

REPORT TO:	Council		
DATE:	25 September 2025		
REPORT AUTHOR:	Julian Joinson, Member Services Manager		
TITLE OF REPORT:	<p>Question Time</p> <p>1) Skip Days 2) Council Reserves 3) Great Harwood High Street Accelerator Plan 4) Local Nature Recovery Strategies 5) King George V Playing Fields 6) Accrington Cemetery 7) Vehicle MOT Requirements 8) Fly-Tipping 9) Friendship/Twinning with a Palestinian City 10) Unused Land at Perth Street/Willows Lane and Pendle Street 11) Support for Cultural and Sports Events 12) Council Debt 13) Baxenden Village Clock 14) Minutes of Meetings 15) Cath Thom Leisure Centre 16) Empty Retail Unit on Hyndburn Road 17) Baxenden Recreation Ground 18) Accrington Victoria Hospital Site 19) Access to Allotments in Baxenden</p>		
EXEMPT REPORT:	No		
KEY DECISION:	No	If yes, date of publication:	n/a

Questions to Council

Questions for the Leader of the Council, a member of the Cabinet, or a Committee Chair may be submitted by councillors or by member of the public, under Council Procedure Rule 2.2(vi).

Procedural Note

- The questions will be read out by the Mayor/Deputy Mayor
- The Leader or other councillor, as appropriate, will give an oral answer.
- The questioner, if a councillor, may ask a supplementary question, if it is directly related to the original question

The following questions have been submitted:-

1) Skip Days

To the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Councillor Stewart Eaves)

Could the portfolio holder please provide an update to Council on the recent skip days?

From: Councillor Clare Pritchard

On behalf of: Mr C Martino

Date of first receipt by Office: 14th July 2025 (11:46)

2) Council Reserves

To the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Council Operations (Councillor Vanessa Alexander)

How much money does this Council have in its reserves?

From: Councillor Steven Smithson

Date of first receipt by Office: 17th August 2025 (17:35)

3) Great Harwood High Street Accelerator Plan

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder

Following the successful roll out of £45,000 in grants for shop improvements in Great Harwood, will you roll this out across the whole Borough and offer the same opportunity to other towns?

From: Councillor Zak Khan

Date of first receipt by Office: 19th August 2025 (16:50)

4) Local Nature Recovery Strategies

To the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Councillor Stewart Eaves)

How is Hyndburn engaging in the new Local Nature Recovery Strategies? - A new system to map the best opportunities for restoring nature to help focus efforts and target funding.

From: Councillor Zak Khan

On behalf of: Vinette Davitt

Date of first receipt by Office: 19th August 2025 (17:17)

5) King George V Playing Fields

To the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Councillor Stewart Eaves)

Please could the portfolio holder give an update on the reopening of King George's playing fields?

From: Councillor David Heap

Date of first receipt by Office: 24th August 2025 (19:27)

6) Accrington Cemetery

To the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Councillor Stewart Eaves)

What action will Hyndburn Council take to stop dogs fouling and walking over graves at Burnley Road Cemetery, and when will the promised fencing, water tap, and review of burial regulations for the Muslim section finally be delivered?

From: Councillor Shabir Fazal OBE

On behalf of: Khuram Mehrban

Date of first receipt by Office: 10th September 2025 (11:41)

7) Vehicle MOT Requirements

To the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration (Councillor Melissa Fisher)

Wolverhampton Council has implemented a policy requiring 12-month MOTs for private hire vehicles to ensure consistent safety standards. Is Hyndburn Council planning to adopt a similar approach, especially in light of the recent proposal to end 'in-house' MOT testing and allow local garages to conduct these checks?

From: Councillor Shabir Fazal OBE

On behalf of: Sohail Asghar

Date of first receipt by Office: 10th September 2025 (11:44)

8) Fly-Tipping

To the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Councillor Stewart Eaves)

In Oswaldtwistle we have seen a recent increase of fly-tipping - what plans do the council have in place to tackle this ongoing issue?

