

Item No. 4.	Classification: Open	Date: 22 July 2019	Meeting: Southwark Brexit Panel
Report title:		Brexit – update on panel recommendations and local preparedness	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Councillor Victoria Mills, Chair of the Panel and Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Brexit	

RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Panel:

1. Note progress on local work in preparing for EU exit, including in response to the panel's recommendations agreed by Cabinet in January 2019.
2. Notes that on 11 April 2019, the UK and the EU27 agreed a flexible extension of the Article 50 period for six months and the legal default is that the UK will leave the EU on 31 October 2019.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. On 23rd June 2016 the UK voted in the EU referendum on whether the UK should 'remain' in or 'leave' the EU. 52% of those that took part in the referendum nationally voted to leave the EU. 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.
4. The Southwark Brexit Panel was established on 9 July 2018 by the Cabinet Member for Finance, Performance and Brexit with the following terms of reference:
 - a. 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);
 - b. 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;
 - c. 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.
5. The Panel met on five occasions, receiving evidence from a range of stakeholders. In autumn 2018, Southwark also hosted a regional LGA roundtable event to consider the impact of EU Exit on place. On 8 January 2019 the Panel put forward eighteen recommendations, all of which were accepted by Cabinet at their meeting on 22 January.
6. This report and supporting documents provides an update on progress since that time.

ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. A report was presented to Cabinet in January 2019 setting out the steps that the Council had taken more generally to prepare for the impact of the UK leaving the EU on the borough and our residents. In that report, the outcomes of the Southwark Brexit Panel were reported to Cabinet. Cabinet accepted all the recommendations from the Panel and officers were asked to undertake follow up work. Appendix 1 sets out the recommendations, response and an update on follow up work.
8. Since January the Cabinet have received regular progress reports on local work in preparing for EU Exit, alongside the implications and updates on the national position with regards negotiations between the UK government and the EU27 countries on UK withdrawal from the EU. The last such report was presented to Cabinet on 18 June 2019 and is attached at appendix 2.
9. Following cabinet agreement, a Brexit risk register was published and has been updated monthly. This is also attached at Appendix 2 as part of the progress report on local EU Exit preparedness to Cabinet in June 2019.
10. The panel are asked to consider the above reports and Brexit risk register. In the context of the expected UK withdrawal date from the EU on 31 October 2019, the Panel is also asked to consider if any further work is required in terms of local next steps in preparing for EU Exit.

NEXT STEPS

11. The Council will continue to prepare for implications of Brexit on the borough in the light of the best information it has available. As reflected through the work of the cross-party Brexit panel and onward representation to government, the Council has maintained that there are broader risks attached to Brexit that go beyond mitigating short term business continuity impacts.
12. In the light of ongoing uncertainty nationally and the continued possibility of the UK exiting the EU without any agreed deal or arrangement in place on 31 October 2019, and to provide a further opportunity to discuss the impact of Brexit on Southwark communities, progress reports will continue to be presented to future Cabinet meetings.

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Brexit Panel recommendations - update
Appendix 2	Impact of Brexit on Southwark - Progress Report, report to Southwark's Cabinet, 18 June 2019 incorporating Southwark Council Brexit risk register