

Risk Champion Report Jan 2021: Outcome of Motions & Written Questions

Topic:

What is the outcome of motions and questions Councillors bring to full Council? How is this tracked and monitored and who is responsible for ensuring agreed actions are followed up?

Purpose of this report

Reminder – This isn't a formal audit. The purpose of this report is to give a quick insight into an area of the council that members may not be familiar with or that may be of interest in exploring further, as it may have some level of risk or governance requirement. As such, its subjective in its nature, and any observations or recommendations are a suggestion to consider, not a formal mandate.

Introduction

In this report I wanted to explore what happens to questions and motions raised by members. Are agreed actions followed up, and by whom? The report contains a summary of all questions and motions that have been raised over the last 12 months and also some observations about ways of working.

Key findings:

- There may be some confusion about who is responsible for following up actions from questions or motions. There is no process within Democratic services where actions from motions and questions are audited or followed up. The Dem services team minute decisions and responses to questions, and refer things to relevant committees where required, but once this has been done and the minutes published, their involvement ends. It's the responsibility of councillors to make sure activities are carried out. For example, if a recommendation in a motion was to refer something to O&S or Cabinet etc, it is the responsibility of Councillors to follow that up. Similarly, in regard to questions, it's the responsibility of the councillor to go back to the leader or portfolio holder etc if any follow up is required (eg if they don't get a written response that was promised or have further questions).
- The table below is a summary of all motions and questions over the last 12 months, the specific action that was agreed and the current status. Pulling this together was a one-off piece of work and extremely time consuming so is not something Democratic Services could do on an ongoing basis, however, now that we have an up to date status report, this may be something individual groups want to manage themselves and keep updated

Recommendations/ Suggestions:

- Members of this Audit & Standards committee could:
 - Share the table below with their group and if the group choose, keep it updated themselves
 - Review actions that have been agreed and follow up any that are outstanding for their group

- Ensure the process is understood in their group by explaining that it is the responsibility of Councillors to follow up on actions direct with the Leader / relevant Portfolio Holder etc. not to go back to Democratic Services to chase responses or follow up.

Summary of Motions and Questions – Last 12 months

Motions: All motions, last 12 months			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject of motion</i>	<i>Response and any Specific actions agreed</i>	<i>Status of actions (eg completed? Partially completed? still outstanding?)</i>
02/12/20	Cllr Hunter - Fireworks	Referred to O&S	On the agenda for O&S on 11/1/21
	Cllr McDonald – Travel Claims	Referred to O&S	On the agenda for O&S on 11/1/21
	Cllr Thompson – IHRA Definition of Antisemitism	Motion Carried	NFA
	Cllr Hotham – Planning Enforcement	Withdrawn	
	Cllr Rone-Clarke – Parking around schools	Withdrawn	
21/10/20	Cllr McDonald – Low income families and fuel costs. Write to the Government.	Agreed that Leader would write as requested and keep Council updated with any response.	Responsibility of this would rest with the Leader and Cllr McDonald to chase up to see if she has done it.
	Cllr Rone-Clarke – Introduction of a Bromsgrove Cash Card	Matter referred to the Town Centres Manager, who will contact Cllr Rone-Clarke.	NFA Cllr Rone-Clarke is in touch with the Town Centres Manager.
	Cllr Hunter – void properties	Referred to the Finance & Budget Working Group	Cllr Hunter has attended a meeting of the Finance & Budget Working Group and discussions are ongoing.
	Cllr Colella – Government White Paper and suspending greenbelt review.	Motion lost	NFA
16/09/20	Cllr Colella – trees for life	Agreed to refer to Cabinet.	Referred to relevant officers who are liaising with the Leader/Cabinet member. Cllr Colella will be advised of progress. If he is unhappy with the timescale he can follow up with Leader/Cabinet member.
	Cllr Hotham – Shopper/shuttle minibus services.	Agreed to refer to Cabinet.	Referred to relevant officers who are liaising with the Leader/Cabinet member. Cllr Hotham will be advised of progress. If he is unhappy with the timescale he can follow up with Leader/Cabinet member.
05/08/20	First meeting of Council for the 2020/21 Municipal year and first full Council meeting		

