

## **Brexit Update**

### **Summary**

1. This report is intended to assure the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) that preparations are being made in anticipation of the United Kingdom (UK) leaving the European Union (EU).
2. The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on 29 March 2019. However, at present, the Withdrawal Agreement negotiated by the UK and EU has still to secure the support of Members of Parliament.
3. As such, there is a possibility that the UK will leave the EU without a deal – a so called ‘no deal scenario’.
4. CYC has worked with partners at a local, regional and national level to identify appropriate responses in a no deal scenario.
5. These arrangements, developed within organisations and with the Local Resilience Forum and North Yorkshire Local Health Resilience Partnership (LHRP), seek to mitigate against any challenges presented by a no deal EU Exit.

### **Recommendations**

6. The HWBB are asked to note that discussions and activities are under way to prepare for EU Exit and to mitigate against the challenges of a no deal scenario.

### **Background**

7. In a referendum on 23 June 2016, a majority of voters supported the UK leaving the EU. The Government committed to leave the EU on that basis and Article 50 was triggered on 29 March 2017. The UK is scheduled to leave the EU on 29 March 2019.

8. Negotiations and parliamentary processes have not yet resulted in clarity on how the UK will exit the EU. It has been announced that the House of Commons will have another chance to vote on the Withdrawal Agreement on 12 March 2019.
9. If the Withdrawal Agreement is approved, there will be a two year transition period in which European legislation and mechanisms are transferred across to the UK. This will ensure a relatively smooth exit from the EU.
10. However, without parliamentary approval for the Withdrawal Agreement, a no deal scenario remains the default option. This will come into effect at 11pm on 29 March 2019.
11. In the eventuality of a no deal scenario, there will be no transition period for the UK to leave the EU – that is to say, EU law, regulations and trade agreements will cease to apply to the UK immediately after 11pm on 29 March 2019.
12. While the Government has said that a no deal scenario remains unlikely, it has continued to prepare for all eventualities. The Council has continued to take its lead from the Government in this respect and considered how the city should respond in the event of a no deal.

### **Main/Key Issues to be Considered**

13. A main focus for planning has been to consider the immediate impacts of a no deal outcome which would need to be responded to in order to ensure the wellbeing of York's residents.
14. This has included consulting with city partners at a local, regional and national level including community groups, the CCG and NHS England.
15. There is a continued level of confidence that areas of potential risk could be addressed by organisations in the city.
16. Work has been undertaken by the Local Resilience Forum and the North Yorkshire Local Health Resilience Partnership to ensure the escalation mechanisms are in place to respond to any emerging challenges emanating from a potential no deal scenario.
17. The Council has also assessed the Government's technical notices and information packs which provide information to allow

businesses and citizens to understand the technical and regulatory changes that would follow a no deal outcome.

18. This assessment has been made following consultation with relevant Heads of Service within the Council and with the Council's city partners.
19. Communication to residents, businesses and communities is the priority from this point onwards, although this is challenging given the continuing uncertainty in respect of the process by which the UK will exit. All individuals and organisations are advised to refer to [gov.uk/euexit](http://gov.uk/euexit) for the latest information.

### **Next steps**

20. Officers continue to maintain a watching brief on the emerging information provided by the Government, communicating it through as wide a range of channels as possible.
21. CYC will also continue to liaise with partners to prepare for EU Exit and to share information on the potential pressures that may arise from the UK leaving the EU.
22. The Local Resilience Forum and North Yorkshire Local Health Resilience Partnership will continue to prepare robust plans in the eventuality of a no deal scenario.

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**Report  
Approved**



**Date** 28/02/19

**Wards Affected:**

**All**

### **Glossary**

CYC – City of York Council  
EU – European Union  
HWBB – Health and Wellbeing Board  
UK – United Kingdom