

Community Impact Assessment

Name and description of project, policy or service	
<p>Universal Credit report for Homes and Communities and O&SC</p> <p>The report sets out the current situation of Universal Credit (UC) on a national basis and more specifically for Dacorum. It highlights the experiences of the Housing Service since full roll out and some of the concerns of the system and what this means for residents, for other agencies and partners and for DBC as a stock retaining Local Authority. It also sets out the approach being taken by the Council to reduce the risk of UC implementation on our residents, voluntary sector partners and ability to provide a quality service.</p>	
Identifying the impact of this project, policy or service on the community and environment	
	<p>Questions to explore:</p> <p>What positive impact will your project, policy or service have?</p> <p>What negative impact will your project policy or service have?</p> <p>How will you ensure any negative impact is limited?</p> <p>What is the impact of doing nothing?</p>
<p>On the community in general e.g. social or economic benefits, negative impacts</p>	<p>There is a financial risk to residents in Dacorum who will be in receipt of Universal credit. There has been an increased number of residents in poverty and needing to use local services like Food banks and Citizens Advice Dacorum. The report sets out some of the evidence from other areas and support agencies and details how the council will work in partnership to reduce this impact. The aim of Universal credit is to increase the number of people in employment and working closely with the DWP will enable us to work towards this goal and help communities prosper.</p>
<p>On the council as an organisation e.g. on staff, services or assets</p>	<p>A number of departments within the council will find financial pressure and increased demand due to the introduction of Universal Credit. This will include our ability to collect rent and charges from residents, increase use of agency staff due to moving deadlines and lack of information about the roll out and increase on demand on homelessness and housing advice service. The details set out in the report detail the current and next steps the Housing Service are focusing on to effectively address these with operational changes such as restructuring income services and looking at dedicated resources for UC cases.</p>
<p>On the protected characteristics Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and</p>	<p>It is understood that Universal Credit could adversely affect those with disabilities and those who don't speak English and have difficulty accessing information online and over the</p>

Community Impact Assessment

<p>maternity, race, religion or belief, sex, sexual orientation (Specify where impacts are different for different characteristics)</p>	<p>phone. These groups will be considered in any actions plans to ensure additional support is aimed at these groups. Residents who are of pensionable age will not be affected.</p>	
<p>On the environment e.g. effects on the climate, trees, amenity space, biodiversity, water, energy, waste, material use, air quality</p>	<p>No impact</p>	
<p>On the specific target community / location e.g. if the project is based in a specific area or targeted community group</p>	<p>Universal credit is aimed at those who are on low incomes and working with partners we will ensure these groups can receive the support they need to prevent further hardship and poverty.</p>	
<p>Outline the approach you took to identify the need for this project, policy or service. Please include use of research, data and consultation with residents and/or staff.</p>		
<p>A number of reports from organisations such as Citizens Advice, CPAG, Shelter, National Housing Federation and the National Audit Office have helped identify the current impact of Universal Credit. We have also used information about existing claimants and their payment history and carried out focus groups with residents already in receipt of Universal credit to inform us of support we can provide.</p>		
<p>Which commitment(s) does this policy, project or service support from the Equality and Diversity</p>		
<p>We know who our customers are We involve our customers in shaping and scrutinising services We represent the communities we serve.</p>		
<p>How will you review the impact, positive or negative once the project, policy or service is implemented?</p>		
<p>Action</p>	<p>By when</p>	<p>By who</p>
<p>Action plan set out by DBC Universal Credit working Group</p>	<p>2018 - 2023</p>	<p>UC Working Group chaired by Nigel Howcutt</p>

Completed by :

Name: Layna Warden

Role: Group Manager – Tenants and Leaseholders

Date: 22.05.19

Reviewed and signed off by relevant Group Manager:

Name:

Role:

Date

Reviewed June 2016