

Agenda Item 10

FOR INFORMATION: Follow up to Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee consideration 17th December 2020 of Sheffield City Council update on the end of the EU Transition Period

Themes of concern raised by Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee for response/action	1. Settled Status 2. Communications / messaging
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Since attending OSMC on the 17 December 2020 it is important to note that the EU and the UK agreed a trade deal on 24 December that defines their future relationship. The UK completed its formal separation from the EU at 23:00(GMT) on 31 December 2020, and new arrangements for travel, trade, immigration and security co-operation came into force.

The deal contains new rules for how the UK and EU will live, work and trade together. The deal covered some key areas such as trade and further discussions will be held on data and financial cooperation.

Freedom of movement between the UK and EU has come to an end, and from 2021, UK nationals will need a visa if they want to stay in the EU more than 90 days in a 180-day period.

The deal means trade is tariff free and quotas have not been imposed but there are significant changes to the paperwork (and other non-tariff arrangements) which must accompany imports and export processes.

There are still some decisions to be made such as on data sharing and on financial services, and the agreement on fishing lasts five years. The deal therefore will mean that the EU and UK will be negotiating during their new relationship and if there are any changes from current rules which are identical then tariffs could be imposed in the future.

The table below responds to the questions raised by OSMC at their last meeting.

Matter	Issue	Action/progress
Town and Parish Councils	Information for, are they briefed, involved	As a deal was achieved since the meeting of OSMC, an email update will be circulated to Town and Parish Councils.
Settled Status	How do people know they need to apply for settled status? Need a push across the city to let people know they need to apply – is there something for local Councillors to push the message out into their communities?	For most EU citizens they will be aware of the EU Settlement Scheme through the media, government adverts which have been put out or information provided from embassies. However, the concern is that people do not realise they need to apply and that is why the Home Office has provided funding for organisations across the country to reach out to more people. Sheffield City Council is one of these organisations. Any messaging which Councillors can circulate in their local areas would be valuable in terms of encouraging EU citizens to register and ensure everyone in their

		<p>family is also registered if they need to be. There is a concern that those citizens who have been in the UK for a long period will assume they don't need to register or a child born in the UK doesn't need to register. We would also reassure anyone who is concerned that they don't have the right paperwork or documentation that there are trained staff to help them with their application if they feel that would be useful.</p> <p>The Brexit working group is considering what additional support SCC could put in place, working with partners, to ensure EU citizens living in the city apply for settled status before the June deadline.</p>
<p>Settled Status</p>	<p>What outreach have we done? Can we find out who hasn't applied that needs to? Bureaucracy and online are cultural and accessibility barriers to engage and apply</p>	<p>Our community teams have been working with Darnall Well-being, Firvale Community Hub and Citizens Advice Sheffield for 18 months on outreach and helping people to apply to the settlement scheme. Before the Covid pandemic we held sessions most days in local communities which individuals or families could attend to have help with their application. We also held some larger group meetings, presented to schools, and circulated information to a wider audience using social media. The face-to-face work aimed to overcome accessibility barriers. Over the last 9 months the pandemic has meant our work has been restricted to mainly social media promotion of the scheme. We have also sent messages to all schools and care homes to ask them to make sure all their residents and families are aware of the need to apply and we will ensure this message is repeated as we know it has been a busy time, with the changing situation taking up the majority of resources.</p> <p>Unfortunately, we cannot know who has not applied to the scheme, primarily as we do not know how many EU citizens reside in Sheffield, as there is no requirement to register here. As a result we are basing our efforts on Home Office estimates of EU citizen resident numbers, however, we know these may not be accurate as some cities have already registered significantly</p>

		more people than were believed to live there according to the estimates. We can only know for certain how many people have registered, making the work to encourage all EU residents, no matter how long they have resided in the UK, even more important.
Settled Status	What is position for children born here but parents are EU?	It is important to note that being born in the UK does not necessarily mean a child is a British citizen. British citizenship at birth is only available to children with a parent who holds British Citizenship or settled status. If a child was born in the UK but is not a British citizen, they will still need to apply for settled status. When a parent applies for a child they can 'link' their applications. This means that if the parent's application is successful, their child will get the same status. The government website takes you through the options and it is important for EU citizens to apply for children as well as themselves if they meet the criteria.
Government fund	What is the SCR amount of this fund?	There has been a BEIS grant allocation of £136,050 for EU Transition Business Readiness Funding for Growth Hubs.
Tenant Farmers	Impact for them	<p>We have checked with the agency that manages our tenancies and have not had any issues raised specifically from our tenants. Neither has anyone pulled out of a tenancy as a result of Brexit.</p> <p>We are about to commission work on a rural strategy which will pick up on how we manage our farms and will move away from traditional farm tenancy approach to tenancies based on outcomes which we want to see achieved on our land. This is an approach which has been adopted by others such as Yorkshire Water and the National Trust and will develop a more sustainable approach to land management.</p>
Careers Advice	Does this need to be altered in light of the transition?	Our Youth Services Team are working to ensure that accurate guidance is maintained, updated and disseminated. To date this is still in development but now has an increased priority.
SME/Economic Support	Are we providing enough support through	Brexit contingency funding has been used by the Sheffield Chamber of Commerce to

	<p>the advisors, how long into 2021 will this be available?</p>	<p>fund two junior members of staff in the International Trade Team who have worked in the International Trade Team of Sheffield Chamber, and giving majority of support to businesses via a workshop programme over the last 12 months.</p> <p>More support is going to be provided in 2021 as we are increasing the advice available from the existing two trade advisors discussed in December's scrutiny meeting and detailed above.</p> <p>More of the EU transition funding will be used to provide more specific international trade expertise. This will mean Sheffield will have a service available for businesses to fully understand what they need to implement immediately to allow them to continue to trade or trade for the first time in Europe.</p> <p>This service will be provided through the Chamber of Commerce using Brexit contingency funding and additional contributions from the SCR. The money will provide a package of support allowing businesses to receive one to one support, from initial an professional customer service representative who will be able to triage requirements and point in the direction of the right Specialist Advisor, through to that specialist support.</p> <p>It is important that business owners know advice is available to all businesses, not just those who are members of the Chamber of Commerce. The late nature of the trade deal means many businesses are experiencing changes as they encounter them and therefore advice on how to deal with these changes seems to be a sensible use of these finances. This service is financed until the end of June 2021 and will be reviewed quarterly.</p>
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Universities	Write to universities for their view on impact	<p>We wrote to both universities and can give an updated picture for each of them. At Sheffield Hallam EU students are only a small proportion of the students enrolled at Sheffield Hallam, and the University has a much lower reliance on EU students than many other universities. Hallam are expecting these students numbers to drop significantly as changes to access to student funding are implemented. This is a sector wide issue and the evidence of the impact of this can already been seen in this year's UCAS application figures.</p> <p>The University of Sheffield used a data snapshot from 15th Jan, and they had 627 applications from the EU (overseas fee payers). At the same point last year, they had 1930 applications from the EU (home fee payers). They are therefore -68% down on applications. Whilst they can't attribute this directly to Brexit, and Covid will no doubt have had an effect, the decline is nevertheless concerning for the university.</p>
Erasmus	Will this scheme still be available?	<p>The UK will no longer participate in the Erasmus exchange programme - an EU scheme that helps students study in other countries. Replacing this will be a new scheme named after the mathematician Alan Turing.</p> <p>Students at universities in Northern Ireland will continue to participate in Erasmus, as part of an arrangement with the Irish government.</p> <p>The Turing scheme will be backed by over £100M, providing funding for approximately 35,000 students to go on placements and exchanges overseas beginning in September 2021. More information on the scheme is available here: https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-turing-scheme-to-support-thousands-of-students-to-study-and-work-abroad</p> <p>The University of Sheffield has also highlighted that the new Turing scheme will only support outward mobility, as funding has not been made available to support incoming mobility. Losing the</p>

		reciprocity of the Erasmus programme may have implications for agreements with partner institutions which will need to provide their own funding to send students to the UK. This may impact the makeup of the student body at Sheffield University, with likely fewer EU exchange students at least in the short term, and the local economy.
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