

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 23 January 2014

ITEM 13

Title: Urgent Questions by
Members of the Council

In accordance with Rule 10 (2) (b) of the Council's Constitution, notice has been received of the following urgent questions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

1. Urgent Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J Wallace

"Can the Elected Mayor tell us where the money came from to purchase the crane, currently standing idle on the former Swans' site (North Bank of the Tyne), for which an initial payment of £500,000 has been made and where the money will come from for the second payment of £400,000?"

The Chair of Council has accepted the urgent question for the following reasons:

1. That the acquisition of this crane and its costs have come to light when the council's budget has no provision for such expenditure and there are significant budget pressures now, as the Council enters the final quarter of the financial year.
2. The Council's budget proposals indicate savings of £64 million.
3. This matter has not been mentioned during briefings on the Swan's site/North Bank to the Strategic Leadership Group.
4. The meeting of the Strategic Leadership Group, scheduled for last Thursday, was cancelled at short notice.'

2. Urgent Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J O'Shea

"Can the Mayor clarify the position regarding the school provision review in light of the recent Conservative In Touch newsletter distributed across parts of the Borough?"

The Chair of Council has accepted the urgent question for the following reasons:

'The newsletter has been circulated over the weekend of 17-19 January in a number of wards in the Whitley Bay area. Many teachers and parents have seen the newsletter and it has had a destabilising and worrying impact on the school community.'