

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Council

### Date: 24 July 2014

#### ITEM 11

Title: Questions by  
Members of the Council

Notice has been received of the following questions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Ord

Will the Mayor undertake to allow the people of North Tyneside a referendum on the continuation of the Mayoral System before the next Mayoral Election is scheduled to take place?

2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Lilly

In a few weeks time a referendum will be held to decide whether Scotland should leave the United Kingdom or remain within it. Has the Elected Mayor given consideration to this matter and how the outcome might affect North Tyneside?

3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor K Barrie

Can the Elected Mayor tell us which Cabinet Member signed off the contract for the pavement work on Hartington Road, carried out over Easter weekend, and what quality standards and checks by officers were agreed prior to signing the contract?

4. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor K Barrie

Can the Elected Mayor tell me when the new Kiosk in Cullercoats Harbour is to be installed?

5. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Sarin

Could the Elected Mayor give Council an update on the position of timescales and budget for work being carried out in Tynemouth Crematorium, as many residents believed that the work would be completed by now?

6. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Sarin

Can the Elected Mayor tell me if there has been a change in policy about consulting residents where a change of use is proposed for property in a residential area?

7. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor P Mason

The Government has introduced a new Right to Build initiative. Will the Elected Mayor put North Tyneside forward to be one of the vanguard councils for this initiative?

8. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J Wallace

Would the Elected Mayor agree with me that it should be clearly explained to children and young people that every day they attend school or college is important for their education and prospects in adult life?

9. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor L Miller

Can the Elected Mayor tell us what is the expenditure on agency social workers in this financial year compared with 2013-14 and 2012-13?

10. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J McLaughlin

Councils across England have been allocated £168 million of government funding from a dedicated Pothole Repair Fund. As a condition of receiving this money, local authorities are required to publish monthly progress updates on how many potholes have been repaired. Can the Elected Mayor confirm how much North Tyneside will receive from this fund and also what steps she is taking to end the cycle of patching up roads, which is more expensive than longer term preventative work?

11. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J McLaughlin

Changes to small business rate relief came into effect on 1 April 2012. The government introduced this measure to ensure that businesses automatically got the relief they were entitled to. Under this system the onus is on councils to be creative and not needlessly make small businesses go through an application process when it is obvious they are eligible. The money was allocated by the Treasury so that it does not cost councils extra to grant relief to more eligible small businesses. Can the Elected Mayor confirm how many local small businesses received the business rate relief they were entitled to since the measure came into force?

12. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J McLaughlin

At a recent joint PCC and Chief Constable public event, questions were raised from concerned residents annoyed at the increasing domination of our pavements by rude cyclists who seem to assume they are entitled to force pedestrians out of the way. It is increasingly likely that cycling will continue to become ever more popular. What is the Elected Mayor going to do to uphold and enforce the rights of pedestrians to unimpeded use of pavements?

13. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J McLaughlin

Council at its budget setting meeting in February discussed proposals for reduction of staff in the Law and Governance department. A post in Member Services was identified for deletion as part of possible cost-cutting measures, with a final decision deferred till September. Can the Elected Mayor confirm that a fair and transparent job evaluation and job analysis process was carried out by trained professionals to arrive at the conclusion that this was the most dispensable post in that department?