



## Report of the Leader of the Council

Extraordinary Council – 2 March 2021

### EU Exit Deal Implications for Swansea

<b>Purpose:</b>	For Council to be aware of the EU Exit Deal and how it will affect Swansea
<b>Policy Framework:</b>	None
<b>Consultation:</b>	Finance, Legal, Access to Services
<b>Report Author:</b>	Adam Hill
<b>Finance Officer:</b>	Ben Smith
<b>Legal Officer:</b>	Tracey Meredith
<b>Access to Services Officer:</b>	Rhian Millar

#### For Information

#### 1. Background

- 1.1 On 23 June 2016 the United Kingdom chose to leave the European Union, with 52% of the electorate voted to leave.
- 1.2 On 24 December 2020, leaders of the EU and the United Kingdom announced that they had agreed on a trade deal called the Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA). The deal came more than four years after the 2016 Brexit referendum and eleven months after the U.K.'s legal departure from the EU, but only one week before the 31 December, 2020 deadline for reaching an agreement.
- 1.3 The ambassadors of the 27 EU member states voted unanimously to approve the agreement on 28 December 2020, and the U.K. Parliament voted to approved it on 30 December 2020. These actions permit the agreement to take effect on 1 January 2021 and the EU Parliament will ratify it later in January or February 2021.

## **2. Implications**

### **2.1 Overview**

Although a deal has been achieved there remains a number of areas where further discussions and agreements need to be undertaken. The main points are:

- Tariff- and quota-free trade in goods will continue but other non-tariff barriers will apply and increase trading costs.
- Professional service providers, such as doctors and lawyers, will not have their credentials automatically recognized by each side anymore.
- The deal does not address financial services regulation.
- Many provisions need further negotiation, interpretation, and clarification.

### **2.2 Citizens, Workforce and Residency**

For individuals, the loss of automatic professional access and free movement throughout the EU and U.K. will complicate their professional licensing, add visa requirements for some, impose new obligations for travel and relocation between the U.K. and EU member states, and affect many ordinary experiences and activities. U.K. passport holders will no longer have access to the EU entry lines at EU airports and borders. Visas will be required for long-term stays abroad, generally for periods in excess of six or 12 months. Immigration rules will apply to individuals moving between the EU and U.K., although EU individuals currently residing in the U.K., and vice versa, will likely be allowed a transition period for obtaining necessary authorizations and papers.

### **2.3 Tariffs, Trade & Economy**

The deal provides that trade between the U.K. and EU will not be subject to tariffs or quotas. Goods must originate in the EU or U.K. in order to benefit from the free trade regime. However, regulatory red-tape and border controls will affect annual trade in goods between the U.K. and EU member states. These other non-tariff barriers e.g. licences, embargoes, quotas, or sanctions, are estimated to increase costs for British businesses.

Agreement was not reached on recognizing each other's standards for products. This could mean that some products must obtain two certifications, i.e. under both the exporting and the importing regimes. These requirements will entail additional costs and cause border delays that will be challenging for agriculture and animal products as well as for industries with just-in-time supply chains.

Businesses offering services, such as banking, architecture and accounting, will lose their automatic right of access to EU markets and will face some restrictions.

There will no longer be automatic recognition of professional qualifications for people such as doctors, chefs and architects.

The agreement fails to address issues critical to the U.K. services sector, which accounts for more than 80% of the U.K.'s GDP. The deal contains no commitments on market access for services. Professional service providers will not be able to automatically cross between EU nations and the U.K., because the deal does not require each jurisdiction to recognize the other's professional qualifications. Similarly, U.K.-based financial services also will immediately lose their passporting rights which enabled them to conduct business throughout the EU without registering in each country individually.

## **2.4 The Regulatory Environment**

The EU insisted upon the adoption of common standards for goods and services to ensure a level playing field for fair and open competition and to prevent businesses in one market from undercutting businesses in the other. EU standards involve regulations concerning workers' rights, social and environmental protection, taxation, and state business subsidies. The parties are not obligated to adopt identical rules, and the U.K. does not have to follow EU law. However, the U.K.'s standards must protect fair competition.

The agreement also requires that there be only reasonable levels of state aid or government subsidies for business, a rule that needs clarification. The parties need not adopt identical rules and can employ different internal processes for evaluating what constitutes unfair competition.

## **2.5 Travel**

UK nationals will need a visa for stays of longer than 90 days in the EU in a 180-day period.

EU pet passports will no longer be valid.

European Health Insurance Cards, (EHIC) cards will remain valid until they expire.

The UK is no longer subject to the ban on additional roaming charges, although both sides will encourage operators to have "transparent and reasonable rates" for roaming.

## **2.6 Fishing**

Over the next five-and-a-half years, the UK will gradually gain a greater share of the fish from its own waters.

The UK could choose to ban EU fishing boats from 2026, but the EU would be allowed to introduce taxes on British fish in response.

## **2.7 Security and data**

The UK will no longer have automatic access to key security databases, but should be able to gain access upon request.

The UK will not be a member of the EU's law enforcement agency, Europol, but it will have a presence at its headquarters.

The UK is no longer obliged to comply with EU standards of data protection, but data will continue to be exchanged in the same way for at least four months as long as the UK doesn't change its data protection rules.

## **2.8 Education**

The UK will no longer participate in the Erasmus exchange programme, an EU scheme that helps students study in other countries.

A new scheme named after the mathematician Alan Turing will begin in September 2021. The government says it will be similar to Erasmus but will include countries across the world.

## **2.9 Dispute resolution**

The agreement incorporates a system to resolve disputes via arbitration involving officials from both sides. If the arbitration panel finds that one side violated the agreement, then the other side needs to compensate the complaining party. If they refuse or fail to do so, the complaining party is permitted to undertake unilateral "rebalancing" steps, such as imposing tariffs. The tariffs don't have to be imposed on the same kind of goods or service that caused the breach of the agreement.

# **3. Implications for Swansea**

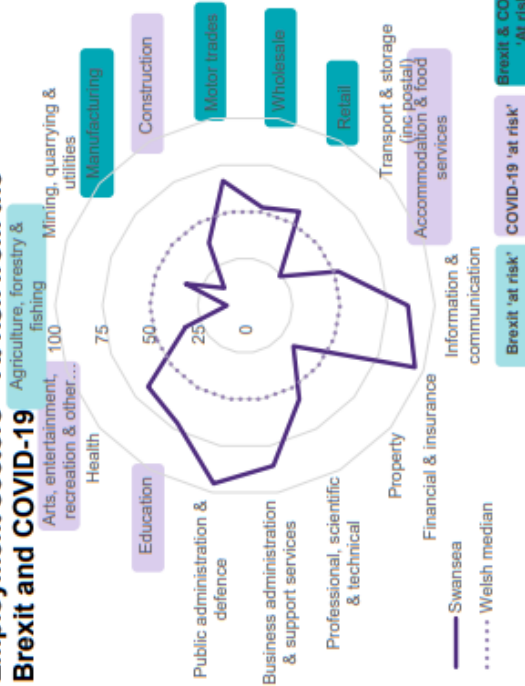
## **3.1 Grant Thornton review**

Welsh Government commissioned consultants Grant Thornton to undertake some research into the implications of Brexit on Trade in Wales and the likely outcomes of a 'no trade deal' and a 'slim trade deal'. Grant Thornton were also commissioned to produce a number of 'dashboards' to identify the impacts and vulnerabilities at a Local Authority and regional level, to update those produced for Brexit last year and to refresh a toolkit/checklist they developed last year. The following considers the implications of the research conducted by Grant Thornton for Swansea. Below is a Dashboard from research.

