

**PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL****Strategic Policy & Resources Committee****12 June 2013****Welfare Reform Update – Audit Scotland Report May 2013****Report by Executive Director (Housing and Community Care)****PURPOSE OF REPORT**

The purpose of this report is to advise Committee of the Audit Scotland Welfare Reform Update report, and highlight the relevant actions Perth and Kinross Council have taken and continue to progress with regards to the Welfare Reform changes.

**1. BACKGROUND / MAIN ISSUES****Audit Scotland Report**

- 1.1 Audit Scotland published a 'Welfare Reform Update' report in May 2013, specifically on Scottish councils' preparedness for the changes (Appendix 1).
- 1.2 The report also summarised the likely impact on the local economy of each council by 2014/15. This was taken from the report by the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University, commissioned by the Scottish Parliament and published in April 2013.
- 1.3 The estimated loss per annum on the economy of Perth and Kinross, by 2014/15, is £36,000,000; excluding the effect of changing annual upgrading from the Retail Price Index (RPI) to the Consumer Price Index (CPI).
- 1.4 Welfare Reform remains a complex agenda with cross cutting implications for the Council, it's partners and the wider community.
- 1.5 The sections below highlight relevant actions Perth and Kinross Council have taken structured around the sections within the 'Welfare Reform Update' report.

**Significance of Welfare Reform and Working with Others**

- 1.6 Perth and Kinross Council (PKC) always recognised the significance of Welfare Reform; with a number of reports being considered by the Executive Officer Team since early 2011.

- 1.7 The Executive Officer Team established a Welfare Reform Steering Group, with representatives from:

Perth and Kinross Association of Voluntary Service Ltd  
Perth Citizens Advice Bureau  
Department of Work and Pensions (DWP)  
Hillcrest Housing Association  
Fairfield Housing Association  
Caledonia Housing Association  
Education and Children's Services (ECS)  
The Environment Services (TES)  
Housing and Community Care (HCC)  
Chief Executives Service

- 1.8 Briefings by the President of the Institute of Revenues Rating and Valuation were organised for this Group and Perth and Kinross Council elected members.

- 1.9 Digital by Default is a DWP aspiration where the norm in future will be for 80% of claims to be online by 2017. PKC has attempted to support this agenda and has now made the Housing Benefit and Council Tax Reduction claim form available on the Council's website.

- 1.10 PKC has also responded to consultations as required, including:

Scottish Passported Benefits: Consultation on Changes Required as a Result of the Introduction of Universal Credit and Personal Independence Payments (Report No 12/377 at the Executive Sub-Committee of the Housing & Health Committee on 5 September 2012).

- 1.11 In addition, planning at all levels for these changes has continued throughout. Significant work has been undertaken with COSLA, Scottish Government and other organisations.

### **Planning and Implementation**

- 1.12 The UK Government's Welfare Reform agenda has introduced a significant number of changes to the welfare system and Perth and Kinross Council has successfully planned for and implemented all of these timeously and effectively. The more recent key changes are noted below:

- The new Council Tax Reduction Scheme, which replaced Council Tax Benefit, was successfully introduced within Perth and Kinross from 1 April 2013, as required (Special Council Meeting Report No 13/53 on 14 February 2013).
- Similarly, the Scottish Welfare Fund, which replaces Crisis Loans and Community Care Grants (which were previously provided by the DWP), was also successfully launched on 1 April 2013 (Report No 13/252 to Housing and Health Committee on 29 May 2013).

- Changes to Size Criteria in the Social Rented Sector (Report No 13/255) and Discretionary Housing Payments (Report No 13/255) also went to Housing and Health Committee on 29 May 2013.
- 1.13 The volume of work to implement these and other changes has been substantial.
- 1.14 The Revenue Budget for 2013/14 and the provisional Revenue Budget for 2014/15 include amounts in relation to the impact of Welfare Reform. It is anticipated that the demands on the Council will continue to increase, in particular, in respect of the Revenues and Benefits Service; Housing; Community Care and Education and Children's Services as well as putting pressure on incomes streams.

Specific examples of additional funding provided include:

£100,000 for the Citizen's Advice Bureau to deliver Money Advice  
 £50,000 for Welfare Reform programme  
 £64,000 for Youth Homelessness  
 £15,000 for Family Mediation

- 1.15 Additionally, PKC has provided £1500 to assist Perth Action of Churches Together (PACT) to progress the establishment of a Food Bank. A report will be brought to the Housing & Health Committee on the 14 August 2013.

### **Communication**

- 1.16 A communications strategy was prepared and approved in order to raise awareness with all stakeholders and to ensure that the people in our communities were as prepared as possible for the welfare reform changes. This involved the up skilling of frontline staff and the development of online resources to ensure quality advice and information at the first points of contacts. This included the following:
- A series of animated publicity materials
  - Awareness sessions commenced in 2011 (to date over 80 sessions to around 1100 colleagues both internally and externally)
  - Awareness sessions for member of the public
  - Presentations to all Head Teachers and Deputies, Early Years Team, Communities Equalities Access Group, Youth Justice Teams, landlords
  - Phone calls, letters and visits to households affected by changes
  - Leaflets and Information Posters
  - Welfare Rights have trained Benefit Champions (5 day course) from:
    - Benefits
    - Homeless
    - Finance
    - Autism Scotland
    - HCC; TES

- ECS (including Head Teachers)
- Registered Social Landlords
- Third Sector Agencies
- Launch of Welfare Rights Hub
- February 2013 : Welfare Reform Awareness Raising Campaign:
  - Welfare Reform Street imagery used on all publicity
  - Welfare Rights Team surveyed 109 members of public (pre-campaign). To be measured again at a later date.
  - Posters on buses, bus shelters, refuse lorries, in all schools and GP surgeries
  - Plasma Screens
  - PKC log-in message
  - Radio advert on Heartland FM

## **2. PROPOSALS**

- 2.1 Note the significant progress PKC has made in preparing for and implementing the various Welfare Reform changes.
- 2.2 Note the potential implications to the economy of Perth and Kinross.
- 2.3 Approve the continued strategy of the Welfare Reform Steering Group in taking a partnership approach to planning for and mitigating the impact of these changes on the communities of Perth and Kinross.
- 2.4 Approve that officers continue to work with COSLA, the Scottish Government, the DWP and professional organisations as appropriate on Welfare Reform issues.

## **3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 Westminster's Emergency Budget (July 2010) and Comprehensive Spending Review (October 2010) introduced the on-going Welfare Reform Agenda. A host of changes were introduced; the most radical reform in 60 years.
  - Perth & Kinross Council has taken a pro-active approach; ensuring we are up to date with the latest information.
  - Each change to date has been implemented effectively and timeously.
  - Work and planning is on-going in relation to delivering on future changes.
  - A joined-up approach has been taken to deal with challenges and finding solutions; we continue to build on opportunities to enhance partnership working.

- Perth and Kinross Council continue to identify early intervention and prevention measures to help mitigate/minimise the impact on our Communities and Services.

### 3.2 It is recommended that:-

- Reports continue to be taken to the Housing and Health Committee on Welfare Reform changes as appropriate.
- Committee homologate the decisions of the Executive Director (Housing and Community Care) to provide £1500 to PACT to progress the establishment of a Food Bank.

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#### Approved

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Date 4 June 2013		

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Council Text Phone Number 01738 442573

## 1. IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION

<b>Strategic Implications</b>	<b>Yes / None</b>
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	None
Corporate Plan	Yes
<b>Resource Implications</b>	
Financial	Yes
Workforce	Yes
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	None
<b>Assessments</b>	
Equality Impact Assessment	Yes
Strategic Environmental Assessment	None
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	None
Legal and Governance	Yes
Risk	Yes
<b>Consultation</b>	
Internal	Yes
External	Yes
<b>Communication</b>	
Communications Plan	Yes

### 1. Strategic Implications

#### Corporate Plan

1.1 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 lays out five outcome focussed strategic objectives which provide clear strategic direction, inform decisions at both a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. They are as follows:

- Giving every child the best start in life;
- Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens;
- Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy;
- Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives; and
- Creating a safe and sustainable place for future generations.

1.2 This report relates to all of these objectives.

### 2. Resource Implications

#### Financial

2.1 The financial pressures of the UK Government's Welfare Reform agenda has been estimated and provisions have been made and reported. This area is reviewed on an ongoing basis.

#### Workforce

2.2 Ongoing communication is taking place with Scottish Government and COSLA

regarding issues which may impact on the existing workforce.

### **3. Assessments**

#### Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 Under the Equality Act 2010, the Council is required to eliminate discrimination, advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations between equality groups. Carrying out Equality Impact Assessments for plans and policies allows the Council to demonstrate that it is meeting these duties.

3.2 The information contained within this report has been considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) and has been assessed as not relevant for the purposes of (EqIA).

#### Legal and Governance

- 3.3 This Council is implementing and administering each change in accordance with relevant legislation and/or agreed national guidance for Scotland.

#### Risk

- 3.4 Many of the changes brought about by the UK Government's Welfare Reform agenda introduce risk and these are being monitored on an ongoing basis at both Corporate and Service level. The risks associated with the introduction of many of these changes are also being monitored at a national level in Scotland.

### **4. Consultation**

#### Internal

- 4.1 Internal consultation was undertaken with all relevant stakeholders (i.e. Finance, Legal) and this was done as part of the awareness raising strategy in respect of Welfare Reform.

#### External

- 4.2 External consultation was undertaken with COSLA, Scottish Government, other Scottish local authorities and stakeholders (where appropriate) in relation to the implementation of many of the changes.

### **5. Communication**

- 5.1 Information relating to Welfare Reform changes has been cascaded to all relevant stakeholders (both internal and external) on an ongoing basis. The methods of communication include briefing sessions for elected members and

other interested parties (e.g. front-line staff, third Sector, DWP, public), updates on the web-site and other literature. In February 2013 the Welfare Reform Awareness Raising Campaign was launched and this included radio adverts, posters on buses, bus shelters, refuse lorries, etc. Individual households have all been directly contacted where they are affected by any change.

## **6. BACKGROUND PAPERS**

No background papers , as defined by SECTION 50D of the Local Government (Scotland) Act 1973 were relied upon to a material extent in preparing this report.



# Welfare Reform Update



Prepared for the Accounts Commission  
May 2013



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Audit Scotland is a statutory body set up in April 2000 under the Public Finance and Accountability (Scotland) Act 2000. It provides services to the Auditor General for Scotland and the Accounts Commission. Together they ensure that the Scottish Government and public sector bodies in Scotland are held to account for the proper, efficient and effective use of public funds.

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# Purpose

1. The purpose of this report is to provide the Accounts Commission with a further update on the welfare reform agenda and specifically on Scottish councils' preparedness for the upcoming changes. This includes:
  - details of the significance placed by councils on welfare reform
  - what plans are in place to implement and manage the changes including details of issues affecting the ability of councils to plan effectively
  - how the welfare reform changes are being communicated to customers and the councils' key internal and external stakeholders, and;
  - information on the likely impact on the local economy by 2014/15.

# Background

2. The UK Government's Emergency Budget in June 2010 and the October 2010 Comprehensive Spending Review introduced a number of welfare reforms that were expected to save around £18 billion per annum by 2014. The Scottish Government (SG) previously estimated that these welfare reforms may take £2.5 billion out of the Scottish economy. However, a recent report commissioned by the Scottish Parliament in April 2013 has revised this figure to £1.6 billion excluding the effect of changing annual uprating from the Retail Price Index (RPI) to the Consumer Price Index (CPI), or £2 billion including RPI to CPI.
3. The Welfare Reform Act received Royal Assent on 8 March 2012. The Act aims to improve work incentives, simplify the benefits system and to deliver planned savings. This is the biggest reform of the UK welfare system for 60 years, promises to affect millions of households, and will result in a number of significant changes to the way councils deliver services.
4. The Scottish Parliament has responded to welfare reform by setting up a special Welfare Reform Committee which has taken the lead role in scrutinising draft legislation required to ensure that passported benefits such as free school meals will still be available in Scotland once Universal Credit (UC) is implemented. The Committee has also undertaken work on the impact of welfare reform and led a debate in the full Scottish Parliament on 23rd April 2013.
5. Following discussion with the Accounts Commission in late 2012, Audit Scotland issued a questionnaire to the Chief Executives of all 32 Scottish councils in January 2013. This questionnaire was designed to gather councils' views on the significance of welfare reform, and their preparedness for the upcoming changes.
6. For the purpose of this report, welfare reform includes all changes to the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) benefits, the Council Tax Reduction Scheme (CTRS), Tax Credits, and the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF). However, the financial impact of the CTRS has yet to be

passed on to local authorities and claimants. The 10% cut in the value of Westminster funding for council tax benefit payments equates to approximately £40 million in 2013-2014 and is being funded jointly by the SG and from councils' other resources.

7. The questionnaire asked Chief Executives for their response to ten questions based around the following four headings:
  - Significance of welfare reform
  - Planning
  - Communication
  - Working with others.
8. All 32 questionnaires were returned to Audit Scotland by 31 March 2013 and the responses were analysed. The results of this analysis are provided below.

# Summary

9. The responses to Audit Scotland's questionnaire clearly showed that all 32 Scottish councils had already carried out a significant amount of work to plan for and mitigate against the impact of the changes arising from the welfare reform agenda. In summary we found that:
  - all councils recognised welfare reform as a risk
  - all councils had information on the financial impact of welfare reform, and some had already carried out detailed financial analysis of the impact in respect of each of the welfare reform changes
  - all councils had established a working group or similar structure to work in partnership with key internal and external stakeholders to manage the implementation of the welfare reform changes
  - all councils recognised that despite the information already received from the DWP, there remained major uncertainties which made it difficult to plan effectively for the upcoming changes. In particular, the lack of information from the DWP in respect of the migration timeline from housing benefit (HB) to UC, and the level of support councils would be expected to provide to customers going forward were cited as major uncertainties
  - all councils are acutely aware of the need to communicate the welfare reform changes, and are using a variety of methods to communicate with benefit recipients, landlords, and external stakeholders, including community planning partners and representatives from third sector agencies.
  - all councils have been engaging at varying levels with the Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA), the SG, and the DWP on welfare reform issues.
10. It is clear from the responses to Audit Scotland's questionnaire that Scottish councils are placing due importance on the significance of the welfare reform agenda, taking appropriate action to ensure that customers and key stakeholders are involved in all stages of the process,

and where possible, actions are being taken to address the risks posed by the implementation of welfare reform.

# Welfare reform changes

## Significance of welfare reform

**Is welfare reform on the council's risk register either at a corporate or departmental level and if so, how significant does the council consider the risk?**

11. Twenty nine of the thirty two councils (91%) reported that welfare reform was on a corporate or departmental risk register. Of the three councils that did not have welfare reform on either a corporate or departmental risk register, Dumfries and Galloway Council stated that it had been highlighted as an area to add for the forthcoming year, Falkirk Council reported that it was in the process of adding it to its corporate and service risk registers, and North Lanarkshire Council advised that its risk registers were currently being reviewed and that welfare reform was a significant risk that was being evaluated as part of that process.
12. In terms of the significance of the risk, councils differed in their assessment and use of terminology when describing the risk. Figure 1 below details the responses.

**Figure 1: Assessment of the risk of the changes arising from the welfare reform agenda**

Description of risk	Number of responses
Major	4
Very high	1
High	7
Top risk	2
Significant	9
Red	1
Medium	6
Not stated	2

*Audit Scotland and Scottish councils*

13. Where the risk has been recorded as 'not stated', this is because the council's response was not explicit about the level of risk it had attributed to the welfare reform changes. It is clear from the responses that the welfare reform changes are considered to be a significant risk to the majority of councils and that this risk is recorded in either a corporate or departmental risk register.

**Does the council have any information on the financial impact of welfare reform on its area?**

14. All thirty two councils reported that they had information on the financial impact of welfare reform in respect of their area. Twenty nine councils (91%) provided detailed information with the remaining three councils indicating that work had been carried out although no financial information was provided.
15. It is clear from the responses that most councils have carried out a significant amount of detailed work to estimate the impact of the welfare reform changes in respect of revenue streams, customer's income, relationships with key stakeholders, and on the local economy.
16. The effects of the welfare reform changes are causing councils great concern in terms of the reduced benefit payable to customers, the subsequent increase in the amount of rent to be collected, and consequently an increase in the value of rent arrears. For example:
  - North Ayrshire Council reported that in respect of the accommodation size criteria, 2,650 tenants would be affected resulting in an estimated reduction in benefit of approximately £1.2 million per year, and an increase in rent arrears of approximately £446,000. Using these figures, the council estimated that it would take nine years to downsize all affected tenants based on current turnover rates
  - Scottish Borders Council reported that the change from the Disability Living Allowance (DLA) to the Personal Independent Payment (PIP) would impact on approximately 5,450 of its customers and result in an estimated loss of £4 million of benefits payable to these customers
  - based on tenants potential behaviour, Fife Council estimated that the loss in benefits to council tenants of approximately £5.5 million per annum would result in a potential annual rent loss of £2.2 million.
17. In October 2012, the Scottish Parliament commissioned the Centre for Regional Economic and Social Research at Sheffield Hallam University to produce a report on the impact of welfare reform in Scotland. This report was published in April 2013 and estimated that the welfare reforms will take out £1.6 billion from the Scottish economy by 2014/15, which equates to approximately £480 per year for every adult of working age.
18. Appendix A shows the estimated annual losses identified by the research for each council.

## Planning

**How is the council planning for welfare reform?**

19. All thirty two councils have established a working group or similar to plan for the changes arising from the welfare reform agenda with many working in partnership with key internal and external stakeholders. These include representatives from:
  - DWP
  - Housing
  - Community Education

- Employability and Money Advice services
- National Health Service
- Police.

### How is the council structuring its response?

20. All thirty two councils provided a response to this question, with nearly all reporting that they have established some form of partnership working to ensure a cohesive approach to delivering the changes arising from the welfare reform agenda. For example, twenty seven councils (84%) reported the formation of a welfare reform working group, with four specifically stating that this group was a cross-service working group. Of the five councils that had not explicitly specified a working group structure:

- Aberdeen City Council have established a programme board led by the Director of Social Care and Wellbeing and supported by a programme management office to mitigate against the adverse effects and risks of welfare reform
- Falkirk Council advised that a number of work streams had been developed
- Renfrewshire Council have established a corporate welfare reform programme under the stewardship of the corporate management team reporting to the leadership board
- West Dunbartonshire Council have established a governance structure to manage its welfare reform work streams
- Inverclyde Council have setup a project board chaired by the Chief Financial Officer which oversees the operational implementation of welfare reform supported by regular reports to the corporate management team and members.

21. It was also noted that Aberdeenshire Council has appointed three project officers to work in a collaborative cross service way to avoid duplication of effort, while the Highland Council had invested £300,000 for additional in-house posts in Housing, Money Advice and Income Maximisation services. This investment included £100,000 for the Citizens Advice Bureau.

### What is considered to be the major remaining uncertainties that would affect the ability to plan effectively for the changes?

