

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCILCABINET18 February 2016Report by Deputy Chief ExecutiveDELIVERY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH DEPARTMENT OF WORK AND  
PENSIONS AND UPDATE ON PREPARATIONS FOR UNIVERSAL CREDIT**PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. This paper brings forward the Delivery Partnership Agreement with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), setting out the respective roles and responsibilities for implementation of Universal Credit in East Renfrewshire from February 2016.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

2. It is recommended that the Cabinet:
- (a) homologate the Delivery Partnership Agreement (DPA) with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for implementation of Universal Credit in East Renfrewshire from February 2016;
  - (b) delegate responsibility to the Deputy Chief Executive to make any final, minor changes to this agreement, with anything material being brought back to Cabinet for consideration; and
  - (c) note the preparations made for Universal Credit roll-out in East Renfrewshire.

**BACKGROUND**

3. The roll out of Universal Credit (UC) in East Renfrewshire will take place from February 2016 and will involve small numbers this year, mostly single jobseekers. It will take some years for the full impact to be felt. Universal credit is expected to add additional hardship to many households in East Renfrewshire. DWP predicts an average of 22 UC claims per month for East Renfrewshire up to March 2017, totalling 315 claims in the first year.

4. Our place in the final tranche of UC roll-out has allowed us to learn from the experiences of other councils and we have taken a proactive approach to preparations. The planning structure to prepare the Council and its partners for Welfare Reform has recently been reviewed and streamlined and now consists of a Welfare Reform Strategy Group made up of senior council officers and partner agencies (incl. DWP and Citizens Advice Bureau CAB) and a more tactical Universal Credit Preparations Group jointly chaired by the Council and DWP.

5. There are also interfaces with groups such as the Local Employability Forum and the short-life Digital Participation Group. The remit of the Forum for Advice & Information Services in East Renfrewshire (FAIRER) has also been recently reviewed is continuing to be chaired by the Convener for Corporate Services, supported by the Revenues and Business Support Manager.

6. We are preparing a briefing session for elected Members in March 2016 to cover progress and issues on welfare reform in more depth.

## **DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP AGREEMENT WITH DWP**

7. As part of the arrangements for commencing roll-out of Universal Credit within East Renfrewshire, we are required to enter into a standard Delivery Partnership Agreement (DPA) with DWP. This sets out the respective roles and responsibilities of DWP and the Council. This is attached as Annex 1.

8. This agreement needed to be in place for Universal Credit going live in East Renfrewshire on 15 February 2016. The Deputy Chief Executive has entered into this agreement, but it was felt necessary to seek Cabinet homologation of this decision.

9. This agreement has been checked by colleagues in Legal Services and they confirm no issues of concern; it is however subject to minor amendment. It is recommended that Cabinet delegates authority to the Deputy Chief Executive to agree such changes. Any material change will, of course, be brought back to Cabinet for its consideration.

10. As part of this DPA we have been required to identify a Single Point of Contact (SPOC) for Universal Credit for the DWP. Given DWP estimates an average of 21-22 UC claims per month for the 13 months to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2017, the additional duties of the SPOC role will initially be absorbed by the Benefits section. However, as the UC workload increases, the SPOC role will be subject to periodic review and consideration given to the sustainability of these arrangements.

## **ONWARD IMPLICATIONS OF UNIVERSAL CREDIT**

11. As the national landscape is shifting on welfare reform, it is difficult to predict how quickly UC will develop. There are still plans for a new national digital system for UC to commence in May 2016, with a phased roll out over a 26 month period. Full roll out of UC is dependent on this system so any slippage could see councils with low UC numbers for a longer period. Best estimates are that the next 4-5 years will involve a mixed benefits system, with councils dealing with Universal Credit claimants in relation to Council Tax Reduction claims as well as Housing Benefit (HB)/ Council Tax Reduction (CTR) for non UC claimants. Consideration of inclusion of non-working age groups into UC is not expected until 2020. There are also 1100 residents over 60 years of age who will continue on HB and CTR. We will also continue to administer the CTR scheme for over 5000 claimants.

12. The reductions in UK government support to councils to deliver benefit services are now taking place against a very different planning environment from that which pertained when annual efficiency savings were put in place in 2010. At that time it was expected that councils would cease claims for Housing Benefit in October 2013 with the introduction of UC. Instead timescales have repeatedly slipped to the extent that even current announced timescales for rollout of UC by 2017 are not viewed with any great confidence. Additionally, even with full UC implementation, no plans currently exist to replace housing benefit for those above pension age (up to 28% of ERC caseload).

