

Corporate Policy and Scrutiny

10:30	Tuesday, 24 September 2019	Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH
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For information about the meeting please ask for: Richard Buttress, Member Enquiries Manager Telephone: 07809 314835 Email: democratic.services@essex.gov.uk

		Pages
1	Membership, Apologies and Declarations To be noted by the Democratic Services Manager.	5 - 5
2	Minutes of previous meeting To note and approve the minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 30 July 2019.	6 - 9
3	Questions from the Public A period of up to 15 minutes will be allowed for members of the public to ask questions or make representations on any item on the agenda for this meeting. On arrival, and before the start of the meeting, please register with the Democratic Services Officer.	
4	Brexit Preparation Committee to receive an update on Essex County Council's planning for Brexit, focussing on no deal preparations. It will cover how Essex County Council is resourcing and co- ordinating its planning, its revalidation of exit day risk and issues, how it is responding to the planning guidance from the MHCLG and work to reduce and mitigate the potential disruption following exit, including participation with the Essex Resilience Forum.	10 - 34

5 Work Programme - September 2019

Committee to receive an update on the current work programme.

6 Future meeting dates To note the below future meeting dates:

- Tuesday 29 October 2019
- Tuesday 26 November 2019
- Tuesday 28 January 2020
- Tuesday 25 February 2020
- Tuesday 31 March 2020
- Tuesday 28 April 2020
- Tuesday 26 May 2020
- Tuesday 30 June 2020
- Tuesday 28 July 2020
- Tuesday 29 September 2020
- Tuesday 27 October 2020
- Tuesday 24 November 2020

7 Date of Next Meeting

To note that the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 29 October 2019, in Committee Room 1, County Hall.

8 Urgent Business

To consider any matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered in public by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Exempt Items

(During consideration of these items the meeting is not likely to be open to the press and public)

The following items of business have not been published on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Part I of Schedule

12A of the Local Government Act 1972. Members are asked to consider whether or not the press and public should be excluded during the consideration of these items. If so it will be necessary for the meeting to pass a formal resolution:

That the press and public are excluded from the meeting during the consideration of the remaining items of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information falling within Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972, the specific paragraph(s) of Schedule 12A engaged being set out in the report or appendix relating to that item of business.

9 Urgent Exempt Business

To consider in private any other matter which in the opinion of the Chairman should be considered by reason of special circumstances (to be specified) as a matter of urgency.

Essex County Council and Committees Information

All Council and Committee Meetings are held in public unless the business is exempt in accordance with the requirements of the Local Government Act 1972. If there is exempted business, it will be clearly marked as an Exempt Item on the agenda and members of the public and any representatives of the media will be asked to leave the meeting room for that item.

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Agenda item 1

Committee: Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee

Enquiries to: Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager

Membership, Apologies, Substitutions and Declarations of Interest

Recommendations:

To note

- 1. Membership as shown below
- 2. Apologies and substitutions
- 3. Declarations of interest to be made by Members in accordance with the Members' Code of Conduct

Membership

(Quorum 4)

Councillor M Mackrory (Chairman) Councillor J Abbott Councillor M Buckley Councillor G Butland Councillor M Garnett Councillor M Hardware Councillor V Metcalfe (Vice-Chair) Councillor J Moran Councillor R Pratt Councillor R Pratt Councillor W Schmitt Councillor A Sheldon Councillor M Steptoe Councillor A Turrell Councillor J Young (Vice-Chair)

Minutes of the meeting of the Corporate Policy and Scrutiny Committee, held in Committee Room 1, County Hall, Chelmsford, CM1 1QH on Tuesday 30 July 2019

Present

Councillor Mike Mackrory (Chairman)	Councillor John Moran
Councillor John Aldridge	Councillor Wendy Schmitt
Councillor Malcolm Buckley	Councillor Andrew Sheldon
Councillor Graham Butland	Councillor Mike Steptoe
Councillor Mike Garnett	Councillor Anne Turrell
Councillor Ian Grundy	Councillor Julie Young
<u>Apologies</u>	
Councillor James Abbott	Councillor Valerie Metcalfe
Councillor Michael Hardware	Councillor Ron Pratt
Other members in attendance	

Councillor Chris Pond

Richard Buttress, Democratic Services Manager was supporting the meeting.

