

August 23, 2011

## **Benefit cheat failed to declare cash from home sale**

A woman who falsely claimed housing and council tax benefit has been fined £1200.

Vicki Thomas, of Waverley Road, Blaby, failed to notify Blaby District Council after receiving more than £57,000 from the sale of her former home, which led to her being paid £8,207.27 she was not entitled to between October 2009 and September 2010.

The 40-year-old pleaded guilty to benefit fraud at Leicester Magistrates Court on August 5 and was ordered to pay the fine along with £451 court costs and a £15 victim surcharge.

Arrangements have been made to recover all the cash which was paid to Miss Thomas.

Councillor John Hudson, portfolio holder for finance and efficiency said: "We are committed to ensuring that everyone who is entitled to benefits receives them. However, we will take action against anyone found to have deliberately withheld information relevant to their claim.

"I would encourage anyone who is claiming benefit and has a change of circumstances to declare this at the earliest opportunity."

The public can report benefit fraud online at [www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud](http://www.blaby.gov.uk/fraud) or by calling the Council's confidential hotline on 0116 272 7733.