

COUNCIL MEETING

Wednesday 15th November 2023

AGENDA ITEM 11 – WRITTEN QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 12

1	<p>Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</p> <p>“For the last 3 years Independent Councillors have been engaging with officers and cabinet to secure the release of s106 funds to the Meltham schools. In doing so we have discovered that this Council is currently sat on £1.6M of funding for schools in the valleys that has come from housing developments – some of this money has been held for many years – and there is more money to come in the future. This money is ringfenced for the schools named in the legal agreement – it is not part of the Council budget and it can’t be used for any other purpose than to fund the schools for which it was claimed.</p> <p>The Council can either work with the schools to develop suitable uses for the money, continue to sit on the money and ignore the needs of our schools, or return the money to the developers.</p> <p>As Cllr Turner said at the last meeting - "We're not wanting much, we just want our fair share."</p> <p>When pushed this Council has said it is unable to release the money except to create additional school places. Whilst this is an incorrect understanding of the law and the individual legal agreements, at the October meeting Cllr Turner restated this incorrect understanding, but then went on to comment that in respect of the 3 Meltham schools:</p> <p>“We are working on a plan to passport the 106 money, this is complex because of the legal binding agreement and is ongoing.”</p> <p>What exactly does this mean – because it sounds like someone accepting that they are wrong but refusing to acknowledge it?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
2	<p>Question from Councillor Greaves to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Cllr Turner</p> <p>“Why has the Council failed to collect £150k in s106 park/play money from developments in Meltham? What actions did it put into effect when the money wasn’t paid when it was due and what is it doing to collect the money now? Has it issued statutory demands for payment, and what further powers does it have to secure the funding?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
3	<p>Question Withdrawn</p>

4	<p>Question from Councillor Cooper to the Cabinet Member for Culture and Greener Kirklees – Councillor Hussain</p> <p>“Are the recent increases in Kirklees Council allotment fees legal?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
5	<p>Question from Councillor Munro to the Cabinet Member for Finance and Regeneration – Councillor Turner</p> <p>“Why is the Council disposing of land known as HS9 at less than market value, when the Council’s finances are in such dire straits?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>
6	<p>Question from Councillor Taylor to the Cabinet Member for Communities – Councillor Pervaiz</p> <p>“What priority does the Council attach to the safety of young people and women when travelling alone?”</p> <p>The Cabinet Member to respond</p>