

**Notice of Questions Procedure - Standing Order No. 44
Council Meeting - Thursday, 18 June 2009**

Questions to be Posed Following Ballot

	Question Posed by Councillor
<p>(1) What does the future hold for North Lanarkshire Council's citizens in the present economic crisis, bearing in mind the following points?</p> <p>The Labour Government under Blair & Brown was given a very large majority in 1 May 1997:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a. to end sleaze at Westminster. b. to make Westminster more democratic and responsive to the will and needs of the people. c. In particular to completely reform the House of Lords. d. to end booms and slum's. e. to make steady sustained improvement to the people's living standards. f. to reduce the wide gap between rich and poor. g. to fight third world poverty. h. to drastically improve our green environment. i. to promote peace and to prevent the unnecessary waste and horror of future wars. <p>How did it attempt to achieve these laudable desires:-</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. By making the Bank of England the master of our economy while removing much of the conditions for controlling banks and bankers. 2. By raiding the pension funds of properly funded pension schemes. 3. By selling our gold reserves at a rock bottom price. 4. By failing to control the pension funds of state employees, members of Parliament, Civil Servants etc and to evaluate their future liabilities. 5. By failing to realise that the UK could no longer pretend to be a major world power. 6. By thus becoming a lackey of the USA which was conducting a crusade against Islam, China and especially against oil rich countries whose rulers were not USA controlled. 7. This led to an illegal expensive war in Iraq which led to hundreds of thousands of Iraqi lives being lost or devastated. 8. This illegal war led to ineffective steps to lower carbon and other atmospheric pollutants thus effectively preventing a better world atmosphere. 9. To maintain the illusion that we were becoming more and more prosperous while consuming much of the worlds stored resources. The limited control of banks and other questionable financial organisations were effectively dropped. 10. Institutions and most individuals were encouraged to borrow money without thought of the future. A future which will place a great burden on ourselves, our children and grandchildren. <p>The result, most of Europe blames the USA and the UK for playing a major part in creating the present economic crisis.</p> <p>Will NLC's regeneration be much more difficult unless we find an effective way to spend less on wars or preparing for wars?</p>	Murray

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(2)	On what factors does the Convener of the North Area Committee claim that the additions to the land supply to the north of the A80 will help the shortfall of affordable housing? Murray
(3)	To ask North Lanarkshire Council how much has it financially spent on legal advice since 2006. Detailing the individual firms and how much the Council paid? Welsh
(4)	To ask the Council what contingency funds have been set aside, for early retirement of staff? Welsh
(5)	NHS Lanarkshire has a long record of failing to supply proper medical services to the largest town in North Lanarkshire and in particular to the north of the A80. Murray
(6)	How many qualified lawyers does the Council currently employ? Stewart
(7)	Has the Council leader studied the letter in the Herald on Monday, June 15 from the Right Rev. Joseph Devine, Bishop of Motherwell The Bishop Avers at the extremely urgent need for Lanarkshire's, " industrial and social regeneration " means that we can no longer " afford the luxury of political parties scoring points against each other ". They need and deserve a united effort from all politicians to produce results. Namely, cranes on the sky line and jobs on the ground ". In view of the extremely serious situation which does not appear to be going to be dramatically altered by the proposals in the Calman Report published today, will the Council leader issue a questionnaire to all Councillors giving them the opportunity to express their views as to how the funding powers of the Scottish Parliament should be increased to allow Lanarkshire to be effectively regenerated? Murray
(8)	I have been led to believe that the highly desirable and extremely useful PACS x-ray system was to be installed in Cumbernauld Health Centre as the existing inappropriate x-ray system was ending its useful life. On what authority does the Chairman of the North Area Committee claim that PACS x-ray system will not now be installed in the existing Cumbernauld Health Centre? Was the fact that no extension to the Health Centre to house the PACS x-ray equipment settled sometime ago. Has installing it in the new and existing building been under-active consideration or a lengthy period of time? Murray
(9)	How much has North Lanarkshire Council spent on external legal advice since 2006? Detailing the individual firms and how much the Council paid for this legal work? Stewart
(10)	Of the employees who have had an industrial accident in the last year how many have been subjected to the disciplinary process because of absence? McGlinchey

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(11) Earlier this month, publicity was given to the number of laptops, computers and Data Files lost by Councils and other public bodies. (a) How many pieces of computer hardware belonging to NLC have been lost or stolen during the past year? (b) How many data files, memory sticks have been lost or stolen during that same period and what data did they contain? (c) What steps are taken to remind staff of the security of such equipment?	J. Love
(12) Is there a definite agreement that the large site now owned by Scottish Enterprise (and in the Official Statutory Local Plan, classified as a high amenity specialised industrial site), will make a 25% contribution to affordable housing and make a reasonable contribution to the lack of amenities for this extra housing?	Murray
(13) How many qualified lawyers does the Council currently employ?	Welsh
(14) There have been several meetings held over the past few months between Community Groups from the Townhead area of Coatbridge and officials of North Lanarkshire Council and also the Police regarding anti-social behaviour within the Morar Crescent area. I was included in these meetings along with other elected members for Ward 6. We were informed at these meetings that two temporary CCTV cameras would be installed within the Morar Crescent/Leven Road area, albeit on a temporary basis, to help eradicate the problems of youth disorder and vandalism, causing distress to the tenants and residents of the area. What is the delay in these cameras being installed?	McWilliams
(15) Several weeks ago the old Community Centre based in Corsewall Street, Coatbridge, began to get demolished. Why was the proper permission not sought at the beginning of the process for the demolition to progress?	McWilliams
(16) How many NLC staff were involved in the recent European elections and took Annual Leave in order to carry out those duties?	McGlinchey
(17) What housing is expected to be still requiring regeneration by 2015, the Government's deadline for all housing to be brought up to an acceptable standard?	Murray
(18) Recently, applications have been received and considered for large wind turbines at commercial/industrial premises in North Lanarkshire. In anticipation of further applications from businesses on industrial estates, what distance apart should these turbines be and how many single turbines in close proximity to each other would constitute a wind farm?	J. Love
(19) What housing in Cumbernauld is expected to be regenerated in each year up to 2015?	Murray
(20) What contingency funds have the Council set aside for early retirement of Council staff?	Stewart

	Question Posed by Councillor
<p>(21) Does the fact that:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. The Calman Commission Report on the future of the Scottish Government, 2. The Westminster Government's Commission on the reasons for the war in Iraq, its conduct and its consequence, 3. The Archbishop of Motherwell's unprecedented letter on the urgent need in Lanarkshire for much more industrial and social regeneration? <p>All appearing on Monday 15 June present North Lanarkshire Council and all its councillors at its planned meeting on Thursday 18 June with a unique opportunity to give a lead to the people of Scotland by freely discussing the best way in which we can help our own people, our friends in the rest of the UK, and the needy people in the Third World.</p> <p>Could it be that the best way is by all the Government revenues raised in Scotland being paid to a Scottish Exchequer?</p> <p>This Scottish Exchequer should have the powers to retain as much of this income as is needed for the speedy regeneration of Lanarkshire and Scotland.</p> <p>What is left will be made available to the Westminster Government for foreign affairs developing new atomic weapons (if thought desirable) and preparing for future unnecessary wars.</p> <p>Will North Lanarkshire by such a foresighted procedure lead Scotland and perhaps the whole of the United Kingdom into abandoning imperial world power ambitions and in living as a peaceful nation within the European community and United Nations Organisation?</p>	Murray
<p>(22) Which Members of the Council in the last 13 years have submitted written requests for permission to bring camera crews into the Civic Centre? Give details of dates and names of Members concerned.</p>	Delaney
<p>(23) Does this Council plan to build Community Centres in areas of North Lanarkshire that have none at the present time?</p>	Taggart
<p>(24) In which years did the Strathclyde Pension Fund mandate holiday payments?</p>	Stewart
<p>(25) How many employees have had an industrial accident in the last year?</p>	McGlinchey
<p>(26) How much has the Council spent on temporary employment agencies since 2006, detailing the individual firms and how much the Council paid for these services?</p>	Stewart
<p>(27) To ask the Council in which years did the Strathclyde Pension Fund mandate holiday payments?</p>	Welsh
<p>(28) Why did Mr. Fleming, Head of Central Services refuse permission both to the SNP Group Press Officer and Group Leader to bring a camera crew into the Civic Centre. This has never been the case in the past. Is it because the Council is no longer open and transparent?</p>	Delaney

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(29) To ask the Council how much it has spent on temporary employment agencies since 2006, detailing the individual firms and how much the Council paid?	Welsh