

## Questions for Council 23 September 2020

<b>No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>From:-</b>
<b>1</b>	Memorial Benches	Cllr A Samuels
<b>2</b>	New City Hall	Cllr Dominic McDonough
<b>3</b>	Widely Circulated Letter	Cllr Niall Hodson
<b>4</b>	Covid 19 – Localised Breakouts	Cllr Denny Wilson
<b>5</b>	The Beam/Software Centre	Cllr Peter Wood
<b>6</b>	Amnesty International	Cllr Niall Hodson
<b>7</b>	Lockdown and Supporting Councils	Cllr Darryl Dixon
<b>8</b>	Museum and Winter Gardens Masterplan	Cllr Peter Wood
<b>9</b>	Abandoned and Damaged Boats	Cllr Andrew Wood
<b>10</b>	New Through School for Children with Autism	Cllr Susan Watson
<b>11</b>	UK-Japan Trade Deal/Nissan	Cllr Peter Wood
<b>12</b>	School Uniform Grants	Cllr Stephen O'Brien
<b>13</b>	Regional Adoption Agency	Cllr Patricia Smith
<b>14</b>	Bus Service Providers	Cllr George Smith
<b>15</b>	Liberal Democrat Standards	Cllr Ronny Davison
<b>16</b>	Corona Virus Testing Centres	Cllr George Smith
<b>17</b>	Restore Free Pest Control Services	Cllr Martin Haswell

# Memo

My ref AS/SF  
Your ref

1

<b>From</b>	Cllr Alex Samuels	<b>Date</b>	05.03.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020</b> <b>Memorial benches</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Alex Samuels		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Would the Leader comment on the availability of memorial benches being installed outside of cemeteries in the North Area of Sunderland.

Councillor Alex Samuels

# Memo

My ref      DMcD/SF  
Your ref

2

<b>From</b>	Cllr Dominic McDonough	<b>Date</b>	03.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b>		
	<b>New City Hall</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Dominic McDonough		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Despite repeated attempts to source the information, Councillors have still not been informed about the financial arrangement between Legal & General and Sunderland City Council regarding the building of the new City Hall. Will the leader of the Council please publish this information immediately, setting out the cost to the taxpayer over the length of the agreement, along with information on ongoing costs around maintenance contracts etc.

Councillor Dominic McDonough

# Memo

My ref      NH/SF  
Your ref

**3**

<b>From</b>	Cllr Niall Hodson	<b>Date</b>	17.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b>		
	<b>Widely Circulated Letter</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Niall Hodson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

In a widely-circulated letter, Graeme Miller is apparently recorded as saying that “keeping strong Labour control of the council” is the “only sensible priority” at this time. This is extremely concerning as the Leader's top priority should be supporting residents and businesses dealing with the pandemic currently devastating our city and our country. Can the Leader please confirm for the Council that these words are not his?

Councillor Niall Hodson

# Memo

My ref      DW/SF  
Your ref

4

<b>From</b>	Cllr Denny Wilson	<b>Date</b>	15.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Covid 19 – Localised Breakouts</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Denny Wilson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the Leader outline what preparations have been made by the Council for dealing with localised outbreaks of COVID-19 in the city and a possible second wave of the epidemic?

Councillor Denny Wilson

# Memo

My ref      PW/SF  
Your ref

**5**

<b>From</b>	Cllr Peter Wood	<b>Date</b>	12.09.20
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>The Beam/Software Centre</b>		

<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor
	Councillor Peter Wood
	Chief Officers' Group
	Head of Financial Resources
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance
	File

What percentage of the floor space of the two buildings is currently occupied?

Councillor Peter Wood

# Memo

My ref      NH/SF  
Your ref

**6**

<b>From</b>	Cllr Niall Hodson	<b>Date</b>	17.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Amnesty International</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Niall Hodson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

According to Amnesty International, around one million Uyghur Muslims are being held and tortured in detention camps in the North-West of China. In light of this, is the Council reviewing its current partnership with the city of Harbin? Will the Leader commit to a review of Sunderland's friendship arrangements with China?

Councillor Niall Hodson

# Memo

My ref DD/SF  
Your ref

7

<b>From</b>	Cllr Darryl Dixon	<b>Date</b>	15.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Lockdown and Supporting Councils</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Darryl Dixon		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

The Local Government Minister stated on 16<sup>th</sup> March 2020, as the country faced Lockdown, that “The Government stands ready to do whatever is necessary to support councils in their response to coronavirus”. Would the Leader wish to comment on whether the Government have fulfilled their promise to the residents of Sunderland?

