

EAST HERTS COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 18 DECEMBER 2018

INTERIM REPORT BY HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS, POLICY AND STRATEGY

BREXIT: TASK AND FINISH GROUP

WARD(S) AFFECTED: ALL

Purpose/Summary of Report

- To agree the terms of reference for the Brexit Task and Finish Group, update on progress

RECOMMENDATIONS FOR OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

That the Executive be advised:

(A)	Overview and Scrutiny Committee supports the adoption of the Terms of Reference for the Brexit Task and Finish Group.
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1.0 Background

- 1.1. The Council is exploring implications for Brexit on East Herts (including preparations for a no-deal Brexit). A Task and Finish Group has been set up to gather evidence, consider implications and make recommendations to mitigate and/ or exploit the impact.

2.0 Report

- 2.1. Terms of Reference:

2.2. The Task and Finish Group is composed of the following Councillors:

- Councillor Mike Allen
- Councillor Mike Casey
- Councillor Phyllis Ballam
- Councillor Geoffrey Williamson
- Councillor Mark Pope
- Councillor Colin Woodward
- Councillor George Cutting
- (Lead Officer: Nathan Bookbinder)

2.3. The task and finish group shall;

- Invite guest speakers to discuss relevant topics
- Request and Review information
- Make recommendations to Scrutiny

2.4. The Task and Finish Group agreed to explore the following topics:

- Impact of EU nationals who are employees of the organisation
- Impact on residents who are also EU nationals and receive services from the council
- Identify key policies that could be affected (including procurement rules and regulations_
- Local Economy- employment and business impact

2.5. Progress and interim conclusions

The Task and Finish Group met on the following days:

- 12/09/2018 – to discuss Terms of reference and set out topics for discussion
- 04/10/2018 – to discuss Impact on EU nationals that work in the organisation, EU settled status scheme, and Hertfordshire County Council's preparations

- 06/11/2018 – to discuss EU nationals the receive our service and procurement.

2.6. General findings are captured below:

2.7. Procurement is unaffected due to the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 enshrining current EU procurement law into British law. The group heard that European companies could still compete but historically they haven't.

2.8. Hertfordshire County Council is under-going its own Brexit planning but as this is mostly focused on the impact of its social care workforce at present; there was little actionable information for the Task and Finish Group.

2.9. Issues around EU national within the organisation and that receive our services are address via the EU settled status scheme.

2.10. As such the Task and Group's interim recommendations are focused on this as this addresses many of the concerns.

2.11. The settled status scheme is for European Union (EU) citizens and their family to apply to get either settled or pre-settled status. This will mean they can continue living in the UK after 31 December 2020.

2.12. They will not need to apply if:

- an Irish citizen
- have indefinite leave to remain in the UK
- have indefinite leave to enter the UK

2.13. Rights for citizens of Norway, Iceland, Liechtenstein and Switzerland are still being negotiated.

- 2.14. The EU Settlement Scheme will open fully by 30 March 2019.
- 2.15. Due to the continuation of existing rights for EU citizens under this scheme this would avoid any issues around service access and employment.
- 2.16. Future Work
- 2.17. The Brexit Task and Finish Group will next look at the impact on policies and the economy and is due to conclude its review in January 2019

3.0 Implications/Consultations

- 3.1 Information on any corporate issues and consultation associated with this report can be found within **Essential Reference Paper 'A'**.

Background Papers

None

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