



## CABINET – 16TH JANUARY 2019

**SUBJECT: BREXIT**

**REPORT BY: INTERIM CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Cabinet with an update on Brexit and the potential implications for Caerphilly CBC prior to consideration by Council at its meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January 2019.

### 2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The report provides details of the following: -
- The background of the Brexit process.
  - An update on the current position including the significant levels of uncertainty in relation to Brexit.
  - An overview of the potential impact for Local Authorities.
  - Preparations within Caerphilly CBC to identify key actions and mitigation.
- 2.2 The report also seeks Cabinet endorsement of a recommendation to Council to set aside £1m in an earmarked reserve as a contingency to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from the Brexit process

### 3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Brexit has the potential to impact on a number of key strategies within the Council. This will be kept under review and considered further once there is greater clarity around the withdrawal process.

### 4. THE REPORT

#### 4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 On the 23<sup>rd</sup> June 2016 the UK public voted to leave the EU. Following this the UK Government invoked Article 50 on the 29<sup>th</sup> of March 2017, resulting in an “exit day” of the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 at 11.00 pm.
- 4.1.2 Over the past two years the UK Government has sought to secure a deal (the Withdrawal Agreement), with the 27 European Countries that will remain in the EU, covering matters such as: -
- The kind of relationship and level of participation the UK will have with the EU’s Single Market i.e. the free movement of people, goods and services; and
  - The Customs Union – the bloc’s trade and tax agreement.

- 4.1.3 On the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018, the Prime Minister agreed a draft Withdrawal Agreement with the other 27 EU Leaders. All parties also signed off a Future Relationship Declaration which is a draft political declaration on the future relationship between the EU and the UK after Brexit. The Declaration considers subjects such as trade and economic co-operation, law enforcement and criminal justice, foreign policy, security and defence and wider areas of co-operation. The Declaration is not a legally binding document and formal negotiations start after the UK has left the EU on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- 4.1.4 If over the next few weeks, the Prime Minister is able to secure the support of Parliament to approve the Withdrawal Agreement, there will be a transition period of approximately two years before the eventual permanent arrangements for UK-EU relations (which have yet to be agreed) take effect.
- 4.1.5 The Prime Minister has said the transition period, which the UK tends to refer to as an "implementation phase", will allow businesses and EU citizens resident in the UK, and UK citizens resident in the EU, time to prepare for the new arrangements and avoid disrupting essential shared arrangements such as international security measures. It is proposed by the EU that the transition should not extend beyond 31 December 2020, 21 months after Brexit day. The EU wants the UK to continue to: -
- follow its rules during this time but not be involved in making decisions;
  - allow the free movement of people, goods and money to continue; and
  - be subject to European Court of Justice Rulings.
- 4.1.6 The UK also wants to be able to strike trade deals with other countries which it cannot do as an EU member. These deals cannot come into force until the transition period ends.
- 4.1.7 The transition period is conditional on the UK and EU agreeing a deal (the Withdrawal Agreement).
- 4.1.8 If over the next few weeks Parliament votes yes, an EU Withdrawal Bill will be introduced to enshrine the deal in law and it will be implemented. The European Parliament then takes a vote, where it needs a simple majority. A vote follows in the European Council, where 20 of the 27 countries must approve the deal. The UK would then leave the EU on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019 with a deal.
- 4.1.9 If the UK Parliament votes no in early 2019 and the EU Withdrawal Bill is rejected, the UK Government must reconsider its options, which are: -
- Leave with no-deal.
  - Re-negotiate.
  - General Election.
  - Referendum.
- 4.1.10 If the UK Parliament does not agree a Withdrawal Agreement and a framework that sets out the future relationship between the UK and the EU, the UK will become the equivalent of a third party country to the EU and the free movement of people, goods and money will stop at 11pm on the 29<sup>th</sup> March 2019.
- 4.1.11 The EU has suggested they would apply *“regulation and tariffs at borders with the United Kingdom as a third country, including checks and controls for customs, sanitary and phytosanitary standards and verification of compliance with EU norms”*.
- 4.1.12 This position is called the “No Deal Brexit.”

## **4.2 Is the UK Government planning for a potential “No Deal Brexit”?**

- 4.2.1 Yes. The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 received Royal Assent in June 2019, and became law. It will keep most existing EU laws as UK domestic laws after Brexit in order to ensure the continuity and completeness of the UK's legal system. It will also confer wide powers on the Government to amend that retained EU law in order to remedy or mitigate any deficiencies arising from the UK's withdrawal from the EU.
- 4.2.2 Over recent months the UK Government has also published a series of Technical Notices which provide information to allow businesses and citizens to understand what they would need to do in a no deal scenario, so they can make informed plans and preparations. A summary of the Notices that are relevant to Local Authorities is provided in Appendix 1.
- 4.2.3 It has always been the case that as March 2019 approaches, preparations for a no deal scenario would have to be accelerated. Whilst, on 25<sup>th</sup> November 2018 the UK and the EU leaders approved the “Deal” there are still considerable political differences of opinion in Parliament, and within the political parties, and the risk of a no deal exit remains significant.
- 4.2.4 If the current or a revised Withdrawal Agreement is not approved in the next couple of months, there is insufficient time to make changes to existing day to day dealings with the EU and the UK Government if we leave the EU with no deal. The UK Government has tried to ensure the briefing papers offer some form of stability for citizens, consumers and business, to ensure the continued operation of business, infrastructure and public services and to minimise any disruption to the economy. The Government has also committed to act unilaterally to provide continuity for a temporary period in a no deal scenario to protect and minimise disruption for UK citizens and businesses, irrespective of whether the EU reciprocates.
- 4.2.5 The extent of such continuity will vary by area as detailed in specific Technical Notices with change happening in different areas over time. Crucially, however, such changes will be applied where and when it is best for the UK.

## **4.3 How will a no deal Brexit affect Local Government?**

- 4.3.1 Over the past 40 years, as a Member of the European Community, the UK's day to day operations have become truly integrated with the other 27 nations of the European Union, in particular the EU rules and regulations in respect of the freedom of movement of citizens, goods and services integral to our daily lives. Quantifying the impact of a no deal Brexit on Local Government is very difficult as there are so many other inter-dependencies and uncertainties.
- 4.3.2 Set out below is a list of the key areas for consideration in understanding the potential impact of a no deal Brexit on the Council: -
- **Laws regulating Local Government Services** - Many local government services are affected by EU rules and regulations, including waste management, environmental standards, trading standards and procurement. The Withdrawal Act 2018 ensures that there is legal certainty and no cliff edge for councils as those EU laws that underpin key services (such as waste management and trading standards) on exit day would continue to apply through UK law, even under no deal. However, further clarity is required and additional Government advice is promised. For example, it is acknowledged that we cannot use OJEC for procurement after a no deal exit and further engagement is promised on how to deal with ongoing procurement procedures as we switch from EU to a UK system.

- **A new constitutional settlement** - Under a no deal scenario, all EU legislative, enforcement and judicial powers would immediately return to the UK, with no implementation period. Consequently, under the current UK constitutional settlement, powers would return immediately to Whitehall, Stormont, Cardiff Bay and Holyrood. The English LGA and the Local Government Associations of Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland have been clear that Brexit must create the opportunity for the devolution of powers beyond central government to local communities and cannot result in a centralisation of powers. Therefore, under a no deal scenario there must be the consideration of a new central-local agreement across the UK which results in the devolution of powers to local communities through local government, as well as giving local government a more formal role in law-making.
- **Regeneration and other funding sourced from the EU** - Under a no deal scenario the UK would lose access to European Funding. However, through a Parliamentary Statement in July 2018, the Treasury announced that in the event of no deal the Government would underwrite European funding until the end of 2020. The Government has committed to a UK replacement for EU funds.
- **Workforce** – There are many non-UK EU workers that provide vital public services and non-UK EU construction and agricultural workers that are vital for many local economies and projects. The current draft Withdrawal Treaty sets out a reciprocal agreement between the EU and the UK. It provides for ‘settled-status’ for those (non-UK) EU citizens living in the UK and gives such rights to UK citizens living elsewhere in the EU. This provides assurance about residency and employment rights and for the delivery of vital public services. In the event of no deal, there will of course be no Withdrawal Treaty. As such the provision for a reciprocal agreement on ‘settled-status’ contained in the draft Treaty will fall.
- **Public health and protection and local regulation** – Our Public Protection service supports local businesses to trade internationally through the process of issuing export health certificates for certain food products being exported to third countries. A no deal scenario could significantly increase the number of certificates required by traders who do not currently require them to export to the EU, with resource implications for the Council and others involved in providing them. Similarly, any move to relieve pressure at ports by requiring import checks to be carried out inland could also place additional demands on local authorities. Additionally, much of the intelligence and risk assessment activity in relation to food safety is undertaken at an EU level and access to this currently informs food inspection programmes. There are concerns that public protection should not be undermined following Brexit. It is understood the Government and other agencies are considering the implications of and mitigation in the event of a no deal scenario, but presently there remains a great deal of uncertainty.
- **Goods and services** - Under a no deal scenario any imported goods used by the Council could be subject to new tariffs and thus services would be subject to new costs. We would have to assume the absence of any Free Trade Agreement (FTA) with the EU and the UK reverting to World Trade Organisation (WTO) rules. There would be many choices available to the UK such as a policy of tariff free trade with every nation or the UK may choose to try and roll over the current EU tariffs. What is clear is that under WTO rules, the UK would have to treat the EU the same as other trading nations. Thus if the UK continued to apply tariffs to countries outside the EU (such as the US), there would have to be the same tariffs to pay on imported goods supplied to the Council from the EU. The Council, or more likely its suppliers, currently buy such EU goods tariff free. Whilst a no deal Brexit would in theory leave the UK free to set its own tariffs on imported goods (within WTO limits), Government is nevertheless likely to adopt tariffs replicating the EU’s. Goods imported from the EU into the UK could therefore be subject to the same tariffs as those goods imported from elsewhere.

As it is the importer, rather than the exporter, who has to pay the tariff, the Council would have to pay these new tariffs when it imports goods directly from a supplier in the EU. This will be very rare however. Much more commonly it will be the UK supplier (not the Council itself) who would have to pay new tariffs, if it were importing goods from the rest of the EU. Whether these costs can then be passed on to the Council depends on the nature of the contract the UK supplier has with the Council.

The contract may be fixed price, in which case the supplier will have to absorb the tariff costs; or the contract may allow for some variability in the price, in which case the supplier can pass on some or all of the tariff costs onto the local authority. If there is no provision for the supplier to pass on price increases mid-contract, we would need to be assured that the supplier was able to absorb such costs. In some cases, the supplier may seek to pass on price increases to the Council when the contract is renewed. This may have a significant impact on the Council's budget.

In a no deal scenario, there will also be a range of non-tariff barriers, which would constitute the bulk of the costs for the national economy of doing business without FTAs, including: border checks, custom controls and compliance with different product standards and regulations.

- 4.3.3 As a Council it is difficult to plan for a no deal, as there is so much outside our control that it is impossible to mitigate many of the risks without greater clarity on the actions to be taken by the UK and Welsh Governments.
- 4.3.4 Council officers will continue to liaise with Welsh Government, the Welsh Local Government Association, partners and third party suppliers and contractors to ensure we better understand the risks of a No-Deal Brexit and the impact on the Council's services and local communities.

#### **4.4 What are we doing in Caerphilly CBC to prepare for Brexit?**

- 4.4.1 CCBC has recently established an internal Brexit Working Group consisting of the following: -
- Leader of the Council
  - Interim Head of Business Improvement Services
  - Head of Customer and Digital Services
  - Corporate Communications Manager
  - Head of People Services
  - Service Manager, Older People Services
  - Head of Regeneration and Planning
  - Head of Public Protection, Community & Leisure Services
  - Senior Policy Officer
  - Head of Education Planning & Strategy
- 4.4.2 This Working Group will meet on a monthly basis until further notice to monitor the potential impacts of Brexit and to agree specific mitigation and actions.
- 4.4.3 The Corporate Policy Unit has also set up a dedicated Brexit section on the Council's Intranet. This provides important information for all staff and will be regularly updated as matters progress.
- 4.4.4 CCBC has also been working with the WLGA through its Brexit Transition Support Programme for Welsh Local Authorities which is funded by the Welsh Government's £50m EU Transition Fund. The WLGA has commissioned Grant Thornton to produce a Brexit Preparedness Toolkit and this is attached as Appendix 2 for information.
- 4.4.5 The Toolkit will be a key reference point in CCBC's Brexit assessment and planning during the coming months. A workshop has been arranged for the Brexit Working Group on the 11<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to work through the recommended priority actions and to identify key tasks, risks and mitigation that will need to be addressed.

- 4.4.6 A representative from the WLGA is scheduled to attend the Council meeting on the 22<sup>nd</sup> January to give a presentation on the key issues surrounding Brexit and the potential implications.
- 4.4.7 In response to a request from the Welsh Government, CCBC has been working with the Gwent Local Resilience Forum (LRF) to help build a common picture on the national and local risks that Brexit presents to Wales. The Wales Risk Group has collated information from this process across the four LRF areas and this will shortly be submitted to the Welsh Government.
- 4.4.8 A key immediate implication of a no deal scenario for CCBC would be the potential disruption to the supply chain. The Council's Procurement Team is currently undertaking a review to identify the main risk areas and to establish what mitigating actions may be required. Deloitte's have also been commissioned by the Welsh Government EU Exit Team to step up preparations to ensure continuity of supply of goods and services in the event of a no deal exit from the EU. CCBC has provided information requested from Deloitte's to support their work in this area. CCBC will actively engage with suppliers once the key risk areas have been confirmed.
- 4.4.9 Communication is challenging as there is still no clarity around what the key messages are meaning that it is difficult to give a firm view. However, CCBC will take steps to ensure that staff and Elected Members are being kept up to date. CCBC also has a "Community Leader" role and will need to provide advice and guidance to members of the public and signpost as appropriate.
- 4.4.10 There is the potential for a negative impact on the local economy in the short to medium-term along with a possible lack of inward investment in the longer-term. The potential for increases in prices for goods and services will also provide a significant challenge for some smaller businesses. CCBC will have an important role to play in working with local businesses to deal with these challenges.

## **5. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS**

- 5.1 This will be kept under review and considered further once there is greater clarity around the withdrawal process.

## **6. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS**

- 6.1 The European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 has sought to mitigate the equality and diversity implications of Brexit.

## **7. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 There is an "opportunity cost" of senior staff having to consider the potential impacts of Brexit and prepare mitigating actions as appropriate.
- 7.2 No specific financial resource has been allocated in respect of Brexit to date. However, due to the high levels of uncertainty surrounding the process and the potential risks, Cabinet is asked to support a recommendation to Council that £1m be set-aside in an earmarked reserve as a contingency to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from the Brexit process. It is further recommended that this earmarked reserve should be funded from the £20.8m unallocated reserves identified in the 'Update on Reserves' report due to be presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019 and subsequently to Cabinet.

