

**Report to:** Lead Member for Communities and Safety

**Date of meeting:** 25 April 2019

**By:** Director of Communities, Economy & Transport

**Title:** European Settlement Scheme (EuSS)

**Purpose:** To approve the introduction of the Home Office's European Settlement Scheme, including fees payable for non-East Sussex based customers.

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**RECOMMENDATIONS:** The Lead Member is recommended to

- 1) Note the introduction of the EuSS service from 2 May 2019; and
  - 2) To approve the introduction of a £14 fee for the provision of the EuSS service for non-East Sussex based customers from 2 May 2019.
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## **1. Background**

1.1. There are over 3 million European Union (EU) citizen residents in the United Kingdom (UK) whose legal status in the country is currently secured via their European Union Treaty rights. Under current proposals these residents will need to apply to the EuSS if they wish to continue to reside in the UK after the UK leaves the EU.

1.2. The EuSS means that any EU citizen resident in the UK, who satisfies certain basic requirements, is entitled to apply for Settled Status in the UK. This will provide them with a status equivalent to Indefinite Leave to Remain, not full British Citizenship. The EuSS programme includes EU, the European Economic Area (EEA), and Swiss citizens. The EEA includes the EU countries and also Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein.

1.3. A smartphone app was developed to enable people to self-serve through this process, however the app is restricted to newer Android devices (6.0 or above) with Near-Field Communication.

1.4. To provide an alternative way for affected citizens to apply to the EuSS, central government have developed a service which Local Authorities can offer. This service enables customers at a registration office to self-serve on an Android device and complete the EuSS application process.

1.5. This is a non-statutory service and currently there are only around 41 local authorities who have decided to offer this service, with the closest to East Sussex being Southampton and the London Borough of Merton. The Home Office and the Local Registration Services Association have agreed a cost recovery fee of £14.00 per application, that can be charged for providing this service.

## **2. Proposals**

2.1. Anyone who lives and/or works in East Sussex will be able to access this service for free at the Register Offices across the county.

2.2. It is proposed that customers who do not live or work in East Sussex are able to access this service, however they would be required to pay the £14.00 fee.

2.3. This service is not the same as that offered nationally by a company called We Are Digital, who has been commissioned by the UK Government to assist EU citizens who are classified as 'digitally excluded'. It has been clarified by the Home Office that not having access to an Android device does not constitute a customer as being 'digitally excluded'.

### **3 Conclusion and reasons for recommendations**

3.1 In order to provide an additional way that affected citizens can apply to the EUSS, the Lead Member is recommended to note the introduction of the new face to face service at East Sussex registration offices from 2 May 2019.

3.2 To assist with cost recovery the Lead Member is recommended to approve the fee payable of £14 inclusive of VAT for those customers who do not live or work in East Sussex.

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#### LOCAL MEMBERS

All

#### BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None