Council at its meeting of 23 January 2013. The recommended option is based on a local scheme which complies with the Government's proposals and thus would be eligible for Government Grant in respect of the 2013/14 financial year.**
- 2) **That Executive recommends to Council the adoption of a local scheme based upon the following principles:**

- Those of working age in receipt of Council Tax Support be required to pay a minimum of 8.5% of the Council Tax Bill (approx £85 for a Band A property).
 - That the Council ensures that it is in a position to meet the requirements to secure the £163k of Government Grant which will benefit the precepting authorities operating in the area of Bolsover District Council.
 - That Bolsover District Council continues its policy of disregarding war pensions for the purposes of calculating income in respect of Council Tax Support at a total cost of £14k.
- 3) That the Council is recommended to make use of the change in Government legislation to charge 100% of Council Tax (rather than the current 50%) in respect of both Empty Properties and Holiday Homes.
 - 4) That the charge with respect to empty and unfurnished properties is made after a three month period rather than the current six month period.
 - 5) That officers prepare a scheme for passing on relevant funding to the Parish Councils operating within the District Boundaries in order to mitigate the impact of the changes associated with the introduction of the Localisation of Council reform upon Parish Councils.

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To ensure that the Council is able to implement and finance a localised scheme providing council tax support for vulnerable groups from April 2013.

BACKGROUND PAPERS: Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) consultation papers and Statement of Intent (May 2012):

www.communities.gov.uk/localgovernment/localgovernmentfinance/counciltax



Council Tax Benefit Changes – How to Have Your Say (September-October 2012)

FINAL

**Report written by Corinna Beatson
Strategy & Performance
3rd December 2012**

Contents

Section	Page
1 Background	3
2 Sample size and response rate	4-6
3 Summary of key results	6-9
4 Action Plan	9
5 Tables of results	10-35
6 Appendices	
Questionnaire survey	
Supporting leaflet 'Council Tax Support'	
Council Tax Benefit Changes	
Consultation Publicity (September – October 2012)	

Circulation

	Draft Report	Final Report
Allison Westray-Chapman	14 November 2012	3 December 2012
Michelle Whetton	14 November 2012	3 December 2012
Kath Drury	14 November 2012	3 December 2012

1. Background

Between 3rd September and 29th October 2012 Bolsover District Council conducted a public consultation into proposed changes to Council Tax Benefit.. This statutory consultation followed the Government announcement that from April 2013 Council Tax Benefit will end and Councils will need to operate local Council Tax support schemes. At the same time, as part of its welfare reform programme, the Government proposed to reduce by 10% the funding given to local councils to meet the cost of paying Council Tax Benefit. The consultation sought to measure views on the impact of the proposed scheme, so the Council can identify what it can do to minimise this impact.

An on-line questionnaire survey was published on the Council web site. Hard copies were available at all four Council Contact Centres and on request, including pre-paid return envelopes. A series of six advice sessions were held across all four Contact Centres so people could speak to officials face to face. An information leaflet titled 'Council Tax Support' was produced to accompany the consultation.

In addition to this questionnaire based consultation: a 'Look Beyond the Label' workshop was also organised with equalities groups to discuss the proposed Local Council Tax Benefit Scheme; a presentation on the subject was given to the Bolsover Partnership Executive Board on 6th September 2012 and presentations were given to Parish Council's within the District via Parish Council Liaison group on 13th September 2012. In addition the other precepting authorities: County Council, Police and Fire Service all received copies of the initial Executive report on the Council Tax Benefit changes. The results from these consultations are reported not reported here.

This consultation was publicised through:

- A mail shot sent direct to 8,279 individuals claiming Council Tax Benefit on 10th September 2012.
- An article published in the September edition of 'In Touch'- the Council magazine which is distributed by Royal Mail to all households in the District.
- A newsletter sent to all Citizen Panel members by Derbyshire County Council.
- Notification to all Council employees through a weekly e-bulletin on 7th September 2012.
- Information circulated to the community and voluntary sector by Bolsover CVP (Bolsover Community & Voluntary Partners), Mansfield CVS and the 3D Infrastructure Consortium.

Publicity for this consultation was undertaken jointly across Derbyshire by local authorities and a table detailing all consultation activity is set out in the appendices.

2. Sample Size, Response Rate and Profile of Respondents

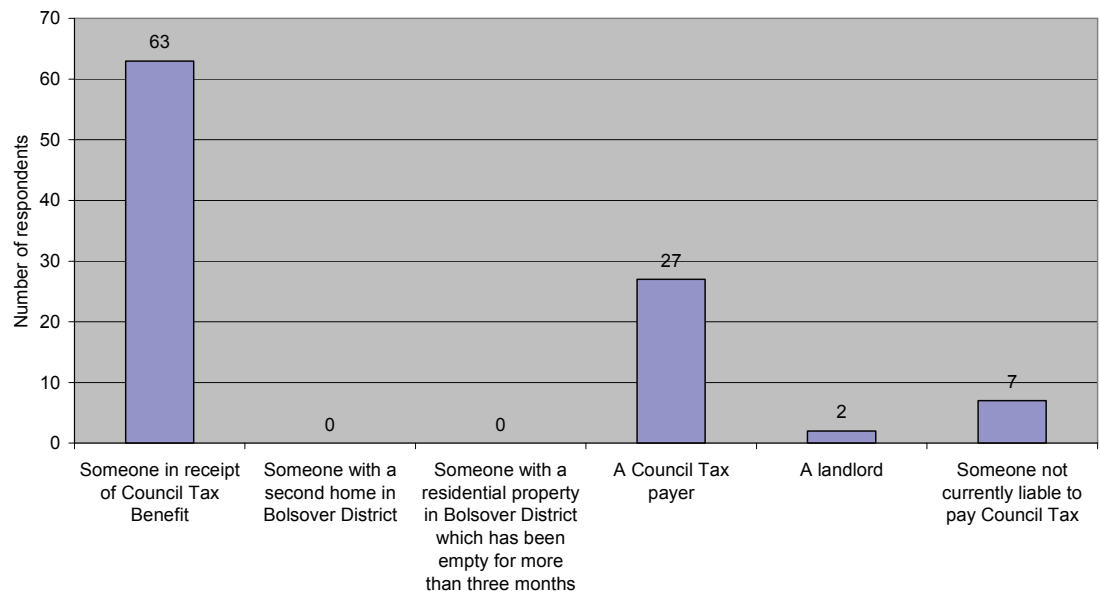
In total 97 responses were received, 60 were submitted on line and 37 were paper returns.

As a percentage of the District population (of 75,866 at time of the 2011 population census) this response rate is 0.1% or 1 in every 782 people.

8,279 Council Tax Benefit claimants received a letter informing them of the consultation. 63 of the responses came from people in receipt of Council Tax benefit- a 0.8% response rate from this target group or 1 in every 131 people.

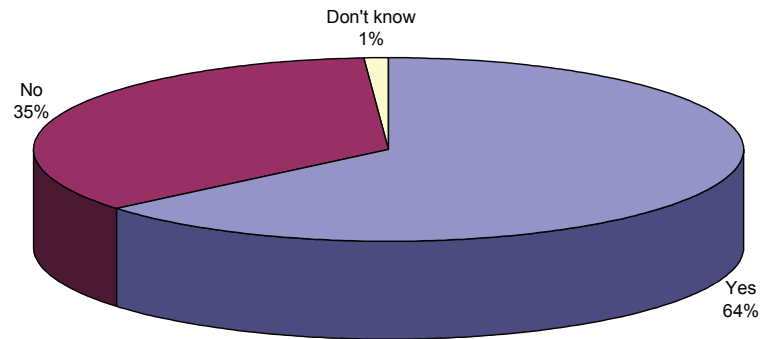
- All but one of the 97 responses received were from individuals. One response was received from a charitable organisation.
- Over 50% of respondents live in postcode areas S44 (29%) or DE55 (23%).
- The majority of respondents (63 individuals, 64%) said they were in receipt of Council Tax benefit. No responses were received from people with second homes or empty properties in the District and two responses came from landlords as the following chart illustrates.

Q13 Which of the following describes your situation best? (Multiple choices allowed)



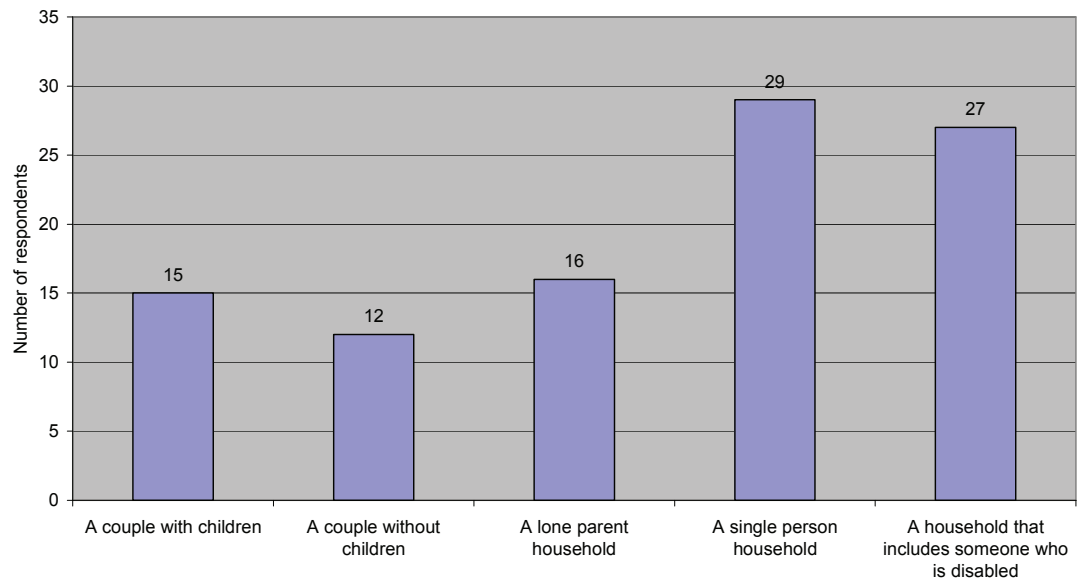
- 76% of the respondents (48 people) in receipt of Council Tax benefit said they or others in their household received other state benefits as well. Almost two thirds of overall respondents (64%, 58 people) said they, or others in their household received other state benefits, as the chart below shows.

Q14 Do you, or others in your household, receive any other state benefits?



- As the following chart shows, the majority of responses were either from people in a single person household (29 people, 29%) or from someone in a household including a disabled person (27 people, 27%). Five of the responses were from someone in a single person household who is disabled.

Q15 Which of the following describes your household? (Multiple responses allowed)



- 42% of respondents (39 people) considered themselves to be disabled.

- 59% of respondents were women compared to 41% who were men, the responses are over-representative of women and under representative of men as compared to the 2011 census.
- The majority of respondents- 79% were in the 35-64 year age group, the responses are particularly under representative of the younger age group (16-34), and slightly under representative of the older age group (65+).
- The ethnicity of all but two respondents to the survey was white British/Irish.

Respondent Characteristics	Respondents %	% Population Figures (2001 Census)	% Population Figures (2011 Census)
<i>Gender</i>			
Male	41.1		49.3
Female	58.9		50.7
<i>Age Group</i>			
16-34 years	11.0	28.8	Not yet available
35-64	79.1	49.5	Not yet available
65 & over	9.9	21.7	Not yet available
<i>Ethnicity</i>			
White British or Irish	97.8	98.6	Not yet available
Ethnic Minority (including white-other)	2.2	1.4	Not yet available

3. Summary of Key Results

It is very important to consider the profile of respondents in relation to the key results.

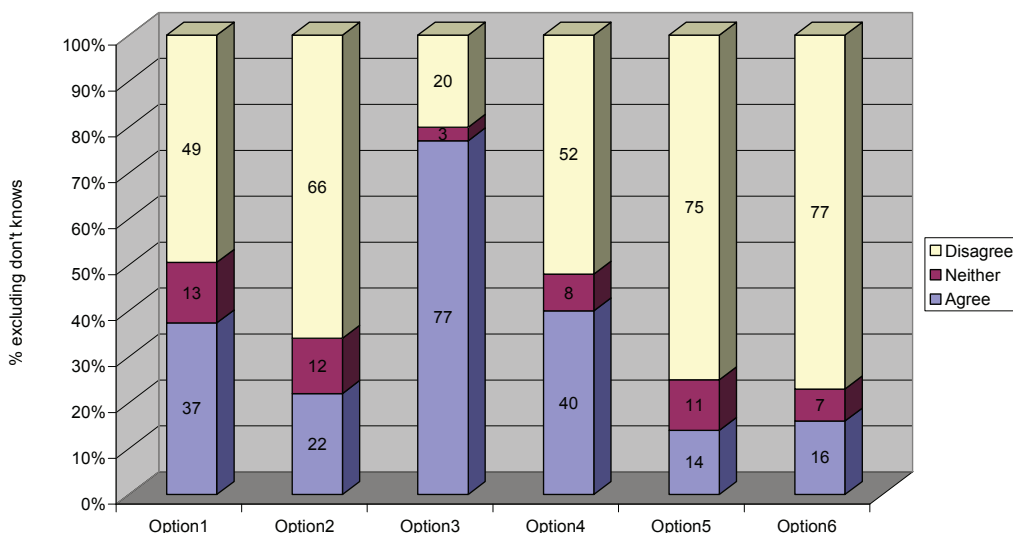
Overall, Option 3 – charging full Council Tax on empty homes after 3 months and on holiday homes immediately, was the most popular of all the six options. 77% of respondents (75 people) agreed with this option, and the majority of these (57%) strongly agreed. Although no one who would be directly affected by this change responded to the survey.

The option on which agreement was second highest overall was Option 4- to reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 10%. 40% (37 people) agreed with this option, although agreement was less strong with only 11% strongly agreeing.

Option 1 closely follows option 4 in terms of overall popularity. This option involved accommodating the grant reduction from savings in other council services, 37% of respondents (34 people) agreed, 13% agreed strongly.

When responses from people in receipt of Council Tax benefit and other state benefits are compared to overall responses for Option 1, agreement is 10% higher at 47% compared to 37% and disagreement is 15% lower at 34% compared to 49%. In this survey respondents who are most likely to experience reduced income from the cumulative effect of welfare reform are more likely to agree that savings be found from other council services.

Agreement/ disagreement with Local Council Tax Support Scheme Options



Respondents were then asked a question about the impact these changes would have on working age claimants and were asked to list up to three ways the changes would affect them, other than the direct financial impact. All the comments received have been analysed looking for common key impacts, these are listed below together with the number of people that mentioned them. Some people will have listed more than one impact for each question. The following table summarises the results, detailed tables of comments are in section 5 of the report.

Impact	Q7_1	Q7_2	Q7_3	Total
General money concerns	25	11	7	43
Less money for food	15	8	3	26
Less money for heating	4	8	4	16
Impact on health	2	5	8	15
Impact on child/children	4	2	4	10
Struggle to pay utility bills	2	3	2	7
No effect	5	0	0	5
Less money for clothes	0	3	2	5
Risk losing home/ rent arrears	1	2	1	4
Other individual comments	14	11	8	33
Other individual impacts	4	9	8	21

General money concerns are the most common impact highlighted by 43 respondents.

These are followed by concerns voiced by 26 respondents about having to spend less money on food, with comments from some respondents: “miss 1 meal a day”, “may be have to start having food boxes from charity”.

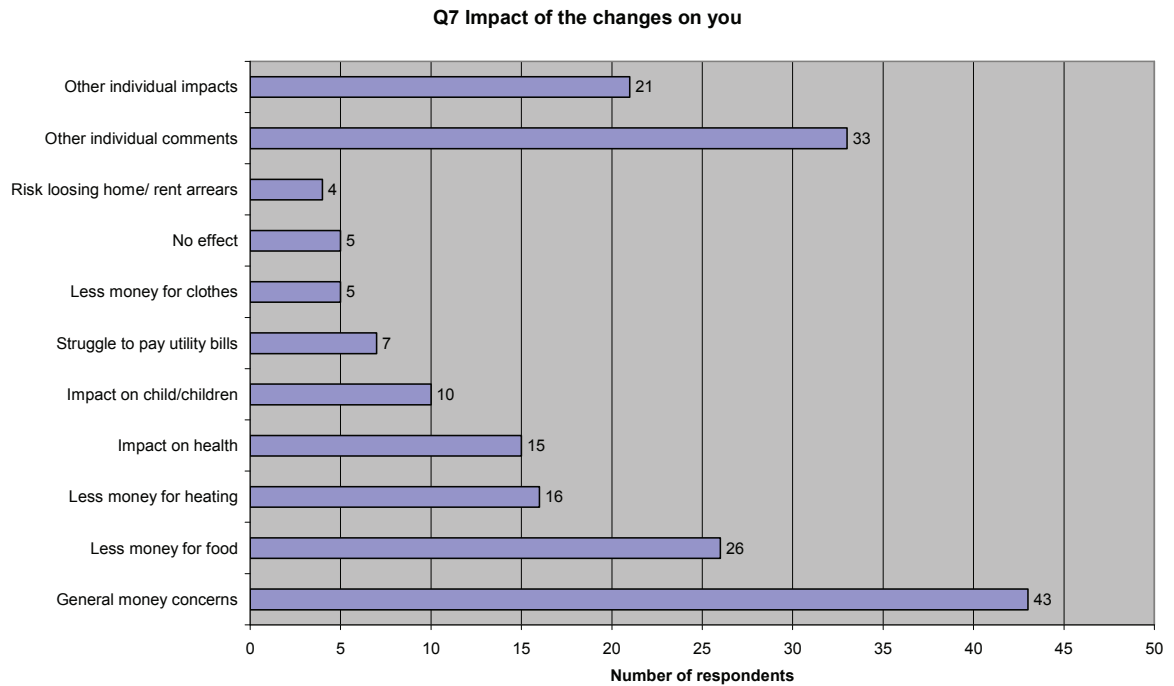
The third highest concern was around having less money to spend on heating (16 respondents) “Reduced heating from 4 to 3 hours/day impacting on already poor health” and “stay in bed longer to cut down on fuel bills” being two of the most specific comments.

The fourth most frequently mentioned impact (15 respondents) was on people’s health:

“would make my health problems worse due to anxiety”, “the stress already on me and my disabled wife would be pushed to breaking point”.

In addition, 4 people thought they would fall into rent arrears and or may be at risk of loosing their home.

The chart below illustrates the impacts listed in the summary table.



Respondents were then given the opportunity to add other comments, 47 people choose to do this. There is a mix in the tone of the responses, they are either angry, despairing or giving suggestions for how savings can be made. All the comments have been divided according to topic and are reported in full within section 5 of this report.

Q8 Other comments	Number
Suggestion for funding the cuts to Council Tax benefit	16
Personal concerns about the impact of Council Tax Benefit changes	12
Don't target the poor	5
None working people should contribute	4
Blame the Government	4
Suggestion for supporting those affected by Council Tax Benefit changes	3
Other individual comments	13

4. Action Plan

The following recommendations are made regarding the survey:

1. In the light of the findings consider what the Council can do to minimise the impact of Council Tax Benefit changes on affected residents.
2. Consider whether any further consultation is required in view of the Governments' proposals regarding transitional relief funding.
3. Publish the report findings on Ask Derbyshire so they are available to the public.

5. Tables of Results

Local Council Tax Support Scheme- Options

Q1 OPTION 1			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: accommodate the grant reduction from savings in other council services?			
	Number	%	% excluding don't knows
Strongly agree	12	12	13
Agree	22	23	24
Neither	12	12	13
Disagree	24	25	26
Strongly Disagree	21	22	23
Don't know	6	6	
	97	100	100

Q2 OPTION 2			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: fully reclaim the loss of grant from Council Tax Support working age claimants?			
	Number	%	% excluding don't knows
Strongly agree	11	12	12
Agree	9	9	10
Neither	11	12	12
Disagree	24	25	26
Strongly Disagree	36	38	40
Don't know	4	4	
	95	100	100

Q3 OPTION 3			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: charge full Council Tax on empty homes after 3 months and on holiday homes immediately?			
	Number	%	% excluding don't knows
Strongly agree	53	55	57
Agree	19	20	20
Neither	3	3	3
Disagree	10	10	11
Strongly Disagree	8	8	9
Don't know	4	4	
	97	100	100

Q4 OPTION 4			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 10%?			
	Number	%	% excluding don't knows
Strongly agree	10	10	11
Agree	27	28	29
Neither	7	7	8
Disagree	19	20	20
Strongly Disagree	30	31	32
Don't know	3	3	
	96	100	100

Q5 OPTION 5			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 15%?			
	Number	%	% excluding don't knows
Strongly agree	5	5	6
Agree	7	7	8
Neither	10	11	11
Disagree	25	26	29
Strongly Disagree	40	42	46
Don't know	8	8	
	95	100	100

Q6 OPTION 6			
To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 20%?			
	Number	%	% excluding don't knows
Strongly agree	7	7	8
Agree	7	7	8
Neither	6	6	7
Disagree	16	17	18
Strongly Disagree	51	54	59
Don't know	7	7	
	94	100	100

Impact of the changes on you

Q7_1	Less money for food	General money concerns	Less money for heating	No effect	Impact on Health	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment	Struggle to pay utility bills
It is just Council tax benefit, by April 2013 Housing benefit will also be reduced, where's the money coming from to cover?		1								
I am a single person on a low income, any decision could affect me profoundly		1								
Being unemployed through no fault of my own I feel I am being penalised by you and the Government.									1	
Rent arrears						1				
Full Council Tax should be paid on all empty properties as soon as they are empty. And on all holiday homes.									1	
My budget is already calculated in pence this is would make me have to choose between heating and food this winter.	1	1	1							
Financially harder.		1								
Increase in support/advice to clients.									1	
Worry over paying bills		1								
Help I give to my disabled child							1			
We can only just afford to buy basic food now.	1									

	Less money for food	General money concerns	Less money for heating	No effect	Impact on Health	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment	Struggle to pay utility bills
Q7_1										
Depending on how much I am stopped it will affect the buying of clothes shoes etc. I don't get full rebate but I do receive a good amount and until I found out how much I'll lose its hard to single out 1 thing.								1		
As a disabled person I have to pay for everything:- Home help, Gardeners etc.								1		
Working age carer on the minimum amount of money allowed and you want to take even more off them. Despicable.		1								
Impact on family as they will have to contribute towards shortfall.								1		
Will have to cut back on food	1									
I do not have an income. I am on pension credit and disability living allowance.		1								
Will affect my money towards heating costs.			1							
This will affect us affording food for our family.	1									
Less to spend on food.	1									
Less money to spend on other things. Heating etc.		1	1							
We are old age pensioners									1	
Income support has already been cut by over £30 per week		1								

