

**MINUTE OF COUNCIL – 15 OCTOBER 2014**

**43. WELFARE REFORM WORKING GROUP - MOTION INCLUDED ON THE AGENDA AT THE REQUEST OF COUNCILLOR FUREY ON BEHALF OF THE LABOUR GROUP**

In the absence of Councillor Furey, with the agreement of the meeting, the following altered Motion was moved and seconded:

“A. That following the introduction of Universal Credit in West Lancashire, the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to establish a cross party Commission to meet 4 times per year entitled ‘Welfare Reform Commission’, appoint the Chairman and Vice-Chairman, and agree the following Membership and Terms of reference:

Membership: Conservative Councillors 3, Labour Councillors 3.

Terms of Reference

1. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on rent collection statistics of West Lancashire Borough Council.
  2. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on rent arrears of West Lancashire Borough Council.
  3. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on staffing resources in relation to contact with applicants on West Lancashire Borough Council.
  4. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on the Housing Revenue Account of West Lancashire Borough Council.
  5. To receive evidence from other Landlords (including Social Landlords) on impact of Universal Credit on their rent collection rates and arrears.
  6. To review the impact of Universal Credit on payment and collection of Council Tax.
  7. To review the Universal Credit applicant’s ability to access services in West Lancashire (is the Digital Strategy working).
  8. To receive evidence from Mortgage Providers about the impact of Universal Credit on mortgage arrears.
  9. To monitor the Financial Inclusion Strategy and make recommendation for change if necessary.
- B. That the costs of supporting the work of the Commission, up to £10,000, be met from the Major Projects Reserve/HRA specified reserve.”

An Amendment to the Motion was moved and seconded.

A vote was taken, the Amendment was CARRIED and became the Substantive Motion.

A vote was taken on the Substantive Motion, which was CARRIED.

RESOLVED A. That following the introduction of Universal Credit in West Lancashire, the Corporate and Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to establish a standing agenda item entitled 'Welfare Reform Report', the scope of the report to be settled by the Transformation Manager, in consultation with the Chairman of the Corporate & Environmental Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Leader of the Labour Group, which may include the matters set out below:

1. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on rent collection statistics of West Lancashire Borough Council.
2. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on rent arrears of West Lancashire Borough Council.
3. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on staffing resources in relation to contact with applicants on West Lancashire Borough Council.
4. To monitor the impact of Universal Credit on the Housing Revenue Account of West Lancashire Borough Council.
5. To receive evidence from other Landlords (including Social Landlords) on impact of Universal Credit on their rent collection rates and arrears.
6. To review the impact of Universal Credit on payment and collection of Council Tax.
7. To review the Universal Credit applicant's ability to access services in West Lancashire (is the Digital Strategy working).
8. To receive evidence from Mortgage Providers about the impact of Universal Credit on mortgage arrears.
9. To monitor the Financial Inclusion Strategy and make recommendation for change if necessary.

B. That the costs of supporting this additional work, up to £10,000, be met from the Major Projects Reserve/HRA specified reserve.