

Questions for Council 21 March 2018

No.	Subject	From:-
1	Joint Venture Agreement with Gentoo	Cllr Michael Dixon
2	Interim Staff within Together for Children	Cllr Michael Essl
3	Adult Education Ofsted Report	Cllr Niall Hodson
4	Central Railway Station	Cllr Peter Wood
5	Key Stage 2 Results	Cllr Elizabeth Gibson
6	Apprenticeship Provision	Cllr Niall Hodson
7	Park Lane Interchange	Cllr Peter Wood
8	Cost of FOI	Cllr Barbara McClennan
9	Bailout of Tall Ships	Cllr Stephen O'Brien
10	Software Centre Car Park	Cllr Peter Wood
11	Extra Resources for Local Services	Cllr Ian Kay
12	Care Quality Commission	Cllr Martin Haswell
13	Councillors Allowance	Cllr Robert Oliver
14	Wilkin Chapman Report	Cllr Gillian Galbraith
15	Community Parking Management	Cllr Martin Haswell
16	IAMP	Cllr Robert Oliver
17	Council has Commissioned a Firm of Solicitors	Cllr Niall Hodson
18	Vaux Site	Cllr Robert Oliver
19	Council's Leadership	Cllr Niall Hodson

20	Published Report – Leader Capital Programme	Cllr Michael Dixon
21	Financial Contribution to the Tall Ships	Cllr Stephen O’Brien
22	Siglion Rents	Cllr George Howe
23	Financial Contribution to the City of Culture Bid	Cllr Stephen O’Brien
24	First Phase of Pennywell Development	Cllr Stephen O’Brien
25	Recycling Centre	Cllr Martin Haswell
26	Special Responsibility Allowances	Cllr Stephen O’Brien
27	Total Cost of IAMP Infrastructure	Cllr Stephen O’Brien

Memo

My ref MD/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Michael Dixon	Date	14.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Joint Venture Agreement with Gentoo		
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		

Can the Portfolio Holder give an assurance that the joint venture agreement with Gentoo to deliver new homes on the vacant site off Chester Road is drawn up in such a way that were the housing association unable to deliver their part of the agreement, no financial loss would be incurred by the Council?

Councillor Michael Dixon

Memo

My ref MS/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Michael Essl	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Interim Staff within Together for Children		

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

Would the Lead Member for Children's Services report on the current number of posts filled by interim staff within TfC social care workforce?

Is it an improvement to the position reported to Council in January 2018, if not, why not?

Councillor Michael Essl

Memo

My ref NH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Niall Hodson	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Adult Education Ofsted Report		
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		

The recent Ofsted report into the adult education here in Sunderland made direct criticism of elected members of this Council – stating that they: “have been too slow to recognise and hold managers to account for the recent deterioration in the achievement of apprentices and the emerging safeguarding concerns” and “not been decisive enough in ensuring that managers take action to address these issues.”

Will the new Leader address the longstanding lack of accountability amongst this Council’s Cabinet and Scrutiny position holders, and remove the individuals responsible for overseeing this failure from their roles?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref PW/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Peter Wood	Date	14.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March 2018		
	Central Railway Station		
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		

The recently approved capital programme shows spending on the redevelopment of the railway station beginning during 2017/18, with public realm improvements in 2019/20. How well developed are those plans and how confident is the Leader/Portfolio holder they will be achieved?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref EG/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Elizabeth Gibson	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Key Stage Results		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Elizabeth Gibson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Would the Lead member for Children's Services report on the results of Sunderland schools at KS1, KS2 and KS4 and how these compare with national results, the North East and our statistical neighbours?

Councillor Elizabeth Gibson

Memo

My ref NH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Niall Hodson	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Apprenticeship Provision		
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		

A particularly alarming aspect of the recent Ofsted report into adult education in Sunderland was the criticisms it made of the Council's apprenticeship provision which "does not fully meet the principles and requirements of apprenticeships."

In particular, the inspectors said that contract management for apprenticeship provision has "not been robust enough to identify and arrest the deterioration in the quality of the provision since the last inspection".

Can the Leader reassure the Council as to what steps have been taken immediately following the report, and what plans are in place to improve the quality of the Council's apprenticeship provision in the future?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref PW/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Peter Wood	Date	14.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March 2018		
	Park Lane interchange		
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		

The Park Lane interchange remains as much a wind tunnel as ever. What representations has the Council made to Nexus to make waiting for a bus less bracing?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref BMcC/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Barbara McClennan	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Cost of FOI		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Barbara McClennan		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council tell me what the average cost to the authority is in responding to a typical FOI and how many the council receives on average in a month?

