



Subject:	Correspondence Received in Response to Motion – The People’s Vote.
Date:	8th November 2018
Reporting Officer:	Carolyn Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer
Contact Officer:	Carolyn Donnelly, Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
	<p>The Council, at its meeting of 1st October 2018, agreed to write to the Secretary of State and to the Prime Minister expressing its support for the growing demand for a People’s Vote on the final Brexit deal, where no deal had been negotiated and in both cases remaining in the EU must be an option.</p> <p>A letter dated 25th October 2018, was subsequently sent to both the Secretary of State and the Prime Minister (attached at Appendix 1). A response dated 25th October 2018, was received from the Department for Exiting the European Union (DEXEU), on behalf of the Prime Minister (attached at Appendix 2).</p>

2.0	Recommendations
	Members are asked to note the correspondence.
3.0	Main report
	<p><u>Key Issues</u></p> <p>At its meeting in October, the Council agreed that the decision of the Brexit Committee of 20th September, under the heading “Motion Brexit – The People’s Vote”, be amended to read as follows</p> <p>“This Council acknowledges the result of the EU Referendum of June 2016, recognises that the majority of people in Northern Ireland voted to remain and asserts that no one in Belfast voted for a bad deal, or no deal, that could wreck our economy and jeopardise our peace process.</p> <p>The Council agrees to write to the Secretary of State and to the Prime Minister expressing its support for the growing demand for a People’s Vote on the final Brexit deal, where no deal has been negotiated and in both cases remaining in the EU must be an option based on the bottom line which has been expressed by the majority of elected MLAs which supports:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • no diminution of Human Rights and equality provisions which must be protected; • we cannot withstand exclusion from the single market or customs union; • that we must protect the Good Friday Agreement in all of its parts; and • that the backstop agreed by both the British Government and the EU27 is the bottom line in order to safeguard our political and economic stability now and for the future.” <p>In response to the agreed correspondence, a letter dated 25th October 2018, was received from the Department for Exiting the European Union, on behalf of the Prime Minister. The letter outlined the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the current government would never accept a second referendum; • The referendum on 23rd June 2016 saw the highest number of votes cast in electoral history, indicative of a clear instruction from the British people, which the Government was committed to deliver; • Throughout exit negotiations, the UK Government had been clear regarding its unwavering commitment to upholding the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement, in all its parts; • That the UK Government had committed, in paragraph 53 of the December 2017 Joint Report, to ensuring that no diminution of rights is caused by the UK’s departure from the European Union;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Both the UK and the EU share responsibility to reserve the Belfast (Good Friday) Agreement; • That no UK Prime Minister could accept a solution for Northern Ireland that involved an internal customs border separating one part of the UK from the rest; and • That significant progress had been made regarding the Withdrawal Agreement and negotiations on the future relationship between the UK and EU. <p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There no financial implications relating to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no implications relating to this report.</p>
4.0	Appendices
	<p>Appendix 1: Letter to Prime Minister dated 10th October, 2018</p> <p>Appendix 2: Letter from DExEU, dated 25th October, 2018</p>