

COUNCIL – 23 JULY 2025
PUBLIC QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

Public Question submitted by Janet Clancy for response by the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“What is the council doing to free up derelict properties? For example, two houses in Norton, 66 Norton Avenue and 68 Norton Avenue. They were converted into Council offices over 25 years ago and have been left empty.”

Received 13 May 2025 17:47

QUESTION 2

Public Question submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety.

“What is happening with the derelict Newtown Social Club on Durham Road? The building is falling into further disrepair and stone cladding is now starting to fall off the building into the public footpath and road below. It needs demolished. Also a source of constant anti-social behaviours.”

9 June 2025 15:24

QUESTION 3

Public Question submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety.

“What is gonna be done about all these HMO properties that are popping up all over Stockton? They are destroying the town and causing massive issues with anti-social behaviours etc, we need a cap on them.”

12 June 2025 11:43

QUESTION 4

Public Question submitted by Nathan Sizer for response by the Leader of the Council, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing, Cabinet Member for Access, Communities and Community Safety.

“Will the leader of the council come to Newtown for a walk around and see the mess of the area? We are being ignored by the council and we need investment in this area as we are seeing a big decline around here.”

12 June 2025 11:43

QUESTION 5

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“Will the Leader of the Council commit to formally writing to the Police and Crime Commissioner to request increased resources in Billingham, in response to growing public concern about balaclava-clad youths on off-road bikes and individuals prowling the streets in the early hours trying car doors? These issues have persisted for some time, yet residents feel little has been done to protect them or deter this criminal behaviour.”

1 July 2025 14:09

QUESTION 6

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe for response by the Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Housing.

“It has now been almost a year since 87 households were forced to leave Dawson House in Billingham. Residents were originally told they would be displaced for just 2 to 3 days — yet many remain in limbo, facing prolonged disruption and distress. This is simply unacceptable. Will Stockton Borough Council commit to writing to Thirteen Group to demand a clear update on the current situation — specifically, when, or even if, residents will be allowed to return to their homes?”

1 July 2025 14:09

QUESTION 7

Public Question submitted by Terry Chapman for response by the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Resources and Transport.

“How long must the residents of Yarm be inconvenienced, and business viability undermined, until Stockton Council accepts that the abolition of the free hour parking on Yarm High Street was a big mistake?”

1 July 2025 14:19

QUESTION 8

Public Question submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Leader of the Council.

“Stockton's Q2 2024/25 report shows a £6.6 m overspend covered by ‘Powering Our Future’ reserves. What is your Minimum Working Balance if grants fall 20 % and adult-care costs rise 10 %, per CIPFA resilience index, and what reserve trigger (<3 % of net spend?) forces you to issue a Section 114? Outline stage-gate scrutiny, external audit steps and how you’ll alert residents if a £5–10 m gap emerges mid-year?”

5 July 2025 7:32

QUESTION 9

Public Question submitted by Mo Waqas for response by the Leader of the Council.

“Draft accounts reveal IFRS 16 lease debt and a capital plan reliant on PWLB borrowing plus £20 m capital-receipt flex. If the 2026/27 Fair Funding reset cuts retained business-rates 15 %, PWLB rates spike 100 bps, and IFRS 16 pushes usable reserves below CIPFA’s red-flag, what quantified threshold freezes all new capital, who authorises it, and how is the S25 robustness statement escalated to full Council within statutory deadlines?”

5 July 2025 7:32

QUESTION 10

Public Question submitted by Paul Dolan for response by the Leader of the Council.

“We heard at the last meeting that the purchase of Dunedin House was in excess of £3m can you advise how much was paid for the refurbishment, how it was funded and who the contractors were?”

9 July 2025 22:18

QUESTION 11

Public Question submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

“In April 2026 the Council are to change the way our waste is collected with the introduction of kitchen waste food caddy and bags, outdoor waste food caddy, white recycling bags and blue recycling bags to be delivered to 90,000 households. In addition new bin wagons are required to accommodate the separated waste. What is the total cost of this change and how is it funded?”

9 July 2025 22:40

QUESTION 12

Public Question submitted by Julie Dolan for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

“At the last meeting we heard that brown bins had brought in revenue of £800,000 across the Borough but what was the cost of the bins themselves, the additional bin wagons and staff to operate the wagons? Essentially how do the costs compare against the £800k received?”

9 July 2025 22:40

QUESTION 13

Public Question submitted by Stephen Fryer for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

“Stockton Globe is the quietest ATG operated venue in the UK. Was the decision for ATG to operate Stockton Globe as a "music focused arena" a barrier from bringing more performances to our town, or are the current performance levels acceptable?”

13 July 2025 20:01

QUESTION 14

Public Question submitted by Stephen Fryer for response by the Cabinet Member for Environment, Leisure and Culture.

"Why have Stockton Borough Council not been open and transparent with residents, hiding the fact that we CAN put garden waste in the green bin? The SBC Website still states "From Tuesday 01 April 2025, if you need your garden waste to be collected you will need to pay a £40 subscription fee". "If you don't sign up to our new service you can either home compost your garden waste or take it for free to Haverton Hill Household Waste Recycling Centre"

13 July 2025 20:01