

**QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR CULLEY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR BUSINESS, GROWTH AND TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 14 NOVEMBER 2016**

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In the light of recent tragic events in Croydon with their tram system, can Nottingham City Council assure its citizens that our tram has better safeguards than those in Croydon to the extent that a similar accident could not occur on the Nottingham Tram System?

**Response**

The recent tragic accident on Croydon's tram network has had a devastating impact on many people and Nottingham City Council offers its heartfelt condolences to all those involved.

Of course, a full investigation will be undertaken to properly understand the causes, and it would be inappropriate for this Council to speculate on the causes of the accident at this stage. However, we will read the reports that come out of such investigations carefully, as no doubt will all cities with tram systems, and we will seek to identify any lessons that should be learnt by tramway operators, including in Nottingham.

We should also recognise that modern tram networks operating in the UK have an exemplary safety record. Nationally, 40 million vehicle kilometres are operated each year and there are very few significant safety incidents. No tram passengers have been killed on a UK tram since January 1959 – so none in the modern era until the Croydon accident.

This reflects the situation in Nottingham. The trams operating in Nottingham have very sophisticated safety systems and operational safeguards. Almost 3.5 million tram vehicle kilometres are operated in Nottingham each year. Last year's published annual patronage statistics identified over 12.15m people had travelled on our tram network. Next year's figures will be even higher as they will include a full year of passengers travelling on our extended network to Toton and Clifton. Our tram network is helping to sustain and develop our local economy. It has a 98% customer satisfaction rating – the highest in the UK – and the tram is bringing massive benefit to many people, with usage continuing to strongly grow.

The tram is the central part of Nottingham's integrated transport network that is the envy of many cities, and we will continue to develop our transport strategy in Nottingham with our tram system at the very heart.