

DATE OF MEETING	QUESTION	COUNCILLOR
6 July 2016		
Oral 1	Can Council describe the steps to be taken to improve the performance of Envirocall to benefit both residents and the staff who work in this area?	Cllr Raymont
Written		
1	The council's difficulties with its refuse bin collecting employees have now gone on for over 60 days and show no sign of disappearing. Why has Council allowed irregular working practices and why continue to pursue this matter at the expense of good staff relations when the Head of Highways and Local Services states that the comparatively small savings target he seeks has already largely been met?	Cllr Donnelly
7 Sept 2016		
Oral 1	Can Council please be advised on the service improvements and review at Envirocall as recently promised?	Cllr Raymont
Oral 2	Please explain how the ward-based priority objectives that members and residents have been setting will be reflected in mainstream council operations and spending?	Cllr Faulkner
Oral 3	Are there any proposals for further measures to ensure safeguarding of potentially vulnerable users of taxis since safeguarding training was agreed by City Council in march 2015?	Cllr Lower
Oral 4	Can Council confirm if it has plans to follow the example of other local authorities by making internal audit reports available to Audit Committee?	Cllr Stone
Written		
1	Will Council confirm that it was 'people power' that forced the Council not to proceed with its proposals for the Blue House roundabout?	Cllr Hillicks
2	Will Council institute an urgent review of the provision, maintenance and emptying of litter bins in public places?	Cllr Faulkner
3	If Council still uphold Decent Neighbourhood Standards will it publish regular performance statistics in the City Council website?	Cllr Stone
4	Can Council confirm that a policy decision has been made to end council maintenance of developer-owned open space; if no such decision has been made why has maintenance of the site at Roachburn Road been stopped?	Cllr Donnelly
2 November 2016		
Oral 1	Can Council confirm that the bus lane cameras in the vicinity of Central Station are not yet operational and explain why?	Cllr Stone
Oral 2	Can Council outline their policy proposals on the development of sweet shops in the vicinity of schools and what action is	Cllr Huddart

	proposed?	
Written		
1	In relation to the press article and Audit Committee report regarding falsified accounts by an officer of the council and Members be advised as to what policy is in place to ensure that public finances are scrutinised?	Cllr Donnelly
2	Will Council agree that the cost of office space provided for Members could be rationalised, freeing up monies that could be used to retail school crossing patrols	Cllr Donnelly
3	Can Council advise what plans have been made to capitalise on the European Year of Cultural Heritage 2018 and are there any plans which will involve joint working with other local authorities in the region?	Cllr Huddart
11 January 2017		
Oral 1	Can Council please explain why there is no impact assessment in the budget consultation documentation alongside the proposal to save £154,346 per annum for the introduction of a communal bins system for terraced properties across the city?	Cllr Raymont
Oral 2	Can Council explain why its investment strategy seems set to be published after that process is complete and will Council agree to publish a draft before Council considers and votes on the Newcastle 2020 budget and financial plan?	Cllr Faulkner
Oral 3	In relation to the John Dobson Street works, has there been any improvement or impairment in bus movements and has any assessment been made in respect of a possible city centre bus loop to remove busses for Blackett Street?	Cllr Stone
Oral 4	What public mandate exists for the introduction of a tripartite North of Tyne devolution deal and are there plans to consult the public?	Cllr Lower
Written		
1	Can Council please publish the results of the promised review of the Envirocall service, and also set out in detail the actions taken to improve customer experience and service quality?	Cllr Raymont
2	Can Council give an assessment on how successful the first few months of the Independent Tenant Voice service has been and advise how the Council intends to improve the service?	Cllr Faulkner
3	Does Council share concern that Council dashboard figures show that the city has fallen below the national average for GCSE attainment and what steps are proposed for addressing this?	Cllr Cott
4	Can Council justify the administration's proposal to implement pay scale increases for senior directors at the same time as seeking to reduce pay and conditions for low paid staff in light of its professed commitment to fairness?	Cllr Ashby
5	Does Council stand by the proposal of an earmarked local tax for maintenance of local parks in recent evidence to the Communities and Local Government Select Committee and, if not, can they explain why they appear to advocate such a	Cllr Ashby

