

Appendix 2: Comments of Local Businesses

The Royal Borough of Greenwich's Business Engagement Team have contacted local businesses to seek their views on Brexit. Their comments are set out below; in order to ensure that they are able to engage frankly with the Council on this matter, the comments have been anonymised.

"This is a very worrying time"

"Article 50 should be revoked"

"A disaster!"

"Struggled to grow since 2016 after referendum"

"No deal should be blocked"

"[business name] is not anticipating direct effects from Brexit, other than possible shortages of building materials - a significant proportion of which are now imported from EU countries. The construction industry is already experiencing shortages of some materials e.g. bricks, due simply to excess demand. A constriction of supply could cause enormous problems."

"In addition, the exchange rate is having a major effect on the price of materials. A further drop in the pound will exacerbate the problem."

"Our main problem will be due to distress in SMEs generally. As we know, that could be very real indeed, and will cause a fall in demand for workspace and therefore of rental income."

"EU Staff are uneasy and unsure about whether they will be allowed to stay and work in the UK"

"Two of our suppliers have announced price of goods will go up because of Brexit"

"Recruitment for food businesses has always been very difficult but we normally manage because we pay higher wages, recently (last 12 months) we have struggled to attract people even to interview and have a number of unfilled vacancies"

“Food prices have been raising and we expect price rises as a result of no deal to impact on us considerably”

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“Food projects relying on donations have seen a reduction in donations”

“There is a very big difference between an orderly Brexit and a No deal Brexit so it is a bit hard to list items until we have some certainty!”

“The big thing for us is people, there is a skills shortage in construction which is going to be made a whole lot worse!”

“The supply of Construction materials and the certification of materials is going to be very difficult”

“Too much indecision over the past 2 years”

“Sales have fallen but this is also due to other factors like high streets struggling and Crossrail delay”

“Costs from suppliers is going up”

“Margins are coming down”

“Uncertain future and very worrying time - A deal is needed!”

“Fed up with Brexit; it’s gone on far too long”

“Prefer that the UK has a deal before we leave but just want this uncertainty to end!”

“There has been a 20-25% price increase from suppliers”

“People applying for jobs has fallen and getting difficult to recruit”

“A deal is needed for the UK”

“The business has had to incur additional expenditure in order to increase storage capacity in order to mitigate potential imported supply shortages. This has meant renting both a container and outside refrigeration space due to lack of space internally within the premises”

“Recruitment of suitably experienced staff is difficult – appears the market is less buoyant than previously”

“Skilled labour prices are increasing due to supply side issues”