

# **Wiltshire Council Brexit: Transition Readiness Review**

*23 November 2020*

## Transition readiness review

Throughout the last two years, Wiltshire Council has maintained an assessment of readiness to prepare for Brexit and in particular the possibility of a no-deal Brexit. The council has also participated in the Local Resilience Forum and civil contingency planning under the banner of Operation Yellowhammer. Operation Yellowhammer was stood down in early January 2020. Nationally, exercises for December 2020 are being planned under the banner of 'D20', recognising the multiple concurrent threats this winter (flu, covid-19, winter pressures, floods, end of EU transition, arrival of Hong Kong citizens, panic buying etc).

The government are currently in negotiations with the EU on the shape of any future relationship with the EU for when the transition period ends, and the UK leaves the single market and custom union, from 1 January 2021. It was originally understood that any deal must be agreed by the end of October 2020 at the latest, to enable ratification ahead of the end of December. In parallel, negotiations are underway on trade deals with other countries such as the USA, and any agreements could have implications for regulatory services and trading standards within the UK.

Government has confirmed plans to introduce import controls on EU goods at the border after the transition period ends on 31 December 2020. This will mean traders in the EU and GB will have to submit customs declarations and be liable to goods' checks in the same way as they do for the rest of the world. These controls will be applied in three stages up until July 2021; but regardless of these stages the implications for local businesses trading internationally are that they will require an EORI number and a customs agent. Government is providing £50m of support for customs intermediaries from September 2020. The key milestones to note are:

<b>31 December</b>	End of transition period
<b>1 January 2021</b>	New relationship with the EU or no trade deal with the EU. Traders have six months to complete relevant customs declarations (payments on any <a href="#">tariffs</a> deferred till then). Checks on controlled goods. Physical checks at the point of destination or other approved premises on all high risk live animals and plants. New immigration system comes into effect.
<b>1 April 2021</b>	All products of animal origin (POAO) – for example meat, pet food, honey, milk or egg products – and all regulated plants and plant products will also require pre-notification and the relevant health documentation.
<b>30 June 2021</b>	End date for EU citizens in the UK to make an application to the EU Settlement Scheme
<b>1 July 2021</b>	Traders moving all goods will have to make declarations at the point of importation and pay relevant tariffs. Full Safety and Security declarations will be required, while for SPS commodities there will be an increase in physical checks and the taking of samples: checks for animals, plants and their products will now take place at GB Border Control Posts.

This document considers Wiltshire Council actions with partners required to mitigate risks associated with the end of the Brexit transition period on 1 January 2021, when the country leaves the single market and customs union. It draws on the latest government advice ([www.gov.uk/transition](http://www.gov.uk/transition)) where available and accounts for the possibility of an agreement on the future relationship as well as the possibility there is no agreement on this.

Progress for these actions is summarized for a range of areas across the council using the following key:

Yet to commence	Underway	Aspect at risk / deserves attention	Unresolved risk to council business	Closed
-----------------	----------	-------------------------------------	-------------------------------------	--------

Government have provided [guidance](#) for councils on preparing for 1 January 2021, covering the following areas:

- **Health and social care**
- **Access to public services**
- **The EU Settlement Scheme**
- **Community engagement**
- **Regulatory services**
- **Council operations**

This document mirrors those headings and adds to them **Advice and Support for Business; EU funding and Contingency Planning**.

Some communications material is already available on the Wiltshire Council [website](#). This will be updated further once the shape of the new relationship with the EU becomes clearer. Use is also being made of social media and further targeted communications is taking place as necessary.

## Health and Social Care

Government advice is summarised as:

- In the event of supply disruption, see if you can manage it locally as part of usual processes. Tell any other local partners that may be affected e.g. NHS. Contact the LRF if needed.
- Review your business continuity or contingency plans regularly
- Prepare with suppliers now and make plans that cover all the supplies we use – from machinery to bed sheets, food and medicine

