

# Brexit Breakfast

Monday 7<sup>th</sup> January 2019

A discussion on the potential impact of a deal or no deal Brexit on local businesses

- Business concerns and experiences shared
- Emerging advice shared by SDC

# Agenda

## Panel:

- David Drew, MP
- Cllr Doina Cornell, Leader, SDC
- Kathy O’Leary, Chief Executive, SDC

# Emerging advice from MHCLG

- Headlines
- Key issues for local areas
  - Citizens' Rights
  - Workforce
  - Trading Standards
  - Economy
  - Ports and Borders
  - Regulatory reform

# Headlines

- Government aiming for a deal which involves a Free Trade agreement and free movement of goods
- Also now preparing for a no deal EU Exit
  - Prioritising flow of goods and medicines
  - Engaging with different sectors (eg LAs, business)
  - Will be providing information for residents and businesses
  - Working with Local Resilience Forums (LRFs)

# Key issues - EU Citizens' Rights

- EU settlement scheme agreed December 2017
- Now applies to all EU citizens arriving until Dec 2020 (and close family members)
- EU citizens need to apply for settled status
- Process fully open March 2019, must apply by 30 June 2021
- There are 3.4m EU citizens in the UK (about 2,000 resident in Stroud District; will be workers too)
- National campaign to be launched – Councils expected to run local campaigns (toolkit provided)

# Key issues - EU Citizens' Rights

## Application Process (being piloted):

- Simple 3 step digital process – takes about 30 mins
- Costs £65 for adults, £32.30 for children under 16
- Support for vulnerable citizens
- Government grant funding of up to £9m for VCS to support EU citizens to obtain settled status, applications by 1 February 2019, see:  
<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-fund-to-support-vulnerable-eu-citizens-apply-for-settled-status>
- Councils can apply to provide passport and ID checking service (for a fee); being piloted in 12 LAs

# Key issues - Workforce

- Encourage employees to apply for settled status
- Employers' duty not to discriminate against EU citizens
- Current 'right to work' checks (EU passport / national ID card) apply until end 2020. No change to rights and status of EU citizens living in UK until 2021
- Employers not expected to pay / support cost of EU settlement scheme applications for their employees (but are welcome to do so)
- Employers do not have to interpret Government information and should not provide immigration advice

# Key issues – Trading Standards

- Rising up the agenda, previously less of a concern
- Key concerns centre on continuity:
  - high levels of consumer protection
  - high levels of product safety
  - accurate weights and measures
  - investor and business confidence
- In the event of no deal, Office for Product Safety & Standards working on:
  - 53 measures to be bundled into 2 Statutory Instruments to ensure continuity
  - UK product safety database to replace 2 EU databases
  - UK conformity mark to replace EU CE mark



# Key issues – Economy

- DEFRA and Food Standards Agency heavily affected
- In the event of no deal, food safety is a priority so large number of Statutory Instruments needed
- DEFRA's Brexit work covers 55 projects in 5 sectors – Environment; Food, Farming, Animal & Plant Health; Trade; Fisheries; and Science
- Port Health Authorities particularly affected – EU IT system needs replacing, additional border checks required (Sharpness not classified as one of 45 ports)
- Exporters of animals and animal products to EU may need to apply for Export Health Certificates (EHCs)

# Key issues – Ports and Borders

- Cross Border Delivery Group working on:
  - Consequential impact of border disruption on day to day services, especially with no deal – jams that disrupt travel and supply chains
  - Cumulative effect of low/marginal impact changes – increase in enquiries
  - Communication, planning and engagement (including with Local Resilience Forums (LRFs))
- Further guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/collections/how-to-prepare-if-the-uk-leaves-the-eu-with-no-deal>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/partnership-pack-preparing-for-a-no-deal-eu-exit>