	held remotely. It was therefore agreed between the Group Leaders that there would be motions, only questions, with the options for a supplementary question to be asked.		
Questions: All written questions submitted and responded to, last 12 months			
<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject of question</i>	<i>Response and any Specific actions agreed</i>	<i>Status of actions (eg completed? Partially completed? still outstanding?)</i>
02/12/20	Councillor King – real living wage.	No specific action. Leader offered to provide papers she referred to in her response if Cllr King wanted them.	Up to Cllr King to request info if she wants it.
	Cllr Hunter – Write to Secretary of State re Towns Funding.	Leader advised she would not be writing at this stage.	NFA
	Cllr Hotham – Road Sweeping collection rates.	Detailed response provided by the Portfolio Holder.	NFA
	Cllr McDonald – Leader to write to the Chancellor re low paid workers.	Leader provided info and said would not be writing to Chancellor.	NFA
	Cllr Till – Council’s commitment to active travel.	Detailed response given from the Portfolio Holder	NFA
21/10.20	Cllr Hunter – Car Parking Cashless payments	Leader provided detailed response.	NFA
	Cllr McDonald – Cost of travelling expenses compared to previous year.	Detailed response provided.	NFA
	Cllr Colella – Position re updates on Outside Bodies	Detailed response from Leader given and advised that records were kept.	NFA Up to Cllr Colella to contact the relevant officer to view the updates should he want to.
16/09/20	Cllr Van der Plank – cutting down of trees.	Response from Portfolio Holder and suggestion that if further info provided by Cllr Van der Plank would look into matter further.	NFA Up to Cllr Van der Plank to contact Portfolio Holder as detailed in the minutes.
	Cllr Hotham – Final cost of Bird Box	Response provided.	NFA
	Cllr King – Protecting Green Belt	Portfolio Holder provided a response.	NFA
	Cllr Hunter – reopening high streets funding spent.	Detailed response provided.	NFA
	Cllr Robinson (nee Hughes) – no limit of climate change ambition.	Response provided by the Leader.	NFA
	Cllr McDonald – Leader to write to Government in respect of rent evictions.	Detailed response provided – not necessary to send a letter.	NFA
	Cllr Robinson (nee Hughes) – update on support given to the Artrix Holding Trust.	Response provided from the Leader.	NFA
	Cllr Van der Plank – progress update following fly tipping motion from Sept 2019.	Response from the Portfolio Holder – who agreed to provided exact dates in	Responsibility of the Portfolio Holder to action and for Cllr Van der Plank to chase up if information not received.

		respect of the areas he had covered.	
	Cllr King – funding for bus service to replace the 202.	Details provided by the Portfolio Holder.	NFA
	Cllr Douglas – Artrix Holding Trust future operator.	Response provided by the Leader.	NFA
	Cllr McDonald – Rubery Festival funding and support.	The Leader responded and would ask a member of the Arts Development Team to contact the Rubery Festival committee.	Leader to arrange Arts Development Team to contact. If this doesn't happen Cllr McDonald could follow up.
	Cllr McDonald – Artrix Holding Trust to keep Council updated.	Leader responded.	NFA
05/08/20	Cllr Hunter - Shortfall in Council's budget following Government grants received re Covid-19.	Cllr Denaro as Portfolio Holder for Finance responded.	Cllr Denaro asked Cllr Hunter to send him specific details of cases referred to – responsibility lies with Cllrs Hunter and Denaro to do this.
	Cllr King – Cuts to bus services and impact on residents and the Council's strategic purposes.	Leader responded – if Cllr King was not happy with the response, she could take it up with the Leader outside of the meeting.	MFA
	Cllr Robinson (nee Hughes) – Culture Grants from Government and whether these were being applied for on behalf of venues in Bromsgrove.	Cllr Thomas provided details of the areas covered by the grants and the work the Council was doing.	Cllr Robinson agreed to write to Cllr Thomas outside of the meeting I respect of the other points. It would be the responsibility of Cllr Robinson to follow this up.
	Cllr Rone-Clarke – response and preparations in place for a second spike of Covid-19.	Detailed response provided by the Leader.	NFA

Questions/Petitions from the Public: All submitted and responded to, last 12 months

<i>Date</i>	<i>Subject of question</i>	<i>Response and any Specific actions agreed</i>	<i>Status of actions (eg completed? Partially completed? still outstanding?)</i>
05/08/20	Petition presented by a Member of the Public – Rory Shannon in respect of the Artrix	This was accepted by the Leader on behalf of the Trustees of the Holding Trust.	NFA – the contents of the petition would be considered, if appropriate, by the Trustees as part of their ongoing work.

Kate Van der Plank – Risk Champion

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