

Public Questions for Council 13 September 2023

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Memo

My ref DN
Your ref

From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Cost of Buildings		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Stephen Cuthbert, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Working on "up to date figures" (2023). Can the leader please tell the city exactly how much the City Hall, The Beam, Maker & Faber, Car Park and Vaux development is going to cost the taxpayers over the next 35 years and what return will we be getting?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Dear George		
To	Leader of the Council		
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John Cuthbertson, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Can the council leader tell Sunderland tax payers how much public money, time and council resources are being used, to hunt down " Dear George "?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Re-siting of Pit Wheel		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Stephanie Pickering, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“I would like to ask the Council Leader and appropriate Labour Councillors if they believe the resiting of the Albany Pit Wheel to Silksworth and subsequent replacement wheel in Albany was worth the reported £98,000 costs involved (as stated in FOI request submitted to the council).

At the same time can I ask why it was stated it was of no cost to Washington residents when the cost was covered by Sunderland City Council, Sunderland Area Committee (SAC) and Crowdfunding (according to FOI), yet SAC receive their funds directly from the Council and the majority of Crowdfunding raised came from the Council also with less than £500 coming from individuals out of the £32,000 total. With all these financial constraints how is this money well spent? Is it not merely a vanity project from Silksworth Councillors?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Trees at the Chase and Hope Shield Washington		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Charlotte Scott, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“When will the tree between The Chase and Hope shield (woodland trust) be maintained as they are all over hanging private gardens and some leaning from heavy winds we experienced last year? In addition, the public foot path is becoming enclosed causing a public safety issue for wheelchairs and prams.”

Mark Chicken, a resident of Sunderland, has also submitted the following question.

“Can you please advise when the trees writhing the forest between the Chase and Hopesield in Rickleton, Washington will be maintained. The large trees are starting to fall and raising concerns to neighbours whose house lie in close proximity to the trees and will have their house damaged in the event that they fall. Under inspection the roots are starting to come out of the ground raising serious health and safety concerns not only to house owners but people walking on the public footpath.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Food Insecurity		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Stewart Ingram, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“The DWP figures show 12% of children - equivalent to 1.7 million - were living in food insecure households between 2019/20 – 2021/22. In the North East, 18% of children were in food insecure households.

My question for Sunderland council is, are you prepared and able to provide free school meals to all children in Sunderland to ensure children in Sunderland are not left behind.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Culture House		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Melynda Trenholm, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“If Culture House building specifications have been signed off by the council, what provision is there for The Northern Gallery for Contemporary Art, Glass production and Glass exhibition space within Culture House?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – The National Glass Centre		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Ian Trevor Brown, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“The National Glass Centre was cited as A World-Class cultural asset in Sunderland council's 2021 City of Culture bid. The building condition really has not changed, are any Sunderland Labour councillors prepared to support The National Glass Centre?”

Barbara Spoons, a resident of Sunderland, has also submitted the following question.

“With the online petition already achieving over 31,000 and the new paper petition quickly gaining signatures, will Sunderland Council now finally treat saving The National Glass Centre as an extremely important issue and give some support?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Weed Killing Services		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Craig Morrison, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Can the portfolio holder please outline how the Council guarantees value for money when it comes to contracting weed killing services? Across the city weeds have supposedly been treated but there is no discernible impact of this - the treatment has not worked. This is believed to be because the buggy spraying them goes too quickly and does not do the job properly. How will the Council guarantee this is rectified and value for money is guaranteed?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Condition of the Western Entrance to Washington		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Peter Noble, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“The main sign at the entrance to Washington from the West is dirty and falling apart, the trees and bushes on this main entrance to our town are overgrown with weeds 4 feet high.

Can the Leader explain why he doesn't take any pride in our town as one of the main entrances into it is left decrepit and rundown?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Short Break Respite Care		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Pam Mann, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Vital overnight short break respite care, commissioned by Together for Children at Grace House, is to cease in November, due to failed negotiations between the two sectors. Can the Leader explain why the Council is not engaging robustly with the families of the Give us a Break campaign, and stepping in to help them, rather than leaving them feeling devastated, deceived, discarded, ignored and let down by the Council who is supposed to protect them?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – School Streets Pilot		
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Tracey Thompson, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“After the successful School Streets Pilot progressed with St. Bede’s School in Washington, can the Council advise why it is necessary to conduct an 18 month ‘assessment’ period, when the outputs from the St. Bede’s study should be available to quickly formulate a city rollout plan?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Free After Three Parking		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Brandon Feeley, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“With the closure of DWP Durham House in Washington, more workers have recently been moved into Sunderland City Centre. Can Sunderland Council confirm this has been taken into consideration with the review of the Free after Three parking changes?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	06.09.23
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 13 September 2023 – Regeneration of Holmeside		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Keith Brown, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

The planned new multi-storey car park in Holmeside is to be built on an extravagantly large site. Situated so close to the Museum and Winter Gardens it is a frivolous use of space within Sunderland's Cultural Centre.

It is an ideal place for a new National Glass Centre. A very small area could have reinforced concrete foundations for furnaces. All other, departments could easily be accommodated within a portion of this enormous footprint. The car park and entire area would be massively enhanced.

The council's intention is to regenerate Holmeside. With 265 new homes for several hundred people arriving just around the corner, increasing the cultural demand, why has this simple solution not been considered by Sunderland Council?

Assistant Director of Law and Governance