

Public Document Pack

**Democratic Services Section
Legal and Civic Services Department
Belfast City Council
City Hall
Belfast
BT1 5GS**



**Belfast
City Council**

11th June, 2020

MEETING OF BREXIT COMMITTEE

Dear Alderman/Councillor,

The following is a list of reports with recommendations which were due to be considered by above-named Committee on 11th June, 2020.

These decisions will now be taken by the Chief Executive in accordance with the authority delegated to her by the Council.

A table of Recommendations to Committee will also be sent separately by email and these should be completed by Party Leaders and returned by the deadline indicated in the email.

Yours faithfully,

SUZANNE WYLIE

Chief Executive

AGENDA:

1. **Routine Matters**
 - (a) Declarations of Interest
2. **Update on the Negotiations between the UK and the EU on their future (Pages 1 - 6)**
3. **Update on the EU Settlement Scheme (Pages 7 - 12)**
4. **Update on Implications of Northern Ireland Protocol for Port Health Function (Restricted Item) (Pages 13 - 16)**

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Subject:	Update on the Negotiations between the UK and the EU on their future relationship
Date:	11 June 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0 Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the key developments that are currently taking place in relation to the ongoing negotiations on the future relationship between the UK and the EU.
2.0 Recommendations	Members are asked to note this report and to advise if they wish to extend an invite to Professor David Phinnemore to present an update at a future Committee meeting.
3.0 Main report	

Key Issues

Members will be aware that following the UK's exit from the European Union on the 31st January 2020, we entered a transition period that is currently due to end on the 31st December 2020. During this period, the UK and the EU will undertake negotiations around their future relationship. The first round of negotiations between the European Union and the United Kingdom took place on the 2nd – 5th March 2020 in Brussels. Given the ongoing Covid 19 crisis, virtual meetings have replaced the further rounds of planned face-to-face discussions. The second round of discussions took place on the 20th - 24th April 2020 and the third round of discussions took place on the 11th – 15th May 2020.

A written statement on the discussions that took place during the period 20th - 24th April was made by the Cabinet Office on 28th April and a copy is available at:

<https://www.parliament.uk/written-questions-answers-statements/written-statement/Commons/2020-04-28/HCWS209>

A copy of the statement made by the EU following the third round of discussions that took place in May can be found at:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/presscorner/detail/en/speech_20_895

On the 19th May 2020 the UK government published a number of documents setting out their approach to the future relationship with the European Union. These documents lay out a suite of proposals for their negotiations with the EU. The draft legal texts are the legal articulation of this approach and have formed the basis of discussions with the EU. A copy of these documents can be found at: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/our-approach-to-the-future-relationship-with-the-eu>

A further round of discussions took place from 2nd - 5th June 2020, the agenda for this round of negotiations can be found at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership/future-partnership/negotiation-rounds-future-partnership-between-european-union-and-united-kingdom_en

Extension of the transition phase

The current transition period is due to end on 31st December 2020. A one-off extension to the transition period is possible. Such an extension can be for no more than two years. It would need to be agreed by a decision of the UK-EU Joint Committee before 1 July 2020. There have been calls from various quarters to extend the transition period given the ongoing Covid 19 crisis. The UK Government's current position is that they will not be requesting an extension.

A briefing paper from the House of Commons Library was published on 20th April 2020, which outlines the rules in the Withdrawal Agreement regarding any extension, the domestic ban on

extending the transition and legislating during lockdown. A copy of the paper can be found here:

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/brexit/negotiations/coronavirus-is-it-possible-to-extend-the-brexit-transition-period/>

Within the documents published on the 19th May 2020 the following statement was made:

'Timing and pace of the negotiations

9. The Government will not extend the transition period provided for in the Withdrawal Agreement. This leaves a limited, but sufficient, time for the UK and the EU to reach agreement. The UK is committed to working in a speedy and determined fashion to do so, with an appropriate number of negotiating rounds between now and the June high-level meeting foreseen in the Political Declaration. The Government would hope that, by that point, the broad outline of an agreement would be clear and be capable of being rapidly finalised by September. If that does not seem to be the case at the June meeting, the Government will need to decide whether the UK's attention should move away from negotiations and focus solely on continuing domestic preparations to exit the transition period in an orderly fashion. In so doing, it will be necessary to take into account in particular whether good progress has been possible on the least controversial areas of the negotiations, and whether the various autonomous processes on both sides are proceeding on a technical basis according to agreed deadlines.'

Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union

Members are advised that a Select Committee on the Future Relationship with the European Union has been established and that The Rt Hon Michael Gove MP appeared before it on Monday 27th April 202. The transcript of the meeting is available at:

<https://committees.parliament.uk/committee/366/committee-on-the-future-relationship-with-the-european-union/publications/>

There was some discussion at this meeting around the situation in Northern Ireland (Q146). There was also a discussion around the recommencing of Operation Yellowhammer (Q230). Mr Gove's response included: *'We do not have any plans to stand up Operation Yellowhammer again, because we are confident that we will secure agreement, but it is the case that the work that was done then has been of value in making us realise how resilient the UK is in certain areas and where work is required to be done in other areas so that we can cope with a variety of challenges.'*

On Wednesday 27th May 2020, held a virtual evidence session, in which it questioned Michael Gove MP, Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, and David Frost, UK Chief Negotiator on the current state of the future relationship negotiations between the UK and

	<p>European Union, following three rounds of discussions. The transcript of this session is available at: https://committees.parliament.uk/oralevidence/431/pdf/</p> <p>Members attention us drawn to Q234 at which Mr Frost states that the high level review of the negotiations is expected to take place in June. There was also some discussion around trade between Northern Ireland and Great Britain (Q247-250, 287-288 and 321-325).</p>
	<p><u>EU-UK Joint Committee under the Withdrawal Agreement</u></p> <p>The first meeting of the EU-UK Joint Committee under the Withdrawal Agreement took place on Monday 30 March 2020. Due to the coronavirus outbreak, the meeting took place by teleconference. The co-chairs of this Committee are European Commission Vice-President Maroš Šefčovič and the UK Chancellor of the Duchy of Lancaster, the Rt Hon Michael Gove. The NI Executive was represented at this meeting by Junior Ministers Declan Kearney and Gordon Lyons. Information of this Committee can be found at: https://ec.europa.eu/info/european-union-and-united-kingdom-forging-new-partnership/eu-uk-withdrawal-agreement/meetings-eu-uk-joint-committee-under-withdrawal-agreement_en</p>
	<p><u>Joint UK and EU Specialised Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland</u></p> <p>Members are reminded that under the Withdrawal Agreement a Joint UK and EU Specialised Committee on the Protocol on Ireland/Northern Ireland was to be established. It held its first meeting on Thursday 30th April 2020 and comprises government officials rather than politicians. The UK delegation includes the senior Stormont official, Andrew McCormick. Member's attention is drawn to a technical note that the EU published on the 30th April 2020 on implementation of the NI/Ireland protocol. This outlines their view on the required implementation measures including in relation to customs and movement of goods. https://ec.europa.eu/info/sites/info/files/brexit_files/info_site/20200430_note_protocol_ie_ni.pdf</p> <p>Members will be aware that the UK Government published a command paper on the 20th May that sets out the UK's approach to the Northern Ireland Protocol. A copy of this paper can be found at: https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/the-uks-approach-to-the-northern-ireland-protocol</p>
	<p><u>The Committee for the Executive Office</u></p> <p>Members are advised that this Committee held a meeting on Wednesday 13 May 2020, at which they received a Brexit evidence session on the Withdrawal Agreement Joint Committee, from Junior Ministers Declan Kearney and Gordon Lyons. The Junior Ministers provided the Committee with an overview of the remit of the EU-UK Joint Committee under the Withdrawal Agreement and its first meeting, which they had both attended.</p> <p>During the questions from the Committee for the Executive Office members, the Junior Ministers provided information on the ongoing discussions around future trade (N/S and E/W) and the need for physical infrastructure at NI ports. A recording of this meeting can be</p>

