

North Tyneside Council

Report to Council

14 March 2024

Title: Questions by Members of the Council

1. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Joe Kirwin

I am concerned that Northumbria University is aiming to reduce staff costs by approximately 5.5% before the beginning of the next financial year. This equates to a £12.5 million reduction in staff costs. Northumbria University have refused to rule out the potential for compulsory redundancies which would negatively impact North Tyneside residents who are either employed by or are studying at Northumbria University. The use of compulsory redundancies will result in damage to the reputation of higher institutions and negatively impact the quality of the education and the support that North Tyneside residents at Northumbria University currently receive.

Will the Elected Mayor write to the Minister of State for Skills, Apprenticeships and Higher Education and ask him to urgently review direct funding provided to universities.

2. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Matthew Thirlaway

Can the Mayor or Cabinet member give an update on the situation with our schools which are having issues with their buildings?

3. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor John O'Shea

Have the Government confirmed whether the Government will be continuing the Household Support fund?

4. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Debbie Cox

If North Tyneside council was to borrow £50 Million pound to spend on roads and pavements, how much would it cost the council in capital

financing costs?

5. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Julie Cruddas

Can the Mayor give an update on how the neat streets programme is going in the borough?

6. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Jim Montague

Can the Mayor confirm that there have never been any plans for a bus lane to be introduced in North Tyneside on the Coast Road?

7. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Davey Drummond

Councils across the country facing cuts from the Conservative Government, have chosen to close, privatise or pass the burden to communities of leisure centres, libraries, and parks. North Tyneside's Labour administration have a proud track record of protecting these vital services, can the Mayor confirm it is her intention that this continues?

8. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Pat Oliver

Does North Tyneside Council have the power to reopen Rake Lane 24 hours and Battle Hill walk in centres?

9. Question to the Elected Mayor from Councillor Cath Davis

The ongoing works on the embankment at the North Shields fish Quay and restricted access to the quayside is causing a considerable drop in footfall at the Fish Quay. This situation has been ongoing for 18 months. Business owners are complaining that their trade has suffered terribly and some have even had to close with the loss of jobs. They acknowledged that there is to be drop in information session on the 18th March to field questions at the Maritime Chambers, to Wilmott Dixon the contractors. However, this type of measure is too little too late and business owners want access to the fish Quay improved immediately to encourage visitors and prevent any further loss of business. If this measure is not a possibility are the council going to compensate these said businesses for losses due to this situation.