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
Social Care	Ask our social care providers to carry out self-assessment of readiness for the end of the transition period based on workforce and other issues.	<p>All social care providers have been asked to undertake a self-assessment and support has been offered</p> <p>SW ADASS and WCP continue to circulate advice. The Council has run a webinar for providers on BCPs and have advised in respect of Brexit. Advice also gone out in weekly newsletter</p> <p>Our social care providers have considered the implications of the new immigration requirements that will be in place from 2021, including the need for registration with the Home Office where necessary.</p>	<p><b>Lucy Townsend</b>  <b>Emma Legg</b>  <b>Helen Jones</b></p>	November 2020
Social Care	Review Business Continuity Plans and prepare with suppliers now to make plans for all the supplies we use – from machinery to bed sheets, food and medicine	<p>All commissioning &amp; ASC BCPs have been reviewed</p> <p>See above in respect of BCP webinar for providers</p>	<p><b>Lucy Townsend</b>  <b>Emma Legg</b>  <b>Helen Jones</b></p>	November 2020

## Access to public services for EU citizens

There will be no change in entitlement to public services for EU citizens living here before 31 December 2020; and none after if they live here and apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before 30 June 2021. New arrivals will be subject to the new immigration system and its requirements.

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
Housing/ benefits	Evaluate entitlement to social housing and homelessness support for EU citizens	No change in entitlement to social housing for EU citizens living here before 31 December 2020; and none after if they live here and apply to the EU Settlement Scheme before 30 June 2021. New arrivals will be subject to the new immigration system. NRPF advice <a href="#">here</a> . MHCLG have promised further guidance on housing legislation; and how changes will impact assessing applications for social housing and homelessness assistance from EEA citizens and their family members from 1 January 2021.	<b>Simon Hendey</b> Nicole Smith Ian P Brown	January 2021
Housing	Ensure landlords understand responsibilities on right to rent checks	Landlords (including Wiltshire Council) will need support in undertaking right to rent checks and further guidance is being sought from government to ensure EU citizens are not inadvertently discriminated against (particularly for the period between January and July 2021)	<b>Simon Hendey</b> Nicole Smith	January 2021
Register office	Clarify situation for legal marriage ceremonies whereby EU nationals can attend their local register office to give notice of marriage	Advice from the General Register Office for England and Wales is that there will be <a href="#">no change</a> to the existing notice taking arrangements until after 30 June 2021. EU and Foreign nationals will be required to give notice of marriage at one of the 70 Designated Register Offices throughout England and Wales initially (Wiltshire is not one of these – the nearest being Swindon and Bristol). Training will be rolled out in Spring 2021 to enable all register offices in England and Wales to undertake notices of marriage or civil partnership for all foreign nationals.	<b>Ian Gibbons</b> Alison Manning	July 2021
Elections	Clarify status of EU citizens and eligibility to stand and vote in UK local elections (including by-elections). Ensure reflected in electoral register.	Government <a href="#">statement</a> means the UK has unilaterally granted EU citizens the right to vote and stand in local elections for the time being. As at November 2021, the position remains the same meaning EU citizens will be eligible to vote in May 2021 local elections as well as PCC elections (as per electoral register).	<b>Terence Herbert</b> Maria Doherty Caroline Rudland	May 2021

## EU Settlement Scheme and Community Engagement

The EU Settlement Scheme allows those who have arrived before the end of December 2020 until June 2021 to apply for settlement. Separate agreements have also been reached with EFTA countries.

Area	Actions	Status / update	Action owner	Date
EU citizens resident in Wiltshire	Publicise EU settlement scheme with appropriate community groups.	<p>Info made available on website and with community groups via CEMs.</p> <p>4.26 million people have already applied nationally out of an EU population originally estimated as around 3.5 million in the UK.</p> <p>Latest <a href="#">stats</a> (for June 2020) show that 11,710 EU citizens in Wiltshire have signed up by March 2020 (or 9920 adults compared with 7995 adults on electoral register). Press release issued July 2020 confirming progress made and further targeted and timely comms is planned.</p>	<b>Jess Gibbons</b> Ceri Tocock	December 2020
EU Citizens in Care	Check for EU citizens that are supported by adult social care and advertise/ apply for EU settlement on their behalf (depending on capacity)	<p>All LAS records have been reviewed and individuals identified who may need support to make an application. Contact will be made with all these individuals and assistance provided.</p> <p>Those subject to DoLs/ CoP will have EU settlement applied for (33 on LAS, 4 on DOLs). All teams within adult care are highlighting this issue within assessments/annual reviews and there is a clear plan to progress. This is also being considered within the Advice and Contact team and individuals signposted to CAB where appropriate who can assist with applications.</p>	<b>Emma Legg</b> Peter Twiggs/ Emma Townsend (Iain Kirby Peter Redpath)	December 2020
EU Citizens in Care	Check for EU citizens that are Looked After Children / Care Leavers and apply for settlement on their behalf.	All LAC have since been reviewed for the potential need for EU settled status and for the relevant cases have had their application made and with the appropriate docs being drawn together. Home Office funding to check on a quarterly basis has been drawn down.	<b>Martin Davis</b> Matthew Turner	November 2020

## Regulatory

The EU Withdrawal Act transposes EU law (the *acquis communautaire*) into UK law. Secondary legislation will be implemented at the end of the transition period pursuant to this (with possible changes if agreed in a new relationship with the EU).

There will be changes to databases, labelling, designations and safety requirements for businesses to adjust to alongside changes to some environmental health and trading standards operations.

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
Procurement	Review all strategic contracts for risk points, including risks associated with the Competition and Markets Authority replacing OJEU arrangements with a new procurement hub.	Our ProContract e-sourcing solution is one of the <a href="#">nationally recognised</a> core “feeder” systems that Central Govt are working with to ensure that where our notices would have been notified at OJEU level via Tenders electronic Daily (TED) instead go on the new UK e-notification service. The change ought to be minimal.  Wire message addresses internal audit findings around contract documents, exit strategies and BCDR. Review of strategic contracts in July 2019 allowed addressing of this as terms stay same during transition, so other action on contingency planning ought to manage the existing contract risk. Further messaging to contract managers went in Sept 2019.	<b>Andy Brown</b> Jonathon Hopkins	November 2020
Procurement	Review standard clauses with legal for reference to the EU.	This work has been underway since the initial leaving date, and is regularly reviewed to reflect the developing agenda.	<b>Andy Brown</b> Jonathon Hopkins	November 2020
Trading Standards	Implementation of new databases to replace TRACES (EU system enables the service to trace the history of imports and importers) and RAPx (Product Safety) as well as cosmetics.	A replacement for TRACES has been produced (Import Notification System) known as IPAFFS. No replacement for RAPEX is expected other than the Product Safety Database operated by the Office for Product Safety and Standards. We have been submitting intelligence to this database for approximately a year. For	<b>Jessica Gibbons</b> John Carter (Yvonne Bennett)	November 2020

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
		cosmetics, the UK will have its own notification database from 1/1/21. This will replace the current European database.	(Jenny Thomson)	
Trading Standards/ Food & Safety	Assess potential demand for additional queries on labelling, conformity and safety. Consider additional training required for staff on food import sampling and controls	The national food standards delivery programme is under review by the Food Standards Agency and a number of local authorities will be participating in a scheme to pilot a new delivery model. Wiltshire has not been selected to participate in this pilot. We will continue to work with our businesses to ensure they are familiar with the current food standards legislation, for both internal trade, imports and exports. We have undertaken update training on the recent Official Controls Regulations EU Reg 2017/625 to ensure that we, as an inland authority, work closely with all other relevant agencies to safeguard the food supply chain. The office for Product Safety and Standards is periodically providing information for businesses via a series of webinars in preparation for the end of the transition period. We will be signposting relevant businesses to the information.	<b>Jessica Gibbons</b> John Carter (Jenny Thomson)	November 2020
Trading Standards/ Food & Safety	Support for importers/ exporters of food and fertilisers.	<p>13 export health certificates were issued last year. Numbers are unlikely to be a problem. A new digital platform is expected to be introduced soon.</p> <p>In 2019 food businesses were written to by both Wiltshire Council and the FSA and advised of new labelling arrangements. Only a dozen or so businesses are exporters. Only one query was received in response which was easily handled.</p> <p>Defra/APHA have done some work on this, very much headline figures and an estimate –currently no EHCs required for intra-EC trade in POAO. HMRC only maintain</p>	<b>Jessica Gibbons</b> John Carter (Jenny Thomson)	November 2020



Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
		<p>trade data by total volumes/value and have found it challenging to identify the number of additional consignments that would require EU EHCs for POAO after end-December 2020.</p> <p>LA Certifying Officers will only be able to sign EU EHCs for fish and fish products, honey and composite products containing fish products and/or egg products.            Figures - Defra have been able to provide are as follows:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• APHA currently issue approximately 35,000 EHCs for POAO per annum to support exports to non-EU countries.</li> <li>• Estimated the number of EHCs issued in GB may increase five-fold from the 57,000 in 2017, with at least half relating to fish and fish products.</li> </ul> <p>There is no statutory requirement for LAs to provide an official export health certification service on behalf of APHA and Defra Ministers - this work sits outside their statutory Official Controls responsibilities on behalf of the FSA under the Food Law Codes of Practice.</p> <p>Since Monday 1 June 2020, applications for Export Health Certificates have been submitted online to APHA/Defra using the new EHC Online service –either an official veterinarian or LA can be approached to authorise.</p>		

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
Environmental Control and Protection	Potential changes to air quality legislation	We await the Environment Bill to give clarity on Air Quality (AQ) legislation as the government will no longer be overseen by the EU on this subject. We need to be aware of the changes to the AQ framework as this will likely put emphasis on Local Authorities as Government relieves itself of burdens not contained in international agreements and accords. The Office of Environmental Protection will also come into effect under the new legislation.	Jessica Gibbons John Carter	March 2021?

## Council Operations

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
ICT	Ensure sound data sharing basis is in place for key programmes e.g. army basing; and ensure appropriate siting of cloud-based IT (if the EU do not provide an adequacy decision).	<p>O365 for Europe is hosted in Dublin/Amsterdam. However, because of the UK Govt insistence on certain areas of govt being hosted in the UK, they recently opened the UK O365 data centres. We have requested that our tenancy be moved to the UK as our original intention was to share with the Police and a UK hosted O365 addressed some of their national security concerns. However, due to the large number of UK orgs wanting to do this, means this will not happen imminently. In the meantime, the Standard Contractual Clauses are in place, see the first two answers in this FAQ:  <a href="https://products.office.com/en-gb/business/office-365-trust-center-eu-model-clauses-faq">https://products.office.com/en-gb/business/office-365-trust-center-eu-model-clauses-faq</a></p> <p>Service areas have been asked to assure any data hosting arrangements for their software or suppliers</p>	<p><b>Ian Robinson</b>  Mike Ibbetson</p>	<p>November 2020</p>
Information Governance	Apply ICO <a href="#">toolkit</a> to ensure data sharing basis is sound, accounting for the possibility that equivalence is not granted to UK GDPR arrangements following the European Commission's assessment	<p>If the EU do not arrive at a position of declaring they are happy enough with UK security measures for the transfer of data, and an adequacy decision is not forthcoming from the European Commission, then at the point of transition ending there are issues of compliance if we are transferring data from the EU into the UK. These can potentially be overcome using standard contractual clauses which would allow a legal basis for transfer (outgoing) from the EU. These are model data protection clauses that have been approved by the European Commission and enable the free flow of personal data when embedded in a contract. The clauses contain contractual obligations on us and our EU partners and rights for the individuals whose personal data is transferred. This would need to apply to any processing the council</p>	<p><b>Ian Gibbons</b>  <b>Maria Doherty</b>  (Sarah Butler/  Andy Holyoake)</p>	<p>November 2020</p>

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
		undertakes on servers outside of the UK. MHCLG will be issuing further guidance on data adequacy for councils shortly.		
Human Resources	Ensure appropriate right to work checks are in place from 30 June 2021; (we cannot require job applicants to show their status under the EU Settlement Scheme until then).		Jo Pitt	June 2021
Human Resources	Consider whether we wish to sponsor skilled migrants under the new immigration system in place for people arriving in the UK from 1 January 2021. EU citizens applying for a skilled worker visa will need to show they have a job offer from an approved employer sponsor to be able to apply. If we plan as an employer to sponsor skilled migrants from 2021, and are not currently an approved sponsor, we should consider getting approved <a href="#">now</a> .	<p>To be eligible for a skilled worker or health and care visa, the main requirements are that a worker has to be in a job deemed to be of a sufficiently high skill level (roughly equivalent to A level or above), to be paid above a minimum salary threshold (lower than currently) and to be able to speak English to the required level. The process should be faster with no requirement to perform the resident labour market test and no cap on numbers. Those coming to work in health and care are also promised some other advantages: lower visa fees, abolition of the immigration health surcharge and faster processing times.</p> <p>Some changes may make it easier to hire migrants into social care e.g. senior care workers are added to the list of eligible occupations though the required salaries may be challenging. But the key frontline role of care assistant is ineligible.</p>	Jo Pitt Lucy Townsend	December 2020
Waste	Review risk to exports of recycling and refuse derived fuel and identify any necessary contingency plans in light of government <a href="#">guidance</a>	Shipments of waste for recycling and energy recovery operations should be able to continue. As with other notified waste, the notification process will be retained with some minor additional <a href="#">customs procedures</a> which will need to be followed when exporting to the EU. We are continuing to monitor this with Hills and FCC. All EU countries have now	Parvis Khansari Martin Litherland	November 2020

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
	<p>Ensure waste carriers complete notifications forms with details of EU Customs Office of Entry and, where relevant, EU Customs Office of Exit,</p> <p>Ensure waste carriers pass a copy of the Movement document to the Customs Office of Entry into the EU, and, where relevant, EU Customs Office of Exit,</p> <p>Ensure waste carrier is suitably authorised to carry waste in the relevant EU countries.</p> <p>Ensure contractors are prepared for possible delays to waste exports of solid recovered fuel or disruption to vehicles maintenance spares (waste collection) and specialist equipment at the materials recycling facility (MRF) in Calne and the Mechanical Biological Treatment facility at Westbury (noting that there is limited opportunity to send recycling to third party MRFs in short term, but if MBT was inoperable the waste normally sent there would have to be landfilled).</p>	<p>agreed that approvals can continue. Most wastes considered as “goods” will be subject to tariffs of 3 – 7%. The <a href="#">WTO</a> and <a href="#">EU</a> websites provide a breakdown of tariff by material.</p> <p>Waste management is viewed as a service under WTO rules but waste is also seen as a good. This means that for most waste exports where the waste is sold for waste management as a good, the WTO rules for goods apply. Where the service of waste management is bought by the holder of a waste, WTO rules for a service apply (=0). In particular, this applies to RDF and SRF waste streams. Wiltshire currently exports Refuse Derived Fuel to the EU.</p> <p>Landfill is the fallback option with landfilling of solid recovered fuel produced at the waste treatment plant = £+1m costs and reduced landfill diversion rates. There could also be landfilling of some materials collected for recycling if MBT was not operable as storage is not a viable option = reduced income and reduced recycling rates, and environmental impacts of degrading organic materials such as paper and card. Work continues with all contractors to ensure readiness; contractors are exploring contingency plans in the event that there are problems with ports on the south coast. EA will need to license any additional storage capacity in the event of disruption or delays.</p> <p>UPDATE 13/10/20:  Primary mitigation to avoid landfilling SRF/RDF produced at the Northacre MBT involves selecting a haulage route into Europe that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Avoids Dover, and the potential for more significant delays there than other UK ports as traffic volumes are that much greater at Dover, and</li> </ol>		

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
		<p>b. Utilise a port where ships sail directly into the country of final destination for the RDF, will remove the need for one of the expected transport documents (Transit Authorisation Document, TAD). The contractor is progressing this option.</p> <p>Anticipated requirement for three separate documents to allow the export of SRF/RDF from the UK into Europe and to travel through Europe:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>c. UK Export document (required in all cases)</li> <li>d. EU Import document (required in all cases)</li> <li>e. Transit Authorisation Document, TAD (required if entering an EU country and travelling through into another EU country)</li> </ul> <p>Each of the above documents will have a fee associated with it. In 2021 Hills intends to ship 15,000 tonnes of RDF to a facility in Holland. This is an alternative arrangement arranged by a German facility and 10,000 tonnes to ARN (Holland). Transport to both these facilities will be UK directly into Holland with no TAD required. As yet the cost of the import and export documents are not known. A UK-based energy from waste facility is also due to begin accepting SRF/RDF from the Northacre MBT in November 2021, providing a further alternative to exporting this material. Assessment of 2019/20 recycling destinations showed that 95% of waste collected for recycling, composting and re-use was managed within the UK. This situation persists, which should provide some protection against the need to landfill recyclate that cannot be exported for a period.</p>		

## Advice and support for business

A recent significant development in Wiltshire is the announcement of job losses due to restructuring of Dyson (announced in August 2020). The county's business community in general is still working through the impacts of Covid-19 which may also change the context for individual concerns around transition. BEIS have commissioned the SWLEP Growth Hub to provide regular intelligence reports on individual business concerns. MHCLG and BEIS have developed a framework for local authorities and Growth Hubs to work together to develop this local intelligence. In addition, the role of the 9 local authority Chief Executives who have been acting as regional conduits to government will continue with a shift in focus to providing insight on performance of local economies and monitoring impact of any economic shocks in conjunction with the Growth Hubs. The council also monitors feedback received directly by businesses. Most recently, analysis has been commissioned to provide a South-West economic perspective on the Bank of England forecasting for different future trade models and a draft report for Wiltshire produced.

Exporting and importing businesses in Wiltshire may need support with new customs arrangements coming into effect. The need to plan for potential disruption at ports could see civil contingency arrangements stood back up towards the end of the year although the government's proposed approach to [border control](#) aims to avoid this.

Regardless of the shape of the future relationship, council and LEP support for inward investment and trade promotion work, in conjunction with DIT, will continue to be important. In general, the large businesses appear to have considered risks, acted on contingencies or have them in place; many smaller SMEs appear to have not and do not know how they will be affected, if at all. Farming is an industry particularly at risk dependent on the approach to tariffs and checks that emerge. The [Agriculture Bill](#) aims to provide clarity on the approach to public payments for public goods and the Environment Bill on the standards that will be upheld.

Economy	Work with SW LEP on support to importing and exporting firms to make the most of any new trading arrangements and changes in the value of the £; and to encourage FDI. Work with Visit Wiltshire on tourism	Advice signposted on LEP growth hub Advice on WC website link to <a href="http://gov.uk/brexit">gov.uk/brexit</a>  EORI messaging has been promoted to non-VAT registered business via LEP; also promoting export growth fund. Exporters and importers looking to build capacity for their own customs management might be able to get financial help from the <a href="#">Customs Grant Scheme</a> . The scheme is run by PWC with aims to help SMEs with costs associated with	<b>Sam Fox</b> (Pete Manley)	November 2020
---------	---	---	---------------------------------	---------------

		<p>increasing their capacity and enhancing their ability to complete customs declarations. Courses are available from the <a href="#">UK Customs Academy</a>, set up at the request of HM Revenue and Customs to support the development of a robust and sustainable customs intermediaries sector for the future. <b>The Internationalisation Grant scheme</b> will launch on 30 November to offer ERDF grants to small and medium businesses to support their export drives. The grant scheme which will require businesses to provide match funds, will be operated by Capita. Council staff are working with the SWLEP to ensure full knowledge of the scheme in time for its. Currently, the project has a task to support 95 SMEs in the Swindon and Wiltshire area. Also – in touch with BusinessWest who hold the DIT international trade advisor contracts – and are also concerned about numbers of small previously non-exporters (EU single market suppliers) coming to them requiring small but significant levels of help.</p>		
Economy	Ensure task force with employment and skills team to address any major redundancies can be implemented quickly	<p>A task force was rapidly convened for the closure of Cooper Tires in Melksham; and following restructuring of Dyson. There is a lot of work ongoing with partners (Serco SSR, NCS, Swindon Borough) to help firms coordinate post-redundancy interventions. Work is ongoing to pool resources and work with partners across boundaries to reflect labour market/ travel to work zones. Similar arrangements can be stood up as required in future.</p>	<b>Sam Fox</b> (Mandy Timbrell)	August 2020



Economy	Conduct mood assessment of Wiltshire 100 major employers and engage with key business representative groups via SWLEP.	Taking place on a rolling basis	<b>Sam Fox</b> (Pete Manley)	November 2020
Economy	Work with SWLEP on information, signposting, advice for businesses	Advice signposted on <a href="https://www.gov.uk/growth-hub">growth hub</a> <a href="https://www.gov.uk/transition">https://www.gov.uk/transition</a> Business Continuity Advice on Wiltshire Council <a href="#">website</a>	<b>Sam Fox</b> (Pete Manley)	November 2020
Economy	Engage farming industry through the SW LEP rural economy sub group, to consider industry readiness in this area	Agri Bill and Env. Bill have been considered as discrete items – CLA/ NFU and WWT/ WC have brought their knowledge to the group as a way of explaining the effects of the Bills	<b>Sam Fox</b>	November 2020
Economy	Consider and monitor medium term risks to those who are vulnerable and likely to be affected by e.g. any food price increases	This is being considered by the Community Resilience theme of the Covid-19 recovery work.  The LRF response to any short term food disruption will be gathering any intelligence / information and submitting to the centre.	<b>Simon Hende</b> Frank Coleman (wellbeing hub)  Rhys Schell (foodbanks)	November 2020

## EU funding

EU funding for existing projects in Wiltshire is secured for all projects contracted by 31 December 2020. In reality, it means that projects can deliver until early 2023 which is the natural end of the 2014-2020 programming period. The 2017 government promised a consultation on the replacement for EU funding, through a new UK Shared Prosperity Fund. No consultation has yet taken place, though the UKSPF has not been abandoned according to sources. It is not yet clear whether the funding will be allocated on the basis of functional economic areas (LEPs) or to upper tier councils - and very possibly will be to both. The UKSPF has been superseded by the 2019 government's Build Back Better/ Levelling Up and Green Homes agenda, other funds such as the Stronger Towns Fund and Future High Street Fund, and to some extent, COVID-19 funding, though this was not growth oriented. As it is, once projects and programmes end, they are not currently being replaced either directly, or in terms of new policy which will lead to new programmes, such as the LEADER or rural development programmes.

Area	Actions	Status	Action owner	Date
EU funded projects	<p>Work with SW LEP to review list of EU funded projects and applications and consider any non-financial impacts (staffing, travel, access to resources, contractual terms).</p> <p>Consider implications of UK funding guarantee for EU projects in UK and any issues for the timing of match funding as these arise.</p>	<p>Final calls for projects have put in place a new portfolio of business-facing projects until mid-2023. Projects continue to deliver the 2014 ESIF Strategy in its the second phase of the 7 - 8 year programme. Currently there are 7 ERDF projects (total grant of £4.3m) covering:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Start-up, scale-up – productivity / funding for SMEs - SWLEP</li> <li>• SWI4G - Innovation across sectors - Uni. West England (UWE)</li> <li>• Digital Accelerator @ Corsham digi-mansion – Set Squared / Uni Bath</li> <li>• Internationalisation – Grant scheme - Capita (via Dept Int. Trade)</li> <li>• Target 2030 – Energy efficiency for SMEs – Severn Wye Energy</li> <li>• Inward investment – SWLEP with SBC and Wiltshire Council</li> </ul> <p>Also 4 capital projects in pipeline - Porton Science Phase 2 (others are transformative energy and circular economy projects in Swindon – one of which is a Refuse Derived Fuel facility (recycling facility)).</p> <p>On Skills; the ESF Programme has closed to new calls. The Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) has extended projects to deliver until 2023. These projects provide critical difference for resident's in the job market in coming years and supporting SMEs become more productive.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The main local offer – the £3m Serco coordinated skills support for workforce, (and redundancy) continues to meet a strong demand.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Sam Fox</b> Julian Head</p>	<p>November 2020</p>

Area	Actions	Status	Action owner	Date
		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This project is focused on delivery digital skills as firms adjust to the pandemic. Leadership and management training to SMEs furthering their use of digital tools. Serco project also now highly involved with redundancies, working with many firms and individuals reskilling for new roles.</li> <li>• Get Ahead programme (Wiltshire College in partnership with New College) prevents 16-24 NEET – with apprenticeships, traineeships, work experience and further education offered. Demand has dropped off over a critical period for school leavers who have been ‘lost in lockdown’ – the spike of NEETs predicted has not materialised – as schools and other organisations are unable to deliver on all commitments due to restrictions. Engagement with schools is difficult, as they divert attention referrals are not made.</li> <li>• The community grants scheme makes targeted interventions for specific cohorts of people and places, could extend in spring 2023 – no decision until January 2021.</li> </ul>		
EU funded projects	Lobbying on the size, criteria and processes of the new UK Shared Prosperity Fund from 2020 - emphasising the value of a single pot and streamlined bureaucracy and investment in central southern locations.	<p>The UKSPF consultation has not yet occurred. Given that subsidy and State Aid, and more widely, the UK’s basis for trade, regulation and support (its playing field) has not been adequately developed or explained, it is still difficult for govt to confirm the type, extent, scope or purpose of UKSPF.</p> <p>The LEP has finalised an Industrial Strategy with clear priorities which will inform the response; and recently submitted a list of shovel ready projects to aid recovery from the covid-19 pandemic.</p> <p>There remains a lot of uncertainty on the UK SPF. Whilst “Place” remains a current theme for government policy-makers, the thematic agenda is less clear other than the broad ideas of ‘Levelling Up’ and ‘Build Back Better.’ Any announcements in Autumn or Spring are likely to be for a short period of spending – and will not repeat the 7 – 10 year funding cycles enjoyed under ESIF and Horizon 2020.</p>	Sam Fox Julian Head	November 2020

