

Question from Mr L Door:

Commercial Strategy Update

Energy costs for UK businesses are the highest in the developed world.

Several local businesses, or businesses employing residents of Newcastle-under-Lyme, have closed, or faced closure, in part due to the cost of energy.

The Silverdale and Apedale mines and collieries have long since closed as generators of wealth and employment in the area.

While the aim of rehabilitating the sites as country parks is laudable, the parks have recently become littered with drug paraphernalia, broken bottles and antisocial behaviour.

There may be an opportunity to return the land to a use in keeping with its heritage: generation of energy and wealth. The modern colliery is the wind or solar farm.

I would like the council to carry out an assessment of the economic viability of investing in wind and solar generation at the Silverdale and Apedale sites (preserving the Heritage Centre) to generate income for the Council, and, in particular to use a portion of the revenue to offer grants to local energy intensive businesses to defray energy costs in order to retain and attract investment and employment.

Thank you for your consideration.