

Committee: Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel

Date: 13 March 2018

Wards: ALL

Subject: Roll Out of Universal Credit in Merton

Lead member: Councillor Peter McCabe, Chair of the Healthier Communities and Older People overview and scrutiny panel.

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Recommendations:

- A. That the Panel discuss the reports from the Revenues and Benefits Team and Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth on the roll out of universal Credit in Merton and the impact on people vulnerable people.
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1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. The purpose of the attached reports is to provide an overview of the roll out of Universal Credit in Merton and if has had any significant impact on vulnerable people in the borough. Representatives from the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) will attend to answer questions.
- 1.2. The scrutiny of welfare benefits falls within the remit of the Sustainable Communities Panel. However this Panel has an interest in this area given that the issues impact on vulnerable people and can contribute to health inequalities.

2 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

The Healthier Communities and Older People Overview and Scrutiny Panel can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

Cabinet is constitutionally required to receive, consider and respond to scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them at a meeting.

- 2.1. Cabinet is not, however, required to agree and implement recommendations from Overview and Scrutiny. Cabinet could agree to implement some, or none, of the recommendations made in the scrutiny review final report.

3 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 3.1. The Panel will be consulted at the meeting

4 TIMETABLE

- 4.1. The Panel will consider important items as they arise as part of their work programme for 2017/18

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

5.1. None relating to this covering report

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

6.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the legal and statutory implications of the topic being scrutinised.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

7.1. It is a fundamental aim of the scrutiny process to ensure that there is full and equal access to the democratic process through public involvement and engaging with local partners in scrutiny reviews. Furthermore, the outcomes of reviews are intended to benefit all sections of the local community.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1. None relating to this covering report. Scrutiny work involves consideration of the crime and disorder implications of the topic being scrutinised.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. None relating to this covering report

10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- Merton Revenues and Benefits Team Report
- Citizens Advice Merton and Lambeth Report.

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS