

Subject: Question and Answer Sessions with the Mayor of London on the possible effects of a “no deal” Brexit on London, followed by John Barradell, Chair of the London Resilience Local Authorities’ Panel

Report to: EU Exit Working Group

Report of: Executive Director of Secretariat

Date: 25 October 2018

This report will be considered in public

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report provides background information for the EU Exit Working Group’s meeting with the Mayor of London and John Barradell, Chair of the London Resilience Local Authorities’ Panel.
- 1.2 Part 1 of this meeting will see Members put questions to the Mayor of London to discuss his assessment of possible effects of a “no-deal” Brexit on London.
- 1.3 Part 2 of this meeting will see Members put questions to John Barradell, Chair of the London Resilience Local Authorities’ Panel and Chief Executive of the City of London Corporation, about the work of the London Resilience Forum and Local Resilience Forums to assess the likely consequences of a “no-deal” Brexit and what preparations they are taking to mitigate any possible negative impacts.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Working Group:

- (a) **Notes the report as background to putting questions to the Mayor of London;**
- (b) **Notes the report as background to putting questions to John Barradell, Chair of the London Resilience Local Authorities’ Panel and Chief Executive of the City of London Corporation; and**
- (c) **Notes the subsequent discussion.**

3. Background

- 3.1 Article 50 of the Treaty on the European Union provides for an EU Member State to leave the EU with or without a withdrawal agreement or 'deal'.
- 3.2 The UK and the EU aim to reach an agreement on the UK's terms for withdrawal and the framework for future relations by November 2018 in order to allow time for agreement in the UK Parliament and across the EU. If there is no withdrawal agreement and the UK does not request to, or there is no EU agreement to, extend the negotiations, or ratification is not achieved, then there will be no deal and the EU Treaties will no longer apply to the UK from 29 March 2019.
- 3.3 The Government has stated that preparations for a no deal scenario are part of its overall Brexit preparation strategy. Secondary legislation is being laid under the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018 that will preserve EU law in domestic law or convert it into UK law on exit day, 29 March 2019. If the UK leaves the EU without a deal, most EU law will still apply in the UK as domestic law (i.e. retained EU law or EU-based UK law) but there will be no reciprocity with EU Member States.
- 3.4 The Government believes that a "no-deal" scenario could be managed in an "orderly" fashion. The Department for Exiting the EU has published 19 technical papers to support businesses and other organisations in their preparations.
- 3.5 The likely impacts of such a scenario are still unknown and the Mayor of London is appearing before the London Assembly EU Exit Working Group to discuss his assessment of the possible effects on London – the economy and the livelihood of its residents.
- 3.6 In terms of actions associated with "no-deal", the Mayor has:
- Launched a survey of London businesses to determine exactly what preparations they are undertaking and what support they need from the Government;
 - Launched a Brexit Hub on the London Growth Hub to assist businesses to navigate "no-deal" preparedness advice; and
 - Asked the London Resilience Forum to establish the impact of a "no-deal" Brexit on critical areas such as access to medicines, energy and food, as well as the ability to maintain emergency care, law and order.

4. Issues for Consideration

- 4.1 In part 1 of this meeting, Members will put questions to the Mayor across a number of areas including his assessment of the likely impact of a "no-deal" Brexit on:
- The London economy and the livelihood of Londoners with a particular reference to the supply chains for food, fuels and medicines;
 - The ability of firms in London to trade with, raise credit with and to continue to do business with firms in the EU; and
 - The freedom of movement of UK citizens to the EU, EU citizens to London and on the status of EU nationals in London.

- 4.2 Part 2 of this meeting will see Members put questions to John Barradell, Chair of the London Resilience Local Authorities' Panel and Chief Executive of the City of London, on:
- The work of the London Resilience Forum and Local Resilience Forums to assess the likely consequences of a “no-deal” Brexit; and
 - What preparations they are undertaking to mitigate any negative impacts.

5. Legal Implications

- 5.1 The Assembly has the power to do what is recommended in this report.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are none.

List of appendices to this report: None.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985
List of Background Papers: None.
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