

Public Questions for Council 25 March 2026

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Sunderland City Council

Memo

My ref JS
Your ref

From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Footpath and Driveway Designs		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Jake Walker, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“What steps are the council willing to take to reform footpath and driveway designs in the older suburb parts of Sunderland as they are no longer fit for purpose with larger vehicles and higher traffic volume with this increasing the level of congestion when road works are in process, so that we can ensure both pedestrians and driver safety?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 No 10/11 Bus Changes		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Karen Noble, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“As CEO to a Charity in Pallion who has service users who rely on a reliable regular bus service, can the portfolio holder please update me on the current situation on the No10/11 bus and specifically if any Pallion councillors have engaged with Stagecoach on the issue to provide a voice for local residents before these changes were made. If so what was the outcome of these conversations and how did they impact the decision of Stagecoach in relation to these changes

Thank you”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Road Repairs		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Patricia Raynor and David Herring, residents of Sunderland, have submitted the following questions in respect of road repairs in the city.

Patricia Raynor asks, "I was pleased to see Sunderland Council are going to spend £1 million extra on road repairs. Can you confirm what percentage of this will be used to repair roads in Ayton, Oxclose, Blackfell and Springwell Villages. Thank you."

David Herring asks, "I would like to bring to your attention once again the state of the roads in Sunderland. The council appear to have given up even trying to repair the potholes as all reports to them are ignored. The excessive damage can not be blamed on the weather as the roads in Denmark are perfect and they get worse weather than we do. I would be grateful if something could be done about this."

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Marks and Spencer Building		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Steven Pounder, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“I believe that the people of Sunderland own the Marks and Spencer building on High Street West in Sunderland. Given that 10 million pounds worth of art, that is also owned by the people of Sunderland is in costly storage, would in not be in the best interests of the people to look at the feasibility of using the Marks and Spencer building to house and exhibit this art work. Any required refurbishments to this building, I believe would be our money well spent.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 The Stack		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Glenda Young, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“In 2025 The Stack at Seaburn was granted planning permission to expand with appropriate soundproofing. It has now been reported in the local news that Stack projects in Durham, Bishop Auckland and Carlisle are currently stalled. Further, opening of their Muddler pub restaurant in Middlesbrough has been shelved and their YOLO cafe in Ponteland sold. Will all of this have a delaying effect on when the expansion with sound proofing will begin at Seaburn and when will it start?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 National Glass Centre		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Alison Mason and Ben Hardie, residents of Sunderland, have submitted the following questions in respect of the National Glass Centre.

Alison Mason asks, "Labour's decision to perform a u-turn and suddenly back the campaign to Save the National Glass Centre has been attributed to "the Labour Group" and it was fronted in the media by Cllr Tye. Could the Leader please confirm his personal unreserved support for keeping the National Glass Centre and all of the sentiments in Labour's Glass Centre motion which condemns the University?"

Ben Hardie asks, "The University told the council three and half years ago it was planning to close the Glass Centre. Has the council made any approach to the University offering to take over management of the Glass Centre?"

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Speed Cameras		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Nichola Austin-Ratcliffe, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Does the cabinet member have full confidence in Gateshead Council or does she believe that we would be better served if they did not have a leading role in the Safer Roads Partnership?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Crown Works Studio Project		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Thomas Such, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“The media has reported that 65% of the funding Kim McGuinness has just announced for the “heavily scaled back” Crown Works Studio project is just a re-announcement of the funding Jeremy Hunt originally allocated in his 2024 budget. Can the Leader of the Council confirm that only 35% of the funding package recently announced is new money?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Red Gables		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Bill Smith, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“What is the cause of the delay to the opening of Red Gables and why have parents from Give Us a Break not been kept informed as the previous cabinet member promised they would be?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Biz Space North Sands		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Emma Porter, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Can the Leader of the Council please confirm that the Council has purchased the Biz Space North Sands building and, if it has outlined what type of housing developments (eg student flats or executive homes) have been discussed on the site?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Parking in Eden Vale		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Benjamin William Davies-Scott, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Illegal parking in Eden Vale has caused serious accidents. The police recently told Barnes and Humbledon Residents Association that they cannot do more than 20mph around Hutton Street and Vale Street during blue light incidents. Can the cabinet member commit to new double yellow lines to protect junctions, repainting the faded junction lines in this area, introducing proper enforcement, and consulting residents on a CPMS?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Sharpley Golf Club		
To	Leader of the Council		
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L. Pounder, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“On the 18th June, 20th June, 24th June and the 26th June 2025 an overall total of £570 of council taxpayers money was spent at Sharpley Golf club in County Durham. My question is what advantages did the council taxpayers gain from this expenditure?”

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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Spending Taxpayer’s Money		
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Gabriel Green, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“I was concerned to hear the leader of the council say that he was spending taxpayers money on a “significant gamble” that all private sector investors had pulled out from as they felt it wasn’t viable anymore. Does he feel that taxpayer’s money holds so little value that he can, in his own words, “gamble” it away?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Debt Levels		
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Brandon Oakland, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Sunderland City Council under Labour has placed us into a high level of debt. Can the leader please explain if the council has a plan to reduce this debt level, something that significantly burdens our cities finances?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Roker Park Improvements		
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Sam Johnston, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Residents of Roker have welcomed the major investment made in Roker Park over recent years. However, they are now frustrated by the slow progress in completing the improvement works and by other issues in the park being ignored by the Council.

Will the Leader apologise for how long it is taking to get Roker Park up to the standard residents expect and for neglecting areas such as the basketball court, which is in a terrible condition?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	18.03.26
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 25 March 2026 Reclaim the Lanes Motion		
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Nathan Williamson, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“Some months ago at a previous meeting, the portfolio holder for Environment and Transport admitted that no action has been taken on the Conservatives 'Reclaim the Lanes' motion that was first passed in 2021. Can she update us on what work has been undertaken since admitting no work had been undertaken on implementing the motion?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance