

ANGUS COUNCIL

POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 10 MARCH 2020

BREXIT UPDATE

**1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT**

- 1.1 Report 273/19 provided assurance of the Council's readiness and preparedness for Brexit. There has been no change to the planning assumptions referred to within this report and work continues to be progressed using these. The planning focus for 2019 was the UK leaving with a "no deal".
- 1.2 Britain officially left the European Union (EU) on 31 January 2020 and has entered into a transition period scheduled to end on 31 December 2020. Negotiations between the UK and the EU on the detail of a deal have commenced. The UK Government ceased Operation Yellow Hammer.
- 1.3 The transition period means that the UK remains a member of the EU's internal market and the customs union during the period to 31 December 2020.
- 1.4 The council's 'EU' exit group (Brexit) continues to meet monthly to discuss local issues, and, specifically to consider the myriad of information being cascaded from Scottish and UK Governments. This work is being led by the newly appointed Senior Practitioner (Brexit Coordinator) who took up post within the risk, resilience & safety service on the 9 December 2019 for a period of one year. The group are about to embark on a self-evaluation using key questions from the recently published Audit Scotland briefing "*Preparing for withdrawal from the European Union*" which will allow ongoing planning. This work along with the Councils Brexit Preparedness Plan will form a future project plan and risk log.
- 1.5 The Scottish Resilience Partnership (SRP) Sub-Group on EU-Exit Contingency Planning met on 21 January 2020 to assess the current position and agree new arrangements. It was agreed that the meeting cycle would be reduced to 6 monthly and these meetings will be held in April and August 2020 and activity scaled back to a monitoring only position, with the option to escalate if required.
- 1.6 The Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) continues to work through their risk assessment and assess against national assumptions. The NHS Tayside's EU Exit Readiness Group agreed to step down formal meetings in January 2020 and will continue in a virtual capacity with the option to reconvene if required.

**2. ONGOING PREPARATION**

- 2.1 Report No 273/19 gave a detailed update on the preparation and readiness work that had been undertaken nationally and locally up to August 2019, a further update is detailed below:
  - A Senior Practitioner (Brexit Coordinator) in post until December 2020.
  - Council officers continue to engage with specialist sectors and cascade briefings and information.
  - COSLA all Councils teleconferences continue to take place once a month. A risk monitoring framework is currently being developed for all local authorities in relation to Brexit
  - The 'Stay in Scotland' toolkit was updated in January 2020. The toolkit provides a range of materials for employers and EU citizens. It includes information on the UK Government's EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS), the application process, links to other

resources and some practical suggestions about how employers can support their EU employees.

- Recently released statistics in relation to the EU Settlement Status as of December 2019, outlines the following:
  - 135,800 applications had been made to EUSS in Scotland, 57% of all EU citizens.
  - Angus has submitted a total number of 2,250 applications, 2,030 have been concluded with 1,390 receiving settled status and 640 receiving pre settled status.
- Procurement assessment continues to be taken forward nationally via Scotland Excel.
- Discussions, nationally and locally, are continuing in relation to the potential increase in resource requirements for environmental & consumer protection and trading standards staff depending on agreement of import and export certification. A funding proposal has been made to the Scottish Government requesting £2m to allow 50 Food Safety Officers, across Scotland, to be recruited, employed and trained to help with future resource.
- The [Business Angus](#) pages continue to be updated as more information is received.
- The Angus Council website continues to signpost and share information on Brexit.
- EU funding streams and subsidies continue to be assessed.
- Councillor Lawrie submitted the following motion in relation to the **Erasmus + Programme** to Angus Council on 6 February 2020: "This Council requests that the Chief Executive write to the UK Government to highlight the importance of the Erasmus+ Programme for Angus and asks the UK Government to continue participation in this programme after the UK has left the EU". The motion received unanimous backing from all councillors.
- FareShare are working with community groups across Angus to ensure that 2 tonnes of food is stored and distributed across Angus.
- The Tayside Resilience Partnership will continue to monitor and review in line with the Scottish Resilience Partnership.
- Further work in relation to Food Poverty/Brexit to be undertaken.

### 3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 The UK left the European Union on 31 Dec 2019. However the UK will continue to be a members of the single market and customs union until 31 December 2020. During this transition period, work will continue at UK and Scottish levels. Angus will continue to engage and connect with partners nationally and locally to inform the work of Angus Council, through the Brexit group.