

Council Assembly Council Tax Setting Meeting

Wednesday 29 February 2012
7.00 pm
Town Hall, 31 Peckham Road, SE5 8UB

Supplemental Agenda No.1

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To approve as a correct record the open minutes of the council assembly meeting held on 25 January 2012.

Contact

Lesley John on 020 7525 7228 or 020 7525 7222 or email: lesley.john@southwark.gov.uk;
andrew.weir@southwark.gov.uk; constitutional.team@southwark.gov.uk
Webpage: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk>

Date: 24 February 2012



Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 25 January 2012 at 7.00 pm at Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, London SE1 5UJ

PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2011/12, Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Linda Manchester
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Helen Morrissey
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor the Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Mark Gattleson	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Althea Smith
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Peter John	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Paul Kyriacou	Councillor Ian Wingfield

1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor:

- Thanked Walworth Academy for allowing council assembly to use their school.
- Stated that a list of residents or people who lived or work in the borough who had received an honour in the Queen's New Year's Honour list had been circulated at the meeting.
- Announced that on Friday 27 January she would be attending the Holocaust Memorial Day "SpeakUp, SpeakOut" wreath laying ceremony at the Memorial Tree and Soviet War Memorial at Geraldine Hamsworth Park at 10.30am. She encouraged other members to attend.

1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

There were no late items.

With the meeting's consent the Mayor announced that she intended to vary the order in which the deputations were considered as there were children and young people involved in two of the deputations. Following questions from the public the meeting would consider the deputations from John Donne Primary school and the City of London Academy followed by the deputations from Transition Town Peckham and StreetLeaders. The deputation from Save Your Riverside would then be considered, followed by the motion on Save Chambers Wharf.

The Mayor stated that following consultation with the political group whips and due to time constraints the meeting would not consider the deputation from Southwark Association of Street Traders; they had been advised that their deputation was more suitable for consideration by the cabinet. She also advised that item 5.1 – Badminton House, would be taken at the end of the meeting just in case the meeting needed to go into closed session.

This was agreed by the meeting, which agreed to suspend the relevant procedure rules.

1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS

Item 2.3 - Deputation Requests – Save Your Riverside

Councillor Eliza Mann declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as she lives in the local area.

Councillor Mark Glover declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as a member of his staff had been consulted on the campaign but no remuneration was involved.

Councillor Peter John declared a personal and non prejudicial interests in this item as he is a school governor at Riverside Primary school which is adjacent to the Chambers Wharf site.

Councillor Wilma Nelson declared a personal and non prejudicial in this item as she lives near King's Stairs Gardens.

Item 2.3 - Deputation Requests – City of London Academy

Councillor Andy Simmons declared a personal and non prejudicial, interest in this item as he does voluntary work in the homeless day centre.

Item 4.2: Motion – Changes to NHS Southwark.

Councillor Andy Simmons declared a personal and non prejudicial interest in this item as he has several NHS contracts.

1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillor Lewis Robinson.

1.5 MINUTES

RESOLVED:

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 November 2011 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC

2.1 PETITIONS

There were none.

2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

(See page 1 of supplemental agenda 2 and green papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one question from the public, the answer to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. The public questioner asked a supplementary question. All questions and responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS

(See pages 59 – 62 of supplemental agenda 1)

The deputations are listed in the order taken at the meeting.

Deputation from John Donne Primary School

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from John Donne Primary School.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Andrea Fender, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling who provided an oral response.

Councillors Fiona Colley, Geoffrey Thornton, Catherine McDonald and Rowenna Davis asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from City of London Academy

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the City of London Academy.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Michael Ginzo, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling who provided an oral response.

Councillors Rosie Shimell, Mark Glover and Graham Neale asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from Transition Town Peckham

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Transition Town Peckham.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Paula Orr, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling who provided an oral response.

Councillors Neil Coyle, Geoffrey Thornton and Fiona Colley asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from StreetLeaders

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from StreetLeaders.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, John Gorsuch, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling who provided an oral response.

Councillors Veronica Ward and David Noakes asked questions of the deputation.

Deputation from Save Your Riverside

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Save Your Riverside.

RESOLVED:

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Dr Rita Cruise O'Brien, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Paul Noblet and Anood Al-Samerai asked questions of the deputation.

Following questions to the deputation the meeting debated the motion on Save Chambers Wharf (see item 4.2: Motion 3).

Southwark Association of Street Traders

The meeting decided due to time constraints to not hear the deputation from Southwark Association of Street Traders, who had been advised that their deputation was more suited for consideration by the cabinet.

3. THEMED DEBATE - ENVIRONMENT

3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT

Councillor Barrie Hargrove, cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling, introduced the theme of the meeting.

The lead opposition spokesperson on environment, Councillor Geoffrey Thornton, replied to the cabinet members' statement.

3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME

(See supplemental agenda 2, page 2 and green papers circulated at the meeting)

There were two questions from the public, the answers to which were circulated on green paper at the meeting. The public questioners each asked a supplementary question. All questions and responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME

MOTION 1 - CARBON NEUTRAL COUNCIL BY 2020

(See pages 5 - 6 of the main agenda)

The meeting agreed to suspend council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (4) to allow for a single debate on the motion and the amendment. The meeting consented to a change in the mover and seconder of the motion.

Councillor James Barber, seconded by Councillor Paul Noblet, moved the motion.

Councillor Dan Garfield, seconded by Councillor Darren Merrill, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors Lisa Rajan, Lewis Robinson, Fiona Colley, Graham Neale, Peter John, Nick Dolezal and Mark Gettleson), Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Following debate (Councillors Anood Al-Samerai and Barry Hargrove), the substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly believes that even in times of austerity protecting our natural environment is one of the most important issues for the borough and must remain a key priority for the council.
2. That council assembly believes this is recognised by all political parties and so calls on councillors to work together to suggest innovative ways for the council and Southwark residents to tackle carbon emissions and protect our natural environment.
3. That council assembly notes that the majority of emissions from transport in Southwark are from road vehicles and welcomes the council's transport plan which aims to reduce the impact of transport on air quality by encouraging sustainable travel choices within the borough.

4. That council assembly believes that the council should set an example in energy efficiency and welcomes the fact that it has delivered on its promise to reduce carbon emissions in council buildings by 8.5%.
5. That council assembly welcomes the introduction of food waste recycling to all street-based properties in the borough and notes the impact this is already having in areas involved in the scheme where recycling has increased to 51%.
6. That council assembly calls on members to consider these issues and discuss:
 - How the council can encourage more sustainable travel, especially safe cycling and walking
 - How the council can promote energy efficiency, not just in buildings owned by the council, but in all properties
 - Given the huge reductions in the council's budget this year and in the coming years, how the council can protect the public realm, Southwark's parks and green spaces.
7. That council assembly notes the stated aim of the coalition government to be the "greenest government ever" and calls on members to consider how Southwark can use government funding to support green investment and green jobs in our borough.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 2 - ENVIRONMENT

(See pages 6 - 7 of the main agenda)

As Amendment A to Motion 1 was agreed Motion 2 fell.

MOTION 3 - MAKING SOUTHWARK A CYCLING BOROUGH

(See page 7 of the main agenda)

The time allocated for the themed debate having expired, Motion 3 and Amendment B were formally noted having not been moved and seconded at the meeting.

4. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS

4.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME

(see pages 9 - 16 of the main agenda and the blue and yellow papers circulated at the meeting)

There was one urgent question to the leader, the response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader by Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, the leader of the majority opposition group. All questions and responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

There were 49 members' questions, the responses to which were circulated on yellow paper

at the meeting. There were four supplemental questions, all questions and responses are attached as Appendix 4 to the minutes.

At the close of members' question time Councillor Nick Stanton made a point of personal explanation.

At 10.05pm the bell was rang and the Mayor informed the meeting that the guillotine had fallen. The remainder of the members' question were formally noted.

4.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS

MOTION 1 – POST OFFICES FOR SOUTHWARK

(see page 18 of the main agenda)

The motion was withdrawn by the movers with the request that it be submitted to the next ordinary meeting of council assembly.

MOTION 2 – CHANGES TO NHS SOUTHWARK

(see pages 18 - 19 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Neil Coyle and Mark Williams, formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Helen Morrissey and Patrick Diamond, formally moved and seconded Amendment D.

Amendment D was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

Councillors David Noakes and Denise Capstick, formally moved and seconded Amendment E.

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly recognises and appreciates the excellent work done by doctors, nurses and other health workers in Southwark.
2. That council assembly believes the government's Health and Adult Social Care Bill is creating uncertainty in the NHS at a time when budgets are already tight and regrets that Southwark PCT will be required to hold back £21 million, which could be spent on patient care, to pay for the government's reorganisation.
3. That council assembly believes the government's top down reorganisation lacks direction and is an unnecessary distraction to Southwark's NHS staff at a time when they want to focus on patient care.
4. That council assembly also notes that the number of people in Southwark waiting

more than 18 weeks from referral to treatment has increased by 168% since May 2010 – the largest increase in London.

5. That council assembly believes the government's decision to abolish waiting time targets has led to this increase in Southwark and now means fewer than 90% of Southwark patients are being treated within 18 weeks.
6. That council assembly believes giving patients' certainty about when they will be treated is fundamentally important to their health and that low waiting times are a benchmark for excellence in the NHS.
7. That council assembly welcomes the opposition of Harriet Harman and Tessa Jowell to the government's NHS reforms and notes Simon Hughes's comments on 8 December that there had been a "particular issue" in Southwark regarding waiting times. It hopes that instead of blaming hardworking NHS staff in Southwark Simon Hughes will take their side and oppose the government's NHS reforms.
8. That council assembly rejects David Cameron's assertion that there was a "real problem" with nursing in UK hospitals and believes that if the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government really wants to help nurses in Southwark to focus on patient care, it should listen to what nurses are saying and drop this unnecessary health bill.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

MOTION 3 – SAVE CHAMBERS WHARF

(see pages 19 – 20 of the main agenda)

This motion was considered after the deputation from Save Your Riverside and prior to the guillotine having fallen.

The Mayor announced that Amendment F had been withdrawn. Thereafter the meeting agreed to suspend council assembly procedure rule 1.14 (4) to allow for a single debate on the motion and the remaining amendment.

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Claire Hickson, moved Motion 3.

Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, seconded by Councillor Eliza Mann, moved Amendment G.

Following debate (Councillors David Hubber, Fiona Colley, Jeff Hook and Catherine Bowman), Councillor Peter John exercised his right of reply.

Amendment G was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly notes the unquestionable importance of a clean River Thames, but notes the purchase of Chambers Wharf by Thames Water and that it is the company's preferred construction site in Southwark for a "Super Sewer" junction.

2. That council assembly notes that 150 residential properties, two schools with over 1000 students and the Thames Path are situated very near to the Chambers Wharf site.
3. That council assembly regrets the impact Thames Water's plans could have on the local community and notes that construction will take at least seven years, three years of which will be 24 hours a day for seven days a week. This will not only lead to an increase in noise pollution but to increased heavy vehicle traffic on the local roads, which are not only narrow but also where the schools are located posing a real danger to school children and local residents.
4. That council assembly believes construction so close to residents and schools for such a length of time would be a major source of air pollution possibly causing respiratory illnesses, asthma and bronchitis.
5. That council assembly is also concerned that Southwark residents' water bills are likely to increase by £70 per year if Thames Water's proposal goes ahead and, once completed, Thames Water cannot guarantee there will not be sewage smells from the site.
6. That council assembly requests the cabinet to call on Thames Water to find an alternative non-residential site to Chambers Wharf that will have no impact on Southwark residents and welcomes the report of the Selborne Commission which has been set up by a number of riverside London councils to examine alternatives to the Thames Tunnel.
7. That council assembly calls on all political groups in Southwark and local MPs to stand up to Thames Water in opposing Chambers Wharf as a construction site and to respond to the phase 2 consultation. Council assembly also welcomes Simon Hughes MP's calls for a debate on the floor of the House of Commons and calls for all Southwark's MPs to take part in this.
8. That council assembly recognises and formally thanks the Save Your Riverside campaign for all their hard work in raising awareness of the issue and detailing credible technical arguments to challenge Thames Water.

