

Council 8 July 2019

Responses to Written Councillor Questions

WQ1

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR NICOLA HEATON OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ADULT CARE AND LOCAL TRANSPORT AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 8 JULY 2019

Can the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport provide an update on the latest figures of tram usage in Nottingham?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

Thank you for your question about the number of users on Nottingham's tram system. I'm delighted to be able to confirm that 18.8 million journeys took place on the system in the year to March 2019, which is up from 17.8 million in the previous financial year.

These figures clearly reflect the growing popularity of the tram as part of a comprehensive public transport network across the city, with recent investment being made to improve reliability and the customer experience. With very frequent services, good value fares and free park and ride sites, the NET system has been well received by the travelling public and is going from strength to strength.

WQ2

WRITTEN QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL/ PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR REGENERATION, SAFETY AND COMMUNICATIONS AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 8 JULY 2019

Could the Portfolio Holder outline the process employed when the Council disposes of property; and can he provide reassurances that all properties are sold on the open market and all interested parties are given the opportunity to view the properties and make an offer should they wish to do so?

Response from the Leader of the Council/ Portfolio Holder for Regeneration, Safety and Communications:

Under the Local Government Act 1972 local authorities have powers to dispose of property in any manner they wish, subject to certain constraints which may include a requirement to obtain the consent of the Secretary of State. Under Section 123 of the Local Government Act 1972 principal councils have a duty not to sell land for a consideration less than the best consideration reasonably obtainable unless the Secretary of State's consent has been obtained. However, the Local Government Act 1972: General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 gives a general consent provided that any undervalue of the interest does not exceed £2 million and the

transaction is considered by the local authority to help secure the promotion or improvement of the economic, social or environmental well-being of its area.

In accordance with The Local Authority Act 1972 this Council adopts three main routes to market:

1. Private Treaty – mainly used for “off market” sales, i.e. to incumbent commercial tenants, special purchasers, adjoining land owners.
NB. The General Disposal Consent (England) 2003 allows a local authority to sell for less than best consideration if the sale enables development for social, economic or environmental uses.
2. Formal/Informal Tender – this method is generally used for the sale of properties in the open market particularly where planning permission to redevelop is required, or where the Council wishes to ensure the future use of the land or property conforms to Council policy or statute. This method of sale sometimes takes the form of a procurement exercise if a very specific requirement needs to be delivered;
3. Auction – often used when properties are in poor condition or a clearly defined marketing and sale timeframe is to be adhered to.

All offers are recorded either electronically, or manually in the case of tender, when they are recorded in the Department’s ‘tender book’. Auction reserves are set by the Director of Strategic Assets and Property, and are recorded by way of a delegated decision form.

Subject to the chosen method of sale, the majority of disposals are marketed and negotiated in house by officers within Strategic Assets and Property. Properties placed on the open market for sale by Private Treaty or Tender are advertised on the Nottingham Property Plus website and Rightmove (a national website for the marketing of commercial and residential property). In addition Property have a list of over 100 local and national developers and agents to which appropriate property particulars are sent. In addition properties are advertised in the local, and if appropriate, national press and, again where appropriate, a ‘for sale’ board will be placed on the property.

WQ3

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 8 JULY 2019

Following the Grenfell Tragedy the Council sent surveys to the owners of all high rise property in the City. Can the Portfolio Holder confirm whether the results of these surveys are publicly available?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage:

The information was collected only for the purpose of identifying the buildings that were deemed to have a flammable ACM cladding material similar to that in Grenfell. The Authority has constantly been monitoring the buildings that were identified as having issues. The information collected has not been made publically available as it

has been deemed that it lead to buildings and in turn their occupants being in a more vulnerable position.

WQ4

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 8 JULY 2019

Will the Portfolio Holder lobby Nottingham City Homes to review the overly prescriptive criteria they apply for how Environmental Fund monies can be spent; where as an example under the current criteria funds can be used to improve lighting, but cannot be used to make Nottingham City Homes managed complexes more secure through the addition of CCTV?

Response from the Portfolio Holder for Housing, Planning and Heritage:

There are a number of housing budgets which can be used to support environmental improvements including CCTV installation. These include:

- The environmental works budget referred to in the question (£1,163,000 city wide in the current year).
- The Area Capital Fund, which is delegated to local Councillors to determine how best to spend in their area, . This is £1.0m in the current year and is allocated to each ward based on the number of council properties in each ward. For Clifton West this equates £17,700.
- A budget line specifically for CCTV. This is currently £200,000 pa city wide.

Nottingham City Homes is arranging to meet with Councillor Rule to discuss what the local issues are that need resolution and how they can best be of assistance. It may be that by considering the wider range of funding available they will be able to find practical solutions from within the budget lines currently available.

With regard to the environmental works budget specifically, this is currently targeted at the following areas of work as priorities:

Area of Work	Examples
Improve Security	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Door Entry• Lighting• Fencing• Garage Site Works
Improve the Environment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Dealing with Graffiti• Reducing anti-social behaviour• Parking issues• Drying area resurfacing
Spaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Installation of community facilities / area• Seating• Allotments (Housing Land Only)

Nottingham City Homes (NCH) is happy to review these criteria and will consult with the Council and tenants to ensure it is best targeted to address future priorities.

Environmental works funding to projects delivered in Clifton over the last year include:

Address	Request	Reason	Cost
Sprydton Walk	Install knee rail fencing to the green spaces	To alleviate issues with unauthorised parking and causing damage to the grass areas	£5,650.00
Farnborough Road parking scheme	NCH contribution for Farnborough Road parking scheme	Provide parking for customers on housing land to limit the number of cars parking on Farnborough Rd.	£30,000
Lakehead House	Community Garden Improvements	Create improved communal garden space for customers providing beds for plants and growing vegetables.	£15,522
Lakehead House	Fencing to provide security	Bow top fencing to be installed at the side of the ramped access to prevent access and loitering in front of the block.	£922
Branford Ave	Garage door replacement	Replace garage doors that have reached end of life.	£6,168
Yewdale Close	Parking scheme	Alleviate and improve parking issues in this area.	£25,000

14 – 16 Fallow Close	Erect gates and install external post boxes	Eliminate unauthorised access and provide 4 external post boxes for residents	£1,802
Dell Way	Create a landscaped finish to the car parking area and the nearby waste land	The area currently looks unfinished and untidy and needs improving to rejuvenate this area of the ward.	£39,164.34
Southchurch Court	Installation of 10 bike racks	Residents need a safe and secure storage facility for their bikes	£2,750.00
Branford Garage Site	Installation of new metal bow top fencing to replace the current palisade fencing to the outer perimeter	Palisade fencing can pose a risk due to the sharp finial and the garage site is subject to improvement works in the form of replacing the garage doors so the new fencing will compliment these works	£15,370.00

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 8 JULY 2019

Will the Portfolio Holder outline the milestones and timescales for the establishment of the Adult Social Care Company, as referred to in the Nottingham Labour's manifesto?

Response from Portfolio Holder for Adult Care and Local Transport:

Thanks for your interest in the establishment of a Nottingham care company.

I am very excited about this development, as it will have a positive impact on both citizens who need adult social care and those who work with them. This is sensitive and vital work that our citizens rely on and we want the best possible working conditions for those working in the care sector and the highest standards of care for our citizens.

We anticipate the completion of the outline business case during 2019/20. This will then guide the timescales for establishment of the company.
