

## 9. CHANGES TO HOUSING BENEFIT

The Council Executive considered a report (copies of which had been circulated) by the Head of Finance and Estates to advise the members of the likely impact on the West Lothian community of the UK Government's changes to Housing Benefit.

The Head of Finance and Estates summarised the benefits that would be affected as a result of the Chancellor of the Exchequer's Comprehensive Spending Review, announced on 20<sup>th</sup> October 2010 from April 2011 onwards. The report plus appendices also detailed the implications for residents in West Lothian.

Additionally the report outlined details of the position with regards to housing benefits from April 2013 onwards when further changes would come into effect.

The report concluded that the changes planned to benefits were extremely wide ranging and would have major implications for West Lothian.

It was recommended that the Council Executive note the content of the report and agrees that further updates on the potential changes and the impact on West Lothian be provided to the Council Executive as required in the period ahead.

### Decision

1. To approve the terms of the report; and
2. Agreed that a report was to be forwarded to the January meeting of the Partnership & Resource PDSP with up-to-date information of the proposed changes to the Housing Benefit system and that it was to include details of how best the information/changes could be explained to West Lothian residents, with consideration being given to it being completed in conjunction with council tax letters.