

**North Tyneside Council
Report to Council
Date: 29 November 2012**

ITEM 1

**Title: Questions by
Members of the Public**

Notice has been received of the following questions from members of the public to be put to the Council meeting:

Note: The Chair of Council has agreed to group together Questions 1 and 2 to enable a single response to be given.

1. Question by Mrs J Reay of Wellfield

'Will North Tyneside become two tier for the coastal schools in the next few years?'

2. Question by Ms D Eardley of Whitley Bay

'Please can I ask if the coastal schools will move to a two tier system?'

3. Question by Mr J Philip of Forest Hall

'I would like to ask the Mayor why there are large increases planned for Bowling Club rents in the future years.'

I understand that the planned rates are, for the year 2013 £1200, for the year 2014, £1900, and for 2015, £2500. Bowling clubs are very important to the elderly, as they provide us with a social life, and more important they provide us with exercise. I understand that savings have to be made following the drastic cuts made by the Government, but I believe that an increase of rates up to £1200 would be sufficient and manageable to most clubs.'

4. Question by Mr K Page of Holystone

'Could the Mayor please explain to us, the residents, the role and remit of the Chief Executive of North Tyneside Council?'

5. Question by Mr A Furness of Whitley Bay

'How much expenditure has North Tyneside Council, and therefore the Council Tax payers, incurred in planning appeal costs since May 2009 and how many appeal cases did this involve?'

6. Question by Mrs K Steven of Whitley Bay

'Why are we being charged for the emptying of our garden waste bins just because some people complained they don't have gardens? Perhaps you could let us know our new charge for next year's council tax minus the education budget which we have never needed.'

(We have never had children, but wonder how much we have contributed to other people's children's education during our life time, having lived in the Whitley Bay area all our lives? Where does this end? If all residents nit pick the services they use and the services they don't, we would all be in a confused state, including yourselves. We feel we pay enough for council services without the addition of this charge. Our education was paid for by our parents through the old rates system.)

7. Question by Mr F Austin of Whitley Bay

"Could the Mayor inform me how many affordable homes have been lost to North Tyneside since May 2011 as the result of the refusal of planning permission by North Tyneside Council's Planning Committee?"

8. Question by Mr R Riley of Wallsend

"The Council Review of In-house LD Short Break Services (August 2012) indicated a range of future alternatives: Shared Lives, hotels, home-based carers, holidays and assistive technology. The report concluded that 27% of the current service users in the profound and severe categories would continue to need accommodation based provision in a 4-5 bedded unit. In connection with the launch by the Northumberland Tyne and Wear NHS Foundation NHS Trust of its Carer's Charter does the Council now recognise the fundamental difference between a Respite Service for Carers and Short Break provision for service users, and can the Council confirm that an impact analysis has been undertaken to verify that such a unit will be adequate for emergency support as well as anticipated future usage and that there will be no interruption in the service during the modernisation process?"

9. Question by Ms M Howells of Tynemouth

"Provision of allotments by local government is a statutory requirement. As such, should staffing costs of managing sites be borne by the council tax payer? Or, as is currently proposed, should allotment holders bear this cost?"

10. Question by Ms J Speed of Benton

" Could the Mayor inform me how many affordable homes have been approved in North Tyneside since May 2011 as the result of planning permission granted by North Tyneside Council's Planning Committee?"