	<p>accessed at this link: https://niassembly.tv/committee-for-the-executive-office-meeting-wednesday-13-may-2020/ The discussion around future trade can be found at 50.10 – 1.02 in the recording of the meeting.</p>
	<p><u>Next steps</u></p> <p>Members are advised that Officers will continue to keep a watching brief on the progress of the negotiations and will update Committee as appropriate.</p> <p>Members are reminded that David Phinnemore, Professor of European Politics, Queen's University Belfast has previously attended this Committee to provide Members with an update around the Withdrawal Agreement. If Members are so minded, Officers will invite Professor Phinnemore to attend a future meeting of the Committee to update them on the current position re the implementation of the Withdrawal Agreement.</p> <p>Members are also advised that Officers continue to work with key partners including DAERA and the Food Standards Agency around the future requirements at the Port. A report updating Members on the progress of this work will be brought to Committee in due course.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no financial or resource implications relating to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications relating to this report.</p>
	<p>Appendices</p> <p>None</p>

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Subject:	Update on the EU Settlement Scheme
Date:	11 June 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
Contact Officer:	Claire Sullivan, Policy and Business Development Officer

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Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	The purpose of this report is to update Members on the latest statistics from the Home Office in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme.
2.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note this report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

The EU Settlement Scheme (EUSS) enables EEA and Swiss citizens living in the UK, and their family members, to obtain the UK immigration status they will require to live, work and study in the UK after 30 June 2021. Irish Citizens are not required to apply to the EUSS but may choose to do so.

Members are reminded that regular updates on the EUSS are brought to this Committee and that a paper was brought to the February meeting that included information on the number of applications that had been received up to 31st December 2019.

Number of applications

The statistics covering the period up to 31st March 2020 were released in mid May and a breakdown of the applications for Northern Ireland by local council area are included as appendix 1. Some key facts are:

- As of 31 March 2020, over 2.7 million (2,756,130) applications had been received, with 92% received in England, 5% in Scotland, 2% in Northern Ireland and 2% in Wales.
- 57,640 applications have been made in Northern Ireland and 10,920 of these have been made in Belfast.
- Northern Ireland had a noticeably higher proportion (17%) of applications from applicants under 18 compared to the rest of the UK.
- In Belfast, the highest number of applications were from Polish (3,240) and Romanian (1,950) nationals.
- Of the applications submitted in Belfast, 88% have been concluded and of these 60% were awarded settled status and 39% pre settled status¹.

Financial & Resource Implications

There are no financial or resource implications relating to this report.

Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment

There are no implications relating to this report.

Appendices

Appendix 1: Statistics relating to EU Settlement Scheme by local council area

¹ Pre-settled status entitles the person to apply for settled status after they have 5 years' continuous residence in the UK. <https://www.gov.uk/settled-status-eu-citizens-families/what-settled-and-presettled-status-means>

EU Settlement Scheme: applications by nationality, region and local authority, 28 August 2018 to 31 March 2020

Local authority	Total	<i>of which</i>									
		Austria	Belgium	Bulgaria	Croatia	Cyprus	Czech Republic	Denmark	Estonia	Finland	France
Antrim and Newtownabbey	3,060	*	*	30	10	0	40	*	*	*	30
Ards and North Down	1,930	*	10	60	*	*	20	*	*	*	40
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	12,830	*	10	1,970	*	*	90	*	*	*	50
Belfast	10,920	20	40	190	30	20	130	20	40	20	270
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,870	*	*	80	*	0	30	*	*	*	20
Derry City and Strabane	1,110	*	*	10	*	*	*	*	*	0	20
Fermanagh and Omagh	3,240	*	*	270	10	0	20	*	*	0	10
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,690	*	10	120	0	*	20	*	*	*	40
Mid and East Antrim	4,100	*	*	250	*	*	110	*	0	*	20
Mid Ulster	10,470	*	*	290	*	*	80	0	*	0	20
Newry, Mourne and Down	5,270	*	*	920	10	0	20	*	*	*	40

Local authority	Germany	Greece	Hungary	Iceland	Ireland	Italy	Latvia	Liechtenstein	Lithuania	Luxembourg	Malta	Netherlands
Antrim and Newtownabbey	30	10	130	*	50	60	60	0	420	0	0	20
Ards and North Down	70	*	50	*	20	50	170	0	330	0	*	50
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	40	20	240	0	180	80	700	0	2,680	0	*	30
Belfast	220	200	380	*	140	700	160	0	370	*	10	180
Causeway Coast and Glens	30	*	20	0	20	40	80	0	40	0	0	10
Derry City and Strabane	20	10	70	0	30	50	30	0	90	*	*	10
Fermanagh and Omagh	30	10	470	0	30	20	220	0	580	0	0	20
Lisburn and Castlereagh	40	50	70	0	50	50	160	0	390	0	*	20
Mid and East Antrim	30	*	60	0	40	50	70	0	90	0	0	20
Mid Ulster	*	*	180	0	110	40	640	0	2,810	*	0	20
Newry, Mourne and Down	40	10	60	*	60	70	430	0	1,060	0	*	40

Local authority	Norway	Poland	Portugal	Romania	Slovakia	Slovenia	Spain	Sweden	Switzerland	Non-EEA
Antrim and Newtownabbey	*	1,290	90	400	240	*	60	*	*	90
Ards and North Down	*	520	100	150	80	0	60	10	10	90
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	*	2,930	2,080	990	320	0	60	*	*	310
Belfast	30	3,240	570	1,950	700	10	680	80	20	510
Causeway Coast and Glens	*	1,310	30	50	30	0	20	*	0	40
Derry City and Strabane	*	600	20	50	*	0	40	*	0	40
Fermanagh and Omagh	*	1,180	40	110	110	0	20	0	*	60
Lisburn and Castlereagh	*	960	120	300	100	*	80	10	0	100
Mid and East Antrim	0	1,180	100	1,680	300	*	20	*	*	50
Mid Ulster	*	1,900	3,130	390	330	0	40	*	0	470
Newry, Mourne and Down	*	1,700	50	500	100	0	30	*	*	110

EU Settlement Scheme: applications by age group, region and local authority, 28 August 2018 to 31 March 2020

Local authority	Total	<i>of which</i>		
		Under 18	18 to 64	65+
Antrim and Newtownabbey	3,060	510	2,520	40
Ards and North Down	1,930	290	1,580	50
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	12,830	2,540	10,050	230
Belfast	10,920	1,680	9,100	140
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,870	380	1,450	40
Derry City and Strabane	1,110	200	890	20
Fermanagh and Omagh	3,240	680	2,510	60
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,690	480	2,170	40
Mid and East Antrim	4,100	710	3,310	70
Mid Ulster	10,470	1,900	8,440	140
Newry, Mourne and Down	5,270	960	4,220	90

EU Settlement Scheme: concluded applications by outcome type, region and local authority, 28 August 2018 to 31 March 2020

of which

Local authority	Total	Settled	Pre-settled	Other outcomes
Antrim and Newtownabbey	2,780	2,020	730	30
Ards and North Down	1,800	1,300	490	10
Armagh City, Banbridge and Craigavon	11,480	7,220	4,160	100
Belfast	9,590	5,740	3,730	130
Causeway Coast and Glens	1,650	1,360	280	20
Derry City and Strabane	1,000	810	190	*
Fermanagh and Omagh	2,940	2,060	870	20
Lisburn and Castlereagh	2,470	1,820	620	20
Mid and East Antrim	3,700	2,110	1,550	40
Mid Ulster	9,250	6,420	2,720	100
Newry, Mourne and Down	4,610	2,910	1,670	30

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 6
of the Local Government Act (Northern Ireland) 2014.

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