Note: This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

5. REPORT FROM THE CABINET

5.1 BADMINTON HOUSE, QUORN ROAD, SE22 - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

(see pages 21 – 30 of the main agenda, pages 1 – 8 of the closed agenda and page 3 of supplemental agenda 2)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

There were three questions on the report to the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, the responses to which were circulated on lilac paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the cabinet member. All questions and responses are attached as Appendix 5 to the minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Richard Livingstone moved the report.

Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Michael Bukola, moved Amendment H.

Following debate (Councillor Ian Wingfield), Amendment H was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the cabinet decision of the 31 May 2011 to dispose of Badminton House, SE22 (“the property”) as contained in the report entitled ‘East Dulwich Estate Regeneration Scheme Update and Proposals for revision’ be noted.
2. That the cabinet decision of the 13 December 2011 to approve the disposal of the property on the terms outlined in the closed version of that report be noted.
3. That following a recommendation by cabinet on the 13 December 2011, an application to the Secretary of State for the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for consent to the disposal of the property be approved.

5.2 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(see pages 31 – 33 of the main agenda)

RESOLVED:

That the report be noted.

6. OTHER REPORTS

6.1 COUNCIL TAX BASE 2012/13

(see pages 34 – 45 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

There was one question to the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety on the report, the response to which was circulated on lilac paper at the meeting. The question and response are attached as Appendix 6 to the minutes.

Following debate (Councillors Richard Livingstone and Tim McNally), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the council tax base for 2012/13 be set at:

	Number of band D equivalent properties
For the parish of St. Mary Newington	13,420.12
For the parish of St. Saviour's	1,184.39
For the whole of the borough excluding the parishes of St. Mary Newington and St. Saviour's	85,426.83
For the whole borough	100,031.34

2. That the council tax assumed collection level be increased from 96% to 96.25%.

6.2 APPLICATION FOR THE REGISTRATION OF A NEW TOWN OR VILLAGE GREEN AT KING'S STAIRS GARDENS, JAMAICA ROAD, LONDON SE16

(see pages 46 – 71 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

Following debate (Councillors Jeff Hook, Toby Eckersley and Barrie Hargrove), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That the contents of the report and the summary of the evidence provided with the application as set out in Appendix 1 of the report be noted.
2. That the application to register King's Stairs Gardens, Jamaica Road, London SE16 as a Village Green be agreed.

6.3 DATE OF COUNCIL ASSEMBLY IN FEBRUARY

(see pages 72 – 73 of the main agenda)

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

Following debate (Councillors Anood Al-Samerai, Althea Smith and Paul Noblet), the recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

RESOLVED:

1. That council assembly procedure rule 2.1 (Dates and frequency of meetings agreed by annual council) be suspended.
2. That the 22 February 2012 council tax setting meeting of council assembly be rescheduled to 29 February 2012.

7. AMENDMENTS

Amendments to motions and reports are set out in Supplemental Agenda No.2.

PART B - CLOSED BUSINESS

8. BADMINTON HOUSE, QUORN ROAD, SE22 - DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST

This closed report was considered in conjunction with item 5.1 in the open part of the meeting.

The decision is set out in item 5.1 above.

The meeting closed at 10.38pm.

CHAIR:

DATED:

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****PUBLIC QUESTION TIME****1. QUESTION FROM SHIVONNE SMART TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

Could the member confirm that all community schools in Southwark have an accessible complaints procedure in operation?

RESPONSE

Yes. The Education Act 2002 requires all governing bodies to have a procedure to deal with complaints relating to aspects of the school and to any community facilities or services that the school provides. The law also requires that the procedure must be publicised. The governor development team has provided a model policy which has been adopted by most schools. Others have adopted their own version of it.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM SHIVONNE SMART TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES

Thank you, the policy referred to in your response has not been publicised at all, I have waited 18 months for the schools complaints policy. I have a petition signed by parents of Goose Green Primary School to raise the issues of no accountability to parents. Parents being banned from bringing children to their school. Could the cabinet member confirm if there has been a change in policing policy which enables the police to deliver transfer forms to parents' homes on behalf of schools, as one particular school is doing this? Can the members support a whistle blowing policy to enable parents and teachers to report on bad practices to protect them from school management repercussions?

RESPONSE

Thank you very much for your question and thanks for raising this with me, the identity of the school, because of course in your original question you didn't mention that. I am happy to take this away and look into it myself, Goose Green being a maintained community school in the borough. The law is very clear that they should have a complaints procedure and that it should be publicised so if you are suggesting that it is not the case then I shall certainly go away and look in to that.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME****1. QUESTION FROM ABBY TAUBIN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

Why don't all council homes have loft and cavity wall insulation?

RESPONSE

Many council homes already have loft and cavity wall insulation and in the last 3 years we have carried out works to some 4,500 properties.

Whilst loft and cavity insulation is not included in the council's warm dry and safe investment programme, we already have a separate borough-wide insulation programme. We secured and spent £3.7m of external funding last year and have another £1.5m of external money set aside for further insulation works in this year and next.

However it is also important to note that not all the borough's properties are constructed in a way that allows cavity wall insulation. For example, of the 10,500 street properties included in the recent borough wide insulation programme, only 900 properties were appropriate for cavity insulation. We will have completed works to most of these properties by the end of March 2012.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM ABBY TAUBIN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING

Yes thanks for giving me this opportunity. What I have to say exactly follows a part of what was said by Save the Riverside Campaign and I would like to remind you of what was said, which is why is not all the technology that's available in the world being used as resource for what decisions are being made here, so my follow up question is how is the council implementing ecological improvements to existing housing stock, my follow up question is what practical measure is the council using and doing to encourage micro generation and carbon reduction; where are they drawing ideas around from the world and how are they building in when they regenerate existing housing stock and when they build new housing stock, how are they building solar and passive heating and cooling into their ideas?

RESPONSE

Thank you Madam Mayor. The main way the council negotiates solar and wind energy is through the planning process. We don't have the money to spend on solar energy at the moment. At the moment we are really trying to bring all our homes up to warm, dry and safe standards and it has not helped with the council's current reduction to the feeding tariffs that we could even afford that. What we are doing at the moment is looking at the possibility of renting roofs on

some of our council stock, we can do that. I would also refer you to our energy strategy which was passed in September which was set up with regards to what we are doing on all those areas.

2. QUESTION FROM DONNACHADH McCARTHY TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING

As Southwark has one of Europe's lowest cycling rates and London's highest serious accident rate, will the council host an urgent summit of all interested parties, including parents and schools, to draw up an action plan to create child-friendly safe Dutch style cycle-lane infrastructure in Southwark within 5 years?

RESPONSE

Southwark ranks 8th out of 33 London boroughs for cycle mode share i.e. we have the 8th highest level of cycling and are in the top quartile. Only a handful of comparable boroughs have a higher mode share (Source TfL).

I am not convinced of the merits of a summit as set out within the parameters that the questioner has described. Nevertheless I am delighted that ongoing work with Southwark Cyclists has been productive and we will be holding a high-level meeting with them very soon to further integrate the views of the cycling community into our work.

There is nowhere in the UK that has retrofitted segregated cycle lanes on the scale proposed and there is no conclusive evidence to demonstrate that cycle lanes would themselves remove all risk. For example most collisions occur at junctions and this would still be an issue as would the transition between segregated and non segregated areas generally.

Cyclists would still need the skills to interact with other traffic which is why we will continue to focus on this aspect of cycle safety.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM DONNACHADH McCARTHY TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING

Thank you Madam Mayor. I regret the negative response to the constructive suggestion of the formal question, however in the light of the fact that Southwark at 3% has one of the lowest cycling rates of any European city, has for years had one of the highest fatality and serious accident rates in London, that 40% of our school children are suffering from clinical obesity, that 30% of kids, according to the council's own statistics, want to cycle, but only 3% of them are allowed to do so by their parents due to lack of safe cycle lanes. Noting that the cabinet has allocated zero pounds out of its new three year £40 million transport budget to cycle lanes. Noting that you have adopted an increase in cycling target that means it will take 225 years to reach current Dutch levels and noting that the council's own surveys that show cycle training has not led to any increase in kids actually cycling. How can the council justify its repeated opposition to cycle lanes and its advocacy instead of its extraordinary policy of forcing cyclists to share roads with articulated trucks, which means 10 year old kids and pensioners having to cycle down Peckham Road, Old Kent Road and Jamaica Road and almost every single other road with no physical protection? Why can't we instead, after 20 years of all-party support for cycling, adopt instead a positive vision for Southwark to be a modern leading European cycling borough within 5 years?

RESPONSE

I will do my best to reply with a positive response – I don't know whether you are representing an organisation or not but you are under the title 'stop murdering our cyclists', but I will do my very best to be positive today.

I take issue with you as you keep misrepresenting our policy on cycling in this borough. We don't have an anti cycle path/anti cycle lane policy, we will judge each road and each street as it comes. I think that is a much more sensible way to go forward rather than having a dogmatic approach. You know it seems to me you are basically saying things for sensationalist purposes because all those streets, you are asking us for something you know we cannot deliver at the moment. We want to engage with cyclists, talk to them about how we can work together in a positive sense, I want to work together with them in a positive sense and you are completely misrepresenting the point about TFL.

I never hear you singularly criticise the Mayor of London, you never say anything about his scrapping of average speed cameras, you say nothing about him not allowing us to have independent speed devices on our vans to slow down the traffic, you say nothing – you always take the big picture but say nothing about the fact he is not allowing us to put speed calming around the Peckham Rye west area so that we can slow down the traffic for cyclists. I never really actually hear you say anything about speed in cars because actually speed is the main killer on our roads.

I am saying something positive, the positive thing I have to say is tomorrow we are meeting with Southwark Cyclists and we are going to talk with them about how we can work closer together.

I don't want to be in a debate where someone who is accusing this council of institutional murder, he is now changed it to institutional killing, I think we can talk with people I think that there is improvement to be made. Some of what he says is right but I think when he puts it in this way and tries to make us look stupid I think it does not do the argument any good.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****URGENT QUESTION****1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Given the strength of feeling expressed at recent community council meetings will he look again at the proposed mergers, and abolition of community council planning committees?

RESPONSE

At a time when the government is cutting our budget by tens of millions of pounds every year, when we have to make tough choices about environment, children's services, adult care and every area of council spending, I think it's absolutely right that we set the target of £344,000 savings from community council meetings. Councillor Al-Samerai and her colleagues had an opportunity to influence how these savings were made through the Democracy Commission, but as a group they only bothered to turn up to a third of the meetings. She and her colleagues had the opportunity to propose an alternative way to make the savings, but unlike the Conservative and Labour representatives, they chose not to do that. Finally, if she and her colleagues did not like the Labour proposal they had the opportunity to vote for that alternative Conservative proposal, but they chose instead to withdraw from the process in a political stunt. Given all of this, I find it difficult to see why we should overrule the democratically agreed recommendations of the Democracy Commission and to take seriously Councillor Al-Samerai's objections.

She might also want to note two further facts:

When the Liberal Democrats proposed community councils in 2003, they did not originally want a separate Bermondsey community council. It was Labour that proposed the community council area.

This year community councils will be given a cleaner, greener, safer revenue fund, giving them power over revenue funding for the first time. This represents a major development in terms of community council powers that her own group could have introduced when they were in power, but chose not to. This demonstrates our commitment as an administration to enhancing community councils, whilst having to find necessary savings, and further goes to show the strangeness of Councillor Al-Samerai's position.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Yes I do, thank you Madam Mayor. And thank you to the leader for his answer, which does not really address the point of the question about whether he is ignoring the

strength of feeling of the community council meetings in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe and Borough and Bankside recently.

I get what he is sort of trying to get at, with his point about us withdrawing from the Democracy Commission. I suppose from our point of view if we were being listened to in the Democracy Commission, how was it that the outcome could be announced in advance of the Democracy Commission actually deciding that outcome?

RESPONSE

Well I think it is right that it was not announced before the end of the work of the Democracy Commission. Individual councillors may have expressed their own views or opinions about what the outcome should be, but it was for the Democracy Commission itself to determine what the outcomes of the Democracy Commission can be.

As for the strength of feeling which she reiterated in her supplemental question, well I have had no formal representations from any community council meeting although I am happy to listen. I follow closely the SE1 forum to see what is going on in this part of the borough and I am very grateful for what we see there and the strength of feeling here was represented by two people in favour of the reduction of community councils meetings to five, and two people against, including Councillor Al-Samerai being one of them. That is the same number of replies on the forum as there had been to an item about a lost Yorkshire terrier and five and a half times the number of replies to an item about a stray cat, so I don't see a great community ground swell rising up in respect of community councils at this time.

SUPPLEMENTAL URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

That is incredibly offensive to the people who I was at Bermondsey community council with last week. I am sure your colleague can tell you about the strength of feeling there and certainly my understanding from the other community councils. But I am very happy to go back and report to those residents how you feel about what they expressed at those meetings. Just going back to the point about it was not announced in advance of the Democracy Commission, how it is then that Councillor Seaton's prophetic predictions turned out to be correct?

RESPONSE

As we know Councillor Seaton is a very wise man and the people of East Walworth are very lucky to have him as a councillor for nearly six years and I am sure they will elect him for another four years when he stands in 2014.

As for her point about offence to the people of Bermondsey, what I said made quite clear that I had no further representation from Bermondsey community council on what happened at their meeting. I am happy to listen and to respond to any representations which are brought forward in due course but I think it is right that that should come in a formal way so it can be considered by the cabinet in a formal way and council assembly in a formal way in due course.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY)
WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012
MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

In view of the tragic death of Mr Frederick Watts do you have confidence in the cabinet members for housing and health and adult social care?

RESPONSE

I have the utmost confidence in both members. They are both acting to ensure that the council fully cooperates with all of the relevant authorities as the inquest into Mr Watts' tragic death is completed.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you very much Madam Mayor, I am surprised that the leader has this utmost confidence, given one has been chucked off the health board and the other one is presiding over what I perceive as complete chaos in the housing repairs service.

If he will remember a few years back, his group called a special meeting with a similar incident in the borough calling a vote of no confidence in the cabinet member. I just wondered if he could explain what is different about this time and why he is not calling for the resignation of the relevant cabinet members here?

RESPONSE

I don't recall in that instance that the leader of the council at the time was calling for the resignation of his own cabinet member; I think it was the opposition. We as the opposition were a very effective opposition who brought that special meeting looking into that particular issue and it is open to opposition groups to call a special council assemblies under the constitution, if they think that is appropriate.

I have every faith in Councillor Dixon-Fyle carrying out her duties representing the people in this borough in respect of adult health and social care and is doing a very good job meeting groups day in and day out, hearing their concerns, and having to oversee what have been some incredibly difficult decisions about how we make a budget work at this time of unprecedented government cuts – a Liberal Democrat/Tory government, I would remind Councillor Al-Samerai, who are imposing these cuts upon us; and I think Councillor Dixon-Fyle has carried that out with real skill. As for Councillor Wingfield presiding over a housing service in crisis that is simply something I do not recognise. I recognise a housing department which is moving from strength to strength under clear political and managerial leadership. I think we are very lucky that we have got Councillor Wingfield and a management team in place that we have, delivering a warm dry and safe

programme, working with tenants and homeowners in a way which is completely different in character to the manner of relations which existed under the previous administration and I am confident that will continue. I have every confidence in both Councillor Wingfield and Councillor Dixon Fyle as I do in every member of this administration's cabinet who are working day in and day out for the people of this borough.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND

What efforts has your administration made to consult with local groups on the council's 2012/13 budget?

RESPONSE

Following the comprehensive spending review in 2010 and in light of our commitment to hold the most open budget process in the authority's history, we resolved to hold a fully inclusive budget consultation in advance of setting a three year indicative budget. The 2012/13 budget marks the second year of those three years and therefore has, to a great extent, already been consulted on. In spite of this, over the full course of the 2012/13 budget process:

- cabinet members will have visited each of the community councils to discuss the budget;
- all residents will have an opportunity to bring deputations to 24 January cabinet meeting;
- overview and scrutiny will have scrutinised the budget and interviewed all cabinet meetings about their portfolio areas;
- all residents will have had the opportunity to make comments about the budget using our online form;
- and we will have published our detailed budget proposals for the coming financial year much earlier than under the pre-2010 budget arrangements, increasing transparency and giving more time for comment.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND

I thank the leader for his answer to my question. Can I ask him does he believe that all community councils across Southwark have given local residents the fullest opportunity to discuss and debate the budget proposals?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Diamond for his supplemental question. No I don't think so because I think it is a shame that some community councils are incredibly resistant to the idea of the budget being debated at their community council meetings. Some community councils where the majority are Liberal Democrat were utterly resistant to any debate taking place at their community councils about the budget, which I think is a great shame because I think their residents, the residents of that community council area have a right to know what is being proposed in the budget and the community councils have a right to debate it and bring forward any suggestions they may have. That is what democracy is all about, and that's what joined up administration is about right from the top to the bottom. The opposition complained about what we proposed to do with community councils, it is not something I recognise, again we are giving new spending powers

to community councils, which I think again really boosts the power of community councils and the link with the local communities which will be given to them. So I think this is regrettable that the discussion about the budget did not happen in every community council in the way it did certainly in Camberwell which I can speak about and other Labour community councils and I hope that it is remedied next year and we are able to have full debate about the budget proposals going forward at every community council. It is what local communities want and it is what they deserve.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

How many post offices were closed in Southwark under the previous Labour government?

RESPONSE

2 Post Offices were closed between 1997 and 2002. 17 Post Offices were closed while the Liberal Democrats ran Southwark Council. The Liberal Democrats had the opportunity to follow the lead of Essex County Council to keep the post offices open as I campaigned for at the time, but they chose not to.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

Thank you Madam Mayor. I thank the leader for his answer; bearing in mind that in recent times there have been two changes which are relevant to this issue, one is that instead of a Labour government which closed 7,100 post offices during its time in office we now have a coalition government which has pledged £1.34 billion pounds to supporting post offices, refurbishing post offices and placing them in areas that need them, and the other key point, the other key change is he is now leader of this council – so he has the opportunity to actually take advantage of what the government has put on offer – will he undertake to look at what his property section are currently doing in terms of a post office in his ward, Crossthwaite Avenue, they are requesting rent increases that will put that post office out of business. So as leader of the council who has expressed a prior commitment to keeping post offices open and councils working hard to keep them open, will he undertake to have a look at what his property section is up to?

RESPONSE

Yes, and the head of property and I and Councillor Ward will be holding a meeting in the next few weeks at the post office in Crossthwaite Avenue to discuss the very issues that Councillor Bowman has raised. This is a long standing issue and goes back to 2001 and as long as I have been a councillor in South Camberwell the issues of rent increases and the viability of the sub post office in Crossthwaite Avenue has been an issue, as that of the whole parade of shops has been an issue. It has long been the argument of Councillor Ward and myself, I think we brought a deputation to this council during the last administration on this very issue, on the future of the post office in Crossthwaite Avenue and the viability of those shops. It is something very dear to our hearts; we know it is a vital community recourse and I will certainly do anything I can to ensure that it remains a viable business going forward and any assistance that we can offer, we will look to do.

I don't know whether it is going to be possible to roll back rent increases because that potentially sets a dangerous precedent right across the borough, because we do have the responsibility as a landlord to maximise the profits from the assets that we have; but maximising the profits does not mean, as we know, driving business out of business because that does not serve anybody any purpose so there has to be some middle way that we find. But she has my absolute assurance that we will do everything we can to keep that post office and any other sub post office which is affected that we are the landlord in the future. Thank you for raising it.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Was he surprised by the comments of the previous Liberal Democrat leader of the council, Councillor Nick Stanton, in the Guardian on 30 December regarding The Shard in which he admitted their had been a "failure of imagination" in terms of his inability to link the project like this to local outcomes?

RESPONSE

The Shard brings a wealth of opportunities for local employment, and the combination of the section 106 (S106) funding agreement and the relationship we have built with the developer offer unprecedented employment opportunities for a development of this kind. Already, the council's efforts have (as of the end of December) seen 52 unemployed residents getting jobs in the construction of the building, and the remaining build time and fit out is scheduled to deliver 240 jobs for our residents in total over the coming year.

Another quick win is the boost in vocational opportunities for our younger residents provided by the capital investment through the S106 programme in new learning facilities at Southwark College's Waterloo and Bermondsey campuses. These give a competitive edge to students by providing real working environments in which to gain qualifications in construction, hair and beauty, hospitality and catering and floristry and horticulture – all areas where the Shard and its supply chain will stimulate opportunities and offer entry level jobs. Since their opening in spring 2011, several hundred learners have already used these facilities.

Longer term plans have been laid to boost local employment outcomes through a partnership involving Sellar and the college to access a share of the 10,000 plus jobs (not all of which will be new as established businesses move in) that will come with the Shard and the Place. Through this partnership we are able to access in advance details of job profiles with the early Shard tenants, and co-ordinate plans for the bulk of the S106 funding (to be released late 2012) to make sure it supplies skills and qualifications that exactly match what employers need, by planning with the college and local training and employment support providers to give our learners and unemployed residents the job-readiness and skills they need to compete for these jobs and progress in them.

In physical terms, a number of projects are being delivered to ensure that the Shard connects strongly to the local area and access to the new building and the myriad of opportunities within it are maximised. The council has established a strong partnership with the developer, Transport for London, Guys NHS Trust, and Network Rail, in order to regenerate the public realm and infrastructure around the site across a number of different land holdings, and improve access to the local area.

At concourse level, public transport connections are being upgraded with a new bus station which has 30% larger capacity, and a new train station concourse which has been transformed to provide a large increase in capacity with high quality materials throughout. A new public plaza in front of the station has an additional connection to the underground to improve the public transport capacity of this key gateway for local people.

At street level, S106 funding is being invested in the revitalisation of St Thomas Street. After a lengthy consultation with the local community and partners, a scheme was designed to increase movement between the Shard and the local communities to the south with a re-balancing of the street in favour of pedestrian and cycle movement. In addition to this, Joiner Street will be pedestrianised, and new materials will be laid along St Thomas Street to the junction of Borough High Street to further enhance the conservation area. A close collaboration with the Guys NHS trust has enabled £4.4m to be invested into the hospital estate, with new connections, entrances and foyers, and the pedestrianisation of Great Maze Pond, the key link through the campus to the local community.

In addition to new materials, lighting, trees and landscaping projects, a new system of legible London signage is also being installed which will further promote movement to and through the local area, and strengthen linkages with the local community.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Thank you very much indeed for your answer and I was amazed that on 31 December to see the article, very pleased to see it – rest assured I am not going to read the entire article out although it is worth reading I find – there was one, as I got to the end of the article, little hesitant moment when the former leader, Councillor Stanton, suggested there was, for it is he, that including a new class of the development would have been an imaginative thing to do, yes it could have been an imaginative thing to do but what are your views given that the John Harvard Library is less than 500 metres away?

RESPONSE

Yes; I read this article in which Councillor Stanton was quoted in the Guardian it was one of those curious articles I was not sure if it was in praise or in opposition to the Shard. I am incredibly proud that the Shard coming to Southwark, and with it will bring 10,000 jobs and increased business rates for our borough and at a time when we are changing the whole system of local government finance is a really good thing and I think we should welcome it, and it was curious to see Councillor Stanton talking about a failure of imagination in terms of some of the public delivery of the S106 for the Shard.

