Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Kwasi Kwarteng MP

Purpose of report

For information.

Summary

This paper provides background to the LGA Councillors’ Forum discussion with the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Kwasi Kwarteng MP.

Recommendation

That the LGA Councillors’ Forum notes this report as background.

Action

As directed by Members.

Contact officer: Jamie Cross

Position: Policy Advisor

Phone no: 02070727438

Email: Jamie.Cross@local.gov.uk

Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union, Kwasi Kwarteng MP

**Background**

1. In November 2018, Kwasi Kwarteng MP was appointed as the Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for Exiting the European Union. This followed the appointment of Stephen Barkley MP as Secretary of State who replaced Dominic Raab MP.
2. A biography is attached in **Appendix A.**
3. Mr Kwarteng will be addressing Councillors’ Forum following the meaningful vote in Parliament on Tuesday 15 January 2019. Parliament voted against the Government’s proposed deal and, at the time of writing, Government’s next steps are awaited.

**LGA work on Brexit**

1. At the October meeting of the Executive and Leadership Board, members considered and agreed [a report](http://lga.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s19190/Brexit.pdf) which set out the work that the LGA had undertaken since the referendum. It set out:
   1. Our continued neutrality on the question of EU membership.
   2. Our proactive longer-term proposals to address the risks and opportunities for councils (including the repatriation of EU powers to local areas), many of which we will need to continue to raise for public debate.
   3. Concerns raised by councils and the lobbying wins that we have achieved, including guarantees for EU funded projects until the end of 2020 under deal and no deal scenarios, a future reform of procurement laws and the transfer of local government’s advisory role on draft legislation as powers move from the EU to the UK.
   4. The concerns that councils have raised as Whitehall prepares for EU exit, especially under a No Deal scenario. Subsequently, these issues have been raised with Government.
2. LGA members who sit on the MHCLG Ministerial Delivery Board, chaired by Rt Hon James Brokenshire MP, have already met with Mr Kwarteng and have discussed councils’ preparedness for Brexit and the issues summarised above.

**Appendix A**



**Biography**

1. Kwasi Kwarteng MP was appointed to be a Parliamentary Under Secretary of State in the Department for Exiting the European Union on 16 November 2018.
2. Kwasi read classics and history at Trinity College, Cambridge, and then attended Harvard University on a Kennedy Scholarship. He earned a PhD in economic history from the University of Cambridge in 2000.
3. Before becoming a Member of Parliament, Kwasi worked as an analyst in financial services
4. Kwasi was elected as Member of Parliament for Spelthorne in 2010. From 2010 until 2013 he was a member of the Transport Select Committee, and in 2013 he joined the Work and Pensions Select Committee where he was a member until 2015.
5. In October 2016 Kwasi joined the Public Accounts Committee, where he was a member until May 2017.
6. In 2015 Kwasi was appointed as Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Leader of the House of Lords, and in 2017 he became Parliamentary Private Secretary to the Chancellor of the Exchequer.

**Personal life**

1. Kwasi’s passions include history, music and languages. He has lived in and around London for most of his life. He has authored several books, including Ghosts of Empire, War and Gold and Thatcher’s Trial.

**Parliamentary Under Secretary of State**

1. Portfolio
   1. EU (Withdrawal Agreement) Bill
   2. Vote on the final deal
   3. English Regions
   4. Security Partnership & Justice