

**January 13, 2011**

## **Benefit cheat to work for community**

A benefit cheat who falsely claimed nearly £3,000 in benefit has been given a 12 month community order.

Between March and December 2009, Shayne Webster of Arden Avenue, Braunstone failed to notify Blaby District Council or the Department of Work and Pensions that he was working. As a result, he received nearly £3,000 in Housing Benefit and Job Seekers Allowance that he was not entitled to.

The 26 year old pleaded guilty to benefit fraud at Leicester Magistrates Court on 7<sup>th</sup> January 2011 and following probation reports was given a 12 month Community Order for 80 hours unpaid work and ordered to pay £100 court costs. Action is also being taken to recover the falsely claimed benefits.

Councillor John Hudson, finance and efficiency portfolio holder at Blaby District Council, said: "This result, along with many other successful cases, should serve as a warning to anyone who is involved in benefit fraud. If they believe they can get away with stealing taxpayers' money, they are mistaken." "We will continue to work with other agencies to root out these fraudsters who cost hardworking tax payers millions of pounds each year."

If you suspect anyone in Blaby District of committing benefit fraud, please call the Council's Benefit Fraud Hotline: 0116 272 7733. All calls are confidential; callers can remain anonymous if they wish. You can also report a benefit thief online, and find out more information at: [www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud)