

Questions for Council

19th September 2018

No.	Subject	From:-
1	Events Planned for the future	Cllr F Miller
2	Together for Children Ofsted Report	Cllr B Francis
3	Councillor Casework	Cllr M Haswell
4	Fly Tipping in St Peters Ward	Cllr B Curran
5	Land Sold at Marine Walk	Cllr W Blackett
6	Childrens' Services Funding	Cllr A Wood
7	Hetton Lyons Country Park	Cllr D Turner
8	City Centre Car Parking	Cllr P Wood
9	Together for Children Governance and Assurance arrangements	Cllr S O'Brien
10	Miners Pension Scheme	Cllr C Rowntree
11	Escalator Central Railway Station	Cllr P Wood
12	City Library	Cllr N Hodson

13	20 Mile Per Hour Zones	Cllr I Galbraith
14	Garden Waste Refuse Collection	Cllr P Wood
15	Town Hall Clock	Cllr G Smith
16	Children Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee	Cllr R Bell
17	Seafront Development	Cllr G Howe
18	Ashcore	Cllr N Hodson
19	Future Developments of our Seafront	Cllr M Beck
20	The Bridges Shopping Centre	Cllr R Oliver
21	Washington Meeting	Cllr M Haswell
22	Recycling Wagons	Cllr C English
23	Assaults on Emergency Workers - TWFR	Cllr R Oliver
24	Brexit Preparations	Cllr A Wood
25	Re-opening of old Thorney Close Enterprise Centre	Cllr D Waller
26	Aquatic Centre Roof Repairs	Cllr R Oliver
27	Crossing Guards	Cllr S O'Brien
28	University Challenge	Cllr P Walker
29	Pallion Subway Grass	Cllr M Haswell

	Cutting	
30	Weedkiller	Cllr S O'Brien
31	Blackie Park	Cllr M Haswell

Memo

My ref FM/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Fiona Miller	Date	10.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Events Planned for the Future		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Fiona Miller		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Following on from a great summer of festivities organised by Sunderland Council including the tall ships race and air show, could the Portfolio Holder tell us what other events are planned for the future?

Councillor Fiona Miller

Memo

My ref BF/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Bob Francis	Date	10.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Together for Children Ofsted Report		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Bob Francis		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Following the recent Ofsted Report on Together for Children which was adversely critical of its governance and management can the portfolio holder tell Council what she has done to improve these areas since the report's publication?

Councillor Bob Francis

Memo

My ref MH/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Martin Haswell	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Councillor Casework		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

The office of the Chief Executive confirmed on 12th September that Place Management had a backlog of member and MP queries on behalf of residents, which had not received a response going back to 19th June. These queries relate to Refuse, Recycling and Waste Management Services. Can the leader update members on why this backlog has developed, what is being done to address it, and when it will be cleared?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref BC/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Barry Curran	Date	10.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Fly Tipping in St Peters Ward		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Barry Curran		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Portfolio Holder please provide an update on the action taken to tackle fly tipping in St Peters Ward?

Councillor Barry Curran

Memo

My ref WB/KM
Your ref

From	Councillor William Blackett	Date	12.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Land Sold at Marine Walk		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

The Wilkin Chapman Report noted that the land sold at Marine Walk at the sea front doubled in size without explanation and claimed that the council failed to follow their own procedures leaving the report unable to say whether the council had acted in accordance with Section 123 (2) of the Local Government Act 1972. Does Cllr Miller agree that more needs to be done to look into this questionable land deal?

Councillor William Blackett

Memo

My ref AW/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Andrew Wood	Date	13.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Children's' Services Funding		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

During the recent Children's Services Scrutiny Committee meeting, the new CEO of Together for Children stated that she'd been unable to find any applications for EU funding to support the agency in delivering services. Can the Leader reassure the Council that all possible external funding sources were approached prior to the recent bail out, and can he confirm whether Sunderland children's' services applied, or has ever applied, to EU funding programmes?

Councillor Andrew Wood

Memo

My ref DT/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Doris Turner	Date	10.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Hetton Lyons Country Park		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Doris Turner		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Hetton Lyons Country Park was awarded the Green Flag in July of this year. Could the Portfolio Holder explain what the criteria are for a park to be awarded a Green Flag?

