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.

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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.
2. A biography is attached in **Appendix A.**
3. Mr Kwarteng will be addressing Councillors’ Forum to update members on the latest progress of the UK’s exit from the European Union and what local authorities need to prepare for departure.

**LGA work on Brexit**

1. At the June meeting of the Executive and Leadership Board, members considered and agreed a report which set out the work that the LGA had done to support local authorities prepare for the UK’s exit from the EU. The report is attached in **Appendix B** It sets out:
   1. Our work was to support councils to prepare for a ‘No Deal’ scenario up until the 12 April 2019.
   2. Our role in working with councils to ensure that the Cabinet Office was fully informed about the resources needed and the risks associated with organising European Parliamentary elections at speed.
   3. The LGA and local authorities have asked Whitehall to use the coming months to resolve some of the outstanding front-line issues which remained unresolved at the April deadline, such as the preparedness and capacity of regulatory services.
   4. We are also raising broader issues where we need to work with Government to address the opportunities and risks associated with the impact of Brexit at the local level. This includes the urgency to release details of the replacement for EU funding – the UK Shared Prosperity Fund.
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