In Partnership with

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Revenues and Benefits Discussion Group

9 November 2026

Meeting Link



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Meet the panel

(not everyone is available every week)

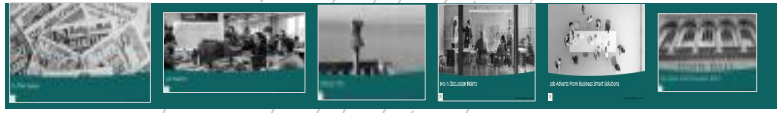
- Naomi Armstrong, Benefits Cambridge City Council
- Laura Bessell, Benefits Manager, Oxford City Council
- Kirsty Brooksmith, London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham
- Tom Clark, Liverpool City Council
- Alex Clegg, Resolution Foundation
- Nicki Duckworth, EntitledTo, Marshalling
- Michael Fisher, St Helens Council
- Robert Fox, Swindon Council
- Malcolm Gardner, Visionary Network
- Paul Howarth, Visionary Network
- Gareth Morgan, Dangos Training & CEO Ferret Information Systems
- Sean O'Sullivan, Visionary Network
- Julie Smethurst, Tameside Council
- Ian Savigar, Reading Council
- Kevin Stewart, Visionary Network
- Rachael Walker, Visionary Network & Better Policy
- Bob Wagstaff, Visionary Network
- Liz Whitehead-Davis, Hexagon Housing

Any comments made by panellists are their own personal views and do not necessarily reflect the positions of their organisations.



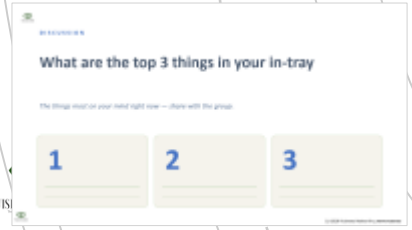


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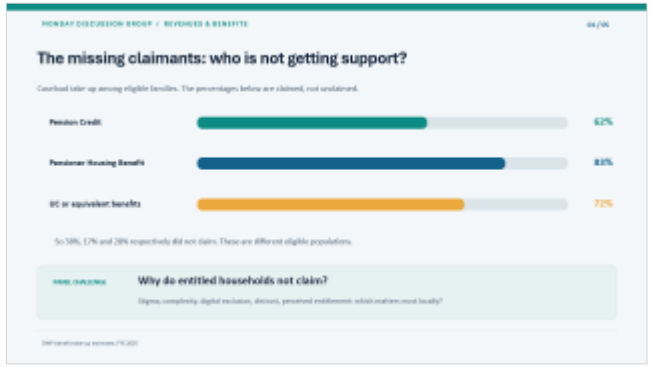


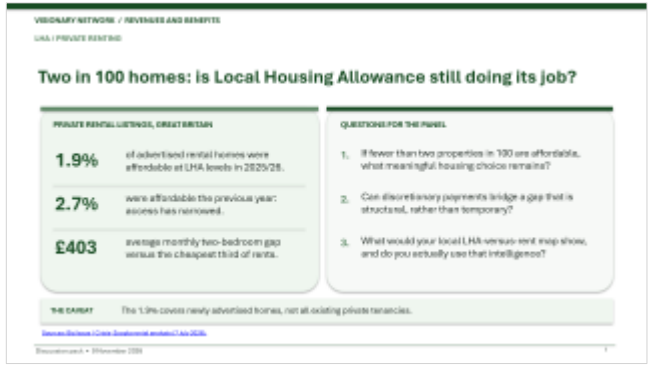
Discussion Points

Top Three Things In Your In-tray



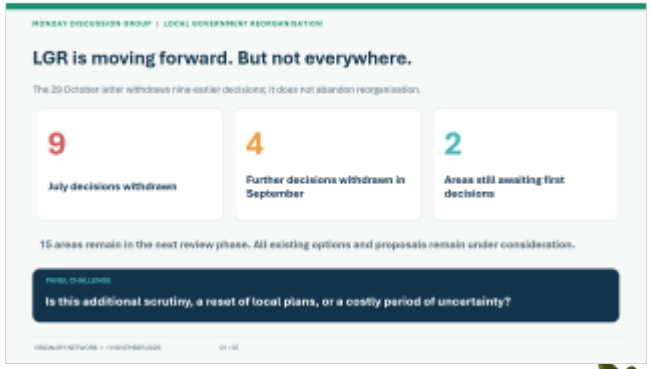
Underclaiming & Affordable Housing





Devolution







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Malcolm Gardner, Visionary Network Director

07946800171
mg@malcolmgardner.com
Book a meeting with Malcolm: Book Time with MG

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Join the discussion

Each Monday lunchtime, a panel of professionals leads a discussion on revenue and benefits administration issues. The panel consists of council & housing officers, policy advisors, and analysts.

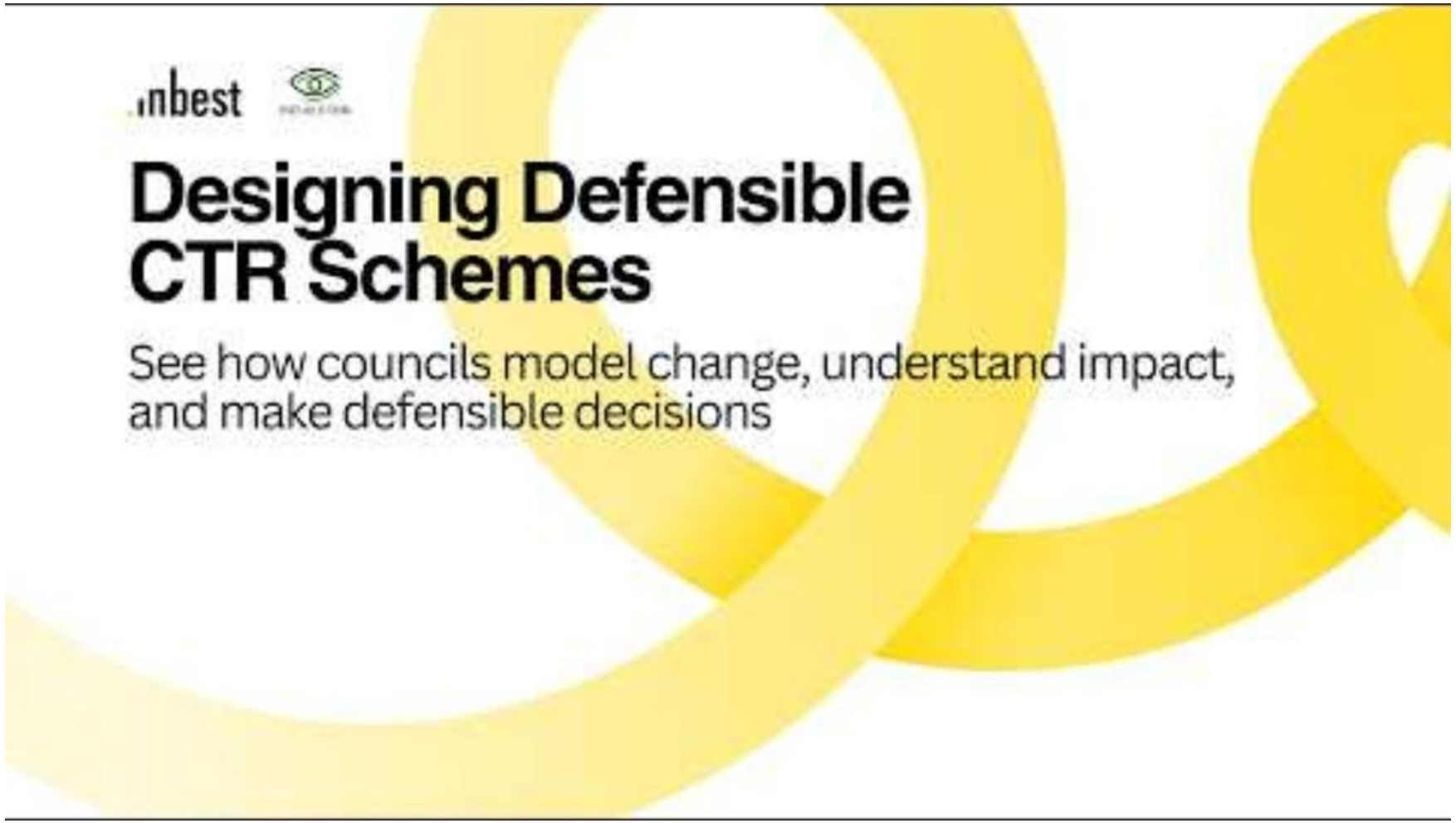
It is a free service that is well attended. Attendees make good contributions; everyone gets a chance to speak. Attendees includes senior managers, team leaders, suppliers, and support staff

You can join in the discussion during the week (and start some new ones) by joining our WhatsApp group: https://bit.ly/3Qjrkqe

Links to the recordings and the slide packs plus other relevant documents will be posted into both the WhatsApp group and in the Teams Channel and emailed to those who attended and subscribers to the group.

To sign up just email Info@visionarynetwork.co.uk with your name, organisation and email address. We are inclusive because sharing information and good practice is essential. You don't have to attend every session; recordings will be available.

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Main Discussion Points

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The missing claimants: who is not getting support?

Caseload take-up among eligible families. The percentages below are claimed, not unclaimed.



So 38%, 17% and 28% respectively did not claim. These are different eligible populations.

PANEL CHALLENGE

Why do entitled households not claim?

Stigma, complexity, digital exclusion, distrust, perceived entitlement: which matters most locally?

DWP benefit take-up estimates, FYE 2025

£16.4bn unclaimed: a gap in household income

Estimated maximum unclaimed amounts by benefit group, 2024/25. Figures are not a UK-wide total of all unclaimed welfare.



Illustrative sum of these three DWP estimates: £16.4bn. Do not add claimant counts: households may overlap.

PANEL CHALLENGE

Is non-take-up a hidden driver of council debt?

What happens to council tax collection, rent arrears and financial resilience when entitled income goes missing?

Work does not automatically end the need for support

UC includes people in work. Into-work rates and sustained earnings tell a more complex story.

7.9%

Monthly into-work rate, Dec 2025

75.3%

Sustained earnings for 3 months

50.5%

Sustained earnings for 6 months

Two systems, one household

Employment and earnings fluctuate. Eligibility and household income can change monthly, while bills, rent and debt repayments do not.

PANEL CHALLENGE

Do our systems respond to real working lives?

How well do CTR, UC, housing support and debt collection deal with fluctuating wages and repeat claims?

DWP Labour Market Insights, April 2026 (updated October 2026)

Why is the gap so persistent?

The labour-market evidence reveals vulnerabilities but does not establish the causes of underclaiming.

56.5%

Searching-for-work customers with six months without earnings

6.7%

Economically inactive due to long-term sickness, ages 18–66

15.2%

NEET rate, ages 18–24

Potential routes to underclaiming for panel debate

- Complex transitions between employment, ill health and benefits
- Digital access, information gaps and fear of financial consequences
- Fragmented DWP, council, NHS and advice-sector contact

PANEL CHALLENGE

Whose responsibility is it to find non-claimants?

Should councils identify likely eligibility proactively, or is that a DWP and advice-sector responsibility?

From measuring claims to measuring missing entitlement

What should the combined Revenues & Benefits service do differently in the next 12 months?

1	IDENTIFY	Use lawful data matching to flag likely underclaiming and priority groups.
2	ENGAGE	Offer accessible, trusted, assisted and non-digital claim routes.
3	CONNECT	Join up CTR, HB, debt advice, housing and employment support.
4	MEASURE	Track successful claims, income gained, repeat debt and household outcomes.

PANEL CHALLENGE

What one change would you fund first?

And what evidence would convince your Section 151 officer that it delivers public value?

Two in 100 homes: is Local Housing Allowance still doing its job?

PRIVATE RENTAL LISTINGS, GREAT BRITAIN

1.9% of advertised rental homes were affordable at LHA levels in 2025/26.

2.7% were affordable the previous year: access has narrowed.

£403 average monthly two-bedroom gap versus the cheapest third of rents.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. If fewer than two properties in 100 are affordable, what meaningful housing choice remains?
2. Can discretionary payments bridge a gap that is structural, rather than temporary?
3. What would your local LHA-versus-rent map show, and do you actually use that intelligence?

THE CAVEAT The 1.9% covers newly advertised homes, not all existing private tenancies.

Sources: Big Issue / Crisis–Zoopla rental analysis (7 July 2026).

Freezing LHA: saving public money, or shifting the cost?

THE FREEZE AND PROJECTED IMPACT

2024 LHA last reset to the lowest 30% of local rents; frozen since.

£700 worse off per year by 2029 for supported private renters, JRF projects.

~200k private renters projected to enter poverty or deeper poverty.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Is a benefit freeze a saving if households fall into arrears and councils face more homelessness?
2. Should LHA be uprated, rents restrained, or housing supply increased first?
3. Who should bear the shortfall: tenants, landlords, central government or local taxpayers?

DO NOT MIX Poverty figures are JRF projections, not a count of observed outcomes.

Sources: The Independent (2 Nov 2026); Joseph Rowntree Foundation (7 Oct 2026).

House prices may fall. Why does that not make renting affordable?

SAVILLS: UK HOUSE PRICE FORECAST

–1.5% forecast change in average house prices during 2027.

+3.5% forecast annual price growth in 2028, with a later-year recovery.

+15.8% forecast cumulative growth over five years to 2031.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Are we treating the owner-occupier and rental markets as though they were the same?
2. Could weaker prices improve affordability for buyers without helping low-income renters?
3. Do mortgage costs, landlord incentives and the supply of rented homes change the story?

THE DISTINCTION A forecast for sale prices is not a forecast for rents or available homes.

Sources: The Guardian and Savills residential forecast (4 Nov 2026).

If the rent is unaffordable, who ends up paying the bill?

ENGLAND: TEMPORARY ACCOMMODATION

£2.93bn	gross council spending on temporary accommodation in 2025/26.
£1.46bn	approximate net council spend after funding and contributions.
135,580	households in temporary accommodation at 31 March 2026.
177,530	children living in temporary accommodation at that date.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Are national welfare savings being offset by local authority homelessness costs?
2. Should R&B and Housing share a single prevention budget and set of outcomes?
3. Are councils managing the consequences more effectively than the causes?

FINANCE TEST Gross TA costs include subsidy: they are not equivalent to councils' net budget burden.

Sources: MHCLG (13 Aug 2026); Shelter, expenditure analysis (17 Sept 2026).

What would we change tomorrow, and what would we demand nationally?

THREE POSSIBLE LEVERS

FIND THE RISK EARLY

Use rent shortfall, arrears and benefit data to trigger timely support.

STOP AVOIDABLE LOSS

Join up CTR, HB/UC advice, discretionary help and housing prevention.

CHANGE THE STRUCTURE

Debate LHA uprating, rent protections and more genuinely affordable supply.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. What is the single most useful change your Revenues and Benefits service could make now?
2. If you could secure one national reform, would it be LHA, TA subsidy or housing supply?
3. How would you prove progress: fewer evictions, lower TA nights, or less household debt?

PANEL CHOICE Each panellist: one immediate action, one national ask and one measurable result.

Sources: Big Issue; The Independent; The Guardian; JRF; MHCLG (2026).

Fiscal devolution: new powers, or a new way to share the money?

WHAT THE ROADMAP SAYS

2027 Mayoral strategic authorities gain a share of retained business rates.

2028 Mayors begin receiving an assigned share of income tax.

100% The aim for combined local and regional business rates retention by decade-end.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Is it genuinely fiscal devolution if Westminster still largely sets the taxes?
2. Would replacing grants with tax shares give councils greater freedom, or just more exposure?
3. Who should be accountable when elected mayors benefit from taxes collected by councils?

THE DISTINCTION Sharing tax receipts is not the same as granting new tax-setting powers to councils.

Sources: David Phillips, IFS / Public Finance (30 Oct 2026); HM Treasury Fiscal Devolution Roadmap (28 Oct 2026)

Will growth incentives narrow the divide, or deepen it?

THE DISTRIBUTION CHALLENGE

60% more basic-rate income tax per head in Greater London than in Tees Valley.

AVG. income-tax revenue growth across mayoral areas will uprate redistribution.

REWARD mayors gain when local revenues outperform the average, and lose when they lag.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Should places with stronger taxbases keep more of the rewards of growth?
2. Can a mayor realistically overcome differences in wages, industries and household income?
3. How much redistribution is needed to protect poorer areas without removing the incentive?

THE TENSION IFS welcomes growth-linked redistribution; relative gains and losses between areas remain.

Sources: David Phillips, IFS / Public Finance (30 Oct 2026); HM Treasury Fiscal Devolution Roadmap (28 Oct 2026)

What would a fair starting line actually look like?

WHAT HAS TO BE SETTLED

£64 per resident in London under current integrated settlements, IFS reports.

£200+ per resident in several northern mayoral areas, with differing responsibilities.

2027 Spending Review is expected to set baselines after reassessing needs.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Should funding follow the ability to generate tax, the cost of providing services, or both?
2. How would you reflect deprivation, rurality and differing local responsibilities?
3. Who should challenge the baselines when councils and mayors disagree?