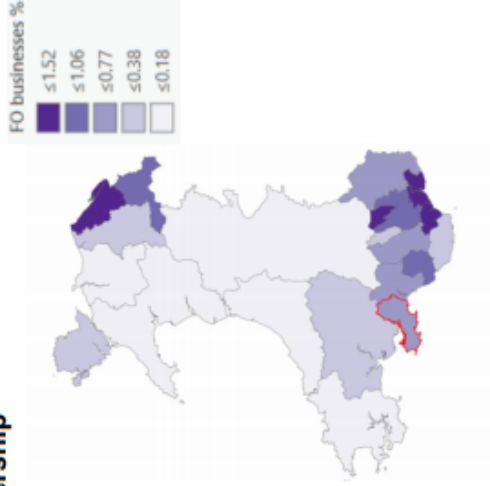


# Swansea. Economy

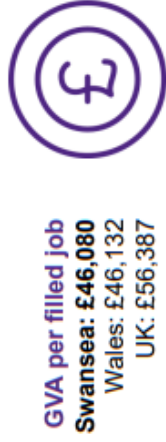
## Employment sectors – At risk from the Brexit and COVID-19



## Percentage of all businesses with foreign ownership

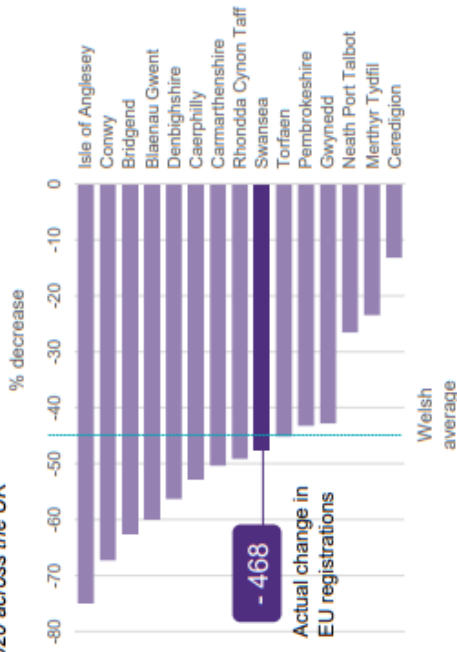


## Gross Value Added per job



## National Insurance Number (NINO) registrations

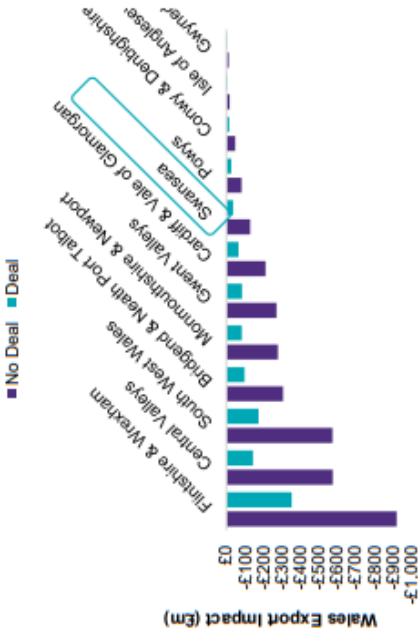
47% reduction in EU registrations between June 2016 and June 2020 across the UK



## Export impact value ('No-deal' & 'Deal') by SITC codes, Wales, (Annualised, £m)



## Total Export impact value by Welsh NUTS3 Regions (Annualised, £m)



average (£1.4m). Grant Thornton estimated that a 'slim trade deal' whereby the UK agrees a trade deal with the EU that removes all tariff barriers to trade would result in a 6% fall in annual exports (equivalent to a £1.1bn fall in exports).

The modelling suggests that a 'slim trade deal' outcome would result in a fall of annual exports in the region of £50m for Swansea. However, the impact for the South West Wales region would be much greater with predicted falls of annual exports in the region to be almost £200m for a 'Deal' outcome.

