

EU Transition North Somerset risk assessment



December 2020



Background

- On 23 June 2016 the United Kingdom voted to leave the European Union. Nationally 51.9% of voters opted to leave. North Somerset was closely aligned to the national result with 52.2% of voters opting to leave.
- The UK Government invoked Article 50 of the Treaty of the European Union in March 2017, culminating in the UK formally leaving the EU on 31 January 2020. Following on from that we entered a transition period. This time-limited period was agreed as part of the Withdrawal Agreement and will come to an end on 31 December 2020.
- During the transition period the UK Government have been negotiating the future working relationship with the EU including a trade deal. Alongside this, national planning has taken place which includes a reasonable worst case scenario in the event of a no-deal Brexit or a negotiated deal which diverges significantly from current legal frameworks.
- This reasonable worst case scenario has been used to to inform national, regional and local planning.

Background

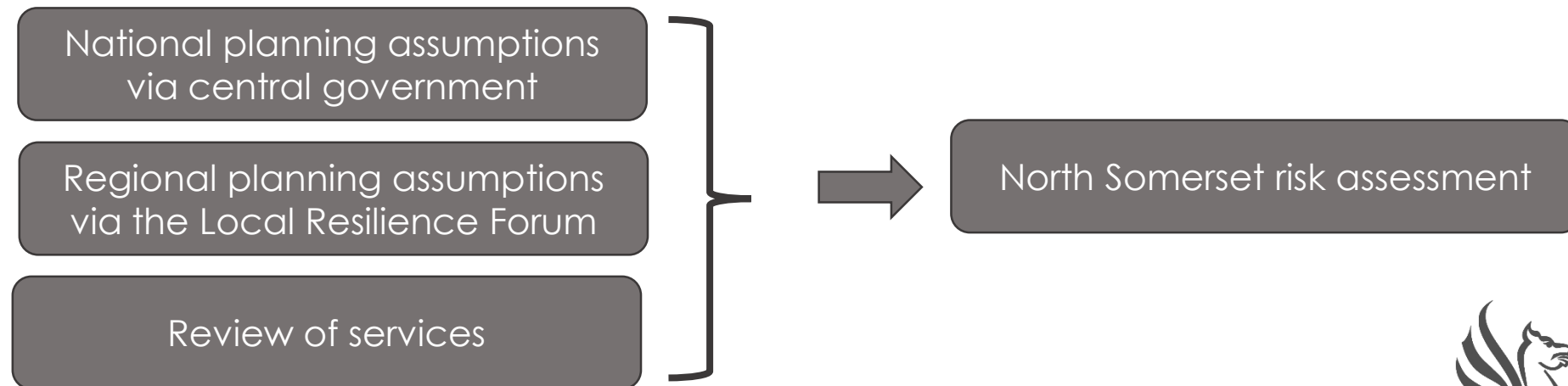
The government is responsible for leading the withdrawal process of the UK from the EU.

North Somerset Council's primary responsibility is continuing to provide the best possible services to our residents and our stakeholders, and manage any disruption to residents, to partners or to businesses and the district as a whole, as aligned to our Corporate Plan vision:



Local picture

- Since the referendum, the council has been working to understand the possible social and economic impact of Brexit on North Somerset and its residents, both in terms of risks and opportunities. An EU transition Officer Working group was stood up in Autumn 2019 to prepare for our departure from the EU.
- The working group undertook a North Somerset risk assessment which was informed by both national and regional planning assumptions.
- The risk assessment ensured we are aware of any risks to the organisation and to the area, and from there to put in place mitigations to ensure that services can continue to operate once the transition period ends.
- The risk assessment has been reviewed and updated in advance of the end of the transition period.



Risk assessment

- The North Somerset risk assessment has been based on an analysis of the government's reasonable worst case scenario. This is to allow for mitigations in the event of a no deal scenario or a negotiated deal which differs from the current legal frameworks.
- The risk assessment has been grouped into the following themes:
 - Workforce and key operations
 - Civil contingencies
 - Legal and regulatory
 - Finance and economy

To note, some themes cross-over or are linked with others.

- The progress against each risk has been RAG rated GREEN, AMBER or RED. This includes work at a local, regional and national level.
- The residual risk following that progress and any mitigating actions has been RAG rated GREEN, AMBER or RED.
- Where COVID has created additional pressure against those risks this has been RAG rated GREEN, AMBER or RED and is picked up under our COVID risk assessment.

Workforce and key operations

Key risks	Actions	Progress	Risk status	COVID
The potential implications of a no deal Brexit or the negotiated deal on the council's and partner workforces including capacity to respond to changes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of workforce capacity across services likely to be affected. Promotion of the EU settlement scheme to all staff, to the public and partners including what it is, how to apply, and what is required. Ongoing analysis of settled status data against population data. <i>Note, the deadline to apply for settled status is July 2021</i> 	Green	Amber	Red
The potential implications of a no deal Brexit or the negotiated deal on the council's key operations.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of key operations across services likely to be affected including legal and regulatory services, economy and social care. Review of data which is stored or processed in the EU either directly by us, or through third party suppliers 	Green	Amber	Red
Scope and consistency of communications regarding a no deal Brexit or the negotiated deal	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Share national communications to stakeholders and residents. 	Green	Green	Green

Civil contingencies

Brexit preparations around civil contingencies are being undertaken as a multi-agency response via the Avon and Somerset Local Resilience Forum (LRF).

Key risks	Actions	Progress	Risk status	COVID
<p>Possible disruption, as acknowledged by government, to food, medicine and fuel supplies due to changes in regulations and border controls</p> <p>Worst case planning assumptions have been published by government for border disruption: <i>The planning assumption is that EU Member States will impose EU third country controls on UK goods at the end of the transition period. This will mean that all freight that travels to the border without the correct documentation will be stopped before boarding services in the UK or on arrival at Member State ports. On 1 January 2021, the Reasonable Worst Case Scenario (RWCS) is that 40-70% of trucks travelling to the EU might not be ready for new border controls.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Multi-agency working with the Local Resilience forum to review the worst case planning assumptions and analyse as part of the North Somerset risk assessment. Keep up to date with and continue to follow advice and guidance from the Department for Health and Social Care and any other government departments. North Somerset chairs the Multi-Agency Intelligence Cell regularly reviewing the LRF risk assessment. 	Green	Amber	Amber
<p>Community cohesion and public disorder in the event of a no deal Brexit or the negotiated deal.</p> <p><i>Linked to workforce and capacity.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is being managed via Avon and Somerset Police and a command team is in place. North Somerset Community Safety team working closely with ASP. 	Green	Amber	Amber

Legal, regulatory and supply chains

Key risks	Actions	Progress	Risk status	COVID
<p>The potential legal and regulatory implications of a no deal Brexit or the negotiated deal on the council's services including trading standards and other enforcement and regulatory activities.</p> <p><i>Linked to workforce and key operations.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep in close contact with Central Government for updates on any changes in legislation. • Review of any changes to laws as part of a no deal Brexit or the negotiated deal for key council areas. • Additional capacity provided to support specific work around regulatory services. 	Green	Amber	Red
<p>The potential flow of goods via ports and borders, as acknowledged by government, of a no deal Brexit or the negotiated deal leading to delays in the processing of goods and increased road traffic.</p> <p><i>Linked to civil contingencies and legal and regulatory.</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Keep in close contact with Central Government for updates on modelling of traffic flows. • Working closely with colleagues at Bristol City Council to manage shared risks. • Continuing to engage with the port via the LRF to ensure we can respond to any issues. 	Green	Amber	Amber

Finance and economy

Key risks	Actions	Progress	Risk status	COVID
The potential implications of a negotiated deal or no deal Brexit on the council's finances and funding streams.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Monitoring of position alongside pandemic risks. 	Green	Amber	Red
Business are not ready for the implications of a negotiated deal or no deal Brexit or may not be in a position to take advantage of any emerging opportunities.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ongoing communications and engagement with business via the Local Enterprise and Growth Hub linked in with the North Somerset Economy team. Raise awareness of the EU settlement scheme with local businesses. Continue to implement the North Somerset Economic Plan. 	Amber	Red	Red

Next steps

- The North Somerset risk assessment is reviewed weekly by the lead EU transitions officer and the emergency management lead.
- The EU transitions officer group will meet weekly (or more regularly if required) in the run-up to December 31 and report to the council's strategic group of any changes and emerging issues. Working group also reviewing any emerging opportunities as part of the risk assessment process.
- North Somerset will attend the weekly LRF EU exit group and chair the Multi Agency Intelligence Cell.
- Ongoing communications and sharing of government guidance to stakeholders and business of any changes as we approach the end of the transition period.
- Ongoing communications to residents about the EU settled status scheme.