

POLICY & FINANCE COMMITTEE

26 SEPTEMBER 2019

EU EXIT PREPAREDNESS REPORT

1.0 Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the Policy & Finance Committee with preparations being made by Newark & Sherwood District Council (NSDC), and in line with advice received from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) and other Government departments, relating to EU Exit preparedness.

2.0 Background Information

2.1 Following the 6 August 2019 letter from the Rt Hon Robert Jenrick MP, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities & Local Government, to the leaders of all local authorities in England, NSDC has appointed Matthew Finch (Director - Communities & Environment) as Brexit Lead Officer.

The letter set out the officer's role to include:

	Role	
1	Ensuring the council has taken all reasonable steps, in line with relevant guidance and messaging coming from Government and its agencies, to prepare for our exit from the EU on 31 October. This should include clear communication to local residents and businesses to support their own preparations for Brexit and a plan for how the council would communicate important messages to stakeholders	<p>GUIDANCE AND MESSAGING FROM GOVERNMENT</p> <p>NSDC monitors communications from MHCLG, the Home Office, the Department for Exiting the European Union and other Government departments. NSDC participates in teleconferences, webinars and workshops as required.</p> <p>RESIDENTS</p> <p>EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) information for Newark and Sherwood residents is signposted via NSDC's own website. The NSDC Customer Services team can respond to general enquiries relating to EUSS, as summarised in the fact sheet for local authorities. For those residents without access to the Android app for ID verification and which forms part of the EUSS application process, the nearest location currently offering ID scanning is Lincolnshire County Council.</p> <p>BUSINESSES</p> <p>Local businesses may also find information about EU Exit preparedness via the NSDC web page. An email sign-posting to online Government, Local Enterprise Partnership and Chamber of Commerce advice was shared with contacts of the Economic Development team on 4 September 2019. In addition, a Brexit Business Surgery had been offered 14 May 2019. Future events may run, subject to demand.</p> <p>COMMUNICATIONS WITH STAKEHOLDERS</p> <p>In addition to the dedicated NSDC web page relating to EU Exit, the NSDC Communications team (liaising with the Brexit Lead Officer) can share messages via social media channels. The Local Resilience Forum, in which NSDC participates, also has mechanisms for communication in place. Additionally, Rushcliffe Borough Council will coordinate communications for all Nottinghamshire districts relating to Brexit.</p>

2	Ensuring the council has a team in place which is equipped to support the delivery of Brexit, ready for the period around 31 October	The Brexit Lead Officer, with support from the Policy and Projects Officer and working with many Council teams, will coordinate and support the delivery of Brexit for the period around 31 October.
3	Overseeing the expenditure of the specific Brexit funding allocated to their council and ensuring it is effectively contributing to local preparations	The Brexit Lead Officer will oversee allocated funding for Brexit preparations: £35,000 allocated to district councils in January 2019 and £17,484 to district councils announced in August 2019 .
4	Playing a full part in your Local Resilience Forum to ensure that its plans for No Deal take account of relevant local circumstances and potential impacts on local communities.	NSDC participates fully and actively in the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum that is attended by NSDC's Emergency Planning and CCTV Officer, together with the Brexit Lead Officer as required.
5	Bringing together local public service providers, the voluntary and community sector, community groups and businesses to effectively prepare for the potential local impacts of leaving the EU without a deal	NSDC is engaging with Sherwood and Newark Citizens' Advice to explore a partnership approach to bringing the voluntary and community sector together, and with an exploration of commissioning support and advice services for those applying to the EUSS.
6	Acting as the principal contact point for your regional lead chief executive and central Government	NSDC's Brexit Lead Officer acts as the principal point of contact for the EU Exit Local Government Delivery Board , attended by Anthony May, Chief Executive of Nottinghamshire County Council and who represents the East Midlands. In addition, regular communications take place between the Brexit Lead Officers across Nottinghamshire.
7	Proactively raising with central Government or your regional chief executive representative any emerging trends, issues and other local intelligence that might assist in No Deal preparations	The mechanism for proactively raising any emerging trends exists via Brexit Lead Officers in Nottinghamshire and also via the EU Exit Local Government Delivery Board.

3.0 Proposals

3.1 The Brexit Lead Officer will continue to coordinate the Council's preparedness as outlined above and further responding to Government as required.

4.0 Equalities Implications

4.1 There are no equalities implications.

6.0 Community Plan – Alignment to Objectives

6.1 Although EU Exit preparedness is not a stated action within the Community Plan, engaging with residents and with businesses around EU Exit contributes to the wider objective to "increase participation with the Council and within local communities".

7.0 RECOMMENDATIONS that:

(a) Members note NSDC preparations and sign-post their ward constituents, if required, to the available resources via the web [page](#) and Customer Services advice; and

(b) Members seek any further advice required from the Brexit Lead Officer, Matthew Finch.

Reason for Recommendations

To actively manage the EU Exit, achieving a smooth transition for all in the District.

Background Papers

Nil

For further information please contact Kate Marshall, Policy & Projects Officer, Ext.5302.

Matthew Finch
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