- 7.3 To ensure that funds in the proposed earmarked reserve can be accessed promptly Cabinet is also asked to support a recommendation to Council that delegated powers be granted to the Leader and Interim Chief Executive to jointly approve expenditure from the earmarked reserve as and when required.

## **8. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no direct personnel implications arising from this report albeit that the position will be kept under review.

## **9. CONSULTATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no consultation responses that have not been reflected in this report.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 10.1 It is recommended that Cabinet: -

10.1.1 notes the content of the report;

10.1.2 endorses a recommendation to Council that £1m be set-aside in an earmarked reserve as a contingency to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from the Brexit process (funded from the £20.8m unallocated reserves identified in the 'Update on Reserves' report due to be presented to the Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee on the 15<sup>th</sup> January 2019); and

10.1.3 endorses a recommendation to Council that delegated powers be granted to the Leader and Interim Chief Executive to jointly approve expenditure from the earmarked reserve as and when required.

## **11. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

11.1 To ensure that Cabinet Members are fully briefed on the current position regarding Brexit and the steps being taken to mitigate emerging risks.

11.2 To ensure that funding is set aside to meet any short to medium-term financial implications arising from Brexit.

## **12. STATUTORY POWER**

12.1 European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018.

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Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer

Appendices:

Appendix 1 – No Deal Brexit – Summary of UK Government Technical Notices

Appendix 2 – Brexit Preparedness Toolkit

**No Deal Brexit – Summary of UK Government Technical Notices**

The full list of Technical Notices can be found at: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal#driving>

Background and information on using the Notices is provided in an overview document, with a further 19 areas covered by Notices: -

- Overview
- Applying for EU-funded programmes
- Driving and transport
- Farming
- Handling civil legal cases
- Importing and exporting
- Labelling products and making them safe
- Meeting business regulations
- Money and tax
- Personal data and consumer rights
- Protecting the environment
- Regulating energy
- Regulating medicines and medical equipment
- Regulating veterinary medicines
- Satellites and space
- Seafaring
- State aid
- Studying in the UK or the EU
- Travelling between the UK and the EU
- Workplace rights

Each of these sections contains additional, more detailed guidance in the event of there being no Brexit deal. The following is a summary of the Notices that are likely to be more relevant to Local Government: -

**1. Overview**

This Notice states that at the heart of Government's approach to preparing for a no deal scenario is a commitment to prioritise stability for citizens, consumers and business, to ensure the smooth operations of business, infrastructure and public services and to minimise any disruption to the economy. It also states that the UK Government is committing to taking unilateral steps to minimise disruption and prioritise stability in a no deal scenario.

**2. Applying for EU-funded programmes**

**Before 29 March 2019**

Until our departure from the EU, we remain a Member State, with all the rights and obligations that entails. This means that the UK will continue to participate in all EU programmes while we remain a member of the EU.

As agreed as part of the Financial Settlement, the UK will continue to take part in all EU programmes post 29 March 2019 for the rest of the 2014-2020 Multi-annual Financial Framework. This Financial Settlement has been signed off by both UK and Commission negotiators in the draft Withdrawal Agreement and welcomed by the other 27 EU countries.



## After March 2019 if there is no deal

In the event of a no deal, the UK will leave the EU Budget in March 2019 meaning UK organisations would no longer receive future funding for projects under EU programmes, such as the European Regional Development Fund and Horizon 2020, without further action. However, the UK Chancellor announced in August and October 2016 that the Government will guarantee EU projects agreed before we leave the EU, to provide more certainty for UK organisations over the course of EU Exit.

In July 2018, the Chief Secretary laid a Written Ministerial Statement (HCWS926) extending this guarantee to provide further stability for UK organisations in a no deal scenario. The guarantee now covers the following: -

- The full 2014-20 Multi-annual Financial Framework allocation for structural and investment funds.
- The payment of awards where UK organisations successfully bid directly to the European Commission on a competitive basis while we remain in the EU.
- The payment of awards under successful bids where UK organisations are able to participate as a third country in competitive grant programmes from Exit day until the end of 2020.
- The current level of agricultural funding under CAP Pillar 1 until 2020.

The notice states that this guarantee ensures that UK organisations, such as charities, businesses and universities, will continue to receive funding over a project's lifetime if they successfully bid into EU-funded programmes before the end of 2020.

## Preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales

In September 2018 the National Assembly for Wales Finance Committee published a report - Preparations for replacing EU funding for Wales – this set out 11 recommendations including that the Welsh Government: -

- Negotiates with the UK Government to ensure the Welsh Government is responsible for the administration and management of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund in Wales.
- In prioritising negotiations with the UK Government to secure the best possible funding deal, to ensure that Wales is “not a penny worse off” post-Brexit
- Initially secures at least the same amount of funding to Wales through the UK Shared Prosperity Fund as it currently receives through Structural Funds, plus inflation.
- Installs a central unit equipped with the necessary expertise and capacity to deliver a coherent programme of funding post-Brexit.

## **3. Farming**

### Rural Development Fund

The UK government has guaranteed that any projects where funding has been agreed before the end of 2020 will be funded for their full lifetime. This means, in the event the UK leaves the EU with no deal, the UK government would fund any remaining payments to farmers, land managers and rural businesses due after March 2019. This would ensure continued funding for these projects until they finish. The guarantee also means that Defra and the devolved administrations can continue to sign new projects after the UK leaves the EU during 2019 and 2020, up to the value of programme allocations.

### Farm Payments

As the UK will have the freedom to design its own agricultural policy once we have left the EU, the nature of support for the agricultural sector will change. The Agriculture Bill will

legislate for those changes in England. The future of agricultural policy has been the subject of a public consultation in each country of the UK.

The devolved administrations and UK government are working together to determine where UK frameworks need to be established

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no agreement in place, eligible beneficiaries will continue to receive payments under the terms of the UK government's funding guarantee.

Defra and the devolved administrations are preparing domestic legislation (under the Withdrawal Act) to ensure we have the ability in law to continue operation of payments in a no deal scenario. This legislation preserves the EU law as it currently stands, and 'fixes' the legislation so that it is operable once we've left the EU.

The domestic legislation will require beneficiaries to conform to the same standards as they do currently, in order to receive payments. This will include on-site inspections to UK farms receiving payments, which will continue as normal.

All of these rules and processes will remain the same until Defra and the devolved administrations introduce new agriculture policies, either through the Agriculture Bill due to be introduced in the UK Parliament, or an Agriculture Bill in one or more of the devolved parliaments.

The Government has pledged to continue to commit the same cash total in funds for farm support until the end of this Parliament, expected in 2022. This includes all funding provided for farm support under both Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 of the current CAP. This commitment applies to the whole UK.

#### **4. Importing and exporting**

If the UK leaves the EU on 29 March 2019 without a deal there will be immediate changes to the procedures that apply to businesses trading with the EU. It would mean that the free circulation of goods between the UK and EU would cease.

Businesses should consider how a no deal scenario could affect them, and may want to begin taking steps to mitigate against such a risk.

The Notice suggests actions businesses can take now to prepare including the following: -

- Establish the volume of their trade with the EU and any potential supply chain impacts such as engaging with the other businesses in the supply chain to ensure that the necessary planning is taking place at all levels.
- In the event that the UK and the EU does not have a Free Trade Agreement (FTA) in place in a no deal scenario, trade with the EU will be on non-preferential, World Trade Organisation terms. This means that Most Favoured Nation (MFN) tariffs and non-preferential rules of origin would apply to consignments between the UK and EU.

#### **5. Labelling products and making them safe**

The UK Government will maintain our current set of standards on food safety, food labelling and food quality, ensuring high food standards at home and promoting high standards internationally.

Initially, the EU based provisions would all be rolled over, as part of the Withdrawal Act, and fixed where necessary by Statutory Instrument so the rules apply as before. However, some changes would be required to reflect the fact that the UK will no longer be a member of the EU.

Where the UK has its own compositional standards that do not stem from the EU, such as specific national rules on products containing meat and the composition of bread and flour, these would remain unchanged.

#### Labelling the origin of food

Use of the term 'EU' in origin labelling would no longer be correct for food or ingredients from the UK. In addition, from April 2020, the country of origin or place of provenance of the primary ingredient of a food (where different to that given for the food overall) will be required on labels as part of EU rules on food labelling. The Government may seek views on whether similar national rules would be appropriate in the UK when EU rules no longer apply.

### **6. Meeting business regulations**

#### Accessing Public Sector Contracts

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no deal in place regarding future arrangements on access to OJEU/TED, the government has committed to providing a replacement UK-specific e-notification service. Changes to the procurement rules will be made via amendments to existing legislation, to ensure continued operability.

All contract opportunities that would currently be published on OJEU/TED would be published on the new UK e-notification service. This would be in line with the current requirements to send notices to the EU Publications Office for publication on OJEU/TED. Publication would take place electronically and the service will be free for all users.

The UK is also aiming to accede to the WTO Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA). The UK currently participates in the GPA by virtue of its EU membership.

#### Contracting authorities and entities

Contracting authorities would need to ensure their contract notices are published on the UK e-notification service rather than OJEU/TED.

The requirement to advertise in Contracts Finder, MOD Defence Contracts Online, Public Contracts Scotland, Sell2Wales and eTendersNI would remain. Those contracting authorities who are currently working with a third party such as an 'E-Sender' or 'E-Publisher' to publish to OJEU/TED should be able to continue to work with their provider to publish on the UK e-notification service.

Contracting authorities that place their contract opportunities directly on to OJEU/TED will be contacted to ensure that they are familiar with the new UK e-notification service.

### **7. Money and tax**

#### Implications for individuals and business customers

How customers of financial services firms will be affected will depend on where they are based, where their firm is based and under what regulatory authorisations they operate, and the services that they access. If action by customers is needed, then firms should communicate this to their customers at an appropriate time.

### **8. Personal data and consumer rights**

If the UK leaves the EU in March 2019 with no agreement in place regarding future arrangements for data protection, there would be no immediate change in the UK's own data

protection standards. This is because the Data Protection Act 2018 would remain in place and the EU Withdrawal Act would incorporate the GDPR into UK law to sit alongside it.

## **9. Protecting the environment**

This Notice states that UK Government is committed to maintaining environmental standards after we leave the EU, and will continue to uphold international obligations through multi-lateral environmental agreements. The EU Withdrawal Act 2018 will ensure all existing EU environmental law continues to operate in UK law, providing businesses and stakeholders with certainty as we leave the EU.

The UK government and devolved administrations will amend current legislation to correct references to EU legislation, transfer powers from EU institutions to domestic institutions and ensure we meet international agreement obligations.

The UK's legal framework for enforcing domestic environmental legislation by UK regulatory bodies or court systems is unaffected by leaving the EU and continues to apply.

Environmental targets currently covered by EU legislation are already covered in domestic legislation. Permits and licences issued by UK regulatory bodies will continue to apply as now.

## **10. State aid**

This Notice states that the Government will create a UK-wide subsidy control framework to ensure the continuing control of anti-competitive subsidies. The EU state aid rules will be transposed into UK domestic legislation under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act. This will apply to all sectors; and will mirror existing block exemptions as allowed under the current rules, including the Agricultural Block Exemption Regulation, and the Fisheries Block Exemption Regulation. The Competition and Markets Authority will take on the role of enforcement and supervision for the whole of the UK.

The UK Government will continue to work with the devolved administrations to ensure the new state aid regime works for the whole of the UK.

## **11. Workplace rights**

The EU (Withdrawal) Act 2018 brings across the powers from EU Directives. This means that workers in the UK will continue to be entitled to the rights they have under UK law, covering those aspects which come from EU law.

The Government will make small amendments to the language of workplace legislation to ensure the existing regulations reflect the UK is no longer an EU country. These amendments will not change existing policy. This will provide legal certainty, allowing for a smooth transition from the day of EU exit, and will ensure that employment rights remain unchanged, including the employment rights of those working in the UK on a temporary basis.

# Brexit preparedness toolkit

Part of the Brexit Transition Support Programme  
for Welsh local authorities

Version 1 - November 2018





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## Document log

Version	Update	Date
Version 1	First iteration of the WLGA Brexit preparedness toolkit published.	23 November 2018

The impact of Brexit will be far-reaching – no matter the outcome of negotiations. With discussions entering the final stages, the preparations made by local authorities during the following months may well affect how local communities and economies within Wales are impacted in the longer term.

### Purpose of this document

Welsh local authorities have always navigated uncertainty and faced challenges on behalf of communities. While the outcome of Brexit negotiations remains uncertain, it is essential for councils to set a path to ensure the continued delivery of vital services and the best possible outcomes for their local communities and economies.

This toolkit has been designed to provide a comprehensive and consistent approach to support Welsh Local Authorities in identifying and addressing the local implications of Brexit.

Produced in partnership with the Welsh Local Government Association as part of the Brexit Transition Support Programme for Welsh local authorities, the toolkit is intended to support local political and executive decision-makers in understanding the potential risks and opportunities that Brexit poses, ensuring that they are asking the right questions locally and putting in place robust plans on behalf of their communities and businesses.

### Key messages

- The outcome of Brexit is uncertain, but there are specific, practical preparations that Welsh local authorities should make by focusing on their organisations, their services and suppliers and the places they serve.
- All parts of government must work together to manage the process of withdrawal from the EU successfully, however, preparations at a local level are an essential part of the duties of Welsh Local Authorities as leaders and representatives on behalf of their communities.
- The Welsh Government and Welsh Local Government Association are fully committed to assisting local authorities in carrying out this crucial role.
- Priority Actions' have been outlined in each section of this report - these are tasks that councils should plan to undertake immediately, if they have not begun to do so already, with the aim of completing preparations before March 2019.



## Context

The *White Paper – Securing Wales’ Future* (published in January 2017) and the subsequent suite of policy documents on future funding arrangements, trade, regional investment, the movement of people and devolution, set out the key priorities of the [Welsh Government](#) as the UK attempts to moves towards a deal with the EU.

The aims of the wider Brexit Transition Support Programme for Welsh Local Authorities, funded by the [Welsh Government’s EU Transition Support Fund](#), are to ensure Welsh local authorities are not duplicating work in preparing for Brexit; ensure all local authorities in Wales are equally prepared for Brexit in key sectors; and to establish a more formalised, two-way programme of communication between local authorities and those planning for Brexit in the Welsh and UK Governments. Activities under the support programme include a range of stakeholder events, the production of this toolkit and other resources, and the commissioning of research in areas where Brexit will have a significant impact for local government.