Swansea is less exposed to the risks of exporting goods because it is more of a service focused economy. Service based economies may be more susceptible to the impacts on services and the flows of people and data and therefore more likely to see service exports impacted rather than goods. However, the impact on service exports could be significant in a number of areas such as financial services and data management if 'adequacy' requirements of the EU are not met, resulting in a loss of markets and/or access to information.

Service exports were not considered within the scope of Grant Thornton's research.

**Officers will determine the nature and size of Swansea's service exports and consider if there are implications for trade and employment within Swansea's service export sector.**

### **Creation of Free Ports**

Free ports or zones are designated as areas with little to no tax in order to encourage economic activity. While located geographically within a country, they essentially exist outside its borders for tax purposes.

Companies operating within free ports can benefit from deferring the payment of taxes until their products are moved elsewhere, or can avoid them altogether if they bring in goods to store or manufacture on site before exporting them again.

Associated British Ports has been looking at securing freeport status covering all of its ports in South Wales, Port Talbot, Swansea, Newport, Cardiff and Barry, which could prove transformational for those areas and play an important role in supporting the ambition to drive economic growth, innovation, and decarbonise.

**Officers will continue to look at the options and support areas where it will improve economic advantage and opportunity.**

#### *3.1.1 The impact of Brexit on Swansea Port*

The research undertaken by Grant Thornton suggests that the role of Ports in Wales and local economies varies significantly as Ports serve different functions. For example, the Port of Mostyn has 7 offshore wind farms but very

little cargo, Port Talbot is home to Tata's primary steel manufacturing operation and Milford Haven is pivotal to the oil and gas industry. For some areas the Port acts as an important employment node e.g. Flintshire and Pembrokeshire, but for others, including Swansea, are not considered to be a significant source of employment.

All Councils should be aware of the implications of new Customs checks and sanitary and phytosanitary controls (to protect human and animal health) and that Export Health Certificates will be required to export such goods and transit them through the EU and Northern Ireland. It is likely that the pressure on Port Health Teams and Environmental Health Officers will grow significantly and at a time when there are pressing demands on these teams to respond to the demands of COVID-19.

Last year the Brexit risk assessments undertaken by some Local Authorities identified the potential for delays at ports and the disruption of supply chains as a particular risk, although this has not manifested to date. The need to deal with increased 'paperwork' and the costs associated with slower transport could result in an increase in costs and prices over time.

Swansea Port is less likely to be impacted by the re-introduction of border checks on goods to and from the EU owing to the current role and function of the Port in the local economy. However, there may be opportunities for increased business through the Port, and consideration will need to be given to how this will impact on the local economy, as well as on likely demand / workload for environmental health officers and on local supply chains.

In considering options for longer term economic intervention better understanding the potential of 'freeports' and the different economic scenarios that may result will be important. This will be true for both those authorities that are hoping to be 'home' to a freeport and to those where the freeport may be located in another authority (in either England or Wales).

**Officers will seek the views of the Port Health Authority and support any discussions as to how likely it is that the role and function of Swansea Port will change in the future and the demands on the services of the council in relation to the port.**

### *3.1.2 The impact of Brexit on the local economy and 'at risk' sectors*

Relative to all other Welsh authorities, Swansea has a high proportion of employment in Motor trades and Retail, which are identified as an 'at risk' sectors in relation to both Brexit and COVID-19.

The automotive industry has taken several 'hits' in recent years with high profile companies cutting jobs, in some cases plants closing down all together. Whilst some of this has been blamed on falling sales in China, the view was that many think that these changes are down to Brexit uncertainty which is adversely affecting car sales and reducing investment in the industry.

The risks have now been exacerbated by COVID-19, which has seen demand for cars virtually 'bottom out'. Risks over the longer term include difficult decisions around the viability of plants and facilities and decisions are being made at a time when manufacturing in and export from the UK is about to become more complex and expensive could have notable implications for the sector.

