

COUNTY COUNCIL MEETING – 10 OCTOBER 2019

**Question to Philip Atkins OBE
Leader of the Council**

By Susan Woodward

Question

“All County Councillors and Unison members across Staffordshire will be aware of the recent emails from the Regional Secretary of Unison alleging serious financial mismanagement within the County Council. The Leader will also be aware of discussions that I have had over many months with the Chief Executive and senior officers to address concerns raised by Unison, along with my Deputy Group Leader and others. Will he now undertake to respond in detail to the serious questions raised in the emails that Members have received?”

Reply

We firmly refute these allegations which are misleading or simply untrue.

The Unison claims refer to historical matters which have already been investigated and, where appropriate, action was taken. Some failings in procurement practice between 2012 and 2016 were identified, and procurement practices have been changed as a result. An independent investigation found there was absolutely no fraudulent activity or personal gain by employees because of this.

Staffordshire County Council remains willing to work with all of our trade unions in a constructive and respectful way. We would hope that trade unions would share that approach and seek to represent the best interests of their fee-paying members.

We will be responding to Unison in due course. If any member wants any further information they have only to ask, as has always been the case. After all, it is the elected members that run this Council, not Unison, which is why it was dealt with by a cross party committee.