

**REPORT TO:** Employment Learning and Skills and  
Community Policy Performance Board

**DATE:** 7<sup>TH</sup> January 2015

**REPORTING OFFICER:** Strategic Director, Children and Enterprise

**PORTFOLIO:** Resources

**SUBJECT:** Presentation Universal Credit

**WARD(S)** Borough-wide

**1.0 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

1.1 To receive a presentation from the Council's Revenue and Benefits and Customer Services Division on the introduction of the Universal Credit Scheme.

**2.0 RECOMMENDATION: That:**

i) That the board notes the presentation and action points.

**3.0 SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

3.1 Universal Credit is a single payment for people who are looking for work or are on a low income. It was introduced in 2013 on a pilot basis and replaced the following;

- Income based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income related Employment and Support Allowance
- Income Support
- Child Tax Credits
- Working Tax Credits
- Housing Benefit

3.2 Halton's Go-Live date was 17<sup>th</sup> November. The presentation will outline partnership arrangements in place to manage the scheme and will identify potential issues and challenges arising from the implementation of the scheme, including the administration of Housing benefit and Council Tax support interventions.

**4.0 POLICY IMPLICATIONS**

4.1 The scheme will have implications for all the Council's priorities

**5.0 OTHER/FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

5.1 Not applicable.

6.0 **IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S PRIORITIES**

As above.

6.1 **Children & Young People in Halton**

Not applicable.

6.2 **Employment, Learning & Skills in Halton**

Not applicable.

6.3 **A Healthy Halton**

Not applicable.

6.4 **A Safer Halton**

Not applicable.

6.5 **Halton's Urban Renewal**

Not applicable.

7.0 **RISK ANALYSIS**

7.1 There are no risks identified.

8.0 **LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS UNDER SECTION 100D OF THE LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972**

None under the meaning of the Act.