

Questions for Council

28 January 2026

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7	Improving Youth Provision	Cllr Tracy Dodds
8	My Sunderland	Cllr Heather Fagan Cllr Chris Burnicle

Memo

My ref DN/KH
Your ref

From	Cllr David Newey	Date	20.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Health Inequality Gap		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor David Newey		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Sunderland is seeing improvements in health outcomes like alcohol-related deaths, smoking rates, breastfeeding and childhood immunisations. What's helping make this happen, and where will the council focus next to close the health inequality gap?

Councillor David Newey

Memo

My ref SD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Steve Donkin	Date	20.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Crown Works Development		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Steve Donkin		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

The Crown Works Studio development was welcomed by residents and is being followed closely to see that the council and regional Mayor deliver on the promises made about the development. It was reported in December that the Council has committed £300,000 of taxpayers money to create a 'creative development zone' at the Crown Works site in Pallion, with another £300,000 in taxpayers money coming from NECA, in the hope that it would attract developers to the site. This is on top of £188,000 given to CBRE to market the site, £25 million in government cash given to NECA for 'early development' and commitments of up to £120 million from the North East Mayoralty. Given the vast sums of taxpayers money being committed to the project, can the leader confirm the 'high water mark' figure they would put on the project before they admit it is a white elephant and stop committing more public money?

Councillor Steve Donkin

Memo

My ref AM/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Antony Mullen	Date	11.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Illegal parking on Chester Road		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Antony Mullen		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

An urgent intervention to prevent illegal parking on Chester Road is required. Will the cabinet member overrule officers and grant the ward councillors' request to have barriers reinstated on the footpaths, so as to block drivers who park on double yellow lines from having easy access to shops on the street?

Councillor Antony Mullen

Memo

My ref MW/KH
Your ref

From	Cllr Michael Walker	Date	20.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Sunderland’s current 5G-enabled CCTV system		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Michael Walker		
	Chief Officers’ Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Given that Sunderland’s current 5G-enabled CCTV system is becoming outdated, what plans are in place for a full smart-city upgrade, particularly to improve coverage in neighbourhood hotspots affected by antisocial behaviour and fly-tipping?

Councillor Michael Walker

Memo

My ref MC/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Margaret Crosby	Date	20.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Gritting our Streets		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Margaret Crosby		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Why has the Cabinet adopted a winter maintenance policy that makes it impossible for bus routes to be gritted, for new grit bins to be requested let alone installed, and which has led to paths in the city centre becoming so dangerous they have caused falls and injuries?

Councillor Margaret Crosby

Memo

My ref LR/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Lyall Reed	Date	11.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Icy paths in the City Centre		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Lyall Reed		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

A high-profile incident involving an elderly lady falling in the city centre, when the footpaths were not gritted, has led to wider criticism of the Council's efforts to make footpaths and roads safe during icy conditions. Does the cabinet member accept that the untreated icy paths in the city centre in particular, but also in residential areas, was not to the standard residents should expect?

Councillor Lyall Reed

Memo

My ref TD/KH
Your ref

From	Cllr Tracy Dodds	Date	20.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 Improving youth provision		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Tracy Dodds		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Given the growing pressures facing young people, from limited safe spaces to rising mental-health needs and the impact of cost-of-living pressures on families, what consideration is being given to improving youth provision across the city, and how is the council planning to expand opportunities, facilities, and support for young people in Sunderland?

Councillor Tracy Dodds

Memo

My ref HF/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllrs Heather Fagan and Chris Burnicle	Date	20.01.2026
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Questions for Council – Wednesday 28 January 2026 My Sunderland		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Heather Fagan Councillor Chris Burnicle		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Councillors Heather Fagan and Chris Burnicle have submitted questions in relation to the My Sunderland Magazine

Councillor Fagan asks, “Why were copies of the much vaunted Sunderland magazine, flagship production of the ‘yes man’ Leader, only delivered in the second week of January (in large parts of the city) when half of the adverts related to pre-Christmas activities? Do you think this represents good value for money for the businesses advertising in the magazine?”

Councillor Burnicle asks, “Residents across the city are receiving copies of the taxpayer-funded magazine, 'My Sunderland'. The edition that residents is presently going out to residents includes information on Christmas bin collections (for which it is too late), an offer on pantomime tickets (also too late), details of how to nominate someone for an SYA award (received after the deadline), and an advert for NYE celebrations in Keel Square (after the fact). Is this a good use of taxpayers' money?”

Councillor Heather Fagan
 Councillor Chris Burnicle