



Subject:	Update on the EU Settlement Scheme – advice session for applicants
Date:	9th January 2020
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director City & Neighbourhood Services John Walsh, City Solicitor / Director of Legal and Civic Services
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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 a request to hold an information and advice session in relation to the EU Settlement Scheme.
2.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to agree to the holding of an information and advice session as outlined in this report.
3.0	Main report

Key Issues

The EU Settlement Scheme 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 (or after 31 December 2020 if there is a no deal exit).

Members are reminded that this Committee has received regular updates on the EU Settlement Scheme and that they requested an information session be held to allow potentially affected residents to learn more about the scheme. The last report that this Committee received was in August 2019 updating them on Home Office information sessions, which the Council supported. The Home Office held two information sessions in Belfast City Hall on 3rd October 2019, the first was aimed at business and employers, whilst the second was a general session for all, which was very well attended.

Advice NI and a consortium made up of the Law Centre and STEP Dungannon have obtained funding from the Home Office to provide information and support to applicants. Information on their projects and the support they are providing can be obtained from the following websites:

<https://www.adviceni.net/eu-settlement-scheme>

<https://www.strongertogetherni.org/stronger-together-partnership-eu-settlement-scheme-support-project/>

Advice NI have now approached the Council to ask us to facilitate them to hold a session for applicants in City Hall. The purpose of this event will be to provide specific information and advice to those potentially affected and there will also be the option to apply online for the Scheme with the assistance of advisors. Council officers have approached STEP and they have also agreed to participate in the session.

It is proposed that the session will take place on Wednesday 12th February in City Hall from 6-9pm. Advice NI and STEP will disseminate information on the session through their networks and it will also be disseminated through the Migrant Forum and the Council's usual communications channels,

If take up of the session is high, the Council will work with both organisations to facilitate further sessions across the City.

	<p>Members are also advised that the Home Office has held a series of teleconference calls for local authority staff from across the UK. During these calls, Home Office staff provide an update on the Scheme and answer questions. The next call has been organised for mid January and officers will update Members at the next meeting of this Committee.</p> <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>To deliver the Information Session will require the use of the City Hall.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications relating to this report but Officers will ensure that equality implications are considered in the organisation of the information sessions.</p>
	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>