I have listed there what I think have been the S106 benefits, and he did talk in that article about having a library in the Shard, I mean that was for his administration really to negotiate whilst he was leader and maybe he had some difficulties there. What I do know is what you have pointed out Councillor Dolezal, we have an incredible successful library at John Harvard Library just down the road which I think is serving the people of our borough incredibly well, and as everybody knows here we as an administration have kept all of our libraries open in this borough, as well as delivering on opening Canada Water Library, as well as we will be delivering a new library at Camberwell Green; as well as, I hope and pray, we will

be delivering a new library at Grove Vale – god willing and fingers crossed, and an agreement of a S106 agreement being signed soon. So there is no lack of commitment to libraries but as for a failure of imagination, this administration I think has worked well with Sellars on implementing this S106 agreement.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

Has Southwark signed up to the Armed Forces Community Covenant?

RESPONSE

An Armed Forces Community Covenant is not something that a local authority or area “signs up to”, but something that it composes and agrees with the armed forces. As such community covenants can appear different from area to area.

The council continues to investigate different ways that we can build on the work we have already done to recognise the contribution that members of the armed forces make to our community. This includes investigation of whether we will follow the four councils who currently have community covenants by agreeing one with the armed forces for Southwark.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY

The council has rightly been praised for its youth fund, one component of which is the Southwark Scholarship Scheme. What is the council doing to secure sponsorship for Southwark scholars from local businesses and charities?

RESPONSE

I think that all too often in the past the council has believed that it isn't able to do anything about a problem unless it is going to spend money on it directly itself. While we have spent some money on the Southwark Scholarship Scheme as a council our ambition is that it becomes much larger by working with the private and third sector. We have an agreement with Bermondsey and St Olaves United Charity to sponsor a scholarship place in 2012. I will be writing to the borough's major employers to ask them to support the scholarship scheme over the next few weeks.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

When will the council exercise its option to terminate the Vangent contract and bring the customer service centre operation back in house?

RESPONSE

Following a change in ownership, the council is in detailed discussions with Vangent UK and their new owners, GDIT. These discussions are contractually and commercially confidential and the cabinet are being informed on progress. We are seeking to resolve the position as quickly as practicably possible.

It is particularly important that we reach a conclusion to these deliberations, given the challenging financial situation that the council faces.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

Can he provide an update on the restructure of the council's top management?

RESPONSE

Members will already have seen that from the end of next week the deputy chief executive, Eleanor Kelly, will be acting up as chief executive from the 1st week in February 2012. I'd like to take this opportunity to thank the outgoing chief executive again for her service to the borough and wish her well for her future.

All members will have received a consultation document on the proposed restructure and the direction that we will take top management structures in the future. The consultation document is detailed, but in summary: in future Southwark's top management will be smaller and top managers will be more focused on strategic oversight, working in closer partnership with members. It is our intention to take incremental steps towards this future in order to avoid damaging upheaval and unnecessary expenditure. It is my firmly held belief that these changes represent good value for the Southwark council tax-payer as well as ensuring that the council maintains rigorous governance structures and performance management.

Furthermore, it is also my firmly held belief that one of the great successes of this administration will be the steps that we have taken in this time of austerity to ensure that the greatest burden within the council falls on those who are most able to pay. Members must remember that our determination to remove £1 million from top management costs follows on from our decision to suspend performance related pay for a period of two years, cutting spending on consultants and cuts to special responsibility allowances for councillors.

At the same time as we are cutting spending on top management we are standing up for the lowest paid. Southwark was the only council in London and one of only two in the country that awarded a pay increase to our staff on under £21,000 last year and we will give a further pay increase to our lowest paid staff this year. At the same time, this year we will become the first council in London to write our commitment to rolling out the London Living Wage to all of the people who work for us into our budget, meaning that in future all our staff will receive the living wage whether they are directly employed by the council or not.

This is just another area of our work where I believe we have demonstrated our values and commitment to deliver a fairer future.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Will the chief executive be replaced, and if so what are the arrangements?

RESPONSE

Members were, in the week beginning 16 January, emailed a consultation document on the future arrangements for the council's top management. This document sets out our current thinking about the future of top management for the council, including the role of the chief executive. The deputy chief executive will be acting up into the role of chief executive from the end of next week on an interim basis. The appointment of a new permanent chief executive will, of course, be subject to the council's human resources processes and the ordinary appointments process for the council's top managers.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

What will be the impact on Southwark of the Mayor's decision to increase fares on public transport above inflation for a third year in a row?

RESPONSE

The direct impact is twofold.

First, there is the impact felt by our residents. Southwark is a borough that depends, by and large, for public transport on the bus network. The price of a single on the bus in the last three years has gone up from 90p to £1.35: a 45p or 50% increase. The news for those of our residents who use tube, overground or rail services is not much better, with inflation busting increases across the board and a commitment to increase at 2% above inflation every year. Clearly, at a time when many of our residents are struggling with falling real incomes and even the threat of unemployment, then such an increase is hitting them hard.

The second impact for us falls directly on us as a council. Due to the unique way the freedom pass is funded – i.e. by us as individual London councils – the Mayor of London's increase in public transport fares is placing unanticipated pressures of up to £792,000 on our budget. As we are utterly committed to continuing to fund the freedom pass, this means that we have been forced by the fares increases to find that amount from other services

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

How many complaints have been received by Southwark Council over the past year? How many have been responded to within the target timescales? Please provide answers by department.

RESPONSE**Complaints received by department 1 January 2011 to 31 December**

Department	Stage 1	% of total	% answered in time*	Services included
Housing	4,468	61%	88%	Repairs and Maintenance, Major Works, Area Management, CHS, Customer Experience
Environment	1,592	22%	89%	Parking, Cleansing, Public Realm and Community Safety
Revenues and Benefits	922	13%	90%	Now part of Finance and Resources
Regeneration and Neighbourhoods	158	2%	53%	Planning, Transport, Properties, Aylesbury
Children's Services (Education)	52	1%	71%	
Communities,	16	0%	50%	

Department	Stage 1	% of total	% answered in time*	Services included
Law and Governance				
Finance & Resources	13	0%	75%	
Children's Services**	12	0%	56%	
Health and Social Care - Adults Services***	8	0%	100%	
Other service areas	7	0%	90%	
Deputy Chief Executive	4	0%	25%	
Total	7,252			

* Stage 1 target to respond is 15 working days.

** Complaints about children's services are recorded in a separate module in iCasework. These are therefore about matters where the child is not at the centre of the complaint.

*** Complaints about adult social care are handled by the NHS Primary Care Trust and not normally logged in iCasework.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Could the leader of the council table the work done by the deputy cabinet members since their appointment? The deputy cabinet member for heritage led Black History Month – what was his substantial contribution?

RESPONSE

I do not understand what the question means by 'table the work'. However, I am more than happy to give a brief account of the benefits that each of our deputy cabinet members has brought to the council and borough in the last eight months.

Councillor Coyle, deputy cabinet member for estate regeneration has been involved in many meetings affecting the regeneration and housing briefs. This has included meeting with residents in areas most affected by the estate regeneration programme and supporting their involvement in specific issues. He helped, for example, secure an independent expert advisor sought by some residents affected by significant decisions on the future of their homes.

Councillor Coyle has also deputised for cabinet members on occasion, for example meeting Southwark leaseholders on a date the cabinet member was unavailable.

His next meeting in the deputy role will be at the Abbeyfield RSG meeting on 1 February.

Councillor the Right Reverend Oyewole, deputy cabinet member for heritage has been working with parties interested in creating a conservation area and organised a public meeting to discuss the work the council is doing. The results were fed back into the council planning service. With the cabinet member for

culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics, Councillor the Right Reverend Oyewole oversaw the council's 2011 Black History Month. This also included jointly writing the introduction of the Black History Month 2011 leaflet and attending over 10 events across the borough.

Councillor the Right Reverend Oyewole has been working to help improve the council's guidance for groups wishing to seek planning permission for faith premises. With the cabinet members for regeneration and corporate strategy and equalities and community engagement he hosted a meeting for the groups to discuss how the existing guidance should be reviewed. He has further been involved in the work that Roehampton University are undertaking about black ethnicity churches in Southwark to help us get a better understanding of the churches in our borough.

Councillor Situ, deputy cabinet member for active citizens has visited and met with the senior management team at the volunteer centre to look at how we can increase the volunteer capacity of our residents. He has supported individuals to start-up voluntary groups and working to build a network of voluntary groups. He has worked with the cabinet member for health and adult social care to support our elderly centres during the transitional period. He plans to continue to visit centres to offer support. Together with Councillors Hargrove and Mohamed, he has also been working to improve cycling and walking within the borough. He has met representatives from Living Street and Southwark Cyclists and continues to work with them.

Councillor Hamvas, deputy cabinet member for families has been working with the cabinet member for children's services on schools admissions, which has included working with the cabinet member and officers on the primary places strategy. As part of this she has also looked at admissions policies in other boroughs and looked at local academy admissions policies. She has been a contact point for parents on admissions issues and visited Goodrich Primary with the school preference advisor, to see the work that the council does to help parents make decisions about applying for secondary schools for their children.

Councillor Hamvas has also been supporting the cabinet member for children's services in looking at the impact that the government's free schools policy will have on the borough and has been engaging with groups that are progressing an application to set up a free school. Finally, she is in the early stages of working with the cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy on worklessness.

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

With Islington becoming the first London 20mph borough, is the leader minded to follow the lead of his Labour colleague and lead Southwark to become the second 20mph London borough?

RESPONSE

Our existing and inherited policy is that all Southwark Council roads should be 20mph. However, we are unable to set the speed limit for Transport for London red routes, which are controlled by City Hall.

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Could you please provide a comparative costing of council assembly meetings prior to the sale of the town hall with the recent nomadic versions? Please provide an itemised breakdown for each school including security guards, public displays, council officer time and transportation.

RESPONSE

On 20 October 2010, council assembly agreed the recommendations of the democracy commission that council assembly be held in venues throughout the borough. In January 2011, the cabinet agreed the democracy commission implementation plan. This plan assessed venues for capacity, layout, transport and location, access requirements, facilities and cost.

The existing town hall chamber was assessed through that process alongside alternative venues. It scored low against capacity (particularly against the public gallery requirement as it only has capacity for 50 members of the public) and access requirements (poor mobility access to the public gallery). The implementation report went on to note that if access to the town hall chamber were retained in sole council use, the facility would need significant refurbishment to bring it to the required access standards and agreed ambitions of the council for better public engagement, undermining the cost effectiveness of this approach.

Furthermore, the decision to begin the process of moving all operations out of the town hall and surrounding buildings and to move to the most expensive part of the borough was a decision of the last administration. Retaining council assembly meetings at the town hall would mean retaining the town hall building almost exclusively for that purpose. In contrast, the disposal of a long lease on the Town Hall will release revenue currently put towards its maintenance and security. The 2011/12 budget for the property is £627,000. It is estimated that not less than £420,000 per year would be required to keep the town hall open as a stand-alone facility, not including the cost of any refurbishment or improvement works that were needed. Revenue costs around £67,000 per year would be needed to maintain the chamber and ancillary facilities alone. This is significantly higher than the costs of the current arrangements for council assembly at a variety of venues across the borough.

In relation to costs attaching to the current arrangements for council assembly happening in other venues these are as follows:

- venue hire - £1,700
- public address and sound system – £2,300.

This does not include staffing and other costs for example transport that are no greater than holding meetings at the town hall. It should also be noted that costs vary slightly depending on the venue.

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

Did the leader authorise giving gold coins to a former Labour councillor?

RESPONSE

No. A gift of several gold-coloured (but not gold) coins was given to one of Southwark's ex-mayors by civic visitors to the borough during the tenure of the last administration. The chief executive had the coins valued to ensure that they were of a value commensurate with a personal gift and this was found to be the case.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON (BERMONDSEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What is the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling doing to improve pedestrian and cyclist safety on Tower Bridge Road? Does he think devolving local budgets would help in addressing local residents' concerns?

RESPONSE

Transport for London (TfL) is the highway authority for Tower Bridge Road.

Southwark will continue to lobby TfL to implement schemes to improve the safety of pedestrians and cyclists particularly at the junction of Tower Bridge Road and Abbey Street.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK (ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What progress has been made for improving traffic flows around Rotherhithe gyratory system and Lower Road, and when will it be completed?

