

# North Tyneside Council

## Report to Council

### 21 March 2019

## ITEM 9

### Questions by Members of the Council

Notice has been received of the following questions from Members of the Council to be put to the Council meeting.

#### **1. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor Sean Brockbank**

Would the Mayor look again at the Authority's Local Plan and follow the example of Northumberland County Council's Conservative Group and re-examine the proposals?

#### **2. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor Frank Lott**

Following nearly three years of construction works and many years of campaigning by North East Councils before that, the A19-A1058 Coast Road junction, which has seen 1800 people employed, who have collectively worked one million hours, is approaching completion.

Would the Mayor join with me in congratulating Highways England, their main contractors - the Sisk Lagan Joint Venture and the numerous sub-contractors who have all played their part in delivering one of the largest civil engineering projects ever seen in our borough - the A19/Coast Road/Silverlink Underpass - on time and in budget?

Moreover, they are to be congratulated on the way in which they have engaged with the communities of North Tyneside and the wider region and thanked for their contributions to numerous charities

#### **3. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor Davey Drummond**

Labour Councillors in Monkseaton South have worked with Council Officers, Northumbrian Water and the local community for many years to help deliver flood alleviation schemes across the ward to reduce flood risk as highlighted in the News Guardian ( Feb 19th 2019), that was caused by extreme weather such as Thunder Thursday 28th June 2012.

Would the Elected Mayor pass on our thanks to officers for completion of this essential work and reassure residents that this council will continue to work with them on such issues proactively and quash the rumour mill, scaremongering and half truths the opposition and their associated groups have spread about flood risk being increased by housing, without taking

professional advice from responsible authorities including Northumbrian Water and the Environment Agency?

#### **4. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor Karen Lee**

With graduate debt running at £50,000 upwards, there has been growing concern about the cost of going to university and an awakening realisation that this spend may not represent value for money.

Fees in the UK are among the highest in the world and students question if there will be a return on such a huge investment in terms of future graduate earnings.

Would you agree with me that every child deserves the right to education and that this should not depend on your ability to pay for private education, student fees or tuition, but that free education is our children's right? Would you also agree with me that the current government educational policy is destroying our children's future?

#### **5. Question to the Elected Mayor by Councillor David McMeekan**

In spite of very clear presentations, and additional briefing notes being circulated to all Elected Members, confirming the position on financial reserves. A number of opposition candidates are still misrepresenting North Tyneside Councils financial position to residents, with regard to the true level of financial reserves held and the ability to use them to balance our General Revenue Budget.

For the avoidance of any further doubt will the Mayor agree to undertake the following;

1. Make a further statement to this chamber confirming the true level of reserves, and issue an unequivocal press release through all available channels confirming same.
2. Where clear evidence of the misrepresentation of this information is brought to her attention, request a written explanation from the relevant Group Leader as to why this has been allowed to happen. The Mayor is requested to also reserve the right to name any candidates in any press releases who are found to be guilty of such misrepresentations.
3. Confirm that she will report any members of this chamber (present or future) who mislead residents on this important matter to the Standards Committee for future investigation.