

COUNCIL – 18 MARCH 2026 PUBLIC QUESTIONS

QUESTION 1

Public question:

“When is the disgraceful, inconsiderate, unsafe and illegal parking around Whitehouse Primary School going to be seriously addressed.

Residents are verbally abused and threatened and their lives blighted, made a misery and severely compromised.

Children's lives are put at risk up to three times every school day (I myself have observed many near misses) and is simply not acceptable.

Despite numerous complaints, NOTHING whatsoever has been done by SBC on Barlborough Avenue side of the school.”

Received 29 January 2026 11:14

QUESTION 2

Public Question submitted by Samuel Bradford:

“Over 30 objections have been submitted to planning application 25/0148/VARY, a Section 73 variation to permission 16/0195/VARY for a Billingham incinerator by Billingham Energy and China Power Engineering. As UK guidance says Section 73 cannot change a development’s description, does the shift from gasification to EfW and use of decade-old documents mean a new full application is required rather than a delegated decision?”

Received 9 February 2026 19:12

QUESTION 3

Public Question submitted by Samuel Bradford:

“Even without the Tees Valley Energy Recovery Facility, we have enough capacity to deal with the region’s residual waste, especially considering factors like a 30% gain in available capacity, once separate food waste collections kick in.

In the light of this, will the council make it a policy not to approve any more waste incinerator proposals that enter the planning system?”

Received 9 February 2026 19:12

QUESTION 4

Public Question submitted by Karlee Atkinson:

“Both myself, my councillor and others have reported on numerous occasions over the last 12 months about the illegal, dangerous and inconsiderate parking around Billingham South School. Particularly around Belasis Avenue and Bedale Avenue. Please can you tell me how many times that this area has been visited by enforcement and how many PCNs have been issued to vehicles in this area at school run times in that time?”

Received 11 February 2026 10:31

QUESTION 5

Public Question submitted by Christopher Lipthorpe:

“Will the council ban all contracts with Palantir?

I am concerned about Palantir's technology being used for social credit scoring and crime prediction in Teesside. This is a dystopian system which can lead to self-censorship and a loss of individual autonomy.

Palantir is also developing AI-powered weapons systems for use in Israel's conflict with Palestinians in Gaza. This violates international humanitarian law, human rights and our basic privacy and freedoms.”

Received 13 February 2026 1:07

QUESTION 6

Public Question submitted by John McDermottroe:

“In regard to the MTFP Of the £6.7 million savings required in 2026/27, how much is currently supported by fully costed and approved proposals rather than assumptions within Phase 2 of transformation?”

Received 2 March 2026 16:20

QUESTION 7

Public Question submitted by John McDermottoe:

“Children’s Social Care is projected to require an additional £5 million next year, rising to £13 million by 2028/29. What structural changes are being implemented to reduce reliance on high-cost external placements?”

Received 2 March 2026 16:20

QUESTION 8

Public Question submitted by Geoffrey Mawson:

“I wish to bring to the council’s attention regarding the proliferation of illegal and dangerous parking in the Old Billingham area. This is most prevalent around the zebra crossings at Belasis Stores and Station Road with drivers regularly parking on the zig zags when collecting take away food. What can be done to prevent this and re-educate drivers? I have seen the enforcement teams in these areas and have witnessed them taking no action. I fear that this will lead to a serious accident.”

Received 8 March 2026 11:59

QUESTION 9

Public Question submitted by Jess Hobson:

“Thirteen, the non-profit social housing provider, have increased rents by 1% over inflation year-on-year for 5 years whilst increasing capital reserves to over £800 million. At the same time, social housing tenants face high levels of poverty and deprivation across Teesside which will be further embedded by increased rent. Given this, will the council write to Thirteen and urge them to implement a rent freeze?”

Received 8 March 2026 20:39