RESPONSE

The plan to remove the Lower Road gyratory and revert the roads to two-way working was formulated as part of the Rotherhithe multi-modal transport study as a way of improving the environment for pedestrians and cyclists as well as increasing capacity for road traffic.

Work is currently underway to develop the design and to refine cost estimates. We will be asking Transport for London for some of the funding, and have informed them through the transport plan that we aim to submit a bid in 2012/13 for funding in following years. However, the bulk of funding will come from future developments in the area that will increase pressure on the road system, which we would expect to come forward in the next few years. Subject to consultation on the scheme and approval by the council, implementation would progress once that funding is available.

18. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK (BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the member provide a breakdown of the number of tenants attending the mobile housing office and customer satisfaction figures for each individual venue point? Please provide an itemised breakdown of costs including officer hours and vehicle running costs.

RESPONSE

The mobile office has been in operation for approximately three months now and data has been collected on footfall levels since the 1 November 2011. Across the seven sites covered by the mobile office footfall levels were slow at first and have risen in the last six weeks with Rye Hill and Dickens estates showing levels comparable with visits to housing receptions. We do not currently collect satisfaction ratings for the use of the mobile office, but intend to conduct an appraisal of demand levels and options for future use of the mobile office after the first six months of operation.

Estate	Average footfall per session
Rye Hill Estate	5
Dickens Estate	4
Tabard Gardens	2
Lordship Lane	3
Rockingham	2
Crawford Estate	2

The total cost of the mobile office was £23,000 to operate and the weekly running costs total £800 in staffing costs and a small amount for stationery and facilities items. An equivalent measure of a housing reception before last years reorganisation showed that average footfall was equivalent to 12 visits in a session at a cost of £2,560 for staffing.

The mobile office is also in use beyond the surgery activities with the office being used to support rent arrears and revenue benefits collection work focussed on individual estates. The mobile office will also be the focus of the upcoming round of estate action days (10-12 during 2012/13) which will focus on repairs services and leaseholder surgeries through the home ownership unit. Planning is currently taking place around the mobile office supporting activities during the Olympics and promoting the work of departments across the council.

Residents and ward councillors have requested that the mobile office visits additional estates and the operation is being increased to include two further estates with more coming on stream over the course of the first year

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

The residents of Peckham Community Council were absolutely thrilled to learn that a local florist had donated a Christmas tree to Peckham Square in December 2011 to inject some Christmas spirit to the area and Southwark Council agreed to erect it and decorate it – just one shining example of the council working in collaboration with a local trader. What else is Southwark Council doing to encourage and develop a successful sustainable working partnership with the local business community in Peckham?

RESPONSE

On 13 December 2011, the cabinet agreed in principle to include a £1 million community restoration fund in the council's 2012/13 budget. Subject to the

approval of the budget at council assembly, this fund will assist those areas most affected by the August disturbances, with the aim of supporting activities focused on restoring local community pride and delivering longer term solutions to support business and the wider community. Given the particular impact of the August disturbances in Peckham, it will be one of the areas that the council will look to support through this fund. In developing the business element of the fund, I have been meeting with local business leaders and business organisations to discuss with them what the most effective means of support might be. This will include a meeting with traders and business owners in Peckham. These conversations will be important in exploring how the council can work more closely with local businesses to drive economic growth and improve life chances which forms part of the council's commitment to working in partnership with the business community, both in Peckham and across the rest of Southwark. Further details about the community restoration fund will be announced as part of the budget setting process.

The council has also recently secured substantial investment from the Greater London Authority (GLA) Mayor's Regeneration Fund to deliver improvements to the business environment in Peckham. The funding will support a £10.6 million programme of improvements to business space and the public realm around Peckham Rye Station which will deliver an improved retail centre and contribute to attracting private sector investment in Peckham town centre. The outline proposals will be developed and implemented in close consultation with Peckham businesses to ensure benefit is maximised for local traders and to continue to build the capacity of emerging local business networks to engage effectively with the council and other agencies. The council has also submitted proposals to the Heritage Lottery Fund to restore historic building frontages along Rye Lane, which if successful will be developed into detailed proposals over the coming year in consultation with local businesses and traders.

20. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can he provide a breakdown by ward of the proportion of households that are on the electoral register in the Walworth Community Council area?

RESPONSE

The canvass response rate for the three wards in question at 1 December 2011 were:

- East Walworth - 94.48%
- Newington - 92.51%
- Faraday - 95.05%.

This represents the percentage of properties from which a response to the request for registration was received during the annual canvass for the 2012 register of electors (either following 1 of 2 post outs or as a result of door visits to all non-responding properties). It therefore includes responses which confirm/state the property to be empty, occupied only by nationals from non-qualifying countries, properties being used as short term accommodation and second homes etc. It should be noted that this information states that the resident occupies these properties at that moment in the canvass period. The response rate for East

Walworth includes the 1,027 properties in the Heygate Estate which are still on the database but have been counted as voids.

Some of the responses replied to the annual canvass stating that they are occupied by non-qualifying nationals only (such as USA, Somali, Chinese, Brazilian, Columbian etc):

- East Walworth - 226 (3.75% of properties)
- Newington - 236 (3.5% of properties)
- Faraday - 233 (4.4% of properties).

The number of properties at which there are 1 or more registered electors as at 1 January 2012 are:

- East Walworth - 4,403 (88.29% of residential properties, excluding the Heygate Estate)
- Newington – 5,967 (88.70%)
- Faraday – 4,707 (88.98%).

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS (NUNHEAD AND PECKHAM RYE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Could the cabinet member provide an update on the Nunhead and East Peckham Renewal Area including the latest details of the resources allocated to the project and the agreement of a detailed implementation programme?

RESPONSE

There is a programme of ongoing improvement works in the Nunhead and East Peckham renewal area of around £3.8 million being undertaken to complement those being delivered as part of the low carbon zone programme and the Improving Local Retail Environments programme. For instance, the council are currently on site in Marmont, Goldsmith and Furley Roads undertaking works to 138 properties of all tenures. These works include new roofs, windows and brick cleaning where required, and new garden walls designed by the residents. This is linked to works being undertaken as part of the low carbon zone which includes the GLA funded (£420,000) solar hot water scheme which will install 60 solar hot water systems. Also 175 homes across the area have also had small energy saving measures installed as part of the RENEW scheme. In addition, works have been completed providing 18 new shop fronts on Meeting House Lane, Nunhead Lane and Queens Road.

As part of the agreed extension of the area renewal programme agreed in July 2011, officers are currently working up proposals to extend the shop front scheme in Nunhead, improve lighting along Evelina Road (including under the railway bridge) and implement improvements to the area around Queens Road Peckham Station. The public realm team is currently working up proposals for the station area for consultation prior to implementation during 2012/13. The council have also been informed that Network Rail will be putting in lifts making the Queens Road station fully disabled accessible.

I am pleased that we also heard on 16 January from the GLA, that the council was successful in our Outer London Fund bid for further improvements to the Nunhead

area for £438,000 of additional funding. Nunhead is one of London's best kept secrets, a great traditional British high street with a butchers, fishmongers, bakers, florists, deli, greengrocers, hairdressers and more - but like many shopping areas it has been having a tough time in recent years. The £438,000 from the Mayor will be added to the council's £515,000 and be spent on improvements to Nunhead's shopping area, shop fronts, lighting, and improvements around Nunhead Green, all of which have a "village" theme. The funding will also help promote Nunhead as a destination by supporting the arts and music festivals, and assist traders with promotional and business support.

In consultation with local stakeholders, the frameworks and implementation and economic development teams will develop lighting designs, a festival business plan, scope out carbon reduction initiatives, provide training and business support, and develop the shop front design brief by March 2012. Works will commence on site by May for completion by March 2014.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR THE RIGHT REVEREND EMMANUEL OYEWOLE

Can she provide an update on the council's preparations for the 2012 Olympic Games?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council is working in partnership with key local organisations, including Volunteer Centre Southwark, Southbank and Bankside Cultural Quarter, Southwark Arts Forum, London Southbank University, Better Bankside and Team London Bridge among many others, to deliver its Olympic and Paralympic vision.

Some of the achievements so far are:

Engaging young people (EYP)

- 3 'mini' Olympic events held in 2011 and well attended
- 1 borough wide event held in July 2011
- Get Set London - 88% of schools signed up to the London 2012 education programme
- Over 100 new youth volunteers signed up and ready for placements (85% target achieved)
- Get Set Schools Newsletters produced specifically for schools on a monthly basis to compliment the Get Set newsletter produced by communications
- 'Whatever' website updated to include London 2012 information, and links to youth volunteering
- Working with our cultural partners to create opportunities for young people to get involved in cultural programmes such as 'Big Dance' and 'Olympic Readathon'
- Development of channels to promote cultural, volunteering, and sporting opportunities for young people in Southwark related to London 2012.

Southwark Experience working group (SEWG)

- On target to complete £2.6m Thames Riverside Walkway accessibility project

- On target to complete Legible London project: Ensuring that Southwark way signage is clear for visitors
- Look and feel 'Southwark Experience Zone' completed and forwarded to the GLA
- Look and Feel 'Your 2012' - mapping the dressing of the commercial districts of the borough completed. Next step is installation
- Continue developing programmes with cultural partners: Big Dance, Shakespeare's plays at the Globe theatre
- 160 Tooley Street – Olympic art exhibition installed
- Working in partnership with central London boroughs to develop a street art programme for the Olympic and Paralympic Games.

Health and wellbeing

- A successful Health Factor Challenge – delivered in the summer of 2011
- A new action plan agreed following the Health Factor Challenge, based on using the Olympic and Paralympic Games as momentum to push existing public health campaigns and contribute to a healthier Southwark in and after 2012
- Funding identified to help meet the new objectives of the group.

Public Service Operations

- A cross-departmental, cross-organisation working group established
- Operational planning structures in place
- Control room and intelligence cell structures in place
- Council front line service resilience issues identified and currently being addressed
- Front line service additional cost projection completed
- Further funding bid accepted by GLA
- Operational planning testing exercise completed and outcomes/recommendations agreed by the corporate management team
- Engaged with and continue to work in partnership with local landowners to manage mutual service demands in the north of the borough during games time
- Engaged with local emergency services
- HR advice for managers and staff distributed. Has been revised for 2012.
- Road networks and transport issues identified and addressed
- Road network contractor embargos agreed at member level
- Issues related to Olympic Route Network and Alternative route network identified and understood
- Local transport hub congestion issues identified with Transport for London (TFL) and GLA
- Engaged with local business to explore distribution of information related to deliveries and supply chain
- Southbank London 2012 market proposals at advanced stage.

Volunteering and employment

- Volunteering strategy described and accepted at member level.
- Southwark 2012 volunteering portal funded, created and published on the Volunteer Centre Southwark website
- Content for volunteering portal increased

- Third party 'volunteering toolkit' produced as an aide for organisations willing to offer placements for Southwark volunteers
- London 2012 volunteer case studies completed (profiles of Southwark based volunteers) and in used to promote volunteering and achieve a volunteering legacy
- A second round of London 2012 volunteer case studies commissioned
- Business's in Southwark applying for London 2012 related contracts supported by the economic development team
- Southwark Young Volunteer of Year 2010, representing Southwark Council at the London 2012 torch relay selection event.

Olympic capital legacy

- Capital legacy group established and composed of senior members of staff from the local business community, a local MP, chief officers from the council and members of Southwark cabinet
- 1st round criteria written and agreed
- Submission process agreed
- Website pages created and produced
- Marketing of capital legacy fund application process completed
- 40 unique submissions received for stage one
- 2nd round application from written and agreed
- 17 projects invited back to stage two of funding process
- 10 projects chosen for funding and decision approved at member level
- Funding agreement written and agreed
- All successful projects invited in for award
- Implementation stage now underway.

Marketing and communications

- Communications strategy/plan produced and agreed
- Designed and produced the 'Get Set Southwark' brand for improved and consistent marketing
- Established the Get Set Newsletter: This is now delivered on a monthly basis
- Communications team members assigned to each of the work streams, each with their own set of objectives
- Website content created and managed
- London 2012 visitor information channels explored and soon to be agreed.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN

Following the opening of Canada Water library, has there been much interest from local people or voluntary groups?