1. Membership, Apologies and Declarations

Apologies were received from the following:

- Councillor James Abbott
- Councillor Michael Hardware (substituted by Councillor John Aldridge)
- Councillor Valerie Metcalfe
- Councillor Ron Pratt (substituted by Councillor Ian Grundy)

2. Minutes of previous meeting – May 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 28 May 2019 were approved by the committee as an accurate and signed by the Chairman.

3. Minutes of previous meeting - June 2019

The minutes of the meeting held on Tuesday 25 June 2019 were approved by the committee as an accurate and signed by the Chairman.

4. Questions from the public

No questions from members of the public received.

5. Ringway Jacobs contract extension

Councillor Mackrory welcomed Councillor Kevin Bentley, Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Infrastructure and Andrew Cook, Director for Highways and Transformation, to the meeting.

Councillor Bentley introduced his written response to the joint Task and Finish Group's recommendations and invited questions from the committee.

The committee asked a number of questions and received the following responses:

- Pragmatic approach is being taken in terms of the contract extension and should a re-procurement process be necessary, there is sufficient lead in time to undertake this
- There is sufficient resource in order to re-procure and would be dependent on the outcome of Brexit
- Happy to work with committee members regarding proposals for any changes to the contract. The negotiation is between the administration and the contractor
- Commended Councillor Tony Ball on his chairmanship of the Task and Finish Group and the officers who attended who were open and honest during the meetings the group held.

The committee invited Councillor Bentley back to a future meeting to provide an update on the progress being made on to the upgrades to IT in terms of the online tools.

6. 2019/20 Financial Overview as at the first quarter stage Councillor Mackrory welcomed Councillor Gagan Mohindra, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Housing and Kevin Mitchell, Senior Finance Business Partner, to the meeting.

Councillor Mohindra introduced the report which provided a financial overview of the first quarter.

The committee asked a number of questions, as set out below, to which a written response will be provided after the meeting.

Actions

Responses to the below will be provided to the committee in writing at a later date:

- 1. The reason as to why there is an overspend of £319,000 in the Children and Families budget.
- 2. To understand why there seems to be a recurring issue of recruiting to vacancies within Technology Services.
- 3. To understand in more detail the reasons for holding vacancies within the Equality and Partnership team, which are helping to offset pressures in other areas of the service.
- **4.** To understand if Community Initiative Fund payments are now being made quarterly instead of annually.

7. Call-in: Land for Housing Development in Epping Forest (FP/945/09/17) Members received the report which set out the notification of the call-in and the decision which was published on 19 June 2019.

Member making the Call-In

The Chairman asked Councillor Pond, as the member calling in the decision, to speak.

Councillor Pond addressed the meeting; he raised a number of concerns:

- Heading of the decision is misleading the plan is to demolish and partial restoration and partial provision of a prime community hub
- It is the fifth largest library in the County and houses the Town Council, CAB and National Jazz Archive
- This site is within four minutes of the European Special Area of Conservation (Epping Forest). Importance is given to ancient woodlands
- Has been advised that the main purpose is not to provide profit but to reduce maintenance issues.

Response from the Cabinet Member

The Chairman asked Councillor Mohindra, Cabinet Member for Finance, Property and Housing to speak:

- Decisions need to be made on the information available at the time and cannot wait until the planning inspectorate has made its decision
- Does not want to delay the project for reasons that are currently unknown
- The current condition of the building requires a decision to be made either way in order to secure the safety of the building
- Councillor Pond would be consulted directly on any future decisions in terms of the design of the building.

Exclusion of the Press and Public

On the proposal of Councillor Mackrory, the committee resolved that the press and public be excluded from the remainder of the meeting since it is likely that if members of the public were present during the remaining items of business, there would be disclosure to them of exempt information falling within paragraph 3 schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 as amended.

Decision:

Members noted that, based on what they had heard today, the Committee could take one of the following courses of action:

- Having considered the decision, the Committee may refer it back to the decision taker setting out in writing its concerns or refer the matter to the Full Council, also with a record of its concerns.
- If the Committee does not refer a decision to either the decision taker or Full Council, the decision shall take effect at the conclusion of the meeting of the Committee.

Councillor Buckley proposed, seconded by Councillor Sheldon, that this is not referred to the decision taker (Councillor Mohindra) or Full Council. Therefore, the decision will take effect following the conclusion of the meeting.

