

Questions submitted on Notice for the Special Meeting of the Council – Thursday, 15 February 2024

Item No. 6 (a) - Questions submitted on Notice from Members of the Public			
Question No.	Questioner	Respondent	Question
1.	Michael Walker	Councillor HARKER	<i>“Just days before the local election I and every household in Darlington got a leaflet from the Darlington labour party saying a vote for Labour will mean a cut to the cost of living. I was and still am fascinated by this claim as I was unaware that councillors had the power to cut food prices in Morrisons, lower energy charges and reduce the amount of rent we pay. However, councillors can, and some wonderful councillors have, arranged free firework displays and introduced free parking to help residents during this period of global inflation. I dare say councillors might even be able to reduce or freeze council tax, imagine that. Almost one year on from the election, I would like to ask what policies have you and your Labour councillors put in place to cut the cost of living? I am sure my definition of "cut the cost of living" is the same as yours, by which I mean a reduction in the amount I pay on food, fuel and shelter. Ideally in your reply I would like you to state what you have done and not shift the blame on to a mini budget or 14 years of Tory rule, as these effects were already well in place when you and every single Labour councillor who sits with you made the promise to cut our cost of living.”</i>