

**Notice of Questions Procedure - Standing Order No. 44
Council Meeting - Thursday, 25 September 2008**

Questions to be Posed Following Ballot

	Question Posed by Councillor
<p>(1) Did, over 5 years ago, the then Scottish Executive, make £5,000,000 available for proper parking at Croy Station?</p> <p>Is the present major provision of a very inadequate pot holed area a disgrace?</p> <p>Are the present approved plans unlikely to be ever built?</p> <p>What is the immediate and long term proposals for car parking at Croy Station?</p> <p>Has North Lanarkshire Council been properly briefed on these changes?</p>	Murray
<p>(2) Within the Concierge Service in the Monklands area high rise complexes, there are officers currently on sick leave and officers suspended on full pay. As far as I am aware, temporary concierge officers have had to be employed to provide cover. Existing staff have had to work overtime on occasions to ensure that there is adequate cover.</p> <p>How much is this situation costing North Lanarkshire Council from its yearly budget?</p>	McWilliams
<p>(3) I have had quite a number of complaints from constituents and members of the public in general, regarding the lack of communication from staff within the Council. People are contacting various departments and being told that someone will write to them or someone will return their telephone call. Unfortunately on many occasions this does not happen.</p> <p>On the opening page of the Chief Executive's Monthly Update for August 2008 under the heading 'Service and People First' it states "Respect – We will be open and honest in our dealings, involving and listening to others, demonstrating respect for our customers, our partners and each other".</p> <p>Is there any way the communication system with the public can be improved?</p>	McKendrick
<p>(4) Immediately adjacent to Croy Station Car Park, is a large area shown on the current Local Plan as Industrial Land. North Lanarkshire Council unsuccessfully attempted to sell all of this site for many millions of pounds profit for additional housing.</p> <p>Will part of this site be reserved for a future large office development?</p> <p>Could such a development bring more resources to North Lanarkshire Council, help Cumbernauld's highly skilled and well educated labour pool and make better use of the vastly improved rail provision at Croy?</p>	Murray

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<p>(5) At the North Lanarkshire Council meeting on 15 February 2007 I asked the following question:</p> <p>"Will the delayed local plan presentation proposed for March include positive proposals to keep Cumbernauld as a unified new town?</p> <p>Failing these proposals will there be a list of the amenities essential to keep the area north of the A80 in Cumbernauld with a population which will exceed 20,000 people as a comprehensive local community?"</p> <p>The Vice-Convener of Planning and Environment answered "The policies and proposals of the draft local plan fully supports maintaining Cumbernauld as a unified town".</p> <p>There are no proposals in the draft Local Plan approved this morning to ensure that Cumbernauld will become a unified town when the approved M80 is built. It will further divide Cumbernauld in two.</p> <p>Can we therefore be assured that the Draft Local Plan will be making adequate provision to see that on each site of the M80 in Cumbernauld the residents will have adequate amenities and facilities to meet the requirements of their community?</p> <p>This question was repeated at a Council Meeting on Thursday, 29 March.</p> <p>Answer by Councillor J. Coyle, Convener of Planning and Environment Committee.</p> <p>Yes</p> <p>The draft final plan going to the Planning and Transportation Committee on 9 October appears to be making no adequate provision for uniting Cumbernauld or for providing adequate facilities to the north of the A89, why?</p>	Murray
<p>(6) At the Council meetings on 15 February 2007 and 29 March 2007 I asked a detailed question on the Cumbernauld housing situation, concentrating on the high rise flats and the Ainslie/Maclehose Road houses. Councillor McLaughlin's final response on the high rise flats was "an option report on the multi-storeys has been produced and discussions are underway to develop workable solutions to what Council Murray acknowledges are complex and perhaps unique issues due to the level of owner occupation within the blocks".</p> <p>Why therefore over 18 months later is all that we appear to be considering is the demolition of the 566 flats in the 12 high rise blocks to provide 444 units to be built, most of them for sale at a cost of £75.4 million?</p> <p>Have I not produced a recommendation that in groups of 3 blocks the multi-storey units could be saved for a much lower cost with the Government or the Council having at least a 50% ownership of each flat? If £75.4 million is available this would leave over £50 million to build additional houses for rent to ease Cumbernauld's desperate housing situation.</p> <p>When is the council to make a final decision on what solution it prefers?</p>	Murray
<p>(7) Following the successful evaluation with the Government's Joint Improvement Team of the Sinclair Integrated Day Service for older people in Coatbridge, what plans are there to roll out this approach across North Lanarkshire Council?</p>	Higgins

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<p>(8) Over the last 3 years, what is the total cost of street lighting to the Council?</p> <p>How many streets in North Lanarkshire Council area have street lights running 24/7?</p> <p>Why is it so difficult to have these faulty street lights fixed?</p> <p>With the Council under severe financial pressure, what efforts have the Council made to achieve savings on street lighting?</p> <p>What savings did the Council make last year in street lighting compared to the previous year?</p>	Stewart
<p>(9) Is it not obvious that the road structure at Croy Station will be overloaded if many more cars are parked at this area?</p> <p>At the Tesco site in Craigmarloch, there is a regular bus service which is underused from the Town Centre, passing through most of Balloch Eastfield, Carrickstone and Craigmarloch and calling at the Tesco shops. Could the feasibility of a small electric train being installed as a feature between the back of Tesco and the road opposite Croy Station be explored?</p> <p>Would this enable the Craigmarloch centre to be developed if no future bridges were to be built across the M80?</p> <p>Would it also encourage people not to use their cars to go to the station and also provide an interesting feature for families with young children?</p> <p>Can this suggestion be fully investigated?</p>	Murray
<p>(10) Why, in view of Cumbernauld's desperate housing situation, is there still after 8 years, no acceptable plans for replacing the condemned, defective flats in Ainslie and Maclehose Road?</p> <p>Would it not be simpler to rebuild the flats on the same site using all the existing services and roads but using modern building materials which comply with the current regulations?</p> <p>Would such a policy mean that all of the houses built on part of the former Kildrum Primary School site would be a clear gain?</p> <p>Would such rebuilding be able to start within the next few months and enable the residents who wished to stay in modern flats in approximately the same situation to be rehoused with the minimum of extra inconvenience and expense?</p>	Murray
<p>(11) Why is it that after 12 years of North Lanarkshire Council control we have no comprehensive plan for Cumbernauld Town Centre?</p> <p>Why, on the imminent publication of the Daft Final Local Plan and our new transport plan, do we not even know whether the A8011 running through the town centre, is to be closed, is to have its speed limit reduced to allow some ground level crossings, is to have one lane closed or is to remain as it is?</p> <p>Is this largely the fault of Campsies Centres Limited, which, at its first meetings under North Lanarkshire's control, decided to scrap the Cumbernauld Development Corporation plans and to date, has not produced any satisfactory alternative?</p> <p>Has the Campsies Centre under Cumbernauld Development Corporation control, been expensive and inefficient?</p>	Murray
<p>(12) Would the Convener of Planning and Transportation like to comment on the progress of the North Lanarkshire Local Plan?</p>	Kelly

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<p>(13) The unprecedented success of the new recycling initiative, incorporating the new collection system for household bins after its implementation in the North Area and the fact that we have already increased the amount of waste we recycle in North Lanarkshire from around 90 tonnes to more than 560 tonnes per week – a 522% increase leads me to ask if this initiative continues to make good progress, what are the Council's projections for the percentage of recycled waste for this year given the scheme has now been implemented in the South Area?</p>	Nolan
<p>(14) The standard of housing that our tenants live in is critical to their health and wellbeing. What is North Lanarkshire Council doing to improve the quality of its housing stock?</p>	Brooks
<p>(15) Is it a fact that in most years since the 1920's North Lanarkshire and Scotland have suffered from a level of deprivation more severe than the UK average?</p> <p>By 1974 was it obvious that the existing structures must be radically altered if regeneration was to be accelerated?</p> <p>In 1974 were all of our historic burghs and county councils abolished? Were a small number of these regional councils established? Did Strathclyde Regional Council contain almost half of Scotland's population?</p> <p>Were a number of district councils at that time also set up supplemented by community councils to provide an important measure of local participation?</p> <p>Did all these changes fail to provide adequate regeneration or solve all of our many areas of acute deprivation which included economic hardship, lack of proper education provision, inadequate housing and numerous other social and health problems?</p> <p>Twenty years later in 1994 did a further reorganisation of local government take place to try and establish a more appropriate local government service to help meet better the needs of the Scottish people?</p> <p>A further 14 years later in 2008 are we still suffering from inadequate regeneration and widespread social problems?</p> <p>Has the lack of sufficient finance been the key issue that has prevented the lack of adequate redevelopment in North Lanarkshire and Scotland?</p> <p>Will there ever be adequate finance if we spend so much of our national income on unnecessary and perhaps illegal wars plus spending many more millions on atomic weapons and other weapons of mass destruction?</p> <p>If the answer is yes to these questions will North Lanarkshire Council propose to the Commission on Scottish Devolution that they should consider the viability that all the government revenues raised in Scotland and from Scottish Waters should be paid into the Exchequer of a Scottish Co-federal Government within the British state as the best form of effective devolution?</p> <p>The funds that are essential for the proper and speedy regeneration of Scotland and improving all our people's social conditions should be retained by the Scottish Co-federal Government. The remainder should be paid to the British Exchequer for International Affairs, the Armed Services and to help the third world.</p> <p>Would Scotland by restricting the amount of money for war and its past imperial role therefore make British Exchequer realise that Britain can no longer pretend to be a major imperialistic power?</p> <p>Would helping the British Government accept this hard fact of life mean that Scotland would also be helping the deprived areas in England and probably also increasing the overall amount of money available to help the poverty stricken areas in the third world?</p>	Murray

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(16)	How many of North Lanarkshire Council's 70 elected Members have relatives working in the Council – as defined in the Council job application form?	Stewart
(17)	During the recent review of Janitorial services and overtime, was it made clear in the Report that a cap on income via overtime was being proposed?	O'Brien
(18)	<p>Does the Council agree that due to the amount of illegal signage around the North Lanarkshire Council area that we should introduce a system whereby applicants for signage should be issued with a North Lanarkshire Council Approved Sticker to attach to their signs, so that it will make illegal signage easily identifiable for removal by the Council workforce?</p> <p>A suitable charge for the issue of these stickers should accompany the issue of the new signage permissions. Political posters come under a different set of rules.</p>	Taggart
(19)	When the sealed bids for various Council contracts are opened, are elected Members involved in this process as witnesses? Are elected Members chosen from the majority group as well as the opposition and independent groups? What is the protocol the Council has governing this procedure?	Stewart