	Less money for food	General money concerns	Less money for heating	No effect	Impact on Health	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment	Struggle to pay utility bills
Q7_1										
Cut down on food	1									
The changes would seriously affect the amount of money I would have available.		1								
Reduced amount of benefit we lost my husbands working tax credit as it is, we struggle a lot		1						1		
Pay full Council Tax, just above the threshold.				1						
Less money to buy food	1									
it wont effect us as my partner is on dla and long term sick				1						
No idea will it affect a single person household bills, i.e. gas, electric		1							1	
struggling to make ends meet as it is		1								1
it is not my fault I can not work disability is a horrible thing									1	
miss 1 meal a day	1									
government has already cut benefits, so where to find extra money for council tax		1								
only get £71 per week after all living expenses I have nothing left to live on!		1								
I am a Carer and financially life is difficult already		1								
My Family struggle to get by now with the little help we get at the moment.		1								
cut down on essential iw ood things for children							1			

	Less money for food	General money concerns	Less money for heating	No effect	Impact on Health	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment	Struggle to pay utility bills
Q7_1										
less money towards other bills		1								
will not be able to pay my utility bills or buy food	1	1								1
Financially - I will have less money to spend on food etc	1									
reduction in council services									1	
Claimants MAY not pay, increasing the amount BDC need to recover by charging non claimants more council tax									1	
Will make buying food harder which will impact on physical and mental health.	1				1					
Loss of Money		1								
wont be able to afford food	1									
single parent on low wage. struggle now. it will be worse		1								
I am considerably younger than my husband, but am unable to work as I am his carer, but if I am expected to pay something towards my Council Tax it will reduce our joint income.		1								
No money left as it is		1								
Don't know yet things can change overnight									1	
less money to spend on children							1			
None				1						
WILL CAUSE MORE STRESS					1					
I would have to cut back on heating			1							

	Less money for food	General money concerns	Less money for heating	No effect	Impact on Health	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment	Struggle to pay utility bills
Q7_1										
council tax will increase for everyone as a simple way of finding the extra funding.									1	
Yet again the ones that work are getting punished.									1	
disabled/ sick are already bring hit by the 'bedroom tax. Due to the dire lack of 1 bed social housing in the area, most have no option but to over occupy. the alternative would be private landlords, who's rents would also not be covered by LHA, and also have no security of tenure									1	
won't be able to pay debts		1								
the scroungers might have to work for a living									1	
It will mean that I struggle to pay my rent/bills even when working		1								
a 10% reduction in support would mean spending less on food to compensate	1									
Having to pay excess to cover the deficit for the unemployed									1	
It won't. I'm over 65.				1						
Makes diet more unhealthy since healthy food is generally more expensive than unhealthy food.	1									
Not at all				1						
Children will have less to eat	1						1			
TOTAL	15	25	4	5	2	1	4	4	14	2

	Impact on Health	General money concerns	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Struggle to pay utility bills	Less money for clothes	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_2										
There are very little jobs at this time that pay minimum wage but the Governments made the mistakes and everyone else must suffer.										1
Being of a nervous disposition, this could increase my anxiety problems more (as I am a partial nervous wreck already).	1									
Being on low income I can't afford to lose any more money.		1								
Child poverty						1				
How!!! is someone on income support supposed to pay council tax it is impossible. People with high incomes and more than 2 people in a property should have their council tax increased. Why should single people pay as much as a large household earning 2 wages totally unfair and impossible for single unemployed disabled people to pay any contribution.		1								1
I have lost my car and bus fares for working age people are high so I would not be able to attend interviews.									1	
Less family social occasions									1	
Increased arrears in payments.					1					

	Impact on Health	General money concerns	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Struggle to pay utility bills	Less money for clothes	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_2										
Have to budget now for heating and food etc			1	1						
Support I give to my family life									1	
Maybe have to start having food boxes from charity e.g. food bank.			1							
Depend on taxis and paying people to assist me going out.									1	
£2.94 might not seem a lot to someone on £100.000 per year. Its a hell of a lot to someone getting unemployment benefit.		1								
Will have to use savings.									1	
Will have to spend less on clothes							1			
Will affect my money towards pet food.									1	
Health will be affected.	1									
Less to spend on hygiene.									1	
Had no increase on benefit. Having been transferred to ESA. So have less money to start with.		1								
At the time of introduction I will only have 12 months to qualify for pension credit.										1
Stay in bed longer to cut down on fuel bills.				1						
I am unemployed and my only income at the moment is Job Seekers Allowance.		1								

	Impact on Health	General money concerns	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Struggle to pay utility bills	Less money for clothes	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_2										
Difficulty paying		1								
I would try to pay a little each week even though we would struggle		1								
Risk of losing my home					1					
Will it affect someone who is claiming council benefit										1
essentials i.e, clothes, food			1					1		
could also effect housing benefit too in the future										1
you are confusing people first they pay then they don't now they do										1
only afford to put heating on when cold is below 0				1						
already suffering from anxiety and depression cos of all the upheavel. so will cause extra worry	1									
We will have to cut back and things such as food, gas etc			1	1						
put us deeper into poverty		1								
less money to spend on food			1							
become more destitute		1								
The services I and my family use, which are provided by the council, may be effected by funding cuts.										1

	Impact on Health	General money concerns	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Struggle to pay utility bills	Less money for clothes	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_2										
Combined with reductions in housing benefit already introduced, will create further hardships, inabilities to pay bills which could possibly influence further personal and social problems.		1								
quality of life									1	
wont be able to pay heating bills				1						
the way its going, I will be better off not working and going on benefits										1
May have to hand in my personal alarm	1									
will not be able to pay my utility bills or buy food			1				1			
less money for utility bills							1			
NOT BE ABLE TO GET OUT AS MUCH									1	
I would have to cut back on lighting							1			
Our worry is being able to find that extra money		1								
cuts to social services budgets. the most vulnerable will be hit with less services to fund the shortfall and will be paying more for the privilege										1
would struggle to buy food and clothes for our family			1					1		

	Impact on Health	General money concerns	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Impact on child/ children	Struggle to pay utility bills	Less money for clothes	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_2										
the scroungers wont be able to buy designer clothes										1
I will struggle to afford the basics for my son even when working						1				
a 15% reduction in support would mean spending less on food and fuel to compensate			1	1						
Paying higher council tax on the property I have WORKED for										1
Reduced Heating from 4 to 3 hours/day impacting on already poor health.	1			1						
All will have to do without heating				1						
TOTAL	5	11	8	8	2	2	3	3	9	11

	Impact on Health	Concerns over money	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Less money for clothes	Struggle to pay utility bills	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_3										
Why not impose reduction in police spending eg BMW, Audi police cars, just don't spend as much or old parish councils that don't provide any real service to people of working age anyway.										1
I am of a vulnerable situation as I would be unable to go to work to last in a job through my disabilities.									1	
Bills are increasing daily - its a struggle to make ends meet. Whereas people with family allowance, child tax credits, do get very good money - they aren't struggling. Its their choice to have kids.										1
Financial Hardship		1								
The stress already on me and my disabled wife would be pushed to breaking point.	1									
less children's presents & treats at Xmas								1		
Health and well-being will be affected.	1									
Will it stop at one increase?										1
Stress on why my family will live on a day to day	1									

	Impact on Health	Concerns over money	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Less money for clothes	Struggle to pay utility bills	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_3										
Have no heating on through the winter. Although my husband as arthritis he is in his 60's not good for someone who as worked all his life from 14-60 years old.	1			1						
Will have no luxuries									1	
Will affect my money towards general household expenses.									1	
Being able to afford essentials such as clothes for the family.						1				
Less to spend elec/gas.							1			
People on benefits struggle anyway or some do. Just think we get a raw deal. Life is hard enough.										1
Impossible as it is to live on current benefit.		1								
Get in debt for the first time in my life.		1								
If the money I have to spend is reduced it will be a struggle to make ends meet.		1								
going into arrears					1					
End up ill (Depression) relapse	1									
Will it affect how much council tax a couple who live together pay?										1
children loose out on school trips etc								1		

	Impact on Health	Concerns over money	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Less money for clothes	Struggle to pay utility bills	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_3										
more stress into finding the extra money	1									
in plain fed up									1	
cannot afford to go out									1	
Children will have to go without new school uniforms and shoes when they need them.								1		
not be ale to afford other bills and debts		1								
less money all round		1								
its not worth staying together as a family because you get more money if you are separated										1
In times of rising fuel costs will mean that affected families may have to go without heating, which in turn could cause more ill health and result in more pressure on the NHS.										
my children				1				1		
wont be able to afford any thing		1								
cause even more money worries with no fault of my own.	1									
ditto										
less money for food			1							
WOULD HAVE TO CANCEL LEISURECENTRE MEMBERSHIP									1	

	Impact on Health	Concerns over money	Less money for food	Less money for heating	Risk loosing home/ rent arrears	Less money for clothes	Struggle to pay utility bills	Impact on child/ children	Other impact	Other comment
Q7_3										
I would have to cut back on food			1							
My husband has had no pay rise in the last 6 years									1	
would make my health problems worse due to anxiety	1									
the scroungers will have to cut back on their social life YAY										1
a 20% reduction in support would mean spending less on food fuel and gas/electricity			1	1			1			
Cut back on heating to pay excess taxes so the unemployed can stay at home all day				1						1
Unable to afford Insurance for house and car reducing chance of employment and increasing possible future reliance on council services.									1	
Make do- nothing new i.e. clothes						1				
TOTAL	8	7	3	4	1	2	2	4	8	8

Q8 Other Comments- Suggestions for funding cuts to Council Tax Benefit

Re question 1 - if these cuts could be made without impacting on services they should be made anyway. If you cut costs then we the rate payers would be paying the same but losing services thereby paying the grant - not a good idea.

People who have 2nd homes either by inheritance or letting properties should pay for council tax immediately even if they can't sell their properties they should put them in auctions and then everything will sell if the price is cheap enough, with them not paying council tax it is not encouraging people to either sell or let their 2nd properties and this is just greed on their part waiting for property prices to go up which they want for a long time. Clowne is full of empty properties there are 3 on my road (Rotherham Road).

The council should provide "BUDGETING" support so claimants know what money they have coming in/what going out and priorities and know how to manage money etc. Bolsover District Council should streamline their services/offices and become more efficient

How about paying councillors less as they are the highest paid in the country and what about the top does taking a pay cut. Stop printing forms in 15 different languages and stop hiring interpreters.

Perhaps some savings could be made by trimming excess administrative jobs

people with holiday or second homes have them by choice and as such should not have any discount in fact they should pay a premium as they do not contribute to the community ALSO I class myself as English NOT British

to penalise the poorest in our society with more demands on their already meagre income is despicable. tax the holiday homes and empty properties first. close pinxton parish building and make them meet at south normanton. end the pinxton garden scheme and close it totally it is a white elephant. switch off street lights in safe areas.

Absolutely farcical behaviour by a mismanaged government yet again! How on earth do you expect people who are struggling on benefits {many of them unemployed due to the governments failings in the first place}, with very little or nothing in the way of finances to fund this shortfall! To even contemplate gaining it back by taking away some of the amount of 'SUPPORT' that they get is beyond a joke. It's yet another example of this current governments attitude of bashing on the poor, low paid and mis-fortunate in our society. If you need the money that desperately then surely you could gain this shortfall by either increasing our current council tax bill or by charging full tax on empty homes/holiday homes {preferable option}, as this would be far less of a burden to the already down trodden in our society. Failing that you could always join the ever growing amount of poor people on our streets begging for additional money.

get rid of the directors (because they have not done anything for us) and some upper paid employees and also get rid of some clerical works and make the managers do their own paper work etc. Sieve the work force down not the front line staff because the people of Bolsover require them.

The council should go after people who fail to pay much more.