Upon being put to the meeting, the proposal was carried by 7 votes to 2.

Resolved:

That the committee move to accept the decision without further delay.

8. Work Programme – July 2019

The updated work programme was noted by the committee.

9. Date of next meeting

The date of the next meeting will be held on Tuesday 24 September 2019 at 10:30am.

10. Urgent Business

No urgent business was received.

11. Confidential appendix C to agenda item 7

On the grounds that this item would likely involve the disclosure of exempt information falling within Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, this item was held in private and the Committee agreed that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting.

12. Confidential appendix D to agenda item 7

On the grounds that this item would likely involve the disclosure of exempt information falling within Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, this item was held in private and the Committee agreed that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting.

13. Future of Resourcing Services – Temporary Workers Supply

The committee were provided with an update on the progress to date on the procurement of ECC's Temporary Workers Supply.

On the grounds that this item would likely involve the disclosure of exempt information falling within Part 1 Schedule 12A of the Local Government Act 1972, this item was held in private and the Committee agreed that the press and public should be excluded from the meeting.

14. Urgent exempt business

No urgent exempt business was received.

The meeting closed at 13:26.

Chairman

Brexit preparation – Update to Scrutiny Committee

Update on EU Exit.

- ECC preparations for Brexit event
- Essex preparations for potential disruption

Robert Surtees – ECC Strategy Team

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• ECC preparations for Brexit event

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Context – near term scenarios

Near term:

Although there have been changes in probability, the scenarios for late 2019 remain:

- **1. Deferred departure:** The UK remains in EU due to a further extension of Article 50.
- **2. Withdrawal Agreement:** The UK exits the EU under the terms of a Withdrawal Agreement (based on the existing one, but potentially with modification to areas such as backstop).
- 3. No Deal exit: The UK exits without a Withdrawal Agreement in place.

Timelines for a decision on way ahead prior to 31st October will be short. European Council meeting on 17 October is a key date.

For ECC and the Essex Resilience Forum "No deal" is the complex scenario in the short term and therefore focus for planning.

Review

- Within ECC issues and internal progress are reviewed on a weekly basis by a team drawn from each Directorate and chaired by the Brexit Planning Officers nominated deputy – Director of Strategy Insight and Engagement.
- Project reporting is co-ordinated by a seconded programme manager who tracks deliverables and actions.
- Progress, key dates and issues are reported weekly to both the Political Leadership Team and Corporate Leadership Team.
- The programme is dynamic due to evolving government guidance and priorities. Identification and analysis of emerging issues and options to respond to these is supported by the central Strategy Team.
- Risks are additionally reviewed and managed through ECC's normal risk process. A number of Brexit risks overlay existing market or contractual risks. I.e. Brexit may be trigger event, or increase probability, of an existing risk.
- We are periodically responding when asked to provide reporting on specific issues.

No deal Council Operations

- The team from across the council considered impacts on the following in the run up to 31st March:
 - **Staff**, employment and recruitment.
 - Procurement of goods and services.
 - Management of **supply chain** and services.
 - Finance including EU funds.
 - Local regulator (e.g. Trading Standards)
 - Changes to legislation that Local Authorities use.
 - Any changes to **entitlements** for residents.
 - International Data transfers
- We did not identify significant risks or issues to providing services immediately after EU Exit. We did have uncertainties due to the complexity. We are revalidating those assessments.
- Impacts will evolve over time through the changes to our supply chains, the regional labour markets (particularly social care), demands to increase Trading Standards supervision of changed markets, changes to the Essex economy reflected in council income, and replacements for EU funds.

MHCLG actions for Local Authorities

MHCLG made a call to action for nominated Local Authority Brexit Lead Officers on 6 August for:

- **Comms:** Clear communications to local residents and businesses to support Brexit preparations including a plan to communicate important messages to stakeholders.
- Delivery team: A team in place to support delivery of Brexit around 31 October.
- **Brexit funds:** Overseeing expenditure of Brexit funding and ensuring effective contribution to local preparations.
- LRF: Playing a full part in LRF, ensuring plans take account of local circumstances and impacts on local communities.
- **Coordination:** Bringing together public service providers, VCS, community groups and businesses to prepare for potential local impacts.
- Contact for actions: Acting as a contact point for regional lead chief exec and central government.
- Issue escalation: Proactively raising emerging trends, issues and local intelligence with central government or regional chiefsexecs.

Communications

The ask	Focus to date
Clear communications to local residents and businesses to support Brexit preparations including a plan to communicate important messages to stakeholders.	 Sign-posting of HMG on-line messages on web-sites. Grouping of HMG subjects by theme. Communications plan agreed with in-county comms leads through the Resilience Forum. Ongoing monitoring of contact levels.
	Next steps
Ρας	 Engagement through business organisations to identify needs via a commission with the BEST Hub. BEST will co-ordinate a package of events including promoting applications for £10m funding for business preparations announced on <u>29 Aug 2019</u>, customs training and software grants and DIT events. Working with Harwich port and ferry operator through ERF to confirm plans for trader readiness communications to users. Communications with suppliers to again highlight guidance and business continuity guidance. wet fighture review to identify the local support for take up of the settlement scheme. Additional comms team resources.

Delivery Team

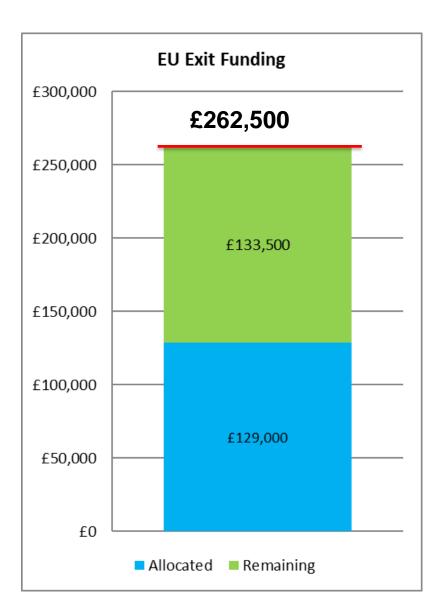
The ask	Focus to date
A team in place to support delivery of Brexit around 31 October.	 CEO as Brexit Lead Officer. Nominated Brexit Leads meeting weekly in each Directorate with co-ordination supported by a programme manager and strategy team. Completed assessment of potential issues and actions to resolve managed through. Tracking of potential short term and longer term risks. Emergency Planning and Resilience led activity to update Business Continuity Plans and support Resilience Forum. Engagement with Local Authority Brexit Planning leads across Greater Essex.
	Current and future plans
Pag	 Ongoing co-ordination across Greater Essex. Recruiting Trading Standards Enquiry support. Identification of Highways Mitigation measures for North Weald CTC and opportunities for using ERF ^{ge 17} of 36 infrastructure for Harwich. Additional communication resources Scoping for post day 1 changes

Brexit Funds

The ask	Focus to date
Overseeing expenditure of Brexit funding and ensuring effective contribution to local preparations.	 Identified plans to spend on priority areas of: Trading Standards enquiry support for businesses Business Engagement Communications resource
	Current and future plans
	 Identify management of commitments in case of delayed EU Exit or exit under a Withdrawal Agreement. Ongoing review of priorities for spend such as settlement scheme. Sharing of proposals for expenditure with Local Authority partners. Review with ERF of DfT funds for port infrastructure and ability to spend.
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Brexit Funding

Overall Brexit funding



Funding earmarking

Funding area	Allocation
Trading Standards business enquiry resource	£34,000
Support for Businesses (BEST as Lead partner)	£50,000
Additional Comms resource	£45,000
Total earmarked	£129,000

Expenditure excludes use of internal resources. External spend has been authorised against these items. Committed spend in the case of no deal not happening at 31 Oct will be lower.

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Local Resilience Forum

The ask	Focus to date
Playing a full part in LRF, ensuring plans take account of local circumstances and impacts on local communities.	 Engagement with ERF through Emergency Planning and Resilience Teams. Set up of plans to resource Strategic Control Groups, Tactical Control Groups and Multi-Agency Information Cells. Participation in ERF planning events.
	Current and future plans
	 Continue to participate and support ERF activities to manage assessed risks.

