What impact the Article 50 negotiations have had upon your business/organisation to date?

There has been no direct impact at present but as a large organisation providing a wide range of services to the public, the uncertainty associated with these negotiations presents us with difficulties in terms of our preparedness for regulation changes. Investments may be impacted and we also have concerns for the economic wellbeing of our communities.

As a public sector agency we provide support to our business base and we are concerned about how our immigrant workforce may be affected and the extent to which our businesses may find external trading more complicated and more expensive.

What preparations, if any, are being made by your business/organisation for the range of scenarios which may result from the Article 50 negotiations?

The Council’s Management Team is considering the issues most likely to impact on our business and that of our customers and we are liaising with Scottish Government in this regard. The ability to plan is hampered by the lack of clarity around what Brexit will actually mean.

Similarly we have invited the Brexit Secretary to meet with local businesses and we are encouraging businesses who export and purchase from other EU countries to undertake their own scenario planning and to engage support available from Scottish Enterprise in this regard. We are also providing consultancy and grant support to businesses who wish to diversify and find new markets to mitigate against potential impacts of Brexit.

What you consider the impact of a no-deal outcome would be for your business/organisation?

This will impact on our business base much more than our organisation but in this regard we must be able to provide support to businesses who face difficulty recruiting non UK staff, difficulty retaining a migrant workforce and those for whom trading with the EU becomes more complex.

To what extent, the guidance issued by the European Commission and UK Government has been helpful in helping your to prepare for the UK’s withdrawal from the EU?

We believe that the guidance is inadequate but that this largely stems from the protracted nature of the negotiations and the continued uncertainty about the final outcome.

What further support or guidance you consider the Scottish Government, UK Government and/or European Commission should be providing to enable individuals,
businesses and organisations in Scotland to prepare for the UK’s withdrawal from the EU?

Once there is a clear understanding of the deal between the EC and UK, early and detailed advice on the consequences and actions needed will be essential.

Reassurance that the UK Government will provide like for like funding for projects and programmes currently funded by the EU is also vital.