

COUNCIL QUESTIONS

CITY COUNCIL MEETING – 14 JULY 2014

Ref.	From	To	
CQ1	Councillor G Klein	Portfolio Holder for Children's Services	Councillor D Mellen
CQ2	Councillor A Choudhry	Leader	Councillor J Collins
CQ3	Councillor M Ibrahim	Portfolio Holder for Community Services	Councillor N Heaton
CQ4	Councillor Culley	Leader	Councillor Collins
CQ5	Councillor Morley	Portfolio Holder for Planning and Transportation	Councillor Urquhart
CQ6	Councillor Culley	Deputy Leader	Councillor Chapman
CQ7	Councillor Morley	Leader	Councillor Collins
WQ1	Councillor Dewinton	Portfolio Holder for Community Services / Portfolio Holder for Community Safety, Housing and Voluntary Sector	Councillor Heaton
WQ2	Councillor Dewinton	Portfolio Holder for Adults, Commissioning and Health	Councillor Norris

COPY OF QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR KLEIN OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

Could the Portfolio Holder for Children's Services inform Council about recent success in attracting national funding to support families with young children in our city?

CQ2

COPY OF QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR CHOUDHRY OF THE LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

Could the Leader tell Council the latest news from the Growth Deals announced last week?

CQ3

COPY OF QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR IBRAHIM OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

Could the Portfolio Holder for Community Services update Council on the preparations for free school meals beginning in September, as well as explaining the impact that the new school meals standards will have for pupils in Nottingham?

CQ4

COPY OF QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR CULLEY OF THE LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

I am sure the Leader of the Council will join me in welcoming yet more Government funding for projects in the city announced since our last meeting, including £30 million for the new Central College campus, £10 million for the southern gateway project and £12 million for Bio-City and the Nottingham Enterprise Zone.

With this in mind, does he agree with me that rather than being the villain that Nottingham City Council's tax-payer funded propaganda often suggests, this Conservative led government is actually delivering for Nottingham?

CQ5

COPY OF QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MORLEY OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING AND TRANSPORTATION AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

Does the Portfolio Holder share my disappointment, along with my fellow Wollaton West councillors, that the independent planning inspectorate chose to over turn what I believe to be this Council's correct decision to turn down planning for 140 dwellings on the Radford Bridge Road allotments? Can she tell me now what can the Council do to ensure that the local schools and infrastructure are sufficient for Wollaton's growing needs?

CQ6

COPY OF QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR CULLEY OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

Could the Deputy Leader of the Council inform the Council of what percentage of the City Council's staff were involved in strike action last Thursday? Does the number of union members who voted for strike action represent a majority of members?

CQ7

COPY OF QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MORLEY OF THE LEADER AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

I am sure the Leader of the Council agrees with me that ensuring our children get the best education possible is of the utmost importance, but that we cannot condone the actions of students who choose to tunnel out of schools in order perhaps to access better performing schools elsewhere.

He will also agree with me that ensuring that the schools within our boundaries are providing our children with the best education possible is vital. With that in mind, and not withstanding the changing relationship between the Council and city schools, could he update us on the achievements to date and future aims of the challenge board?

WQ1

COPY OF WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR DEWINTON OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR COMMUNITY SERVICES AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

I have welcomed the introduction and extension into my own ward of the alcohol control area. This has been an additional useful tool for law-enforcement against anti-social behaviour related to alcohol on the street. However, there is a problem with NCC poster notification used to inform residents of an alcohol control area.

We have an extremely clear notice to display on the street to inform residents regarding owners who let their dogs foul the streets. The message is clear: see it – report it. In contrast the notification of alcohol control is through a “designated alcohol no drinking on the street area” notice in complex officialese. Residents have raised concern with me and I

have raised this through the neighbourhood action team monthly meetings, with the locality manager at the locality board and with senior community protection officers.

It appears that the City Council corporately has taken a literal and legally risk averse approach to interpreting statutory guidance regarding notification of an alcohol control area in terms of wording, colour and size of notice. Also, the possibility of putting up plain English notices to inform residents more clearly has not been seen as possible in case it would increase "street furniture".

However (as can be seen by googling "no alcohol signs") in fact other local authorities have been able to display much clearer information without legal challenge.

Could the Portfolio Holder please consider taking action to enable clear signage in Nottingham streets of alcohol control area?

WQ2

COPY OF WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR DEWINTON OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER ADULTS, COMMISSIONING AND HEALTH AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON MONDAY 14 JULY 2014

It is good practice to consult with local councillors and communities when it is proposed to open a hostel or supported accommodation, for a service commissioned by the City Council. In Mapperley Ward, a hostel was commissioned, without notification to myself and I understand my fellow Councillors, police or neighbourhood management.

Consequently:

- It was not picked up that there was not appropriate planning permission for such a hostel.
- Consultation with residents was inadequate
- Communication channels for local residents, Councillors, agencies were not set up before opening.
- Environmental and Community safety concerns were not addressed until local meetings were arranged by neighbourhood management and councillors, months after opening.

Concerns of residents and planning issues are now being dealt with proactively by myself and fellow city councillors, police, City Council officers and the management of supported accommodation.

However, I would like reassurance that the commissioning process in this instance will be reviewed and that in future Nottingham City Council commissioning officers and Portfolio Holder will ensure appropriate consultation – and checks regarding planning application – before supported accommodation is approved.