	suggestion?	
6	The council has an opportunity to retain a percentage of the estimated £4m sale proceeds for the former Jesmond Dene nurseries site to provide income to maintain green spaces in the city. Could Council explain why they will not commit to such reinvestment opportunities and will this be reviewed?	Cllr Gallagher
7	In the latest edition of City Life it was announced that the Council would be terminating its grass cutting service on privately owned land in the City. In your report to Overview and Scrutiny in December 2016 you stated that the maintenance of our public spaces is crucial to the continued development of Newcastle communities and businesses. Will you explain how you equate your statement and in particular confirm if Chadderton Green will continue to be maintained?	Cllr Donnelly
8	Will Council advise whether they propose to take advantage of savings likely to be offered by the UK Municipal Bonds Agency or state why they are not prepared to borrow at rates more advantageous to local people and business?	Cllr Donnelly
1 February 2017		
Written		
1	What representations has Council made to Government in respect of social care funding in recent months?	Cllr Taylor
2	In light of Council dashboard figures suggesting that the city has moved from being one of the safest core cities to above the national average crime rate, and that burglary levels have risen by between 50% to 100% in many parts of the city in the last year, what representations has the council made to the Northumbria Police Crime Commissioner in respect of addressing this?	Cllr Lower
3	Will Council publish the report of a recent study making recommendations about the operation of the council's domestic waste collection, and/or provide a report to Council summarising its key findings?	Cllr Gallagher
4	In light of escalating complaints, in what way does Council consider that removal of waste bins from bus stops improves litter clearance, and the cleanliness of the city's public domain?	Cllr Huddart
5	Given recent breaches of air quality standards at monitoring sites across the City, plus worrying results from independent analyses in Gosforth and Jesmond by Space for Gosforth in collaboration with Newcastle University, could Council outline what actions are being taken in the short term and whether there will be any policy changes in the medium/long term to deal with this problem	Cllr Kane
6	Walbottle Campus has recently been highlighted as one of the under-performing schools within the North East. In view of the Council's statement "Newcastle City Council's vision of working together to make a difference to the lives and prospects of people who live, work and learn in Newcastle" could you please explain what action and strategies will be undertaken and what	Cllr Donnelly

	targets and time frame will be set, to ensure that the life chances of every child in this City are catered for?	
7	Could Council explain why, prior to the budget being agreed, Members Services, the Leader's Office, Cabinet Office and Opposition Office, (offices and administrative support for councillors costing over £250,000 per year) have been moved and why closure of the Members Services Unit has not been considered as an option to save costs?	Cllr Donnelly
1 March 2017		
Oral 1	Has Council changed their assessment of the likely savings from commercial lets of space available after the refurbishment of the Civic Centre and what legally binding long-term leases have been secured to date?	Cllr Raymont
Written		
1	In relation to the former nurseries site, Jesmond Dene Road. Can Council please explain the reasons and rationale of the move, including why this unique and major site is being sold in this manner, what will be done with its proceeds, what advice was taken as to market value and why it was been allowed to lie empty for so long.	Cllr Donnelly
2	On 16 February 2017 the Evening Chronicle published a story headed "Newcastle City Council give away eight pieces of land in the City for free" Will Council explain how at a time of austerity and Council cuts the council has allowed land to be lost through adverse possession laws. For the benefit of transparency and on behalf of the residents, please state the locations of the eight plots of land and their estimated value.	Cllr Donnelly
5 April 2017		
Oral 1	Can Council tell us what representations they have made to LGA and Government about business rates, and what assessments they have ordered about the impact: (a) On businesses in Newcastle? (b) On the City's revenues?	Cllr Ashby
Written		
1	In light of the statement regarding a crackdown on pavement parking by motorists, will Council please explain what they will be doing on behalf of Newcastle residents and also what policies they will be introducing?	Cllr Donnelly
2	Would the Council please explain their policy on reserves, if it has changed and, if so, where and when this was agreed?	Cllr Faulkner
28 June 2017		
Oral		
1	As preparations for The 2018 European Year of Cultural Heritage are now advanced in some areas, I would like to ask what preparations Council are overseeing that Newcastle has	Cllr Huddart

