

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**25<sup>TH</sup> FEBRUARY 2019**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR ORAL REPLY**

**1. From Taylor Matthews to the Leader of the Council**

Can the Leader of the Council explain why Bromley (the first London Council to debate and vote in favour of Brexit) is the last to put contingency plans in place, and when rate payers will be advised of said plans?"

**Reply:**

The Council has undertaken no independent analysis on the possible effects or otherwise of Brexit. Senior staff within Bromley Council continue to hold no reported concerns as to staffing or service issues.

In the unlikelyhood any unforeseen operational or financial liabilities were to arise to the downside, the Council carries sufficient contingency reserves to ensure there will be no disruption to valued local services.

The latest general thoughts on related matters pan-London can be found on the following link from a recent London Councils Leaders Committee agenda:

<https://www.londoncouncils.gov.uk/node/35057>

**Supplementary Question:**

Has the Council considered the impact on services that are particularly vulnerable if EU nationals do not secure a good deal, such as adult social services?

**Reply:**

Officers see no problems around staffing levels, particularly around services to vulnerable people of any nationality.

**Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Ian Dunn:**

Has Cllr Smith read the Ernst & Young Local Government Audit Committee Briefing dated December 2018 where the briefing discusses the impact on social care provision and states that the social care workforce is particularly susceptible to the impact of Brexit?

**Reply:**

I did not hear which august body wrote the report in question, but what I can tell you with certainty is that those of us in this chamber, certainly on this side, know more about social services in Bromley than whoever wrote that report.

**Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Simon Fawthrop:**

Is the Leader aware that the Government has given every assurance to EU nationals that after Brexit they will be welcome to remain, and we also welcome those of them living and working in this country to remain here after Brexit.

**Additional Supplementary Question from Cllr Nicholas Bennett:**

Would the Leader agree with me that the proposal by the Leader of the Opposition tonight to support a second referendum, which would cost this borough half a million pounds, is a complete and utter waste of money?

**Reply:**

I would say in the first part to Councillor Bennett's question - absolutely. It would also be an insult to democracy across this country following the referendum and a failure to deliver it.

In answer to Cllr Fawthrop, I have temporarily forgotten his question, but the answer was definitely yes.