

<b>Item No.</b> 4.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 17 July 2018	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Southwark Brexit Panel
<b>Report title:</b>		Southwark Council's Response to Brexit (Evidence Gathering)	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Communities	

## RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the panel note the process by which evidence will be gathered to inform the council's response to Brexit (see paragraphs 7 – 10).
2. That the panel note the key areas the Communities and Local Government Committee is recommending local authorities consider (see paragraph 11).
3. That the panel identify any additional issues and topics to be covered.

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

4. On 23rd June 2016 the U.K. voted in the EU referendum on whether the U.K. should 'remain' in the EU or 'leave'. 52% of those that took part in the referendum voted to leave the E.U. The Government triggered Article 50 of the Lisbon Treaty on 29 March 2017 thus initiating the start of EU and U.K. negotiations. The timeline for negotiations is two years as stated in the Treaty and the deadline to leave the EU is 29 March 2019.
5. In Southwark over 72% of the residents who took part in the referendum voted to remain in the EU. Southwark is home to 41,000 non-Irish EU citizens, whose status in the UK following the departure from the EU is unclear. Providing certainty to those citizens and ensuring their rights are protected is a priority for the council.
6. On 9 July 2018 the cabinet member for finance, performance and Brexit established a cross party Member-led 'Brexit Panel'. The panel was established with the following terms of reference:
  - To lead and co-ordinate research on the likely impact on council services and residents as a result of the United Kingdom (U.K.) leaving the European Union (EU).
  - To gather evidence from local stakeholders to build a picture of the impact of Brexit in Southwark and use this evidence to inform the council's response to Brexit.

- To make recommendations to Cabinet about actions the Council should consider taking to mitigate any possible impacts on its services and residents and share evidence gathered with relevant stakeholders.

## **KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION**

7. The Southwark Brexit Panel will assess the impacts of the UK leaving the EU on Southwark. A key part of assessing the impacts will be to identify risks and challenges as well as any opportunities emerging from Brexit that Southwark can mitigate and maximise respectively.
8. The Panel will hold evidence sessions and scope out the scale of the task ahead for the Council. The panel will take evidence from local businesses and employers, cultural, education and arts bodies as well as community and voluntary sector groups to consider how the council can meet its Council Plan commitment to protect all local residents from the effects of Brexit and promote Southwark's diversity and cultural richness in the heart of London.
9. The Brexit Panel will feed into the work of the Southwark Brexit Officer's remit and the findings of the panel will be reported to the Cabinet for consideration.
10. It is anticipated that the panel will hold evidence sessions between July 2018 and March 2019 when the UK is due to exit the EU. It has become apparent that after March 2019 there will be a transition period, therefore the work of the Panel may continue to develop once Brexit negotiations are over.

## **Issues identified by the Communities and Local Government Committee**

11. Four key areas of concern have been identified by the Communities and Local Government Committee that local authorities should consider:
  1. Replacement of EU funding streams
  2. Changes in the EU workforce and a post-Brexit skills gap
  3. Retaining, amending and repealing EU legislation
  4. Representation of local government in the Brexit negotiations and beyond

## **Policy implications**

12. There are no specific policy implications arising from the establishment of the Brexit Panel. The findings of the panel may impact on future policy and will be identified when the findings are reported to cabinet for consideration.

## **Community impact statement**

13. Brexit as an issue is of national importance and the impact locally will be significant. As a result, it is important that Southwark Council effectively scopes the potential impact of Brexit for Southwark's residents, businesses and on our diversity. By assessing the potential consequences of Brexit the Council can then anticipate and prepare its case in advance to Government.

## **Resource implications**

14. There are no specific resource implications.

### Legal implications

15. There are no specific legal implications.

### Financial implications

16. There are no specific financial implications.

## BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Establishment of Southwark Brexit Panel report 9 July 2018	Southwark Website	
Link: <a href="http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6547">http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/ieDecisionDetails.aspx?ID=6547</a>		

## APPENDICES

No.	Title
None	

## AUDIT TRAIL

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<b>CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER</b>			
<b>Officer Title</b>		<b>Comments Sought</b>	<b>Comments Included</b>
Director of Law and Democracy		No	No
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance		No	No
<b>Cabinet Member</b>		Yes	Yes
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