

Decision Number: 23(2013/14)

Portfolio Holder Executive Decision Statement

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

The Decision:

To use £50,000 from the Housing Benefit Subsidy Reserve to address pressures on the Benefits Service.

Date the decision was made: 21/10/13

Reason for Decision (please set out in full)

The number of communications with Benefits customers within the partnership continues to grow. There were 167,000 in 2011/12, 212,000 in 2012/13 and already 124,000 in the first six months of 2013/14.

Both partners contributed an additional £100,000 each in 2012/13 which has helped performance improve significantly. The time to process new claims has improved from 59 days in June 2012 to 26 days in August 2013. The need for further funding will be reviewed later in the year.

Details of any alternative options considered and rejected by the Member when making the Decision:

None

Local Member (s), other Portfolio Holders and/or Directors/Heads of Service Consulted:

Chief Finance Officer

Head of Revenues and Benefits

Head of Finance

Details of any conflicts of interest

a) declared by any executive member who is consulted by the Decision Taker

None

b) and any details of dispensations granted by the Chief Executive in respect of any declared conflict

None

Decision taken by:

Portfolio Holder for Finance and Resources

Signed by Portfolio Holder

Record made by:

Charlie Shacklock

Date of record:

22.10.13.