



Subject:	Update on attendance at Committee for the Executive Office: Brexit stakeholder event
Date:	12 November 2020
Reporting Officer:	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 appearance of the Chair and City Solicitor at the Committee for the Executive Office's Brexit stakeholder event on the 4 th November 2020.
2.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the update provided.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>

Members are reminded that at its October meeting, they agreed that the Council accept the invitation from the Committee for the Executive Office, to attend its Brexit stakeholder event which was held on the 4th November. The purpose of the event was to provide local councils with an opportunity to brief Committee Members on any issues and concerns they might have as a result of the UK's exit from the European Union. It was agreed that the Chair of the Brexit Committee and the City Solicitor attend the event.

Members are advised that they can view a recording of the Committee for the Executive Office meeting at <https://niassembly.tv/committee-for-the-executive-office-meeting-wednesday-4-november-2020/>

Key issues that were raised by the Chair and City Solicitor during their presentation were:

- Key council services recently undertook a review of preparedness and potential issues have been identified around impact on supply chains and higher costs
- Potential issues at Belfast Port – uncertainty around what new checks will be required; the need to ensure sufficient funding to cover any additional staffing costs, and greater clarity is required on contingency arrangements to ensure trade is not adversely impacted and to avoid delays at the ports of entry
- Shared Prosperity Fund - Councils should have a role and work in partnership in co-designing the way in which SPF is allocated and managed and there is a need to ensure monies align with regional priorities such as employment opportunities, economy and tourism
- Potential for higher living costs for residents and the impact on vulnerable people – the need to build on the partnership work that was developed with DfC and the community sector as a response to Covid to ensure that any support required as a result of the end of the transition period is delivered
- There are potential impacts on the city's economy in particular on key sectors including services, finance and the fact that Belfast is predominantly a micro business economy
- Belfast is significantly reliant on the visitor economy and one key sub-sector is business tourism - the uncertainty around the future relationship has already had a negative impact on future bookings
- The challenges of preparing for Brexit have been made much more difficult by the current circumstances as a result of the pandemic
- A key thread running through the presentation was the need for the Executive to clarify future funding arrangements for local government to help them address any impacts arising from the ending of the transition period

	<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>