

## **QUESTIONS TO COUNCIL – 14 November 2024**

### **Question 1: Question from Councillor Learoyd to Councillor Morgan, Chair of Governance Committee:**

“An FOI from 25th July 2024 served on the council's monitoring officer reveals an interesting thread.

It reveals a councillor from the political group that you lead quizzing the Monitoring Officer if there was enough evidence to take another councillor to a code of conduct hearing. The Monitoring Officer, rather rash in his approach on this occasion, engaged in the conversation. Worryingly, you were then sent the email by the councillor as though you were part of the plotting.

A previous FOI showed you having an email exchange with the Managing Director regarding a desire to remove a councillor from a chairmanship.

These revelatory FOIs question your standing and ability to act as Chair of the Governance Committee, and the fiduciary responsibility it holds.

Considering the evidence your willingness to be involved in skullduggery and vendetta, why should any councillor in this chamber trust that the code of conduct is being administered with any reasonableness and neutrality?”

### **Question 2: Question from Councillor Learoyd to Councillor Smith Chair of Regulatory Committee:**

“On 25th July 2024 I asked you if you have ever had pressure put on you, while a member or as Chairman of the Regulatory Committee, to accept a planning application due to the potential cost of an appeal if an application were rejected. Examining the minutes from the meeting, you avoided answering the question. Why was this?”

### **Question 3: Question from Councillor Hart to Councillor Quartermain, Cabinet Member for Highways and Transportation:**

“In the last council meeting I asked questions regarding free car parking for Guisborough to which I was told I would receive a written response.

In the absence of any such response by email, despite my reminders, can you please tell me:

1. When will the 1 hour free parking in Guisborough be introduced?
2. Will Guisborough receive its traditional free afternoon parking in December?”

**Question 4: Question from Councillor Grogan to Councillor Brook, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods:**

“We've seen an increase of Anti-Social Behaviour within Kirkleatham, especially on Greengates Field, with the children's playground being burned down not once but twice, which causes upset amongst the community and extra cost to the taxpayer.

One day later, I witnessed 3 motorcycles and a gang of youths in the centre of the field with a petrol can after the last arson attempt. Police were called but failed to turn up, unfortunately.

We have 1 CCTV camera on the lamp post that I've been informed is NOT monitored, and on the CCTV control system, only accessed by a select few.

I'm concerned that people's safety is not being prioritised by the Council. With the hopeful investment brought in with regards to the football pitch and other entities that follow on from the hard work of Cllr Brown to bring it to Kirkleatham, the last thing our communities need is for them to potentially pull out due to safety concerns.

Can you please tell me what plans you are going to put in place to increase the deterrent to these vandals that plague our fields and children's playgrounds?”

**Question 5: Question from Councillor Martin to Councillor Brook, Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods:**

“In May I asked you a question regarding increasing enforcement numbers so our streets could be safer.

Your answer was, that the income in fines is only 30% of the total cost of the enforcement officers, and that we don't want to become known for fining, we are going more down the education route.

However, in the Managing Director's August statement it says that the council will be increasing enforcement in order to increase income.

My question to you is, which is it? Are we going down the education route, and if so what are the council's plans? Six months after my question we have heard nothing.

Or, are we going by the Managing Director's statement and if so are we recruiting more officers?

Either way can we please have clarity on the council's plans for enforcement?”

**Question 6: Question from Councillor Learoyd to Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council.**

“After all the discussion about the cost of hosting housing appeals at previous full council meetings, I was surprised to see an expensive barrister representing the council at the Silverdale Gardens planning appeal. An appeal this chamber agreed not to defend, with notable upholders of democracy opposing such folly. The barrister's presumably handsomely rewarded contracted employment for the day appeared to consist of needlessly reading out a pre-prepared council statement. A statement to tell the planning inspector of how wrong I was on a technical point of unconnected case law, with no particular relevance to that day's subject matter. Was the council leader aware of this frivolous use of funds?”

**Question 7: Question from Councillor Learoyd to Councillor Brown, Leader of the Council.**

“In 2018, an incinerator was opened in the northwest corner of Wilton (Wilton 11). It burns 400,000 tons of rubbish from Merseyside. The history of this incinerator is interesting, Merseyside, or specifically Halton Council, didn't want to host it. Maybe they considered something Redcar didn't?”

Particle (PM) 2.5µm is a microparticle in respirable range that causes cancer, cardiovascular and chronic respiratory disease.<sup>1</sup> The specification of the limits of Wilton 11 are PM 2.5. 30 mgM<sup>-3</sup>, this is 10 mgM<sup>-3</sup> over WHO safe air quality standards.

The incinerator was greenwashed as an “energy recovery facility”. Similarly, the proposed TVERF incinerator project at Teesworks, a proposed site which is walking distance from Wilton 11, is also proposed as PM 2.5 30 mgM<sup>-3</sup> according to the report produced at the planning committee 20<sup>th</sup> July 2023.

The volume of PM 2.5 from the two incinerators combined with average wind speeds and directions at coordinates 54.581831, -1.140933 looking at the topography and turbulent flow patterns, will project wind direction dependent damaging levels of PM 2.5 for 6 miles. A range including Guisborough, all of Redcar and most of Middlesbrough.

In the notes of the TVERF paperwork, provided to me by the responsible officer, there was no study on the cumulative effects of the close-by incinerator. Indeed, I am the only PhD aerosol scientist to have reviewed the files.

Is the Council Leader aware of the proximity of the two incinerators and is he concerned by the effect such concentrations of PM2.5 will have on quality of life, life expectancy, mortality rates, and economic health burdens, within the six-mile radius?”

**Question 8: Question from Councillor Brown to Councillor Massey, Cabinet Member for Resources:**

“Councillor Massey, with the recent announcement of additional government funding, could you share how this will assist us in addressing some of the key pressures, particularly in social care and in achieving a balanced budget? How will this support the council's efforts to maintain essential services and deliver stability for residents across Redcar and Cleveland?”