

**Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Wednesday, 4 July 2018**

REPORT TITLE:	EARLY IMPACT OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT
REPORT OF:	THE CHAIR OF THE COMMITTEE

REPORT SUMMARY

This report sets out the findings arising from two scrutiny workshops held in February 2018 to consider the early impact of Universal Credit in Wirral. The workshops were commissioned by the Chairs of the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees in the 2017/18 municipal years and were open to all Overview & Scrutiny Members.

This report was originally scheduled to be presented at the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee meeting on 27th March 2018. As this meeting fell in the pre-election period, it was agreed by the Chair that the report would be deferred to the first meeting of the municipal year.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) Members are requested to consider the contents of this report and consider any recommendations arising from it.
- 2) Members are requested to support the proposal to schedule further scrutiny workshops in the municipal year and consider the areas of scrutiny focus.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

For committee to consider the outcomes of the scrutiny workshops as part of the scrutiny work programme.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not applicable

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

At a meeting of the Chairs of the four Overview & Scrutiny Committees in the 2017/18 municipal year, it was agreed to undertake scrutiny of the emerging impact of Universal Credit.

It was also agreed that the impact of Universal Credit would fall under the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee to ensure that there is no overlap or duplication across Committees.

Two scrutiny workshops were scheduled and were open to all Members sitting on any of the four Overview & Scrutiny committees to ensure inclusivity.

The first workshop was held on February 20th 2018 with key senior council officers to get a better understanding of Universal Credit and the impact it has on operational services. The second workshop was held on 27th February 2018 and looked at Universal Credit from the perspective of a number of external organisations and Council teams that engage with residents over Universal Credit.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

There are none arising from this report.

7.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are none arising from this report.

8.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The workshops were undertaken with the engagement of key representatives from relevant Council service areas and external organisations.

9.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

There are none arising from this report.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Emerging Impact of Universal Credit – Scrutiny Report

REFERENCE MATERIAL

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date