

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Public Protection Committee
DATE	28 th April 2021
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	EU Exit – Current Position
REPORT NUMBER	COM/21/080
CHIEF OFFICER	Fraser Bell
REPORT AUTHOR	Ronnie McKean
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.1

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide Committee with assurance of the on-going activities in relation to EU Exit.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That Committee:-

- 2.1 Notes the content of this report.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 UK membership of the European Union (EU) ceased on 31st January 2020. UK and EU officials agreed to a transition period whereby the UK would continue to follow EU rules so that the trading relationship would remain unaffected whilst negotiations to agree terms of the future relationship between the UK and the EU took place.
- 3.2 The UK Government announced that an agreement had been reached between the UK and the EU on 24th December 2020 and the transition period ended on 31st December 2020.

EU Exit Group

- 3.3 In 2019 the Council established the EU Exit Group. The Group was chaired by the Corporate Risk Lead and its membership consisted of Senior Officers from across the Council and the Health and Social Care Partnership.
- 3.4 The Group provided the Corporate Management Team (CMT) and the Risk Board with assurance that potential risks were identified, assessed and that,

where possible, plans and arrangements were in place to mitigate the potential effects of EU Exit on the Council and place.

- 3.5 Members of the Group used their external networks to assist with the process of identifying potential risks. This included working with partners in the Grampian LRPWG (Local Resilience Partnership Working Group) to establish a list of risks and mitigation activities based upon the “Set of Reasonable Worst Case Scenario Planning Assumptions” issued by the UK Cabinet Office. The Council contributed to discussion at the LRPWG through the EU Exit Group.
- 3.6 The Group recorded the risks identified onto the Council’s Risk Register and the risks were maintained and monitored in accordance with the Council’s Risk Management Policy and guidance.
- 3.7 The CMT was provided with an update on the Council’s EU Exit preparations in December 2020 and agreed that an (IMT) Incident Management Team chaired by the Chief Officer – Governance would be established and activated if required. This would allow the Council to provide a coordinated response to any urgent multi-service issues arising during the Christmas holiday season. The IMT was not required but remains in place and can be activated if required.
- 3.8 The EU Exit Group met on 8th January 2021 to consider the implications of the agreement reached between the UK and EU. The Group concluded that the potential impacts of a “worst case/no deal” scenario appeared to have been mitigated by the deal announced between the UK and the EU on 24 December 2020. The Group recommended to the Risk Board that Corporate EU Exit risks be closed, Cluster EU Exit risks be monitored by the relevant Chief Officers and that the Group no longer meet on a monthly basis but remain on standby to re-activate should any EU Exit risks escalate or become issues. These recommendations were approved by the Risk Board.

Situational Awareness and Response

- 3.9 Officers on the EU Exit Group continue share situational awareness of EU Exit related matters through engagement with external networks and local partners including; CoSLA, LRPWG and Local Authority Resilience Group Scotland (LARGS). The Scottish Government also provides daily EU Exit situation reports at Regional and National Levels.
- 3.10 The information and reports are shared on the EU Exit Group Teams site so that Group members can monitor the information received and can escalate any risks and potential issues to the Risk Board.
- 3.11 To date, no issues or risks relating to EU Exit have been escalated to the Risk Board.
- 3.12 Officers will respond to a significant EU Exit related issue materialising by activation of the EU Exit Group and/or IMT and, if required, activation of the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 From the perspective of civil contingencies, the on-going monitoring arrangements and engagement with partner organisations detailed in 3.9 to date, indicates that the levels of risk to the Council and the Place that are directly attributed to EU Exit remain low. As set out above, the situation will continue to be monitored.

Category	Risk	Low (L) Medium (M) High (H)	Mitigation
Strategic Risk	There are no strategic risks arising directly from the presentation of this report.	L	N/A
Compliance	Risk that the Council is not compliant with its responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act as a Category 1 responder.	L	The monitoring and response arrangements detailed within this report will mitigate the risk of non-compliance.
Operational	Risk that the Councils critical functions and activities are affected by EU Exit related events or issues.	L	The monitoring and response arrangements detailed within this report will result in response arrangements that will mitigate potential operation risks.
Financial	Risk that EU related issues affect the Council's finances.	L	The monitoring arrangements detailed within this report will support mitigation of finance risks.
Reputational	There is a risk that the Council's reputation could be damaged in the event that any of the risks identified materialise.	L	The monitoring and response arrangements detailed within this report support the mitigation reputational risk.

Environment / Climate	There are no Environmental/Climate risks arising directly from the presentation of this report.	L	N/A
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7. OUTCOMES

7.1 The situational awareness and monitoring arrangements that remain in place facilitate the mitigation of potential impacts of EU Exit on the Council Delivery Plan and LOIP outcomes.

8. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Impact Assessment	Not required.
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

10. APPENDICES

Nil.

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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