	made for this important celebration either individually or in conjunction with other authorities/organisations? As there are also EU funds available for Cultural & Heritage related activities, can Council also outline if any of these available EU funds have been applied for or granted?	
2	Can Council please confirm whether it will be Council policy to utilise land and building sales proceeds to create an endowment fund to provide income in perpetuity to assist with the management of parks and green spaces in the City?	Cllr Raymont
Written		
1	Can Council please confirm whether it will be Council policy to utilise land and building sales proceeds to create an endowment fund to provide income in perpetuity to assist with the management of parks and green spaces in the City?	Cllr Ashby
6 Sept 2017		
Oral		
1	In light of recent the DEFRA publication of national guidance on Air Quality and the requirement to produce a local plan by Spring 2018, can Council confirm that senior DEFRA officials have visited Newcastle and raised concerns about air quality in respect of the Central Motorway and Tyne Bridge and the Council's intended approach to tackling air quality, both in terms of identified hotspots and citywide and what are the Council's plans for consultation.	Cllr Stone
2	What is the council's policy on promoting kinship care?	Cllr Stone
Written		
1	What is the City Council's policy on mitigation to safeguard residents against Lyme Disease and will the Council increase grass cutting to reduce the risk to the public at large and remove serious risks?	Cllr Donnelly
2	Will Council please state what the intended policy is with regard to the continuation of Blakett Street being used as a main arterial route in the City by transport operators?	Cllr Donnelly
3	What does Council think of the decision of the new management at the City Hall to cancel the booking of Roy "Chubby" Brown, given that bookings were taken for years by the previous council-run management and that bookings for the likes of the equally offensive Jimmy Carr are being honoured, and does she agree that, however odious his material may be, there are issues of censorship and potential restraint of trade (as previously advised by our legal section) that we would not wish the city to be associated with?	Cllr Faulkner
4	Given that the Director of Public Health was not consulted around the administration's policy to withdraw school crossing patrols, can Council please confirm who was consulted on this decision and why the public's views expressed in the formal budget consultation were ignored?	Cllr Raymont
5	Given the promise last year to review and improve the	Cllr Raymont

	performance and responsiveness of Envirocall can Council give an update on what improvements have been made since June 2016 and what is planned to be improved over the next six months with timescales?	
6	Could the Council set out its current approach to ensuring community cohesion in Newcastle, given that the most recent information on the Council's website dates from 2008?	Cllr Ashby
7	What is the administration's policy towards the installation of so-called "intelligent" traffic lights, where they could/should be installed in the city, and what costs and benefits might be weighed in the decision-making assessment?	Cllr Ashby
8	Would Council apologise to elected members for having failed to involve them in prior consultation on the siting of the new larger litter bins when this had been promised and, will they advise officers to implement immediate changes to those locations where the bins are causing obstructions or are otherwise in demonstrably inappropriate locations?	Cllr Gallagher
1 Nov 2017		
Written		
1	Can Council provide an update to inform of any recent steps taken in respect of the development of a new Bus Strategy and the issue of concessionary fares funding? What are the implications for NEXUS budgets?	Cllr Stone
2	Can Council confirm that they continue to regard the Envirocall service as unfit for purpose, and can they identify a date when they expect it will be fit for purpose?	Cllr Kane
3	In light of political pronouncements on opposition to gambling sponsorship, does the council have a view on NE1's introduction of the "Geordie Lottery"?	Cllr Faulkner
4	Is NECA fit for purpose and does its continued existence provide value for money?	Cllr Lower
Emergency Oral		
1	In the Leader's capacity as lead member for transport on the NE Combined Authority, can he confirm that the buck stops with him in terms of Nexus' operation of the Tyne & Wear Metro in respect of the failure of the Metro service on Sunday 29th October, and as such, will he make an immediate statement to council on: - the circumstances of the service failure - the failure to implement effective contingency plans, - the failure to honour Metro's Conditions of Carriage, - how he, NECA, and Nexus propose to address this unsatisfactory state of affairs	Cllr Stone
10 January 2018		
Written		
1	The Evening Chronicle of 10th December reported that the	Cllr Donnelly

