



Report of: Chair of Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Meeting of	Date	Ward(s)
Executive	19 September 2019	All
Delete as appropriate		Non-exempt

Subject: Universal Credit - Findings of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee

1. Synopsis

- 1.1 This report requests that the Executive receive the report of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee into Universal Credit. A response to the recommendations set out in the report will be considered at a future meeting of the Executive.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the report of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee be received.
- 2.2 That the Executive Member's response be reported to a future meeting of the Executive, including having due regard to any relevant implications of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee's recommendations.

3. Background

- 3.1 The review was held between September 2018 and April 2019. The overall aim of the review was to review the roll out of Universal Credit in Islington, understand the impacts on residents and services, and ensure that measures are in place to address or mitigate any risks or challenges and to facilitate an effective challenge to the Government where appropriate, and communicate this to residents.

3.2 The objectives of the review included:

Gaining a good understanding of Universal Credit Full Service (UC), how it works, and the main changes it introduces to the welfare system and to assess the impact of UC on Islington residents, the Council, and other local services

4. Implications

4.1 Financial Implications

The proposals in the report need to be costed before a response is made by the Executive.

4.2 Legal Implications

Relevant legal implications will be considered as part of the response to the review.

4.3 Environmental Implications

There are no environmental implications at this stage. Any environmental implications will be identified as part of the Executive Member response.

4.4 Resident Impact Assessment

The council must, in the exercise of its functions, have due regard to the need to eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation, and to advance equality of opportunity, and foster good relations, between those who share a relevant protected characteristic and those who do not share it (section 149 Equality Act 2010). The council has a duty to have due regard to the need to remove or minimise disadvantages, take steps to meet needs, in particular steps to take account of disabled persons' disabilities, and encourage people to participate in public life. The council must have due regard to the need to tackle prejudice and promote understanding.

The Committee has had regard to any equalities implications and resident impacts identified by witnesses during the course of the review. Details of any such implications are set out in the appended report. A Resident Impact Assessment has not been completed as the Executive is only asked to receive the report at this stage. The impact on residents will need to be fully considered as part of the Executive response to the review, at which point a Resident Impact Assessment will be completed if required.

5. Conclusion and reasons for recommendations

5.1 The Committee's conclusions are set out in the appended report. Ten recommendations have been made in response to the evidence received. The Executive is asked to endorse the Committee's recommendations.

Appendices:

- Universal Credit – Report of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny Committee

Background papers:

- None.

Final report clearance:

Signed by:

Rowena Champion

11 September 2019

Chair of the Policy and Performance Scrutiny
Committee

Date

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