

FOR JOBS AND PROSPERITY

Pledge 11 – Research the economic impact of Brexit

What we said we would do: Not enough work has been done on the economic impact of Brexit – both positive and negative – on the City Council and Plymouth in general. We will make sure that research is undertaken and is made available to the public.

What we wanted to achieve: In June 2017 we established a Scrutiny Committee comprised of members from both political parties to look in more depth at how Brexit would affect the City. The remit of this group was:

- Reviewing the impact of Brexit on the city
- Proposing measures that Government should take to provide stability for the council and partners in light of Brexit
- Exploring powers that could be devolved from the EU directly to local authorities

What we have done:

BILCO has met on 17 occasions since its first meeting on 6 June 2018 and considered 25 reports, providing evidence to members of the committee about Brexit related risks and opportunities. The written evidence to the committee has been supplemented by evidence from 19 expert witnesses. Archived webcasts, agendas, minutes and reports from all the BILCO committee meetings are available on our [corporate web pages](#).

At its 21 October 2020 meeting BILCO agreed to hold an additional meeting to scrutinise the preparedness of a diverse range of local businesses for the end of the transition period. This engagement included a meeting with the Plymouth Business Brexit Group on 25 November 2020 and the Plymouth Area Business Council on 2 December 2020. Additional expert witnesses were invited to attend to a special BILCO meeting on 2 December 2020.

In December Cabinet received a report from the BILCO committee collating and summarising the evidence of economic impact considered by BILCO, and adding further value to it by relating it to the current preparedness of local business for the end of the transition period and a new trading relationship with the EU.

Cabinet agreed a recommendation at its December meeting to sign off on pledge 11 as completed at the January 2021 meeting of Cabinet after a pledge on a page has been prepared.

What's next:

Part D of the constitution sets out the Council's Overview and Scrutiny arrangements. The next meeting of the Scrutiny Committee will be held in January 2021 and will consider the current terms of reference and make recommendations to Cabinet about how these may be amended to reflect the end of the Brexit transition period.

Find out more!

Here are some news stories about our work to deliver the pledge:

<https://www.plymouthherald.co.uk/news/plymouth-news/brexit-predicted-leave-people-plymouth-4760395>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/new-committee-look-brexit-will-affect-plymouth/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/council-demands-continued-funding-post-brexit/>

<http://plymouthnewsroom.co.uk/plymouth-call-control-training-funds-post-brexit/>