13. This means that services which were originally expected to wind down (e.g. Housing Benefit) are now expected to continue with no clear end point in sight, yet still deliver year on year efficiency savings. The situation is challenging. In addition, the Council has a number of temporarily funded posts responding to welfare reform, funded through Welfare Reform contingency funding – we will now need to review these to put the service on a more sustainable footing to deal with consequences.

## **FINANCE AND EFFICIENCY**

14. This Delivery Partnership Agreement sets out the basis of funding between the Council and the DWP for the initial year of Universal Credit roll-out in East Renfrewshire, based on DWP projections of 315 cases in the first year. The Council is required to provide detailed management information to DWP on a monthly basis to account for the support provided to DWP clients (see section 3. of agreement at Annex 1).

15. The more significant issue will arise in negotiating funding for future years as caseload increases and when Housing Benefit subsidy is removed altogether. This situation remains unclear due to the many national changes on the horizon with wider welfare reform. Cabinet will be advised when the position is clearer.

## **CONSULTATION**

16. The Delivery Partnership Agreement has been subject to discussions with colleagues in Legal Services and the broad approach to working with the DWP has been agreed with wider colleagues and partners through Welfare Reform preparations.

## **PARTNERSHIP WORKING**

17. The approach to Universal Credit roll-out in East Renfrewshire has very much been developed on a partnership basis. All key services across the Council have been involved through the Welfare Reform Strategic and Officers Groups and DWP and the Citizens Advice Bureau have also been key partners in these arrangements.

## **IMPLICATIONS**

18. This Delivery Partnership Agreement is a necessary step in the implementation of Universal Credit within East Renfrewshire. Such agreements have been standard practice in the three earlier tranches of Universal Credit roll-out across the country. Whilst the numbers of people eligible for Universal Credit will be small in this first year of implementation, further years will involve more significant numbers and consequently will be more challenging. Funding and obligations for these latter years remain subject to clarification and change and we will report back to Cabinet as this becomes clearer.

## **CONCLUSION**

19. Council departments and partner agencies continue to make good progress in mitigating the effects of welfare reforms and proactive steps have been taken to prepare for the introduction of Universal Credit in East Renfrewshire. The full impact of Welfare Reform has not yet been realised across Scotland due to a number of delays in the national roll out. These changes are likely to exacerbate poverty for our most vulnerable individuals, families and communities most at risk and on the margins of poverty.

## RECOMMENDATIONS

20. It is recommended that the Cabinet:

- (a) homologate the Delivery Partnership Agreement (DPA) with the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) for implementation of Universal Credit in East Renfrewshire from February 2016;
- (b) delegate responsibility to the Deputy Chief Executive to make any final, minor changes to this agreement, with anything material being brought back to Cabinet for consideration; and
- (c) note the preparations made for Universal Credit roll-out in East Renfrewshire.

Caroline Innes, Deputy Chief Executive

1 February 2016

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## KEY WORDS

Welfare reform, Universal Credit, Department of Work and Pensions (DWP), partnership agreement

## BACKGROUND PAPERS

- Welfare Reform Contingency Fund & Update, Cabinet, 17 September 2015
- Discretionary Housing Payments, Cabinet 25 June 2015
- Welfare Reform Act 2012 – Impact on Local Benefit Recipients & Local Service Agencies, published by Economic Development February 2014 and updated February 2015.
- Welfare Reform, Cabinet 4 September 2014

*Please note that this is still subject to minor amendments and final points of detail prior to 15 February.*

**(1) THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS**

**and**

**(2) EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**

**Dated - February 2016**

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**UNIVERSAL CREDIT DELIVERY PARTNERSHIP**

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## BETWEEN:-

- (1) The Secretary of State for Work and Pensions, acting as part of the Crown, whose principal place of business is at Caxton House, Tothill Street, London, SW1H 9NA (the 'Department' or 'DWP') and
- (2) East Renfrewshire Council, a council incorporated under the Local Government etc (Scotland) Act 1994 and having its headquarters at Council headquarters, Eastwood Park, Giffnock, East Renfrewshire G46 6UG and its successors and assignees ('the Council')

## IT IS AGREED as follows:-

- 1.1. This Delivery Partnership (DP) shall have effect from the last date of signature by the Parties (the 'Commencement Date').
- 1.2. As part of Universal Credit (UC) expansion, **East Renfrewshire Council** have agreed to be a delivery partner from 15/02/2016 to 31/03/2017 in accordance with this DP.
- 1.3. The Department will work in partnership with the Council, to deliver the services required by these claimants, following Universal Support – delivered locally principles, recognising that the partnership will deliver services (as set out in Part 1 of the Schedule) that are flexible and sensitive to local needs, with the ultimate aim of delivering a joined up and coherent journey between services for the claimant. This DP will support national expansion of UC as an interim arrangement, until the full Universal Support offer is in place. These include:
  - Getting on-line to make their claim.
  - Receiving budgeting support to prepare and support claimants for the financial changes UC brings, specifically these include, the single household payment, the UC monthly payment and housing costs paid directly to the claimant.
- 1.4. UC has a current requirement for assistance with housing cost claims from the Council.
- 1.5. Partnership working is crucial to the delivery of this DP and will lay the foundations upon which the Universal Support services will be developed and delivered.
- 1.6. The following partnering principles will apply as the Department and the Council move forward.
 

The Department and the Council are:

  - committed to working together to improve performance, efficiency and the quality of claimants' experience of services;
  - in agreement that they have key roles to play in identifying, leading and participating in partnership working;

- in agreement that, wherever possible, partnership working should be based on and leveraged against infrastructure and services that are already in place, building on existing successful partnerships and taking learning from these successful models;
  - in agreement that they will continue to seek, through discussion, opportunities to further help to develop, test and trial the early implementation of any jointly agreed initiatives and best practice that will further support the ambitions of the wider Department and the Council and other local authorities in the delivery of Universal Support.
- 1.7. During the period of this DP the Department will continue to accept new claims to UC from claimants, in the designated post code areas, who satisfy the UC eligibility criteria. It is recognised that this claimant group may change as a result of changes in circumstance once the claimant is in receipt of UC.
  - 1.8. Where the actual number of claimants using the services outlined in this DP (Part 1 of the Schedule), based upon the initial UC criteria, exceed the projected volumes in Part 2 of the Schedule, the Department and the Council will enter into discussions to re-negotiate and agree any increased funding to reflect the revised volumes.
  - 1.8. Where a subsequent change in the UC eligibility criteria causes the volumes to differ from the projected volumes on which this DP is based and or volumes change for any reason, the Department and the Council will enter into discussions to re-negotiate the funding. With regards to the re-negotiation process, the DWP will act reasonably in these, and be open to providing additional funding where evidence supports the additional volumes. The DWP will make appropriate arrangements to have the necessary staff available and the re-negotiation process should be concluded in a timescale not to exceed 2 calendar months.
  - 1.9. Both the Department and the Council shall participate in UC delivery, performing the acts, functions and roles assigned to it by the Parties in accordance with the outline of the services and activities set out in Schedule 1.
  - 1.10. The Council shall inform the Department in writing of the identity of any organisation which the Council employs or engages to assist the Council in performing any act on behalf of the Council or in performing any of the functions or roles of the Council in the UC support services.
  - 1.11. Nothing in this DP shall be deemed to constitute a partnership under the Partnership Act 1890 or the Limited Partnerships Act 1907, joint venture, agency, interest grouping or any other kind of formal business grouping or entity between the Department and the Council.

## **2. PAYMENT BY THE DEPARTMENT**

- 2.1. The Department will pay the Council on presentation to the Department by the Council of a valid invoice in such form and containing such information as the



Department reasonably requires for the costs incurred by the Council in providing those services and activities and in accordance with the funding arrangements set out Part 2 of the Schedule. Payment will be subject to validation by the Department which may include additional information being requested by the Department. Invoices must be presented monthly or at agreed intervals.

- 2.2. Subject to clause 2.1 the Department will pay the Council for the costs incurred by the Council in providing the services and undertaking the activities set out in Part 1 of the Schedule during the month for which the invoice is presented within 20 working days of the date of the presentation of the invoice.
- 2.3. Payment is time bound and invoices need to be submitted promptly. DWP cannot make payment in advance for services that have not been delivered.

### 3. MANAGEMENT INFORMATION

- 3.1. The Council will provide the following information each month to the Department and on an 'ad-hoc' basis (as agreed by parties on an exceptional basis), in such format and/or media as the Department reasonably requires:
  - **Assisted digital support**- Number of claims requiring additional (i.e. one to one assistance needed in order to complete the claim process);
  - **Personal Budgeting Support**-Volume of claimants referred for personal budgeting support and the number who were actually seen- as %;
  - Volume of referrals to personal budgeting support that resulted in telephone advice by the Council (or provider);
  - Volume of referrals to personal budgeting support that resulted in face to face advice by the Council (or provider);
  - **LCTRS**- Number of manual applications to Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme processed;
  - **UC Service Centre Support**- Number of cases where Universal Credit service centre contacts the Council to complete the evidence gathering or makes checks on the claimant.

### 4. GOVERNANCE

- 4.1. The services and activities to be undertaken by the Council will be monitored during the life of this DP through:
  - Monthly review meetings that will take place between the Council and the Department at a working level; and
  - Quarterly review meetings will take place between the Council's Head of Business Change & Revenues Services and the District Manager (DWP) or their nominated representatives.

Such reviews shall include (but are not limited to) (i) the impact of the services delivered by the Council upon claimants under the UC service; (ii) any specific issues received or raised by either party; (iii) the performance of the wider

obligations of the Department and Council under this DP including any impact on funding and (iv) any complaints received.

- 4.2. The Department's District Manager and the Revenues and Business Support Manger or other nominees as agreed locally, shall use reasonable endeavours to resolve all issues and differences arising out of or in connection with this DP by means of prompt discussions.
- 4.3. If the Council has a query relating to UC, in the first instance, the Council will attempt to resolve the query from existing guidance. If the query remains unresolved, the Council will complete the LA Issue Resolution Template and forward the query to the **eastrenfrewshire.dpaenquiries@dwp.gsi.gov.uk** inbox for resolution. The Department will seek to resolve queries submitted within 5 working days and in exceptional circumstances within 10 working days except where the query relates to a customer where the query should be resolved as soon as possible and within a maximum of 5 working days.
- 4.4. If the Department has a query relating to UC for the Council to resolve, the Council will seek to resolve queries submitted within 5 working days and in exceptional circumstances within 10 working days except where the query relates to a customer. In these circumstances the query should be resolved as soon as possible and within a maximum of 5 working days.

## **5. CHANGE CONTROL**

- 5.1. Either the Department or the Council may propose a variation to the activities listed, in writing (including but not limited to electronic mail) to the other, and the other shall confirm in writing (including but not limited to electronic mail) to the Party who proposed the variation, whether it agrees or does not agree to the variation as soon as practicable and in any event within 30 calendar days.
- 5.2. Immediately upon agreement by the other in accordance with clause 5.1 above, the Department's nominated signatory and the Council's nominated signatory shall sign a variation whereupon the Parties shall be bound by those terms.

## **6. DATA PROTECTION AND FREEDOM OF INFORMATION**

- 6.1. Both Parties are Data Controllers under the Data Protection Act 1998 and are joint Data Controllers for the purposes of Universal Support.
- 6.2. Data protection will be set out in a separate Data Sharing Agreement signed by both DWP and the Council.
- 6.3. From time to time either Party may receive requests for information relating to this DP and/or the UC Live Service. In such event, the other Party will do all things reasonably necessary to assist the Party who received the request, in meeting the requirements of the Freedom of Information Act 2000 and the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 and the Environment Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.

## **7. CONFIDENTIALITY -NB WORDING ON 7.1 & 7.2 BEING DEVELOPED WITH DWP**

- 7.1. Both Parties must ensure that they (and any person they employ or engage) only use Confidential Information belonging to the other for the purposes of the UC live service and neither Party shall disclose Confidential Information of the other without the other's prior written consent.
- 7.2. Both Parties shall be allowed to disclose Confidential Information to any person who they employ or engage in connection with the UC support provided that that other person is bound by confidentiality obligations substantially the same as those set out in this clause 7.
- 7.3. This clause 7 shall continue to apply after this DP has ended.
- 7.4. This clause 7 (Confidentiality) shall not apply to the extent that:
- (a) such disclosure is a requirement of law or a government or regulatory body placed upon the party making the disclosure, including any requirements for disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act 2000, the Environmental Information Regulations 2004, the Freedom of Information (Scotland) Act 2002 or the Environmental Information (Scotland) Regulations 2004.
  - (b) such information was in the possession of the party making the disclosure without obligation of confidentiality prior to its disclosure by the information owner;
  - (c) such information was obtained from a third party without obligations of confidentiality;
  - (d) such information was already in the public domain at the time of disclosure otherwise than by a breach of this Agreement; or
  - (e) it is independently developed without access to the other Party's confidential information.

## **8. HEALTH & SAFETY**

- 8.1. Both Parties shall co-operate with the other to ensure the health, safety and welfare of their employees, claimants, customers and visitors. In particular, they shall take all reasonable steps to:
- Inform each other of any risks arising out of each others businesses.
  - Co-ordinate the emergency procedures, including evacuation arrangements and first aid provision.
  - Co-ordinate the exchange and management of information in respect of serious offenders, potentially violent persons, staff protection lists and dangerous areas.
  - Co-ordinate the collection and management of health and safety management information.
  - Co-operate with the consultation arrangements, including provision and recognition of Trade Union appointed safety representatives and the remit of safety committees that cover co-location premises.

## **9. DIVERSITY & EQUALITY**

9.1. Both Parties shall ensure that they actively promote equality of opportunity for and good relations between all persons irrespective of their race, gender, gender reassignment, disability, age, sexual orientation or religion or belief. Both Parties commit to providing services that embrace diversity and promotes equality of opportunity and shall ensure that they are embedded in day to day working practices with customers, colleagues and partners. Both Parties shall ensure that business partners support their commitment to take reasonable steps to:

- Treat each other fairly and with respect.
- Promote an environment that is free from discrimination, bullying and harassment and tackle behaviours that breach this.
- Promote diversity and equality of opportunity within your respective businesses.
- Recognise and value the differences and individual contribution people make.

## **10. TERMINATION**

10.1. Each Party shall have the right to terminate their participation in the UC live service at any time by giving 3 month's written notice to the other. Notwithstanding clause 10.2, termination or expiry of the UC live Service shall be without prejudice to any rights, remedies or obligations of either Party accrued under this DP prior to termination or expiry.

10.2. In the event of either Party terminating their involvement under clause 10.1, the Department shall reimburse to the Council any properly and reasonably committed expenditure of the Council which is within the funding envelope set out in Part 2 of the Schedule only to the extent that such expenditure has or will have been incurred by the Council and cannot be avoided or mitigated despite the use by the Council of its best endeavours.

## **11. RIGHTS OF THIRD PARTIES**

11.1. A person, who is not a Party to this DP, has no right to enforce any term of this DP.

## **12. SEVERABILITY**

12.1. If any provision of this DP is held invalid, illegal or unenforceable for any reason, such provision shall be severed and the remainder of the provisions hereof shall continue in full force and effect as if this DP had been executed with the invalid provision eliminated.

## **13. DISPUTE RESOLUTION**

13.1. Both Parties shall attempt in good faith to negotiate a settlement to any dispute between them arising out of or in connection with this DP within 42

days of a Party notifying the other of the dispute and such efforts shall involve the escalation of the dispute to chief officer level in the Council and Universal Credit Programme director level in the Department.

## **14 LAW AND JURISDICTION**

- 14.1. Subject to the provisions of clause 13.1, the Department and the Council accept the exclusive jurisdiction of the courts in Scotland and agree that this DP is to be governed by and construed according to Scots Law.

## **15. INTERPRETATION**

- 15.1. The Schedule forms part of this DP and shall have effect as if set out in full in the body of this DP. Any reference to this DP includes the Schedule.

“In WITNESS WHEREOF,” these presents consisting of this and the preceding pages have been executed in duplicate by the Parties as follows:

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE FOR WORK AND PENSIONS**

At.....

On.....2015

by

.....Authorised Signatory

.....Full name

Before the following witness

.....Witness

.....Full Name

.....Address

.....

.....

**FOR AND ON BEHALF OF EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**

At.....

On.....2015

by

.....Authorised Signatory

**Caroline Innes** .....Full name

Before the following witness

.....Witness

.....Full Name

.....Address

.....

.....

**This is Part 1 of the Schedule to the foregoing Delivery Partnership between the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and East Renfrewshire Council.**

## **UNIVERSAL CREDIT SERVICE PROVISION**

The Department will:

- provide support to the Council in the development and implementation of local service provision, following Universal Support – delivered locally (previously Local Support Services) principles;
- provide timely and relevant guidance and products to inform delivery of local service provision;
- provide data to support the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme (LCTRS) for as long as this is required;
- carry out an initial process that will highlight claimants needing budgeting support and/or an alternative payment arrangement;
- For those who are unable to self-serve, refer to the Council for provision of digital upskilling and /or budgeting support;
- Ensure claimants consent is obtained to share information with the Council;
- Provide the Council with the following information:
  - Name
  - National Insurance Number
  - Date of birth
  - Address
  - Telephone contact details
  - Whether an alternative payment arrangement is in place and if so;
  - The review date.

The Council will:

- ensure agreed local service provision is available from (date as stated in para 1.1);
- deliver relevant learning and development products to support delivery of UC within the Council;
- monitor the impact and take appropriate actions to mitigate the impact on current business relating to administering the housing benefit provision as a result of the introduction of UC;
- inform the Department of any potential barriers to the delivery of local service provision;
- participate in discussions with the Department, pursuant to the Partnering Principles, that will further support the ambitions of the wider Department and Local Authorities in the delivery of Universal Support. Where deemed appropriate, and as a result of those discussions, any resultant changes to this DP will be subject to agreement in accordance with the Change Control procedures contained in this DP; see clause 5;
- Complete the Business Readiness Certificate before the go live date, see Part 4 of the Schedule.

The Council will undertake the following services and activities:

- Provide support to UC Service Centre staff around housing cost issues that may arise. This will be achieved through:
  - Identifying named points of contact for Universal Credit Service Centre staff.
  - Providing expertise for housing cost issues.
  - Responding to requests for information on UC claimants current housing benefit claim status within 2-5 working days.
  - Complete and return the Migration Gather Proforma (MGP1) (LA) within 5 working days of receipt of the request. A reminder will be issued after this time has lapsed but the non-return of the completed form may result in an incorrect Universal Credit award.
  
- Support for claimants to make a UC claim on-line. For example, this will be achieved through:
  - - Identifying PC/public internet sites across **East Renfrewshire**.
    - Identifying which of these locations will have trained staff present to provide 'supported access'.
    - Publicising these services to residents of **East Renfrewshire**.
    - Providing the Management Information to support number of claimants assisted; see clause 3.
  
- Manual processing for LCTRS for as long as is required. This will be achieved through:
  - Providing the necessary resource to undertake this activity;
  - Manually inputting agreed data into the Council's systems;
  - Responding to the Department's queries around Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme;
  - Providing the Management Information; see clause 3;
  
- Support for claimants who require personal budgeting support to manage their UC payments. This will be achieved through:
  - Processing personal budgeting support referrals from the Department including those claimants who have alternative payment arrangements;
  - Identifying the appropriate channel, frequency and provider to deliver personal budgeting support (may not be the Council) and referring the claimant to the right place within the set time frame – set at 2 weeks;
  - Providing (or arranging provision of) telephone or face to face personal budgeting support and follow up action as appropriate;
  - Reporting the outcomes of personal budgeting support provision against the agreed outcome measures by timely completion of LA Outcome Template and Knowledge Check Template to DWP. Details of this process and the associated forms can be found in the L&D pack.
  - Providing the Management Information relating to personal budgeting support including the number of claimants assisted; see clause 3;



- Referring claimants to the Department who need personal budgeting support (but have been missed in the core process);
  - Referring claimants to the Department who may need an alternative payment arrangement e.g. because of rent arrears or vulnerability.
- Work with DWP locally in preparing landlords. This will be achieved through:
    - Working with landlords to help get claimants on-line;
    - Signposting landlord queries to the Department for resolution;
    - Promoting the appropriate use of on-line channels within the Registered Social Landlords (RSL) community in **East Renfrewshire**.

This is **Part 2 of the Schedule** to the foregoing Delivery Partnership between the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and East Renfrewshire Council.

### **FUNDING ARRANGEMENTS**

The total UC cost under this Delivery Partnership shall not exceed £27,333 (plus Vat) for services delivered to 31 March 2017.

This arrangement is designed to support initial roll out only from (insert date).

Funding is linked to the delivery of the agreed services and activities as set out below (as more particularised in Part 1 of the Schedule).

The full breakdown of the agreed total cost of UC live service roll out in East Renfrewshire Council is shown in the table below. The volume of claimants using services will be reviewed at the regular partnership meetings. If the actual numbers of claimants requiring these services exceed the stated volumes, the Department and the Council will enter into discussions to re-negotiate and agree any increased funding to reflect the revised volumes and any increased funding will be based on the figures shown on the table.

## Part 2 of the Schedule cont.

DP Costs	Cost/Volume Assumptions to March 2017	Payment Basis	Maximum cost to 31 March 2017 <b>£27,333</b>
On-Line supported access (Digital)		volumes	
Personal Budgeting Support		volumes	
LCTRS Manual processes		volumes	
Support for UC Service Centre		volumes	
Management Costs		Reimburse agreed cost on a monthly basis	
One off costs for new LA sites not yet delivering UC, if applicable;  Specify details of the agreed expenditure	Details:	Agreed costs which are reasonable and proportionate, not capital, novel or contentious nor paid in advance	
<b>Total (excluding VAT)</b>			
<b>Total (including VAT)</b>			

This is **Part 3 of the Schedule** to the foregoing Delivery Partnership between the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and East Renfrewshire Council.

## INTERPRETATION

Unless the context otherwise requires, the following words and expressions shall have the following meanings:-

**“Confidential Information”** means information that ought to be considered as confidential (however it is conveyed or on whatever media it is stored), information the disclosure of which would, or would be likely to, prejudice the legitimate interests of any person, and all Personal Data. *NB definition of confidential to be worded*

**“Council”** means East Renfrewshire Council / Local Authority.

**“Data Controller”** bears the meaning ascribed to it in the Data Protection Act 1998.

**“Data Processor”** bears the meaning ascribed to it in the Data Protection Act 1998.

**‘Delivery Partnership’** means a collaborative agreement between the Department and a local authority in which they agree to work together to deliver local support services to Universal Credit claimants and for the avoidance of doubt, use of these words or the word “partnership” in the Delivery Partnership is not intended to, or deemed to establish any partnership or joint venture between the Parties to this Delivery Partnership, or constitute on any Party the agent of another party or authorise any Party to make or enter into any commitments for or on behalf of any other party.

**“Department” or “DWP”** means the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions whose principal place of business is at Caxton House, Tothill Street, London SW1H 9NA.

**“Universal Support delivered locally”** sets out the principles for delivering localised support services to people who might need extra help to make or maintain a claim for Universal Credit. Previously known as Local Support Services Framework.

**“Management Information”** means information of the kinds mentioned in clause 3.

<b>“Partnership Principles”</b>	means the principles set out in clause 1.5.
<b>"Party"</b>	means the Department and/or the Council and <b>“Parties”</b> shall be interpreted accordingly.
<b>“Personal Data”</b>	bears the meaning ascribed to it in the Data Protection Act 1998.
<b>“Process”</b>	bears the meaning ascribed to it in the Data Protection Act 1998.
<b>“Schedule”</b>	means the schedule annexed to and forming part of this Agreement
<b>“Universal Credit”</b>	bears the meaning ascribed to that expression by the Welfare Reform Act 2012 and shall be interpreted accordingly.
<b>“UC live service”</b>	means the localised Universal Credit claimant support services which are to be provided by the local authority from the start date of the Delivery Partnership to 31 March 2017, an outline of which is set out in Part 1 of the Schedule.

The interpretation and construction of this DP shall be subject to the following provisions:-

- words importing the singular meaning include where the context so admits the plural meaning and vice versa and words importing the masculine include the feminine and neuter;
- the words "include", "includes" and "including" are to be construed as if they were immediately followed by the words "without limitation";
- headings are included in this DP for ease of reference only and shall not affect the interpretation or construction of this agreement;
- references in this DP to any clause or sub-clause or the Schedule without further designation shall be construed as a reference to the clause or sub-clause or the Schedule to this DP so numbered;
- in the event and to the extent only of any conflict between the clauses and the content of the Schedule, the clauses shall prevail over the content of the Schedule; and
- any reference to a statute, statutory provision or subordinate legislation (“legislation”) shall (except where the context otherwise requires) be construed as referring to such legislation as amended and in force from time to time and to any legislation which re-enacts or consolidates (with or without modification) any such legislation.

This is **Part 4 of the Schedule** to the foregoing Delivery Partnership between the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and East Renfrewshire Council.

### BUSINESS READINESS CERTIFICATE

<b>Universal Credit, Local Authority Business Readiness Certificate</b>	
<b>Complete prior to Go-Live Date (<i>Insert Date</i>)</b>	
Local Authority:	
Name of the person completing this BRC:	

I can confirm that East Renfrewshire Council is ready to deliver the services contained within the Delivery Partnership in support of Universal Credit Live Service from 15/2/2016.

Signed \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_