

Public Questions for Council 26 January 2022

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Memo

My ref GK
 Your ref

From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Homeless in the City		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Kevin Clarke, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Homeless in the city . Can the leader please reply to this. Councillor G Miller you stated at a last meeting that there was no homeless in the city . I have encountered people sleeping rough in your own ward . So can I ask what you claim is being homeless. So can I ask will you like to offer an apology to the people and if not will you kindly like to offer your resignation as leader as some people could look at a vote of no confidence.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

My ref GK
 Your ref

From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Questions at Council Meetings		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
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Gavin Brown, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“I have been watching the recent live streams of the Council Meetings and too many times a Cllr asks a question and the relevant person answering either doesn't answer or they skirt around the issue. Therefore should the Mayor robustly challenge the relevant Cllr answering if they don't answer the question or skirt around it, or is it time for an independent chair of these meeting with a strong candidate who can adequately challenge the defective or useless answers.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

My ref GK
 Your ref

From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – OGR Plate		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
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Craig McCluskey, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Can Sunderland City Council justify retaining a very valuable Reg Plate "OGR 1" when the council has a deficit. Could the approximate value of £10k - £15K that could be achieved by the sale of said Reg Plate not be better invested into the City?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

My ref GK
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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Gentoo Homes at Aberdare Road		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
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Martin Old, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Could the Council please outline the benefits of Gentoo building (approximately) 32 three and four bedroom homes on the Aberdare Road, Farringdon site? Can Farringdon residents please know the cost of these new homes, the proposed rent for those homes earmarked for rent and the numerical breakdown of houses for sale, houses for rent and houses which are to be categorised as rent-to-buy?
Thank you.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

My ref GK
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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Affordable Housing at Plains Farm		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
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Denise Cook, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Can the leader please confirm the current status of the proposed affordable housing development earmarked for Plains Farm.

Our local councillor Phil Tye reports to us that the application is still live and yet to be determined but the local conservatives are claiming a victory in getting the affordable housing development stopped.

Firstly what is the current status of the application? and secondly why would the local conservatives be against its own governments policy on affordable housing?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

My ref GK
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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Increasing Energy Costs in Schools		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Mark Burrell, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“As a school governor, at a recent meeting the headteacher shared that energy costs have risen by 50% this year. For some schools, this kind of budget rise will impact on teaching budgets. Are there any national schemes to assist schools with this pressure? If not, can the council work with NEPO to look at getting schools to sign up to low cost fixed tariffs if price volatility will be around for the coming future.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Pallion Shipyard		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
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Bryan Foster, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“At the Cabinet Meeting, the Leader said that there is no interest among businesses or in council to reopen the Pallion shipyard.

Why are Labour candidates like Karen Noble and Ethesham Haque campaigning on the basis that they would, if elected, reopen the yard?

What do they know about Council intentions that the Leader does not?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Living in Sunderland		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Kevin Leonard, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Sunderland was ranked among the top 50 worst places to live in the UK recently. Why did Sunderland residents give their city such a low score compared to residents of Newcastle, Gateshead, Durham and Northumberland which did not even feature?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

My ref GK
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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Council Meetings		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Simon Ayre, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Sharon Hodgson shared a photo on Twitter of close to 70 Labour members and councillors meeting without masks or social distancing in the new City Hall, against the Council’s own guidance. The Council has been hiring the Stadium of Light for meetings of this size which now seems like a massive publicity stunt, given that this is apparently to allow for social distancing. Labour councillors did not do this in private – so (a) how much has it cost the Council in total to hire rooms from the Stadium of Light for meetings and (b) will the Labour Party Leader apologise for breaking the Council’s rules when holding this meeting?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Labour Candidates		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Peter Noble, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Serving Labour councillors have been announced as candidates for wards other than the ones they are currently elected in. Karen Noble, e.g., is the councillor for St Anne’s whilst being the candidate for Pallion. Can the Leader of the Council tell us, firstly, if this is against the Council’s Code of Conduct and, secondly, whether he would himself consider standing for election in one ward whilst still serving as the councillor for another?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Investment in Washington		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Judith Hedley, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“When will Sunderland council start spending money on Washington? We pay enough into the coffers but have very few improvements. This is a disgrace.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

My ref GK
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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Supermarket in Station Road, Fulwell		

To	Leader of the Council
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	Assistant Director of Law and Governance
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Sandra Boyers, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“As a supporter of the campaign to keep a supermarket on Station Road in Fulwell, can the Council tell me: a) has the Council received any formal or informal enquiries regarding potential change of use of the former Sainsbury's premises? b) is the Council encouraging supermarkets to come forward, as the Fulwell councillors are? c) how much does the freeholder have to pay the Council while the building remains unoccupied?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Nationality and Borders Bill		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Pam Wortley, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“The Nationality and Borders Bill currently progressing through Parliament has been condemned by the UN refugee agency, numerous Local Authorities, and 56 groups and charities across the North East. What assessment has Sunderland City Council made of the impact the Bill will have on communities in our city, and what steps is it taking to oppose these measures?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	19.01.22
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 26 January 2022 – Introduction of Integrated Care Systems		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Laura Murrell, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question to be put to the Council meeting on 26 January 2022.

“Following remarks from the Leader recently reported in the HSJ, how does the Council propose to prevent the NHS succeeding in its “attempt at political castration” with the proposed power grab excluding politicians from Integrated Care Boards which means that “scrutiny is effectively ignored at a local level”. What measures are the Council pursuing to avoid the “car crash” the Leader envisages is coming to ensure that the ICSs deliver place based services to residents in Sunderland.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance