

SCRUTINY UPDATE

Scrutiny Recommendation and Executive Decision	Target Implementation Date	Who Responsible	Implemented?	Service or Performance Improvement Measurable outcomes
		(who and what)	Yes/No*	<i>This must be completed</i>
<p>Recommendation One That the Executive gives specific consideration as to whether there is a need for an anti-poverty strategy for the Borough. <i>(Agreed)</i></p>	A draft Income Maximisation Strategy is scheduled to be circulated for consultation by April 2007; final draft to be published by late Spring 2007.	The Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance, Partnerships & Communications) is now acting as the CEMB lead. The strategy is being developed within the Adult, Culture & Community Services Directorate.	Yes – recommendations for a way forward agreed by the Executive on 21 November 2006.	Targeted outcomes to be agreed as the income maximisation strategy and anti-poverty strategic framework are developed.
<p>Recommendation Two That action to improve benefit take-up be made a specific priority by the Council and that the Haringey Strategic Partnership be requested to give consideration to making this an explicit objective within the Borough's Community Strategy. <i>(Partially Agreed)</i> <i>Executive Decision: action to improve benefit take up should form the basis of a Borough-wide Anti Poverty Strategy as in the response to Recommendation 1 above</i></p>	New Sustainable Community Strategy scheduled for publication in April 2007.	Responsibility of the Haringey Strategic Partnership.	Provisionally adopted as partnership priorities as detailed.	There is an objective in the draft Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-2016: "Target anti-poverty, debt reduction and social inclusion initiatives on those who need it"
	LAA agreed in principle in February 2007.	The 'Healthier Communities and Older People' block of Haringey's Local Area Agreement (LAA) will be the responsibility of the Well-being Partnership Board.		Specific outcome in the second draft of the LAA: "Increase the average annual income of deprived groups by increasing the uptake of Council Tax and Housing Benefit amongst eligible individuals".
	See Recommendation 1 re the suggested anti-poverty strategy.			

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<p>Recommendation Three That a specific publicity campaign be mounted to counter stigmatisation of people claiming benefit entitlements through encouraging residents that “it’s okay to claim”. <i>(Partially Agreed)</i> <i>Executive Decision: any publicity campaign should offer a range of inducements as well as countering the barriers to take up including stigma</i></p>	<p>Implemented in March 2006</p>	<p>Benefits & Local Taxation</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>1,000 leaflets and claim packs were distributed. 15 benefit claims were assessed as eligible by Council staff during the week. The actual number of eligible benefit claims made in due course as a result of the campaign is likely to have been significantly higher. There were a number of learning points from the campaign which will inform any future campaigns to make them even more successful.</p>
<p>Recommendation Four That a strategic and co-ordinated approach to benefit take-up be developed by the Council and its partners and this specifically addresses:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The initiation of effective take-up initiatives and campaigns • The provision of relevant information • The setting of appropriate targets for increasing take-up • Ensuring that there is sufficient advice capacity to back up take-up campaigns • Improved joint working and reducing duplication • Provision of a seamless service to clients <p><i>(Agreed)</i></p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>	<p>To be implemented by April 2007</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>

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<p>Recommendation Five That a specific Council officer is given corporate responsibility for leading on income maximisation and benefit take-up and working to develop joint working with the Council's partners. <i>(Agreed)</i> <i>Executive Decision: Director of Social Services to be given the role</i></p>	<p>Implemented in November 2005</p>	<p>Director of Social Services was the corporate lead. Following Anne Bristow's departure the Assistant Chief Executive (Policy, Performance, Partnerships & Communications) is now acting as the CEMB lead.</p>	<p>Yes</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>
<p>Recommendation Six That the Haringey Community Legal Services Partnership (CLSP) give specific consideration to the issue of advice capacity and re-visit its needs analysis for the Borough in order to ensure that the current local needs can be assessed accurately. <i>(Agreed in principle)</i></p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>	<p>Responsibility to be assigned when income maximisation strategy completed (by April 2007)</p>	<p>An independent Review of Advice Funding (March 2006) found that the Haringey CLSP does not appear to be well equipped to undertake this kind of strategic exercise, and that an intention to do so is unclear. This Review recommended that Haringey Council should consider establishing a strategic planning and commissioning body and engage relevant partners in a joint strategy. Ensuring that such an exercise takes place will therefore be within the scope of the income maximisation strategy under development (see Recommendation 1).</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>

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<p>Recommendation Seven That consideration is given to appropriate Council advice-providing services taking action to obtain the Legal Services Commission Quality Mark (LSCQM). (Agreed)</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1 (this will be within the scope of the income maximisation strategy)</p>	<p>Responsibility to be assigned when draft income maximisation strategy completed (by late Spring 2007)</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1. Additionally the Review of Advice Funding expressed concerns about the quality of some advice being provided by voluntary sector organisations. This is also to be addressed in the income maximisation strategy.</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>
<p>Recommendation Eight That the Head of Legal Services is requested to review the arrangements for providing advice to services on the interpretation of the Data Protection Act 1998 in order to ensure that advice takes fully into consideration other legislation that may impact upon it. (Agreed)</p>	<p>Implemented in December 2005</p>	<p>The first port of call for issues relating to the Data Protection Act 2006 is the Data Protection Manager. Specific advice from Legal Services is required from time to time in order to deal with situations where legislation provides an express pathway for the consideration of data sharing in certain circumstances. This position is one which is commonly understood by both Legal Services and the Data Protection Manager.</p>	<p>Yes – report prepared by Legal Services and shared with the IT Service in December 2005.</p>	<p>The IT Service and Legal Services have co-operated in a practical way in advising on specific data sharing issues as they have arisen.</p>

