

Questions for Council 21 November 2018

No.	Subject	From:-
1	Single Use Plastics	Cllr Margaret Beck
2	Electronic Payments	Cllr Peter Wood
3	Preparations for Brexit	Cllr Andrew Wood
4	Supported Apprenticeships for Care Leavers	Cllr Darryl Dixon
5	School Parking	Cllr Peter Wood
6	Disability Champion	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*
7	Misuse of Public Funds	Cllr Michael Essl
8	Sunderland's Council Chamber	Cllr Bob Francis
9	Partial Road Closure at Hylton Road	Cllr Niall Hodson
10	TfC Fostering and Adoption Services	Cllr Fiona Miller
11	Unhealthiest Towns in England	Cllr Bob Francis
12	St Mary's Car Park	Cllr Lynn Appleby
13	Chancellor's Autumn Statement	Cllr Barry Curran
14	Devolution for South of Tyne Authorities	Cllr Robert Oliver
15	Brown Bin Charges	Cllr Martin Haswell
16	Fly Tipping in Copt Hill	Cllr Jack Cunningham
17	Former Joplings Building	Cllr Michael Dixon
18	Social Housing	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*
19	Additional Funding to CCG	Cllr Ronny Davison
20	Gentoo Chief Executive	Cllr Michael Dixon

21	Sunderland Illuminations Tickets	Cllr Lynn Appleby
22	IMF Fiscal Monitoring Report	Cllr Peter Gibson
23	Sunderland Aquatic Centre	Cllr Robert Oliver
24	Vaux Site	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*
25	Mental Health Support Workers	Cllr Ian Galbraith
26	Stadium of Light Concerts	Cllr Robert Oliver
27	Parking Tickets and Traffic Fines	Cllr Niall Hodson
28	Council's Apprenticeships and Family and Adult Learning	Cllr Colin English
29	Vacant Buildings in the City Centre	Cllr Robert Oliver
30	Public Toilets	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*
31	Meals for Councillors	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*
32	People's Vote on Brexit Deal	Cllr Andrew Wood
33	Spice Girls Concert	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*
34	Obesity Rates and Takeaways	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*
35	Refuse Collections	Cllr Stephen O'Brien*

* The Mayor will read out the questions on behalf of the Member

Memo

My ref MB/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Margaret Beck	Date	07.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Single Use Plastics		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Margaret Beck		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Considering the appalling effect that single use plastics have on our environment, particularly our rivers, seas and oceans, could the Leader of the Council consider instructing the Chief Executive to bring forth a plan to eliminate these plastics across the whole council. Could he also give an assurance that such a plan and timeframe for implementation will forthcoming before the end of this financial year?

Councillor Margaret Beck

Memo

My ref PW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Wood	Date	12.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Electronic Payments		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Does the Council have any plans to require payment by electronic means only?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref AW/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Andrew Wood	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018		
	Preparations for Brexit		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Andrew Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

The Council Leader has stated that Sunderland City Council was one of the first to begin preparations for Brexit, shortly prior to the EU Referendum taking place in June 2016. How close to completion is the Council's review, and where and when will its impact assessment plans for Brexit be published and made available to elected members and the public?

Other local authorities have published theirs, including Dorset, Hampshire, Greater London Authority, Barnet, and Pembrokeshire.

Councillor Andrew Wood

Memo

My ref DD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Darryl Dixon	Date	07.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Supported Apprenticeships for Care Leavers		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Darryl Dixon		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council inform members of the Council's ambition for supported apprenticeships for care leavers and what is the timescale?

Councillor Darryl Dixon

Memo

My ref PW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Wood	Date	12.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 School Parking		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Parking near schools at the beginning and end of the school day is a major problem in many parts of the city.

Does the Council have any plans to follow the examples of, e.g., Croydon, Edinburgh, Hackney and Solihull Councils and experiment with a "School Streets" approach?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018		
	Disability Champion		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Given his actions in this chamber and on social media, does the Leader think it's acceptable to abuse people based on their ability to spell? If so is it really possible for him to be a disability champion?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref ME/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Michael Essl	Date	07.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Misuse of Public Funds		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Michael Essl		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader inform Council of the situation regarding Councillors O'Brien and Appleby's apparent misuse of public funds for party political gains in direct contravention of the Council Constitution which clearly prohibits such behaviour?

