

NOTICE OF MOTION
CONSERVATIVE GROUP
UNIVERSAL CREDIT TRANSITION

This Council requests:

That the BHCC Chief Executive Officer writes to the Secretary of State for Work & Pensions to seek assurance that the residents of Brighton and Hove, who are transitioning from the complexity of six separate state benefits onto Universal Credit, will have the financial assistance necessary to make the switch as seamless as possible.

Proposed by: Cllr Janio

Seconded by: Cllr Bell

Supporting Information

At the heart of Universal Credit is a belief that work should always pay. Universal Credit will eventually replace six benefits, including Working and Child Tax Credits.

Claimants can ask for an advance payment of Universal Credit, to help them budget while they're waiting for their first payment.

The announcement that claimants seeking an advance payment can now do so free of charge; following the Government's announcement that taxpayers will cover the cost of calls is welcomed.

Provision of 'alternative payment arrangements' that enable claimants to have the housing costs element of their Universal Credit paid directly to landlords is welcomed by many claimants.

1. Claimants moving to Universal Credit from other benefits do not receive less as a result of their move to Universal Credit, where their circumstances have otherwise remained the same.
2. For some claimants Universal Credit will provide a level of support that is higher than the current system.
3. There will be no cash losers as a result of the migration to Universal Credit, where circumstances remain the same, because the Government is providing cash protection to claimants whose Universal Credit award would be less than under the old system, in the form of an extra amount to make up the difference between the old and the new.

