

Questions from Councillors

CQ1

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MARIA WATSON OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

I'm sure it is of no surprise that we begin our questions today with the ongoing issue of the damage and subsequent lane closures of the Clifton Bridge. While the situation is far from resolved, and the estimated timeframe of the end of the year is troubling for all Nottingham residents, may I start by thanking those who are working night and day, especially considering the recent winds and rain, to get the roads open as quickly as possible.

The issues with the A52 have exposed the very real shortcomings of Nottingham's road networks, with TomTom's Traffic Index Scale at one point identifying Nottingham as the world's most congested city. During rush hour, 30 minute journeys have taken up to three hours, schools have been forced to cancel after school activities and the economic effect on businesses and the City has been significant. It is evident that in the event of closure or major disruption to any of the City's three traffic bridges, the remaining two cannot cope with the growing level of traffic that Nottingham generates. It is especially concerning considering the upcoming housing development of 3000 homes, currently being built just south of Clifton, in the Fairham Pastures Development, which will no doubt greatly increase the amount of traffic flowing over Clifton Bridge.

The level of traffic that this City deals with is only going to increase over time so being proactive and making necessary changes now will benefit the whole City going forward. While we recognise that it is too late for it to have an impact on the current situation, does the Portfolio Holder not agree with us that a fourth bridge across the Trent is, at the very least, a sensible approach to preventing this situation happening again in the future?

CQ2

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN CLARKE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

The Clifton Bridge lane closures have hit at possibly the worst time for the City. While of course it could not have been predicted, the fact that the problems have occurred during all the current work and development happening across the City has no doubt exacerbated the traffic problems we're currently experiencing. We recognise that there is no 'one size fits all' policy about solving the problems caused by the Clifton Bridge lane closures, and while we are sure Highways England are currently examining any and all solutions to the City's current levels of congestion, will the Portfolio Holder consider the option of opening bus lanes to all traffic, either permanently or at least during peak hours? Following successful trials in both Liverpool and Coventry, both cities have greatly reduced the number of bus lanes within the City, with both councils citing their efforts to reduce both congestion and

emissions. Nottingham needs to make every effort to ease the current problems facing the workers and residents of the City, and we believe that this is worth examining.

CQ3

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KIRSTY JONES OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Following the discovery and controlled detonation of a suspicious package in Manvers Street on the 24th February, will the Leader of the Council join me in a message of thanks to our Police, to the Army's Bomb Disposal Unit, and to all our emergency services? The rapid response of these brave men and women, who rarely consider the danger to themselves before putting their lives on the line to protect us all, should be a source of pride and of reassurance to the people of Nottingham, and I for one certainly feel safer knowing that we have them to rely on.

CQ4

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN CLARKE OF LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

As I'm sure like most Councillors here today, we at the Independents feel a great deal of excitement and anticipation about all of the development currently happening within the City Centre, with specific mention of those currently happening at the Broadmarsh Shopping Centre. However, amid this excitement, it is of great concern to us to see the much publicised financial woes that are affecting Broadmarsh's owners Intu. Last week's 'Emergency Cash Call', the reported debts and the plummeting share prices are, at the very least, a worry about the company's long-term financial future. Can the Leader of the Council give us the necessary reassurance that the Broadmarsh development, and indeed the Victoria Centre, will continue to have a secure role in this City's future?

CQ5

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

The Leader of the Council may be aware that since the local elections last year the INTU share price has collapsed by nearly 90% (as of 5 March 2020) and they have recently cancelled an attempt to raise a reported additional £1 billion from shareholders. Can the Leader of the Council reassure the Chamber that this won't have an adverse bearing on the redevelopment of Broadmarsh Centre?

CQ6

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

The recent storms have highlighted flooding issues that resulted in a build up of deep standing water that covered both the highway and the tram tracks in Clifton, and most notably in Clifton, opposite the former St Francis Church at the junction of Farnborough Road and Brooksby Lane. A significant contributory factor to this was a build of sand, discharged by the tram to assist with traction, which blocked drainage holes in between the tracks, which resulted in standing water accumulating. Colleagues advise that the operator should clear in between the tracks regularly but that it fails to do this. Could the Portfolio Holder apply pressure to ensure the operator undertakes this activity regularly not only in Clifton, but across the entirety of the tram network to prevent this from occurring again?

CQ7

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Given that the Council's external auditor has placed considerable emphasis on improving governance of council owned companies which has now led to the creation of the Companies Governance Committee; would the Leader agree, that in order to maximise the Committee's chances of both seriously improving the governance of council owned companies and the transparency of the Committee its self, the Council's auditor should be asked to attend the Committee to offer their expertise and guidance in helping the Committee achieve its objective?

CQ8

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Could the Leader of the Council detail the professional skills held by those councillors in the respective fields of those council owned companies, on whose boards they sit?

CQ9

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MICHAEL EDWARDS OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Does the Portfolio Holder for Adults and Local Transport think Highways England should be providing funding to the Council for short-term measures that will mitigate traffic disruption as a result of their maintenance work on Clifton Bridge?

CQ10

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR JAY HAYES OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Now we are in the coldest part of the year, could the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage give an update on the rough sleeping figures for Nottingham?

CQ11

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR NICK RAINE OF THE LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Does the Leader agree that local government has suffered funding cuts of nearly 50% since 2010 which have decimated our services and eroded the pay of the workers who deliver them? Does he also agree that central government should now fully fund a decent pay rise and establish a minimum wage of at least £10 per hour for local government workers in 2020/2021?

CQ12

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR JANE LAKEY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Could the Portfolio Holder for Energy, Environment and Democratic Services explain Nottingham City's plan for handling the Covid19 virus?

Questions from Councillors Requiring a Written Response

WQ1

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

The Portfolio Holder recently announced the trialling of wireless electrical vehicle charging points in the City. Can she confirm that the electromagnetic field generated by these points does not have an adverse impact on personal medical equipment, such as Pacemakers for example, and if so can she give an indication of what steps the Council will take to mitigate this?

WQ2

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE HOUSING, PLANNING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

The Portfolio Holder will be aware of the considerable opposition from local residents to the development known as 'Clifton West' which borders Hawksley Gardens in Clifton. Can she confirm that there are no plans in the next four years to develop land to the east of the existing development that would encroach into the Conservation Area and Ancient Woodland surrounding Clifton Village and rely upon Holgate, in Clifton Village for access?

WQ3

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 9 MARCH 2020

Following the introduction of the ULEV Lane on Daleside Road can the Portfolio Holder confirm how its effectiveness has been measured in terms of improvements to air quality and congestion time and when and what time any such studies have been carried out?
