

Economy and Population

3.4 The downward trend projection for the population of Argyll and Bute is well established and it remains a risk. Exiting the EU common market will exacerbate this trend, particularly with the loss of free movement of economically active EU residents to our area. This will have a direct impact on key sectors in Argyll and Bute including tourism, food production (fishing and aquaculture) and the care sector with the latter a growing issue for our communities. EU residents currently resident in the UK have until 30th June 2021 to apply for Settled Status in the UK and it is unknown how many this may be.

3.5 In partnership with other local authorities,72.024 579.46 Tm 0.048 Tc(3.)JTJETBT1 0 0 19.46

countermeasures if they believe they are being damaged by measures taken by the other in subsidy policy (State Aid), labour and social policy, or climate and environment policy, and fisheries; in plain terms this means the right to introduce quotas and tariffs.

3.11 The single greatest risk currently for Argyll and Bute is for food exports to the EU as they now require an Export Health Certificate (EHC). Our current projections was that this will generate a demand for an additional 1,000 EHCs in Argyll and Bute alone as the EU is our greatest export market for shellfish and to a lesser extent for aquaculture which has a more global market.

3.12 A significant development is all major food exporters in Argyll and Bute are using Commercial Hubs established in South Lanarkshire which reduced a significant burden on council services; possibly as many as an additional 19,000 EHCs per annum. Nonetheless, these suppliers now require attestation certificates from Argyll and Bute Council and this work is largely complete and will remain ongoing by request. This activity had a significant impact on resources within Regulatory Services and was prioritised at the expense of other statutory work. The Council continues to engage with and support industry at this time of change.

3.13 During the initial period of the new arrangements, due to issues with documentation (and primarily where.46 agula6(e)6(n)-3(ts(ir)--3(rs)2.2 6B3(r a)4(a)-30.024

Community

- 3.17 The primary risk for communities in the short to medium term is food security for vulnerable people and senior officers continue to liaise with the Argyll and Bute Community Food Forum which has evolved and expanded in response to the COVID-19 crisis. In addition, senior officers are liaising with the Scottish Governments Islands Directorate and Food Insecurity Team