Given the high proportions of employment in Motor Trades and Retail in Swansea in comparison to the rest of Wales. The economic consequences arising from trade fluctuations could impact household and business stability. This, in turn, may lead indirectly to increased pressure on local public services and more challenging prospects for local growth. Working through some of these scenarios and linkages will be important in helping to provide economic and social resilience.

**Officers will explore the exposure of local businesses within the local economy. Particular focus being given to businesses in those sectors most impacted by COVID-19 where the management focus will have been on survival rather than preparations for the EU transition**

### *3.1.3 Rural Impacts*

The EU funding to support rural communities and farming will potentially see a loss of over £200m. The loss of this funding could see:

A decline in the economic viability of sheep production is likely, with these farm businesses especially vulnerable to changes in both market access arrangements and public funding support.

West Wales are likely to face stronger negative impacts than the south and east, where more potentially positive and diverse impacts can be expected among dairy, horticultural, mixed and other farm types.

It is unclear what will happen after the current year of funding, which is expected to see the payments in relation to EU funding for farmers and land managers remain the same as they received in the baseline figures of 2019.

There are concerns around the increase in paperwork and charges that are now imposed. In some cases this can be double or triple the costs than before the deal.

Some grace periods for exports are due to come to an end in April 2021 and the expectation is that this will see greater difficulties across an even wider range of businesses and farming.

In addition to increased paperwork and costs, there could be challenges around casual labour and seasonal labour. As crop harvesting and picking can be highly dependent on a returning EU workforce the changes to immigration rules and visas could prove difficult to maintain a workforce at key times of the year.



## Agriculture (Wales) White Paper

The Welsh Government are consulting on a legislative framework to support Welsh agriculture through a new Agriculture Bill.

The proposals within it must support the delivery of Sustainable Land Management (SLM) and is underpinned by the legislative framework established by the Well-being of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015 and the Environment (Wales) Act 2016.

In future, Welsh Government proposes that the implementation and continued delivery of SLM will be the principle goal of agricultural policy and future support for farming in Wales.

The proposed legislative framework must contain measures to address the need for Welsh agriculture to have a sustainable future.

Sustainable food production is at the heart of this future, but it is also about supporting changes to farming practice to respond to the climate emergency, the decline of biodiversity and the public health issues associated with emissions from agriculture.

A key proposal is to establish a farm support scheme - the proposed *Sustainable Farming Scheme* - to replace current EU schemes.

The proposed Sustainable Farming Scheme would address climate change, public health and environmental issues associated with agriculture by implementing SLM. This integrated, whole farm approach would enable the production of sustainable food alongside the delivery of improvements to those social issues.

The Welsh Government intends to introduce the Bill towards the end of the first year of the sixth Senedd (summer 2022).

Maintaining and enhancing Swansea's natural resources and biodiversity is a key corporate priority set out within the Corporate Plan. Promoting Swansea's Natural Environment is a strategy and action plan for the protection, management, enhancement and promotion of Swansea's outstanding natural environment and biodiversity.

The strategy outlines a number of strategic actions required for the conservation of the wider biodiversity resource together with a set of detailed actions for the protection of priority habitats and species.

The Council plans to increase tree cover and other measures as part of our biodiversity plan for offsetting carbon emissions as part of our response to the Climate Emergency.

### 3.1.4 *Population and migration factors*

Compared to the rest of Wales, Swansea has a high proportion of its population who were born in the EU, at 4.1%, which compares to a Welsh average of 2.6%. Long-term international net migration is high with 1,484 more people arriving into Swansea from outside the UK than those leaving to go abroad for a year or more. Swansea also has the highest rate of net migration of all Welsh authorities, at 6.0 per 1,000 population.

**Given the high proportion of EU nationals in Swansea, it will be important to consider how changing patterns in migration may affect the makeup of local communities and therefore demand for key local services such as housing and school places.**

**Officers will continue to monitor and assess the levels of migration and respond to any impact on the local economy.**

### 3.1.5 *European Region Action Scheme for the Mobility of University Students (Erasmus) & Apprenticeships*

Between 2014 and 2018, **Erasmus+** has enabled an estimate of over 10,000 **students** and staff in **Wales** to undertake mobility visits to benefit their learning and career development. With the exit of the EU, access to ERASMUS is also withdrawn.

The Erasmus scheme will be replaced with the Turing Scheme. The Turing Scheme is expected to fund around 35,000 students in schools, colleges and universities to go on placements and exchanges and is extend beyond the EU to include non-EU countries and will have strong emphasis on students from poor backgrounds or areas.

The scheme is due to be launched in 2021, with the current ERASMUS scheme continuing to support fees for students that have already started courses in the EU. The details of how students can apply and the conditions around the Turing Scheme are yet to be announced.

#### **Issues**

One of the gaps that has been identified in the new Turing Scheme is that it fails to fund students coming to the UK.

Wales' Education Minister (Kirsty Williams) is working with the Scottish and Northern Ireland governments to see if it's possible to re-join the Erasmus scheme as a number of non-EU countries are members of the Erasmus scheme, including Iceland, Turkey, Norway, and Serbia.

**Officers will work with the Universities to maximise opportunities through the Turing Scheme when further details are announced.**

## Apprenticeships

EU funding has been used to support apprentices for many years, across a wide range of sectors. From developing a new skilled workforce to bespoke training through to helping businesses grow, apprenticeships have played an important role. EU funding has often supported the employment of apprentices through funding training, or offering loans or grants.

With the withdrawal from the EU the future is uncertain in terms of what will replace these funding schemes and may see the number of apprentices reduce through lack of funding.

The Welsh Government has pledged to support everyone to find work, education or training, launching a £40m skills and jobs fund. This £40m package will help incentivise employers to take on and train new workers, including apprentices and young people.

However there is no information as yet regarding what will replace the funding that helped support apprenticeships in Swansea.

**Officers will liaise with the colleges and further education providers to maximise opportunities through accessing the £40m skills and job fund and will monitor the situation regarding any funding package that is to replace the previous EU funds.**

### 3.1.6 *Funding*

The UK Shared Prosperity Fund (UKSPF) replaces European Commission Development and Social Fund Grants and will be worth an average of about £1.5bn a year and is expected to go live by 2022.

The planned fund will target the places most in need across the UK, including ex-industrial areas, deprived towns and rural and coastal communities and is aimed to help to level up and create opportunity across the UK for people and places.

It is expected that the scheme will provide support in areas including investment in employment and skills training, cultural and sporting facilities, and community-owned assets.

More precise details about the fund are not expected to be published until later in the spring.

Swansea Currently benefits from nearly £13m of European Funding. The projects can be seen in the table below:

Current Programmes	Fund	Start Date	End Date	Total project cost £	Grant £
<b>Revenue Schemes:</b>					
Workways+ LTU	ESF	01.12.2015	31.12.2022	4,991,128	3,975,158
Workways+ STU / Swansea Working	ESF	01.04.2020	31.12.2022	1,545,245	1,219,210
Communities for Work	ESF	01.04.2015	31.12.2022	3,220,552	3,220,552
Cynnydd	ESF	01.03.2016	31.12.2022	4,711,915	3,298,340
Cam Nesa	ESF	01.04.2017	31.07.2021	1,830,171	1,281,120
<b>5 schemes</b>				<b>16,299,011</b>	<b>12,994,380</b>

Some of the projects may be offered an extension to June 2023 if they have sufficient underspend within existing budgets to carry the projects on, however due to EU programme rules 2023 is the absolute final year for project delivery.

**Officers will investigate and explore opportunities to maximise the number of successful bids to the fund when the details are made available.**

### 3.1.7 Procurement

Now the EU transition period has ended, the devolved governments will gain more scope in non-reserved areas such as procurement that have previously been regulated at an EU level.

This provides WG with the opportunity to reform current procurement regulations. Any procurement reform will need to comply with the World Trade Organisation's Agreement on Government Procurement (GPA) and procurement provisions set out in Free Trade Agreements.

Procurement is not reserved and is the responsibility of Welsh Ministers. Welsh Ministers may wish to introduce Welsh legislation for various reasons, e.g. to ensure that any new legislation in the area of procurement aligns to WG's policy ambitions and priorities, to allow flexibility for any potential future changes required to legislation.

As public procurement is not a reserved matter, the Welsh Government and other UK administrations will continue to determine their own policies for public procurement. However, early notification for any new policies, policy changes, consultations, etc. must be given to the other UK administrations through the Common Framework. This is to ensure the other UK administrations have an opportunity to discuss any potential impacts they consider the changes may have on the UK as a whole.

The Common Framework will not prevent one or more of the UK administrations working collaboratively on policy areas should they choose to do so.

Welsh Government will be consulting with Welsh stakeholders being asked for their views in an engagement exercise which will take place in January and February 2021

Projects will continue to receive EU funding until the programmes are closed in 2023.

This includes:

- European Structural Funds programmes (the European Regional Development Fund and European Social Fund)
- European Territorial Co-operation programmes
- Ireland Wales programme

**Officers will seek to understand and help inform any future changes to procurement frameworks and legislation to ensure it is as flexible and supports the ambitions and priorities both now and in the future.**

### 3.1.8 *UK Internal Market Act 2020*

The UK Internal Market Act 2020, is a law which will ensure goods can move easily between the UK's Four Nations and remain barrier free. The Internal Market Bill aims to maintain the joined-up market to ensure all four of the UK's nations are not limited by regulations determined by each devolved government.

Regulation-making powers in the Bill would open the Government of Wales Act 2006 (GoWA) to very wide substantive future amendment, and the powers of the Senedd and Welsh Government to serious diminution, at the hands of the UK Government.

The provisions in the Bill are also so wide and deep in operation that they risk constraining the legislative space for the Senedd in areas which are currently devolved.

**At the time this report was prepared the Welsh Government are looking at a potential legal challenge to this Bill.**

### 3.1.9 *Community Cohesion*

The effect on the community has always been a concern from advising and support EU citizens to access the settled status scheme (EUSS), ensuring we understand more about our community and ensuring our groups and members of community most vulnerable to harassment and experiencing

community tensions are supported and any issues understood and action taken.

This work has been undertaken throughout the lead up to exiting the EU and is being maintained Pos-EU exit.

To support the community the following has been and will continue to be undertaken:

- Engaged with EU Settled Status funded organisations, including Citizens Advice, EYST, Settled, Newfields Law, TGP Cymru, Mind and others to promote take up of the Settled Status scheme in the local area.
- Promoted the EUSS awareness sessions that have been jointly delivered by the EUSS service providers. Another joint awareness session will be delivered on 24<sup>th</sup> Feb 2021
- Established regular surgeries between Newfields Law and our Social Services (children looked after and Adult care) teams to assist with processing EUSS related complex cases
- Produced and updating a list of key contacts for EU residents **and a** database of Honorary Consul Generals for EU countries currently being developed.
- Communication campaign for EUSS started in Nov 2020
- Continued sharing translated information around EU Settlement Scheme, Covid19 and social distancing on regular basis.
- Activities delivered during Hate Crime Awareness week to raise the awareness and reporting of hate crime.
- In partnership with the Police, establish and now regularly participate in the weekly dial-in Tension Monitoring with SWP, and shared relevant issues and solutions.
- Q/A sessions / webinars arranged for EU residents with the Home Office and EUSS funded organisations to answer any queries on EUSS, EU Citizens Rights, how LA can support etc.

### ***Funding for Community Cohesion support***

Through the Welsh Government European Transition grant, a Community Cohesion Officer was recruited. The post holder subsequently left the post and it has not been possible to fill the vacancy due to the short term funding and the uncertainty of any funding being continued after 30 June 2021 from Welsh Government.

### *3.1.10 Opportunities from Brexit*

Although the research identified a number of risks related to Brexit, the research also identified a number of potential opportunities such as having a new independent trade policy which could result in new trading relationships with countries. The development of new trade policies could not only bring about more favourable trading conditions, but also represents an opportunity to improve efficiency in processes such as the digitalisation of transactions.

Other opportunities identified by the research included the use of more UK brands in order to meet demand for goods which were originally imported and a growth in the strength of local supply chains and an increase in employment in Ports and related services.

Such considerations should include the options for longer term economic intervention given the scale of the potential economic impacts resulting from any reductions in trade, coupled with the effects of COVID-19, which has simultaneously resulted in significant economic impacts alongside stimulating dramatic consumer and behaviour trends (such as homeworking and digital adoption) – the potential for market failure is profound. Two areas that were repeatedly flagged through the stakeholder consultations related to providing support to businesses to enable them to become more environmentally sustainable and to enhance digital practices, processes and services.

In thinking through the different options and strategies it will be important for both Local Authorities and the Welsh Government to reflect on the recent recommendations from the Welsh Government commissioned report from the OECD on multi-level governance.

**Officers will undertake further analysis concerning the new risks and opportunities for Swansea and for the Council post-Brexit and pro-actively seek to take advantage of any opportunities through the Council's Recovery Plan.**

### *3.1.11 COVID-19*

The Covid-19 crisis and the economic impact it will have will see long lasting effects on the Welsh economy for many years to come. The full impact of COVID-19 has already seen regional and national disparity and as yet the full long term implications are unknown.

It has already been recognised that some sectors have been more effected than others. Those sectors most severely affected include high street retail, tourism, hospitality, the arts and the automotive industry, with other sectors also feeling the strain such as transport, chemical production, textiles, and services such as finance.

This combined with Brexit and non frictionless trade will see an already challenging time made even harder.

**The full implications of Covid -19 are yet to be seen and Officers will continue to monitor and respond as part of the Council's Recovery Plan.**

### 3.1.12 Monitoring, Review and investigation

During the planning for leaving the EU the council had established the Brexit Steering group which consisted of officers across the council ensuring all services were represented. This group review all the information and prepared for the various types of exit from no deal through to slim deal. Once the UK had left the EU with a deal, the Brexit Steering group changed focus and became the Post Brexit Steering group. This group will monitoring and review the changes after the exit and will be the lead for undertaking the various elements of analysis, investigation and response identified in each of the points above. This group also has member representation.

In addition to the above the wider Council Recovery Plan – Achieving Better together will also utilise the workstreams to help identify and respond to any issues identified as well as look at a holistic approach considering wider impacts and the effects of COVID implications, economic. Findings from the Post-Brexit Steering Group will be reported to the strategic recovery board.

**The workstreams within the recovery plan have been aligned to Cabinet Member's portfolios to ensure that all the work is portfolio and Member lead.**

## 4. Conclusion

On December 2<sup>nd</sup> 2020, an agreed trade deal was announced. This deal gave an overview of the deal and the main areas that will be affected. However in a large number of areas there remains a requirement for further detail and the practicalities of the operation of the schemes or the operational detail, around the implications.

As set out in the report the Council through its working groups, risk management process and reporting structures, continue to monitor the position and seek to obtain more information to maximise opportunities and reduce the impacts as a result of the EU Exit and deal. This work will continue to be co-ordinated through the internal Post-Brexit Steering group.

## 5. Equality and Engagement Implications

5.1 There are no direct equality and engagement implications from this report.

## 6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no direct financial implications from this report



## **7. Legal Implications**

- 7.1 Other than those matters set out in the report there are no direct legal implications from this report

**Background Papers:** None.

**Appendices:** None.