

BREXIT IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RESILIENCE PLANNING

To: **Audit and Accounts Committee**

Date: **24 January 2019**

From: **Adrian Chapman** - Service Director: Communities and Safety

Electoral Division(s): **All**

Purpose: **To inform the Committee about preparations for Brexit**

Key Issues: **None**

Recommendation: **To note and comment on the information within this report**

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 The United Kingdom (UK) is set to leave the European Union (EU) on 29 March 2019. At present, the detail of the terms of that exit is unknown. However, it is imperative that the Council seeks to identify the potential impacts of this on our organisation, our staff, and our residents.
- 1.2 Work is underway therefore to develop an impact assessment based on the information available to us at present. This is attached at appendix 1. Members will appreciate that this is a rapidly changing situation, and the impact assessment will need to be kept under very frequent review to reflect this.
- 1.3 Work to date has been informed by research, technical notes produced by Government, workshop sessions with officers, and meetings with services, senior leaders, Members and partners. There has also been significant engagement with Central Government departments, in national conference calls and at a regional event. Information has also been drawn from the work of other councils, the Local Government Association and the East of England Strategic Migration Partnership.
- 1.4 The draft impact assessment at appendix 1 is designed to cover impacts relevant to both Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils. Following advice from the Corporate Risk Group, the impact assessment focuses on council services, our statutory responsibilities and our customers in their interaction with council services. The focus is on the immediate short term issues (i.e. in the months following the 29 March 2019) and potential impacts rather than the likelihood of different scenarios, which are beyond the Council's control.
- 1.5 Alongside the work described above, work is also taking place with partners in the Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Local Resilience Forum (CPLRF) to consider potential Brexit scenarios in the context of partnership preparation. The CPLRF has run a workshop facilitated by the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) and continues to liaise with MHCLG. A schedule of regular CPLRF Strategic Coordination Meetings has been prepared and this will be adjusted in light of the demands that emerge. The CPLRF maintains existing plans to address disruption to supplies and services, which are available to be activated if conditions develop.

2. MAIN ISSUES

- 2.1 The current draft of the impact assessment documents sixteen potential risks. Ten of these risks have been scored as having a potentially high or very high impact should they come to fruition. All of the ten risks have been scored as possible, likely or very likely to happen. Based on this,

the highest priority risks we need to mitigate can be summarised as follows:

- Workforce issues associated with recruitment and retention of staff, both internal and those from within our commissioned services
- Ensuring our EU citizen residents are fully informed, but especially those who are vulnerable and/or to whom we have a statutory responsibility
- Community reactions, including increased community tensions
- Impact on our finances should there be a negative national financial reaction
- Interruption to supplies and services, including for example medicines and fuel supplies
- Impact on travel and road infrastructure caused by disruption to and from ports

2.2 The impact assessment at appendix 1 discusses these and other risks in more detail.

3. NEXT STEPS

3.1 The Service Director for Communities and Safety is the nominated strategic sponsor for Brexit preparedness for both Cambridgeshire County and Peterborough City Councils. A cross-departmental taskforce is being formed to ensure we are well positioned to respond to the developments that emerge over the coming weeks. There will also be discussions held with our partners across the public sector, particularly our district council partners, to seek to develop a single shared plan to manage the impacts of Brexit, if any, on our organisations and to maximise any opportunities which arise.

3.2 A communications strategy and plan is being developed along with a community engagement strategy and plan. This will help to support our work to promote the EU Settlement Scheme for EU citizens, as well as our targeted work to support EU citizen employees. Looked After Children and other vulnerable people who are EU citizens are in the process of being identified.

3.3 Following this report to Audit and Accounts Committee, General Purposes Committee will monitor our progress with this work as part of the Corporate Risk register process.

4. APPENDICES

4.1 Appendix 1- Brexit Impact Assessment

Source Documents	Location
None	N/A