

**COUNCIL MEETING – 8<sup>TH</sup> NOVEMBER 2017**

NOTICE OF:	Reference No:	Date Received:	Date Forwarded:
White Paper	WP2	30/10/17	31/10/17

Submitted by: Councillor Debra Coupar  
 Relevant Board/Regulatory Panel: Executive Board  
 Executive Member/Chair: Executive Member (Communities)  
 Relevant Director: Director of Communities and Environment

This Council is appalled to learn that in the first year of Universal Credit being rolled out to single unemployed people in Leeds, 25% of recipients were hit with sanctions. It is therefore of great concern that 50,000 current Housing Benefit claimants and 55,000 current Tax Credit claimants are due to transfer to Universal Credit by June 2018.

Council further notes the devastating impact of Universal Credit in areas where the benefit has been fully rolled out, particularly on families with children. Half of all council tenants across 105 local authorities who receive the housing element of universal credit are at least a month behind on their rent, with 30% two months behind.

Council is concerned a further damaging effect of Universal Credit is its impact on determining the eligibility of children from deprived backgrounds for Free School Meals, as well as an element of the Pupil Premium, meaning the risk of further cuts to vital Government funding and support for these children.

This Council therefore calls on government to immediately pause the roll-out of Universal Credit in order to prevent potentially significant hardship for thousands of Leeds residents, including families with children, and rethink its approach to welfare reform.




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Deadlines for submission

- White Papers - 10.00 am on the day before the issue of the Summons
- Questions - 10.00 am on Monday before the meeting
- Amendments - 10.00 am on the day before the meeting  
(including references back)

(All submissions should be made to Governance Services for receipt to be recorded and distribution made)

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