

Mayoral Question Time – 25th October 18

The following questions have been submitted to the Mayor. Verbal replies will be given at the meeting.

<p>Question 1 – Cllr Martin Fodor</p>	<p>Corporate Risk Register</p> <p>At the recent Cabinet I pointed out that the administration is informed of two sections regarding risks to the city or the Council from Brexit, which are OPP4 and BCC2. Both mention a response group that is monitoring the situation and recognise threats to the council's services and communities. The need for more concrete contingency plans and preparations for actions would be wise if there are real risks.</p> <p>In papers for this OSMB these items of the Corporate Risk Register remains unchanged, although Cllr Cheney agreed the Brexit items might need to be revised [see Cabinet webcast] to show higher risk, not medium risk.</p> <p>If anything the matter is now even more urgent to due to date fast approaching and the risks of a no deal Brexit.</p> <p>The entry still says there will be a meeting in October, nothing else [and OPP4 describes the issue as Exiting the EU, not Exiting the EU] .</p> <p>The LGA EU Task Force has now issued detailed new information about Brexit for local government eg all No Deal Technical Papers have been published by the government and the LGA have provided a summary of them.</p> <p>The Leader of Plymouth has used the Sustainable Communities Act to call for information from government.</p> <p>Locally there are concerns about impacts on the Bristol workforce, eg employment in social care, the NHS, Universities, and hospitality sector, for instance.</p> <p>Q: What is the current action to assess the true range of risks and when will Members of the Council be briefed on these issues?</p> <p>NB I can attend the meeting and would like the answers in writing, too.</p>
<p>Question 2 – Cllr Paula O'Rourke</p>	<p>I would be interested to hear the Mayor's philosophy on workforce management.</p> <p>If one takes days lost to sickness as an indicator of the health of an organisation, then the statistics for BCC do not paint a pretty picture. I note that absence through sickness has risen to 9.25 days lost, while the national average has dropped to 4.1.</p> <p>Using a calculator provided by the Office of National Statistics, I was able to input figures to establish what the average number of days lost for a similar business should be (over 500 employees in public sector office/admin) and it came out as 6.1 days. So, at 9.25 days lost</p>

to sickness, BCC is twice the national average.

What does the Mayor think lies at the heart of this problem and what has he been doing to date to rectify it? What does the Mayor believe needs to be done to better motivate the workforce and does he think that the fact that only 27% of return-to-work interviews are completed have any part to play in the high number of days of sickness taken?

NOTE

Can the data be relied on?

I notice that there is a footnote on the HR Dashboard:

“2) Employee who have more than one job with the Council are included once for each job.”

However, the KPI figures report the 9.25 figure, so one presumes that is correct.