RESPONSE

"Much interest" is an understatement.

The new library opened on 28 November 2011. The response from local people has been overwhelmingly positive. The statistics speak for themselves:

Between 28 November and 8 January:

- 50,374 visits have been made to the library, averaging 1,399 per day
- 36,631 books, CDs and DVDS have been borrowed, averaging 1,017 per day
- 81% of transactions have been made using self service technology
- 2,524 new members have been enrolled
- 3,537 hours of wi-fi time were used during December (the next highest use being at John Harvard Library – 2,095 hours).

All local schools have visited the library with classes from Bacon, Albion, Alfred Salter, Riverside, Peter Hills and St. Joseph's visiting on 6 December for a special schools launch in the culture space in the presence of the Mayor.

Peter Hills and Albion School also attended a session with author Margaret Bateson-Hill during the first week of opening at the library. More author sessions with local schools are programmed for January and February.

Other activities in the culture space have included 120 local people coming to hear Ben Fogle talking about his latest book; 48 people coming to hear a panel of women writers at an event called "Girls Night In" and two sell out performances (150 people each night) of "Blackbirds" by the Bubble Theatre who also staged their annual conference there.

The adult and family learning programme commenced on 9 January and a range of courses are being delivered including English for speakers of other languages (ESOL), arts and crafts for families, courses to help parents to help their children with study and homework as well as a range of one to one introductory ICT sessions.

A volunteering day is planned for 31 January and local people will have the opportunity to find out about how they can volunteer for the library service generally.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Has the council considered linking its three "events" in 2012 to London's Olympic celebrations?

RESPONSE

The Elephant and the Nun will celebrate the Olympic and Paralympic values with events across central Southwark at the beginning of September on the opening weekend of the Paralympics. In 2011, twenty venues and four public spaces brought together over 8000 people and we hope to increase this for the celebrations in 2012. We are working closely with partners and details will be available in the next couple of months.

We are also currently developing plans with partners on the south of the borough event. However, all involved would like to see London 2012 and its values as a theme to the event. Details for these plans should be available in the coming months.

Bermondsey Carnival, set to take place in June this year will celebrate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee. This large scale family event will take place alongside street parties, civic celebrations and the Diamond Jubilee river pageant.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

What are the current plans for the Livesey Museum building?

RESPONSE

Officers were instructed to begin a formal call for new expressions of interest in June last year. A formal brief was prepared and agreed in July and submissions were received by 30 September. The call for submissions was sent out to cultural and community networks, locally, regionally and nationally. All organisations who had previously expressed an interest in the building, or who had viewed it were circulated the brief and the details of how to submit a proposal.

The key criteria were as for previous calls:

- a use that is in keeping with the charitable objectives of the trust and that actively benefits communities in Peckham and Camberwell (original parish of Camberwell) and contributes to the social and cultural development of the area
- financially sustainable proposals with revenue and capital funding identified.

Three submissions have been received and assessed and two have been deemed appropriate for further consideration. Both have a good track record of delivering services to communities either in or similar to Southwark.

Cabinet will receive a report at its February meeting, which will recommend that officers be instructed to progress negotiations with a preferred user for the building based on the objects of the trust and based on further detailed and robust financial checks on both organisations. Cabinet will need to receive a further report following this work before taking a final decision.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON

Will there be enough space at Seven Islands for the replacement squash courts that will be lost from Elephant and Castle? Will this sufficiently service the 9,000 existing uses?

RESPONSE

During 2010 there were 4,279 visits to the squash courts at the Elephant and Castle leisure centre and a further 4,607 in 2011. This totals 8,886 visits over two years. It is important to note that these figures do not represent unique individuals as the figures include repeat visits from more regular users.

Plans for refurbishing Seven Islands are not yet developed. There is £8 million of funding in the capital programme for the centre in years 2013/14 and 2014/15 and there will be full public consultation on how the funding will be used to upgrade the centre.

In the meantime, officers are looking for other solutions to providing access to squash courts, including discussions with potential alternative organisations and providers.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

How will the 50 Olympic tickets that Southwark has bought be allocated?

RESPONSE

The council, like all other London boroughs, was given a unique opportunity to acquire tickets for the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games which we have taken up. We want to use them to ensure a real legacy from the London 2012 Olympic and Paralympic Games by inspiring younger residents to be the best and to aim high for themselves and their peers.

We intend to distribute our ticket allocation to young people from across the borough so they can experience for themselves some of the best of the Olympic events. We simply don't believe that with the incredible demand for tickets, young people would ever be able to get to see some of these blue riband events. We don't think that is fair and would mean local youngsters missing out on this once in a lifetime opportunity.

We have just received confirmation in the last week that the London Organising Committee of the Olympic Games and Paralympic Games has given permission for the council to use the Olympic tickets it has acquired to recognise our young people. The details of how they will be distributed are now being worked on.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Due to the fact that Southwark Park athletic track astro turf pitch has been condemned, can arrangements be made to allow Red Lions Boys Club the use of the football pitches in the evening after Southwark Park has officially closed? (If official access is granted pitch lighting could be managed by Fusion staff at Seven Islands Leisure Centre as normal).

RESPONSE

Throughout the year we, like the vast majority of other local authorities, close our parks after dark and this is not new practice. We would be happy to meet with this club to discuss what other alternatives we can offer, such as using the park before closing time, or finding an alternative floodlit venue to play in.

Unfortunately the solution suggested would not comply with health and safety regulations. Up until recently we have supported the Red Lion Boys Club with generous subsidies to enable them to use the nearby Astro turf pitches in Southwark Park.

These pitches are currently out of use, but we are actively seeking funding to bring them back into community use.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

What are the improvement works and what is the timescale for upgrading the Southwark Park athletics track and astro turf pitch? Will these be completed in time for the Olympics?

RESPONSE

We are proposing to upgrade the athletics track, reinstate the inner astro-pitch, and refurbish the existing building. We are currently investigating and applying for funding for the project, and so we are unable to give definitive timescales.

£370,000 has already been secured from the council's capital legacy fund and our application for funding from the Mayor of London's Facility Fund has progressed to consideration at stage two. This application is for a further £250,000 and a decision is expected in June this year.

Other bids include to the London Marathon Trust and to Sport England's Inspired Facilities Fund and these will be progressed when the funds open in the new financial year.

Every effort is being made to get all the funding necessary in place before the Olympics.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

Can the cabinet member please tell me what the implications are for Southwark residents of the Alternative Olympic Route Network which I believe is proposed along parts or all of - Borough High Street, Bricklayers Arms roundabout, Camberwell Road, Elephant & Castle, Lower Road, Newington Butts, New Kent Road, Peckham Road, Southwark Street, Stamford Street, Tooley Street, Tower Bridge Road?

RESPONSE

As part of the traffic management planning for the Olympics, Transport for London (TfL) have designated a number of roads in Southwark as either the Alternative Route Network (ARN) or the Road Event Olympic Route Network (REORN).

The ARN in Southwark, comprises of two corridors, a northern route which includes Stamford Street, Southwark Street, Tooley Street, Tower Bridge Road, Lower Road, Borough High Street, Lower Road, Newington Butts and a southern route which includes Elephant & Castle, Bricklayers Arms roundabout, Peckham High Road, Queens Road and Camberwell Road.

The ARN will only come in to use in the event of an incident on the actual Olympic Route Network (ORN). To date TfL have given the council assurances that in the event that the ARN becomes active no physical measures will be put in place. However, they are considering whether some restriction of parking and loading arrangements may be necessary on TfL roads. We are awaiting final confirmation

on this. No changes are being planned in relation to any borough roads on the route.

The ARN in Southwark (Elephant & Castle, New Kent Road and Tower Bridge Road) will be used as REORN on two days, Sunday 5 August and Sunday 12 August. These are the marathon days when the REORN in Southwark will be used as Core ORN to overcome the loss of the ORN on the marathon route.

There will be no re-construction works such as removal of traffic islands/build-out on the REORN during the games. The only physical measures to be implemented on the REORN in Southwark are restricted solely to the extension of weekday parking plus loading and waiting restrictions, which will cover the weekends, but only for the two weekends of the marathon event. (5 and 12 August). The extended restrictions will include stopping restrictions adjusted to 6am-midnight, waiting restrictions adjusted to 'No Stopping at any time' or 'No Stopping 6am-midnight'. There will also be traffic signal timing changes to support the journey of the Games Family through the borough on the REORN.

Network Performance within Transport for London, are currently undertaking traffic modelling of the REORN which is anticipated to be completed by the end of February. We are currently waiting for the results of this process, however, we do have an indication of the maximum traffic flow whilst the road events are in play. The Games Family Demand model predicts that the maximum Games Family flow per hour is to be expected on Sunday 5 August (which is the more busy of the two days). This is expected to be less than 300 vehicles p/hour on the westbound REORN in Southwark and less than 250 vehicles p/hour in the eastbound direction.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

In light of the fact that nine out of the 10 projects for the capital legacy fund are in the centre and south of the borough, what reassurances can the cabinet member give that residents in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Borough and Walworth will have increased access and participation to sport and physical activity?

RESPONSE

The capital legacy funding offered opportunity for applications to be made for part of the £2 million for projects that would provide an increased sporting offer and create a lasting Olympic legacy. Forty applications were received for a slice of the funding and eleven of these were from postcodes that included the north (applications from the north included postcodes in SE1 and SE16). Many of the projects, including the Velodrome and the proposed BMX track are unique and will serve all residents in Southwark. Pitches at Peckham Rye are also used by young people from all parts of the borough.

We are continuing to invest in leisure facilities across the borough. Detailed consultation is being carried out on plans for a brand new £20 million leisure centre for Elephant and Castle. This will give local access to a swimming pool for the first time in many years as well as bringing improved gym, sports hall and changing facilities at the heart of the regeneration area. Community provision at Geraldine Mary Harmsworth park is being maintained and developed and is well used by local people.

Funding has also been identified in the council's capital programme to upgrade Seven Islands Leisure Centre, with £8 million being identified for spending in 2013/14 and 2014/15. Again, detailed consultation will take place before proposals are drawn up, but this amount will significantly improve the leisure centre, complementing the £2.39 million of investment already made to upgrade Surrey Docks Water Sports Centre and the hugely popular and successful new Canada Water Library. These two leisure facilities and the library will mean that the north of the borough will have an excellent range of leisure provision in the widest sense.

Officers are also working on plans to secure funding to bring the Southwark Park athletics track back into use. Funding bids have been made to a number of sources including to the Mayor's legacy fund to complement the £370,000 secured from the council's own capital legacy fund for this project.

Burgess Park is also being upgraded to the value of £6 million.

Tabard Gardens Astroturf in Borough was upgraded within the last two years, is well maintained and used. Similarly, Mellish Fields at Bacon's College is also well used and maintained after its upgrade of a few years ago, again complementing the investment in facilities in the north of the borough.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

Please confirm where in the borough the GLA grant for dressing for the Olympics will be located, how much of the total pot will be spent in each ward and when will it be completed and on view to the public?

RESPONSE

The Greater London Authority (GLA) is leading the London's 'Look and Feel' programme with the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games, the 2012 Games organisers. The £32 million budget for the programme is part of a public sector funding package for the games and is managed by the GLA. The programme addresses how London will be dressed for the 2012 games.

The direct allocation of funding Southwark has received for 'Look and Feel' is £50,000 and Southwark is considering supplementing this with its own contribution. As the detailed Olympic torch relay route is not yet known, final decisions have not been made in relation the specific roads to be dressed.. Materials have been ordered but their location will be determined when the torch route is made public.

In addition to the grant funded column banners there will also be 'Look and Feel' dressing in the South Bank area of the borough. This again will contain column dressing but will also include installations such as building wraps, vinyl wall, floor and window de-cals, lighting installations and fence banners. The exact costs and the budgets for these works are unknown as they are being managed directly by the GLA. However we are able to estimate from indicative costs and agreed works that it will be in excess of £240,000.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN AHERN

Is she pleased that after eight years of dither and delay from the previous administration, we are finally seeing some progress on Camberwell Library and can she provide an update?

RESPONSE

Not even “dither and delay”. As I understand it no work was done to create a new library for Camberwell until a new administration took over.

The current library is well used but space is very restricted and the range of activity available is limited because of this. There is a high level of need and demand in Camberwell for a better library, and after extensive consultation and taking into account the conclusions of the library review, the business case for the reprovision of library has been approved by the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety. The project is now proceeding into planning. The new library will provide excellent facilities for all users including much needed improvements in accessibility and sustainability and a much improved children’s library. Alongside a modern library service, the expectation is that the site will provide an extended customer offer to residents along with community facilities.

As members may be aware, initial proposals to provide the new library by re-using a demountable structure currently located at another site were found not to fully meet the council's aspirations for the library and increased risks to the project. The proposals which are now going forward to planning are for the construction of a new building on the site in front of the Magistrates Court at Camberwell Green. The siting of this building and associated local plans for public realm improvement will help to open up this corner of Camberwell Green and contribute to overall area improvements.

The development of the building design is progressing and the project team have met with the planning authority for their comments on the proposals. Further consultation will be taking place with members and key stakeholders before submitting the planning application in the spring. The council is committed to opening the new library by 2014.

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

What action is the council taking to address complaints regarding the taxicard service?

RESPONSE

The taxicard scheme is managed by London Councils on behalf of Southwark Council and the other London boroughs that use the service. They manage the performance of the scheme including complaints.

For the financial year 2011/12, complaints across all boroughs regarding the scheme equate to 0.34% of all journeys taken to the end of November 2011. In Southwark, the figure is slightly lower – 0.25% - with a total of 149 complaints from 59,163 journeys to the end of November 2011. The main areas of complaint have been issues with the driver (24% of all Southwark complaints); query over the fare (19%); no taxi available (17%) and booking error (17%).

As part of its recent consultation over proposed changes to the operation of the scheme in Southwark, I have held two public meetings. At both, it became clear that there are concerns with many members about the operation of the scheme which may not be being reported to London Councils under the complaints process. In response to this, I will be holding a public meeting on 1 February to discuss performance issues. Representatives of London Councils and Computer Cabs who operate the scheme will be at this meeting to respond to concerns.

35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Following the demise of the Aylesbury Resource Centre, what alternative offer is being made to people with disabilities in the Aylesbury area?

RESPONSE

Phase 1a of the Aylesbury estate regeneration saw the demolition of the Aylesbury Day Centre, and the opening of the new Southwark Resource Centre for Independent Living in June 2010. The formal opening ceremony for the new centre will take place on 21 February.

The former day centre and outreach teams for adults with physical disabilities and sensory impairment have been combined into a new independent living team, based at the centre, providing services for disabled adults with eligible social care needs. As part of their social care support plan, each disabled person has identified goals to aid them in remaining in their own homes and accessing mainstream employment, education, leisure and social activities. Service users are supported individually and via group activities, in the building, out in the community, and in their own homes.

The new building design provides state of the art facilities for disabled adults, including Changing Places Gold Standard facilities (a nationally recognised standard), which means any disabled adult living or working in the borough, can drop in to use fully accessible toilets with hoists, bathing and changing facilities, thus enabling them to maintain their personal dignity when other local shops and buildings do not meet their needs.

Southwark Disablement Association are based at the new centre, providing information, advice, support and advocacy, and there are talks underway with other community organisations with a view to offering a broader range of activities for disabled people both at and coordinated from the centre. The resource centre cafe is operated by volunteers from the charity Stroke Care, providing work opportunities for disabled adults and offering drinks and snacks to service users, carers and visitors to the centre. A user led group meets at the centre on a regular basis to work on fund raising and other initiatives that support the aim of disabled adults leading fulfilling lives in their local community.

36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

When will Southwark's health and wellbeing board be established?

RESPONSE

The government have set out a timetable for all areas to have established health and wellbeing boards, with full statutory powers, by April 2013.

The cabinet will be making a decision on the establishment of a shadow health and wellbeing board in Southwark at its meeting on the 17 April. This is in line with our commitment as part of the national early implementers network to have established the shadow board in April 2012.

That said, over one year on after being introduced in parliament, the Health and Social Care Bill - which includes the provision for the set up of the new boards - has not as yet been signed into law. It is challenging to be certain about exact timings prior to the legislation entering the statute book.

37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS

The well-publicised demise of Southern Cross is extremely concerning for Southwark's care home residents. What work has she been doing with care home providers in Southwark to ensure care home residents have certainty about their accommodation for the future?

RESPONSE

The council continues to work closely with all care home providers in the borough to ensure that residents can be certain about the future of their accommodation. In line with the council's wider approach to managing risk, regular checks are made on the financial health of key providers in Southwark in order to identify any early signs of potential financial problems or business failure.

Most importantly though, the focus of the council's effort and ongoing joint work, particularly with the providers who took over the operation of the former Southern Cross Homes, is on quality of care that residents receive. This is being done through working in partnership with the regulators, the Care Quality Commission, joint working with health colleagues in Southwark Business Support Unit - care home support team and through joint working between commissioning and operational teams in relation to residents care and support needs and how these can be met in a more personalised and dignified way.

38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

The council's wardens service is vitally important to Southwark residents who live in sheltered accommodation, some of whom are extremely vulnerable. What is she doing to improve the council's warden service in light of the fact it was cut back by the previous administration?

RESPONSE

The council is about to launch a review of the funding options and service model for the council's sheltered housing service. This review will involve consulting with sheltered housing residents on a number of potential options for the future of the service. Taking into account residents' views a set of recommendations will be implemented by April 2013 to ensure the sheltered housing service can deliver the very best quality service that ensures that the most vulnerable residents can

access the support they need to remain independent and active members of their community.

39. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the cabinet member for health and adult care confirm whether she supports having a majority of elected councillors on the health and wellbeing board to address the longstanding "democratic deficit" in health?

RESPONSE

As I set out in my answer to question 36, the cabinet will be making a decision on the establishment of the shadow board on 17 April. The Health and Social Care Bill - which includes the provision for the set up of health and wellbeing boards - has not as yet been signed into law. It is challenging to be certain about the exact configuration of the board prior to legislation entering the statute book.

What matters most is delivering on the health and wellbeing priorities of the people of Southwark and engaging with the right people in the borough to do this.

40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Can the cabinet member for health and adult social care confirm how many quality alerts there have been for the financial years 2008/09 to date broken down for 1) homecare and 2) day centres/services?

RESPONSE

There is no formal quality alert for day centres (as there is for home care). Quality or service concerns in relation to day centres can be raised in a range of ways by users, family members and carers. Concerns raised are then investigated with the relevant provider either by the social worker or lead commissioner or jointly as is most appropriate.

For home care the number of quality alerts raised for the years requested are as follows:

- 2008/09 - 166
- 2009/10 - 135
- 2010/11 - 123
- 2011/12 to 31 December 2011 - 87

As the figures show there has been a steady reduction in the number of quality alerts for home care over the past 4 years.

41. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

In light of the fact that the cabinet member for health and adult social care was removed from the Kings College Board of Governors for non-attendance, can she provide her attendance record (meetings attended out of total number of meetings held) for all meetings of the Supporting People Commissioning Body; South London and Maudsley Members' Council; and Guy's and St Thomas' Council of Governors since May 2010?

RESPONSE

Attending meetings relevant to my portfolio is and remains a priority. At a time of great change in the health service I make it a priority to engage formally and informally with senior managers and wider stakeholders to ensure I am able to influence outcomes and get a well-rounded perspective of health issues in Southwark. This includes attending other acute trust meetings, such as joint meetings of the Kings Health Partners and the open part of the board of director's meetings which are not formally recorded, however these still provide an avenue for me to engage with senior and expert opinion formers.

In addition there are a myriad of different ways to engage with people and issues to do with health in Southwark such as the LINK, GP commissioners, and the Southwark business support unit etc and I am doing my best to engage with all these forums.

As you will understand, meetings can unfortunately clash with my portfolio and ward councillor duties and where these occur apologies are sent in advance.

Since I have been in post, I have attended two of six Guy's and St Thomas' Council of Governors meetings, one of seven South London and Maudsley Members' Council meetings and also the joint meeting of SLaM Members Council and the Board of Directors. I do not attend meetings of the Supporting People Commissioning Body as this is made up of officer representatives, though I am regularly briefed on issues considered at the meeting.

42. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

Can the cabinet member confirm the current number of eligible service users who currently hold a personal budget and will this meet the target of 60% by the end of March 2012?

RESPONSE

The latest monthly figures (as at end of December) show that 1,936 eligible service users have self directed support via a personal budget or direct payment. This equates to around 50% of eligible services users. It is projected that the 60% target will be met by March 2012

43. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Would the cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy please advise the average compensation paid, in each of the years ended 31 December 2009, 31 December 2010 and 31 December 2011, for surrender of leases on the

Heygate estate, in categories by size of accommodation, either square footage or number of bedrooms, whichever is the more practicable, for each of the years?

RESPONSE

The estate comprises high rise blocks of one and two bedroom flats and low rise blocks of two, three and four bedroom maisonettes. Therefore two bedroom properties can be found in both high and low rise blocks.

Prices quoted below exclude disturbance and home loss that depend on personal circumstances rather than the physical attributes of the properties.

Year	Properties acquired	Average purchase price	Average 1 bedroom unit	Average 2 bedroom unit	Average 3 bedroom unit	Average 4 bedroom unit
2009	34	£140,000	£101,500	£127,500	£165,500	£188,000
2010	19	£123,000	£100,000	£122,500	£172,500	£190,000
2011	4*	£147,500	£135,000	£112,500	N/A	£230,000

*Only four properties were acquired in this year so the averages produced must be treated with caution as the properties purchased were not typical of classification groups.

The amount paid to individual leaseholders reflects the accommodation provided by the property, its floorspace, condition, whether it has a garden, its attractiveness to prospective purchasers and its mortgageability. Prices paid follow the housing market in general so fluctuate according to the time the purchase is completed. The rise in prices paid last year reflects the general increase in prices seen in the Elephant and Castle area. Prices paid are agreed with leaseholders who are generally advised by a chartered surveyor chosen by the leaseholder.

44. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

What was the start and finish date of the road improvements in Grange Road and Southwark Park Road, what was the cost, and why did remedial works to the junction with Dunton Road have to be undertaken?

RESPONSE

Southwark Park Road (2010- 2011 Programme)

Location: St James's Road – Galleywall Road

Budget: £406,000

Duration on site: July 2010 – March 2011

Grange Road (2010-2011 Programme)

Location: Spa Road – Alscot Road & St. James's Road – Macks Road

Budget: £314,000

Duration on site: November 2010 – March 2011

Southwark Park Road (2011 – 2012 Programme)

Location: Dunton Road - Alma Grove

Budget: £312,000

Duration on site: April 2011 – December 2011

All of the above schemes were local implementation plan funded (through Transport for London) as part of a holistic corridor improvement programme to enhance pedestrian safety and accessibility, reduce traffic speeds and provide a better streetscape for local residents.

All elements of the schemes received strong local support from residents and stakeholders, with the Southwark Park Road scheme between Dunton Road and Alma Grove being highly commended at the Association for Commuter Transport Travelwise Mobility Week Awards (2011).

No works, remedial or otherwise have taken place at the junction of Dunton Road with Southwark Park Road/Grange Road as part of the above schemes.

45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

How many pot holes have been fixed in Borough and Bankside over the past year?

RESPONSE

In the financial year to date, Southwark have carried out 157 'pot hole' repairs to carriageways in the Borough and Bankside Community Council area.

46. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

What has the council done about rat running through Cherry Gardens Estate and Millpond Estate to Cathy Street and Jamaica Road?

RESPONSE

On 16 August 2011 I was copied into an email from an irate South Bermondsey ward councillor to public realm officers about the removal of width restrictions on Rolls Road in his ward. Officers informed him that it was result of a planning decision made on 27 July 2008. Following the member's subsequent complaints to planning, he was informed that prior to implementing the scheme officers wrote on 26 May to all community council members outlining the proposals and the resources for it. The officer confirmed that no responses were received from councillors to this email.

