

QUESTIONS NOT ASKED AT FULL COUNCIL ON 18 JANUARY 2018 DUE TO THE TIME LIMIT FOR QUESTIONS AS STATED IN THE CONSTITUTION AND THEREFORE ANSWERED UNDER PROCEDURE RULE 39

Question to the Chairman of Communities and Place Committee from Councillor Mike Pringle

On behalf of the people of Ollerton I should like to thank Councillor Cottee for the maintenance and resurfacing work carried at the Ollerton roundabout. Could Councillor Cottee provide an indication of the future programme of works that are planned for the full development of Ollerton Roundabout?

Response from Councillor John Cottee, Chairman of Communities and Place Committee

Thank you, Councillor Pringle, for your question, and for acknowledging the work done so far on Ollerton Roundabout.

Providing further improvements at this location remains a key aspiration for this authority. Since beginning my tenure as Chairman of the Communities & Place Committee, I have had meetings with officers to review and update the historic designs for this scheme, to minimise land take and to ensure that the Council is as ready as possible for any future bidding opportunities that may arise.

Question to the Leader of the Council from Councillor Jason Zadrozny

Does the Leader find the reply received on 12th December from the Secretary of State for Transport – Rt Hon Chris Grayling MP to our letter about our motion on 21st September acceptable and can she give a verbal update to this Council on her meeting with him about the cancellation of the electrification of the Midland's Mainline on 30th November.

Can she further indicate what steps are in place to ensure that Nottinghamshire and the East Midlands get the rail service we deserve?

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

Thank you for your question, Councillor Zadrozny.

Just before Christmas I circulated to all Members, via Democratic Services, the reply I received from The Rt. Hon Chris Grayling MP, Secretary of State for Transport.

In the letter, Chris Grayling stated: *'I have noted the motion passed by Nottinghamshire County Council at its meeting on 21 September.'*

He also stated: *'I would like to assure both you and your fellow councillors that we are committed to improving journeys for passengers on the Midland Main Line, which is why we are delivering the biggest upgrade of the route since it was completed in 1870. The upgrade will enable increased passenger capacity and reduced journey*

times, and will see modern trains introduced across the route, including a fleet of brand new bi-mode intercity trains from 2022.'

Chairman, these comments accurately reflected the message I received in my cordial but brief meeting with the Secretary of State for Transport on 30th November. Essentially, the Government has noted our dissatisfaction about the cancellation of line electrification, but will not be changing its mind. Bi-mode trains are now the only game in town, and the choice for us is 'Do we want to play an active part in shaping this development, or not'?

As Council Leader, I think our answer has to be a resounding, 'yes we do'. If we are not going to get line electrification - and we clearly are not for the moment - then we need to ensure that the alternative really is the best outcome possible for Nottinghamshire rail passengers. The next steps are to work closely with our partner authorities who also have a direct interest in the Midland Main Line. Elected Members will be kept fully informed of the upgrade plans, with the opportunity to feed in our ideas and comments throughout the process.

Chairman, whilst we're on the subject of rail services, may I take this opportunity to say how saddened I was by last week's major fire at Nottingham Railway Station, which unfortunately caused damage to the newly refurbished part of the building, and part of the older concourse leading to platform seven. The Incident Commander has been quoted in the media suggesting that a working sprinkler system could have lessened the impact of the fire, which is obviously a matter for the investigation.

What isn't in doubt is the amazing speed with which the station was re-opened and returned to a normal timetable. It was obviously vital to the Nottinghamshire economy that disruption to services was minimised, so on behalf of this Council I would like to extend our sincere thanks to the emergency services and to everyone involved at East Midlands Trains and Network Rail, for their remarkable efforts.