

REPORT OF THE HEAD OF PLANNING, ECONOMY AND REGENERATION

LEAVING THE EUROPEAN UNION- UPDATE

Cabinet Member(s): Cllr Graeme Barnell

Responsible Officer: Mrs Jenny Clifford, Head of Planning, Economy and Regeneration

Reason for Report: To update members on changes to the local economic situation relating to Brexit.

RECOMMENDATION:

1. **That Members note the report.**

Financial Implications: There are no financial implications as a result of this information report. It is envisaged that business support mechanisms will be funded through partner organisations and through use of existing budgets.

Approved by Finance: [yes/no – include name/post title, eg Group Manager for Financial Services]

Legal Implications: None.

Approved by Legal: [yes/no – include name/post title, eg Group Manager for Legal Services]

Risk Assessment: This report is for information to provide an update on this important issue as it relates to business support, therefore there are no significant risks identified.

Approved by Performance/Governance: [yes/no – include name/post title, eg Group Manager for Performance, Governance and Data Security]

Equality Impact Assessment: No equality impacts are foreseen.

Impact on Climate Change: This report is for information and therefore no climate change impacts have been identified.

Relationship to Corporate Plan: The Economic Development team helps to deliver the Council's objectives for the Economy:

- Bringing new businesses into the district
- Business development and growth
- Improving and regenerating our town centres
- Growing the tourism sector

1.0 Introduction

- 1.1 At the request of members at the previous Economy PDG meeting, this report gives a brief update on matters relating to Brexit.
- 1.2 Following the previous PDG Brexit Report, the national picture relating to Brexit changed whereby the UK government agreed with Europe to extend the deadline for leaving the EU until the 31st of January 2020. This has been confirmed by the newly formed Government following the general election at the end of 2019.
- 1.3 Other than the extension for leaving from October 2019 to January 2020, there has been little change in the expected potential impact of Brexit. Government departments have now delivered a number of events across the Heart of the South West (HotSW), and presentations from these events have been made available through the HotSW Local Enterprise Partnership website.
- 1.3 The Growth Hub business support service and local agencies continue to point businesses to the Government website to determine what actions they will likely need to take in order to prepare for Brexit. The Growth Economy & Delivery Team will continue to monitor what is happening and will take any action necessary as further information becomes available.
- 1.4 On 13th January 2020, the Secretary of State for Housing & Local Government wrote to all council leaders and chief executives to thank them for their council's focus and commitment in working with government throughout 2019 to get ready for EU Exit. The Secretary of State also confirmed that, following the successful vote on the second reading of the Withdrawal Agreement Bill, the Prime Minister agreed for Operation Yellowhammer (the cross-government planning in readiness for a potential 'no deal' Brexit) to be terminated with immediate effect.

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Circulation of the Report: Cllr Graeme Barnell

List of Background Papers:

Supporting information from Government Website
<https://www.gov.uk/brexit>

HotSW LEP website link for Brexit Event presentations
<https://heartofswlep.co.uk/news/get-ready-for-brexit/>