Councillor Michael Essl

Memo

My ref BF/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Bob Francis	Date	13.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Sunderland's Council Chamber		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Bob Francis		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Having read of the possibility of the Civic Centre moving to the Vaux site, many residents have asked about the future of the Sunderland's impressive council chamber. I invite the council Leader to respond to residents' concerns by telling us what the future holds for the chamber.

Councillor Bob Francis

Memo

My ref NH/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Partial Road Closure at Hylton Road		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Niall Hodson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Following a fire across three business premises in Hylton Road in September, there has been a partial road closure in place, causing serious delays to traffic. Whilst I appreciate the circumstances are unusual, this is simply too long for such an important route into and out of the city to be blocked. Can the Leader reassure the Council that steps are being taking to reopen the road as a matter of urgency?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref FM/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Fiona Miller	Date	07.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 TfC Fostering and Adoption Services		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Fiona Miller		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

I understand that TFC Fostering and Adoption Services have recently been inspected
would the Leader of the Council tell us the outcome of those inspections?

Councillor Fiona Miller

Memo

My ref BF/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Bob Francis	Date	13.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Unhealthiest Towns in England		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Bob Francis		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

A recent national survey rated Sunderland at fifth out of the ten unhealthiest towns in England, citing the number of fast food outlets, off licences, tanning shops, book makers and empty retail units together with the parlous state of the Holmeside as reasons, adding that a surfeit of such businesses is unnecessary. What is the council willing to do to limit their numbers thereby raising the ranking of the city?

Councillor Bob Francis

Memo

My ref LA/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Lynn Appleby	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 St Mary's Car Park		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Lynn Appleby		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Lots of residents have raised concerns with me about recurring problems with the tickets and barriers at St Mary's Car Park: that are causing delays, traffic jams, and frustration for shoppers. Given we are trying to encourage people in to the city to shop, what steps are being taken to resolve this problem?

Councillor Lynn Appleby

Memo

My ref BC/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Barry Curran	Date	07.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Chancellors Autumn Statement		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Barry Curran		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

In light of the highly misleading claim by the Chancellor in his recent Autumn Statement, regarding Austerity coming to an end, will the Leader of the Council please outline the projected impact of this Budget upon the services of the City of Sunderland?"

Councillor Barry Curran

Memo

My ref RO/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	13.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Devolution for South of Tyne Authorities		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Robert Oliver		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader of the Council update council on progress towards a devolution deal for councils south of the Tyne following the statement made by the Northern Powerhouse minister, Jake Berry, that “the door remains open” if they want to sign up to join the North of Tyne authority, or to agree their own devolution deal with the Government.

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref MH/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Martin Haswell	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Brown Bin Charges		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Martin Haswell		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the portfolio holder reassure residents that there will be no further increase in the brown bin charge in future years?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref JC/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Jack Cunningham	Date	07.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Fly Tipping in Copt Hill Ward		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Jack Cunningham		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader update the council on the progress made on the issue of fly tipping in the Copt Hill Ward?"

Councillor Jack Cunningham

Memo

My ref MD/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Michael Dixon	Date	13.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 – Former Jopling’s Building		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Michael Dixon		
	Chief Officers’ Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

While appreciating the premises is in private ownership, bearing in mind its importance to the Sunnyside area of the City and the interest in it from the people of Sunderland, can the Portfolio Holder please give an indication as to when the former Jopling’s building, now under redevelopment, will be ready for occupation?

Councillor Michael Dixon

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018		
	Social Housing		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Given the extra £8.5 million the Council will receive from Homes England next year, can the portfolio holder reassure us that providing more social homes will be a priority?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref RD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Ronny Davison	Date	07.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Additional Funding to Sunderland CCG		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Ronny Davison		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

It has recently been announced that additional funding is to be provided for mental health services. Could the Leader of the Council inform members how much additional funding has been provided to Sunderland CCG to be spent for Sunderland patients?

Councillor Ronny Davison

Memo

My ref MD/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Michael Dixon	Date	14.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 – Gentoo Chief Executive		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Michael Dixon		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Would the Portfolio Holder agree that the appointment of a new Chief Executive Officer at Gentoo, who is due to commence his duties in January 2019, is an ideal opportunity for a re-assessment of the Council's working relationship with our main social housing provider and also significant house builder? One way to help assist this procedure would be for the new Chief Executive to be invited to attend this Council Chamber and discuss related housing issues/policy at Gentoo with all elected members, plus Council officers. Would the Portfolio Holder be willing to arrange such a meeting?

Councillor Michael Dixon

Memo

My ref LA/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Lynn Appleby	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Sunderland Illuminations Tickets		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Lynn Appleby		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the Leader consider making tickets for Sunderland Illuminations transferable in future years? Residents have complained that buying tickets in advance is frustrating if bad weather stops them attending. Could tickets not be transferable in the event of inclement weather?

I am also concerned that tickets only advertised as being available online excludes lots of people from attending. Could the Council review this in future years to make clear to residents there is still a box office facility on the night?

Councillor Lynn Appleby

Memo

My ref PG/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Gibson	Date	07.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 IMF Fiscal Monitoring report		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Gibson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Would the Leader of the Council wish to comment on the recent IMF Fiscal Monitoring Report "Managing Public Wealth" from October 2018 that confirms that the state of UK public finances are now amongst the weakest in the world, falling even below those of countries such as Gambia and Uganda?

Councillor Peter Gibson

Memo

My ref RO/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Sunderland Aquatic Centre		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Robert Oliver		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council make clear why £328,000 from the council budget has been spent on the Aquatic Centre roof and whether any or all of this has been reimbursed from the guarantee? Could he also make clear how the £3.8million in the budget for this year for the same item will be spent?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018		
	Vaux Site		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader update the Council as to how much commercial interest there has been in the building on the Vaux site, and the progress in getting it occupied?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref IG/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Ian Galbraith	Date	07.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Mental Health Support Workers		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Ian Galbraith		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council comment on the recent announcement that all schools will get a mental health support worker and at least 10% of the £20bn in extra NHS funding will be allocated to improving mental health services. This funding will also provide more mental health support at A&Es.

How can we ensure that such workers will be employed, by whom and when?

Councillor Ian Galbraith

Memo

My ref RO/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Stadium of Light Concerts		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Robert Oliver		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council say whether the council will have any financial involvement with the pop concerts at the Stadium of Light?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref NH/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Parking Tickets and Traffic Fines		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Niall Hodson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader advise the number and amount of outstanding parking tickets and traffic fines issued by Council wardens, and clarify how many have been written off in the past five years, and at what cost?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref CE/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Colin English	Date	07.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Councils Apprenticeship and Family and Adult Learning		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Colin English		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

I understand that the Council's Apprenticeship and Family and Adult Learning was recently monitored by Ofsted would the Leader of the Council tell us the outcome of the monitoring visit?

Councillor Colin English

Memo

My ref RO/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Vacant Buildings in the City Centre		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Robert Oliver		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council say what assessment has been made of currently vacant buildings in the city centre with regards to the possible use as a replacement for the civic centre?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018		
	Public Toilets		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the Cabinet reconsider its proposals to charge people for using the few remaining public toilets in Sunderland? A recent poll of 1,600 people suggests residents strongly oppose this.

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Meals for Councillors		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

In light of further cuts to the Council's budget, will the Leader consider scrapping free meals for councillors?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref AW/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Andrew Wood	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 People's Vote on Brexit Deal		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Andrew Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

In light of the fact that the Labour MPs for Sunderland Central and Houghton & Sunderland South have declared their support for a People's Vote on the final Brexit deal, will the Leader and the Cabinet make clear their position on the subject, given that this is an issue which stands to have a massive impact on our city?

Councillor Andrew Wood

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Spice Girls Concert		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the Council be providing any subsidy towards the Spice Girls concert?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018 Obesity Rates and Takeaways		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

I was pleased to see the feature in the Chronicle which said Sunderland was one of the best cities in the country to live and work. But I'm embarrassed that it's one of the worst cities in the country for obesity rates and concentration of takeaways. Can the Leader tell us what concrete steps are being taken to tackle these issues?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref SOB/GK
Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.11.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 November 2018		
	Refuse Collections		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader clarify whether the frequency of refuse collections will be reduced in the coming years?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien