

## REVIEW - FIRST WITNESS SESSION

<b>Committee name</b>	Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Anisha Teji, Democratic Services Officer
<b>Papers with report</b>	<b>Universal Credit and other welfare benefit changes</b> Paper for Witness Session One: Information and analysis Setting the scene: Understanding universal credit and the claimant journey
<b>Ward</b>	All

### HEADLINES

As part of the Committee's review into how the Council can support residents through the transition to, and future successful management of, their Universal Credit (UC) claims, the following witness has been invited to present supporting information to the Committee.

Suitable witnesses are still being identified for witness session 2.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

**That the Social Care, Housing and Public Health Policy Overview Committee notes and comments on the information presented as part of the witness session.**

### SUPPORTING INFORMATION

The agreed Terms of Reference for the review are set out below:

#### Terms of Reference

1. To understand the impact that the introduction of the full UC service has had in areas where it has been rolled out. To include the cumulative impact of the introduction of UC and other welfare benefit changes.
2. To understand the impact that UC, alongside other welfare benefit changes, is having and is expected to have on local residents in Hillingdon and on the income and costs of the Council, housing associations and other local organisations.
3. To examine how the Council services, housing associations and voluntary groups are supporting residents to transition to UC and manage their claims.
4. To make practical, prudent recommendations to Cabinet (and other bodies if applicable) from the Committee's findings to support residents transitioning to UC and to manage their claims.

## **Witness session 1**

At the meeting on the 26 September 2018, the Committee heard from Debby Weller, Policy and Strategy Manager (Housing) and had regard to her information report entitled 'Universal Credit and other welfare benefit changes Paper for Witness Session One: Information and analysis Setting the scene: Understanding universal credit and the claimant journey'.

The Committee also heard from Inderpal Mudhar, a representative from the Department of Work and Pensions.

## **Implications on related Council policies**

A role of the Policy Overview Committees is to make recommendations on service changes and improvements to the Cabinet who are responsible for the Council's policy and direction.

## **How this report benefits Hillingdon residents**

Policy Overview Committees directly engage residents and external partners in the work they do.

## **Financial Implications**

As set out in the appendix.

## **Legal Implications**

As set out in the appendix.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

As set out in the appendix.