

UNIVERSAL CREDIT IN-DEPTH SCRUTINY BOARD - FINDINGS

Cabinet – 11 October 2012

Report of the: Deputy Chief Executive and Director of Corporate Resources

Status: For Information

Also considered by: Services Select Committee – 25 September 2012

Key Decision: Yes

This report supports the Key Aim of Effective Management of Council Resources

Portfolio Holder Cllr. Ramsay

Head of Service Group Manager – Financial Services – Adrian Rowbotham

Recommendation: That Cabinet adopts the attached strategy.

Introduction

- 1 At the Services Select Committee meeting on 31 January 2012 it was agreed that a Members' Working Group (Scrutiny Board) would carry out an in-depth scrutiny of Universal Credit.
- 2 The Scrutiny Board consists of the following Members: Cllrs. Firth (Chairman), Horwood (Vice-Chairman), Ball, Hogarth and Raikes.
- 3 Update reports were presented to the Services Select Committee on 3 April 2012 and 19 June 2012.
- 4 The Scrutiny Board has now concluded its investigations and presents the Services Select Committee with its key findings and recommendations as set out in the attached 'Anticipated Impact and Strategy 2012 – 2017' (Appendix 1).

Key Implications

Financial

- 5 The financial implications are contained in the 'Financial Impact of Universal Credit on Sevenoaks District Council' section of Appendix 1.

Community Impact and Outcomes

- 6 The community impact and outcomes are contained in Appendix 1.

Legal, Human Rights etc.

7 There are no legal or human rights implications arising from this report.

Equality Impacts

Consideration of impacts under the Public Sector Equality Duty:		
Question	Answer	Explanation / Evidence
a. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have potential to disadvantage or discriminate against different groups in the community?	No	The actions proposed aim to assist residents who will be affected by the change to Universal Credit.
b. Does the decision being made or recommended through this paper have the potential to promote equality of opportunity?	Yes	
c. What steps can be taken to mitigate, reduce, avoid or minimise the impacts identified above?		

Risk Assessment Statement

8 A 'Risks Analysis' section is included in Appendix 1.

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – Universal Credit – Anticipated Impact and Strategy 2012 - 2017

Background Papers:

Report to Services Select Committee 19 June 2012 – Item 8 – Universal Credit Indepth Scrutiny Update

Report to Services Select Committee 3 April 2012 – Item 6 – Universal Credit Indepth Scrutiny Update

Report to Services Select Committee 31 January 2012 – Item 6 – Universal Credit Indepth Scrutiny Briefing Note

Report to Services Select Committee 8 November 2011 – Benefits Service update

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