KEY CAUTION These per-head figures are not like-for-like measures of service need or generosity.

Sources: David Phillips, IFS / Public Finance (30 Oct 2026); HM Treasury Fiscal Devolution Roadmap (28 Oct 2026)

Can councils take the rewards without taking the financial shocks?

WHAT REMAINS UNCERTAIN

10–15 years of retained growth are envisaged before gradual rolling redistribution.

SAFETY nets and levies are planned to limit sharp losses and excessive divergence.

DESIGN details remain open, including thresholds and the income sources assigned.

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Who carries the cost of a downturn, lost employers or successful business rates appeals?
2. Should safeguards follow inflation or average tax revenue growth?
3. Does excluding savings, property and dividend income distort what mayors are rewarded for?

IFS WARNING Inflation-only uprating of safeguards could gradually make the protection weaker.

Sources: David Phillips, IFS / Public Finance (30 Oct 2026); HM Treasury Fiscal Devolution Roadmap (28 Oct 2026)

What must Revenues and Benefits get out of fiscal devolution?

THREE LOCAL TESTS

THE TAXBASE

Better rating data, timely billing, collection and credible income forecasts.

THE HOUSEHOLD

Can jobs and wage growth improve residents' incomes and reduce hardship?

THE ACCOUNTABILITY

Can billing councils and mayors show where tax receipts and risks sit?

QUESTIONS FOR THE PANEL

1. Would you call a growth strategy successful if arrears and demand for crisis support rose?
2. What evidence would persuade you that more local financial risk is justified?
3. Which three indicators would you put before the mayor and the Section 151 officer?

PANEL CHOICE Each panellist: one opportunity, one risk and one essential safeguard.

Sources: David Phillips, IFS / Public Finance (30 Oct 2026); HM Treasury Fiscal Devolution Roadmap (28 Oct 2026)

LGR is moving forward. But not everywhere.

The 29 October letter withdraws nine earlier decisions; it does not abandon reorganisation.

9

July decisions withdrawn

4

Further decisions withdrawn in September

2

Areas still awaiting first decisions

15 areas remain in the next review phase. All existing options and proposals remain under consideration.

PANEL CHALLENGE

Is this additional scrutiny, a reset of local plans, or a costly period of uncertainty?

The new clock: 2029 is closer than it looks

Government timetable for areas covered by the review, and an indicative CTR programme.

2026

Review and next decisions

2027

Analyse, model and design CTR

2028

Elections; equality assessment, consultation and decisions

2029

Systems, testing, billing and vesting

Government: May 2027 elections to existing councils; May 2028 elections to new councils; vesting 1 April 2029.

PANEL CHALLENGE

What CTR work should councils begin before they know the final boundaries?

CTR harmonisation: choose a scheme or design one?

The central argument in Visionary Network's article: the task is policy design, not copying.

Understand households

Caseloads, vulnerability, income patterns, entitlement and cliff edges.

Model competing objectives

Cost, collection performance, administrative simplicity and fairness.

Test winners and losers

Distributional outcomes, protected groups and equality impacts.

Consult and implement

Public consultation, democratic decisions, systems and billing.

PANEL CHALLENGE

Should the lowest-cost option ever be the starting point for a new CTR scheme?

Who pays for delay, and who carries the risk?

The letter specifies transition funding, but what are the true costs of running the programme?

£900k

Transition support per new unitary

50% guaranteed now for previously announced new unitaries; balance after final decisions.

£500k

For each of two undecided areas

Cambridgeshire and Peterborough; West Sussex. Additional £150k per new unitary for specified leadership capacity follows final decisions.

PANEL CHALLENGE

Does transition funding reflect the real cost of delayed decisions, duplicated work and staff capacity?

Use the time, or let the timetable decide

A practical panel test: what should an R&B director commission in the first 100 days?

01 Common data

Agree definitions and obtain comparable caseload data.

02 Scenario modelling

Cost options; show winners, losers and collection effects.

03 Policy governance

Define principles, equality work and decision gateways.

04 Delivery plan

Map suppliers, conversion, consultation and 2029 billing.

FINAL ROUND

One decision: what would you start tomorrow, and what would you refuse to leave until 2028?

DISCUSSION

What are the top 3 things in your in-tray

The things most on your mind right now — share with the group.

1

2

3

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VISIONARY NETWORK
The Independent Local Tax and Welfare Network

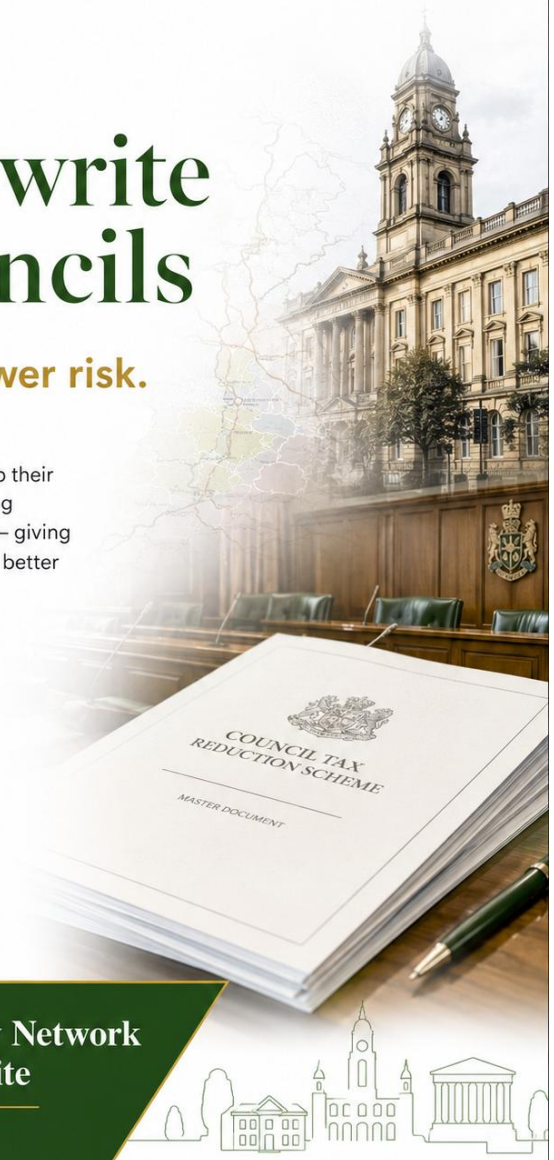
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CTR Rewrite for Councils

Clear wording. Lower risk. Practical support.

Visionary Network helps councils keep their Council Tax Reduction scheme wording accurate, lawful, clear and up to date – giving confidence to decision-makers and a better experience for residents.

- Plain English drafting with technical accuracy
- Annual uprating and scheme updates
- A clean master document in your council's own style
- Support for redesign, policy change and LGR
- Trusted experience in Revenues & Benefits



Talk to Visionary Network about CTR Rewrite

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[Bristol City Council Case Study]

VISIONARY NETWORK
The Independent Local Tax and Welfare Network

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Why councils choose CTR Rewrite

Your Council Tax Reduction scheme underpins fairness, compliance and public trust. CTR Rewrite gives you clear, accurate wording that supports confident decisions today—and a scheme that is easier to manage tomorrow.



What the service helps you do

- Keep scheme wording accurate, lawful and up to date
- Reflect annual uprating and policy changes
- Reduce ambiguity and implementation risk
- Maintain a clean master document in your council's own style
- Support redesign, consultation and future structural change

Why Visionary Network

- Trusted practical experience in Revenues & Benefits
- Plain English drafting with technical accuracy
- Local government understanding, not generic consultancy
- A service designed to support councils over time

For Directors of Finance and Revenues & Benefits Managers, CTR Rewrite offers clearer governance, lower drafting risk and a more resilient scheme document.

Talk to Visionary Network about CTR Rewrite

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Expert partners in local tax and revenues. Working together for better outcomes.

VISIONARY NETWORK

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In the news

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Southwark housing allocations challenged

Public Interest Law Centre has issued proceedings against Southwark's revised allocation scheme.
Campaigners challenge the consultation and reduced priority for homeless households.

They raise overcrowding, bedroom-sharing and transparency concerns.

These are contested claims, not a judgment that the scheme is unlawful.

SERVICE	Review consultation evidence, equality impacts and links to homelessness, housing support and CTR.
FINANCIAL	Potential litigation and homelessness costs are not quantified.

SO WHAT? Changes to allocations need a defensible evidence base and meaningful consultation.

SERVICE GOVERNANCE

SEND failings prompt £12,000 remedy

The Ombudsman recommended £12,000 after a child missed provision in an EHC plan.