From: Councillor Steven Smithson

Date of first receipt by Office: 16th September 2025 (09:38)

9) Friendship/Twinning with a Palestinian City

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder

Preston City Council is progressing with building connections with a Palestinian city, Hebron, as part of their friendship and twinning arrangements. Can the Leader please confirm whether Hyndburn Borough Council has any plans to consider similar friendship links, particularly with a Palestinian city, and if not, whether this is something that will be explored in the future?

From Councillor Shabir Fazal OBE

On behalf of: Hasnain Fazal

Date of first receipt by Office: 16th September 2025 (17:32)

10) Unused Land at Perth Street/Willows Lane and Pendle Street

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder

What are Hyndburn Council's plans for the unused land at the Perth Street/Willows Lane junction and the Pendle Street site where homes were demolished years ago, and when can residents expect progress or development?

From Councillor Shabir Fazal OBE

Date of first receipt by Office: 16th September 2025 (17:35)

11) Support for Cultural and Sports Events

To the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Culture, Heritage and Sport (Councillor Kimberley Whitehead)

Hyndburn Council runs fantastic events like the Accrington Soapbox Challenge and Food Festival. Will the Council commit to supporting future cultural and sports events—such as Kabaddi, cricket and weightlifting—especially those that celebrate our borough's diversity, with the same level of funding and backing as other major events?

From Councillor Shabir Fazal OBE

On behalf of: Tanveer Khan

Date of first receipt by Office: 16th September 2025 (17:38)

12) Council Debt

To the Portfolio Holder for Resources and Council Operations (Councillor Vanessa Alexander)

How much debt does the Council currently have?

From Councillor Steven Smithson
On behalf of: Mr and Mrs J Westell
Date of first receipt by Office: 17th September 2025 (20:16)

13) Baxenden Village Clock

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder

Please can I have an update on Baxenden's broken village clock?

From Councillor David Heap
On behalf of: Kevin Laycock
Date of first receipt by Office: 21st September 2025 (16:38)

14) Minutes of Meetings

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder

Why are the minutes from meetings only published just before the next meeting and not within 2 weeks of the meeting happening?

From Councillor David Heap
On behalf of: Catherine Laycock
Date of first receipt by Office: 21st September 2025 (16:38)

15) Cath Thom Leisure Centre

To the Deputy Leader of the Council and Portfolio Holder for Housing and Regeneration (Councillor Melissa Fisher)

The Council have spent 10.5 million on the new Clayton leisure centre and will expect a return on that investment. What process has been set up for councillors to monitor the achievements of these targets and how often will the public be informed?

From Councillor David Heap
On behalf of: Peter Shaw
Date of first receipt by Office: 21st September 2025 (16:38)

16) Empty Retail Unit on Hyndburn Road

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder

What is happening with the empty unit formerly the hot tubs on Hyndburn Road?

From Councillor David Heap

On behalf of: Carol Hoyle

Date of first receipt by Office: 21st September 2025 (16:38)

17) Baxenden Recreation Ground

To the Portfolio Holder for Environmental Services (Councillor Stewart Eaves)

Will the portfolio holder meet with our councillor (Cllr Heap) to look at having a pump track for our youth on Baxenden rec?

From Councillor David Heap

On behalf of: Nicola Harvey

Date of first receipt by Office: 21st September 2025 (16:38)

18) Accrington Victoria Hospital Site

To the Leader of the Council (Councillor Munsif Dad BEM JP) or relevant Portfolio Holder

What is happening with the 'Accy Vic' site ?

From Councillor David Heap

On behalf of: Mary Bilsborough

Date of first receipt by Office: 21st September 2025 (16:38)

19) Access to Allotments in Baxenden

To the Portfolio Holder for People and Communities (Councillor Ethan Rawcliffe)

With the allotment monies collected, is there any plan to reinstate and maintain the pathway at Hey Street around to Hill Street, Baxenden so that plot holders can get to their plot with a vehicle.

From Councillor David Heap

On behalf of: Anne Metcalfe

Date of first receipt by Office: 21st September 2025 (16:38)