

Questions from Councillors

CQ1

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 JANUARY 2020

The Police and Crime Commissioner for Nottinghamshire reportedly supports the Knife Angel coming to the City of Nottingham, given there are indications that external funding would be made available to facilitate this, will the Leader of the Council continue to maintain his opposition to the Knife Angel being installed on Council land, even in the event that there was no cost to the Council?

CQ2

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 JANUARY 2020

The Portfolio Holder will be aware that it was originally envisaged that the original migration date for those holders of a Mango card who use the tram to move across to a Robin Hood card was set at 29 December 2019. Notwithstanding this date has been extended to the end of March this year, the Portfolio Holder is presumably aware of the huge inconvenience this now causes to former Mango card holders who have had to move across to the Robin Hood card but who now find that very few tram stops either have a Robin Hood card top-up machine on site or in their immediate vicinity to enable Robin Hood card holders to top up their cards. Can the Portfolio Holder therefore confirm whether there are plans to rectify this and if so, the likely timeframe involved?

CQ3

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR ANDREW RULE OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING, HOUSING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2020

At the beginning of December, nearly 18 months after its introduction, the City Council's Selective Licensing Scheme had generated a surplus of £4.7million, whilst only 23% of the City's 33,502 private rented properties had been issued with draft/full licences. Despite the presence of this surplus the Council is proposing to increase the licence fee yet again after March. Could the Portfolio Holder explain why this increase is necessary given the existing surplus?

CQ4

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR MARIA WATSON OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR HOUSING, PLANNING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2020

We, in the Nottingham Independents, have taken great interest in the Land and Planning Policy which is to be proposed later on in the Council meeting, and which promises a bright future for the City. As you may remember at the last full Council, we spoke about the importance of Summerwood Day Centre to our local community and to its residents. Summerwood is a vital service which does amazing things and we couldn't be more proud of it. It is, therefore, of some concern to us to see the proposed Farnborough Road development covers the area currently home to Summerwood, and despite our best efforts we cannot get reassurance that it will not be put in danger with this development. Can the Portfolio Holder give us the reassurances we seek, that Summerwood is not at risk from this development, and that it continues to have an important place in the Council's future plans?

CQ5

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

I'm sure, like myself, many residents of Nottingham were delighted to see the Council's commitment to resurfacing the roads and filling 50,000 pot holes across the City, as outlined in their plan for 2023. With the commitment to reach 50,000 in four years meaning that an average of 12,500 pot holes need to be filled per year, can the Portfolio Holder advise us as to when we will likely be starting to see this commitment coming to fruition? The roads in Clifton East are at an all-time dire state, so any reassurance that can be given will no-doubt be extremely welcome to both ourselves and to our residents.

CQ6

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 JANUARY 2020

A few weeks ago, we at the Independents, were lucky enough to go on a frontline shadowing opportunity with Trading Standards and got to see the invaluable work they do first hand. It made national headlines when they issued an urgent warning, in the build up to Christmas, about the sale of potentially dangerous and toxic dolls being sold by a Nottingham wholesaler. The actions of Trading Standards Nottingham literally saves people's lives and their value to the City cannot be expressed strongly enough. Will the Portfolio Holder join me in thanking them for the work that they do, and commit to us that their funding will be protected, despite the Council's obvious financial strains?

CQ7

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 JANUARY 2020

If you would recall our previous Full Council Meeting, you will remember that I stood here two months ago seeking assurances from the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre that the state of Robin Hood Energy was not the financial folly that it appeared to be at the time. You may also recall that the Portfolio Holder was more than happy to give me those assurances. Since that meeting, the two most senior bosses of the organisation, the Chief Executive and the Financial Director, are both facing a reported internal employment investigation, AND the accounts for Robin Hood Energy have been delayed yet again, for a further three months. Considering these events, as well as the fact that no opposition Councillors are currently permitted to sit on the new Committee aimed at providing greater scrutiny of Council companies, the Leader must forgive me if we at the Nottingham Independents find it difficult to see that Robin Hood Energy's financial situation is as healthy as he would have us believe. Would he agree, with not only myself, but also the Council's own auditor from Grant Thornton, that public accountability of Robin Hood Energy is severely lacking and that is something that could be at least partially remedied if opposition councillors were able to sit on the new Committee?

CQ8

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

Can the Portfolio Holder for Finance, Growth and the City Centre confirm that the Government is expecting councils to add an adult social care charge of 2% on to council tax bills in the next financial year?

CQ9

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR PAVLOS KOTSONIS OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2020

As we enter a new year and a new decade, can the Leader of the Council explain our ambitions for Nottingham?

CQ10

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR NICOLA HEATON OF THE DEPUTY LEADER AND PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR ENERGY, ENVIRONMENT

AND DEMOCRATIC SERVICE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2020

Can the Deputy Leader outline actions taken so far that have made Nottingham the city with the cleanest air in the UK and what the Council will do in the future to further improve air quality?

CQ11

QUESTION TO BE ASKED BY COUNCILLOR GEORGIA POWER OF THE PORTFOLIO HOLDER FOR PLANNING, HOUSING AND HERITAGE AT THE MEETING OF THE CITY COUNCIL TO BE HELD ON 13 JANUARY 2020

In a recent report from Juno, they identify that the Government's underfunding of refuge beds is leading to around 60% of women fleeing violent and abusive partners not being given the support they need. What actions is the Council taking and how does it best believe it can work with partners to mitigate this?

Questions from Councillors Requiring a Written Response

WQ1

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 JANUARY 2020

Could the Portfolio Holder confirm how much the Council paid for acquiring the controlling stake in Thomas Bow Limited; and confirm how long it will be before a return is generated to the benefit of the council tax payer?

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 JANUARY 2020

Could the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown of the following:

- The total lending to all wholly and majority owned Council companies split out by individual loan;
 - The total interest generated on that lending over the last year;
 - The estimated date at which each loan provided will be paid back;
 - Where applicable, any dividends that have been received from wholly and majority owned companies?
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WQ3

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 JANUARY 2020

Could the Portfolio Holder provide a breakdown since 2010 of the amount of business rates revenue the Council has lost from vacant business units in the City Centre?

WQ4

WRITTEN 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 JANUARY 2020

Could the Portfolio Holder provide us with the outstanding amount on all loans currently provided to Robin Hood Energy, and outline to us how the repayment plan is currently arranged?
