

<b>Council</b>	<b>Agenda Item 42(e)</b>
2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2017	Brighton & Hove City Council

**NOTICE OF MOTION  
LABOUR & CO-OPERATIVE GROUP**

**UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

This council resolves to request the Chief Executive to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, requesting that the roll out of Universal Credit is paused until the issues associated with this key social security programme are fixed, including that:

- The in-built 6 week delay for initial payments should be ended,
- Claimants are allowed to choose between monthly and more regular payments
- The cap should be lifted on the housing element of Universal Credit
- Landlords should be paid direct by default
- Payments should be made to individuals rather than one payment per family.

This council also resolves to request the Chief Executive to:

- Inform the city's three MPs of this motion and to call for their support in lobbying the Government to achieve our objectives on this issue.

Proposed by: Cllr Penn

Seconded by: Cllr Daniel

Supporting Information

The council and its voluntary sector partners are taking a multi-agency approach, working to support claimants with benefit & debt advice, digital support and a discretionary fund. However, many low income people are managing day to day, paying whichever bill is most urgent. Initial payments should not be delayed, and regularity of Universal Credit payments should be suitable for the individual and their circumstances, otherwise more people than ever will be driven into debt, and have to turn to loan-sharks and foodbanks.

Evidence from pilot areas shows more people falling into rent arrears under Universal Credit, and the housing element of Universal Credit is already below actual rents for many

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/Global/CitizensAdvice/welfare%20publications/Delivering%20on%20Universal%20Credit%20-%20report.pdf>

[https://england.shelter.org.uk/media/press\\_releases/articles/shelter\\_response\\_to\\_universal\\_credit\\_debate](https://england.shelter.org.uk/media/press_releases/articles/shelter_response_to_universal_credit_debate)

<https://www.landlords.org.uk/news-campaigns/news/two-in-ten-landlords-willing-house-universal-credit-tenants>

Universal Credit goes to one bank account per family. This potentially increases dependency within households, and could exacerbate financial abuse as highlighted by Women's Aid and the TUC

<https://www.tuc.org.uk/publications/unequal-trapped-and-controlled-womens-experience-financial-abuse-and-potential>

