

**Questions for Cllr Toby Eckersley, Executive Member for Resources
From Regeneration & Resources Scrutiny Sub-Committee, 31 January 2007**

BME Council staff

1. It was recognised in the Ouseley report that BME staff are not represented in Management positions. What plans exist to address this discrepancy?
2. How are the training and development needs of council staff identified generally and BMEs specifically assessed ?
3. What is the breakdown of council staff by the following categories? (% and numbers) and what % of BMEs by (a) Permanent, (b) Temporary (c) Agency
4. What % of staff are BME in the following categories (a) Permanent, (b) Temporary (c) Agency ?

ICT

5. Would the Executive Member provide an update on the integration of the Council's ICT function into 1 London Bridge.

Budget/finance - various

6. What is the value of the council's property and land and are there any plans to dispose of any of it during 2007 ?
7. Could the Executive Member outline any examples or concerns he has about "cost shunting"?
8. Could the Executive Member publish a table of our income for the last financial year from fees and charges?
9. Can the Executive Member publish a list of outside bodies to which we currently pay membership subscriptions?
10. Can the Executive comment on any particular criteria within the Government funding formula which adversely impact on Southwark's grant settlement?

Council Tax collection

11. Given the poor performance by Liberata in collecting council tax, can the executive member outline what steps he has undertaken to date and what future measures he proposes to address this issue?
12. Can the executive member provide a table to show performance on council tax collection on a month-by-month basis for the financial years 2004/05, 2005/06 and the current year to date?
13. I understand that the council is projecting a sizable saving from its contract with Liberata, following the relocation of parts of its operations to Barrow. What assurance can the executive member give us that this relocation will not lead to further under-performance? Or is there any indication that performance will improve with these changes?

Southwark Schools for the Future

14. Given the sizable capital requirements the council will need to meet for the Southwark Schools for the Future developments, will the executive member be seeking contributions from the sizable balances and reserves that a number of schools in the borough appear to have?

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Capital programme priorities

15. When the executive reviews the list of proposed capital programmes (presumably at its February meeting), what criteria will steer the executive member in the recommendations for priorities from this list that he makes to his fellow executive members?