The Council should look at other ways to save money. One area is and has for many years, been waste, such as excessive heating in public places and offices and other buildings e.g. Parkfields, Clowne. where residents have to keep their outer doors open all day to survive the extreme heat. What about the Council's postage bill? Why are you sending me paper circulars and surveys when I have an email address?...and to think I'm unemployed! Start with the smaller and (apparently) trivial savings. They all add up.

Too many "standard" letters sent out and "standard" questionnaires required to be filled in regarding Council Tax benefit when signing on/off/on to Council Tax benefit. More cost effective methods should be found.

STOP THE COUNCIL WASTE.

I think business rates, council tax for empty properties and council tax for holiday homes should be the primary way to fund the short fall.

I think the council could reduce their costs by looking at the way they do housing repairs etc. i.e. 2 workers doing 1 housing repair currently tend to turn up in 2 vans when surely they could use 1

Concerning empty homes, I agree with the proposal. I disagree with 100% charge on empty homes after 3 months, this should be 25% for 6 months then increment to 100% after 6 months.

Q8 Other Comments- Personal concerns about the impact of Council Tax Benefit changes

Let me start with I would love a full time job if you have one please get in contact XXXX. up till March I have worked. This is simple not fair to threaten the homes we live in while Government live in seconds homes WE ALL pay for. I have already given thought to choosing between heating and food this winter because of this I will now have to put thoughts into practice.

I think it will effect the way I live and help my disabled child by taking help away from him like money I need to help him

We have paid full council tax why we were working for many years, we now do not work and live on pension guarantee credit. We did find it very very hard to meet the bills we have now, so anything that costs more will be very hard to cope with.

I am a single parent father with a son of 14. We've been in the house 6 months approx. As you can understand with the 2 of us every penny counts especially with him growing fast.

Cannot really afford to pay council tax. On income support and have a 17 year old son at college. Currently receive disability living allowance.

Worried about D.L.A. reducing to P.I.P's as well. It's the unknown financial implications causing stress and worry.

I'm already classed as a second class citizen by a Government that steals pensions which have already been paid for even more money will be taken off me so I will be a Third class citizen.

I feel that if the money you have to raise can be found in some other way then it would help me and every one else who is unemployed and on a low income. Name and address supplied.

I would pay a little each week if we had to but it would be a struggle since working tax requirements changed and we lost ours. My husband is sick & on a lot of tablets but works 16.5 hours at the moment.

As disabled I have to pay for help in the home, a gardener, and a chiropodist never mind running a home by myself. Last thing I need is to be worrying even more about lack of finances through no fault of my own.

As i receive benefits including dla low rate care it would have a dramatic affect on me.

How can we pay out anymore than we are. We are on a very tight budget as it is. We both work full time but neither of us has had a pay rise in the last 6 years. Where in the hell are we going to find that extra money. Everything is going up but our wages.

Q8 Other Comments- Don't target the poor

I think it would be unfair to hit the poorest and most vulnerable on benefits as a large proportion of claimants 'of working age' are unfit to go out to work because they are on sick benefit (because they are unfit to work).

I am a pensioner and don't know what it will make a difference to me. But I am disgusted at the government making the poorest people suffer.

to penalise the poorest in our society with more demands on their already meagre income is despicable. tax the holiday homes and empty properties first.close pinxton parish building and make them meet at south normanton. end the pinxton garden scheme and close it totally it is a white elephant. switch off street lights in safe areas.

Absolutely farcical behaviour by a mismanaged government yet again! How on earth do you expect people who are struggling on benefits {many of them unemployed due to the governments failings in the first place}, with very little or nothing in the way of finances to fund this shortfall! To even contemplate gaining it back by taking away some of the amount of 'SUPPORT' that they get is beyond a joke. It's yet another example of this current governments attitude of bashing on the poor, low paid and mis-fortunate in our society. If you need the money that desperately then surely you could gain this shortfall by either increasing our current council tax bill or by charging full tax on empty homes/holiday homes {preferable option}, as this would be far less of a burden to the already down trodden in our society. Failing that you could always join the ever growing amount of poor people on our streets begging for additional money.

People who receive benefit really need this help to survive cutting the help would cause a lot of distress to families.

Q8 Other Comments- None working people should contribute

I do not agree with changes being made which affect people who work part time and nothing gets done about the people who refuse to work at all.

We are a married couple living on a single wage and pay the full rate of Council Tax. Quite frankly, benefit recipients should pay the FULL difference. We have had to make numerous sacrifices, (cheaper food, no holidays, no smoking or drinking etc), so, we feel they should not be insulated from any loss of income. Maybe tough, but, these are tough times!!

I think if you are going to take it off the working people you should also take it off the people who don't work, as i am sure they could afford 1.96 a week, most of them end up with more to live on than us that work

it makes sense that none working people should have a taste of hardship instead of the workers I say cut all there benefits and give them a food parcel every week, they have better social lives than workers because they get so much help.

Q8 Other Comments- Blame the Government

The Government is responsible for the welfare state and simply think its expensive to them, even though paid for by the public purse it ok, well its NOT ok to change what they put into place in the first place, them blame the people who need it the most, because the Government messed up with min wage and there's very little work above min wage now that requires benefit funding just to make ends meet. Its the Governments mess, they don't like it, so stop/ reduce it- isn't fair! This is all about a very dangerous plan the Government is doing, it will not work. Does the Government propose raising jobseekers or income support to follow increase of cost of living, NO. Relating to option 6: Councils have to make up the deficit some how! 1) more unemployment 2) very little jobs, pay no more than min wage 3) Government caused the problems, now they don't like expense 4) 6 million unemployed the worse its ever been and will get much worse. Margaret Thatcher, John Major the unions- don't think of the situation now but the Government doesn't like the cost now. When does the Government start understanding this mess is their doing and some people are placed into situations through no fault of their own!

the gov keep changing the goal posts and now its the 58 year old who are paying cant get pensions cant get fuel allowance cant get that is all we are hearing now which ever way why do you need this you will do as you like you always do

Absolutely farcical behaviour by a mismanaged government yet again! How on earth do you expect people who are struggling on benefits {many of them unemployed due to the governments failings in the first place}, with very little or nothing in the way of finances to fund this shortfall! To even contemplate gaining it back by taking away some of the amount of 'SUPPORT' that they get is beyond a joke. It's yet another example of this current governments attitude of bashing on the poor, low paid and mis-fortunate in our society. If you need the money that desperately then surely you could gain this shortfall by either increasing our current council tax bill or by charging full tax on empty homes/holiday homes {preferable option}, as this would be far less of a burden to the already down trodden in our society. Failing that you could always join the ever growing amount of poor people on our streets begging for additional money.

i think what this rubbish government is doing is diabolical taking money from the poorest when they give the richest people tax breaks they should reinstate the 50% tax for the super rich and stop targeting the poorest in the country they are idiots we might as well have monkeys running the country

Q8 Other Comments- Suggestions for supporting those affected by the Council Tax benefit changes

When houses become vacant they can be left empty for quite a long while. Workmen can be in them for ages making 'repairs' this seems unnecessary as when the houses were occupied - no work was done. Why can't you just check the house over and just replace the toilet. Only do work that is absolutely essential. Money is just poured down the drain by doing all that work (that's buying new equipment and paying wages). If it was the private sector - the work would be done in a matter of days - not dragged out for weeks. I have seen at least 3 vans at one house doing 'work' - it's just scandalous and that's at every vacant house. Stop letting young girls/couples who just happen to have a baby, have a house - in most cases they could live at home with their parents, as it used to be back in the 60's/70's and before. Why should everyone have to pay for their bit of fun and most of the time they can't/won't work. How about when the gardens and properties are left to 'go to pot' when the majority of people (and they aren't youngsters) keep things nice. I know this for a fact as I've lived here since birth. Can't you fine people when they don't look after things - after all they're quick to take the house? In fact do this to ALL tenants private or not, as gardens/houses which are a mess attract rats etc and vandalism. Fine people for parking on pavements. If they've a front garden let them use this to park on. As this is dangerous for all, particularly disabled people and parents with prams and small toddlers. They may need to step onto the road. I have received verbal abuse from drivers as I'm on the road, but there's not enough room to use the pavement. Have you thought, if a council tenant or house owner can afford to run a car they can afford to pay more on their council tax. Or pay more rent. As we know all benefits are means tested . Why aren't rents and council taxes done the same, after all a car is a luxury item. Tenants have problems with feral dogs why not charge extra rent for the privilege to keep pets. Example - dogs. Dogs barking all hours, defecating in streets, other peoples gardens. Cats - Wowing all night. Defecating in peoples gardens, peeing, killing plants. Costing other tenants money and lost time growing veg. Tenants having to wash bike, pram wheels, wash shoes, gardening - cat mess (hands). While the owners sit back and take no responsibility for the pets actions. Which costs us money not the pet owners. How about a licence for owning pets? These ideas would not please a lot of people but something needs to be done. Here's a novel one for you -

Tax a house on the number of occupants!! That would stop a lot of babies being born as I know of one family where there are 10 children and now most of these 10 children are having kids of their own! Heaven help us all. P.S. I thought money would be made from these wind turbines - if so, why put taxes up. P.P.S. Means test mobility benefit as there are many claimants who've got holiday caravans.

The council should provide "BUDGETING" support so claimants know what money they have coming in/what going out and priorities and know how to manage money etc. Bolsover District Council should streamline their services/offices and become more efficient. Crucial that people receive advice and budgeting/money management support to make informed choices - know what they have coming in and how to spend - priorities etc.

Q8 Other Comments- Individual Comments

Want black bins emptied once a week. I'm having to burn my rubbish to avoid rats.

I do not agree with changes being made which affect people who work part time and nothing gets done about the people who refuse to work at all.

What is the situation of claimants reaching the age of pension credit?

I'm already classed as a second class citizen by a Government that steals pensions which have already been paid for even more money will be taken off me so I will be a Third class citizen.

people with holiday or second homes have them by choice and as such should not have any discount in fact they should pay a premium as they do not contribute to the community ALSO I class myself as English NOT British

We are a married couple living on a single wage and pay the full rate of Council Tax. Quite frankly, benefit recipients should pay the FULL difference. We have had to make numerous sacrifices, (cheaper food, no holidays, no smoking or drinking etc), so, we feel they should not be insulated from any loss of income. Maybe tough, but, these are tough times!!

Reducing council tax benefit will see many people losing their homes because they will not be able to keep up with payments and surcharges when you can't find the full amount.

Having looked at the questionnaire, I am completely at a loss as to exactly who this affects is it single people as well or just those who are claiming full council tax benefits? It really isn't clear in the slightest. Having looked at other authorities questionnaires and documents, these explain who is and isn't affected in more detail. As well as what each option means. You really need to provide accompanying documentation on your site which explains in more detail how people will be affected and what it means. Having looked at Derby City, Nottingham City and Leicester city I understand what they are consulting on and where they are proposing changes, however with this questionnaire I am clueless as to how this will impact residents in Bolsover. An oversight I feel as you cannot possibly consult on something as key as this without proper explanation, your results will be meaningless as people wont know how its impacting them!!!!

the gov keep changing the goal posts and now its the 58 year old who are paying cant get pensions cant get fuel allowance cant get that is all we are hearing now which ever way why do you need this you will do as you like you always do

I think it is disgusting how pensioners will not be effected buy this change but, families with small children will have to pay, pensioners get more money each week than I do and I work part time so why should they get away with not paying when I will have to.