Prior to all this on 5 August I wrote to a senior Liberal Democrat member to inform them that I had found money from the Mayor's discretionary funding to fund measures to tackle rat-running north of Jamaica Road. I was made aware of this problem after I'd asked transport planning officers if there were any traffic problems that I might be able to help with. So I was very pleased to be able to offer my support to local councillors in this area.

However, I was also aware of the considerable anger in South Bermondsey Ward about the situation on Rolls Road. So I thought I'd give the senior Liberal Democrat member – whose party represents both areas – the option of switching funding from the Jamaica Road area to the Rolls Road area. After initially declining this

offer on 26 August, on 28 August a public realm officer was informed that they had decided to switch funding from Rotherhithe to South Bermondsey.

However, and in spite of this change of heart, I am pleased to inform Councillor Nelson and her colleagues that we are holding a budget of £100,000 to progress work on rat-running in Rotherhithe in the 2012/13 financial year.

47. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

The Energy Savings Trust have recently produced a study about using LED lighting in 35 social housing sites where they concluded LED lighting is smaller, cheaper to run and brighter than current lighting. Residents on the Lytcott Grove Estate have been requesting the lights be changed to LED and motion detectors be installed in their community garden and on the street properties. What plans does the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management have to exploit this technology across Southwark housing, reducing CO2 emissions and saving tenants money?

RESPONSE

The council has taken great interest in the Energy Savings Trust report and its findings are complementary to the Energy and Carbon Reduction Strategy (ECRS) agreed by cabinet in September 2011. The ECRS recommended that the council undertake work to measure the performance of different types of LED retrofits and in turn assess whether there is a business case to refit LED lighting in communal areas across the borough. Since the strategy was agreed the housing services department has undertaken pilots of LED lighting to four blocks in the borough: St Stephens House, St Johns House, St Marks House in Walworth and Holme House in Peckham. Holme House and St Johns House were fitted with new LED fittings and the other two blocks were retrofitted with LED bulbs retaining the existing light housing.

Initial data shows significant savings of energy consumption of between 35-48%. However, the price difference between LED and standard 2D fittings is still substantial. LED fittings can cost six times as much as normal fittings. Given present costs, the council estimate payback is considerably longer than those published in the Energy Savings Trust report, (the average being 9 years in phase 1 and 3 years in phase 2). The council estimate that payback on current costs will be at least a decade.

LED lights are a new technology and there is newly emerging, but still limited, data on the longevity and reliability of the system. The council proposes to continue to gather data from the pilots and monitor material costs before any long-term decisions are made. At the end of the pilot a report will be considered by officers in July 2012 recommending the next steps and the Lytcott Grove Estate along with other estates will be considered should the programme be rolled out.

48. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In light of the increase in major works administrative charges to the legal maximum of 10%, which in effect has more than doubled the administrative charges for

leaseholders at Crystal Court, can he outline under what circumstances he might exercise his delegated powers to vary the charges?

RESPONSE

Leaseholders are expected to pay their fair share of costs. The Southwark lease allows the council, as freeholder and landlord, to charge both management and administration costs. The administration costs are limited to 10% of the service charge, both major works and revenue.

In April 2002 the council's executive made the decision to charge administration fees with respect to major works service charges on a sliding scale in accordance with the cost of the individual contract. This in effect meant that Southwark charged 4 to 4½% administration costs for each major works service charge due to the size of the contracts which frequently included non-service chargeable internal decent homes work. Inherent in the decision of April 2002 was the requirement to review the fees and bring a further report and recommendation to executive in 2004.

However, this never happened due to time constraints, although the previous executive member for housing asked for a review of the costs to be carried out in 2009, and the proposal to amend the administration fee was due to be included in the partnering strategy report in the same year by officers dealing with the procurement of the partnering contracts, but this was omitted in error.

49. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Noting that the government announced on 5 January 2012 as follows:

"The government is consulting on new draft statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England. The new guidance is intended to assist authorities to take advantage of the provisions in the Localism Act 2011 which give back to local authorities the freedom to manage their own waiting lists, and make it easier for them to move existing social tenants to more suitable accommodation. It also encourages authorities to make use of the existing flexibilities within the allocation legislation to ensure that social homes go to people who need and deserve them the most."

Would the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management please confirm that the forthcoming new flexibilities are welcomed by the council and indicate the steps he is considering for implementation once the final guidance is issued?

RESPONSE

The council welcomes the proposed flexibilities and freedoms contained in the Localism Act, which builds on the existing flexibilities as set out in the previous government's 2009 lettings guidance, 'Fair and Flexible'. The council will be providing a response to the government's consultation on the new draft statutory guidance on lettings. The new housing commission will also be considering allocations policy as a key area for debate.

We consider it to be timely to examine Southwark's housing lettings policy taking into account these freedoms, and the housing needs of our communities. To this effect, a cross-party lettings review group has been established, tasked with developing proposals which will ensure that our lettings policy remains fit for purpose.

The group will also include representation from tenants, the voluntary sector, and council officers from a range of services. We welcome the Conservative group's participation in the lettings review group. It is anticipated that a report will be brought to cabinet around December 2012 to approve the final proposals for implementation from 2013.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****QUESTIONS ON REPORT****ITEM 5.1: BADMINTON HOUSE, QUORN ROAD, SE22 – DISPOSAL OF FREEHOLD INTEREST****1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

Given the shortage of family sized housing in the borough why is the cabinet intending to sell off a block that mainly consists of 3 and 4 bedroom units?

RESPONSE

As you will be aware, the considerations behind this decision were set out in the report considered by cabinet on 31 May 2011.

The regeneration of the East Dulwich Estate was part of the Southwark Estates Initiative (SEI) agreed back in 1998. One of the principles of SEI was that a contribution to the budget for the programme would be made through sales of land and buildings on the estates that were part of the programme as part of a self-financing approach.

In April 2005, the then executive of the council agreed a revision to this programme for the East Dulwich Estate. This included a commitment to internal refurbishment of tenanted dwellings and the disposal of some voids and land occupied by former residential blocks to assist with finances. The anticipated budget of £25m would be met from £9.9m from receipts on the estate and £15.1m from capital resources centrally held by the council.

There were significant project cost overruns for East Dulwich Estate built up under the previous administration. By early 2009 the total cost was £30m: £5m over budget.

All but one resident of Badminton House had moved out by 2009. The final tenant moved in May 2011.

Selling Badminton House to recoup some of the cost of the massive over-run built up under the previous administration has therefore become unavoidable. That recouping will ensure that there is money to carry out much-needed improvement to our housing stock elsewhere in the borough now that the work on the rest of the East Dulwich Estate is largely complete.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

Thank you Madam Mayor I do, I would like to thank the cabinet member for his answer. Is the cabinet member seriously suggesting that tonight he is unable to influence or indeed reverse the decision for this council to sell off family sized homes due to 6,000 families in over-crowded accommodation?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank the member for his supplemental question.

I think that my answer made clear we are in a very unusual circumstance here with what has happened at the East Dulwich estate. To take people's minds back a very long way, this is part of the Southwark Estates Initiative that was established in 1998 and part of the principle of that is there was always an element of self financing within that overall scheme and people with particularly long memories might well remember that there were some bits of that, because it was not only East Dulwich estate, it was Coopers Road and also Wooddene and of course it was also at one point Tooley Street – and I think on that occasion I was siding with a lot of you over there and against this side over here, saying we should take Tooley Street out of that – but the consequence of all of that is as we have such a massive over-run on the costs of the work there that we do need to do something to try and recoup that cost. Now there are two choices about how we do that – we either do that by robbing money from everywhere else in the borough, which we are doing to some extent here, or we find some way of trying to recompense that by something else.

This seems to be the least worst option available to us. I think it is absolutely necessary and it is something we have spoken to the tenants' association on the estate about. I don't think any of us were happy about going there but I think that they all accept that this is a necessary step that we need to take in these circumstances. Yes it is a shame, it is 11 properties, but let's not over egg this about what we could do with 11 properties; but it is 11 properties that we would like to keep but I think we are unable to do that. So unfortunately that is the answer I have to give you today.

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Why are the cabinet abandoning the commitments made to the residents of the East Dulwich Estate that only 1 and 2 bed units would be sold off?

RESPONSE

As stated in my previous answer, this is regrettable but necessary to ensure that some of the massive over-run on the costs for the work can be recouped. As the cabinet report from May states, the emptying of Badminton House mainly took place under the previous administration.

Units larger than 2 bed are only being considered for disposal in Badminton House. General disposals have been limited to 1 and 2 bedroom properties on the rest of the estate. The case of Badminton House is exceptional in other ways. Although it contains family sized units, it is a relatively small block of 11 residential units,

situated in the corner of the estate. Also, when the contract was curtailed, Badminton House was the only block that had not been refurbished.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Yes I do Madam Mayor, thank you very much, thank you Councillor Livingstone for your answer.

Just to mention I don't think the tenants' association are that happy but you may want to go to talk to them again. Just wondering really, although you say 'let's not over egg it', we all deal with families in our surgeries who are absolutely desperate for 3 and 4 bedroom homes. The next time he gets one in his surgery will he tell them what he has done?

RESPONSE

Next time I get one of those cases in my surgery I will be doing my very best to try to help them and I think we have to look in the context of the overall housing situation in the borough. We are working hard to provide new homes all over the place, we are of course ensuring there is affordable housing, for example on the Heygate site which would not have happened if we had not taken control of that project. There will be far more new houses that provide units of the size you are talking about because of the intervention that we took on the Lend Lease deal on the Heygate than we are losing here. I am quite happy to stand on our record if you are happy to stand on yours.

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY

Is it true that the administration told residents of the East Dulwich Estate they would use commuted sums from Bankside to pay for any overrun on their estate?

RESPONSE

Our administration has made no such suggestion.

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 25 JANUARY 2012****QUESTION ON REPORT****ITEM 6.1: COUNCIL TAX BASE 2012/13****1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety please advise why the collection fund is expected to be in deficit (paragraph 25 of the report) when the projected final collection levels for all years since 2007/08 onwards (Appendix C) are equal to or in excess of collection rates used for tax setting (Appendix B)?

RESPONSE

The reason why the collection fund is expected to be in deficit when the final projected collection levels are equal to or in excess of collection rates used for council tax setting is due primarily to:

- a) Differences between the estimated collection fund balance made in January each year compared to the actual balance at year-end
- b) The basis on which income from council tax papers is recognised in the collection fund account.

Differences between the estimated and actual collection fund balance

By 15 January each year (or the next working day), the council is required by law to make an estimate of the collection fund surplus or deficit for that year. This estimate is used when setting the council tax base. The estimate for 2010/11 was a deficit of £87,260 and the actual deficit was £142,383. The difference between the actual and estimated deficit will be a contributory factor because the council would have needed to plan to collect an additional £55,123 to break-even.

Basis on which income from council tax papers is recognised in the collection fund account

For accounting purposes, income from council tax payers is the amount billed rather than the amount collected. Therefore, the balance on the collection fund is determined by the income due from council tax payers rather than the income collected. There are many reasons why the actual income due for the year will differ from the amount estimated when the council tax is set, but will be due mainly to changes in:

- the number of properties to be billed
- the number of exemptions and discounts awarded to council tax payers.

A reduction in the number of properties billed or an increase in exemptions or discounts awarded will both result in a reduction in income due to the collection fund.

The collection levels will have an indirect impact on the collection fund balance through changes to the level of impairment for council tax arrears. An improvement in collection performance over time is likely to reduce the level of impairment required and therefore reduce collection fund expenditure for the year. For 2011/12, income due from council tax payers is forecast to be approximately £1.9m less than budgeted and this is due largely to an increase in exemptions awarded against budget. The impact of this reduction in forecast income on the collection fund balance is mostly offset by the forecast increase in the level of impairment for council tax arrears being less than budgeted, which is due to the improved collection performance.

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