Councillor Darryl Dixon



# Memo

My ref      PW/SF  
Your ref

8

<b>From</b>	Cllr Peter Wood	<b>Date</b>	12.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Museum and Winter Gardens Masterplan</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

What improvements in library provision are likely to result for the completion of the Masterplan?

Councillor Peter Wood

# Memo

My ref      AW/SF  
Your ref

9

<b>From</b>	Cllr Andrew Wood	<b>Date</b>	17.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Abandoned and Damaged Boats</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Andrew Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

There are a number of abandoned or damaged boats along the River. These are damaging to the environment and pose a risk for further vandalism or fire. Is there a plan to remove them? Is this to be the responsibility of the development companies going forward?

Councillor Andrew Wood

# Memo

My ref      SW/SF  
Your ref

**10**

<b>From</b>	Cllr Susan Watson	<b>Date</b>	15.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>New Through School for Children with Autism</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Susan Watson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Cabinet member for Children Education and Skills provide an update on the opening of the New through school for children with autism.

Councillor Susan Watson

# Memo

My ref      PW/SF  
Your ref

11

<b>From</b>	Cllr Peter Wood	<b>Date</b>	12.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>UK-Japan Trade Deal/Nissan</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Wood		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Does the Leader of the Council welcome the UK-Japan post-Brexit trade deal - worth £15.2 bn - which secures Nissan's future in Sunderland by reducing tariffs on parts; gives more certainty to future operations and streamlines regulatory procedures?

Councillor Peter Wood

# Memo

My ref      SO'B/SF  
Your ref

**12**

<b>From</b>	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	<b>Date</b>	17.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b>		
	<b>School Uniform Grants</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen O'Brien		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Last September, this Council resolved to:

- Explore the development of a scheme to provide funding for school uniform grants for parents on the lowest incomes.
- Report on a scheme to be prepared in advance of the 2020/2021 school year to support parents in covering the cost of school uniforms.
- Encourage schools in Sunderland, Houghton, Hetton and Washington to consider ensuring that school uniform requirements are not over complicated and restrict where they can be purchased.

Can the Leader please give an update on the actions taken in this regard over the past year?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

# Memo

My ref PS/SF  
Your ref

13

<b>From</b>	Cllr Patricia Smith	<b>Date</b>	15.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Regional Adoption Agency</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Patricia Smith		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Cabinet member for Children Education and Skills provide an update on the arrangements for the Regional Adoption Agency which includes Together for Children.

Councillor Patricia Smith

# Memo

My ref      GS/SF  
Your ref

**14**

<b>From</b>	Cllr George Smith	<b>Date</b>	17.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b>		
	<b>Bus Service Providers</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor George Smith		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the portfolio holder for transport make representations to bus service providers to begin either offering change or a credit voucher to passengers paying for their fare in cash where they are unable to make payment by bank card?

Councillor George Smith

# Memo

My ref      RD/SF  
Your ref

15

<b>From</b>	Cllr Ronny Davison	<b>Date</b>	15.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Liberal Democrat Standards</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Ronny Davison		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Would the Leader care to comment on the failure of the Liberal Democrat Leader on Sunderland Council to hold himself to the same standards as he continues to hold other Group Leaders, through his refusal to condemn the actions of his Liberal democrat colleague Cllr O'Brien following the decision of the Standards Board?

Councillor Ronny Davison



# Memo

My ref      GS/SF  
Your ref

**16**

<b>From</b>	Cllr George Smith	<b>Date</b>	17.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b> <b>Corona Virus Testing Centres</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor George Smith		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

What steps are being taken to assist the elderly and infirm in traveling to regional Coronavirus testing centres where they do not have access to a car and are unable to use public transport?

Councillor George Smith

# Memo

My ref      MH/SF  
Your ref

**17**

<b>From</b>	Cllr Martin Haswell	<b>Date</b>	17.09.20
<b>Title</b>	<b>Ext</b>		
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 23<sup>rd</sup> September 2020</b>		
	<b>Restore Free Pest Control Services</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Martin Haswell		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

This council has been repeatedly called upon to restore free pest control services due to the increasing prevalence of rats in our city with regular complaints from residents and articles in the local press. With the recent surge rat sightings, particularly around the city's parks and recreation grounds, will the portfolio holder consider restoring the free pest control service and tackle this problem properly?

Councillor Martin Haswell