

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 27 AUGUST 2019

BREXIT PREPAREDNESS

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 Planning and preparation, continues at a national, regional and local level on EU exit plans. The Chief Executive is a member of the Regional Resilience Partnership and the Local Resilience partnership. The council's 'EU' exit group (BREXIT) continues to meet frequently to discuss local challenges, and, specifically the myriad of information being cascaded from Scottish and UK Governments. Council Officers are also attending sector specific meetings, the detail of which is subsequently shared and actioned accordingly. National and local workshops have also been held embracing a multi-agency approach, to assess and discuss national and local issues.
- 1.2 A full review has been undertaken of the national planning assumptions, aligned to council's approach, and the work that has been undertaken via the Tayside Resilience Partnership and wider Scottish Resilience Partnership sub group. The planning assumptions are based on a "no deal" and consider reasonable worst case scenarios during a 12 week period. The timescales for further negotiation have been extended by EU member States to October 2019 to allow further cross party discussions to take place. The recent appointment of a new Prime Minister and Cabinet has not offered any material change to the planning assumptions. Consequently, planning for a "no deal" exit continues.
- 1.3 The Tayside Resilience Partnership has convened, attended by chief officers from all local partner agencies. The outcome from both meetings has provided confidence that the work undertaken to date is as developed as it can be based on numerous publications and the issue of national information and technical notices. Work will of course continue to ensure that the council remains vigilant and in preparation mode ahead of October 2019.
- 1.4 The Health and Social Care Partnership has also assessed readiness, against national assumptions, and has undertaken a risk assessment alongside the council's Brexit group to identify any gaps. Work will continue in this regard as further information is received.
- 1.5 Much of the documentation issued by Scottish and UK Governments is protectively marked as 'official sensitive' and not for wider cascade. Consequently, there is agreement that briefings can be delivered as necessary to elected members.

2. PREPARATION AND READINESS

- 2.1 The following information is provided as a means of assurance of the work and actions that have been undertaken to date as far as is reasonably practicable:
- There is no change to the planning assumptions published on 20 December 2018. Work is being assessed against these assumptions. (restricted)
 - Council officers continue to engage with specialist sectors and cascade briefings to ensure preparedness.
 - The Impact on council workforce is **low**. Contractors' assessment is ongoing, however the settlement scheme is in place, supporting staff to remain. Depending on currency value this may impact staff decision to remain.
 - Procurement assessment being done nationally via Scotland Excel. Larger contractors have undertaken extensive work on risk profiles. Further assessment on procurement is being done ahead of October.
 - Loss of EHIC (e111) will not impact health cover. **Council insurance will fully cover schools and other trips abroad.**

- There is likely to be a potential increase in resource requirements for environmental & consumer protection and trading standards staff depending on agreement of import and export certification. Nationally this is being discussed, with input from Angus Council officers.
- Angus Council is in a state of readiness for elections.
- Engagement with local businesses is underway and a survey has been issued via the Chamber of Commerce. Further work continues to be undertaken and this will be ongoing as additional information is available.
- Information is also available on the [Business Angus](#) pages, which has links to Government pages and helpful toolkits.
- Third sector engagement is ongoing and information is being shared both ways.
- We have a monitoring brief on the disruption of cross border UK-EU financial services.
- EU funding streams and subsidies continue to be assessed, in particular with regard to a range of sectors.
- Certain types of fresh food supply may decrease and may lead to an increase in prices. We are aware and informed of extensive work nationally.
- There is full engagement with local foodbanks. We are prepared for any disproportionate impact on low income groups as a result of price rises in utilities and services including fuel, and more reliance on foodbanks and or crisis loans. We are advised there may be additional funding from Scottish Government via hubs to foodbanks. Clarity on process sought.
- Water supplies **unlikely** to be affected. Monitoring is ongoing at a national level.
- Fuel supplies **unlikely** to be affected, national assessment and fuel plans reviewed locally.
- We have considered any potential risk of public disorder. Resources are in place in Tayside if required via Police Scotland.
- Seasonal workforce may be an issue dependant on currency value and accessibility of work. Settlement Scheme is accessible with no cost. This is a known issue currently and it is expected that the EU exit position will create ongoing challenges.
- Return of UK Nationals currently resident within EU. Profiles unknown, Scottish and local assessments undertaken. Angus – potential for 30 people to return. Vulnerability unknown.
- Reduction, delay or stoppage in supply of medicines and medical supplies – assessed nationally and supply in place for a 6 month period. Local arrangements rely on national contingencies.
- National co-ordination arrangements for Scotland in place and agreed, testing commenced in March and is ongoing.
- Resilience partnership and council emergency plans are in place and flexible enough to deal with challenges
- Resilience partnership arrangements will activate if response required and situation locally starts to escalate.
- Daily reporting will commence ahead of end of October. This reporting will be via Resilience Direct, and a page has been set up by Police Scotland. A nil return is required. For Angus this will be co-ordinated by Risk, Resilience & Safety (RRS) team. We will ensure that all those staff who require access are on resilience direct.
- An incident management approach to reporting will be adopted within Angus.
- On call arrangements for the Council Leadership Team, are confirmed and will be led by the CEx and Depute CEx.
- Public messaging across all partners (agreed messaging) post October 2019, and testing of this has been undertaken.
- Brexit Information signposting from Angus Council website.
- There are still so many unknowns; the potential impact may be resource intensive depending on impacts. CoSLA have negotiated additional funding (50k) for a post to support local authorities in their co-ordination, response and proactive interaction with a range of sectors. Work is underway to progress the recruitment for this position.
- Dumfries and Galloway Council have agreed to the secondment of an officer to a national post to represent the views of local authorities nationally. This post will work in support of the SOLACE representative and attend the Scottish Resilience Partnership, sub group meetings.