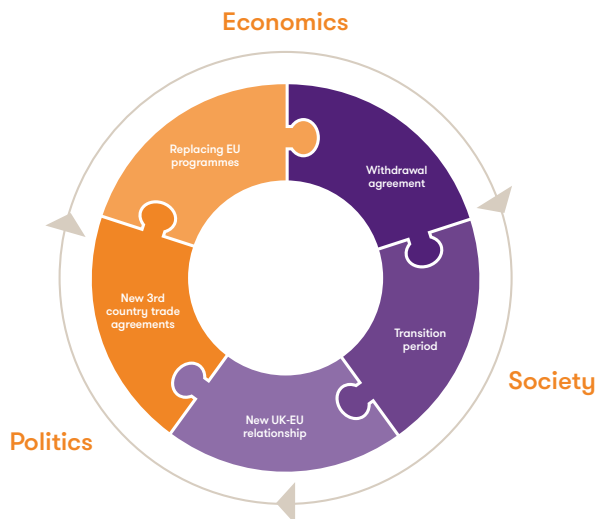


# Scenarios, timelines and implications

## What is Brexit?

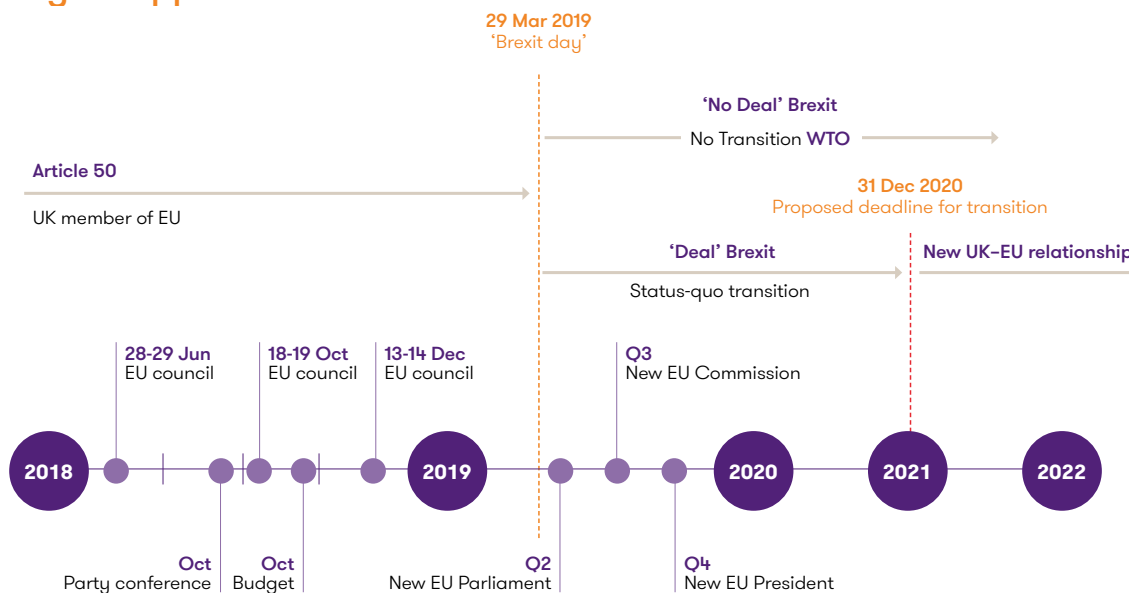
Brexit consists of five interconnected elements:

- **The withdrawal agreement:** covering issues such as citizens' rights and financial settlement. A draft withdrawal agreement was proposed by the Prime Minister on 14 Nov 2018 which must now be agreed by parliament and EU member states.
- **A transition period:** a proposed 21 months during which the UK remains in the Single Market and Customs Union.
- **A new UK-EU trading relationship:** what will replace our current membership of the European Union.
- **New 3rd country Free Trade Agreements:** to establish new trading relationships with countries around the world and replace EU originated FTAs that we may lose access to.
- **Replacement of EU funding programmes:** redesigning current EU funding streams.



It is important to remember that negotiations and decisions on these elements are not taking place in a vacuum. They are impacted from the outside by societal change, economic pressures and political volatility – meaning things can change quickly.

## What might happen and when?



On the 14 November 2018, the UK Government published a draft Withdrawal Agreement which sets out the terms for the UK's departure from the European Union. It reflects an agreement in principle between the UK and EU. However, this agreement is not legally binding until it has been ratified in Westminster and Brussels.

There remain two options for what will happen at 11 pm on 29 March, the UK will leave the EU, either with a Deal or with No Deal.

## Two options in March 2019

### A Deal – UK leaves EU and enters transition period:

If the Deal is ratified in the UK and EU, much of the UK relationship with the EU will remain unchanged for a 21-month transition period, up to 31 December 2020.

The transition period will be used to negotiate our future relationship with the EU – there is still much debate about what this outcome may be, though the ‘backstop’ will mean that if a new agreement is not reached the UK will remain in a customs union with the UK, with deep regulatory alignment between Northern Ireland and the EU.

### No Deal – UK leaves EU with no transition to trade on WTO terms:

If the Withdrawal Agreement does not manage to pass through UK parliament or EU member states, and no alternative is found, then the UK will leave the EU with No Deal.

If there is No Deal, there is no transition period. Trading on WTO terms imports and exports between the UK and EU become subject to tariffs (which vary from 0% to over 80%) and customs declarations. This would mean new processes for business as well as additional costs. The free movement of people would end and the recruitment of EU nationals arriving in the UK for the first time after March 2019 could be subject to similar immigration rules as those currently applying from the rest of the world. Access to EU programmes and funding will also end, although the government has guaranteed the EU projects agreed before March 2019.

## We believe there are three key perspectives local authorities should consider

The toolkit focuses on three key areas where Brexit is likely to have the most significant impact. Across each of these areas, the toolkit provides a range of perspectives that will help councils to tease out the fundamental questions they should be asking about the specific risks and opportunities that may arise under each Brexit scenario and present several priority recommendations for councils to act upon.

### Your organisation

The first step any local authority must take is to understand the impact of Brexit on their organisation.

Whatever the deal, there are likely to be short- and long-term implications for the people working for your council, the funding streams relied upon to provide valuable local services and changes to the legal and regulatory frameworks within which you operate.

### Your services and suppliers

Councils provide essential public services and play an integral role in local marketplaces.

They must understand the potential impacts of Brexit on core services and the risks within their supply chain.

Once the risks and opportunities have been identified, local authorities can develop contingency plans, identify critical decisions and manage risks.

### Your place

Finally, local authorities need to be alive to the impact Brexit may have on local economies, the continued uncertainty around funding streams previously available through the EU and new opportunities potentially available for further devolution.

These factors will shape communities for years to come, and it will fall to local authorities to foster the social cohesion and leadership necessary for communities live, work and thrive as the UK redefines itself outside the EU.

# Your organisation

Welsh local authorities must ensure that they understand the potential impacts on their organisations to maintain their crucial role as stewards and community leaders for the places they serve.

