

Brexit Scrutiny Review for 2018/19

Draft Scoping Document

Name of Scrutiny Work	Impact of Brexit on Tower Hamlets
Context and background	<p>Brexit Challenge Session</p> <p>As part of his work programme for 2017/18, the Scrutiny Lead for Governance, Councillor Ayas Miah undertook a Scrutiny Challenge Session focused on the potential impact of Brexit on the Council. There were a total of 10 recommendations that were agreed at the Challenge Session.</p> <p>The challenge session offered the opportunity to begin exploratory discussions on the Council's resilience planning and to recommend key priorities for mitigation planning. Due to uncertainty around Brexit negotiation, limited time, resources and scope, the Challenge Session was not able to discuss the impact of Brexit on Tower Hamlets as a place, such as our economic stability and community cohesion.</p> <p>Therefore one of the key recommendations was for the 2018/19 Overview & Scrutiny Committee to continue the Brexit Scrutiny work into the new municipal year and:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide officers with sufficient information to allow them to organise a full Brexit Scrutiny Review and agree focus of further evidence sessions; • Support and equip the new Overview and Scrutiny Committee to obtain further assessment of the progress of Brexit and consider its implications for the Council, Partners and our wider community; • Complete the Brexit Scrutiny work on time and produce report with clear recommendations for the Council and Partners to consider.
Main aims and objectives the Brexit Scrutiny Review	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Obtain detailed assessment and better understanding of the progress of Brexit and its implications for the borough; • Successfully engage all stakeholders in discussions and consultation on Brexit; • Review local risk management plans and available impact reports based on the different Brexit scenarios and take into account the equalities impact assessment; • Consider how statutory partners, local businesses, residents and community groups can work together to minimise impact on the borough; • Explore potential benefits and opportunities for the borough post-Brexit and consider the development of new policies and programmes for education and skills and development of the local economy.
Proposed completion date	Evidence gathering sessions: July – October 2018 Draft report: November 2018
Desired outcome	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop collective understanding of the potential impact of Brexit on the different sectors in the borough and consider mitigation plans. • Support the Tower Hamlets Partnership to develop a high level Contingency Plans that identifies key risks to our borough.
What will not be included	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review will not consider detailed assessment or discussion about the final Brexit arrangements including the UK's future trade relationship with the EU.
Risks (mitigation)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited time and resources could result in evidence sessions not being completed on time and unable to capture information and feedback from key witnesses accurately could result in skewed feedback and understanding of the Brexit impact. • Local Business / Industry / Growth Sector leads may not get involved with the review or unwilling to share their impact studies.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Lack of knowledge and political consensus could result in Members not fully involved with the scrutiny review. <p>Mitigations:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Brexit Scrutiny evidence sessions will be carefully planned to allow sufficient time to discuss all the relevant issues and the dates, time and the focus of each of the sessions will be communicate to partners and key stakeholders well in advance to ensure good attendance and buy-in. All the evidence sessions will be held at local venues most accessible to key partners /stakeholders and there will be dedicated Officer Support available at each of the sessions in order to ensure the information and discussions are recorded accurately. The Brexit Scrutiny Review work will be publicised through Members Bulletin, Council and Partners website and other key communication / social media channels to provide better awareness and understanding. Preliminary discussions with cross-party Members have already taken place and will continue going forward in order to ensure political consensus. Officers will liaise with local Business Forums / Trade Bodies early to enlist their support in engaging and publicising the Scrutiny Review work with local businesses and key Growth Sector leads and encourage them to share their impact studies.
Equality & Diversity considerations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The review will look to explore ways to promote diversity and community cohesion as well as consider appropriate and specific support that could be offered to EU migrants and residents. The review will consider potential impact on different equalities groups and how the borough can mitigate these impacts.
Membership and possible co-options	<i>The composition of the Brexit Scrutiny Review group will reflect the political balance of the Council and co-optees after the local elections.</i>
Key Stakeholders/ Consultees	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Mayor / Local Councillors, Chief Executives and Senior Officers Residents / Local Equalities Forums Local Community Organisations and Business Reps Metropolitan Police Service NHS Housing providers
Cabinet Member(s)	TBC (after local elections 2018)
Research needed / Evidence available	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Central Government / GLA / DCLG Policy Briefings. LGA / LGC / GLA research reports and briefing papers on Brexit. Submissions from key internal (LBTH) services, partners and service providers. Independent research.

Proposed Scrutiny Review activities and Time Table

<p>Impact of Brexit on the Council, statutory and local partners (Evidence Session 1)</p> <p>Key questions to explore and address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <i>What could be the short term, mid-term and long term impact of Brexit on local statutory organisations?</i> <i>In preparing for Brexit what should be our priority areas of contingency planning and how do we ensure that this is effectively communicated to all our stakeholders?</i> <i>How should statutory organisations best communicate and represent the interests of Tower Hamlets in the Brexit process?</i> <p>Key witnesses to invite:</p>	<p>Proposed date: July 2018</p> <p>Proposed Venue: LBTH Town Hall or Partner</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Senior Officers / local experts • Cabinet members • Statutory Partners and Service Providers 	organisation venue
<p>Impact of Brexit on big businesses and key sectors of the local economy (Evidence Session 2)</p> <p>Key questions to explore and address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What could be the short term, mid-term and long term impact of Brexit on big businesses and key growth and employment sectors in the Borough?</i> • <i>How can we support productivity and competitiveness challenges among local firms, enabling them to compete internationally?</i> • <i>What specific mitigation activities, policies and marketing strategies can be developed to promote the Borough in order to retain and attract skills, businesses and enable the future economic growth?</i> <p>Key witnesses to invite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Big businesses and industry's • Local planners and developers • Employment and skills providers • Financial Institutions 	<p>Proposed date: September 2018</p> <p>Proposed Venue: Canary Wharf</p>
<p>Impact of Brexit on small to medium size businesses and enterprises (SME's) (Evidence Session 3)</p> <p>Key questions to explore and address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What could be the short term, mid-term and long term impact of Brexit on SME's, labour market, residential and business property market in Tower Hamlets?</i> • <i>What specific mitigation activities, policies and marketing strategies can be developed to support small businesses and enable the future economic growth?</i> <p>Key witnesses to invite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Small to medium size businesses and local enterprises • Trade associations / Local Business Forums 	<p>Proposed date: October 2018</p> <p>Proposed Venue: Local Business Forum / Centre</p>
<p>Impact of Brexit on Voluntary and Community Sector (VCS) organisations and the wider community (Evidence Session 4)</p> <p>Key questions to explore and address:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>What could be the impact of Brexit on the local voluntary and community sector and local communities living in the borough?</i> • <i>How can the partners develop a shared support system to provide dedicated help and information to residents and VCS?</i> • <i>What more could the Council and our partners do to promote integration and community cohesion that can reassure and support the wellbeing of EU Nationals living in the borough?</i> <p>Key witnesses to invite:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Community Safety Officers and Police • Residents / Community Leaders • VCS Organisations / TH Partnership • Equalities Advocacy Groups 	<p>Proposed date: Late October 2018</p> <p>Proposed Venue: Local VCS Centre</p>
<p>Publicity / Communications</p>	<p>Communications should include Members' Bulletin and articles in Our East End, Council website, intranet and social media platforms.</p>
<p>Links to Strategic/ Mayoral Priorities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Creating opportunity by supporting aspiration and tackling poverty. • Creating and maintaining a vibrant and successful place. • Working smarter together as one team with our partners and community.