

**COUNCIL MEETING – 14 MARCH 2018**  
**ITEM 13 – MEMBER QUESTION TIME**

**The following question has been submitted by Councillor Paul Rowling for response by the Leader of the Council:-**

“Recent government impact assessments have shown that the North East will be the hardest hit region under each Brexit scenario. With one year to go until March 2019 there continues to be uncertainty about the nature of future access to European markets.

As things stand businesses across Stockton trade with the EU, their supply chains run tariff free across Member States and many jobs are heavily reliant on access to these markets. Whilst negotiations are ongoing and we are all hopeful of a good deal, the rhetoric from both sides suggest a so called ‘hard Brexit’ is more likely than ever.

Can the Leader of the Council update Members on what discussions are taking place both here in Stockton and across the Tees Valley regarding the potential effects of the United Kingdom’s withdrawal from the European Union?”