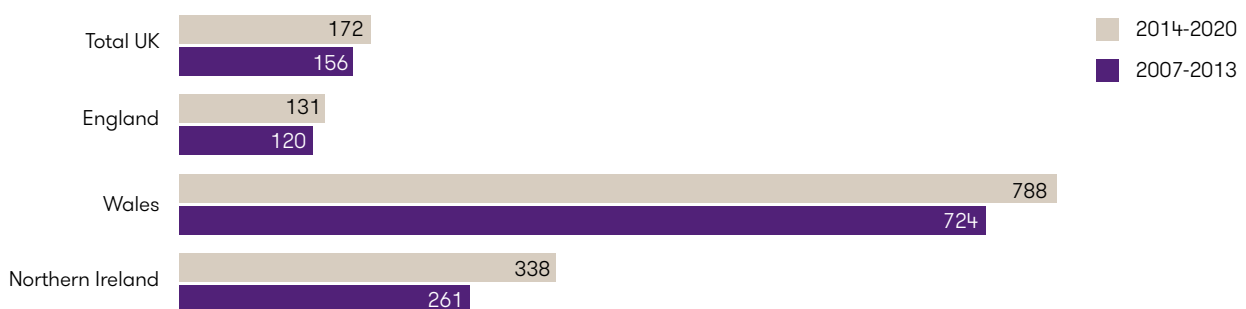
From HGV drivers collecting waste to those carers working with social care clients, councils will already employ many EEA nationals for the provision of high-quality local services. Given the importance of the local workforce, local authorities should consider how Brexit will impact the retention of its staff. In Wales, EU migrants have a higher employment rate (79%) than the overall working-age population (71%). Most EU migrants – like UK-born people or non-EU migrants – work in occupations such as administration, caring and leisure or skilled trades for example in the construction industry. In the social care sector, while specific data is not available for Wales, figures for England show that people with an EU nationality hold around 3% of local authority and independent sector jobs, and a further 5% are held by people with a non-EU nationality.

Although commitments have been made to protect existing EU residents, [ONS data](#) is showing that EU citizens have already begun to leave because of exchange rate changes or a sense of not being valued. Reduced access to EU labour in the

future, coupled with a fall in the pound impacting international workers, means that organisations will need to work hard to retain and attract the skills they require. Moving forward, councils will need to think about how they will continue to recruit the skillsets they need after March 2019; how Brexit and other related policies could increase or decrease labour costs and what additional skills and resources will be necessary to deliver a robust Brexit plan successfully.

Regarding potential financial implications, Wales currently takes more funding from the EU than its taxpayers contribute. As a net financial beneficiary of EU membership, Wales receives approximately £680million in EU funding each year. After any agreed transition period, UK organisations will be unable to access EU funding streams such as the European Regional Development Fund and Horizon 2020 or the Common Agricultural Policy (CAP); in the event of No Deal, the UK Treasury has provided a full lifetime [expenditure guarantee](#) for projects approved before the end of December 2020.

## Per capita combined European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) and European Social Fund allocations (€m)



We can also expect to see increased volatility in financial markets as they react to updates in negotiations in different ways. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, we can expect the Pound to fall and interest rates to fluctuate depending on the perceived impact.

The EU Withdrawal Act converts EU into UK law, which will ensure short-term certainty across many of the legal and

regulatory frameworks used by local government. However, in the longer term, it is much more unclear how Brexit will impact the areas particularly relevant to councils, such as data protection and procurement. All the above means that local authorities will need to be agile in their approach to setting organisational priorities and responding to an environment that is increasingly dynamic.

## Recommendations:



### Priorities

**Priority Action: Mobilise key decision-makers and partnerships** – Ensure that local leaders and decision-makers understand the potential economic, political and regulatory changes and are actively considering the impacts. Ensure that working groups, involving partners where necessary, are up and running.

**Priority Action: Create a plan and be ready to act** – Know what you need to do and when for specific Brexit scenarios. Improve your organisational responsiveness through analysis of what aspects of your organisation will be impacted by Brexit and what areas are not impacted.

**Also consider: What policy decisions might you need to influence in the longer term** – Identify what policy changes you might need to call for and whether there are any opportunities to make specific asks of the Welsh and UK Government in the face of Brexit pressures.



### People

**Priority Action: Conduct a workforce audit to identify EEA nationals** – Understand who in your workforce is likely to be affected, particularly those working in critical areas such as social care.

**Priority Action: Encourage retention** – Start your communication with your EEA employees and ensure they understand their residency rights and are aware of [UK government resources](#). Identify opportunities to streamline your council's recruitment and retention procedures, positioning yourself as an employer of choice. This will require you to make sure that your employee value proposition is as attractive as it can be by developing and reviewing remuneration packages, benefits and incentive.

**Also consider: How Brexit may impact the cost of labour** – In all scenarios, there is a risk of increased staffing costs if wages are inflated because of skills shortages or other policy changes such as tax rises, enlargements to the minimum wage. Keep the cost of your workforce under review and ensure that your offer is competitive.



### Finance and Funding

**Priority Action: Map your current income** – Although the UK government has extended a guarantee that covers all projects which would have been funded by the EU under the 2014-2020 programme, councils need to identify which projects and programmes are dependent on this funding and begin to assess alternative funding streams and create a gap analysis for future requirements.

**Priority Action: Understand your financial exposure** – Modelling the financial impact using a range of outcomes, identify the real terms impact of reduced funding sources by forecasting (NDR, Council Tax and other sources) and ensure that your medium-term financial strategies are based on robust and prudent assumptions.

**Also consider: Revisit the business cases for major projects** – Conduct viability analysis of individual projects reliant on EU funding and create a list of strategic options for delivery post-2020.

# Your services and suppliers

Welsh local authorities play a central role in the lives of all residents by delivering over 700 statutory and discretionary services drawing on a wide range of suppliers and partners.

Changes in the model of economic co-operation between the UK and EU and any subsequent amendments to specific legal and regulatory frameworks will impact council services in many ways. For example, if there is No Deal, mutual recognition will end for imports from EU into the UK. This includes certain foodstuffs, furniture, bicycles, ladders and precious metals. Manufacturers and sellers of such products will need to meet UK standards to sell in the UK, which in turn would need to be enforced by trading standards. Any alterations to the rules and requirements around the manufacturing and marketing of fertilisers would equally affect trading standards. For state aid,

if there is no deal, UK public authorities would need to notify state aid to the Competition and Markets Authority instead of the European Commission.

No Deal would also mean that the UK becomes a 'third country'. Simply put, this would impose new checks and processes for goods passing between the UK and the EU and increases the likelihood for confusion and delays at our borders as new rules are implemented and therefore increasing the risk to council service providers and their suppliers

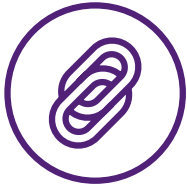
## Things to think about:



Local authorities need to be able to map the impact of Brexit across all services and key supply chains, making sure their organisations can familiarise themselves and adapt to new

approaches and challenges - this means looking beyond immediate service areas, contracted suppliers, partnership working network and Joint Venture and PFI Arrangements.

## Recommendations:



### Services, suppliers and supply chain

**Priority Action: Identify your most significant and most critical services and suppliers** – Engage with your supply chain to understand their level of exposure and the preparations they have put in place. Once you understand the potential level of impact and your contractual position, develop contingency plans and possible alternative procurement options.

**Also consider: Future regulatory changes impacting service delivery** – In the event of No Deal there will be various changes to everyday processes and procedures. Councils will need to familiarise themselves with any new approaches that would be taken in areas such as:

- Procurement;
- Data protection;
- Regulating chemicals (REACH);
- Exporting animals and animal products;
- Labelling tobacco products and e-cigarettes;
- End of mutual recognition of EU national standards;
- Producing and labelling food; and,
- Handling civil legal cases that involve EU countries.

Guidance on how to prepare for Brexit if there's no deal can be found [here](#).



### Core operations

**Priority Action: Identify key decisions** – Work through the actions your council will need to undertake now to safeguard services, regardless of the Brexit outcome.

**Priority Action: Understand how your core services may be affected and develop contingency plans** – Once the risks have been identified, examine the business impact on your core services.

**Also consider: Creating an opportunities matrix** – Brexit could create new opportunities to reshape existing service delivery models and way of working. Consider areas such as:

- Devolution and the ability to lobby the government for greater local freedoms;
- The opportunity to develop the local indigenous workforce;
- Collaborating with partners to address common challenges; and,
- The possibility to adopt different delivery models.



### Legal, data and regulatory

**Priority Action: Understand the risk to your contracted suppliers and your legal position if Brexit renders them unable to deliver their services** – your council will need to have alternative arrangements for delivery of services, especially statutory services such as social care.

**Also consider: The transfer of data** – Brexit could result in changes to the laws and regulations governing information and data and if access to this data is disrupted, then it could impact upon the ability of public service organisations to work collaboratively. Understanding how current data sharing arrangements could be impacted by Brexit is key to beginning a risk assessment. Based on this risk assessment, required changes to data sharing arrangements can be identified.

# Your place

Welsh Local government will continue to ensure the wellbeing of communities, grow local economies and maintain healthy and representative local democracies. Helping residents and businesses prepare for departure from the EU is a key part of this role in the short term.

Brexit creates a strategic opportunity for local authorities to push for greater freedoms and flexibilities as leaders of the places they serve. This means pushing the principle of devolution and subsidiarity; making a case for enhanced powers and seeking greater fiscal autonomy. In theory, Brexit will mean that decisions will be made closer to the communities they impact, however, as has already been witnessed during the negotiations, the UK Government may seek to retain new powers in Whitehall. The responsibility will fall to local government and its representatives to ensure that appropriate responsibilities come as close to communities as possible.

The long-term economic consequences of Brexit are still heavily disputed, though the majority predict a negative long-term impact. Ultimately, lower growth of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) would be mirrored by lower wages and incomes – impacting the day to day lives of residents. Over the medium term the economy in Wales has tracked UK economic performance quite closely, but in the short-term Wales is

potentially more vulnerable to economic shocks than many other parts of the UK. For example, Welsh international exports are dominated by a small number of large businesses, the loss of which would have a very significant impact on their localities.

## Forecasts for Wales suggest:

The sectors most affected by No Deal or by leaving the customs union after a transition include food and farming, manufacturing with complex supply chains (including automotive and aerospace) and life sciences. Retail and construction, in particular, will be affected by any drop-in consumer confidence or economic shock if there is No Deal. Many sectors including tourism and leisure, logistics and manufacturing will also be affected by skills shortages and food and farming could also see very significant long-term change resulting from the end of CAP subsidies and the possible opening of UK food markets to cheaper imports from the US, Brazil and Asia-pacific.

## Share of Export Goods (2015) to EU: Major categories of goods exports from Wales, and from the UK as a comparator



There are also wider implications on the well-being of the people of Wales. By its very nature, the referendum has brought to the surface longstanding tensions within communities by highlighting the fundamental differences in peoples view of what the country should like, both socially and economically, and then pitching these two opposing futures against each other.

It will fall to local councils to rebuild the social cohesion necessary for communities to live and work together and local authorities will need to be confident about civil contingency plans in the event of No Deal. It will be important to work with local partnerships to assess how the first days and months could play out in your local community and understand exactly what contingencies your council may need to be prepared for.



## Recommendations:



### Local community

**Priority Action: Councils need to understand their communities** – Map the impact of Brexit by charting the make-up of communities. This will help local authorities to understand local demography and how any changes may impact demand for local services (such housing and school places, for example).

**Priority Action: Head off community unrest** – Starting the dialogue with residents early will help local authorities to understand community concerns and map local resilience. Encourage meaningful community engagement by enabling residents to be part of shaping your response to Brexit and any resulting strategies.

**Priority Action: Continue business continuity and emergency planning duties** – This is a significant role of local authorities and the possible impact of No Deal could be felt in many ways, for example:

- The imposition of additional/new checks on goods arriving from or going to the EU could cause traffic backlogs at UK port towns.
- In the longer term, there could be scenarios where large numbers of elderly UK citizens return from other parts of the EU.
- The economic consequences of “no deal” arising from trade and currency fluctuations could impact household and business stability. This, in turn, may lead indirectly to increased pressure on local public services and more challenging prospects for local growth.



### Future growth

**Priority Action: Understand points of vulnerability within your economy** – Create a clear view of your local economy; including scale, strengths, weaknesses, sectors and productivity. This will assist you to understand the local exposure to Brexit by sector and intervene or offer support where necessary.

**Priority Action: Identify any major growth catalysts that are at-risk** – SRegeneration and major infrastructure projects could be delayed or stalled due to uncertainty on funding and/or demand assumptions – start working now to understand which projects may be at risk and consider how these risks can be managed.

**Also consider: Using scenario planning to model the risk** – Use scenarios to plan how your organisations would respond to different economic outcomes such as:

- The UK enters another recession
- Property market falls impacting development projects
- Foreign-owned businesses relocate outside the UK
- Reductions in FDI due to uncertainty around Single Market access

**Also consider: The impact of Brexit on transport networks** – Brexit will have an impact on areas of transport policy, including the haulage industry and those driving in and flying to and from Europe or travelling by train. Map your key transport networks and work with relevant partners to plan for severe delays.

# WLGA Brexit Transition Support Programme

The Brexit Transition Support Programme is being managed by the Regeneration and Sustainable Development Team of the WLGA. Overall responsibility and main contact for the programme - [Lucy Sweet](mailto:Lucy.Sweet@wlga.gov.uk), WLGA Senior EU Policy and Communications Officer. Input on the activities needed under the programme have come from the WLGA's Internal Brexit Group, which brings together policy leads from each of the WLGA's teams on the issues of Brexit. These individuals are the lead contacts in WLGA for Brexit in their policy areas.

## Membership as follows:

- Tim Peppin, Director of Regeneration and Sustainable Development ([Tim.peppin@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Tim.peppin@wlga.gov.uk))
- Lowri Gwilym, Team Manager- Europe and Regeneration ([Lowri.gwilym@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Lowri.gwilym@wlga.gov.uk))
- Lucy Sweet, Senior EU Policy and Communications Officer ([Lucy.sweet@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Lucy.sweet@wlga.gov.uk))
- Carwyn Jones-Evans, Policy Officer - Economic Development and Regeneration ([Carwyn.jonesevans@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Carwyn.jonesevans@wlga.gov.uk))
- Neville Rookes, Environment Policy Officer ([Neville.rookes@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Neville.rookes@wlga.gov.uk))
- Chris Llewelyn, Director of Lifelong Learning, Leisure and Information (and Chief Executive Designate) ([Chris.llewelyn@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Chris.llewelyn@wlga.gov.uk))
- Jon Rae, Director of Resources ([Jon.rae@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Jon.rae@wlga.gov.uk))
- Jonathan Lloyd, Head of Employment ([Jonathan.lloyd@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Jonathan.lloyd@wlga.gov.uk))
- Simon Wilkinson, Regulatory Services Policy Officer ([Simon.wilkinson@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Simon.wilkinson@wlga.gov.uk))
- Anne Hubbard, Manager, Wales Strategic Migration Partnership ([Anne.hubbard@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Anne.hubbard@wlga.gov.uk))
- Jim McKirdle, Housing Policy Officer ([Jim.mckirdle@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Jim.mckirdle@wlga.gov.uk))
- Stewart Blythe, Policy Officer- Social Services and Health ([Stewart.blyth@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Stewart.blyth@wlga.gov.uk))
- Richard Dooner, Procurement Programme Manager ([Richard.dooner@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Richard.dooner@wlga.gov.uk))
- Dilwyn Jones, Communications Officer ([Dilwyn.jones@wlga.gov.uk](mailto:Dilwyn.jones@wlga.gov.uk))

All the WLGA's Brexit work is overseen by the WLGA Elected Members' Brexit Group. Membership as follows:

