

Public Questions for Council 28 January 2026

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Sunderland City Council

Memo

My ref DN
Your ref

From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Alston Crescent Gritting		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

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

“During the recent heavy snowfall, Alston Crescent was not gritted. This is a bus route which also has high traffic volume and high pedestrian use, including children going to Monkwearmouth School. There's also a downhill slope at the Dovedale Road end of the street. There were several near accidents during the period while there was snow on the ground. Why are residents, pedestrians, schoolchildren, drivers and buses being put at risk by not gritting this high traffic street?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Support for Residents Over Winter Months		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Caroline Comer and Jennifer Orji, residents of Sunderland, have submitted the following questions in respect of the support for residents over the winter months.

Caroline Comer asks, "What support was put in place for rough sleepers in Sunderland during the recent cold weather?"

Jennifer Orji asks, "As we move into the winter months, could the council outline the preparations in place to keep residents safe and services resilient? In addition to support for rough sleepers, how are we addressing wider winter pressures such as fuel poverty, severe-weather planning, support for vulnerable households, and ensuring essential services remain accessible during periods of extreme cold?"

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Pedestrian Safety at Broadway Crossing		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Mrs E J Wood, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“As a Nookside resident since 2004, I’ve seen traffic become untenable since the new bridge opened. During peak hours (07:30–09:30, 14:45–18:30), exiting the estate can take over 20 minutes. Pedestrian safety near Broadway roundabout is hazardous. Yet promised crossings and lights remain uninstalled. Elderly residents feel overlooked and unsafe. Are we not important? When will these promised safety measures be implemented?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 New Year Fireworks		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Zoe Chandler, a resident of Sunderland, has submitted the following question.

“The New Year’s Eve fireworks in Sunderland were a huge success, drawing massive crowds and families into the city centre despite the freezing weather. The event generated a wave of press coverage, absolutely blew up on social media, people sharing photos, videos, praise for the atmosphere and organisation. Could the Council outline how it measures the impact of such a well-received event, what it sees as the key benefits for Sunderland and whether this will become an annual event?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

Sunderland City Council

Memo

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Council Tax Increase		
To	Leader of the Council		
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William Smith a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“The Leader of the Council and his predecessor used to blame the Conservatives for local Council Tax increases, stating that these were imposed by national government. Given that the current government has assumed a maximum Council Tax increase in Sunderland for the next three years, is it still his view that Council Tax increases are a political choice made and enforced by national government?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Mental Health Services		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Alison Mason a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“Mental health services in Sunderland too often focus on people in crisis, with little resource available for those who are reaching crisis point or reporting that they are beginning to feel suicidal. Why is more not done to intervene to prevent those approaching crisis point from attempting suicide in the first place, as opposed to deploying resource only when somebody unsuccessfully attempts suicide? ”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Metro Extension to Washington		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Gabriel Green a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“Given that the Washington Neighbourhood Board has recognised 'Getting Around' as a key area of focus, what plans does the Council have to ensure that all residents of the town will have direct access, via public transport, to the proposed new metro stops so that the expansion of the metro serves all of Washington, rather than just passing through?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Crown Works Film Studio		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Thomas Such a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“How much has been paid to CBRE to date, in its quest to find a funder for the Crown Works film studio, and how many potential funders have indicated an interest in the project? Please also give an updated timeline for completion of the film studio construction in your response.”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Pavement Parkers and Pedestrian Safety		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Claire Bryant, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“With new powers allowing councils in England to fine pavement parkers, how does the council plan to use these powers in Sunderland to improve safety and accessibility for pedestrians?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 National Day for Victims and Survivors of Terrorism		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Thomas Newton, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“With the Government establishing a new National Day for Victims and Survivors of Terrorism, beginning on 21 August 2026, how will the council mark this day here in Sunderland and support those in our community who have been affected by the evil of terrorism?”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Taxi Licensing		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Myles Mordey, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“We’re seeing a growing number of taxis licensed outside Sunderland coming into the city to operate, and that naturally raises questions about consistency, safety, and accountability.

What proactive steps are being taken, particularly through licensing and enforcement, to make sure all drivers working in Sunderland meet our standards and that residents are properly protected and safeguarded?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Child Poverty		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Shane Knox, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“Child poverty remains a major challenge in our city. Could the council outline what actions are currently being taken to reduce child poverty, how these efforts are being targeted to support the most affected families, and what further steps are planned to improve outcomes for children across Sunderland?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Tree Removal		
To	Leader of the Council		
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G. Thompson, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“May I ask about the removal of mature health trees with T P O s in Sunderland inc Ashbrooke conservation area. How many have been removed in 2024-25 2025-26 and what is the replanting programme? What due diligence is undertaken and who oversees the SCC arborists to assure appropriate decisions are made to fix problems whilst saving the trees I am concerned about the removal of healthy Ash tree 1818 with TPO I did not see planning notice as it was not easily noticeable so was unable to contest.”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Illegal Parking in Chester Road		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Benjamin Davies-Scott, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“How many fines were issued for illegal parking on Chester Road last year (2025) and what new approaches does the Council intend to explore to deal with dangerous illegal parking in this area?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Government Funding Calculation		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Nichola Austin-Ratcliffe, resident of Sunderland and Peter Franks, employed in Sunderland have submitted the following questions in relation to Government funding.

Nichola Austin-Ratcliffe asks, "The government's reviewed funding calculation for local government leaves Sunderland Council worse off in the medium term. What representations has the Leader of the Council made to the Labour government to reverse its decision to cut Sunderland's budget?"

Peter Franks asks, "I was interested to read Cllr Mark Burrell's Facebook post admitting that Labour's 'fairer' funding for Councils will actually lead to a real terms cut in Sunderland Council's budget in the medium term. If Labour considered the Council's previous budgets to have been 'austerity' then they cannot dare say this is not the era of austerity 2.0. What does the Leader of the Council regret more, the Labour Chancellor's decision to cut his Council's budget or Mark Burrell having access to the internet?"

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Members' Allowances		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Hardipsinh Barad, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“The Labour cabinet has advertised that it is freezing councillors' allowances. Can the Leader confirm that, last year, Labour increased allowances and that this 'freeze' retains last year's increased rate rather than returning to the previous basic rate?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
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Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Reporting of CSE		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Kevin Leonard, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“Can the Council confirm that all aspects of the Conservatives' motion on child sexual exploitation and mandatory reporting have been implemented throughout the organisation and in its supply chains?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Pennywell and South Hylton		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Greg Peacock, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“Pennywell & South Hylton have several areas which have been forgotten by the council. Could the portfolio holder advise what the council are doing to make the Children’s Forest at Pennywell and the Riverside at South Hylton safer and more accessible to the public? Additionally, the derelict sites of the former Quarry View Junior school on St Luke’s Road and the ruined former Golden Lion Pub on Lion Place remain undeveloped and potentially dangerous. Will the council act to develop these sites?”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Drug Problems in the Community		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Jake Walker, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“What steps are the council willing to take to reduce drug problems within our community. but also reduce the addiction itself and leading people into the correct services if applicable.”

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From	Assistant Director of Law and Governance	Date	21.01.26
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Public Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Pedestrian Crossing on Silksworth Lane		
To	Leader of the Council		
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Richard Bradley, a resident of Sunderland has submitted the following question.

“For years the council have been turning down requests from the residents for proper pedestrian crossings on Silksworth Lane north of Sainsburys. Will they commit to listening to the residents and putting in traffic control and crossing measures before any further development goes ahead”

Assistant Director of Law and Governance