

Questions for Council 29 January 2020

No.	Subject	From:-
1	Social and Mainstream Media	Cllr D Wilson
2	Street Renaming	Cllr P Wood
3	Sunderland Echo Report	Cllr N Hodson
4	Preparations to bring Together for Children out of Special Measures	Cllr P Mann
5	Private Sector Investment on Vaux Site	Cllr D Dixon
6&7	Tree Planting Programme	Cllr P Wood Cllr M Haswell
8	"The Eagle" Vacant Land	Cllr P Mann
9	South Tyne and Wear Waste Management Partnership	Cllr J Blackburn
10	Occupancy of The Beam	Cllr P Wood
11	Chester Road Subway	Cllr S O'Brien
12	Carbon Neutral City by 2030	Cllr P Hunt
13	Durham Miners' Gala	Cllr D McDonough
14	Audit of Allotment plots	Cllr H Fagan
15	Housing Delivery and Investment Plan	Cllr J Jackson
16	Art Commissioned for the Vaux Site	Cllr D McDonough
17	Riverside Sunderland Investment	Cllr M Crosby
18	Domestic Abuse	Cllr P Smith
19	Retro-fitted Sprinklers	Cllr R Oliver
20	IT Updates and Security Roll-out	Cllr A Wood
21	Anti-Social Behaviour in Hetton	Cllr C Rowntree
22	Leisure Centre in the City Centre	Cllr R Oliver
23	Roundabout Upgrade	Cllr M Haswell
24	Replacement Vehicles for Mayor and Councillors	Cllr R Oliver

25	5G Roll-out	Cllr M Haswell
26	Riverside Development	Cllr S O'Brien
27	Upgrade of Durham Road	Cllr N Hodson
28	Requests for Dropped Kerbs	Cllr M Haswell
29	Dog Fouling Fines	Cllr M Haswell
30	Employees Declaring Disabilities	Cllr S O'Brien
31	Usage of Fastned Charging Station	Cllr H Fagan

Memo

My ref DW/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Denis Wilson	Date	20.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Social and Mainstream Media		

To	Leader of the Council
Copied to	The Mayor
	Councillor Denis Wilson
	Chief Officers' Group
	Head of Financial Resources
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance
	File

Considering the widespread use of disinformation, abuse and untruths on social and mainstream media against this council and its staff, could the leader outline what action if any is being taken against such perpetrators?

Councillor Denis Wilson

Memo

My ref PW/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Wood	Date	21.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020		
	Street Renaming		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Has any consideration been given to renaming "European Way", e.g. "Brexit Boulevard"?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref NH/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	23.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Sunderland Echo Report		

To	Leader of the Council
Copied to	The Mayor
	Councillor Niall Hodson
	Chief Officers' Group
	Head of Financial Resources
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance
	File

The Sunderland Echo reported in December that former Labour councillor Thomas Wright had admitted a series of historic child sex offences in court. Given that the councillor in question was quietly suspended from the Labour party the previous year, can the Leader clarify: what access to children, and information about children, did Thomas Wright have in his roles on the Council?

When was the Labour Party first aware of the allegations against him, and what has the Council done considering the charges and Wright's subsequent admission of guilt to keep residents and children safe?

Can the Leader give assurances to parents in Sunderland that their children have not been placed in danger?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref PM/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Pam Mann	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Preparations to bring Together for Children out of special measures		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Pam Mann		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

With the Together for Children final Ofsted monitoring visit due to take place in February, can the Portfolio holder please update members on the progress and preparations that have been put into place in order to bring Together for Children out of special measures?

Councillor Pam Mann

Memo

My ref DD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Darryl Dixon	Date	20.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Private Sector Investment on Vaux Site		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Darryl Dixon		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the leader comment on the massive private sector investment – biggest for a generation – to take place on the Vaux site. Can he also confirm that there will be no direct cost to the council for the construction of the new City Hall which will now be leased from the major private sector investor.

Councillor Darryl Dixon

Memo

My ref PW/MH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Wood, Cllr Martin Haswell	Date	21.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020		
	Tree Planting Programme		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Wood		
	Councillor Martin Haswell		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

a) What is the Council doing to encourage tree planting in the city?

Councillor Peter Wood

b) Can the Deputy Leader confirm what is Sunderland Council's programme for tree planting to aid carbon capture in the fight against global warming?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref PM/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Pam Mann	Date	23.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 “The Eagle” – vacant land		

To	Leader of the Council
Copied to	The Mayor
	Councillor Pam Mann
	Chief Officers’ Group
	Head of Financial Resources
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance
	File

Relating to the private land located at Parkhurst Road/Portsmouth Road, Pennywell, previously occupied by the now demolished public house "The Eagle", which has been derelict and unkempt for over 20 years. After multiple residents and Gentoo area coordinators comments, can the Portfolio holder advise if there are any plans to work together with Gentoo and ward Councillors to improve this vacant land and increase neighbourhood pride?

Councillor Pam Mann

Memo

My ref JB/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr James Blackburn	Date	20.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 South Tyne and Wear Waste Partnership		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor James Blackburn		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader tell the Council how successful the South Tyne and Wear Waste Partnership has been over the past five years for Sunderland City Council and it's other two partners.

Councillor James Blackburn

Memo

My ref PW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Wood	Date	21.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Occupancy of The Beam		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

What percentage of the floor space of "The Beam" building is currently occupied?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020		
	Chester Road Subway		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Back in May 2019, I was in the paper calling for the Chester Road subway to be brought up to scratch, given more people would be using it to access the developments, including KFC, that were then starting construction on the former Dewhirst site.

Rebecca Atkinson was quoted in the same Sunderland Echo article, criticizing my comments and saying, quote: "Before anybody could open and start trading at this development, the council set down a condition that developers must fund and complete improvements to the subway. The improvement works include extensive upgrades to its approaches and entrances, its lighting, its concrete walls and ceilings, and its complete redecoration."

These developments have now been open and trading for many months, with no improvements having been made to the subway. Will the portfolio holder kindly: advise when we will actually see the improvements promised for this subway; and apologize to me, my colleague Meg Crosby, and local residents for her misleading statement to the press.

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref PH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Paula Hunt	Date	20.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Carbon Neutral City by 2030		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Paula Hunt		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Following the decision of the council to become a Carbon Neutral City by 2030 could the leader outline whether the council has plans to use its extensive land assets to introduce Community Forests within the City?

Councillor Paula Hunt

Memo

My ref DMcD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Dominic McDonough	Date	22.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020		
	Durham Miners Gala		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Dominic McDonough		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

In light of recent comments made by Alan Mardghum of the Durham Miners Gala which suggested that Conservatives may not be safe when attending the Gala, would the Leader of the Council agree with me that the Gala is a celebration of our coal mining heritage rather than an overtly political event and will he look again at any funding from this Council towards the event if this year's gala does indeed exclude many members of the public who voted Conservative?

Councillor Dominic McDonough

Memo

My ref HF/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Heather Fagan	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Audit of allotment plots		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Heather Fagan		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

With increasing reports of animals such as horses and dogs being kept on allotments, would the Council commit to carrying out a full audit of allotment plots, ensuring tenants are operating within the tenancy agreement and in cases where animals are being kept against tenancy conditions, that the Council will work with the tenant to have the animals moved to a safer environment?

Councillor Heather Fagan

Memo

My ref SW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Julia Jackson	Date	20.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Housing Delivery and Investment Plan		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Julia Jackson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Cabinet on 19th December 2019 agreed a report on progressing of 3 social housing bungalow projects following its decision to become a social landlord as part of an extensive Housing delivery and Investment Plan. Could the Leader provide council with his vision for council housing over the life of the new city plan up to 2030?

Councillor Julia Jackson

Memo

My ref DMcD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Dominic McDonough	Date	22.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Art Commissioned for the Vaux Site		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Dominic McDonough		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

It is pleasing to see new public works of art being commissioned for the Vaux site but why, when over £400,000 of public money is being spent on the pieces, was there no open competition or public consultation on the designs?

Councillor Dominic McDonough

Memo

My ref MC/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Margaret Crosby	Date	23.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020		
	Riverside Sunderland investment		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Margaret Crosby		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Is the Council underwriting the new Riverside Sunderland investment, if the planned buildings do not immediately see full occupancy by tenants?

Councillor Margaret Crosby

Memo

My ref PS/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Patricia Smith	Date	20.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Domestic Abuse		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Patricia Smith		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Domestic abuse is an incident or pattern of incidents of controlling, coercive, threatening, degrading and violent behaviour, including sexual violence, in most cases by a partner or ex-partner, but also by a family member or carer. Could the Leader explain what the council are doing or intending to do to support its victims and pursue the perpetrator of such a heinous crime?

Councillor Patricia Smith

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	23.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020		
	Retro-fitted sprinklers		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Robert Oliver		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Chair of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority state which Gentoo high-rise properties have had sprinklers retro-fitted and what plans there are to fit sprinklers in the remaining Gentoo properties?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref AW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Andrew Wood	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 IT updates and security rollout		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Andrew Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader update the Council on the status of the IT updates and security rollout that were recommended in the last audit?

Councillor Andrew Wood

Memo

My ref CR/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Claire Rowntree	Date	20.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Fires and Anti-Social Behaviour across Hetton		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Claire Rowntree		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Following the spate of fires across Hetton that have caused huge damage and distress, what are the council doing to help address this and can you reassure the community that action is being taken?

Councillor Claire Rowntree

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Leisure centre in the city centre		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Robert Oliver		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council update council on what plans there are to build a leisure centre in the city centre?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref MH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Martin Haswell	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Upgrade roundabout		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Martin Haswell		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the portfolio holder confirm if there are any plans to upgrade the roundabout at the junction of the A183 Chester Road with Holborn Road and Springwell Road?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Replacement vehicles for the Mayor and Councillors		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Robert Oliver		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council state what plans there are to purchase replacement vehicles for the use of the Mayor and Councillors on council duties?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref AW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Andrew Wood	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Plans to expand 5G roll-out		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Andrew Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

What are the Council's plans to expand the 5G roll-out across the Sunderland City Council area?

Councillor Andrew Wood

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020		
	Riverside Development		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Does the £12,501.15 spent so far represent good value for money in obtaining good news stories and press for the Riverside development? And has this investment in a company just set up in November of 2019 shown any return at all?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref NH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Upgrade highway on Durham Road		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Niall Hodson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the portfolio holder confirm if there are any plans to upgrade the highway on Durham Road in the area around Ivanhoe Crescent, where many residents are affected by noise and vibration from buses and heavy goods vehicles?

Is there anything more the Council can do to direct heavy goods vehicles away from this residential area?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref MH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Martin Haswell	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Requests for dropped kerbs		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Martin Haswell		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the portfolio holder confirm the total number of outstanding requests for dropped kerbs for pedestrian crossing?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref MH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Martin Haswell	Date	23.01.20
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Dog fouling fines		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Martin Haswell		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the portfolio holder confirm the total number of dog fouling fines issues in 2018 and 2019?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Employees declaring any form of disability		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Of the council's employees, have any form of disability? Can the Leader advise: what guidelines does the Council follow to support its employees who declare any form of disability, and in particular: how long does the Council take to act on making reasonable adjustments for these people, including directing them to the access to work scheme?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref HF/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Heather Fagan	Date	23.01.20
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 29th January 2020 Usage of Fastned charging station		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Heather Fagan		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Is the portfolio holder able to comment on the current usage of the Fastned charging station? Can they advise what the Council is doing to promote this facility in the city?

Councillor Heather Fagan