The child received none of the required education provision for five terms.

Delays in amending the plan also prevented the family pursuing a tribunal appeal.

The case illustrates the consequences of weak case ownership and statutory timeliness.

SERVICE	Transfer learning to R&B case escalation, decision notices and access to appeal.
FINANCIAL	£12,000 recommended payment in this individual case.

SO WHAT? Statutory processes matter as much as the substantive entitlement.

CARE LEAVERS

Care leavers' housing plans become mandatory

Local authorities must publish plans for care leavers' accommodation needs.

Authorities must coordinate with housing partners and describe their local offer.

Certain care leavers under 25 cannot be found intentionally homeless under the new rules.

There are 86,890 care leavers aged 18 to 24 in England, up almost 10% in two years.

SERVICE	Coordinate housing pathways, benefit access, CTR, homelessness prevention and advice.
FINANCIAL	No quantified local funding or additional delivery cost in the report.

SO WHAT? Proactive support at transition points may prevent homelessness and crisis costs.

COUNTER-FRAUD

Tenancy fraud generates £110,000 order

Sovereign Network Group secured a £110,000 unlawful profit order plus costs and interest.

The Hackney property was unlawfully sublet between 2012 and 2022.

An inspection found bedroom locks and occupants referred to another “landlady”.

Investigators linked online adverts, payments and alternative social housing.

SERVICE	Use proportionate data matching and joint housing/revenues fraud intelligence.
FINANCIAL	£110,000 court order; not a council tax recovery figure.

SO WHAT? Tenancy fraud can remain undetected for years without intelligence-led checks.

COUNCIL TAX FRAUD

False student status costs £14,500

A Hayes resident used false student certificates to evade council tax from 2013 to 2025.

The value of the wrongfully claimed exemptions was £14,500.

He pleaded guilty and received a suspended prison sentence and unpaid work.

He is repaying the tax and was ordered to pay £8,970.52 prosecution costs.

SERVICE	Test student verification, review long-running exemptions and use proportionate fraud controls.
FINANCIAL	£14,500 council tax recovery and £8,970.52 prosecution costs awarded.

SO WHAT? Long-running discounts merit periodic verification without penalising genuine claimants.

WORKFORCE

Job satisfaction reaches record low

Job satisfaction fell from 81% in 2015 to 74% in 2025.

The British Social Attitudes series records its lowest satisfaction since 1989.

Workers cite pay, inflexible working, insecurity and reduced autonomy.

The findings question retention and discretionary effort across employers.

SERVICE	Consider R&B recruitment, workload, hybrid working, autonomy and retention risks.
FINANCIAL	No quantified R&B paybill or productivity effect.

SO WHAT? Service performance depends on workforce conditions as well as process automation.

FISCAL DEVOLUTION

Fiscal devolution roadmap examined

IFS analysis says councils and mayors are to retain 100% of business rates by decade-end.

Mayors will share tax revenues, with equalisation linked to average revenue growth.

Rolling resets may allow growth gains to be retained for 10 to 15 years.

Major allocations and detailed rules still depend on later decisions.

SERVICE	Plan for potential changes to rates retention, governance and strategic authority reporting.
FINANCIAL	Not a guaranteed net funding increase: allocations and redistribution remain uncertain.

SO WHAT? Revenue sharing offers incentives, not necessarily additional tax autonomy.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

Only 1.9% of rentals affordable on LHA

Crisis and Citizens Advice research using Zoopla data finds 1.9% of listings affordable at LHA rates.

Local Housing Allowance rates have remained frozen since April 2024.

For a typical two-bedroom property, the average gap to lower-third rents is £403 a month.

Affordability shortfalls heighten the risk of arrears and homelessness.

SERVICE	Coordinate HB/UC housing-cost advice, DHP, CTR and temporary accommodation prevention.
FINANCIAL	Higher homelessness and discretionary-support demand plausible, not locally costed.

SO WHAT? Housing-cost shortfalls cannot be fixed through debt collection alone.

Employers identify barriers to hiring young people

32% reported being less likely to employ under-25s than older workers.

41% cited perceived shortcomings in soft skills and work readiness.

91% wanted more vocational pathways; 72% favoured financial support or subsidies.

Yet 47% said a wage subsidy would make no difference to youth hiring.

SERVICE	Align local welfare and employment pathways with employer demand and practical skills.
FINANCIAL	No local R&B savings demonstrated by the survey.

SO WHAT? Subsidies alone may not overcome youth recruitment barriers.

PENSIONS

Default lifetime pensions proposed

Government plans aim to offer retirement-income products to around 17 million private-sector savers.

Defined contribution savers would have a clearer route to income lasting through retirement.

Collective or guided retirement options seek some features of defined benefit pensions.

These are proposals, not a change to current Pension Credit or HB entitlement rules.

SERVICE	Monitor future effects on pensioner income assessments and benefit take-up communications.
FINANCIAL	No immediate local authority financial consequence established.

SO WHAT? More predictable pension income may eventually affect means-tested support.

Prison leavers prepare Universal Credit claims

Tests operated across 18 prisons in Britain over 12 months.

Over 4,000 prison leavers participated, with over 3,000 claims submitted on release day.

There was evidence of faster claims, but not of an increase in the overall claiming rate.

Pre-release preparation aimed to reduce income gaps on transition to the community.

SERVICE	Connect release planning to CTR, housing assistance, local crisis support and verification.
FINANCIAL	No quantified local authority saving established.

SO WHAT? Timely access may matter even when overall take-up does not change.

LOCAL TAXATION

Visitor Levy Bill introduces new local powers

The Visitor Levy Bill would enable eligible local leaders to charge a percentage on overnight stays.

Funds raised would be retained for local investment and visitor infrastructure.

Ten mayors have said a levy introduced in their areas would be no higher than 5%.

The Bill is proposed legislation; local charging arrangements are not yet settled.

SERVICE	Identify possible billing, collection, compliance and sharing interfaces as rules develop.
FINANCIAL	Potential new revenue source but no local yield is established.

SO WHAT? New fiscal powers require sound administration as well as political support.

Westminster gender pensions gap examined

Research finds Westminster City Council's gender pension gap is almost half the gap across LGPS.

The published summary does not give underlying gap percentages or methodology.

Differences in working patterns, pay and length of service may require investigation.

No causal explanation can be established from the accessible summary alone.

SERVICE	Review workforce equality, progression and pensions communications in R&B teams.
FINANCIAL	No quantified direct budget implication from the accessible account.

SO WHAT? Averages warrant careful interpretation before drawing workforce conclusions.

NAO reviews Integrated Care Board restructuring

ICB running costs targeted at £18.76 per head, a 43% reduction from baseline.

NAO reports estimated £908m annual running-cost reduction at the target.

ICB groups fell from 42 to 25 between April 2025 and April 2026.

Changes involve an estimated 8,000 staff reduction and £582m redundancy payments in 2025/26.

SERVICE	Coordinate local welfare, housing and health referral pathways through partner restructuring.
FINANCIAL	£908m potential annual ICB savings; not local authority R&B savings.

SO WHAT? Institutional savings can disrupt local joint-working unless transition risks are managed.

COUNCIL TAX

High-value homes face council tax surcharge

Homes worth £2m or more will face an owner-paid High Value Council Tax Surcharge.

Annual tiers: £2,500; £3,500; £5,000; and £7,500 by valuation band.

Government estimates around 150,000 people affected and £400m annual revenue.

VOA targeted valuation work and implementing regulations are planned.

SERVICE	Prepare to assess interfaces with existing council tax billing, appeals and data flows.
FINANCIAL	Estimated £400m national annual revenue; local administration and allocation need detail.

SO WHAT? A new property levy raises practical questions about valuation, billing and accountability.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY

LHA freeze raises poverty and homelessness risk

Charities warn nearly 200,000 families may enter or deepen poverty under the LHA freeze.

Reported shortfall to lower rents reaches 23.3%, with larger monthly gaps in London.

Research suggests private renters could be £700 a year worse off by 2029.

The Government points to housing investment and its wider homelessness measures.

SERVICE	Prepare demand management across HB, DHP, CTR, debt advice and homelessness.
FINANCIAL	Councils reportedly spent £2.9bn on temporary accommodation in year to April 2026.

SO WHAT? A frozen rent benchmark can transfer costs from welfare to local crisis services.

MACROECONOMY

Bank Rate increases to 4%

Bank Rate rose from 3.75% to 4% on 5 November 2026.

The Bank cited conflict-related energy price pressure as a key risk.

It forecast inflation peaking at 4.9% in 2027, with upside risks.

The Governor did not present the decision as the start of a predetermined sequence.

SERVICE	Review ability-to-pay assumptions, arrears arrangements and income shock indicators.
FINANCIAL	Potential pressure on council tax collection and demand; not quantified.

SO WHAT? Higher housing and energy costs increase financial vulnerability.

HOUSING MARKET

Housing market recovery delayed until 2028

Savills forecast house prices falling 1.5% in 2027, equivalent to about £5,500.

London, South East and East England forecast to fall 3.5%; the North to grow 1%.

The forecast attributes weakness to higher mortgage rates and energy-price pressures.

It expects recovery signs from the second half of 2028.

SERVICE	Separate house-price trends from actual taxbase growth and household demand.
FINANCIAL	No direct council tax yield impact established by house-price forecasts.

SO WHAT? Market values, housing supply and the council taxbase are different measures.

DWP pays HB software work funding

DWP provided funding on 26 October 2026 for commissioned HB software supplier work.

Local authority single inboxes received breakdowns for Finance teams.

Software suppliers are expected to invoice the corresponding amounts.

Authorities are asked to ensure timely settlement.

SERVICE	Match payments to DWP breakdowns and supplier invoices; coordinate finance and system teams.
FINANCIAL	Specific council amounts are in individual DWP notifications, not this extract.

SO WHAT? Ring-fenced pass-through funding needs clear reconciliation and prompt processing.

Reporting Accountant notices overdue

The deadline for informing DWP of FYE March 2027 Reporting Accountant appointments was 1 March 2026.
Authorities that missed the deadline must notify DWP immediately.

Any prior years' outstanding appointments must also be reported.

DWP requests status, expected appointment dates and impediments.

SERVICE	Audit HBAP appointment governance and complete missing statutory notifications.
FINANCIAL	Late assurance creates subsidy compliance risk; impact not quantified.

SO WHAT? Appointment notification is a statutory control, not a discretionary administration task.

HOUSING BENEFIT PERFORMANCE

HB performance measurement programme begins

DWP begins its November 2026 to October 2027 performance programme.

Random samples focus on pension-age standard Housing Benefit cases.

Authorities receive cases six to eight weeks before review activity.

DWP aims for 1,900 reviews, feeding May 2028 national statistics.

SERVICE	Prepare case files, systems prints and staff capacity for selected reviews.
FINANCIAL	No direct subsidy or savings estimate in this notice.

SO WHAT? Quality assurance depends on accessible records and timely cooperation.

DIGITAL DELIVERY

Searchlight moves away from PSN

DWP completed testing and began Searchlight rollout on 3 September 2026.

Each authority will be contacted when its tranche begins.

Required work includes connectivity assurance, contact data and public IP details.

VEP migration communications will follow separately.

SERVICE	Coordinate ICT, security, supplier integration and business continuity; await allocated tranche.
FINANCIAL	Transition costs and savings are not stated.

SO WHAT? Secure connections and controlled cutover are critical to benefit verification.

BENEFIT TAKE-UP

Pension Credit myths remain a take-up barrier

Owning a home does not rule out Pension Credit.

The first £10,000 savings are ignored; excess capital attracts assumed income rules.

State Pension can be supplemented by Pension Credit.

Entitlement must be claimed; it is not awarded automatically.

SERVICE	Use CTR, pensioner HB and advice contacts to improve Pension Credit awareness.
FINANCIAL	Unclaimed benefit is a household loss; no quantified local impact in this notice.

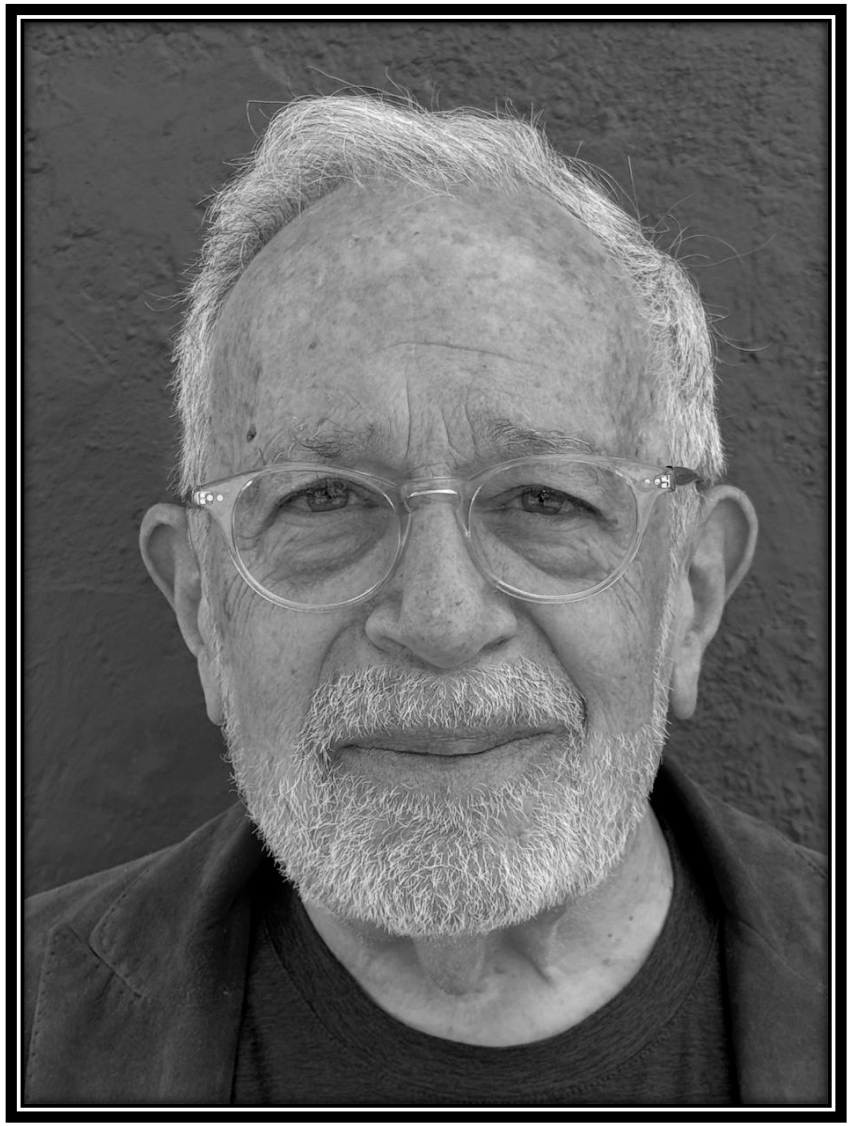
SO WHAT? Effective communications must challenge mistaken assumptions about eligibility.

Quote of the Week

We already have an annual wealth tax on homes, the major asset of the middle class. It's called the property tax. Why not a small annual tax on the value of stocks and bonds, the major assets of the wealthy?

— Robert Reich

Robert Reich is an American economist, author and political commentator who served as U.S. Secretary of Labor from 1993 to 1997 under President Bill Clinton. He is known for his work on economic inequality, labour issues and public policy, and is Professor of Public Policy Emeritus at the University of California, Berkeley.



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VISIONARY NETWORK
The Independent Local Tax and Welfare Network

In partnership with .inbest

Crisis Resilience Fund (CRF) for Councils

Target support. Strengthen resilience. Better outcomes.

Visionary Network helps councils design, review and deliver Crisis Resilience Fund services that are fair, practical and focused on residents facing financial hardship.

Local government expertise. Practical delivery. Stronger support where it matters most.



- Review local need and policy priorities
- Design eligibility, awards and governance
- Improve targeting, take-up and resident outcomes
- Support delivery, assurance and performance reporting
- Trusted experience in Revenues & Benefits

Trusted expertise. Practical support. Better outcomes.

Talk to Visionary Network about CRF

visionarynetwork.co.uk

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Why councils choose CRF support



Crisis Resilience Fund support helps councils respond to financial hardship with clearer policy, stronger targeting and practical delivery support. Visionary Network helps councils create a fund that is fair, workable and focused on residents who need help most.

Our approach combines local government understanding, practical service design and strong governance so councils can deliver support with confidence.

What the service helps you do

- Define the purpose and priorities of your CRF
- Set clear eligibility, awards and decision rules
- Target support to residents facing hardship
- Strengthen governance, assurance and reporting
- Build a practical model for delivery and review

Why Visionary Network

- Trusted practical experience in Revenues & Benefits
- Local government understanding, not generic consultancy
- Resident-focused design, policy and delivery support
- A service designed to help councils support vulnerable households with confidence

For Directors of Finance and Revenues & Benefits Managers, **CRF support** offers clearer governance, better targeting and stronger resident outcomes.

Talk to Visionary Network about CRF

visionarynetwork.co.uk

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Supporting better local outcomes through practical insight and partnership.

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LG Finance, LGR & Devolution Watch

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GOVERNANCE

Ashfield faces Best Value assessment

A rapid Best Value assessment has been launched into Ashfield District Council.

Two local MPs have requested a police investigation into governance concerns.

The former leader was convicted of fraud and tax evasion in September 2026.

Concerns include his subsequent appointment to the planning committee.

SERVICE	Strengthen member/officer governance, conflicts checks and assurance over decisions.
FINANCIAL	No direct Revenues and Benefits loss or cost quantified.

SO WHAT? Integrity and governance failures can undermine public trust in collection and enforcement.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT FINANCE

Hampshire faces £199m funding gap

Hampshire County Council has reported a projected shortfall of almost £199m for 2027/28.

It warns that government assistance will be needed to close the gap.

The published summary does not provide a detailed R&B breakdown.

Service-level consequences remain subject to budget and funding decisions.

SERVICE	Stress-test welfare demand, income collection and cross-council service dependencies.
FINANCIAL	Almost £199m projected whole-council gap; not an R&B shortfall.

SO WHAT? Fiscal stress makes transparent choices about prevention and service standards essential.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT REORGANISATION

LGA seeks reorganisation reset

The LGA has called for a reset of government relations over reorganisation.

It says councils should be involved in shaping the decisions that affect them.

The report highlights continuing uncertainty over the programme.

Detailed negotiated changes are not specified in the available account.

SERVICE	Preserve CTR, billing and collections critical paths while boundary decisions evolve.
FINANCIAL	Local transition costs and any offsets remain unquantified in this report.

SO WHAT? Good transition design requires operational councils at the table.



AI Watch

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AI AND WORKFORCE

Global workforce embraces AI and flexibility

Survey of 7,100 across six economies found 91% confident about technology change.

64% of organisations expect greater use of freelancers and other flexible talent.

62% of respondents were actively or potentially seeking another job within six months.

58% would reject an employer whose AI ethics were incompatible with their values.

SERVICE	Set clear AI governance, staff development, procurement and retention plans in R&B.
FINANCIAL	Survey makes no evidenced local government cash saving claim.

SO WHAT? AI strategy needs worker trust, privacy and skills, not only efficiency targets.

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Why councils choose LGR & CTR support



Local Government Reorganisation creates pressure to review and harmonise Council Tax Reduction schemes. Visionary Network helps councils make confident choices with stronger evidence, clear options and practical delivery support.

We use **inbest.ai's CTR Data Analytics Tool** to provide robust modelling and insight you can rely on.

What the service helps you do

- Compare legacy CTR schemes across merging councils
- Test support levels, savings and distributional effects
- Assess equality, affordability and financial impacts
- Build a stronger case for consultation and approval
- Prepare for implementation, governance and future structural change

Why Visionary Network

- Trusted practical experience in Revenues & Benefits
- Local government understanding, not generic consultancy
- inbest.ai's CTR Data Analytics Tool supports strong modelling and evidence
- A service designed to help councils move from legacy schemes to a single workable future model

For Directors of Finance and Revenues & Benefits Managers, **LGR & CTR support** offers clearer policy choices, stronger evidence and a more resilient scheme.

Talk to Visionary Network about LGR & CTR

visionarynetwork.co.uk

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Expert partners in local tax and revenues.

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The Independent Local Tax and Welfare Network

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Local Government Reorganisation & CTR

Harmonise with confidence. Stronger evidence. Better outcomes.

Visionary Network helps councils navigate Local Government Reorganisation and harmonise Council Tax Reduction schemes using trusted sector expertise, robust analysis and **inbest.ai's CTR Data Analytics Tool.**

From legacy schemes to a clear future model.



- **Review existing CTR schemes and pressures**
- **Model realistic harmonisation options**
- **Understand claimant, equality and collection fund impacts**
- **Support consultation, member decisions and implementation**
- **Trusted experience in Revenues & Benefits**

Trusted expertise. Practical harmonisation. Lower risk.

Talk to Visionary Network about LGR & CTR

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Legal Issues of Note

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EMPLOYMENT

Harassment prevention duty strengthened

The Employment Rights Act 2025 strengthened employers' sexual harassment prevention duty from 30 October 2026.
EHRC has updated its technical guidance and eight-step prevention guide.

The standard is now "all reasonable steps", rather than "reasonable steps".

Suggested practice includes risk assessment and behaviour-based training.

SERVICE	Refresh R&B workforce risk assessments, manager training and third-party contact protocols.
FINANCIAL	Implementation and employment-liability costs are not quantified.

SO WHAT? Preventative workplace controls need to be demonstrable.

HOUSING BENEFIT LAW

Upper Tribunal rules on EU worker HB

UA-2023-000852-HB concerns HB entitlement between May and August 2020.

The appellant was a Czech citizen lawfully in the UK as an EU migrant worker.

The Upper Tribunal held discrimination was not justifiable on the circumstances.

The supplied notice gives no further reasoning or general implementation instruction.

SERVICE	Refer relevant cases to legal policy leads and read the full judgment before amending practice.
FINANCIAL	Potential individual entitlement corrections; quantum not stated.

SO WHAT? A significant ruling needs careful legal interpretation before operational rollout.

NEW LEGISLATION

Statutory Instruments made (1 of 2)

SI No.	Instrument	Status
954	The Employment Rights Act 2025 (Commencement No. 5 and Transitional Provisions) (Amendment) Regulations 2026	1 September 2026
1063	The Social Security (Miscellaneous Amendments) Regulations 2026	Came into force 30 October 2026
1065	The Employment Rights Act 2025 (Commencement No. 6 and Transitional and Savings Provisions) Regulations 2026	1 October 2026
1069	The Social Security (Further Methods of Recovery) Regulations 2026	Came into force 29 October 2026
1072	The Social Security (Income and Capital Disregards) (Amendment) Regulations 2026	Laid 9 October 2026
1076	The Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) (Amendment) Regulations 2026	Came into force 2 November 2026
1079	The Income-related Benefits (Subsidies to Authorities) Amendment Order 2026	Coming into force 5 November 2026

NEW LEGISLATION

Statutory Instruments made (2 of 2)

SI No.	Instrument	Status
1083	The First-tier Tribunal and Upper Tribunal (Chambers) (Amendment No. 2) Order 2026	Coming into force 5 November 2026
1084	The Tribunal Procedure (Upper Tribunal) (Amendment) Rules 2026	Coming into force 6 November 2026
1085	The Housing (Empty Dwelling Management Orders) (Prescribed Period of Time and Prescribed Requirements) (England) (Amendment) Order 2026	Coming into force 5 November 2026
1094	The Building (Local Authority Charges and Amendments Relating to Charging) (England) Regulations 2026	Laid 15 October 2026
1118	The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 (Consequential Amendments) (Precepts) (England) Regulations 2026	Coming into force 13 November 2026
1127	The English Devolution and Community Empowerment Act 2026 (Commencement No. 3) Regulations 2026	26 October 2026



Other Workshops

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HB subsidy workshops open for registration

Training covers subsidy estimates, timelines, settlement and exceptions.

Experienced staff workshops focus on the Subsidy Hub and revised audit workbooks.

DWP will discuss recurring assurance errors and good practice.

Expressions of interest are due by 30 November 2026.

SERVICE	Identify relevant staff and submit learning priorities to DWP.
FINANCIAL	Training costs or local savings are not specified.

SO WHAT? Subsidy capability is a core financial control during workforce turnover.



Job Adverts From Business Smart Solutions

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FCSA Recruiter Partner · IRRV Organisational Member · disability confident Committed · Cyber Essentials Certified · Armed Forces Covenant · Carbon Neutral Britain · GBC Good Business Charter Accredited · Just One Tree · Mindful Employer

Meet The Team



Ben Moreton

CEO
Co-Founder



Mark Thomas

Operations
Co-Founder



Chris Sharratt

Talent Partner



Leanne Carey

Contracts Manager

Trustpilot

"Best decision I've made in years was to join BSS. Ben has been fantastic at every stage during the past 10 months, and is already putting me forward for more senior roles where I had struggled to do so in permanent roles for the
past few years.

Very personal approach from day one, reassuring and highly knowledgeable! Would highly recommend for anyone wanting to progress their career or just looking for a change!"
#TeamBSS - Sam Goddard



NEC Citizens Access Project Officer

3 Months | £35 per hour (umbrella) | Remote

Our client based in Wales is seeking an experienced Revenues & Benefits Systems Officer to implement CAB, CAR & CAASI on the NEC(Northgate) database.

The role can be offered on a fully remote basis.

What we're looking for:
We're looking for candidates who have these main skills/knowledge:

- Experience of (Northgate) NEC systems administration
- Experience of setting up Citizens Access to include CAB, CAR & CAASI

To find out more or to apply
>> Click here to view the full advert <<

Business Rates & BID Project Officer (MRI)

4 weeks | £27 per hour (umbrella) | Remote

The purpose of this role is to do a detailed analysis of 220 Business Improvement District accounts and establish why the levy has not been paid, encourage payment and prepare a pre-summons list in preparation for court action for businesses who won't pay.

This is a time sensitive, politically sensitive piece of work. For more details, contact Ben Moreton on 0204 529 1139 or via ben@businesssmartsolutions.co.uk.

This role is offered on a fully remote basis.

What we're looking for:
We're looking for candidates who have these main skills/knowledge:

- Experience of MRI (Academy) software, specifically BIDs and the IMAN debtors module
- Experience of BID's (Business Improvement District) administration, billing & recovery

To find out more or to apply
>> Click here to view the full advert <<

Financial Control and Reconciliation Officer (NEC)

Permanent | £25,405pa | Remote

Our client's Revenues Team provide the financial control function for 4 local authorities contracts on the NEC system. Specifically, this relates to the financial reporting and reconciliations service for Council Tax, Business Rates and Housing benefits.

The main objective for this position will include the reconciliation of the Revenues & Benefits system and production of financial reports and reconciliations, direct debit payment files.

What we're looking for:
We're looking for candidates who have these main skills/knowledge:

- A minimum of 3 years relevant experience
- Be a skilled NEC user

To find out more or to apply
>> Click here to view the full advert <<

Are you ready to take the next step in your career?

As an experienced Revenues or Benefits professional, the new year is the perfect time to explore exciting interim/contract opportunities in the public sector. Whether you're looking for a fresh challenge, greater flexibility, or a role where you can make a real impact – we're here to help.

✨ Start your journey today – register now!

Want to learn more about increasing your earning potential and fast track your career progression? Reach out and we'll be more than happy to help

Contact us here

Payroll Solutions

At BSS, we are dedicated to simplifying your contractor journey by providing you with efficient, tailored payroll solutions.

Our partnership with Umbrella.co.uk solidifies our commitment to ensuring you maximise your take-home pay, get paid on time and keep things stress free.

Umbrella.co.uk is one of the UK's leading umbrella companies.

Managed by qualified accountants and being FCSA accredited, it assures you of its high standards.

Trustpilot

"BSS has provided us with excellent support since 2022. The range of expertise they have on their books is second to none, and they are without doubt my first choice when looking for staff.

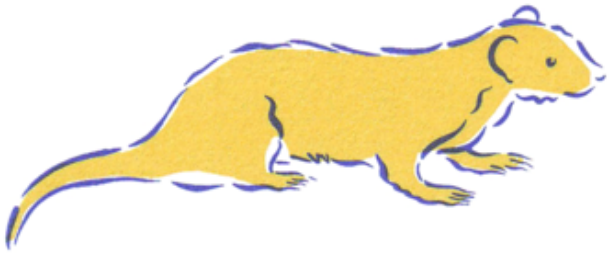
What I particularly like is how well they support everyone, and they really look after their people, which is unlike any other agency I have worked with in 30 years.

Congratulations to Ben and the team !"
#TeamBSS Client - Simon Rosser



2015 EQUITY RELEASE AWARDS MortgageSolutions
WINNER
BEST TECHNOLOGY PROVIDER

Ferret Information Systems Ltd



Ferret Information Systems was established in 1987 and is the largest company in Europe in the field of law dealing with welfare benefits and similar areas of determinative, compliance, and regulatory law.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

our training services:

Ferret is well placed to provide training services and its team of specialists have wide experience of benefits and housing grant legislation. We also provide consultancy to organisations, companies and government on the impact of legislative and policy changes.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

our products:

Ferret produces a wide variety of systems, designed to provide support tools for advice workers, and also to provide information and advice directly to the public. Ferret specialises in a holistic assessment of financial circumstances relating to welfare benefits and tax credits entitlement, coupled with software development methodology which offers a high level of flexibility and rapid updating to reflect rule changes.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

our platforms:

Systems supported include network, desktop, laptop, mobile devices, Internet and Intranet systems, and a public access system in multi-lingual, multi-media form for touch screen kiosks and public access PC's.

♦ ♦ ♦ ♦ ♦

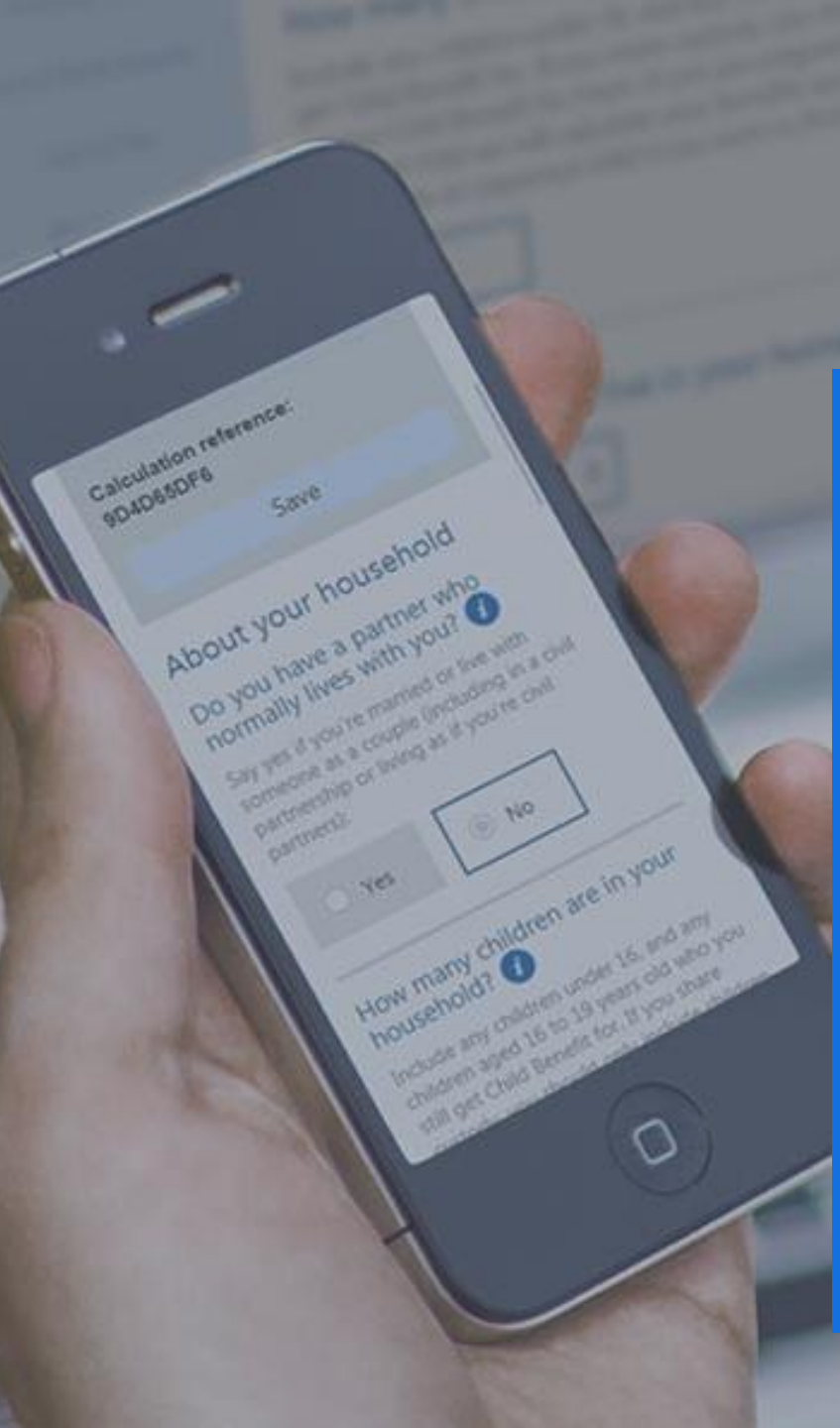
our customers:

Users of Ferret systems include government departments, local authorities, housing associations, CABx, HIA's and other advice agencies, universities, social welfare organisations, libraries, solicitors and financial advisers.

https://www.ferret.co.uk/

entitledto

independent | accurate | reliable



Our mission is to help everyone to access the benefits they're entitled to.

Since 2000 we have used our in-depth knowledge of the UK's social security system to build a range of authoritative and accurate calculators to help you and your clients understand their legitimate benefits entitlement.

Our tools are designed to be quick, simple and easy to use, so your staff and clients feel empowered to deal with the benefits system with confidence.

