

Questions from Councillors

CQ1

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN CLARKE OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Following last week's developments regarding Intu handing back control of the Broadmarsh Centre to Nottingham City Council, can the Leader confirm that the responsibility of the site now lies fully with the Council? If so, and while we understand firm plans cannot be drawn up overnight, can the Leader outline to us the options that are available and being considered for the future of the site?

CQ2

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KEVIN CLARKE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

In the financial year 2018/19 Robin Hood Energy posted losses of £23.1million. According to their own accounts, they have made losses of over £33.5million across the previous five years. Indeed, they have only posted a profit one year across their entire existence. While the Council can hardly be blamed for the current financial hardships caused by the Covid-19 crisis, the fact remains that the present situation is critically fragile. Does the Portfolio Holder not therefore agree that it is finally time to follow the Labour-led Bristol City Council's lead and divest itself of its commitment to what is obvious to everyone, a failing energy company?

CQ3

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MARIA WATSON OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

In the previous Full Council meeting back in May, all parties here expressed words of gratitude and support to the communities and council workers responding to this once in a lifetime crisis. While we don't wish to go over old ground, we would like to draw attention to the work of some council workers who we believe deserve greater attention for the work they do, than they are currently receiving.

The Cleansing and Maintenance teams of Clifton, as I'm sure across the whole of Nottingham, do an arduous and thankless job but we as councillors could not be more grateful for the work they've done during this crisis. The cleansing teams have gone above and beyond to ensure that Clifton is a safe place for its residents. Will the Leader of the Council join me to thank the Clifton team, our Neighbourhood Operations Manager and I'm sure all of the Council teams across Nottingham for everything they have done over the past few months for the good of this City?

CQ4

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 13 JULY 2020

While we are aware the current financial pressure is of a situation completely outside of the Council's control, the recent public threat of redundancies is of course still a huge concern. And while I'm sure the decisions have not been taken lightly, that will be of little comfort either for the council officers who now fear for their jobs, nor for the service users who already rely on financially stretched services. Can the Leader guarantee these people, that following the end of this current round of voluntary redundancies, everything possible will be done to avoid any further job losses? Further, will he also commit to carefully evaluating the proposals recently put forward by UNISON, UNITE and GMB, and consider them as serious alternatives to our colleagues losing their jobs?

CQ5

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE CHAIR OF THE AUDIT COMMITTEE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

The Chair of the Audit Committee will be aware from media reports that a strategic review of Robin Hood Energy is currently underway. Given the severity of the Council's financial situation and the risk posed by Robin Hood Energy's financial performance on its ability to repay the lending to it by the Council – will the Chair of the Audit Committee undertake to request a copy of this review and convene a meeting of the Audit Committee where it can be discussed in more detail?

CQ6

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 13 JULY 2020

Could the Leader of the Council update the Chamber in respect of the prospects of the Council recovering any of the £17million put at risk following the appointment of administrators over Intu and the collapse of the redevelopment of the Broadmarsh's shopping centre?

CQ7

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 13 JULY 2020

The Portfolio Holder will appreciate that following the suspension of services, the families of service users and the service users of the City Council's day care centres have been somewhat left in limbo of late as they've received no communication from the Council with regard to when a full or even partial service will resume. Will the Portfolio Holder therefore urgently press the Head of Service to publish a timeframe for when this might happen to give families much needed clarity in this area?

CQ8

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

The Portfolio Holder will be aware that despite the impressive efforts of Council to distribute Government backed funding to businesses across the City, as at 5 July there remains unallocated funding of circa £12million. Could the Portfolio Holder comment on the challenges that have hampered allocating this funding and how the Council is seeking to address those challenges?

CQ9

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR GRAHAM CHAPMAN OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Does the Deputy Leader of the Council feel there are sufficient data and support from Government to allow local partners to respond effectively were there to be a spike in COVID-19 cases in Nottingham?

CQ10

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MERLITA BRYAN OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR EARLY YEARS, EDUCATION AND EMPLOYMENT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Given the increased awareness of racial history in Britain in recent weeks, does the Portfolio Holder for Early Years, Education and Employment concur with my staunch belief that now, more than ever, is it finally time to rectify this long-standing omission from our British education system, and to genuinely review the national curriculum, making the teaching of black history mandatory for all pupils in schools in England?

CQ11

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR SAM GARDINER OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Robert Jenrick, Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government, said that Government would do “whatever it takes to support councils” at the beginning of the lockdown. The Conservative Government repeatedly echoed this statement, but it is now becoming clear that the Government will not help English councils with the shortfall and have broken their promise to fully recompense local councils for their efforts in responding to COVID-19.

Nottingham’s shortfall so far is £65 million and on top of 10 years of austerity can the Leader of the Council explain the impact this broken promise will have on local services and what actions would he call on the Government to make to meet their promises.

CQ12

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR CAROLE MCCULLOCH OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Can the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport comment on the Prime Minister’s recent comments on care homes and contrast these with the support given to the local care sector from the City Council and the increased costs that have been incurred in providing that vital support?

Questions from Councillors Requiring a Written Response

WQ1

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KIRSTY JONES OF THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

It is great credit to the people of Nottingham, to this Council and to our partners in the fight against Covid-19 that Nottingham hasn't been hit quite as hard as other parts of the UK, and indeed in our local area. It is also of great credit to see how the recently published Nottingham City Local Outbreak Plan puts such an emphasis on local decision making to best meet the needs of local communities. However, as we have seen from the recent localised Lockdown of Leicester, the national Government will step in to enforce measures, should they see the need arise. While we strongly hope it will not come to it, can the Deputy Leader inform us as to whether the national Government has illustrated to what levels a localised outbreak must reach before they take national level steps to combat it, and to the extent this takes decision making powers out of the hands of the Council?

WQ2

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how many Council employees have been furloughed since the scheme became operational and the total value of financial support the Council has received from the Conservative Government's furlough scheme?

WQ3

WRITTEN 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 13 JULY 2020

The Portfolio Holder may be aware that last month the longstanding issues with water accumulating at the bottom of Farnborough Road resulted in houses on Farnborough Road and Brooksby Lane being flooded. Does she accept that this would have been mitigated significantly if adequate drainage had been installed during the construction on the tram and will she therefore ensure that lessons are learned going forward from this?

WQ4

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR REGENERATION, SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Given the financial pressures the Council is currently under will the Portfolio Holder make publicly available a schedule of all commercial property owned by the Council to ensure appropriate scrutiny can be given to ensure that the Council is maximising the possible return from it and to ensure that potential business owners wishing to establish in the City can identify these properties?

WQ5

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR FINANCE, GROWTH AND THE CITY CENTRE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JULY 2020

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm whether Council reserves have been used to finance the following since 2015:

- Support for Robin Hood Energy
- The purchase of Thomas Bow Limited
- Enviroenergy Limited
- Nottingham Ice Arena
- Blueprint Limited Partnership/ Blueprint (General Partner) Limited
- Nottingham City Homes Limited
- The purchase of commercial property with a value of £500,000

If so, the total value of this support provided to each entity/ area of spend.