	<p>Council has turned down an additional £4m on its sale of the former Jesmond Dene Nursery as it did not pick the highest bidder for the land (nearly £13m). It also turned down the second best offer (£12m) while pursuing the lowest (£9m) offer. Will Council please advise whether when they made the decision to accept a sum of almost £4million less than full market value they were happy that all the above legal requirements were met?</p> <p>Will they make public any advice they took on the matter including the reasons for the decision?</p>	
2	<p>Does Council share my concerns that 'Digital Inclusion' is actually excluding some of the most vulnerable in our city? The move to online payments for some services, such as the Garden Waste Scheme, is making life difficult for some residents, especially those who do not or cannot access a computer.</p>	Cllr Allen
3	<p>Given recent discussion in Parliament in which the Secretary of State for Exiting the EU was forced to make an embarrassing disclosure that the Government had not in fact produced sectoral impact assessments for Brexit, can Council comment on whether the council has similarly produced a Brexit impact assessment which seeks to identify risks and mitigation both for Newcastle and for the City Council, and if so, if they will ensure that this is presented to Council for scrutiny?</p>	Cllr Ashby
4	<p>After the death of Nelson Mandela, an Honorary Freeman of Newcastle, Council gave special Lord Mayor's Awards in his name to individuals and organisations in our city who had made exceptional efforts to bring communities together and promote understanding of, and respect for, different cultures and beliefs. Would Council agree that it would be appropriate to hold a second set of such awards to coincide with the centenary of Nelson Mandela's birth this year (18 July 2018)?</p>	Cllr Faulkner
5	<p>Early drafts of the proposed Parks' Trust business model included a commercial high ropes course. Can Council give a cast-iron guarantee that the proposed Trust would never seek to install a commercial high ropes course in Heaton Park? If so, can they explain how this pledge will be guaranteed?</p>	Cllr Kane
6	<p>In order to comply with ever restrictive emissions control measures, many cities are developing plans to reduce CO2 and NOx emissions. These include expanding light rail and tram systems as well as hybrid buses and banning heavy vehicles from town centres. In some cities successful schemes have been introduced for local taxis powered from hybrid and electric sources which are both popular and have helped improve air quality. Can Council describe what proposals they are overseeing to introduce similar schemes in Newcastle?</p>	Cllr Huddart
7	<p>In light of concerns about the amount of plastic waste which is ending up in our rivers and seas, and, the threat this poses to marine, avian and animal life. Can Council describe initiatives they are developing to increase the type and volume of plastic waste currently recycled in Newcastle?</p>	Cllr Huddart

7 February 2018		
Written		
1	In view of the increase in crime in Newcastle and the fact that Councillors no longer have SNAPs meetings to work together with agencies to seek solutions, will Council advise what action they are taking to ensure that everything is being done to prevent crime from escalating further in the City, particularly given that the Police and Crime Commissioner has reserves of £16.9m?	Cllr Donnelly
2	Following media coverage regarding dealing with waste and bearing in mind that Council pledged no waste would be incinerated in Newcastle again following the Byker incinerator scandal when it was revealed that 2000 tons of toxic ash had been dumped on allotments and paths across Newcastle. Will Council advise what the Authority's intention is regarding the possibility of using an incinerator to dispose of waste?	Cllr Donnelly
3	Is Council satisfied with the amount raised from other investors into the Newcastle Cultural Investment Fund (other than the Community Foundation for Tyne & Wear itself, the fund managers) Can Council update with the latest cumulative figure raised and any proposals to raise more money into the fund for the arts in our city?	Cllr Gallagher
4	How many visitors to Newcastle are expected or being planned for during the Great Exhibition of the North and are Council satisfied with plans for receiving and welcoming them, providing them with information as tourists and dealing with their queries when they are in our city? Could Council outline what those plans are?	Cllr Faulkner
5	<p>Council will be aware of the comments made by the public regarding the implementation of the New Year's Eve event on the Town Moor.</p> <p>In particular the following factors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concerns a risk assessment was not carried out about an event to which families with children were invited, to stand in a muddy field in darkness without lighting for more than an hour before it commenced. • Complaints about the way tickets were allocated so that people from across Tyneside were able to get them but local residents were not. • Complaints of the prices charged by vendors and questions arising such as whether the Council benefits from fees or profit share from them. • Universally bad feedback on social media, especially those who were so upset that they left early (except for the very few in the first couple of rows) <p>Does Council believe it brought something extra to our City</p>	Cllr Ashby