Co-ordination

The ask	Focus to date
Bringing together public service providers, VCS, community groups and businesses to prepare for potential local impacts.	 Engagement through ERF with public sector providers. Engagement with port and ferry operator through ERF. Working with partner Local Authority planning through ELCE and planning events. Business round table event. Review of actions at Health and Wellbeing Board
	Current and future plans
	 Business engagement through partnerships. Identify VCS support to settlement scheme if and as needed.

Contact for actions

The ask	Focus to date
Acting as a contact point for regional lead chief exec and central government.	 ECC's CEO Gavin Jones acts as Brexit Lead Officer. He works with the Brexit planning team which meets weekly. Both PLT and CLT have regular Brexit updates to pick up any actions. We have supported reporting through the regional engagement in government planning and responses in request to information.
	Current and future plans
	 Continue to respond to action and information requests. Restart reporting to MHCLG via regional leads when requested.
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Issue escalation

The ask	Focus to date
Proactively raising emerging trends, issues and local intelligence with central government or regional chief execs.	 We have raised issues and reported trends at MHCLG briefings, via MHCLG reporting, via local authority engagement channels for settlement scheme and general issues. ERF continue to raise opportunities to strengthen local resilience response.
	Current and future plans
	 Enhancement of social listening capability. Survey of business to understand important issues. Sharing of general issues within Greater Essex Continued requests to government to develop structured engagement channels such as user groups or FAQs for local public bodies.

• Essex preparations for potential disruption.

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Management of Preparation for Disruption

ECC Preparations

- ECC's own preparations for disruption are co-ordinated through the Emergency Planning and Resilience Team.
- Responses are based on updated Business Continuity Plans.
- A no-deal Brexit is a potential trigger and evolution of existing risks rather than a new set of risks.

County preparations

- ECC participates local preparation through the Essex Resilience Forum. This feeds up to Central Government via the MHCLG Resilience and Emergency Division.
- The Forum co-ordinates local Public Service Providers from Greater Essex including councils, health providers, fire and police.
- The ERF risk assessment has been updated for Brexit risks.
- A Brexit response will leverage the existing framework of the ERF with a Strategic Co-ordinating Group established and Tactical Co-ordinating Groups if needed.
- ECC channels response through the Forum, rather than through new channels.
- We are also increasing focus on business readiness.

National risk assessment

On 11 September, HMG released a version of its "Yellowhammer" Reasonable Worse Case Planning assumptions dated 2 August. These cover a range of potential impacts in the weeks after a no deal exit to plan, against rather than predictions. Reasonable worst case assumptions include:

- No likely threats to electricity, gas or mains water in the UK mainland.
- Low risk of sustained queues at ports outside Kent.
- HGV flow of 40%-60% within 1 day through French crossings lasting 3 months before improving to 50% to 70%. Delays of 1.5 to 2.5 days.
- Knock on impacts onto import of medicines which DHSC is looking to develop a multi layer approach to mitigate.
- Decrease in supply of fresh food. No overall food shortage, but reduced availability and choice of products.
- Potential for regional traffic disruption to affect fuel distribution.
- Cost pressure on social care providers possibly leading to some smaller provider failure starting 2-3 months after exit.

OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
OFFICIAL SENSITIVE
Operation Yellowhammer
HMG Reasonable Worst Case Planning Assumptions
As of 2 August 2019
 When the UK ceases to be a member of the EU in October 2019 all rights and reciprocal arrangements with the EU end.
 The UK reverts fully to 'third country' status. The relationship between the UK and the EU as a whole is unsympathetic, with many MS (under pressure from the Commission) unwilling to engage bilaterally and implementing protections unilaterally, though some MS may be more understanding.
 No bilateral deals have been concluded with individual member states with the exception of the reciprocal agreement on social security coordination with treland. EU Citizens living in the UK can retain broadly all rights and status that they were entitled to prior to exit from the EU, at the point of exit.
 Public and business readiness for a no-deal will remain at a low level, and will decrease to lower levels, because the absence of a clear decision on the form of EU Exit (customs union, no deal etc) does not provide a concrete situation for third parties to prepare for. Readiness will be further limited by increasing EU Exit fatigue, due to the second extension of Article 50, which will limit the effective impact of current preparedness communication. [To be reviewed]
 Business readiness will not be uniform – in general larger businesses across sectors are more likely to have better developed contingency plans than small and medium sized businesses. Business readiness will be compounded by seasonal effects, impacting on factors such as warehouse availability.
 Concurrent risks associated with autumn and winter such as severe weather, flooding and seasonal flu could exacerbate a number of impacts and stretch resources of partners and responders.
 Private sector companies' behaviour will be governed by commercial considerations, unless influenced otherwise.
 HMG will act lawfully and in accordance with the rule of law, including by identifying the powers it is using to take specific actions.
Key planning assumptions

