



Sevenoaks

DISTRICT COUNCIL

SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE

03 April 2012 at 7.00 pm

Conference Room - Council Office

6. Universal Credit Presentation

(Pages 1 -
12)

Adrian
Rowbotham
Tel: 01732
227153

To assist in the speedy and efficient despatch of business, Members wishing to obtain factual information on items included on the Agenda are asked to enquire of the appropriate Director or Contact Officer named on a report prior to the day of the meeting.

Should you require a copy of this agenda or any of the reports listed on it in another format please do not hesitate to contact the Democratic Services Team as set out below.

For any other queries concerning this agenda or the meeting please contact:

The Democratic Services Team (01732 227241)

This page is intentionally left blank

Services Select Committee *Universal Credit Sub Group*



Update for SDC Meeting 03/04/2012

Michael Horwood

Members: Cllr Anna Firth (Chairman), Cllr Michael Horwood (Vice Chairman),
Cllr Simon Raikes, Cllr Roddy Hogarth and Cllr Laurence Ball

What is Universal Credit (UC)?



**Universal Credit will
be rolled out from
April 2013 – Oct 2017**

- A simpler benefits system that amalgamates most benefits – this will reduce fraud and make the system easier to understand.
- A more worthwhile benefits system that makes most people better off working.
- A system that is designed to respond to the flexibilities of modern working patterns.

What is the current system?

Responsible for

Institution

Housing Benefit

Council Tax Benefit

What is the current system?

Responsible for

Housing Benefit

Council Tax Benefit

Institution



What is the current system?

Responsible for

Housing Benefit
Council Tax Benefit

Institution



Jobseekers Allowance
Income Support
Employment Support Allowance

What is the current system?

Responsible for

Housing Benefit
Council Tax Benefit

Institution



Jobseekers Allowance
Income Support
Employment Support Allowance



What is the current system?

Responsible for

Institution

Housing Benefit
Council Tax Benefit



Jobseekers Allowance
Income Support
Employment Support Allowance



Working Tax Credits
Child Tax Credits
Child Benefit

What is the current system?

Responsible for

Housing Benefit
Council Tax Benefit

Institution



Jobseekers Allowance
Income Support
Employment Support Allowance



Working Tax Credits
Child Tax Credits
Child Benefit



What is the new system?

Universal Credit

Benefits Outside of Universal Credit



Council Tax 'Discount'



.... And that's it.

What have we done so far?

- We have held five meetings so far, all on a Friday from 9AM – 1PM, to discuss the impact on Sevenoaks residents from the changes to Universal Credit.
- Interviewed various witnesses from charitable and voluntary organisations, as well as officers from the Department for Work and Pensions and Jobcentre Plus.
- Attended a conference regarding Universal Credit and Council Tax localisation.

Some of the Challenges Ahead

- The 'ambitious' 80% of *applications online* target.
- The payment of Universal Credit monthly, not fortnightly.
- The payment of housing benefit to social tenants directly.
- Budgeting of Universal Credit, along with a possible reduction in Council Tax Benefit and reduced access to 'The Social Fund'.
- Creation of a new Council Tax localisation policy.



Thank you for listening

Questions?

