

Written response to: Business & Transformation Scrutiny Panel

Resolution: That the Policy and Performance Officer provide the Panel with written responses to the following:

2 - the reason for the increase in the number of benefits claimants in the first two quarters.

Written response from: Policy & Performance Officer / Revenues & Benefits Operations Manager

Response:

The table below breaks down the new claims into Housing Benefit and Council Tax Benefit. As can be seen, Housing Benefit accounted for the largest increase (5.1%).

Type of Claim / No. of New Claims	Apr-Sept 2017	Apr-Sept 2018	Change
Housing Benefit	829	871	+5.1%
Council Tax Benefit	982	1014	+3.3%
Total	1811	1885	+4.1%

It was too early for Universal Credit to really have an impact as it didn't go live until late July 2018. It was simply down to respective circumstances, income changes and so on without a specific or precise reason.

Date: 4/1/19