	which was stated as in aim in a previous report to Council, and can they ensure that next year's event is more accessible and in a safer setting?	
7 March 2018		
Written		
1	Will Council advise of the detailed due diligence carried out before deciding to avoid using reserves in setting the 2018/2019 budget and in what circumstances they envisage the future use of the £83.3 million currently standing idle?	Cllr Donnelly
2	Will Council advise what policy will be put in place to ensure that the standards of public highways are improved and maintained?	Cllr Donnelly
3	Could Council set out what they believe the benefits to Newcastle to be from the attendance of the Leader, The Chief Executive or other Council representatives at overseas property events such as MIPIM in Cannes and the recent Expo Real in Munich and how the case for attendance at such events is different now to their time in opposition when they were publicly critical of the then Council even considering attendance at MIPIM?	Cllr Faulkner
4	Is Council aware that over the past ten years an amount of money was awarded from ward committees in Walker, Walkergate and Byker to a particular charity which organised and paid for visits to the United States, attended by Newcastle Councillors for these wards, yet such detail was not disclosed on the applications? Could Council also outline for City Council any emerging policies or strategies to ensure, with reduced expenditure available due to government cuts, that the award locally of public funds in for the benefit of local residents and communities and that this will be properly monitored?	Cllr Denholm
4 April 2018		
Written		
1	Will Council explain the policy for swiftly allocating funding to the new wards following the elections on 3 May 2018, ensuring the principles of fairness?	Cllr Donnelly
2	<p>Having allocated £1m for a Spring Clean the Council is only too aware of the increasing problems of litter, dog faeces and fly tipping, exacerbated by the 50% reduction of bin provision and insufficient new bins being sited.</p> <p>Although the new bins are larger they do not balance out the restriction due to reduced numbers in placing them adequately to cover areas of need thus causing a deficit. This together with the fact that the new designed bins are being widely vandalised IS causing an extra cost.</p> <p>Will Council advise if new policies are planned in the new wards to improve the standard of waste collection across the City?</p>	Cllr Donnelly

27 June 2018		
Written		
1	Will Council please explain why they used legal powers to refer 1012 motorists' bus lane penalty charges to "enforcement agents" during a six month period while they have declined to use statutory powers to appoint agents to recover the very substantial Council Tax and rental debts lawfully owed to the Council and which they have written off annually for many years as unrecoverable?	Cllr Donnelly
2	When does Council expect to be able to publish the Council's proposals for addressing DEFRA's requirements to produce a Clean Air Plan to address air pollution in identified areas of Newcastle which currently exceeds limits, and what plans do they have to consult the public on this?	Cllr Stone
5 Sept 2018		
Oral		
1	The Council's service level agreement for replacement of missing or broken recycling bins and glass caddies is delivery any time within 40 working days. Does Council agree that making residents wait up to 8 weeks for a replacement is inconsistent with the Council's policy of encouraging recycling?	Cllr Gordon
2	What substantial discussions have Council or officers had with parents of children with SEND since the publication of the recent OFSTED report?	Cllr Cott
Written		
1	Will Council please outline a detailed policy for improving air quality and reducing noise, with particular reference the very congested junctions around the Coast Road?	Cllr Huddart
2	Will Council please update members on the progress of the formation of the North of Tyne Combined Authority? In particular confirming the financial equality of the temporary staffing arrangements already made between the three Councils	Cllr Donnelly
7 Nov 2018		
Written		
1	Can Council please outline any discussions held regarding the development of alternative schemes to driveway charging points across the city, in order to facilitate the greater use of electric vehicles?	Cllr Huddart
2	Is Council confident with the progress being made by the current consortium delivering the Centre Station south side entrance proposals and can they explain any current commitments expected of the City Council	Cllr Ashby

