



Subject:	Future of Brexit Committee
Date:	9 September 2021
Reporting Officer:	John Walsh, City Solicitor, Director of Legal & Civic Services
Contact Officer:	

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
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"/>

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

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
	To consider whether to retain the Brexit Committee, post-Brexit and, if a decision is made supporting its retention, whether it should continue to function under the current terms of reference or whether its remit should be expanded to cover other areas in respect of which the Council has an interest together with duties and responsibilities.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
	The Committee is asked to consider the report and:  1 determine whether the Brexit Committee should be retained with the current terms of reference; 2 if a decision is made to support the retention of the Committee with an extended remit, to identify the additional areas to be incorporated into the terms of

	<p>reference relating to matters in respect of which the Council has an interest and duties and responsibilities.</p>
<p><b>3.0</b></p>	<p><b><u>Main report</u></b></p> <p>In 2018 the Brexit Committee was established to consider the impacts of Brexit on the Council and Council services and to understand issues that may affect the City and wider society.</p> <p>The Committee received many deputations and updates on the negotiations as the transition to Brexit occurred. Now that Brexit has occurred, and whilst the Committee does receive and will continue to receive occasional presentations, other than port health updates and informatives relating to the Northern Ireland Protocol and updates on replacement EU funding including the Shared Prosperity Fund, there is generally a very light agenda. Whilst these all remain significant matters they could also be absorbed within the remit of other committees, in particular the City Growth and Regeneration and Strategic Policy &amp; Resources Committees. The general political consensus tends to support the retention of the Committee with an enlarged remit that seems to have some sense of focus on external relations.</p> <p>At Committee on 12 August 2021 the following proposal was made:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;">“That the remit of the Brexit Committee be widened to include responsibility for both the Shared Island Working Group and the International Relations Framework, which currently is under the remit of City Growth and Regeneration, with the purpose of implementing a new domestic and international relations strategy for the city.”</p> <p>After discussion, this was deferred. The proposal looked to incorporate into the work of the Committee the remit of the Shared Island All-Party Working Group, which was the subject of a notice of motion approved by the Council on 1 April 2021, and the International Relations Framework which currently sits with City Growth and Regeneration. A copy of the approved notice of motion is attached at Appendix 1 and the relevant terms of reference in respect of the International Relations Framework is attached at Appendix 2.</p> <p>It is for Members to determine if they wish to incorporate either or both of these strands of work into the terms of reference for the committee currently constituted as the Brexit Committee (a copy of the terms of reference for the Brexit Committee is attached at Appendix 3). It is not recommended that the International Relations Framework is incorporated into the remit of what is currently the Brexit Committee but that it should remain with City Growth and Regeneration due to its synergy with other work undertaken by that Committee in the context of economic development.</p> <p>Whilst views have been canvassed through the Party Leaders Forum and the Committee at its meeting on 12 August 2021 it is of course open to Members to suggest, in the event that a decision is made to retain the Committee, other areas which may be incorporated into its remit. A report would be brought back based on the views expressed and ultimately that report will go to Strategic Policy &amp; Resources for consideration.</p>
	<p><b><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></b></p> <p>Any expanded terms of reference for the committee is likely to have resource implications.</p>

	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u>  There are no equality or good relations implications in respect of the issues set out in this report.
<b>4</b>	<b>Appendices</b>
	Appendix 1 – Notice of Motion – Council 1 <sup>st</sup> April Appendix 2 – International Relations Framework : Terms of Reference Appendix 3 – Brexit Committee – Terms of Reference