Area	Actions	Status	Action owner	Date
		<p>Council must be prepared to make bids at short notice, and will have to risk resources on gathering evidence and developing policy without any certainty on what might be investable. As with all new programmes, Council is advised to develop evidence-led policy for economic development and regeneration to inform what the funds should be for in advance of government funds being made available – simply along the broad themes announced. The area's Local Industrial Strategy, should provide a starting point for more detailed policy and bidding. Council should also assemble data from existing delivery and use to inform of current and future need.</p> <p>Given recent initiatives, it is likely any local needs (eg; energy and transport infrastructure, net-zero development, skills and inclusion, rural economy, community-led development and key sectors such as cyber and life sciences) could be separately supported so the Council may need to ensure disparate funds are put into coherent programmes to make the offer accessible and inclusive and ensure they are delivered effectively and efficiently.</p>		

## Contingency planning

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
Resilience	Work as part of the Local Resilience Forum on contingency plans	SCG, TCG, Intel and comms representatives for Wiltshire Council have been confirmed.	<b>Terence Herbert</b>	September 2020
Resilience	Ensure access and training on Resilience Direct	EP are attending relevant training and arranging relevant internal briefing. CLT members will receive further training early December.	<b>Kate Blackburn</b> (Chris Manuel/ Sarah Kelly)	November 2020
Resilience	Health check fuel, food and supply chain contingency plans with LRF	<p>Priority staff for fuel have been updated alongside business continuity plans. Bunkered fuel capacity has been assessed and topped up as appropriate. Suppliers are being reminded of contractual requirements for business continuity arrangements. Stranded passenger plan has been developed with WC input.</p> <p>Multi-agency fuel shortage exercise took place mid-November with highways and fleet services an integral part.</p>	<p><b>Kate Blackburn</b> (Chris Manuel/ Sarah Kelly)</p> <p><b>Parvis Khansari</b></p>	November 2020
Resilience	Ensure safety of private water supplies	Wiltshire Council has responsibilities for risk assessing and monitoring the standards of drinking water for around 600 private water supplies in the county. The primary responsibility for maintaining these non-mains supplies lies with their owners and they will ensure that adequate supplies of any chemicals, where needed for treatment, are maintained (Wessex Water have offered support with this). In addition the council has a contract with South Eastern Water (SEW) who transport our water samples to their laboratory and analyse them for a range of bacteriological and chemical contaminants. SEW has Business Continuity (BC) plans in place to ensure continuation of their service after transition ends.	<b>Jessica Gibbons</b> John Carter	September 2020

Area	Actions	Update / Status	Action owner	Date
Resilience	Ensure that plans for community tensions monitoring and engagement with the voluntary sector are robust, with LRF	EP attend a weekly Op Quantum meeting with Police and multi-agency partners that covers public tension/disorder. Voluntary sector engagement and arrangements are well established.	<b>Terence Herbert</b> <b>Jessica Gibbons</b> (Chris Manuel/ Sarah Kelly)	September 2020
Commissioning/ Procurement	<p>Ask our supply chain to carry out self-assessment of readiness for the end of the transition period based on workforce and other issues (using government advice on <a href="http://www.gov.uk/transition">www.gov.uk/transition</a>).</p> <p>This should include consideration of issues such as supply chain disruption and potential impact of panic buying.</p>	<p>A range of communications and advice has been shared regularly with social care providers through arrangements established during the pandemic.</p> <p>A Brexit briefing for schools has been prepared which outlines the need for schools to consider potential disruption to school food from 1 January.</p> <p>State-funded schools and co-ordinating councils are also aware that after 31 December 2020 they should continue to offer school places to foreign national children who are resident in the UK as now. However, from 1 January EEA and Swiss national children applying from abroad will be treated the same as any other foreign national child: they will not normally be able to enter the UK to study at a state-funded school or 16-19 academy. Under the new skilled worker route, the dependent child of a Skilled Worker (for example if their parent is offered a job in the UK) is permitted to study (subject to certain other conditions if they are 18 or over). This means that any study is permitted, which doesn't stop them from going to a state-funded school. <a href="#">Government guidance for schools and LAs</a> is available</p>	<p><b>Andy Brown</b> <b>Helen Jones</b> Jonathon Hopkins</p> <p><b>Helean Hughes</b></p>	November 2020