I am concerned that this is the old Poll Tax coming back under a different name, and that people will be unable or unwilling to pay their new or increased Council Tax Bill, and that it will cost the council time and money trying to get the arrears back. Under the old Poll Tax my husband and I were entitled to a rebate, but the amount we were entitled to was never correctly worked out, and in the end we got a letter from a debt collecting agency saying that we were in debt. We phoned them up thinking they had got us confused with someone else who owed a lot of money, but despite us making regular payments at the Post Office we were still in debt as our rebate had been worked out wrong again and this time we had been undercharged. Fortunately, we only owed £22, but what a carry on!

I think if you are going to take it off the working people you should also take it off the people who don't work, as I am sure they could afford 1.96 a week, most of them end up with more to live on than us that work

Get people back to worked instead of giving them easy handouts

About You

Q9 Are you answering this survey as...?		
	Number	%
Individual	93	99
Representative of an organisation	1	1
	94	100

Q10 What type of organisation?		
	Number	%
A local voluntary or community sector organisation	0	0
A charity	1	100
A parish or town council	0	0
A local business	0	0
Other	0	0
	1	100

Q12 Home postcode			
	Number	%	Postcode area
S44	25	29	Bolsover, Carr Vale, Doe Lea, Glapwell, Hillstown, Palterton, Scarcliffe, Sutton Scarsdale, Shuttlewood
DE55	20	23	Blackwell, South Normanton, Tibshelf
NG20	15	17	Elmton, Shirebrook, Nether & Upper Langwith, Whaley
S80	12	14	Whitwell, Creswell, Hodthorpe
S43	7	8	Barlborough, Clowne
NG16	3	3	Pinxton
NG19	3	3	Pleasley, Stoney Houghton
S42	1	1	Outside the District
	86	98 ¹	

¹ Due to rounding percentages do not equal 100%

Q13 Which of the following best describes your household? (Multiple choices allowed)		
	Number	%
Someone in receipt of Council Tax Benefit	63	64
Someone with a second home in Bolsover District	0	0
Someone with a residential property in Bolsover District which has been empty for more than three months	0	0
A Council Tax payer	27	27
A landlord	2	2
Someone not currently liable to pay Council Tax	7	7
	99	100

3 respondents said they were both a Council Tax payer and in receipt of Council Tax benefit and 3 people said they were both in receipt of Council Tax benefit and not currently liable to pay Council Tax.

Q14 Do you, or others in your household, receive any other state benefits?		
	Number	%
Yes	58	64
No	32	35
Don't know	1	1
	91	100

Q15 Which of the following best describes your household? (Multiple choices allowed)		
	Number	%
A couple with children	15	15
A couple without children	12	12
A lone parent household	16	16
A single person household	29	29
A household that includes someone who is disabled	27	27
	99	99 ²

² Due to rounding percentages do not total 100%

Q16 Age		
	Number	%
16-34	10	11
35-64	72	79
65 and over	9	10
	91	100

Q17 Gender		
	Number	%
Male	37	41
Female	53	59
	90	100

Q18 Do you consider yourself to be disabled?		
	Number	%
Yes	39	42
No	53	58
	92	100

Q19 Ethnicity		
	Number	%
White British	86	93
Irish	5	5
Other- Dual Heritage	2	2
	93	100

Council Tax Benefit Changes

From April 2013 the Government has announced that Council Tax Benefit will change and that local Councils will need to operate local support schemes. At the same time, as part of its welfare reform programme, the Government is reducing funding given to local councils to meet the cost of paying Council Tax Benefit by 10%. For the local authorities serving the area of Bolsover District Council this translates into a funding shortfall of £700,000. The challenge to the Council is to provide an affordable Council Tax Support scheme (CTS).

Bolsover District Council is considering the options available to raise this money and help fill the funding gap. Our intention is to ensure no group is disproportionately affected by the changes. The options under consideration include passing on some of the government-imposed reduction to working age people who receive Council Tax Benefit and removing the discount currently allowed in respect of holiday homes and empty homes.

The intention of the Government scheme is that pensioners will NOT be affected by these changes.

We are now consulting the community throughout September and October 2012 to get feedback from individuals and organisations on the options. For more information about these changes, please read the information leaflet titled 'Council Tax Support'.

HOW TO HAVE YOUR SAY

Please respond to this survey by 5pm on Monday 29th October 2012

If you have any queries about this questionnaire or about the changes, please email enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk or call 01246 242443.

You can also attend an advice surgery at one of our Contact Centres on the dates and times below:

Clowne Contact Centre
Monday 1st October 2012 9:00am - 12:00noon

South Normanton Contact Centre
Thursday 4th October 2012 9:00am - 12:00noon

Bolsover Contact Centre
Tuesday 2nd October 2012 9:00am - 12:00noon
Tuesday 9th October 2012 1:00pm - 4:00pm
Thursday 18th October 2012 9:00am - 12:00noon

Shirebrook Contact Centre
Friday 5th October 2012 9:00am - 12:00noon



All personal information provided to Bolsover District Council will be held and treated in confidence in accordance with the Data Protection Act 1998. We may share summary anonymised data with other local authorities. We will use this information to help develop the local Council Tax Support scheme.

Q5

OPTION 5

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 15%? (Please X one answer)

This means a loss of approximately £2.94 per week for someone living in a property rated band A for Council Tax and currently receiving full Council Tax benefit.

*Strongly
Agree*

Agree

Neither

Disagree

*Strongly
Disagree*

*Don't
Know*

Q6

OPTION 6

To what extent do you agree or disagree with the option to: reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 20%? (Please X one answer)

This means a loss of approximately £3.92 per week for someone living in a property rated band A for Council Tax and currently receiving full Council Tax benefit. This option leaves the smallest shortfall of funding for the Council to find.

*Strongly
Agree*

Agree

Neither

Disagree

*Strongly
Disagree*

*Don't
Know*

IMPACT OF THE CHANGES ON YOU

Q7

The proposed scheme will impact upon all working age claimants by reducing the amount of support received. This will have a direct financial impact on those affected. In what other ways do you think these changes will affect you? Please list below the three most important ways the changes will affect you?

1. ...

2.

3.

OTHER COMMENTS

Q8

Please provide any additional comments you wish to make concerning the proposals below (attach extra paper if necessary).

ABOUT YOU

To understand the answers we receive from this questionnaire, we would like to ask you a few more questions about you and your household.

These questions will help us to understand the views of different groups of people, and to make sure that people from all household types have had the opportunity to have their say.

We won't ask for your name or contact details. You do not have to answer these questions but if you do, be assured that they will not be linked to individual responses. If there are any questions you do not want to answer, please leave them blank.

Q9 Are you answering this survey as...? (Please X one answer only)

An individual - please go to Q12..... Go to Q12

A representative of an organisation Go to Q10

Q10 Please tell us what type of organisation you represent? (Please X one answer only)

A local voluntary or community sector organisation

A parish or town council.....

A charity.....

A local business.....

Other (please specify)

Q11 Please tell us the name of your organisation below, and then you have completed all the relevant questions, thank you.

Go to End

Q12 Please tell us the first part of your home postcode e.g. S44?

Q13 Which of the following describes your situation best? (Please X all that apply)

Someone in receipt of Council Tax Benefit

A Council Tax payer

Someone with a second home in Bolsover District.....

A landlord

Someone with a residential property in Bolsover District that has been empty for more than three months.....

Someone not currently liable to pay Council Tax.....

Q14 Do you, or others in your household, receive any other state benefits? (Please X one answer only)

Yes

No.....

Don't know.....

Q15 Which of the following describes your household? (Please X all that apply)

A couple with children *A single person household*
A couple without children *A household that includes someone*
A lone parent household *who is disabled*

Q16 Which age group do you belong to? (Please X one answer only)

16 - 34 *35 - 64* *65 and over*

Q17 Your gender? (Please X one answer only)

Male *Female*

Q18 A disabled person is someone who has a physical or mental impairment which has a substantial and long term adverse effect on their ability to carry out normal day to day activities.

Do you consider yourself to have a disability? (Please X one answer only)

Yes *No*

Q19 How would you describe your ethnic background? (Please X one answer only)

White	<i>British</i>	<i>Irish</i>	<i>Any other white background</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Black or Black British	<i>Black Caribbean</i>	<i>Black African</i>	<i>Any other Black background</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	
Asian or Asian British	<i>Indian</i>	<i>Pakistani</i>	<i>Bangladeshi</i>	<i>Any other Asian background</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Mixed	<i>White & Black African</i>	<i>White & Asian</i>	<i>White & Black Caribbean</i>	<i>Any other mixed background</i>
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>
Chinese	<i>Chinese</i>	<i>Any other Chinese background</i>		
	<input type="checkbox"/>	<input type="checkbox"/>		
Other	<i>Any other ethnic background</i>		<i>Dual Heritage</i>	
	<input type="checkbox"/>		<input type="checkbox"/>	

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey, please return it in the pre-paid envelope provided or leave at one of the Council Contact Centres in Bolsover, Clowne, South Normanton or Shirebrook by 5pm Monday 29th October 2012.



ACCESS FOR ALL

If you need help understanding this document or require a larger print or translation, please contact us on the telephone number at the bottom of the page.

Jeśli potrzebują Państwo pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu lub jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać jego tłumaczenie czy też wersję dużym drukiem, proszę się z nami skontaktować pod numerem telefonu podanym na dole strony.

Nel caso in cui si abbia bisogno di aiuto per comprendere il presente documento o si necessiti di un documento stampato in un formato più grande o di una traduzione, contattateci al numero di telefono riportato in fondo alla pagina.

倘若您需要幫助瞭解本檔的內容，或需要提供大字體格式或翻譯件，請按照頁面底端的電話號碼聯絡我們。

اگر آپ کو یہ دستاویز سمجھنے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہو یا یہ بڑے حروف یا ترجمہ کی شکل میں درکار ہو تو برائے مہربانی اس صفحے کے آخر میں دیے گئے نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

 **01246 242443..... Department: Revenue Services.....**

Minicom: 01246 242450 Fax: 01246 242423

Website: www.bolsover.gov.uk

What happens next?

Comments regarding the proposals and questionnaires must be returned by **5.00pm Monday 29th October 2012**. We will then use your feedback to review our proposals and make the decision on the new scheme.

The results from the consultation will be published later in the year on our website.

The final decision will be made no later than 31st January 2013, ready to be in operation on 1st April 2013.



Access for All

If you need help understanding this document or require a larger print or translation, please contact us on the telephone number at the bottom of the page.

Jeśli potrzebują Państwo pomocy w zrozumieniu tego dokumentu lub jeśli chcieliby Państwo otrzymać jego tłumaczenie czy też wersję dużym drukiem, proszę się z nami skontaktować pod numerem telefonu podanym na dole strony.

Nel caso in cui si abbia bisogno di aiuto per comprendere il presente documento o si necessiti di un documento stampato in un formato più grande o di una traduzione, contattateci al numero di telefono riportato in fondo alla pagina.

倘若您需要幫助瞭解本檔的內容，或需要提供大字體格式或翻譯件，請按照頁面底端的電話號碼聯絡我們。

اگر آپ کو یہ دستاویز سمجھنے میں مدد کی ضرورت ہو یا یہ بڑے حروف یا ترجمہ کی شکل میں درکار ہو تو برائے مہربانی اس صفحے کے آخر میں دیے گئے نمبر پر ہم سے رابطہ کریں۔

 **01246 242443** Department: Revenues

Minicom: **01246 242450** Fax: **01246 242423**

Website: www.bolsover.gov.uk

Did you know there will be

BIG CHANGES

to **Council Tax Benefits**

...and **you could be affected?**

Council Tax Support

It is important that you find out how these proposals
might affect you and have your say



Introduction

Council Tax Benefit (CTB) is one of the most commonly claimed benefits in the UK. It helps people on low incomes pay their Council Tax.

