

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 23 October 2014

ITEM 9

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 inform Council of the number of Cabinet and delegated Decisions that have been called in over the past five years, and how many Cabinet and delegated decisions have been made without the possibility of call-in over the same period?

2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Ord

Can the Mayor tell us about the Council's plans to co-ordinate and plan gully cleansing and what the effects will be on street cleansing?

3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Ord

Can the Mayor inform Council of the relative costs of the recycling and the general refuse collection and the financial benefit to the Council of the recycling of waste?

4. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor A McMullen

Is the Elected Mayor disappointed by the recent announcement by the Tory Works and Pensions Minister, which resulted in a misrepresentation by the media, about the trial use of debit cards by welfare claimants in North Tyneside?

5. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor S Graham

Does the Mayor share my concern about premises and shops selling so called 'legal highs' in North Tyneside. The recent growth in the marketing and sale of these New Psychoactive Substances (NPS) which produce similar effects to drugs such as cocaine, cannabis and ecstasy are leaving our young people at particular risk and subject to potential harm. These NPS's cannot be sold for human consumption and are sold as bath salts, plants food and the like; they are sold through 'head shops'. Legal Highs are not covered by the Misuse of Drugs Act and the burden is on the local authority to prove the product is dangerous, which is difficult given the little that is known about the substances being sold?

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

In a recent local media article it was stated by a local Whitley Bay resident that the Boardwalk Cafe was a viable business and had been run at a profit.

Can the Elected Mayor confirm that this statement is accurate?

7. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor M J Huscroft

Does the Mayor share my concern that residents are being forced to pay for treatment(s) to try to get rid of rats from near their properties that are coming from Council land, other public land and public sewers?

8. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor N Huscroft

Will the Mayor agree to review the policy with regard to charging for bulk refuse collection, in particular charging on individual items and charges to pensioners?

9. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor E Hodson

Could the Mayor update Council on the Combined Authority progress in the matter of partnership arrangement for bus public transport in the seven local authorities?

10. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor E Hodson

Could the Mayor inform us of progress with the Administration's street lighting carbon and energy reductions? Could she also inform us of future policy development in the reduction of street lighting?

11. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Lilly

Could the Mayor inform us of the criteria used to reach the decision to impose a cycle path along The Broadway in Tynemouth?

12. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J McLaughlin

The recent mix of warm and wet summer weather meant there were excessive amounts of grass and weed growth. This resulted in unsightly weeds seen sprouting along roads and streets, on pavements and in gutters all across the borough. Also, the grass and weeds in public parks, gardens and other public areas were not cut in a timely manner, all of which has contributed to a neglected and untidy appearance throughout the Borough at the height of the tourist season.

What steps is the Mayor taking to ensure better and more efficient methods are used to cope with grass and weed growth in similar summer weather conditions in future?

13. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J McLaughlin

New official figures show that some councils still have scope to step up their efforts against Council Tax dodgers in order to safeguard services and keep Council Tax down for law-abiding citizens who pay their bills.

Bearing in mind that every penny not collected has to be found elsewhere, can the Mayor confirm how much in outstanding Council Tax is owed to our Council year by year since 2005? Can she also give an overall total for that period to date?

14. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J McLaughlin

Local authorities are expected to crack down on dishonest motorists robbing disabled people of their independence and the right to easier parking. Instances of unscrupulous fraudsters include people using a dead relative's pass or having left a disabled relative stuck at home in order to park for free to go shopping or travel to work.

In light of the fact that councils have been given new powers to seize and confiscate badges suspected of being used illegally, can the Mayor explain what she is doing to combat Blue Badge fraud in our area?