- **Chair: Councillor Rob Stewart**, WLGA Deputy Leader and Economic Development, Europe and Energy Spokesperson
- **Labour Group: Councillor Anthony Hunt**, WLGA Finance and Resources Spokesperson
- **Plaid Cymru Group: Councillor Ellen ap Gwynn**, WLGA Welsh Language Spokesperson
- **Independent Group: Councillor Hugh Evans**, WLGA Independent Group Leader and Improvement Spokesperson
- **Conservative Group: Councillor Peter Fox**, WLGA Conservative Group Leader and Digital and Innovation Spokesperson

## Local authority Brexit leads

WLGA asked all LAs to identify Brexit Leads (on the Elected Member and officer side), who have overall responsibility for Brexit in the LA. The Brexit Leads are who we target with Brexit information, for them to disseminate appropriately within their LA, and those responsible for feeding in to the WLGA on local Brexit impacts. A list of the Brexit Leads is as follows:

Local authority	Brexit member lead(s)	Brexit officer lead(s)
<b>Blaenau Gwent</b>	Cllr Nigel Daniels, Leader <a href="mailto:Nigel.daniels@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">Nigel.daniels@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a>	Bernadette Elias, Head of Policy and Performance <a href="mailto:Bernadette.elias@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk">Bernadette.elias@blaenau-gwent.gov.uk</a>
<b>Bridgend</b>	Cllr Charles Smith, Cabinet Member for Education and Regeneration <a href="mailto:Cllr.Charles.Smith@bridgend.gov.uk">Cllr.Charles.Smith@bridgend.gov.uk</a>  Cllr Richard Young – Cabinet Member for Communities <a href="mailto:Cllr.Richard.Young@bridgend.gov.uk">Cllr.Richard.Young@bridgend.gov.uk</a>	Mark Shephard, Corporate Director of Communities <a href="mailto:Mark.Shephard@bridgend.gov.uk">Mark.Shephard@bridgend.gov.uk</a>  Lisa Jones – Team Leader Regeneration Funding and Regional Engagement <a href="mailto:Lisa.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk">Lisa.Jones@bridgend.gov.uk</a>
<b>Caerphilly</b>	Cllr Barbara Jones, Deputy Leader <a href="mailto:Barbarajones@caerphilly.gov.uk">Barbarajones@caerphilly.gov.uk</a>  Cllr David Poole, Leader <a href="mailto:pooled@caerphilly.gov.uk">pooled@caerphilly.gov.uk</a>	Steve Harris, Interim Head of Finance <a href="mailto:harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk">harrisr@caerphilly.gov.uk</a>  Paul Cooke, Senior Policy Officer <a href="mailto:cookepa@caerphilly.gov.uk">cookepa@caerphilly.gov.uk</a>
<b>Cardiff</b>	Cllr Huw Thomas, Leader <a href="mailto:Huw.Thomas@cardiff.gov.uk">Huw.Thomas@cardiff.gov.uk</a>	Jon Day, Economic Policy Manager <a href="mailto:Jday@cardiff.gov.uk">Jday@cardiff.gov.uk</a>  Gareth Newell, Policy, Partnerships and Research Manager <a href="mailto:Gnewell@cardiff.gov.uk">Gnewell@cardiff.gov.uk</a>
<b>Carmarthenshire</b>	Cllr Emlyn Dole, Leader <a href="mailto:EDole@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">EDole@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  Cllr David Jenkins, Cabinet Member Resources <a href="mailto:DMJenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">DMJenkins@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>	Mark James, Chief Executive <a href="mailto:mjames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">mjames@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:mwbennett@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">mwbennett@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a> <a href="mailto:NiJWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">NiJWilliams@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  Wendy Walters, Director of Regeneration and Policy <a href="mailto:wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk">wswalters@carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>  Helen Morgan, Development Manager <a href="mailto:HLMorgan@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk">HLMorgan@Carmarthenshire.gov.uk</a>
<b>Ceredigion</b>	Cllr Ellen ap Gwynn, Leader of the Council <a href="mailto:Ellen.ApGwynn@ceredigion.gov.uk">Ellen.ApGwynn@ceredigion.gov.uk</a>  Cllr Rhodri Evans, Cabinet Member: Economy & Regeneration <a href="mailto:Rhodri.Evans2@ceredigion.gov.uk">Rhodri.Evans2@ceredigion.gov.uk</a>	Russell Hughes-Pickering, Head of Performance and Economy <a href="mailto:Russell.Hughes-Pickering@ceredigion.gov.uk">Russell.Hughes-Pickering@ceredigion.gov.uk</a>  Eifion Evans, Chief Executive <a href="mailto:eifione@ceredigion.gov.uk">eifione@ceredigion.gov.uk</a>  Mike Shaw, Group Manager Community Regeneration and European, Economic and Community Development Services <a href="mailto:Mike.shaw@ceredigion.gov.uk">Mike.shaw@ceredigion.gov.uk</a>
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<b>Denbighshire</b>	Cllr Hugh Evans, Leader <a href="mailto:leader@denbighshire.gov.uk">leader@denbighshire.gov.uk</a>	Graham H Boase, Corporate Director: Economy and Public Realm <a href="mailto:Graham.boase@denbighshire.gov.uk">Graham.boase@denbighshire.gov.uk</a>

<b>Local authority</b>	<b>Brexit member lead(s)</b>	<b>Brexit officer lead(s)</b>
<b>Flintshire</b>	CCllr Aaron Shotton, Leader <a href="mailto:Aaron.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk">Aaron.shotton@flintshire.gov.uk</a>	Niall Waller, Enterprise and Regeneration Manager <a href="mailto:Niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk">Niall.waller@flintshire.gov.uk</a>  Colin Everett, Chief Executive <a href="mailto:Chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk">Chief.executive@flintshire.gov.uk</a>
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WLGA is linked in to the Welsh Government Brexit planning in several ways, which provide opportunities to feed in the outcomes of the Brexit Transition Support Programme. We are members of:

- The First Minister's EU Advisory Group (WLGA contact: Tim Peppin)
- The Welsh Government's Environment and Rural Affairs (ERA) Roundtable and its sub-groups (WLGA contacts: Tim Peppin and Neville Rookes)
- Ken Skates' EU Exit Working Group (WLGA contact: Tim Peppin)
- Welsh Government's Welsh Ports and Airports Border Planning Steering Group (WLGA contacts: Tim Peppin and Simon Wilkinson)
- Welsh Government Health and Social Care EU transition leadership group (WLGA contact: Naomi Alleyne and Tim Peppin)

## Further resources, links and networks

### **The draft Withdrawal Agreement**

[Draft Agreement on the withdrawal of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland from the European Union and the European Atomic Energy Community](#)

### **WLGA Brexit Events**

- [Brexit event for LA Brexit Leads and Communications Managers / Senior Communications Officers](#)
- [Planning for Brexit: Economic Development Local Authority Workshop](#)
- [Brexit and Public Protection](#)
- [Brexit and the Environment](#)

<https://www.wlga.wales/resources-wlga-brexit-events>

### **UK Government - How to prepare if the UK leaves the EU with no deal**

[Guidance on how to prepare for Brexit if there's no deal](#)

### **Examples of local authority preparedness**

- [Cornwall](#)
- [Buckinghamshire](#)

### **Commons Library Briefing - Brexit timeline: events leading to the UK's exit from the European Union**

- [7 November 2018](#)

### **Business Wales**

- [Brexit Portal](#)

### **Data sources:**

- [The University of Sheffield: UK regions and European structural and investment funds](#)
- [ONS: Estimating the value of service exports abroad from different parts of the UK](#)



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