In 2011/12 we paid around £6.8m of CTB to over 8,200 households. This was funded 100% by the Government. However, the Government have decided that from April 2013 CTB will be abolished to be replaced by a local scheme named Council Tax Support (CTS). The money that the Government contribute towards the new scheme will be about 10% less than that funded under the previous scheme. This means a reduction in funding of around £700,000 for the local authorities serving Bolsover District.

We have discussed how we might raise this money and we are now consulting the community throughout September and October 2012 to get feedback from both individuals and organisations on our proposals.

Who will be affected?

The Government have advised that pensioners must be protected from the changes and, therefore, they will see no change to the way in which their benefit is calculated. A person is a pensioner if they have reached the qualifying age for State Pension Credit and they are not, or, if they have a partner, their partner is not in receipt of Income Support, Income-Based Jobseekers Allowance, Income-Related Employment and Support Allowance or Universal Credit.

Therefore, the changes will only affect claimants of working age.

How will the savings be achieved?

The Council is considering six proposals which could contribute to the shortfall in funding:

Option 1 – Accommodate the grant reduction from savings in other services

Option 2 – Fully recover the loss of grant from working age claimants

Option 3 – Charge full council tax on empty homes after 3 months and holiday homes immediately

Option 4 – Reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 10%

Option 5 – Reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 15%

Option 6 – Reduce the amount of Council Tax Support given to working age claimants by 20%

Have your say

Apart from pensioners, everyone that is currently entitled to Council Tax Benefit will be affected by the new scheme. It is important that you find out how the proposals might affect you. We want to ensure that every household in the District has an opportunity to comment on the proposals by completing a questionnaire which is available online at:

www.bolsover.gov.uk/council-tax-changes

Alternatively, you can obtain a paper copy by emailing enquiries@bolsover.gov.uk, telephoning **01246 242443** or visiting one of our Contact Centres (details given below).

We are also holding events at each of our Contact Centres so that you can drop in and see us to discuss your situation and find out how you are affected. Questionnaires can be completed whilst you are there.

Date	Time	Venue
Monday 1 st October 2012	09.00 – 12.00	Clowne Contact Centre Church Street, Clowne S43 4JR
Tuesday 2 nd October 2012	09.00 – 12.00	Bolsover Contact Centre Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover S44 6NF
Thursday 4 th October 2012	09.00 – 12.00	South Normanton Contact Centre Shiners Way, South Normanton DE55 2AA
Friday 5 th October 2012	09.00 – 12.00	Shirebrook Contact Centre 2a Main Street, Shirebrook NG20 8AW
Tuesday 9 th October 2012	13.00 – 16.00	Bolsover Contact Centre Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover S44 6NF
Thursday 18 th October 2012	09.00 – 12.00	Bolsover Contact Centre Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover S44 6NF

Questionnaires need to be completed and returned by 5.00pm Monday 29th October 2012.

Council Tax Benefit Changes Consultation Publicity (September- October 2012)

Countywide publicity				
Local Authority Responsible	Organisation	Target Audience	Area covered	Method
Derby City Council	Chamber of Commerce	Businesses in Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	Derbyshire and Nottinghamshire	Item included in weekly e-bulletin. Article on Chamber of Commerce website
Bolsover District Council	3D Infrastructure Consortium	Voluntary and community organisations (see 3D website for membership)	Derbyshire	E-bulletin to members
Chesterfield Borough Council	LINKs CVS	400 North Eastern Derbyshire based community and voluntary sector orgs (large and small)	North East Derbyshire	Linkline magazine Weekly e-bulletin
Derbyshire County Council		8000 Citizens' Panel members	Administrative Derbyshire	Newsletter circulated to publicise consultation
Derbyshire County Council		Derbyshire residents	Derbyshire	Promotion of district/borough council consultation through DCC website: http://www.derbyshire.gov.uk/council/have_your_say/take_part_now/default.asp

Countywide publicity				
Local Authority Responsible	Organisation	Target Audience	Area covered	Method
Derbyshire County Council	Learning Disabilities Partnership Board	40 – 50 people including key local people, representatives of important local organisations, elected representatives of people with learning disabilities, elected family carers.	Derbyshire	
Derbyshire County Council	Stakeholder Engagement Board	NHS Trusts, Adult Care, housing agencies, police, education and community and voluntary organisations	Derbyshire	

Bolsover District Publicity				
Department Responsible	Organisation	Target Audience	Area covered	Method
Corporate Resources-Resources	Fire, Police and County Councils	Major precepting authorities	Bolsover District	Executive report detailing the proposal was sent to each authority.
Corporate Resources-Resources	Parish Council Liaison Group	All Parish Councils in Bolsover District	Bolsover District	Raised at Parish Liaison group 30 July 2012. Bolsover District Council representatives attended meeting on 13 th September 2012.
Corporate Resources-Resources	N/A	Key Community and Voluntary sector stakeholders who would offer advice and support to affected individuals Advice Derbyshire, 2 Shires Credit Union, Derbyshire Unemployed Workers Centre, NE Derbyshire Citizens Advice Bureau, Chesterfield Law Centre and Release, Royal British Legion.	Bolsover District and North East Derbyshire	Liaison group established with advice agencies with member and officer representation from both BDC and NEDDC. Two meetings held to date 20 th September and 29 th October 2012. Information exchanged regarding the government's proposals for changes to the benefit system and Council tax.

Bolsover District Publicity				
Department Responsible	Organisation	Target Audience	Area covered	Method
Strategy & Performance	Bolsover Community Voluntary Partners (CVP) & Mansfield CVS	Community and voluntary sector organisations serving Bolsover District	Bolsover & Mansfield Districts	Email publicising the consultation sent to Bolsover CVP for circulation on 4 th September 2012 and to Mansfield CVS on 11 th September 2012.
Corporate Resources-Resources	Financial Inclusion Forum	Community and voluntary sector organisations	Bolsover District	BDC Benefits Manager delivered a presentation to the group on 18 th September 2012.
Strategy & Performance and Corporate Resources-Resources	Bolsover Local Strategic Partnership (LSP)	Public services in Bolsover District	Bolsover District	Article provided for the LSP e-newsletter and website. Presentation given to the LSP Executive board meeting on 6 th September 2012.
Strategy & Performance and Corporate Resources-Resources	Bolsover Safety Partnership	Public safety services in Bolsover District	Bolsover District	Presentation given to the Safety Partnership LSP Executive board meeting on 18 th October 2012.

Bolsover District Publicity				
Department Responsible	Organisation	Target Audience	Area covered	Method
Strategy & Performance and Corporate Resources-Resources	Bolsover District Council	Employees	Bolsover District	Weekly bulletin on 7 th September 2012 included a fact sheet on Council Tax support and covering email detailing the consultation and link to the website.
Strategy & Performance	Bolsover District Council	Local residents	Bolsover District	Feature in the Council magazine In Touch, delivered by Royal Mail to every household in the District (within one week of publication in September 2012)
Corporate Resources	Bolsover District Council Community Houses	Local residents	Bolsover District	Information displayed in the Council's community houses
Corporate Resources-Resources	Bolsover District Council Contact Centres	Local residents	Bolsover District	Drop in sessions held in each of the four contact centres: Clowne- Monday 1 st October 9.00-12.00 South Normanton- Thursday 4 th October 9.00-12.00 Shirebrook- Friday 5 th October 9.00-12.00 Bolsover- Tuesday 2 nd October 9.00-12.00, Tuesday 9 th October 13.00-16.00 Thursday 18 th October 9.00-12.00
Strategy & Performance and Corporate	Bolsover District Council 'Look beyond the	Equalities groups	Bolsover District	Event held 5 th October 2012 focusing on the discussing welfare reform changes including the Council Tax Benefit consultation.

Resources	Label' event			Email notification of the consultation was sent to all equality organisations on our mailing list on 11 th September 2012. Presentation delivered to the councils Equalities Panel on 14 th September 2012.
Bolsover District Publicity				
Department Responsible	Organisation	Target Audience	Area covered	Method
Corporate Resources-Resources	Bolsover District Council	All current Council Tax Benefit claimants	Bolsover District	Mail shot to all claimants to raise awareness of the changes, where they can get advice and how they can take part in the consultation.
Corporate Resources-Resources	Bolsover District Council	Registered housing providers	Bolsover District	12 th November presentation on the CTB changes given to the Registered Providers Forum which covers Chesterfield Bolsover North East and Bassetlaw Council areas.
Bolsover LSP and Corporate Resources-Resources	Bolsover LSP and Bolsover District Council	North Eastern Derbyshire MPs	Bolsover District, Chesterfield Borough and NEDDC	Presentation delivered to MP's and Council Leaders meeting on 7 th September 2012
Corporate Resources/ and local Councillor	Public meeting in Creswell	Members of the public	Creswell and surrounding areas	Presentation delivered to a public meeting on 31 st October 2012

Committee:	Executive	Agenda Item No.:	7.
Date:	10 th December 2012	Status	Open
Category	Key decision included in Forward Plan		
Subject:	Strategic Risk Register		
Report by:	Director of Corporate Resources		
Other Officers Involved	Risk Management Group		
Director	Director of Corporate Resources		
Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor E. Watts, Leader of the Council.		

RELEVANT CORPORATE AIMS

STRATEGIC ORGANISATIONAL DEVELOPMENT – to continually improve the efficiency and effectiveness of all Council Services by maximising the potential use of Council resources.

TARGETS

All.

VALUE FOR MONEY

Risk Management arrangements are a key part of the Council's Governance arrangements which are necessary to secure value for money.

THE REPORT

1 Background Information

- 1.1 The Council's Strategic Risk Register has been reviewed by the Risk Management Group to take into account the issues raised within the Master Risk Register which outlines the service or operational risks faced by the Council. Alongside the issues generated by our own Master Risk Register the Risk Management Group has looked at best practice from other local authorities in order to ensure that our own arrangements continue to be fit for purpose. The Strategic Register which is provided at Appendix 1 reflects the above work.
- 1.2 In its approach to Risk Management the Council is seeking to secure a number of objectives and to operate in line with recognised best practice. In order to appreciate the importance of Risk Management it is useful to reiterate these objectives:

- To improve the way in which the Council manages its key risks so as to reduce the likelihood of them happening, and to mitigate their impact or magnitude in those cases where they do materialise. This is a key element in protecting service delivery arrangements, the financial position and the reputation of the Council.
- To strengthen the overall managerial approach of the Council. From a Governance perspective the effective operation of Risk Management is regarded as being a key element of the managerial framework operating within an authority.
- Effective Risk Management is a key component in ensuring that organisations are able to achieve their objectives, and that key projects proceed in line with plan.
- The identification of the risks attached to existing service delivery, or to a project or new initiative is important both to allow a fully informed decision to be made, and ensure that all appropriate measures to mitigate (or reduce) the risk are in place from the outset.
- Finally, an appreciation of the risk environment within which the Council operates assists in determining an appropriate level of financial reserves for sound financial management, and ensures that the organisation has a better awareness of its overall risk exposure.