In a small number of instances where the impacts of Brexit would be felt negatively in the EU as well as in the UK, Member States may act in way which could also benefit, the UK (e.g. energy for Ireland). (CCS/DEXEU)

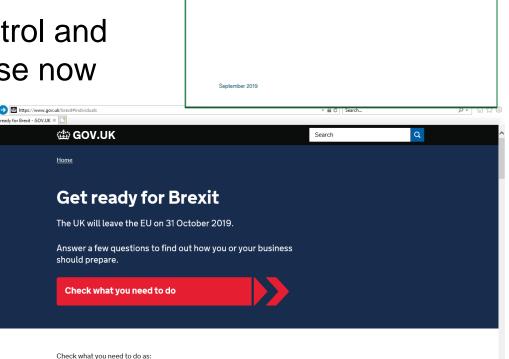
Trader Readiness

To reduce the probability of worst case assumptions being seen, HMG has increased the focus on Trader Readiness. This includes a <u>Get Ready for Brexit</u> targeting individuals and businesses, auto enrolment of VAT registered businesses with export/ exporter EORI numbers, business engagement events and funding for import/ export customs training and software.

Government has also developed plans for traffic control and management in Kent through <u>Operation Brock</u>. These now include plans to check HGV documentation.

To support readiness within Essex, the Economic Development team are contracting the <u>BEST</u> growth hub to engage local businesses and to identify future needs.

A kick off round table event is on 23 September.



1 BREXIT 31 OCTOBER HM Governmen HAULIERS AND COMMERCIAL DRIVERS Transporting goods between the UK and EU in a no-deal Brexit: guidance for hauliers

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Localised risk of disruption

- The ERF maintains a localised risk assessment based on the national risk assessment and planning assumptions.
- Essex does not have the same unique high risks from border traffic as Kent, Northern Ireland and North Wales.
- Essex does not have unique concentrations of industries reliant on EU labour force, existing community tensions or business with specific issues.
- There are localised focusses to maintain traffic flow at Harwich, a HMRC site at North Weald and on the M25.
- Harwich port does not have the same concerns as Kent crossings:
 - Traffic levels are approx. 5% of Kent crossings and pre-booked. Approx. 50% of HGV traffic is unaccompanied trailers. Port sites have larger storage capacity compared to flow than Kent Crossings and longer crossings mean more preparation time for EU entry.
- Through ERF we are participating in planning to improve port bound trader readiness and mitigation plans to reduce risk.
 - We do have a dependency on Highways England for Strategic Roads.

HMRC customs sites

HMRC have identified three sites to be used to support use of Common Transit Convention and ATA Carnets. Two are in Kent and one at North Weald, Essex close to J7 of M11. These are targeted at Kent-bound traffic.

The Essex site is only for these specific schemes, which allow payment of import duty when goods arrive at country of final destination, rather than when crossing the EU border.

HMRC expect the sites to be used temporarily for up to 2 years. Traders can apply to get their own premises authorised, which is more convenient.

Authorisation was via a Special Development Order, decided by MHCLG, with pre commencement conditions.

Main ECC interests are traffic planning. We are engaging via the lead contractor.



Contingencies

- Impact of Disruption: Existing plans act as the basis for ECC response to disruption.
 - The Emergency Planning and Resilience Team are working to update Business Continuity Plans and the ECC Fuel Plan in case of any local issues with travel disruption or even fuel distribution. Plans covering scenarios such as winter weather disruption provide a basis to manage any likely short term disruption.
 - A national fuel plan would be invoked in the case of an extended disruption to fuel supplies. However we would expect a response to unblock congestion causing disruption to distribution well in advance of this.
- **Care suppliers:** A relatively small proportion of the workforce comes from the EU, but the sector can struggle to recruit and retain staff. ECC has an existing response plan to manage the failure of any care providers. Subject to no serious fuel disruption, we are confident services can be maintained, but can give no outright guarantee.
 - We will be writing again to all providers to identify the <u>guidance</u>, which describes potential risks and actions, and to ask that they draw up appropriate contingency.
 - Advice includes the approach to medicine management, not stockpiling and planning for any supplies.

