

**HOUSING BENEFIT & COUNCIL TAX SUPPORT VERIFICATION PROCESS**

Report of the Corporate Director, Corporate and Support Services and Deputy Chief Executive

**1. INTRODUCTION AND PURPOSE OF REPORT**

- 1.1 The report sets out the current process of dealing with the evidence requirements in support of new claims for Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support via Risk Based Verification.
- 1.2 Due to the reduction in new working age Housing Benefit claims and improved data sharing arrangements, Risk Based Verification software is no longer a cost-effective solution and the current supplier will be withdrawing the service from 30 September 2021. Therefore, a new robust process needs to be adopted for gathering evidence of identity, income, savings and rent from 1 April 2021.

**2. CONCLUSIONS AND RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Audit Committee is asked to approve the revocation of Stockport Council's Risk Based Verification policy with effect from 31 March 2021 and agree the recommended process for gathering evidence in support of Housing Benefit and Council Tax Support claims from 1 April 2021.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There are none.

Anyone wishing to inspect the above background papers or requiring further information should contact Andrea Griffiths on telephone number Tel: 07967 580670 or alternatively email [andrea.griffiths@stockport.gov.uk](mailto:andrea.griffiths@stockport.gov.uk)