3	Considering the uptake of brown bins during this financial year, the extended subscription period and the increase in charges to £40.00/year. It was noted in a statement by Council that 21,000 people needed to sign up to keep Brunswick recycling facility open all year round. In-light of the apparent difficulties in achieving this year's target, residents are concerned about the future status of the Brunswick facility. Will Council guarantee, without any increases in brown bin charges in the next financial year, it will continue the current service level at Brunswick site?	Cllr Lovatt
4	Will Council consider implementing a system of publishing real time warning messages via appropriate channels (e.g. social media, website, overhead gantry electronic signage) when sage daily air quality levels are being exceeded on major routes in the city?	Cllr Stone
5	Will Council please describe their policy of investing in the deteriorating highway network across the city, taking into account s106 and CIL funding?	Cllr Donnelly
6	Will Council please update members on the success or otherwise of the Great Exhibition of the North and whether the pound for pound expenditure, visitor numbers and financial benefits achieved the original objectives and supported the Council's policies for growth, investment and tourism?	Cllr Donnelly
9 January 2019		
Oral		
1	In addition to schemes to reduce emissions from public transport and improve air quality, some cities have also introduced schemes to develop hybrid and electric taxi services. Will Council outline proposals to introduce similar schemes into Newcastle?	Cllr Huddart
2	Recent announcements from Michael Gove indicate that Councils will be 'compelled' to offer separate collections of food waste, which also featured in the recent Waste Commission Proposals. Will Council outline ways in which these collections will be introduced into Newcastle to ensure compliance?	Cllr Huddart
Written		
1	Will Council agree to augment the Council's Trees Strategy with a published service standard for maintenance of existing trees, particularly where unsafe? Also, will Council consider residents' loss of light and obstruction to receiving TV signals as reasons for tree maintenance?	Cllr Allen
2	Can Council confirm that it is usual practice to agree to adopt open space realm and planting areas on new build housing developments following a period of around ten years to allow this to 'mature', and can they explain why this policy is not being followed in respect of adoption of open space and bridlepaths on the Haydon Grange estate, now over 20 years old, despite the wishes of residents and ward councillors that Council should do	Cllr Stone

	so?	
3	Will Council please confirm that their policy of borrowing to invest in capital assets for income production and capital appreciation is now and will be in every way in line with the CIPFA Code and Central Government's Statutory Guidance?	Cllr Donnelly
6 February 2019		
Written	<p>In light of the following statement in the Council's Medium Term Plan Appendix 3 (Cumulative Impact Assessment)</p> <p><i>"The BME unemployment rate continues to be higher in the North East (7.4 %) and Newcastle (7.4%) compared to the England average (6.6%). Additionally, a greater proportion of the city's BME residents are economically inactive (45%), exceeding both the North East (39.3%) and England (29.2%) averages.</i></p> <p><i>BME communities tend to represent a higher proportion of the population in some of the most deprived areas of the city and are therefore potentially more vulnerable to reductions in some of our services."</i></p> <p>[4.6, p13]</p> <p>Does Council consider this variance in economic inactivity to be in compliance with its equalities duties, and can it set out the steps it is taking to address this disparity in terms of budget consultation and its corporate policies?</p>	Cllr Stone
6 March 2019		
Written	Alarming news reported recently suggests that some insurers are refusing to insure playgrounds in parks across the Country. Both the England Children's Commissioner and the Mayor of London have reported concerns. Can Council confirm that they will guarantee the continued operation of all our vital existing playgrounds in parks through the City through necessary funding for insurance costs?	Cllr Woodwark
	<p>The Council is moving towards introducing congestion charging in large areas of the City</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council has cleared the City of 8,414 trees In the last three years – twice as many as any other local authority. • The Council, after changing the status of large areas of green lung greenbelt land, has granted permission for 6000 homes to be built on it. • The Council's proposed increase on parking charges, which already raise £8.5m, which will have a serious impact on the public using the City Centre (with the 	Cllr Donnelly

	<p>possibility of more job losses)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council's programme of introducing electric vehicle charging points has been slowed to stall – just as the international introduction of electric vehicles is beginning to take off. • The Leader of Council recently stated to the press that City air pollution problems have been allowed to build up over decades. <p>Will Council, in the light of these facts, please explain the contradictory policies for the protection of the environment and the health and well-being of Newcastle residents.</p>	
3 April 2019		
Written		
1	What representations has the Leader of the Council made to the North of Tyne Combined Authority in his role as Cabinet Member for Business Competitiveness and what discussions has he had with the Labour Party's candidate for Mayor about making adult skills training (including literacy and numeracy) a high priority in its strategic approach for the North of Tyne area?	Cllr Ashby
Oral		
1	Will Council consider the reinstatement of regular committees with officers and councilors in the new developments in Callerton and Throckley?	Cllr King