

EU EXIT PREPARATION

To: Adults Committee

Meeting Date: 10 December 2020

From: Amanda Askham – Director of Business Improvement and Development

Electoral division(s): All

Key decision: No

Outcome: To inform the Committee about activity following the United Kingdom's departure from the European Union on 31 January 2020.

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

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1. Background

- 1.1 The UK left the European Union on 31 January 2020 with a withdrawal deal. This is followed by a period of transition until 31 December 2020 during which time the UK will still follow the European Union's rules and regulations whilst the government negotiates to get all its new rules and policies in place. Updates for the changes to be implemented from 1 January 2021 have been sparse due to the COVID-19 pandemic but more information is now available as we grow closer to the departure date. The Council continues to work with central government and our regional and local partners to identify the potential impacts of this on our organisation, our staff, our local economy and our residents.
- 1.2 This report updates Members on the preparations that have been taking place since the last report presented to the Audit and Accounts committee on 12 March 2020.

2. Main Issues

- 2.1 Meetings of the taskforce were suspended during the COVID-19 pandemic but reconvened on 30 September 2020 with a second meeting on 24 November 2020. These meetings had representation from services from both Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council to ensure that we are aware of and updated on key issues.
- 2.2 We identified the key issues as:
 - The EU Settlement Scheme
 - Business Readiness
 - Communications
 - Supply Chain Risk

Following this meeting, actions were taken on the above issues as follows.

- 2.3 EU citizens living in the UK prior to 31/12/2020 can apply to the EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) to continue living in the UK. The deadline for applications is 30/06/2021. A leaflet and poster are being prepared by Communications to remind those required to apply to the EUSS by the deadline. These materials include information about the scheme and application process and will be translated into the required languages and distributed via our community networks. Once the text is finalised, it will be used to update the EUSS wording on the Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council websites. Similar messages have gone out to staff at both organisations, and HR are working to encourage staff nationality status to be updated on ERP.
- 2.4 Quarterly statistics from the Home Office for EUSS applications in Cambridgeshire and Peterborough have been reviewed by taskforce members to estimate the largest European communities in the area, in case targeted support for EUSS applications is required for any community in coordination with the relevant embassy.
- 2.5 The Communications team continues to share messaging and assets provided by the Cabinet Office for its UK Transition public information campaign via council social media channels. The most recent activity included a reminder to businesses that they need to take action to prepare to continue to do business with the EU from 1 January 2021. The team

will also be represented on a group being set up by the regional Cabinet Office for communicators leading on EU Exit communications.

- 2.6 Taskforce members are currently working with colleagues in Procurement to understand supply chain risk. A questionnaire has been designed and distributed to all suppliers with whom Cambridgeshire County Council has spent in excess of £100,000 (277 suppliers), in which they are requested to RAG rate certain areas of their business. The results will be collated into a spreadsheet to allow an overview of the key risks to the Council and will be compared with results from a similar exercise to be conducted at Peterborough City Council to obtain an overview of the risks across both organisations
- 2.7 The Risk Register has been updated by all lead officers as of 9 November 2020. See the attached Risk Register for details.

3. Source documents

3.1 Source documents

The risk register is available in different formats on request to transformation.team@cambridgeshire.gov.uk