

<b>To:</b> HOUSING & TECHNICAL SERVICES COMMITTEE		<b>Subject:</b> PENSION CREDITS
<b>From:</b> DIRECTOR OF HOUSING & PROPERTY SERVICES		
<b>Date:</b> 18 September 2002	<b>Ref:</b> TMCK/PN/JMCE	

### 1. Introduction

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to advise committee of the expected impact on Housing/Council Tax Benefit Administration as a result the introduction of Pension Credits from October 2003.

### 2. Background

- 2.1 Pension Credit will be introduced from October 2003 by the Department for Work and Pensions to :
- (a) Combat poverty – ensuring a minimum guaranteed income of £100 per week for a single pensioner and £154 per week for a pensioner couple;
  - (b) Reward people who have modest savings and significantly increase the number of pensioners who receive additional financial help; and
  - (c) Modernise the delivery of pensions, removing the stigma of income related benefits.

### 3. Impact

- 3.1 Pension Credits will impact on Housing/Council Tax Benefits Administration in the following ways :
- (a) There will be significant increases in local authorities' standard and non standard HB/CTB caseloads, with an expected 10% increase in existing standard HB pensioner caseload and an expected 29% increase in existing standard CTB pensioner caseload;
  - (b) Major software amendments will be required to cope with the changes in legislation;
  - (c) A possibility that additional staffing will be required to cope with the increase in workload; and
  - (d) Amendments will have to be made to the HB/CTB claim form with the possibility that more than one form will be required.

**4. Financial Implications**

- 4.1 The Department for Work and Pensions has pledged additional funding to help with the cost of changes to Housing/Council Tax Benefit Administration arising from Pension Credit. Most of the funding is designed to pay for software amendments and additional staff needed to deal with the increased workloads.

**5. Recommendation**

- 5.1 Committee is asked to note the content of this report.

**6. Access to Information**

- 6.1 Background information is available from the department.



T McKenzie  
**Director of Housing & Property Services**