

## NOTICE OF MOTION

To be submitted to the meeting of Full Council to be held on:

18<sup>th</sup> October 2017

in accordance with Standing Order Number 6.

	Name (in capitals)	Signature
Proposer:	Cllr A Wall	
Seconder:	Cllr P Sinnott	

**Title: UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

### Motion

This Council expresses its grave concern at the manner in which Universal Credit has been implemented by government and with its consequences for families in Halton.

Council resolves that it:

- Many people have already turned to Citizens Advice Halton for help with Universal Credit and the charity states numbers struggling will continue to grow as more people move onto the benefit. Since Universal Credit was introduced in Halton the charity has stated it has already helped 710 people with 1,160 problems with the benefit.
- By 2022 Universal Credit will affect more than 15,500 households across Halton. Across the country 1 in 4 (28%) working age households will be claiming Universal Credit, more than half of which (54%) will be in employment. The benefit will also be claimed by more than half (52%) of all families with children in the UK and 6 in 10 (58%) households where an adult is disabled or has a long term health condition.
- In a major new report – Delivering on Universal Credit – national Citizens Advice has revealed that the requirement to wait for six weeks to receive any payment means people face serious financial insecurity, with many people being forced into debt.

This Council believes the financial security of many households in Halton is put at risk as applicants are required to wait many weeks for the first payment of Universal Credit. As it stands, many people face uncertainty about how much they will receive and when it will arrive. This insecurity makes it harder to focus on finding work and increases worry about how to manage with the care of their families and fund household essentials.

Council resolves to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, calling upon government to pause the roll out of Universal Credit whilst it addresses continuing difficulties in the time taken to process applications.