

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

Date: 24 November 2016

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.

1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Ms S Wright of Battle Hill, Wallsend

Can you explain why under 10 year olds (particularly babies and under 5's) living in flats with communal stairwells (especially above ground floor) are not given a higher priority when allocating housing bands at present, yet the Council will not move an under 10 year old into one of these properties and how will this affect families already living in these flats when the policies change?

2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Mr P Carruthers of Earsdon

The Northumberland councils support visitors and tourism by virtue of free parking, why can't our Council also provide this support?

3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Mr L Bones of Tynemouth

Does the Mayor agree that the increases to parking charges on both permits and visitor parking has had a negative impact on Businesses in Tynemouth?

4. Question to the Elected Mayor by Mr F Austin of Whitley Bay

Now that the Whitley Bay Police Station has been relocated to Park View Shopping Centre I would like to ask that the Mayor consider an alternative use for the vacated building. Rather than yet more flats, thought should be given to creating a combined Arts, Leisure and Entertainments Centre, which would be more desirable and help to regenerate and increase footfall within the town centre. At the moment attention is focussed on the seafront and Spanish City area, but thought needs to be given to the wider community of Whitley Bay. The central location of the building offers an ideal opportunity to create a multi-purpose centre for community groups and small businesses. The Jam Jar Cinema, who are looking for a bigger venue, to grow and cater for a larger audience, would be an ideal partner in such a venue. In addition an Arts and Crafts Village could be established along with function rooms for local drama/activity groups. This would be far more beneficial for the residents and traders of Whitley Bay than simply another apartment block.

I am therefore asking the Mayor to give this idea some serious thought, this is an opportunity to put the heart back into Whitley Bay Town Centre, it is an opportunity not to be missed.

5 Question to the Elected Mayor by Ms Chillaq of North Shields

Women and families fleeing domestic violence need support that can only be provided by experienced, specialist services. Since 2010, 34 domestic violence refuges in the UK have closed their doors due to cuts in local authority funding. What is North Tyneside council doing to ensure these specialist services remain available for all women who need them, and in particular what is being done to address the needs of black & minority ethnic women, and women on spousal visas who may have no recourse to public funds?

6 Question to the Elected Mayor by Mrs Barrie of North Shields

As the Mayor is aware, following further investigative work on the Swan Hunter Regeneration site, the anticipated cost to in-fill the West Berth is higher than originally planned for. In light of this and further consideration of the key outcomes of this programme a request is being made to the funding provider to make alternative use of the funding. The budget has been reprogrammed pending the outcome of the discussions.

Would the Mayor explain what and where is the funding going to be used, and could she give a list of projects and possible costs. If she cannot give the costs then the projects will be acceptable.