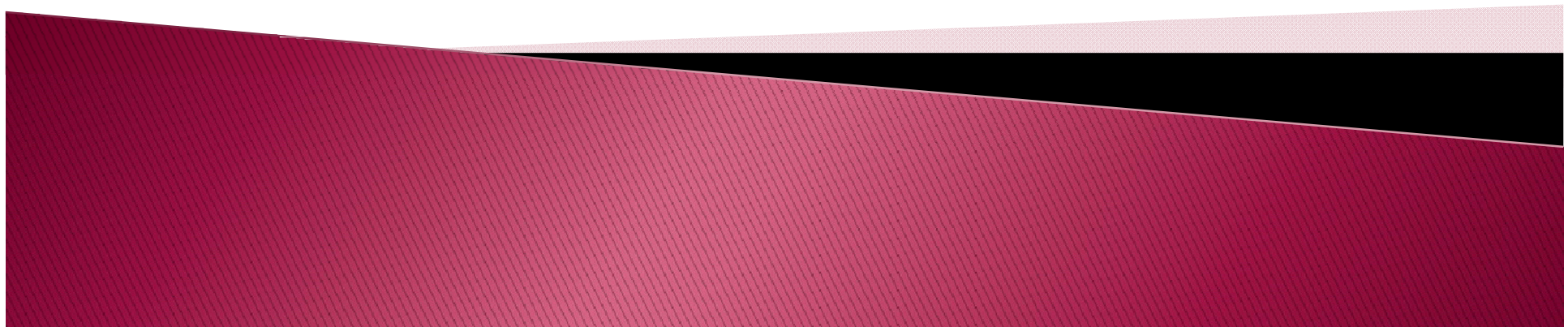


# IMPACT OF WELFARE REFORM/HOUSING BENEFIT ON HOUSING REVENUE ACCOUNTS



# Welfare Reform Context

- ▶ Consultation Document – 21<sup>st</sup> Century Welfare July 2010
- ▶ White Paper “Universal Credit – Welfare that Works” November 2010
- ▶ Welfare Reform Act 2012 – Enacted from October 2013

# Key Proposal

- ▶ Housing Benefits paid to landlord Councils will in future be paid to families/individual tenants.

# Some Issues/Impacts

- ▶ Welfare Reform could leave low income families with shortfalls in their rent payments
- ▶ Welfare Reform will leave Housing Benefit claimants with a choice of debt, reduce basic living expenses or non payment of rent.....risk of homelessness
- ▶ Impact on Local Authority Housing Arrears?
- ▶ Impact on Housing Revenue accounts?

# Managing the Impacts

- ▶ Quantifying changes on Housing Revenue Accounts?
- ▶ What is the “forecasted” reduction on HRA spend?
- ▶ What is the potential impact on the repairs service?
- ▶ What is the impact on business plans?

# Developing Strategies for Survival – Managing the Pressures – Group Discussion

- ▶ How are we responding?
- ▶ What are our preparations.....?

Thank you for listening

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