



Subject:	Update on the EU Settlement Scheme
Date:	20 February 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 the latest information 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
	<p data-bbox="272 226 432 255"><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 275 1461 456">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.</p> <p data-bbox="272 528 1461 710">Members are reminded that this Committee received a report in January 2020 updating them on a session that was being held in City Hall on 12th February. This session was run by Advice NI and specialist advisors were in attendance to assist people with the application process. A total of 22 people with a range of nationalities attended the session.</p> <p data-bbox="272 781 1461 913">Members are also advised that the Home Office has held a series of teleconference calls for local authority staff from across the UK. The most recent call took place in mid-January and key messages from it included:</p> <ul data-bbox="320 969 1461 1715" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="320 969 1461 1102">• EUSS application figures by local authority now published quarterly on https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/eu-settlement-scheme-quarterly-statistics-december-2019<li data-bbox="320 1122 1461 1205">• An update was provided on the communications that had been undertaken to promote the scheme and the marketing materials that are available for Councils.<li data-bbox="320 1225 1461 1308">• In 2020, there will be a move away from large-scale campaigns to more targeted marketing at the hard to reach groups.<li data-bbox="320 1328 1461 1411">• To be eligible to apply to the EUSS you must be in the UK on or before 31st December 2020 and the application process closes on 30th June 2021.<li data-bbox="320 1431 1461 1563">• Under the Withdrawal Agreement there is an indefinite right for close family members to join a relative in the UK, if the relationship existed prior to the end of the transition period.<li data-bbox="320 1583 1461 1715">• Funding for the organisations who are supporting people to apply to the EUSS ends on 31st March 2020 – the Home Office are currently reviewing the funding and will make a decision on additional funding in due course. <p data-bbox="272 1771 576 1800"><u>Number of applications</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 1821 1461 1953">The statistics covering the period up to 31st December 2019 were released in early February and a breakdown of the applications for Northern Ireland by local council area are included as appendix 1. Some key facts are:</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • As of 31 December 2019, 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. • 44,580 applications have been made in Northern Ireland and 8,400 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 (2,490) and Romanian (1,460) nationals. • Of the applications submitted in Belfast, 86% have been concluded and of these 61% were awarded settled status and 38% pre settled status¹. <p>Members are advised that the UK government are currently developing their immigration policy post EU exit. The Migration Advisory Committee (MAC) published a report on 28th January 2020, which responds to the request from the Home Secretary to the MAC to consider how a points-based system immigration system could be introduced in the UK to strengthen the UK labour market. A copy of this report is available at https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/migration-advisory-committee-mac-report-points-based-system-and-salary-thresholds</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>Appendix 1: Statistics relating to EU Settlement Scheme by local council area</p>

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>