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<p>Recommendation Nine That consideration is given to extending the use of regeneration monies, such as NRF funding, to finance benefit take-up initiatives and the provision of benefit advice services to support them. <i>(Agreed in principle)</i> <i>Executive Decision: Further investigation will need to be undertaken to establish the qualifying conditions as different funding streams do have different conditions and "strings" attached. The Neighbourhood Renewal Fund guidance is generally more flexible and as the Scrutiny Review itself established there are currently projects and initiatives funded through the NRF that include elements of benefit advice provision. A report is currently being prepared for the Executive on the process for developing the NRF programme for 2006/7 and beyond. At this stage it is not appropriate to prejudge the outcome of this process in terms of the initiatives to be funded.</i></p>	<p>March 2007 (the date by which NRF money for 2006/07 is required to have been fully spent)</p>	<p>Well-being Partnership Board is responsible for commissioning and review of NRF-funded benefit take-up projects as detailed in following columns.</p> <p>Specific projects targeting benefit take-up are being managed by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the Council's Neighbourhood Management Service • the Black & Minority Ethnic Carers Support Service • Age Concern Haringey 	<p>Increasing household income by £10 per week has been agreed by the Well-being Partnership Board as one of its four commissioning themes, for the NRF's target Super Output Areas of Noel Park, Bruce Grove and Northumberland Park. Several NRF-funded projects have been agreed within this theme which specifically target benefit take-up.</p>	<p>Increasing household income by £10 per week in Noel Park, Bruce Grove and Northumberland Park.</p> <p>Individual projects will be required to demonstrate measurable outputs for continuation funding to be agreed.</p>
<p>Recommendation Ten That the Council undertake a take-up campaign to encourage its workforce to claim their entitlements and, in particular Tax Credits and that consideration is given to applying for appropriate Inland Revenue funding to assist with financing this. <i>(Agreed)</i></p>	<p>March 2007</p>	<p>Head of Personnel</p>	<p>The Council is using its own funds to provide a variety of means of encouraging its workforce to take up benefits they are entitled to and in the new year our communications campaign will include articles in the staff newsletter and on HariNet, and a message in pay slips.</p>	<p>To be agreed following benchmarking.</p>

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<p>Recommendation Eleven That consideration is given by the Council to collaborating with other local employers/partners such as the Primary Care Trust on benefit take-up initiatives. <i>(Agreed)</i></p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>	<p>This is within the scope of the income maximisation strategy – see Recommendation 1.</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>
<p>Recommendation Twelve That the Council works together with the relevant partners to develop a strategic response to the Link-Age document, and in particular proposals for the delivery of seamless, integrated and holistic services to promote benefit take-up for older people. <i>(Agreed in principle)</i></p>	<p>From June 2007 (following from implementation of Recommendation 13 below)</p>	<p>Assistant Director Strategic Services – Adult, Culture & Community Services</p>	<p>Taking forward the full Link-Age agenda will cascade from the enhanced Council/DWP joint working currently being considered as per the update on Recommendation 13 below.</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>
	<p>Additionally regard will be given to the Link-Age document in collaboration with partners during the development of the income maximisation strategy – see Recommendation 1.</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1.</p>	<p><i>Experience Counts</i>, Haringey’s strategy for older people, was produced with regard to <i>Opportunity Age</i>, the follow-up to the Link-Age document. <i>Experience Counts</i> has a specific objective “to provide comprehensive advice on the full range of benefits and entitlements and increase take-up of these”, with a number of actions. This has formed an initial strategic response in this area which will be progressed by the Income Maximisation Strategy and enhanced joint working with the DWP as above.</p>	

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<p>Recommendation Thirteen That, as an integral part of this process, full consideration is given as to whether the setting up of a joint team in Haringey would be of benefit to residents. <i>Executive Decision: Keep under review</i></p>	<p>Recommendation on way forward due to be made by officers to Executive Member for Social Services & Health by June 2007.</p>	<p>Assistant Director Strategic Services – Adult, Culture & Community Services</p>	<p>Discussions are at an advanced stage regarding possible models for enhanced joint working with the DWP – some models may offer many of the same benefits without requiring a fully fledged “joint team” with new management structures.</p>	<p>Specific outcomes to be defined as approach is confirmed and the agenda develops.</p>
<p>Recommendation Fourteen That a specific Council officer be given overall responsibility for leading on this issue, developing a corporate approach and initiating detailed discussions on behalf of the Council with the Pension Service on the options available. <i>(Agreed)</i> <i>Executive Decision: Director of Social Services to be given the role as with Recommendation 5</i></p>	<p>Within scope of income maximisation strategy project to discuss the issue – see Recommendation 1.</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 5.</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>	<p>As for Recommendation 1</p>