

<b>SUBJECT:</b>	<b>UNIVERSAL CREDIT AND ITS LINK TO HOUSING SUPPLY AND DEMAND – OVERVIEW BY GRAHAM WATTS</b>
<b>DIRECTORATE:</b>	<b>CHIEF EXECUTIVE AND TOWN CLERK</b>
<b>REPORT AUTHOR:</b>	<b>GRAHAM WATTS, DEMOCRATIC TEAM LEADER AND ELECTIONS MANAGER</b>

## 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide the Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee with an opportunity to consider a proposed draft report to the Executive, setting out the key findings and final recommendations following the Committee's scrutiny review into the local community impact of welfare reform.

## 2. Scrutiny Review

- 2.1 The Committee met on 3 July 2018 where it was agreed that the scrutiny review into the local community impact of welfare reform would focus on two key strands, as follows:

*i) Universal Credit*

- background to Universal Credit;
- the role of key support teams and agencies in responding to Universal Credit;
- how Universal Credit had impacted these key teams and agencies, as well as any broader welfare reform;
- the impact of Universal Credit and welfare reform on communities;
- how teams and agencies worked together to meet demand, fill gaps and avoid duplication.

*ii) Housing*

- background on housing and its affordability, including its link to Universal Credit and welfare reform;
- demand for affordable housing in the city;
- the Council's role as landlord and as an enabler of affordable housing;
- how affordable housing was encouraged in the city and what impact this was having;
- the role of planning policies in delivering affordable housing.

- 2.2 As part of this scrutiny review the Committee was able to gather a significant amount of evidence from internal officers and representatives of external organisations.
- 2.3 The proposed draft Executive report, attached at **Appendix A**, sets out the key findings of the review. It includes a number of recommendations which have been developed as a result of the outcomes of the various meetings of the Committee that have taken place.
- 2.4 The Community Leadership Scrutiny Committee is requested to consider the content of the draft Executive report, particularly the recommendations, in order that they reflect the debate and input from the Committee, prior to its formal submission.

**3. Organisational Impacts**

- 3.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)

There are no financial implications resulting from this report.

- 3.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules

There are no legal implications resulting from this report.

**4. Recommendation**

- 4.1 That the draft Executive report attached at Appendix A outlining the key findings and recommendations of the scrutiny review into the local community impact of welfare reform be approved for submission to the Executive.

**Is this a key decision?** No

**Do the exempt information categories apply?** No

**Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?** No

**How many appendices does the report contain?** One

**List of Background Papers:** None

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