

Committee: Overview and Scrutiny Commission

Date: 19 September 2018

Wards: All

Subject: Terms of reference for a rapporteur review of the support provided to EU residents in Merton during the Brexit process

Lead officer: Julia Regan, Head of Democracy Services

Lead member: Councillor Peter Southgate, Chair, Overview and Scrutiny Commission

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Recommendations:

1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Commission discuss and approve the terms of reference and scope of the rapporteur review, set out in paragraphs 2.7-2.11 below.

1 PURPOSE OF REPORT AND EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. To present the draft terms of reference and scope of the EU residents in Merton task group to the Overview and Scrutiny Commission for approval.

2 DETAILS

Background

- 2.1. The Commission, at its meeting on 17 July 2018, agreed that Councillor Carl Quilliam should meet with the Commission Chair and Head of Democracy Services to consider how a rapporteur review into Impact of Brexit on EU citizens in Merton could be carried out.
- 2.2. A rapporteur review is a scrutiny task group review that is conducted by a single councillor following the same principles as any other scrutiny task group review and reporting back findings and recommendations to the Commission. Much of the research and evidence gathering is undertaken by the councillor, with support from the Head of Democracy Services.
- 2.3. Councillors Carl Quilliam and Peter Southgate met with the Head of Democracy Services to discuss the terms of reference, scope and timescale for the task group review. These are set out below for the Commission's consideration.

Proposals for terms of reference and scope of the task group review

- 2.4. The purpose of the rapporteur review is to look into the potential for Merton council to support EU residents and council employees (including those not directly employed by the council) to secure settled status and rights as Brexit progresses.
- 2.5. The draft terms of reference are:

- To consider what support EU residents and council employees will require to identify their status and rights as Brexit progresses;
 - To identify existing support and best practice in other councils, voluntary organisations and in the private sector that could inform the council's approach in providing or signposting to services;
 - To make recommendations about how the council could support or signpost EU residents and council employees to secure settled status as Brexit progresses.
- 2.6. Key lines of enquiry will include the differential needs EU residents who arrived pre and post 2001; and an understanding of what support will be required as their rights change and the related uncertainty created by that process.
- 2.7. Evidence sources will include Here For Good law project, Three Million Group, London Councils, London Assembly, Home Office, other councils (Richmond, Wandsworth, Islington, Brent, Westminster, Croydon and Camden. Other stakeholders will be consulted including Citizens Advice Bureau, South West London Law Centre, Polish Family Association, BAME Voice and Commonsense Trust. Discussions regarding dissemination of information and outreach will include Communications team, public health/NHS, CSF/schools.
- 2.8. It is anticipated that Councillor Quilliam will report back to the Commission's meeting on 14 November and to Cabinet in December. This timetable may change once the government's proposals and timeline become clearer.

3 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Commission can select topics for scrutiny review and for other scrutiny work as it sees fit, taking into account views and suggestions from officers, partner organisations and the public.

4 CONSULTATION UNDERTAKEN OR PROPOSED

- 4.1. The proposals have been considered previously by the Commission and were subsequently discussed with the Policy Strategy and Partnerships team.

5 FINANCIAL, RESOURCE AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1. None for the purposes of this covering report. Any resource implications will need to be taken into account when drawing up & approving specific review recommendations

6 LEGAL AND STATUTORY IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1. There are none specific to this report.

7 HUMAN RIGHTS, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY COHESION IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. There are none specific to this report.

8 CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

8.1. There are none specific to this report.

9 RISK MANAGEMENT AND HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

9.1. There are none specific to this report.

10 APPENDICES – THE FOLLOWING DOCUMENTS ARE TO BE PUBLISHED WITH THIS REPORT AND FORM PART OF THE REPORT

- None

11 BACKGROUND PAPERS

11.1. None

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