

**Question from Member of the Council
Cabinet – 7 March 2018**

Question from Cllr Kate Wheller to the Leader of the Council and the Cabinet Member for Economy, Education, Learning and Skills in relation to effect of Brexit on Local Government

Question

The Local Government Association is monitoring the effect of Brexit on local government. They have requested leaders to submit an overview of the topics and issues of concern locally, to feed into the negotiations. Can the leader tell me whether she and DCC have made a submission? If so would it be possible for members to receive a copy of the submission and any response be circulated.

Answer

The County Council works closely with the Local Government Association, and maintains a constant dialogue with the relevant officers on Brexit matters. We did not make a formal submission to the LGAs Calls for Evidence but did make a written submission to the Housing, Communities and Local Government Select Committee Brexit and Local Government Enquiry. The submission, letter from the chair to the Secretary of State, and the reply are all publicly available:

<http://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/communities-and-local-government-committee/inquiries/parliament-2017/brexit-local-authority-inquiry-17-19/publications/>

The Council also contributed to the evidence from the Chief Economic Development Officers Society, available at the same location.

Significant Brexit-related work has been undertaken since Cabinet approved the Council's EU strategy in January 2017. To ensure efficient use of resources, evaluations have been made of which areas are of interest to Dorset, and crucially where there is realistic potential to influence those issues:

Key areas for influence are predominantly place-based issues: enabling inclusive economic growth - regional and industrial policy and successors of support currently from EU funding - and policy related to protection and improvement of our high-quality environment and landscape.

In many cases the County Council will share concerns with other organisations and areas with similar characteristics. In these cases, the Council is seeking to influence future policy through our membership of groups such as the Local Enterprise Partnership, the Local Government Association, Southern England Local Partners, and the Association of Directors of Environment, Economy, Planning and Transport.

In some cases, there will be little need or opportunity for Dorset to influence the "new normal": For example, concerns surrounding the cost and availability of health and social care staff are shared by many organisations and are well known to the government with or without further input from Dorset County Council.

Reports have been made to the both the People and Communities and the Economic Growth Overview and Scrutiny Committees and as a result a member-led Brexit Group is in the process of being established.