

ANGUS COUNCIL

BREXIT UPDATE

1. BACKGROUND AND CONTEXT

- 1.1 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.
- 1.2 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. Discussion on a deal are ongoing.
- 1.3 On the 19 March 2020 the WHO declared COVID-19 a global pandemic, with the Council's Emergency Plan and Emergency Centre being activated and Incident Management processes followed with the three levels of command and co-ordination. Due to the pandemic the work on Brexit during the past 6 months of the transition period, across Angus, Scotland and indeed the whole of the UK has been reduced significantly to allow for the response and recovery of the global pandemic.
- 1.4 It is becoming increasingly important to formulate the multi-agency arrangements to be put in place at a national level as we prepare for a possible no deal exit. Resilience Partnerships and multi-agency approaches are to be restarted.
- 1.5 The UK Government's Brexit transition campaign was launched in July 2020. The purpose of the campaign is to ensure that businesses and citizens are aware of the changes that may impact them and the actions that they need to take, before the end of the transition period

2. ONGOING PREPARATION

- 2.1 Report Nos 273/19 and 103/20 gave detailed updates on the preparation and readiness work that had been undertaken nationally and locally up to February 2020, a further update is detailed below:
 - Brexit work will be aligned to the Council's COVID-19 recovery plans which are currently being developed. As the impact of COVID-19 becomes even more apparent, work and support will be required to businesses and the public alongside the work required during the remainder of the Brexit transition period.
 - The council's officer Brexit Group met on the 29 June to begin to regroup and refocus the work of Brexit alongside the continued response and recovery to COVID-19. All services are revisiting their previous Brexit assessment work and updating these in light of COVID-19 to allow the project plan and risk register to be updated. The group will continue to meet monthly to take forward the work required.
 - The Scottish Resilience Partnership (SRP) Sub-Group on EU-Exit Contingency Planning met on 29 May and will meet again on 10 August.
 - The Angus Health and Social Care Partnership (AHSCP) has updated their risk assessment taking account of COVID-19
 - COSLA all Councils teleconferences continue to take place once a month.
 - The Home Office has published its [monthly statistics](#) on applications to the EU Settlement Scheme, which show that up to 31 May 2020, the total number of applications received was 3,612,400. 180,700 applications have been made in Scotland. According to Scottish Government figures, there are 237,000 EU citizens living in Scotland, meaning that an estimated 76% have now applied. A total number of 2770 applications have been received from Angus with 1760 of these granted settled status and 770 pre settled status.
 - Procurement assessment continues to be taken forward nationally via Scotland Excel.

- Updates on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) continues to be monitored by our Legal and Information Governance colleagues in line with the Information Commissioners Office (ICO).
- Funding has been agreed to Scottish Government to allow 50 Food Safety Officers, across Scotland, to be recruited, employed and trained to help with future resource. Due to COVID-19 the recruitment process for these posts has been delayed and discussions are currently taking place as to the best way forward.
- The [Invest in](#) pages continue to be updated as more information is received.
- The UK Government has stated that they will use European Structural and Investment Fund money that is returned to the UK following Brexit to create a UK Shared Prosperity Fund. There is still no detail or guarantee on this Fund, and to date no engagement with devolved administrations on this matter nor any form of consultation
- Following the Chief Executive's letter to UK Government requesting for the UK to continue to participate in the Interreg Funding Programme
- The Angus Council website continues to signpost and share information on Brexit.
- EU funding streams and subsidies continue to be assessed.
- The Tayside Resilience Partnership will continue to monitor and review in line with the Scottish Resilience Partnership.

3. CONCLUSION

- 3.1 COVID-19 has undoubtedly impacted on the work that was to be undertaken in the first part of the Brexit transition period. Angus will continue to engage and connect with partners nationally and locally to inform the work of Angus Council in preparing for a No Deal which would see the UK outside the Single Market and Customs Union in December.