Councillor Barbara McClennan

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Bailout the Tall Ships		
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 why the council needed to bailout the Tall Ships event, and where the additional money will be spent?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref PW/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Peter Wood	Date	14.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March 2018 Software Centre car park		
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		

Where will the proposed Software Centre car park be located?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref IK/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Iain Kay	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Extra Resources for Local Services		

To	Leader of the Council
Copied to	The Mayor
	Councillor Iain Kay
	Chief Officers' Group
	Head of Financial Resources
	Head of Law and Governance
	File

Is the Portfolio Holder in a position to outline where the extra £1.5 million earmarked for local services in 2018/2019 is to be allocated?

Councillor Iain Kay

Memo

My ref MH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Martin Haswell	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Care Quality Commission		
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		

The recently-published Care Quality Commission (CQC) report identified 10 care homes in the city requiring immediate improvement, and one that was inadequate.

Can the Leader inform the Council as to what representations he is making to ensure this situation is addressed as a matter of urgency?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Robert Oliver	Date	14.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Councillors Allowance		
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 explain how the remuneration panel that decides councillors' allowances will be composed in the future?

Councillor Cllr Oliver

Memo

My ref PS/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Gillian Galbraith	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Wilkin Chapman Report		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Gillian Galbraith		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the Leader of the Council care to comment on reports circulating on social media that that law firm Wilkin Chapman is currently carrying out an investigation in relation to land acquisition and development matters in the City?

Councillor Gillian Galbraith

15

Memo

My ref MH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Martin Haswell	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Community Parking Management		
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		

Concerns have been raised about the Council's ability to actually patrol the Community Parking Management (CPMS) zones, can the Leader reassure us that as the zones continue to expand around the city, there is sufficient resource available to patrol and enforce them?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Robert Oliver	Date	14.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21 March – IAMP		
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 explain why part of the IAMP has now gone into South Tyneside at a cost to Sunderland taxpayers of million of pounds in lost business rates?

a. IAMP 1 will be delivered in time for tenants to have sufficient time for testing of supply into Nissan?

b. Legal ownership of all the land required for IAMP 1 & 2 sites can be secured ahead of 2020?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref NH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Niall Hodson	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Council has Commissioned a Firm of Solicitors		
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		

It is widely known that the Council has commissioned a firm of solicitors to conduct a review scrutinising the legitimacy of a number of land acquisitions and planning applications handled by the Council. The secrecy surrounding this straightforward report and the fact that it ballooned from a review of one application into a review of several applications transactions is slightly troubling.

Can the Leader reassure the Council that the scope of this report is unlikely to widen further?

And can he further reassure the Council that this report, and any action plan deriving from it, will be made publicly available before the end of April?

Councillor Niall Hodson

18

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Robert Oliver	Date	12.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March 2018		
	Vaux Site		
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 state when work is expected to re-start at the Vaux site and explain any recent developments between the council and the liquidators of Carillion?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref NH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Niall Hodson	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Council's Leadership		
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		

Several accusations have been levelled at this Council's Leadership by its own members – and indeed Cabinet members – that it has prevented access to information, and that its dealings have not been transparent.

Does the Leader agree that the culture of top-down diktat and decision-making behind closed doors at this Council needs to change as a matter of urgency?

Councillor Niall Hodson

20

Memo

My ref MD/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Michael Dixon	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Published report - Leader Capital Programme		
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		

Included in the recently published Report of the Cabinet headed Leader Capital Programme, were fees totalling £100,000, "for a feasibility study carried out by external consultant for The Launch at the former Vaux site." Could an update be given as to any other financial commitment by the Council relating to The Launch project from the outset, and whether the current problems affecting the site demands an overall rethink?

Councillor Michael Dixon

21



Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Financial Contribution to the Tall Ships		

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 confirm the Council's total financial contribution to the Tall Ships event?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref GH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor George Howe	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Siglion Rents		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor George Howe		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Are Siglion still benefiting from the rents from properties handed over to them as part of their costs in handling the development of the seafront and other areas of the city?

Councillor George Howe

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Financial Contribution to the City of culture Bid		
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 confirm the Council's total financial contribution to the City of Culture bid?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – First Phase of Pennywell Development		
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		

Does the council think it's acceptable that in the first phase of the new Pennywell development there will be no social homes?

What perception does this give to local people who used to live there?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

25



Memo

My ref MH/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Martin Haswell	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Recycling Centres		
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		

Lots of residents are concerned about the huge piles of rubbish at the recycling centres at, for example, Doxford Park, Seaburn, and Silksworth. The mess is horrendous.

What is the Council doing to clear these locations, and what can be done to ensure the situation doesn't happen again, and that people seeking to do the right thing and recycle their waste are able to do so?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Special Responsibility Allowances		
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 newly-appointed Deputy Leader confirm whether he will be taking two separate Special Responsibility Allowances for his two Cabinet roles?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	15.03.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 21st March – Total Cost for IAMP Infrastructure		
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 confirm the projected total spend on road and bridge infrastructure for the International Advanced Manufacturing Park (IAMP) project?

What is the cost of each of the two new bridges, over the River Don and the A19?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien