



REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE

DATE: 26 SEPTEMBER 2019

REPORT OF THE: PROGRAMME DIRECTOR FOR ECONOMIC
DEVELOPMENT, BUSINESS AND PARTNERSHIPS
PHILLIP SPURR

TITLE OF REPORT: BREXIT PREPAREDNESS

SERVICES AFFECTED: ALL

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

1.0 PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 To update Policy and Resources Committee on the actions being undertaken to ensure that the Council is prepared for BREXIT.

2.0 RECOMMENDATION(S)

2.1 It is recommended that:

- (i) The contents of the report are noted
- (ii) Further updates be provided in due course

3.0 REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION(S)

3.1 To inform Committee of the actions being taken by Ryedale District Council to avoid or limit disruption to the services provided by the Council and also to provide advice and support to businesses and communities at the time of BREXIT.

4.0 SIGNIFICANT RISKS

4.1 The Council not being prepared for BREXIT could result in a disruption to services as a result of an increased demand for services or disruption from suppliers

4.2 The risk of Ryedale businesses not being prepared for BREXIT resulting in loss of business/income which could also impact on residents.

5.0 POLICY CONTEXT AND CONSULTATION

- 5.1 This report impacts upon the Council priorities of Sustainable Growth and Customers and Communities.

REPORT

6.0 REPORT DETAILS

6.1 The UK is due to leave the EU on 31 October 2019. The Council needs to identify any potential issues/risks that may have an impact on the Council and the communities and businesses it serves. Being prepared and taking mitigating actions will help to reduce the potential impact. The Government has arranged a series of national Local Government BREXIT briefings. The Programme Director for Economic Development, has been designated as the Council's BREXIT Lead Officer. The Lead Officer will be RDC's point of contact for the MHCLG and the lead chief executive for the Yorkshire & Humber region (Tom Riordan Leeds City Council). RDC's Lead Officer will play a key role in a two-way information sharing process.

6.2 The North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forums (LRF) will also play a role in co-ordinating and planning for BREXIT and will hold weekly conference calls from September, increasing to daily in October, to exchange information on the latest situation across North Yorkshire. Further information has been provided on the Government website at <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-government-brexit-preparedness>

6.3 The Council's Business Continuity Plans (BCPs) are being reviewed and updated, identifying and planning for any issues (both internal and external) that may arise from BREXIT. The following points are being considered:

- Addressing potentially increased demand for services especially from vulnerable clients and businesses.
- Impact on service delivery, for example, if there are fuel shortages or recruitment issues. Staff could be asked to support any BREXIT issues that may arise that could mean that they cannot undertake usual duties.
- Impact of potentially increasing prices on how we deliver our services.
- Impact of any disruption in suppliers, checking with suppliers that they have plans in place to mitigate any problems.
- Any data protection or data sharing concerns.
- What we need to do to proactively engage with our customers (eg ensuring relevant businesses are aware of the need for export licences).
- Communications (both internal and external), how will we keep everyone informed of any changes, issues or new guidance from the Government.
- Financial, legal or other implications on service delivery.

The deadline to review the BCPs is 13 September 2019.

6.4 From the information collated, a Corporate BREXIT Readiness Action Plan will be developed to ensure that it is clear what actions are required, when and by whom to ensure that the Council is prepared for BREXIT. The action plan will be presented to Strategic Management Board on 26 September 2019 for their approval and to ensure that any resource/financial implications are considered.

- 6.5 A key part of the action plan will be the development of a BREXIT Communications Plan, with the Council's new Head of Communications, Technology and Business Transformation integral to this process. The plan will ensure staff, elected members, Ryedale's residents and businesses are informed of any emerging issues.
- 6.6 The Council's Corporate Risk Register is also being updated on a regular basis as and when further information is relayed from the Government. It will also be updated to reflect the Corporate BREXIT Readiness Action Plan.
- 6.7 The North Yorkshire LRF have so far asked the Council to feedback on:
- How the Council's officers can help to gather local intelligence regarding any emerging issues caused by BREXIT
 - Any planned events in October/November
- 6.8 The situation and guidance regarding BREXIT is fluid and emerging. Officers are monitoring any developments as they happen. It is early days in our planning, further detailed updates will be provided in due course.

7.0 IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The development of the Corporate BREXIT Readiness Action Plan will identify any financial, legal or other implications.

8.0 NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Development of the Corporate BREXIT Readiness Action Plan and Communications Plan and updated BREXIT Risk Register. Further updates will be provided to Members in due course.

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Background Papers:

Government guidance for local government on Brexit preparedness

Background Papers are available for inspection at:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/local-government-brex-it-preparedness>