

'Stay in Scotland' Campaign

Summary and Recommendations

The 'Stay in Scotland' campaign and package of support was launched by the First Minister on 5th April this year, to support EU citizens to remain in Scotland during and beyond the uncertainty associated with the UK's exit from the EU. COSLA has agreed to promote the materials that have been developed to support EU citizens to secure settled status.

This paper invites members to:

- i. Promote and distribute the 'Stay in Scotland' support materials within their councils and to relevant stakeholders.

References

None

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Introduction

1. Cllr Parry met the Minister for Europe, Migration and International Development, Ben Macpherson, recently to discuss Brexit and migration. A key part of the discussion was around how can we work together to ensure EU citizens know about and can access the EU Settlement Scheme.
2. The 'Stay in Scotland' campaign and package of support was launched by the First Minister on 5th April, to support EU citizens to remain in Scotland during and beyond the uncertainty associated with an EU exit.

What is changing?

3. The '[Stay in Scotland](#)' package has four main elements. First, is a £250,000 fund to which community-based organisations can apply to promote the EU Settlement Scheme and support EU citizens to access the application process.
4. Second, there is a support service for EU citizens with more complex needs or particular challenges. Scottish Government has funded [Citizens Advice Scotland](#) (CAS) £800,000 over three years to provide an advice and support service for vulnerable EU citizens in Scotland.
5. Third, the Scottish Government has developed a [toolkit for employers](#), including posters, factsheets, and digital content directing EU citizens to further guidance.
6. Fourth, there will be social media activity using the hashtag #StayinScotland.

Proposed COSLA Position

7. COSLA recognises the importance of EU citizens being provided with accurate information and advice regarding the EU Settlement Scheme. We also recognise the importance of national and local political leaders articulating messages that migrants in general, and EU migrants in particular, are welcome and wanted in Scotland, particularly given the uncertainty and negativity that they may be facing as a result of Brexit.
8. With this in mind, COSLA welcomes the 'Stay in Scotland' campaign and is happy to promote the package of support that is on offer. We have sent details of the campaign and support materials to our key Brexit contacts in all councils and circulated through other key networks.

Next Steps

9. With members' agreement, COSLA will continue to promote 'Stay in Scotland' as a means of supporting EU citizens to secure settled status. In addition, members are asked to promote and distribute the support materials within their councils and to relevant stakeholders.