

APPENDIX A

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING HELD ON 16TH MAY 2019 QUESTIONS TO COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Liz Plant

Rushcliffe Borough Council has been working hard to deliver on its Local plan which commits to building 13,150 houses by 2028- 4,000 of which are to be built in the Gamston/Tollerton area of Rushcliffe. The land involved is owned by five landowners, one of which is the county council.

Given the desperate need for more house building, a need supported by the Conservative government, and the fact that the sale of the county council land would generate much needed and generous capital receipts, could the leader update members on what the county council is doing to progress the development of the site.

Response from Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE, Leader of the Council

Nottinghamshire County Council are committed to promoting good quality and sustainable housing growth in the County to meet the needs of our communities. The County Council is actively using its own land to secure housing and employment growth in appropriate locations, with the right infrastructure and provision of local services such as schools and health provision; for example 800 new homes and 8.5ha of employment space at Top Wighay in Gedling and up to 500 new homes on land at White Hills Parks in Broxtowe.

The County Council also works in partnership with Districts as Local Planning Authorities to promote major new housing developments which are experiencing delivery and viability problems; such as the land to the south of Clifton where the government is acquiring land to help unlock the 3,500 much needed new homes in Rushcliffe. The County also have a lead role in the delivery of the Gedling Access Road to unlock sustainable housing growth in and around Gedling.

These are just a few of our priority projects where the County are employing a considerable amount of effort to unlock and assist good quality and sustainable housing and employment growth. This administration has no current plans to bring forward further proposal for the site of Gamston over and above our statutory roles as a highways authority.

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Errol Henry

The Leader was asked some time ago about any actions this Authority was taking to support victims of the Windrush Scandal. A compensation scheme was announced by the Home Office last month (April 19) and I understand that all local authorities have been furnished with information to communicate via distribution through their networks.

Can the Leader inform us as to what actions this Authority will be taking to ensure that any and all affected citizens within the County are notified, and can act on the said information?

Response from Councillor Mrs Kay Cutts MBE, Leader of the Council

As previously advised when this issue has been raised before, all relevant staff in the Registration Service (for births, deaths, marriages and other services) have been advised of guidance provided by the General Register Office section of Her Majesty's Passport Office. The guidance makes reference to the announcement by the Home Secretary regarding a Commonwealth taskforce set up in the Home Office to help those affected. If Registration Officers are asked to advise individuals, especially in respect of a lack of documents, they will direct them to the Commonwealth taskforce on Freephone number on 0800 678 1925.

Alternatively, registration staff are aware that the taskforce can be contacted by email to commonwealthtaskforce@homeoffice.gsi.gov.uk and that further information is available at www.gov.uk/windrush. This information has also been passed to the Customer Services Centre, for use by advisers dealing with registrations enquires.

More recently the Council's Equality Officer spoke to the Co- Vice Chair of the Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Network in April when the latest update letter from the Home Office Local Partnership Manager was received. Confirmation was provided that the information had already been disseminated to the BME network members and to a range of organisations that the network are aware could include people eligible to make claims to the Windrush Compensation Scheme.

In response to a request from the BME Network to further publicise the compensation scheme, a News item was published on the Council's intranet to inform employees that the scheme is now open and invited people to share the information more widely with their families and friends.

Information from the Home Office received this morning is that their original e-mail, confirming the compensation scheme, was not delivered to this Council. They have re-sent it this morning, and invited us to a conference next week to give us all the details and further information on the scheme. Once we have all of this, we will of course be promoting this through our usual channels.

We shall ensure we send someone to that Conference, I think it is next Thursday 23rd, even though it is at very short notice. So that is probably why there was a lack of an update on our website, we had not received the information.