In response to evolving business needs and ongoing local and national policy changes, we will continue to work with and for our clients to develop new features and functionality.

Our goal is to assist your teams in adapting to legislative changes and welfare reform so you can help more people find out what benefits they are entitled to, thereby improving their circumstances and those of their families.



inbest Ascendant Solutions data management

Apply4.Online®

Barnet Council has become the first local authority to launch the Ascendant apply4.online application form, designed to support residents with the rise in cost of living.

The InBest benefits calculator has been integrated into Ascendant's apply4.online support application, to make it easier for people who are experiencing financial difficulties to find out what support is available to them.

It includes information on benefits such as Universal Credit, Pensions Credit, Attendance Allowance and Personal Independence Payment, as well as local financial support initiatives including council tax support and the residents support fund.

Barnet Council Leader, Cllr Barry Rawlings said: "The cost-of-living crisis is affecting us all, and we want to ensure Barnet residents know what financial support is available to them and how they can access these services.

"It is very positive to see Barnet is the first local authority to launch this free tool, and we hope to see many other local councils doing the same to help their residents."

To find out what financial support is available to help with the cost-of-living visit Barnet Council Benefits Calculator

Previous Sessions

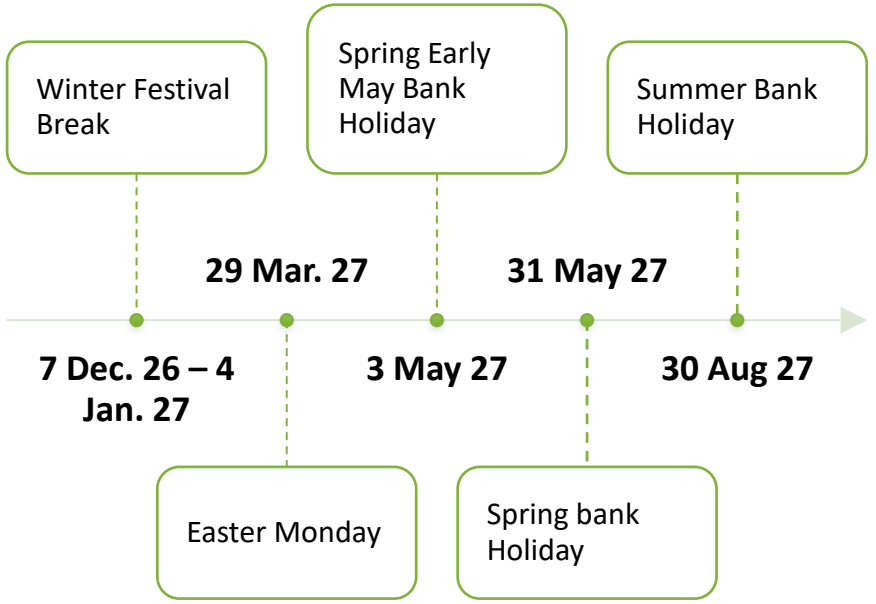
29 Jun 26	Council Tax, Data Quality and the Growing Arrears Crisis
10 Jul 26	Devolution of Welfare and the Future of Revenues and Benefits
20 Jul 26	When one council's solution becomes another's cost
27 Jul 26	End of Year Review
17 Aug 26	Mid-break update: a busy summer for Revenues and Benefits
31 Aug 26	Mid-break update: Revenues and Benefits face widening financial and operational pressures
7 Sep 26	From Supplier Failure to Hidden NEETs and Box Shifting: The Monday Group Returns
14 Sep 26	LGR, the triple lock and what happens next
21 Sep 26	AI, Council Tax and the the limits of a quick fix
5 Oct 26	Welfare reform and the limits of public service cuts
19 Oct 26	Bedford, Smart Cuts and the Price of Getting Local Government Wrong
26 Oct 26	Council Tax: Are We Measuring Success or Simply Managing the Decline?
2 Nov 26	A budget that buys time but for whom

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Dates where there will be no sessions



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Blogs

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Blogs

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The Independent Local Tax and Welfare Network

LGR has been given more time. But has Council Tax Reduction?

Budget 2026: what it means for councils, households and housing

Britain's Benefits Streets: How the Numbers Are Being Used to Tell the Wrong Story

The Welfare Card Returns: What Does the Evidence Actually Say?

Reflections on Ascendant by the Sea: Why Community Still Matters – Visionary Network

Reform's £50 Billion Welfare Plan: A Costing Is Not a Social Contract

Housing Benefit closes at last, but Universal Credit has not simplified housing support – Visionary Network

A Tale of Two Reorganisations

The danger is not change. The danger is not knowing what you do not know

When good intentions meet council tax reality, residents may pay the price

DWP spring forecast 2026 why the real welfare story is not just higher spending but a changing social contract

How Councils Can Use Administrative Data to Support the Delivery of the CRF

The Case for Plain English Council Tax Reduction Schemes by Paul Howarth

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Other Blogs

IFS
Unfreezing the personal allowance

BENEFITS IN THE FUTURE
'Tis the season to be jolly… misleading, in the Daily Mail

BENEFITS IN THE FUTURE
Lies, Damned Lies and the Telegraph

ENTITLEDTO
Child Benefit take-up hits a new low: the downside to 'wealth testing' benefits

ENTITLEDTO
Local Authorities left with their hands tied by lifting of the 2-child limit

ENTITLEDTO
Benefit take-up may be getting worse, but it's hard to know

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IFS: How unequal is Britain?

Better Policy: Id Council Tax A Rip-Off?

JRF: Poverty Statistics Are Changing

IFS: Is the minimum wage costing jobs?

Private eye: Farage's Flagship Council (And Other Stories From Rotten Boroughs)

IFS: Are Pensioners really better off?

More or Less: Can You Really Get £71,000 in Benefits?

Podcasts

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About Visionary Network

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Visionary Network

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The Independent Local Tax and Welfare Network

Visionary Network is a not-for-profit organisation, whose objective is to encourage thought leadership and good practice in the field of public service.

We are independent and will draw on views, ideas and practices from any practitioner and/or organisation committed to public service.

We encourage debate, and the fair exchange of ideas, viewpoints and philosophies.

Any products we do produce will be for the betterment of society, public sector led and if costed will reflect our not-for-profit values.

Our focus is on improving the knowledge, health, environment and lives of our citizens through better administration and access to services.

A nonprofit organisation is a type of organisation that is formed for a specific social or charitable purpose rather than for profit. Its primary goal is to serve the needs of a particular community, cause, or interest, and any profits or revenue generated are reinvested back into the organisation to further its mission, rather than being distributed as profits to owners or shareholders.

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Visionary Network Partnership



A dynamic consortium of private sector companies is uniting to transform public service delivery across the nation. By harnessing cutting-edge technologies and innovative methodologies, this partnership is dedicated to enhancing the efficiency and effectiveness of public sector performance. Their focus is on optimising the use of resources and budgets, ensuring that every pound of public funds is directed towards improving citizens' lives. This group is at the forefront of digital transformation, leveraging data analytics and advanced technological solutions to streamline operations and reduce waste, ultimately supporting a more responsive and agile public sector.

Working closely with public sector organisations and collaborating amongst themselves, the partnership fosters a culture of innovation and disruption. By pooling their diverse expertise, the companies involved can tackle longstanding challenges with fresh, inventive approaches that deliver measurable improvements in service delivery. Their cooperative efforts not only drive substantial cost savings but also set a new benchmark for how the public sector can benefit from private sector ingenuity. In doing so, they reaffirm their commitment to ensuring that public funds are utilised to create a tangible, positive impact on the community.

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Story Links

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References and links (1/16)

1. Ashfield faces Best Value assessment

https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/governance/396-governance-news/102159-mps-call-for-police-investigation-into-district-council

2. Southwark housing allocations challenged

https://www.localgovernmentlawyer.co.uk/housing-law/397-housing-news/102128-london-borough-facing-judicial-review-challenge-over-revised-housing-allocations-scheme

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5. Harassment prevention duty strengthened

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7. False student status costs £14,500

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9. Fiscal devolution roadmap examined

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10. Only 1.9% of rentals affordable on LHA

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References and links (6/16)

11. Employers identify barriers to hiring young people

https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/employer-views-on-hiring-young-people-survey-report/employer-views-on-hiring-young-people-survey-report

12. Default lifetime pensions proposed

https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-plans-resurrect-genuine-pensions-for-millions-of-private-sector-workers

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25. Reporting Accountant notices overdue

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26. HB performance measurement programme begins

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27. HB subsidy workshops open for registration

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28. New statutory instruments to assess

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29. Searchlight moves away from PSN

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30. Pension Credit myths remain a take-up barrier

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31. Upper Tribunal rules on EU worker HB

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