

OPEN QUESTIONS FOR SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL 5 NOVEMBER 2020

Question from Councillor Robson

To Executive Member for Economic Regeneration & Finance

To ask the Council's Executive Member what consideration the Brexit Response Group has given to the possible impacts of UK Internal Market Bill on the powers of the Council and the services which it delivers.

Question from Councillor Bell

To the Leader

Shortly after the 2016 European Referendum the last Council Administration set up a Brexit Response Team to anticipate the potential impacts on the region of leaving the EU; including impacts on procurement, the local economy, citizens & communications and contingencies.

We were told of weekly meetings of the Brexit Response Team in a presentation to Council in March 2019, but since then we have heard very little. This is both puzzling and concerning.

How frequently does the Brexit Response Team meet?

Why do we hear nothing from them?"

Questions from Councillor H. Scott

1. To Executive Member for Children & Young People

iPads and the introduction of Inspire Learning appears to have been a success, especially during the current crisis around Covid19, however, anecdotally, it is becoming apparent that some equipment is being abused, lost, or stolen. Can the Executive Member tell Council: -

1. The total number of iPads issued to pupils in primary and secondary schools?
2. How many have been damaged beyond repair?
3. How many have been either lost or stolen?
4. The total cost to the Council of repairs and replacements?

To Executive Member for Infrastructure, Travel and Transport

2. Following on from a message, dated 23 October, 2020, from the Chief Executive of Live Borders, that community halls and community centres will be closed for general purposes until January 2021, what measures will Scottish Borders Council undertake to ensure that its assets are properly maintained over the winter months to ensure they remain in a state of good repair?

3. Since the coming of the Borders Railway, the communities of, and surrounding Fountainhall and Heriot, have suffered a substantial reduction in the non-subsidised X95 bus service between Galashiels and Edinburgh. I have been informed that an assessment of future need, post Covid19, is being carried out by Borders Buses, to ascertain the requirement for several 'bus services within the Scottish Borders. What engagement will Scottish Borders Council undertake with Borders Buses to ensure that the communities of, and around Fountainhall and Heriot, do not suffer a further reduction of the X95 service, which is a vital means of transport and communication to that population, some of whom are elderly, living in poverty, or have additional needs, and will the provision of a subsidy by SBC form part of that engagement?

4. To the Leader

Can the Leader update the Council on the progress or otherwise of discussions with Police Scotland regarding the possible modernisation of public space CCTV in the Scottish Borders?

Question from Councillor Ramage

To the Leader

Would the Scottish Border Council fly the Union Jack at half mast on all council buildings on the 1st of January 2021 in recognition of leaving the E.U. after 48 years?

Question from Councillor H. Anderson

To the Leader

What steps have Scottish Borders Council taken to ensure that the fresh food supply chain will withstand the impact of a no or low deal Brexit on 1 January 2021 and how many days of dried and frozen food supplies are there to ensure that our schools and care homes continue to serve meals.

Question from Councillor Thornton-Nicol

To the Executive Member for Adult Wellbeing

Can you confirm that we have capacity to hold all the necessary products to deliver our home care and care home provision after a no or low deal Brexit on 1 January 2021 and if there have been discussions with NHS Borders for storage space for non-temperature controlled medication and consumables should they not have the ability to hold a suitable stockpile to mitigate any supply chain issues?

Question from Councillor Laing

To the Executive Member for Economic Regeneration & Finance

With the end of the Brexit Transition period looming, can the Executive Member tell us how a no deal or low deal situation will impact on the export of live shellfish from Eyemouth and the consequent effect on the local economy of East Berwickshire.