



Subject:	'Mapping exercise' document examining North-South cooperation on the island of Ireland
Date:	22 August 2019
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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	At its meeting on the 20 th June, the Committee noted that it would, at its next meeting, receive a report on the outcome of a mapping exercise which had, following a Freedom of Information request, been published recently by the Brexit Select Committee, highlighting areas of joint co-operation on the island of Ireland which would be impacted by Brexit. The report also highlights the main findings of the mapping exercise for Members' consideration.
2.0 Recommendations	The Committee is asked to note the report.

3.0	<p>Main report</p> <p><u>Key issues</u></p> <p>On 20th June 2019, the Committee on Exiting the European Union published a UK Government document, on North-South cooperation, that had been prepared in September 2017. The scoping exercise, that informed the document, was undertaken by the UK Government, Northern Ireland Civil Service, European Commission and Government of Ireland. The scoping exercise focused on six areas: agriculture, environment, transport, health, tourism, and education. Each of these had sub-categories and so the full review covered a wide range of cooperation areas though it was recognised that not all areas would be captured.</p> <p>The purpose of the mapping exercise was to chart the range of formal and informal cooperation that existed with a view to maintaining North-South cooperation following the UK's withdrawal from the EU. As it was a scoping document there was no overall summary or conclusion. Instead, the document was intended to form the basis of discussion.</p> <p>However, the final document does provide significant detail and outlines 142 areas of cooperation. For each of these areas, information is provided as to the extent that they are underpinned by the Good Friday Agreement or existing EU legal and policy frameworks. Of the 142 areas, 54 were classified as directly linked, 42 as partially linked, and 46 as not linked. The report was written before development of the European Union (Withdrawal) Act 2018, which aims to retain most existing EU law in UK law after exit day by creating a new body of retained EU law.</p> <p>Officers have reviewed the 142 areas of collaboration and identified those that seem of most relevance to Council. That is, in terms of whether the collaborations directly reference Belfast, or local government, or involve areas where the Council has statutory responsibilities.</p> <p>The scoping document is available online here: https://www.parliament.uk/documents/commons-committees/Exiting-the-European-Union/17-19/Correspondence/UK%20Government%20scoping%20document%20(1).pdf</p> <p>The main webpage is available here: https://www.parliament.uk/business/committees/committees-a-z/commons-select/exiting-the-european-union-committee/news-parliament-2017/mapping-exercise-documents-published-17-19/</p>
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	<p>A technical document was also produced, which provided further background on the scoping exercise and legal background. It is available here: https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/762820/Technical_note-_North-South_cooperation_mapping_exercise_2_.pdf</p>
	<p><u>Key points from the scoping document</u></p> <p>Further detail on all the points listed in this document is attached as appendix1.</p> <p>The items listed below specifically mention Belfast include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 10 All-Island Congenital Heart Disease Network - classified as “partially underpinned or linked” to the Good Friday Agreement or existing EU legal and policy frameworks. • 19 Cross-border Enterprise Rail Service - classified as “directly underpinned or linked” to the Good Friday Agreement or existing EU legal and policy frameworks. <p>Items listed that specifically mention councils (in general) and local government include</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 51 Spatial Planning - classified as “not underpinned by or linked.” • 112 Cooperation beyond NSMC (local councils) - classified as “not underpinned by or linked.” • 111 All-Island Local Authority Programme - classified as “not underpinned by or linked.” • 112 Local authority led cross-border engagement - classified as “not underpinned by or linked.”
	<p>Other items listed with direct relevance to Council functions include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 3 Food Safety Promotion Board - classified as “partially underpinned by or linked.” • 30 Cooperation on checks on third country products of animal origin, including fish products and bivalve molluscs - classified as “directly underpinned by or linked.” • 8 Tourism - classified as “partially underpinned by or linked.” • 1 Special EU Programmes Body - classified as “directly underpinned by or linked.” • 43 PEACE IV programme - classified as “directly underpinned by or linked.” • 44 INTERREG funding - classified as “directly underpinned by or linked.” <p>Other activities listed include cross border areas, infrastructure, environment, health, education, enforcement, trade/Business, transport and cultural.</p>
	<p>Officers will continue to monitor outputs from the Committee on Exiting the European Union in relation to cross-border collaborations affecting the Council. The results from the scoping exercise will also feed into Council’s ongoing Day 1 readiness work.</p>
	<p><u>Financial & Resource Implications</u></p> <p>There are no specific financial or resource implications relating to this report.</p> <p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/Rural Needs Assessment</u></p> <p>There are no equality or good relations implications relating to this report.</p>

4.0	Appendices
	Appendix 1 - North South Collaboration Mapping Exercise