• Longer term issues

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Longer term developments

We continue to monitor the developing proposals for change after an EU Exit and how to respond to these. This will include considering impacts on business and residents

The Local Government Association continues to engage with Government to identify areas of interest to the Local Authority Sector.

The <u>HCLG Select Committee</u> report on 3 April identified some of those interests.

HCLG report Brexit and Local Government

Brexit and Local Government HCLG report 3 April recommended 5 priorities for action

- (1) Maintain mechanisms for engagement and information-sharing with local government during and immediately after the UK's withdrawal from the EU,
- (2) Ensure a comprehensive range of planning, guidance and support is put in place for local authorities in the event of no-deal Brexit, and that local authorities are aware of the steps they have to take.
- (3) Address workforce shortages in the short term, ensuring EU nationals working in the UK are made aware of and encouraged to apply for settled status. Monitor key sectors that local government stakeholders have highlighted as at risk of workforce shortages, particularly construction and social care
- (4) Determine new burdens on local authorities resulting from Brexit, and ensure central government funding is provided in full.
- (5) Step up its liaison with local authorities that bear responsibility for a major port, and make representations on their behalf to the Department for Transport to address concerns about the immediate consequences of Brexit. Individual port-councils should not be expected to use their reserves to adequately prepare for the mediate impact of Brexit.
- <u>HMG published a response to HCLG Select Committee</u>

HCLG report Brexit and Local Government

Brexit and Local Government HCLG report 3 April had five key policy actions post-Brexit

- (1) Advance its plans for the establishment of the UK Shared Prosperity Fund, and publish the promised consultation on its design and administration within two weeks from 12 April. The funding made available in the UK Shared Prosperity Fund must also be additional to the new funding already provided by the Stronger Towns Fund.
- (2) Consider the effect of the loss of European Investment Bank loans at the regional and local level. Determine how infrastructure projects may be appropriately funded in future.
- (3) Make clear plans for the further devolution of powers to local authorities To cover skills, and also fiscal devolution; housing; transport and other infrastructure; digital connectivity; health and wellbeing; trade and investment; and productivity.
- (4) Make clear plans for the role of local government in the creation of post-Brexit domestic policy, including consultation on policies or legislation that will directly affect it.
- (5) The Government must consult with local authorities as it transfers legislation from the EU back to the UK, including public procurement, food hygiene, environmental health, trading standards and waste management.

CORPORATE POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

WORK PROGRAMME 2019/20 – (ADOPTED BY SEPTEMBER 2018 COMMITTEE MEETING)

Approach to topic selection – where can the committee conduct reviews quickly, influence change and make a difference to the residents of Essex

Date/Timing	Issue/Topics	Focus/other comments	Approach	RAG
September 2019				
September 2019	Brexit	Committee to receive an update on the impact Brexit will have on ECC.	Presentation by relevant officer	
September 2019	Work Programme Planning	Committee to identify items for consideration for its future work programme.	To be supported by Cabinet Member and relevant officers	
October 2019				
October 2019	Financial Overview 2019/20 as at the half year position	Regular six-monthly updates after Cabinet.	Presentation by Cabinet Member and relevant officers	
October 2019	Delivery Risk Assessment Update	Committee to receive six monthly updates on the progress of delivery risk assessment.	Presentation by Cabinet Member and relevant officers	
October 2019	ECC Organisation Strategy	Committee to be engaged with future business plan for 2021 – 2024.	Presentation by relevant Cabinet Member and officers	
November 2019				
November 2019	Property Investment Portfolio	To receive an in-depth update on the latest position on ECC's property investment programme.	Presentation by relevant Cabinet Member, Director and Officers	

November 2019 December 2019	Property portfolio	Value of ECC Estate and disposal strategy.	 The current value of ECC's property estate Breakdown of ECC property estate and their values Details of ECC's disposal strategy 				
Topics suggested being pursued							
October/November 2019	Budget 2020/21	Committee looking to undertake a pre-scrutiny exercise on ECC's budget for 2020/21.	Involvement from Cabinet Member and relevant officers				