

## Questions for Council 25 March 2026

<b>No.</b>	<b>Subject</b>	<b>From:-</b>
<b>1</b>	Together for Children	Cllr Mark Burrell
<b>2</b>	Pothole Plague	Cllr Margaret Crosby
<b>3</b>	Culture House	Cllr Lyall Reed
<b>4</b>	Community Wealth	Cllr Sean Laws
<b>5</b>	National Glass Centre	Cllr Niall Hodson
<b>6</b>	Active Families NE	Cllr Michael Hartnack
<b>7</b>	Women's Rough Sleeping	Cllr Stephen Elms
<b>8</b>	Crown Works	Cllr Julie Potts
<b>9</b>	Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative	Cllr Antony Mullen

# Memo

My ref MB/KH  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Mark Burrell	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026 Together for Children</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Mark Burrell		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader set out how the re-contracting of Together for Children will align with the council's strategic priorities for children's services, and how this process will ensure the continuation of an outstanding standard of performance?

Councillor Mark Burrell

# Memo

My ref      MC/SF  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Margaret Crosby	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>Pothole Plague</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Margaret Crosby		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

The city has been plagued with potholes following recent wet and wintry weather with council staff responding admirably in challenging circumstances. Residents want to know why an acceptable repair consists of chucking some tarmac in a hole and whacking it with a shovel. Does the portfolio holder agree that the city and residents deserve better?

Councillor Margaret Crosby

# Memo

My ref      LR/SF  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Lyall Reed	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>Culture House</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Lyall Reed		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the cabinet member detail the full extent of what will be included in Culture House, on each floor, when it opens?

Councillor Lyall Reed

# Sunderland City Council

## Memo

My ref SL/KH  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Sean Laws	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>Strengthen Community Wealth Building across Sunderland</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Sean Laws		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

As a cooperative Council, I welcome the work that has been done to strengthen community wealth building across Sunderland and the benefit that brings to our local economy. Can the Leader outline what further steps we are taking to ensure that more of the council's spending supports local businesses, co-operatives and social enterprises so that wealth created in Washington and Sunderland stays in Washington and Sunderland?

Councillor Sean Laws

# Memo

My ref      NH/SF  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Niall Hodson	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>National Glass Centre</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Niall Hodson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

The Glass Centre site was handed over to the University, does the leader agree that if the University doesn't want the site anymore, that they should offer it back to the Council?

Councillor Niall Hodson

# Memo

My ref      MH/SF  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Michael Hartnack	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>Active Families NE</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Michael Hartnack		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Following the recent high-profile reports of how the Council has treated Active Families NE, will the cabinet member commit - as a minimum - to reimbursing the costs they spent on legal fees and surveyors, having agreed heads of terms with the Council, only for a spurious 'review of assets' to disrupt the process?

Councillor Michael Hartnack

# Sunderland City Council

## Memo

My ref SE/KH  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Stephen Elms	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>Women’s Rough Sleeping Census 2026</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Stephen Elms		
	Chief Officers’ Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader confirm whether the Council intends to participate in the Women’s Rough Sleeping Census 2026, and if so, what preparations are being made to support this important work?

Councillor Stephen Elms

# Memo

My ref      JP/SF  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Julia Potts	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>Crown Works</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Julia Potts		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

Residents of Pallion and Ford have been keenly following developments surrounding the Crown Works site and the proposed development of 'Palliwood'. Earlier this year the leader claimed that there would be major news in the spring and ground would be broken. Is this going to happen and would the leader stake his reputation on it?

Councillor Julia Potts

# Memo

My ref      AM/SF  
Your ref

<b>From</b>	Cllr Antony Mullen	<b>Date</b>	17.03.2026
<b>Title</b>		<b>Ext</b>	
<b>Service</b>			
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Question for Council – Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2026</b>		
	<b>The Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative</b>		
<b>To</b>	Leader of the Council		
<b>Copied to</b>	The Mayor		
	Councillor Antony Mullen		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Assistant Director of Law and Governance		
	File		

The Northumbria Safer Roads Initiative contract, agreed in 2024, said that the first phase of digitisation of static speed cameras would be completed within 9 months. How many static speed cameras in Sunderland have been upgraded to date?

Councillor Antony Mullen