



## Report to Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee

27 November 2014

**Report of:** Director of Policy, Performance and Communications

**Subject:** Welfare Reform – November 2014 Update

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### Summary:

At the meeting of the Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee in July 2013, members requested that an update on welfare reform issues be provided to Committee Members bi-monthly. This update report for November 2014 presents the most recent data relating to Under-occupancy (Bedroom Tax), Council Tax Support, Benefit Cap and hardship schemes/discretionary payments.

### Type of item:

Reviewing of existing policy	
Informing the development of new policy	
Statutory consultation	
Performance / budget monitoring report	
Cabinet request for scrutiny	
Full Council request for scrutiny	
Community Assembly request for scrutiny	
Call-in of Cabinet decision	
Briefing paper for the Scrutiny Committee	
Other	X

**The Safer and Stronger Communities Scrutiny & Policy Development Committee is asked to note the contents of the update report.**

**Category of Report:** OPEN

# Welfare Reform in Numbers – November 2014

**3997**

Sheffield council tenants are affected by under-occupancy rules ('bedroom tax')\*

**23%**

have paid in full the shortfall in their benefit resulting from under-occupancy without receiving a DHP\*\* payment



up from 21% two months ago

**5%**

have paid nothing towards the shortfall in their benefit resulting from under-occupancy

no change from two months ago

**31,557**

working age tax payers in Sheffield receive council tax support



All of whom must now pay at least 23% of their Council Tax

**14,295**

summonses have been issued to Council Tax Support customers since April 2014 for non payment of Council Tax



**£4.1m**

= value of summonsed debt for Council Tax Support customers during 2014/2015



Average amount of debt = £287\*\*\*

**981**

Local Assistance Scheme grants have been awarded since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

**£357,398**

= value of Council Tax Hardship Scheme awards made since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

**406**

Local Assistance Scheme loans have been awarded since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014

**£858,116**

= value of Discretionary Housing Payment awards made since 1<sup>st</sup> April 2014



**148**

households in Sheffield are subject to the Benefit Cap

=

**736** children



All figures are to 31 October 2014

\*This number has increased by 88 compared to figures at 31/08/14, however this apparent increase is due to a previous error in the reporting of the data on under-occupancy, which has now been rectified

\*\*DHP = Discretionary housing payment

\*\*\* At this stage the full annual outstanding debt is summonsed, not the unpaid debt to that date