

Questions for Council

19th June 2019

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26	Value of Siglion Loans	Cllr Robert Oliver
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29	The Beam	Cllr Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref AS/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Alex Scullion	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Bid for Building a Stronger Britain Together		

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

Could the Leader of the council inform me as to progress on Sunderland Council's recent bid for funding within the Home Office "building a stronger Britain together" fund. Does he share my view that such schemes are crucial in enabling our schools educate our children to the importance of equality and diversity and combat far right extremism?

Councillor Alex Scullion

Memo

My ref DMcD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Dominic McDonough	Date	11.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Fly Tipping on Foxcover Road		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Dominic McDonough		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

With yet another incident of fly-tipping on Foxcover Road in Herrington, how long until we see promises kept and cameras put in place to catch more fly-tippers at well known grot spots?"

Councillor Dominic McDonough

Memo

My ref NH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Together for Children		

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

On how many occasions in the last year has Together for Children failed to respond to Education, Health and Care Plan appeals in the required timeframe? Please provide figures per month with a breakdown of the reasons for failures, and details of what steps have been taken to remedy preventable delays.

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref CM/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Christine Marshall	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Vacating the Civic Centre Building		

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

Could the Leader of the Council inform me why we need to vacate this Civic Centre building and build a new City Hall?

Councillor Christine Marshall

Memo

My ref DMcD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Dominic McDonough	Date	11.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Train Operating Companies		

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

Can the Council give an update on the progress of work with the Train Operating Companies, Nexus and Network Rail around the refurbishment of Sunderland Station and when can we expect to have a station to be proud of?

Councillor Dominic McDonough

Memo

My ref MC/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Margaret Crosby	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	SIGLION		

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

When the council took complete ownership of Siglion, it took over an £18.5 million loan with interest being payable quarterly. How much interest is the council required to pay quarterly to service this loan, or has it been paid off in full by the council?

Councillor Margaret Crosby

Memo

My ref DW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Dennis Wilson	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Companies House		

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

Could the Leader of the Council explain why he and the Chief Executive on the board of a company registered at Companies House.

Councillor Dennis Wilson

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 State of the City Debate		

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

As there are concerns about the state of the city, will the Leader of the Council commit to holding a state of the city debate this year?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref AW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Andrew Wood	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	City Centre Streets		

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

Residents have raised concerns about the condition of the footpaths on several main streets in the city centre. Can the Portfolio Holder look in to having the state of the paving in the city centre investigated by the relevant team, and any remedial action to be taken as soon as possible? Would it be possible to raise an exception for tolerance for repair in the city centre: where there is a higher, more concentrated footfall, teamed with the goal that we'd all like to improve the use of the City centre by all residents and visitors?

Councillor Andrew Wood

Memo

My ref JB/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr James Blackburn	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Country Parks		

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

Could the Leader of the Council comment on the success of Sunderland's first country park and how it is managing to attract both local and national events to the city for the benefit of our residents. Could he also comment on the work undertaken by the Friends of Hetton Lyons Country Park in ensuring the success of the park?

Councillor James Blackburn

Memo

My ref DD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Darryl Dixon	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Spice Girls Concert		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Darryl Dixon		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the council inform us of the benefits to the city of the recent Spice Girls Concert?

Councillor Darryl Dixon

Memo

 My ref PW/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Wood	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	New Banning Orders		

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

Has any landlord in Sunderland been issued with one of the government's new banning orders (introduced in April 2018) and, as a consequence, had their details entered on the national database?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

My ref MH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Martin Haswell	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Acoustic Cameras		

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

Residents in Pallion, Ford Estate, and other parts of the city have often reported to me the noise and disturbance cause by modified and souped-up vehicles driving around residential streets and estates at all times of day and night.

The Department for Transport has recently announced it will be trialling the use of 'acoustic cameras' in a bid to tackle illegal levels of noise from modified vehicles.

Will the Leader commit to asking the Department for Transport to look at bringing the trial to Sunderland so we can see how effective these noise acoustic cameras can be at tackling this problem?

Councillor Martin Haswell

Memo

My ref LS/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Lynda Scanlan	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Hendon Ward		

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

Could the Leader of the Council outline what action the council and its partners are taking to deal with the issues of empty properties, absentee landlords and street cleaning in the Hendon Ward?

Councillor Lynda Scanlan

Memo

My ref PW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Peter Wood	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19 th June 2019 Recycled Rubbish		

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

What payments, if any, does the Council receive for rubbish collected in the city which is re-cycled?