Councillor Doris Turner

Memo

My ref PW/KM
Your ref

From	Councillor Peter Wood	Date	12.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 City Centre car parking		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the Council consider arranging for an independent, comprehensive assessment of parking use and policy and its implication for the future viability of the City Centre?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref SO/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	13.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Together for Children Governance and Assurance arrangements		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

The recent Ofsted inspection into Sunderland's childrens' services once again pointed out major failings in the Governance and Assurance relating to care plans and support arrangements. Together for Children's previous manager was aware of this in March and confirmed that repeat referrals linked to poor quality support arrangements were a big issue. It's clear that the leadership was aware this was a problem from 2015 right up to March 2018 and through to today, but has done little to address the problem. This is down to poor leadership. Will the portfolio holder therefore accept responsibility for this and match the commitment of her predecessor and promise to resign if asked?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref CR/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Claire Rowntree	Date	10.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Miners' Pension Scheme		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Claire Rowntree		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Would the Leader like to comment on the £4.5 billion pounds the government has taken from the Miners' Pension Scheme without paying one single penny back into it? Furthermore, does the Leader agree with me that this reflects the continued gross injustice served by the Tories on our former mining communities, our miners and their widows?

Councillor Claire Rowntree

Memo

My ref PW/KM
Your ref

From	Councillor Peter Wood	Date	12.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Escalator: central railway station		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

- (a). When was the escalator installed?
- (b). How many times has it broken down since installation?
- (c). Is it working today?
- (d). What percentage of the time since installation has it been operational?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref NH/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Niall Hodson	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	City Library		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Other authorities in the North East have in recent years made impressive improvements to their central libraries. The library hubs in Newcastle, Durham, and South Shields are fantastic, and throw into relief the sorry status of our own library. We were previously advised that following the transfer of the city library into the Museum, there would be plans to adapt and improve it. Can the Cabinet reassure the Council that it does have a vision for developing and improving Sunderland's central library offer?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref IG/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Ian Galbraith	Date	10.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 20 Mile Per Hour Zones		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Ian Galbraith		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the programme of establishing 20 mile per hour zones around our schools to ensure the safety of young children?

Councillor Ian Galbraith

Memo

My ref PW/KM
Your ref

From	Councillor Peter Wood	Date	12.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Garden waste refuse collection		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Would the portfolio holder consider extending the season for collection of garden waste by, e.g., introducing one earlier and one later collection during the year?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref GS/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor George Smith	Date	13.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Town Hall Clock		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

In 1971 the Town Hall was torn down in what the Sunderland Echo described as “a wanton act of vandalism”. After the demolition, the Town Hall clock was packed up and sent off to Potts Clocks in Leeds. Can the Leader of the Council update the people of Sunderland on what has happened to the Town Hall clock?

Councillor George Smith

Memo

My ref RB/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Richard Bell	Date	10.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee		

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

Would the Leader wish to comment on the decision of Councillor O'Brien to resign from the Children, Education and Skills Scrutiny Committee after failing to attend any of its meetings since being appointed? Do you agree with me that this is a complete dereliction of the duties and responsibilities he agreed to uphold as an elected councillor and has denied his electorate an important voice in supporting children and young people in Sunderland?

Councillor Richard Bell

Memo

My ref GH/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor George Howe	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Seafront Development		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader of the Council inform members here tonight how much income from the Council's commercial and other properties, has Siglion received since such income was handed over to them as part of the deal to develop the Seafront ?

Councillor George Howe

Memo

My ref NH/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Niall Hodson	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Ashcore		

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

There has been a great deal of public speculation regarding the Leader's involvement with a firm by the name of Ashcore. Can he advise whether this firm has been involved with, or connected to, any contracts or other business with Sunderland City Council, and if so what his own relationship with it has been – if any? Can he reassure the Council that all of his current and previous employment, offices, and trading relationships whilst a city councillor, have been declared fully on the Register of Members' Interests?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref MB/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Margaret Beck	Date	10.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Future Developments of our Seafront		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Margaret Beck		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

A number of my local residents have enquired about the future development of our Seafront. Could the Leader provide reassurance that the views of residents will be taken into account in any future plans?

Councillor Margaret Beck

Memo

My ref RO/NH
Your ref

From	Councillor Robert Oliver	Date	13.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 The Bridges Shopping Centre Extension		
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 give an update on plans to extend The Bridges Shopping Centre into the area vacated by the former Crowtree Leisure Centre?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref MH/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Martin Haswell	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Washington Meeting		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the council Leader update councillors and residents on whether there will be any council meetings held in the Washington wards between now and the end of the year, and if so, will all Washington councillors be invited to attend?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref CE/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Colin English	Date	10.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Recycling Wagons		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Colin English		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Portfolio Holder provide an update on the new Recycling Wagons being introduced by the Council?

Councillor Colin English

Memo

My ref RO/NH
Your ref

From	Councillor Robert Oliver	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Assaults on Emergency Workers - TWFA		
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 Chair of the Tyne and Wear Fire and Rescue Authority state how many fire fighters have been attacked in the course of their duties within the Tyne and Wear area during the last year and set out how the new Assaults on Emergency Workers (Offences) Bill will tackle this?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref AW/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Andrew Wood	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Brexit Preparations		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

It has been reported in the national press in the past month that many local authorities have prepared Brexit impact assessments looking at the possible repercussions of various forms of Brexit deal. Can the Leader clarify what steps the Council has taken to prepare for Brexit, including the event of a 'no deal'? Can he likewise clarify the analysis and preparations undertaken by the Council, Port of Sunderland, and Newcastle Airport, and will he agree to bring a report detailing these to full Council?

Councillor Andrew Wood

Memo

My ref DW/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Debra Waller	Date	10.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Re-Opening of the Old Thorney Close Enterprise Centre		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Debra Waller		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Portfolio Holder provide details as to the re-opening of the old Thorney Close Enterprise Centre as a café, enabling the building to be available for use by other stakeholders and the community?

Councillor Debra Waller

Memo

My ref RO/NH
Your ref

From	Councillor Robert Oliver	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Aquatic Centre Roof Repairs		
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 confirm the start date for repairs to the roof of the Aquatic Centre and make clear whether there will be any financial cost to the council for the repairs?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref SO/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	13.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Crossing Guards		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the Leader tell us whether there are currently any plans to cut crossing guards in the city?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref PW/SF
Your ref

From	Councillor Peter Walker	Date	10.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Councillor William Blackett on University Challenge		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Peter Walker		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Will the Leader join me in congratulating Councillor William Blackett for appearing on University Challenge although he lost, and does he share my disappointment that a statement by Councillor Blackett 'I **believe the people of Sunderland will be pleased to see that at least some of their Councillors are educated**' is an arrogant comment made by someone who should know better, impacting on the integrity of all councillors including those of his own party?

Councillor Peter Walker

Memo

My ref MH/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Martin Haswell	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018 Pallion Subway Grass Cutting		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

For many people travelling to Saint Luke's Shopping Terrace in Pallion their first sight of the area is the Pallion subway, a road bounded by overgrown and litter strewn grass banks. Despite several requests from residents, traders, and councillors, the cleansing team has been unable to clean up the whole of the grass bank. Requests for grass cutting have been refused citing anything from new health and safety issues, costly insurance, to not having the right type of lawnmower. This was never a problem in the past. Can the Leader update the residents and traders of Pallion on when the grass will be cut and the litter cleared?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref SO/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Stephen O'Brien	Date	13.09.18
Title	Ext		
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Weedkiller		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Can the council tell whether there are any plans to change the weedkiller it uses, after an American court found that it may contribute to causing cancer. Can he reassure staff and residents that it is safe?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref MH/KH
Your ref

From	Councillor Martin Haswell	Date	13.09.18
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th September 2018		
	Blackie Park		

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

Can the council Leader update the residents of Ford and Pennywell on when the Section 106 funding, secured as part of the redevelopment of Upper Ford, will be released for redevelopment of Blackie Park?

Councillor Martin Haswell