

Responses to Written Questions

WQ1

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 20 MAY 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown by year of the “availability payments” made to the tram operator since 2015?

Under the terms of the Concession Agreement between the parties, Nottingham City Council make availability payments to Tramlink, the tram concessionaire, subject to operational performance meeting monthly performance targets. The details of the availability payments are classed as confidential information under the terms of the Concession Agreement.

The table below sets out Tramlink’s annual average operational performance, which is used to calculate the availability payment made.

2016: 98.71%
2017: 98.04%
2018: 98.66%
2019: 99.38% (Jan – Apr only)

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 20 MAY 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how much interest Robin Hood Energy has paid on the debt owed by it to the City Council split out by year since 2015?

The City Council has provided financial support to RHE based on a commercial basis, which is financially beneficial to the City Council and is State Aid compliant. The amount of interest received from Robin Hood Energy since 2015 is £3,058,108. The breakdown by year is set out below:

Total	2015/16	2016/17	2017/18	2018/19
3,058,108	339,299	654,223	721,974	1,342,612

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 20 MAY 2019

In Nottingham Labour's manifesto a pledge was made to ensure that the new housing development at Clifton would be fully served with jobs, shops and services for local people – given that the development at Barton Green is completely residential and that the one proposed at "Clifton Pastures" is in Rushcliffe out of the City Council's control – how can Labour possibly achieve this pledge?

Clifton is a significant residential community that is already served by a District Centre, one of only five within the Greater Nottingham administrative areas of Nottingham City, Gedling and Broxtowe. Between 2013 and 2017 the number of jobs based in the two Clifton wards increased by 250. Transport links across the Clifton wards mean that residents are able to access employment opportunities across Nottingham City and the wider Greater Nottingham area.

Within the Aligned Core Strategies (Part 1) Local Plan, the strategic planning document for these authorities (adopted in 2014), the Clifton District Centre was one of those identified as either underperforming or being in need of enhancement. In response, the Council has adopted a number of strategies to enhance the retail and service provision for Clifton citizens, both existing and new:

- The District Centre is now served by NET line 2, with quick and direct access to both the City Centre and Clifton Park & Ride, as well as significant employment sites, such as the Queens Medical Centre.
- Expansion of the District Centre with the now completed retail development at the triangle site on Green Lane (134 full and part time jobs stated on the application form), and approval of further retail development on the surplus car park land to the side of the Morrison's store, which if implemented will provide further employment (60 to 80 jobs).
- Negotiating with Rushcliffe Borough Council (RBC) to ensure that the scale of retail development within the Clifton Pastures development merely serves the local need for this development, rather than competing with the existing District Centre, which will remain the primary centre for the expanded Clifton.
- Supporting the expansion of new housing development at Clifton both to meet the City's housing needs and to strengthen the catchment area of the District Centre.
- Seeking S106 contributions from housing developments to provide educational capacity where necessary.

The Barton Green/Clifton West site has been a long term allocation for housing in the Council's Local Plan. It is to provide a relatively modest number of houses in planning terms and would not be of sufficient scale to accommodate or indeed attract interest for associated retail development. Rather, the focus has been on increasing and improving the retail offer of the District Centre. To this end, £500,000 of capital spending was allocated to Clifton, and the projects delivered are as follows -

- New street furniture of cycle racks, benches, bollards and litter bins at Varney Road local shopping parade, main district centre on Southchurch Drive, Holy Trinity shops and Bransdale road shops.
- Repaving the Morrisons cut-through footpath.
- Removing 21 diseased and dying street trees and replacing with new trees, tree pits and tree guards.
- Removing and/or reducing in size the oversized gravel tree pits.
- Re-landscaping and repaving of the market area at the central shops.
- Construction and landscaping of the new entrance to Clifton Flower Park

Regarding Clifton Pastures in Rushcliffe Borough, this development is to include:

- Residential – up to 3000 homes
- Employment – 100,000 sqm of B1/B2/B8
- Retail – a maximum of 2,500 sqm
- A primary school
- Community uses (eg. health centre) – 1000 sqm
- Sports facilities

The Council has worked closely with the Borough Council to inform this mix (regular liaison meetings are held with RBC), with a focus on the following:

- ensuring that the development provides a significant amount of new employment premises, for the benefits of all City residents and those of Clifton in particular. Within the Council's administrative area Clifton lacks available land for employment development. The Clifton Pastures urban expansion has provided an opportunity to address this constraint.
- ensuring that provision is made to allow an extension of NET line 2 into the heart of the development.
- ensuring that there is only a small 'local need' retail provision, such that the existing District Centre will serve as the primary retail/local services destination for residents within the development.

This scheme is now approved so these aims have been achieved at the outline planning stage. The Council will continue to work with RBC as the detailed proposals emerge. It is understood that Homes England have taken a stake in part of the development, which should help to ensure its timely implementation.

In conclusion, the Council has therefore been successful in taking a comprehensive and holistic approach to ensure that an expanded and strengthened Clifton will be served with new jobs, shops and services for all of its local citizens. We will continue to actively use planning policy and decision making to support the delivery of jobs, shops and services to support new growth, and continue to actively work with RBC as a Joint Planning Advisory Board partner to influence and support the delivery of the important major urban extension to Clifton in Rushcliffe Borough.