22. All thirty two councils responded to this question with a variety of differing views on the uncertainties which could affect the council's ability to plan effectively. Figure 2 below details some of these responses.

**Figure 2: Issues affecting council's ability to plan effectively**

Unknown level of need for the SWF

Lack of information on the rollout and migration to UC

Interim nature of the CTRS

The CTRS process for second tier appeals



**Figure 2: Issues affecting council's ability to plan effectively**

Lack of clarity in respect of progress towards the Single Fraud Investigation Service (SFIS)
Lack of information on the level of support councils are expected to provide in respect of UC and on the level of funding that would be provided
Unknown impact on the councils discretionary housing payments (DHP) budget and other services
Lack of information in respect of the introduction of the PIP

*Audit Scotland and Scottish councils*

## Communication

### How are the welfare reform changes being communicated to benefit recipients?

23. All thirty two councils provided a response to this question and it is clear from the responses that councils are acutely aware of the need to communicate with benefits recipients. In order to ensure that customers are aware of the changes, a variety of different approaches have been used. Figure 3 below details the different ways in which councils have contacted customers to provide advice and guidance on the welfare reform changes.

**Figure 3: Communication methods**

Description	Number of responses
Information leaflets/posters	22
Letters issued to customers	21
Home visits	18
Council website	17
Local press and media	14
Information events/seminars	8
Use of social media	7
Telephone calls	4
Benefits surgeries	3
Texts	1

*Audit Scotland and Scottish councils*

24. Although most councils followed a standard approach to communicating with customers by using leaflets/posters, letters, or a visit, Dundee City Council has developed innovative ways of making sure customers and staff were aware of the changes arising from the welfare reform agenda. This included:

- developing an e-learning module and placing it on the council website for staff and customers to access
- using SG funding to pilot a welfare reform 'health check' in frontline offices from March 2013. Staff ask customers a series of questions and the responses generate a welfare reform action plan outlining the potential impact on the customer, and providing information on where to get further advice and support.

**How are the welfare reform changes being communicated to other stakeholders such as private landlords, housing associations and third sector agencies?**

25. All thirty two councils provided a response to this question. In general most councils have been very proactive in respect of ensuring that private landlords, housing associations, and third sector agencies are involved in the process of preparing for welfare reform and a number of different communication channels were being used to good effect. These included:
- providing presentations to local forums. For example:
    - strategic housing forum
    - tenants federations
    - private landlord forums
    - homeless intransigency forum
  - welfare reform seminars specifically for stakeholders
  - providing stakeholders with dedicated welfare reform training and awareness sessions
  - ensuring regular welfare reform updates are included in private landlord newsletters or discussed at landlord forums.
26. To provide a platform for collaborative working, in some cases, representatives from housing associations and third sector agencies have been invited to form part of the council's welfare reform working groups. In addition to the above, Fife Council has established an information helpline, while South Ayrshire Council has developed a welfare reform contacts directory which contains relevant contact details for key council services.

**How are the welfare reform changes communicated to elected members and how have they been involved in the process?**

27. Elected members will play an important role following the implementation of the changes arising from the welfare reform agenda as there is potential for increased contact by constituents adversely affected by the changes.
28. All thirty two councils responded to this question. To ensure that members are in a position to provide advice and guidance to their constituents, all councils have provided members with regular briefings, presentations, reports, or training and awareness on welfare reform. Clackmannanshire Council ensures that members receive copies of all press releases, briefings, publicity and training material as a matter of course, while Dumfries and Galloway, North Ayrshire, North Lanarkshire, Scottish Borders, and South Ayrshire Councils reported that they had developed information packs specifically for members.

29. It is clear that councils place great importance on the need for members to be part of the process of change and that scrutiny is an essential aspect of ensuring that the council delivers the right kind of service to its customers going forward.

## Working with others

### **How has the council included welfare reform in its discussions with community planning partners?**

30. All thirty two councils provided a response to this question. As with the other forms of communicating with key stakeholders, councils reported that contact with community planning partners was an essential part of the process with eight councils reporting that community planning partners were involved in, or had key links with internal welfare reform working groups.
31. Nineteen councils reported that community planning partnerships have received presentations and briefings from council staff, or the DWP on the impact of welfare reform, and in some cases, additional seminars and information events are being planned specifically for community planning partners.
32. East Ayrshire Council has already provided a number of open sessions on welfare reform to a range of staff across its community planning partnership which had been over subscribed. As such, the community planning partnership has identified welfare reform as a key challenge and has recently incorporated this as a risk within its own risk register.
33. The Scottish Borders Council has integrated its welfare reform programme into the local community planning process under the theme of 'Future model of public service delivery'. This theme is managed by a joint delivery team comprising of senior executives from partner organisations and the council's Chief Executive.

### **What involvement has the council had with wider welfare reform groups set up by the Scottish government, COSLA, DWP etc?**

34. All thirty two councils provided a response to this question.
35. Communication and involvement with the SG, COSLA, and the DWP is important if councils are to ensure that the welfare reform changes are implemented and issues arising are managed effectively and efficiently.
36. All councils reported involvement with the SG, COSLA and DWP on welfare reform although the level of involvement differs from council to council. For example:
- Aberdeen City Council has seconded two officers to the DWP to work specifically on welfare reform
  - Clackmannanshire Council's revenues team manager plays a leading role in the IRRV, and is an advisor to COSLA on taxation and benefits
  - elected members from Fife Council participate in COSLA's Executive groups where welfare reform has been widely discussed.

**How has the council engaged with other local agencies such as Jobcentre Plus (JCP) and local charities?**

- 37. All thirty two councils provided a response to this question and it is clear that councils have a close working relationship with JCP managers and staff with 19 councils reporting that officers from JCP form part of their welfare reform working groups.
- 38. East Ayrshire Council reported that it was exploring work options with third sector agencies such as food banks and furniture recyclers, while Clackmannanshire Council held a welfare reform event specifically for third sector agencies which was attended by over 100 people representing over 30 organisations.

# Appendix A: Impact of welfare reform on the Scottish economy by 2014/15

Council	Estimated loss per annum	Loss per working age adult per annum
Aberdeen City	£52,000,000	£330
Aberdeenshire Council	£49,000,000	£300
Angus Council	£30,000,000	£410
Argyll and Bute	£24,000,000	£430
Clackmannanshire	£18,000,000	£550
Dumfries & Galloway	£44,000,000	£480
Dundee City	£58,000,000	£600
East Ayrshire	£43,000,000	£540
East Dunbartonshire	£22,000,000	£340
East Lothian	£27,000,000	£430
East Renfrewshire	£20,000,000	£350
Edinburgh	£135,000,000	£400
Eilean Siar	£6,000,000	£380
Falkirk	£48,000,000	£470
Fife	£113,000,000	£480
Glasgow City Council	£269,000,000	£650
Highland	£60,000,000	£410
Inverclyde	£33,000,000	£630
Midlothian	£25,000,000	£480
Moray	£21,000,000	£360
North Ayrshire	£51,000,000	£580
North Lanarkshire	£123,000,000	£560

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Council	Estimated loss per annum	Loss per working age adult per annum
Orkney Islands	£5,000,000	£350
Perth and Kinross	£36,000,000	£380
Renfrewshire	£60,000,000	£530
Scottish Borders	£29,000,000	£400
Shetland Islands	£4,000,000	£290
South Ayrshire	£35,000,000	£500
South Lanarkshire	£104,000,000	£510
Stirling	£22,000,000	£380
West Dunbartonshire	£36,000,000	£600
West Lothian	£57,000,000	£490
<b>Total</b>	<b>£1,660,000,000</b>	<b>£480</b>

*The Impact of Welfare Reform in Scotland - Sheffield Hallam University*

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