2 The Strategic Risk Register

- 2.1 The revised Strategic Risk Register as at 30 September 2012 is set out in Appendix 1 for consideration and approval by Executive. The intention is that this review of the Register will secure the following objectives:
- Identify any newly emerging risks which need to be added to the Register and removing any risks that have been resolved. An on going review of the Strategic Risk Register ensures that a focus is maintained on current risks.
 - Revising the Risk Register ensures that existing risks are reviewed, that appropriate mitigation remains in place, and where necessary the assessment is revisited.
 - The process also allows appropriate consideration to be given to the success of existing mitigation, and to the issue of whether any further mitigation is required.
 - The Strategic Risk Register as set out in Appendix 1 is structured so that those risks with the highest risk score are detailed first.
- 2.2 In overall terms a key element which emerges from the Strategic Risk Register is one of an ongoing requirement to maintain our current

performance in respect of service delivery, performance and governance to local residents. The current position, however, needs to be maintained at a time when it will be increasingly necessary to manage the Council's finances in a more pro active way in order to ensure that our expenditure remains in line with the level of our resources and that the level of our financial balances is improved. While, the Council has delivered a comprehensive programme of change over recent years, there remain a number of significant issues where continued progress is necessary if the Council is to better secure the outcomes sought by our local residents. The initiatives necessary to secure continued improvement all bring with them risks which need to be effectively managed, and the Council's Risk Management framework should assist in ensuring that these risks continue to be addressed.

3 Implications

Financial:

- 3.1 There are no additional financial implications arising out of this report at this stage. While where appropriate additional mitigation measures have been identified and implemented during the course of preparing the Strategic and Master Risk Registers, the cost of implementing this mitigation will be met from within previously agreed budgets.

Legal:

- 3.2 There are no legal issues arising as a consequence of this report.

Human Resources:

- 3.3 There are no Human Resource issues arising directly out of this report.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) **That Executive notes the report and approve the Council's Strategic Risk Register as set out in Appendix 1.**
- 2) **That Members request that an update of the Strategic Risk Register as at 30 December 2012 be brought back to Executive for approval.**

REASON FOR DECISION TO BE GIVEN IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE CONSTITUTION

To provide Members with an update on the Strategic Risk Register.

ATTACHMENTS: **Y- Appendix 1**
FILE REFERENCE:
SOURCE DOCUMENT: **Master Risk Register held in Accountancy**

TABLE 1

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER SUMMARY

STRATEGIC RISK REGISTER SUMMARY AS AT: SEPTEMBER 2012

	Risk	Consequences	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact)	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact)Taki ng into Account Current Controls	Risk Owner / Lead Officer
1	Failure to deliver a balanced budget in line with the MTFP, at a time when the Council's reserves are at minimum levels.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Impact upon ability to deliver current level of services • Unable to resource acceptable levels of service. • Significant adverse reputational Impact. 	4,4 16	3,4 12	SAMT / Chief Financial Officer
2	Failure to realise the opportunities presented by the Strategic Alliance / Joint Working.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deterioration in service quality / performance. • Failure to achieve required MTFP savings. • Deterioration in quality of governance and internal control arrangements. 	4,4 16	3,4 12	SAMT / Political Leadershi p
3	Adverse external financial developmen	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to deliver the package of 	4,4, 16	3,4 12	SAMT / Political Leadershi

	Risk	Consequences	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact)	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact) Taking into Account Current Controls	Risk Owner / Lead Officer
	ts have an accelerating impact on Council (poor grant settlement), or upon the local economy (employment losses / benefits reforms).	<p>services to meet changing local needs and aspirations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unable to effectively support local communities. • Increased demands on Council services at a time when Council resource base is reducing. 			p
4	Lack of strategic direction from Members / Corporate Management Team, external partners change Strategic direction.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to deliver high quality services which address national and local priorities. • Deterioration in Governance Arrangements. • Refocus of current services necessary with associated disruption. 	4,4 16	3,3 9	Chief Executive / Political Leadership Team
5	Delivery of the	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New initiatives are not 	4,4 16	3,3 9	SAMT / Chief

	Risk	Consequences	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact)	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact) Taking into Account Current Controls	Risk Owner / Lead Officer
	Council's Agenda is dependent upon effective delivery of both a number of major initiatives including Regeneration Initiatives, HRA reform, Asset Management securing major financial savings and implementing a range of new government reforms whilst maintaining service quality, which may overstretch our reduced organisational capacity.	<p>delivered in a cost-effective manner.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Failure to maintain / improve services in line with local aspirations • Failure to generate the savings required to balance the budget • Financial efficiencies weaken Governance / Internal Control arrangements. • Service deterioration / failure arising from capacity issues. 			Executive
6	Financial position makes it increasingly difficult to recruit to key posts or to replace	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deterioration in services to the public • Increasing inefficiencies in service provision 	4,4 16	4,3 12	SAMT / Asst Director HR

	Risk	Consequences	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact)	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact)Taking into Account Current Controls	Risk Owner / Lead Officer
	key staff who leave	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Weakening of Internal Control arrangements. 			
7	Emergency Planning and Business Continuity arrangements fail to meet required standards when tested by flu pandemic, natural disaster (flood), etc	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Inability of Council to provide services as a consequence of a severe catastrophic external event (eg flooding, major terrorist incident, flu pandemic, fire). • Failure of IT infrastructure, leading to inability to effectively operate services and to safeguard income streams. • Business Continuity Plans prove ineffective in practice. 	3,5 15	2,5 10	SAMT / Director of Health and Well Being

	Risk	Consequences	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact)	Risk Score (Likelihood x Impact) Taking into Account Current Controls	Risk Owner / Lead Officer
8	Governance Arrangements including Performance, Finance and Risk Management need to be maintained in order to continue to operate effectively in a rapidly changing environment.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adverse Impact upon Service Quality. • Failure to deliver high quality services which address national and local priorities. • Significant adverse reputational impact. 	3,4 12	3,3 9	Chief Financial Officer / Monitoring Officer
9	Workforce Issues (Staff morale / Sickness Levels) adversely affected as a result of pace of change, tightening financial circumstances or external circumstances.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deterioration in services to the public and loss of productivity • Loss of key staff increased sickness levels • Increased pressure on other members of staff 	3,4 12	3,3 9	SAMT / Assistant Director HR

EXECUTIVE

Minutes of a meeting of the Executive of Bolsover District Council held in the Council Chamber, Sherwood Lodge, Bolsover, on Monday 19th November 2012 at 1005 hours.

PRESENT:-

Members:-

Councillor E. Watts - Chair

Councillors K. Bowman, D. Kelly, D. McGregor, B.R. Murray-Carr and A.M. Syrett.

Officers:-

W. Lumley (Chief Executive Officer), B. Mason (Director of Corporate Resources) (to minute no. 611), S. Tomlinson (Director of Neighbourhoods), S.E.A. Sternberg (Solicitor to the Council), P. Campbell (Head of Housing), J. Foley (Assistant Director of Strategy and Performance) (to minute no. 603), S. Brunt (Street Scene Manager), S. Chambers (Communications Officer), K. Drury (Information and Engagement Manager) (to minute no. 604) and R. Leadbeater (Democratic Services Officer).

597. APOLOGY

An apology for absence was received on behalf of Councillor A.F. Tomlinson.

598. URGENT ITEMS OF BUSINESS

There were no urgent items of business.

599. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

There were no declarations of interest.

EXECUTIVE

600. MINUTES – 22ND OCTOBER 2012

Moved by Councillor D. Kelly, seconded by Councillor E. Watts

RESOLVED that the minutes of a meeting of the Executive held on 22nd October 2012 be approved as a true record.

601. DEMAND FOR HOUSING SCRUTINY REVIEW

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor K. Bowman

RESOLVED that the Demand for Housing Scrutiny Review be deferred.

602. CORPORATE PLAN TARGETS APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2012 UPDATE REPORT

The Assistant Director of Strategy and Performance presented the report to update Members on the progress of the Corporate Plan Targets. Members were advised that Improvement Scrutiny Committee had requested further information in respect of targets SOD 02 (Reduce the percentage of rent arrears by 20% by 2015) and SOD 04 (Reduce the cost of collection of income year on year by increasing options available to customers). Feedback from Improvement Scrutiny Committee would be reported at the next opportunity.

There were no further issues and overall, good progress had been made on the Corporate Targets.

The Chief Executive Officer advised that DEFRA (Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs), had reported that Bolsover District Council was one of the 10 most improved authorities in respect of recycling rates. Members added that this was a credit to the Director of Neighbourhoods and the Waste Services Management and team. This improvement had also led to £135,000 per annum in savings.

Moved by Councillor D. McGregor, seconded by Councillor K. Bowman

RESOLVED that the progress against the Corporate Plan 2011-2015 be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: **In line with the Executive function to monitor progress against the Corporate Plan.**

The Assistant Director of Strategy and Performance left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE

603. INFORMATION REQUESTS APRIL TO SEPTEMBER 2012

The Information and Engagement Manager presented the report to advise Members of requests received from 1st April to 30th September 2012 under the Freedom of Information Act, Environmental Information Regulations and Data Protection Act.

A total of 216 requests had been received of which 212 (98%) had been responded to within the required standard. Environmental Health, Planning and Revenues and Benefits had received the most requests for this period. Information that had been requested on a number of occasions had been included on the Council's website. This was intended to reduce the amount of staff time spent on dealing with FOI requests and provide information to the public in a more open and transparent way.

Members raised concerns in respect of the resources required to respond to Freedom of Information Requests. The Information and Engagement Manager responded that the majority was in relation to staff time, however any request requiring in excess of 18 hours could be refused. It was added that the majority of requests were considered reasonable and were received from a variety of sources. The Council had a statutory duty to provide the information.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that the report be received.

REASON FOR DECISION: **To keep Members informed of volumes and trends regarding information requests.**

The Information and Engagement Manager left the meeting.

604. COMPLIMENTS, COMMENTS, COMPLAINTS QUARTERLY REPORT

The Director of Corporate Resources presented the report to provide Members with information in respect of the number of compliments, comments and complaints for the period 1st July 2012 to 30th September 2012.

Members were requested to note the number of compliments received in respect of the organisation of the Olympic Torch relay. All matters had been responded to within the agreed time period.

Members raised concerns with regard to the cost to the Authority in dealing with Ombudsman complaints. The Director of Corporate Resources accepted that this was a valid comment but added that the positive aspect of the complaints

EXECUTIVE

procedure was that it provided a valuable source of information which the Council could use to improve the delivery of its services.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. Kelly
RESOLVED that the report be received.

REASON FOR DECISION: **To keep members informed of volumes and trends regarding compliments, comments and complaints.**

605. SECOND QUARTERLY BUDGET MONITORING REPORT

The Director of Corporate Resources presented the report to update Members on the financial position of the Council following the second quarter's budget monitoring exercise. This included updates for the General Fund, Housing Revenue Account, Capital Programme and Treasury Management.

General Fund – There was a variance of £106,000 at the end of the second quarter which was consistent with the view that the £200,000 savings target would not be fully achieved by the year end. A number of measures were already in place to try to address the shortfall. Members' attention was drawn to appendix 2 of the report which detailed each cost centre of the General Fund. The Director of Corporate Resources stated that whilst £200,000 of savings remained outstanding, the total savings required at the start of the year was £975,000 and therefore significant progress had been made.

Housing Revenue Account – This was still in line with the approved budget with no significant issues to address.

Capital Programme - This was dependent on two key capital receipts, one of which was expected to be received in the current financial year. Members were advised that there may be a need to enter into a borrowing arrangement in the interim.

A more detailed update would be provided to Council in December 2012.

Members asked questions in respect of Housing Revenue Account transactions and the New Homes Bonus to which the Director of Corporate Resources responded. Further discussion took place on the potential disposal of garage sites and income received.

Further to questions, Members were advised that bad debt provision had been set at £75,000. The introduction of the Welfare Reforms may have an impact on the level set which would be reviewed on an annual basis.

EXECUTIVE

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr
RESOLVED that the report on the position of the Council's budgets at the end of the second quarter of the 2012/13 financial year and the Treasury Management activity for the same period be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: **To inform Executive of the position on the Council's budgets at the end of the second quarter of the 2012/13 financial year and the Treasury Management activity for the same period.**

606. RENEWAL AND TENDERING OF INSURANCE POLICIES 2012

The Director of Corporate Resources presented the report to advise Members' of actions taken under delegated powers to secure the Council's Insurance Policies.

Members were advised that the current insurance policies were subject to a 3 year Long Term Agreement with the option to extend for a further 2 years. The Director of Corporate Resources drew Members' attention to the table of comparisons for year on year variances on costs which were minimal. Members' were advised of an increase in provision in respect of its housing stock.

Questions were raised in respect of the insurance against liable and slander to which the Solicitor to the Council responded.

Moved by Councillor E. Watts, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that the action of the Director of Corporate Resources (acting under delegated powers) in continuing to secure the Council's insurance policies within the framework established by the Long Term Agreement be noted.

REASON FOR DECISION: **The Council has assessed value for money, quality and service issues and selected the option financially beneficial to the Council.**

(Director of Corporate Resources)

EXECUTIVE

607. THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT (ACCESS TO INFORMATION) ACT 1985

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor E. Watts

RESOLVED that under Section 100(A)(4) of the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended), the public be excluded from the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that it involves the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in the stated Paragraph of Part 1 of Schedule 12A of the Act and it is not in the public interest for that to be revealed.

608. ORGANIC WASTE COLLECTION (GREEN BIN) ARKWRIGHT AGREEMENT EXEMPT – PARAGRAPHS 1, 3 AND 4

The Director of Neighbourhoods introduced the report in respect of future arrangements for the collection of organic waste. Members were advised that Derbyshire County Council had resolved outstanding planning issues and were now in a position to commence the build of the Organic Waste Collection facility. Discussions regarding arrangements for delivery of the various authorities' waste to the site were in progress.

The Street Scene Manager advised that the Council's combined recycling rate had increased from 27% to 37% by way of burgundy bin collections and the introduction of Alternate Week Collections, with further increases anticipated. Members were requested to consider proposals to divert organic food waste from the black to the green bin which would amount to approximately 11% of current black bin waste. This would assist the Council in achieving its performance target of 45% by 2015.

Members were also requested to consider the introduction of a seasonal green bin collection which would suspend the service for 3 months during the winter from 2013. Only 550 tonnes (approx.) of green waste had been collected during the previous winter period, with the cost of collection per tonne being significantly higher than in the summer season. Staffing resources would be redirected to other duties enhancing street cleansing and grounds maintenance.

Moved by Councillor D. Kelly, seconded by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr

RESOLVED that (1) the North Derbyshire Compost Agreement and inclusion of food wastes within organic (green bin) collections be approved.

(2) Green bin collections are suspended between December and February from 2013, and projected organic (green bin) wastes anticipated over that period is included with the Arkwright Agreement.

EXECUTIVE

(3) Staff normally involved in the collection of green bins in future winter periods are deployed in other areas of the street scene activity to enhance those services

(4) Efficiency savings arising from progressive implementation of these proposals is incorporated in the Council's ongoing CSR efficiency saving requirements.

RECOMMENDED that the refuse collection staffing establishment is re-modelled over the medium term (i.e. 24 months) to reflect the seasonal nature of green bin collections; this to be achieved by vacancy management, redeployment, flexible retirement and/or annualised working arrangements, thus mitigating the need for redundancies

REASON FOR DECISION: **Recommendations of the report consider combined efficiency measures which progressively rise to greater than £50,000 savings when delivered along with obtaining approval to enter in to the North Derbyshire Composting Project (Arkwright) Agreement.**

(Director of Neighbourhoods/Council)

609. STREET SCENE SERVICE EFFICIENCY CONSIDERATIONS EXEMPT – PARAGRAPHS 1, 3 AND 4

The Director of Neighbourhoods presented the report to seek Members' approval of a number of efficiencies proposed for the street scene service. A review had been undertaken to identify ways in which performance and standards may be improved, along with consideration of efficiencies that could be achieved.

The frontline staffing complement and performance had been considered to assess how the resources were best distributed. It was proposed that dedicated teams be established for each task that would be allocated to a specific geographic area. The staff would remain multi-skilled but the team structure would enable them to concentrate on high priority core function operations to ensure quality standards.

The Portfolio Holder for the Environment added that this would be a radical change but would produce significant efficiencies. Members asked questions with regard to Shaw Trust to which the Street Scene Manager responded.

EXECUTIVE

Moved by Councillor D. Kelly, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor

RESOLVED that (1) the ongoing work undertaken by the Joint Streetscene Management Team in identifying opportunities to deliver higher performing frontline services and efficiency savings be recognised.

(2) it be noted that mobile street cleaning staff who operate remotely are brought in to Riverside depot direct management arrangements to support street cleansing team structure arrangements.

(3) arising from poor performance of Shaw Trust weed and detritus treatments during 2012 (resulting in 50% certification of payment) the unqualified service value (£22,000 approx.) is allocated to the purchase of 12 No pedestrian rotary mowers and 1 No quad bike with ancillary spraying equipment (£18,500 approx.) with the residual value allocated in establishing a stock of equipment parts to support transport maintenance arrangements.

(4) The contract with Shaw Trust is varied by removing weed and detritus treatments with future arrangements being undertaken by the Council's in-house streetscene team and that £26,000 of the variation value (£44,000) be retained within streetscene services budgets and the residual (£18,000) contribute towards ongoing budget efficiencies.

(5) it be noted that 3No Vehicles (7.5tonne) operated in Bolsover's streetscene (grounds maintenance & street cleansing) will not be replaced at the end of their 7 year lease term when they naturally expire, yielding a then ongoing annual saving of £15,000 (approx.).

(6) it be further noted that ongoing work to progress shared efficiency savings from areas of joint working in the undertaking of rural (domestic household) waste collections and a Joint Skip Service and that these be subject to further reports to the Executive where required.

RECOMMENDED that (1) the Council's Streetscene (grounds maintenance and street cleansing) combined staff establishment is remodelled to resource team structures to meet each service's core disciplines. In undertaking this, some staff will maintain seasonal hours' working arrangements and some will revert to a 52 x 37 hour week working arrangements.

EXECUTIVE

(2) up to 4 seasonal staff be employed to support streetscene (grounds maintenance) arrangements on a 30 week (42 hours) basis between mid-March and mid-October and funded by way of variation of the Shaw Trust contract and vacancy management considerations in not recruiting to an anticipated vacancy arising from sickness capability.

REASON FOR DECISION: **Recommendations of the report consider combined efficiency measures which may arise to greater than £50,000 as and when delivered. A move to employ seasonal staff to support grounds maintenance arrangements and vary some staff's working hours to support street cleaning arrangements to improve operational performance and efficiency is recommended to Council for this purpose.**

(Director of Neighbourhoods/Council)

610. CCTV TENDERS EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Director of Neighbourhoods presented the report to put forward revised options for the provision of CCTV. Members' had previously considered the issue and rejected the proposals due to the costs of installation and monitoring being over the available budget.

Parish and Town Councils had been contacted and asked to consider whether they wished to take part and contribute to the scheme, however only one response had been received in which the particular Parish Council had declined to participate.

The Director of Neighbourhoods drew Members' attention to the three proposed options outlined in the report. Members discussed the options at considerable length and asked questions, to which the Director of Neighbourhoods responded.

Members requested that the Director of Neighbourhoods contact the Parish Councils detailed in the report to request a contribution to the scheme. Options 2 and 3 would be deferred for further consideration to brought back to a future meeting of Executive.

It was moved by Councillor B.R. Murray-Carr, seconded by Councillor A.M. Syrett

EXECUTIVE

that (1) Option 1 is approved to improve the security arrangements at Riverside Depot. The capital costs of £23,350 will be financed from equal revenue contributions from the HRA and General Fund in 2012/13. The ongoing revenue costs are met from the Riverside Depot budget in 2012/13 and appropriate provision is made in the budgets of the depot to meet the 2013/14 full year cost.

(2) Option 2 is approved at a capital cost of £26,132 which can be financed from grant and contribution money available to the Council. The revenue costs will be met from the existing CCTV budget.

(3) Option 3 is approved and a capital approval of £25,968 will be necessary to finance the shortfall of this option. The revenue costs will be contained within the existing CCTV budget.

An amendment was moved by Councillor D. Kelly, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor

that (1) Option 1 is approved to improve the security arrangements at Riverside Depot. The capital costs of £23,350 will be financed from equal revenue contributions from the HRA and General Fund in 2012/13. The ongoing revenue costs are met from the Riverside Depot budget in 2012/13 and appropriate provision is made in the budgets of the depot to meet the 2013/14 full year cost.

(2) Options 2 and 3 be deferred to be explored with the relevant Parish Councils and partners to identify current needs and brought back to Executive for further consideration

Upon being put to the vote the initial motion was lost and the amendment was carried and became the substantive motion.

Moved by Councillor D. Kelly, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor

RESOLVED that: (1) Option 1 is approved to improve the security arrangements at Riverside Depot. The capital costs of £23,350 will be financed from equal revenue contributions from the HRA and General Fund in 2012/13. The ongoing revenue costs are met from the Riverside Depot budget in 2012/13 and appropriate provision is made in the budgets of the depot to meet the 2013/14 full year cost.

(2) Options 2 and 3 be deferred to be explored with the relevant Parish Councils and partners to identify current needs and brought back to Executive for further consideration

REASON FOR DECISION: **To secure CCTV provision within the District.**

(Director of Neighbourhoods)

The Director of Corporate Resources left the meeting.

EXECUTIVE

611. SUPPORTING PEOPLE MONITORING ARRANGEMENTS EXEMPT – PARAGRAPH 3

The Head of Housing advised Members that a meeting had taken place with Derbyshire County Council who had confirmed that the award of the contract to commence the supporting people monitoring arrangements would be delayed for 3 to 6 months from the original timescale. Due to this delay, the procurement of new monitoring equipment would be suspended and the existing equipment would be transferred to the Riverside Depot as an interim measure.

Further meetings would take place with Derbyshire County Council in respect of the revised timescale and updates would be provided to Members as available. Members were requested to support the recommendations outlined in the report which would then be held in abeyance until contracts with Derbyshire County Council had been signed.

In response to Members' concerns over continuation of the current service, the Head of Housing advised that a backup system was available at another Council location.

Moved by Councillor K. Bowman, seconded by Councillor D. McGregor
RESOLVED that (1) the progress made be noted.

(2) the joint procurement of the monitoring equipment as described in the report be approved.

(3) the three Councillors to represent the Council on the proposed Shadow Management Board be the Portfolio Holder for Housing Management, the Portfolio Holder for Social Inclusion and the Chair of the Sustainable Communities Scrutiny Committee

REASON FOR DECISION: **To update Members on the progress of the monitoring contract, to make Members aware of the procurement and to update Members on the proposed management structure.**

(Head of Housing)

The meeting concluded at 1205 hours.

Sherwood Lodge
Bolsover
Derbyshire
S44 6NF

EXECUTIVE

10th December 2012

The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012

Notice of Intention to Conduct Business in Private

Notice is hereby given in accordance with Regulation 5 of the Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012 that the following items are likely to be considered in private:

TENDER – TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION ALTERATION WORKS (OLD SHERWOOD LODGE)

The reason that the above item is likely to be considered in private is that it may involve the disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

TENDER – TRAINING FOR DEPOT STAFF

The reason that the above item is likely to be considered in private is that it may involve the disclosure of information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information).

The Council has received no representations requesting that these items be considered in public.



W. Lumley BSc, FCCA,
Chief Executive Officer
30th November 2012