

## NOTIFICATION OF DECISION FOR URGENT IMPLEMENTATION

(Decision either included or not included on the current Forward Plan but needs to be implemented immediately by virtue of the urgency of the actions that need to be undertaken. This decision will not be subject to call-in.)

### ORIGINATOR'S DETAILS

**Name & Contact details:**

Stephen Douglass, Director of Communities  
020 7525 0886

### DETAILS OF THE REPORT

**Title and brief description of the nature of the business to be considered:****Establishment of the Southwark Brexit Panel**

To establish a cross party Member-led 'Brexit Panel' to lead and co-ordinate research on the likely impact on council services and residents as a result of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union.

- *Why has this decision been delayed until now?*

Following the May 2018 local elections the Leader of the Council appointed a lead Cabinet Member for Brexit. The commitment in the Council Plan to 'protect all local residents from the effects of Brexit' was agreed by Cabinet on 26<sup>th</sup> June 2018. The initiative to establish a Panel and the form it should take followed this agreement.

- *Why can't the decision be reasonably deferred?*

There are 9 months left of the Brexit negotiations with a predicted outlook that October will see the U.K. government and European Union come to an agreement on the terms of exit. Local government's voice has been absent from the negotiations and Southwark needs to gather sufficient evidence to feed into the negotiations in order to seek the best deal for the borough. The Brexit Panel will be the vehicle used to gather evidence, and it is therefore imperative that the Panel is established as soon as possible to enable the work of the panel to be completed before the agreement on terms of exit is reached.

A date of the 17 July has been identified for the first meeting to take place, ahead of the school holidays and August recess. The decision to establish the panel needs to be taken in time for the necessary arrangements to be put in place for the first meeting which will be used to discuss and establish how it wishes to gather evidence and direct officers accordingly in preparation for the evidence sessions to take place in July and September.

- *How long has the department known the decision was to be taken?*

Two weeks

- *If scheduled on the forward plan for a particular period, what's changed to make it so urgent now?*

The decision was not scheduled on the forward plan.

- *Why is it important that this decision is taken now?*

If not taken now the first meeting of the panel will not be able to take place until September (due to the August recess) which will not leave enough time for officers to undertake the necessary preparatory work in advance of the evidence sessions and for the business of the panel to conclude and views fed into the negotiations process.

- *What is the potential cost to the council if the decision is delayed?*

A delay in the decision may jeopardise the success of the work the Brexit Panel is being established to undertake which could leave Southwark insufficiently prepared for the impact of Brexit and its views would not be represented at a national level.

**Date decision to be taken by:** 10 July 2018

### **Declaration**

I agree/~~disagree~~\* with the Chief Officer/Head of Service that the proposed Decision is reasonable and that it can be treated as a matter of urgency.

Signed Cllr Bill Williams..... Dated...5 July 2018.....

Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee/Mayor/Deputy Mayor\*

\* delete as appropriate

Please note reasons for refusal, additional points or further action required (as appropriate)

Please return completed form to Chidilim Agada / Everton Roberts, Constitutional Team, 160 Tooley Street, PO Box 64529, London, SE1P 5LX – tel: 020 7525 7221