

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 22 January 2015

ITEM 13

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 Lilly

Recent road resurfacing in Whitley Bay town centre has been considered substandard by residents, in particular Victoria Terrace, with many making complaints. Can the Mayor explain why the work carried out was to such a poor standard and what steps will be taken to rectify this problem?

2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor E Hodson

Since the Combined Authority replaced the Integrated Transport Authority, the performance of the Metro system has collapsed - as set out on station reports. Could the Mayor and her Transport Cabinet Member explain what has gone wrong and inform us how she plans to regain control of the Metro's operation and in what time span?

3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor J Wallace

Recently, the Government has provided over £11m in extra funding to repair potholes in North Tyneside. Can the Mayor tell us how this will be divided amongst the wards and supply members with a schedule detailing the work to be done?

4. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Sarin

Can the Elected Mayor tell me how much the Council is paying for carbon emission credits whilst Tynemouth Crematorium is out of commission and was this budgeted for in 2014-15 budget setting?

5. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Sarin

Can the Elected Mayor confirm there will be no change in hours of use for the general public at Tynemouth Swimming Pool?

6. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor K Barrie

Would the Elected Mayor confirm that there will be no Sure Start closures?

7. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor K Barrie

Does the Elected Mayor or the Council pay for the Mayor's column in the local News Guardian and who writes the articles?

8. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor K Barrie

Could the Elected Mayor tell me how much unsupported borrowing has been used to buy the High Point Hotel, the private property adjacent to the High Point, Whiskey Bends and The Avenue Public House. Could she tell me the demolitions costs for each property and could she give a time line for the development?

9. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor D Sarin

Many residents have told me that they are appalled at the recent 24% increase in Councillors' allowances whilst making redundancies and cuts to Council services. Will the Elected Mayor withdraw any funding which has been allocated in her budget for 2015-16 for this purpose, thus getting rid of this odious proposal and gaining back the respect of the council tax payer?

10. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor N J Huscroft

The Mayors Listening events have been held since the Mayor was elected and we are assured that these form part of the Mayors consultation with residents. Will the Mayor inform us of the number of these events that have taken place, the average attendance (excluding Councillors and Council Officers) and the number of times each ward has had one of these events?

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

The Council owned 'Salisbury House' appears to be in a state of disrepair, and has not been attended to, when will the Council be attending to this building?

12. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor M Huscroft

Following planning approval for Bedford Avenue, residents have not been informed when they can expect work to start here. Can the Mayor/Cabinet Member inform Councillors when work will commence here to convert the empty shops into homes?

13. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor N J Huscroft

The Secretary of State (and Planning Inspector) recently allowed the appeal against the Council decision to refuse planning permission for the field on the East side of Station Road in Wallsend. The matter of the plan being out of date in 2006 was again used as a reason to overturn the original decision. Will the Mayor investigate if it is possible to bring forward the necessary work to enable an earlier adoption of the plan. (currently timetabled to be adopted in July/August 2016)?

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

Is the elected Mayor aware that on some occasions it is taking between 21 & 28 days to arrange a cremation. Will the elected Mayor agree with me that waiting time(s) for funerals and cremations is currently too long, and what is she planning to do to reduce this unacceptable delay and additional stress to families at this most distressing time?

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

Can the Mayor explain what progress has been made in developing the education and training facility on the Swans site for undergraduate, postgraduate and research students. Also, what infrastructure works have been completed in the Swans site. Further, what progress has been made with regard to the construction of a crane on the Swans site, and what has happened with regard to the European Grant and has this been affected by the timeline?