Councillor Peter Wood

Memo

 My ref NH/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Climate Emergency		

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 Council recently passed a motion declaring a climate emergency. What impact will this have on the Council's plans to build over 13,000 homes and a dual carriageway through the city centre? Both of these proposals carry with them an enormous carbon footprint. How does the Council intend to adapt its existing building plans to fit with its resolution to take the issue of climate change seriously?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref SW/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Susan Watson	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Inspection of Family and Adult Learning Service		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor Susan Watson		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Could the Leader of the Council tell us about the outcome of the recent inspection of the Family and Adult learning service provided by the City Council?

Councillor Susan Watson

Memo

 My ref JD/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr James Doyle	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Seaburn Sea Front Development		

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

As a partner in the organisation, can this Council address the reason why the Seaburn sea front development was allowed to stagnate for so many years at the hands of Siglion?

Councillor James Doyle

Memo

 My ref NH/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Safe Crossings		

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 number of cities have adopted pedestrian-priority crossings, particularly at signal-controlled mid-street crossings, in which the signals stay on green for pedestrians when there is not vehicle demand. The scheme is currently being trialled in London, to improve road safety. In Hull, the pedestrian-priority system saw a significant reduction in injury collisions.

Will the Leader look into the feasibility of trialling pedestrian-priority crossings at locations in Sunderland city centre?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref PH/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Paula Hunt	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 SEND Crisis Day		

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

Could the Leader of the Council comment on the SEND Crisis day of action that took place on 30th May 2019 to highlight the 93% of local authorities have lost out on SEND funding since 2015 because of inadequate shortfall in special needs provision by this Conservative Government. Could the Leader also inform me how this failure to provide adequate funding has impacted on provision within Sunderland Council?

Councillor Paula Hunt

Memo

My ref JD/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr James Doyle	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Chief Council Officers		
To	Leader of the Council		
Copied to	The Mayor		
	Councillor James Doyle		
	Chief Officers' Group		
	Head of Financial Resources		
	Head of Law and Governance		
	File		

Is this Council able to justify the fact that two chief Council officers are paid more than the Prime Minister at a time when Council Tax is being raised by 3.99%?

Councillor James Doyle

Memo

 My ref NH/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Niall Hodson	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Galley's Gill		

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

What plans does the Council have to improve access to Galley's Gill and the riverside park?

Councillor Niall Hodson

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19 th June 2019 Equal Pay Claims		

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

What is the total amount the Council has now paid to settle equal pay claims?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

 My ref MD/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Michael Dixon	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	The Launch		

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

Taking into account the Council's financial commitment to the ex-Vaux site, can an update be given as to whether the construction of the proposed iconic structure, "The Launch," will still be going ahead. If so how much will it cost to complete and, to date, has any Council money been spent on this project?

Councillor Michael Dixon

Memo

My ref GH/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr George Howe	Date	12.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 Cost of Transferring City Assets		

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

Can the Leader of the Council, following the demise of Siglion and its plans for the development of the seafront at Seaburn, inform council Members here tonight the cost to the council of transferring city assets to the developer in 2014, and further can he explain why the council has had to pay an additional £7 million plus to Siglion?

Councillor George Howe

Memo

My ref RO/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Value of SIGLION Loans		
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		

The Council received loan notes totalling £23million when Siglion acquired land and properties in the City but what has happened to the value of those investments and is the Council facing a financial loss?

With the loans to Siglion only partly-re-paid, what happens to the larger £18.5million loan-including the interest- now that the council owns all of Siglion as the statement of accounts only says that this 'may be re-paid'?

How much interest did the Council receive on the loans to Siglion and did it represent a good deal for the taxpayer?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019 City Centre Public Space Protection Order Fines		

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

How many fines have been issued in relation to the city centre public space protection order since its start?

Councillor Robert Oliver

Memo

My ref SO'B/SF
 Your ref

From	Cllr Stephen O'Brien	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	Spice Girls Total Cost		

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 total cost of Council spend, including on corporate hospitality, at the recent Spice Girls concert, and which if any councillors benefitted from it?

Councillor Stephen O'Brien

Memo

My ref RO/SF
Your ref

From	Cllr Robert Oliver	Date	13.06.19
Title		Ext	
Service			
Subject	Question for Council – Wednesday 19th June 2019		
	The Beam		

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 the-proposed or secured-occupancy of The Beam at the Vaux Site?

Councillor Robert Oliver