

<b>Item No.</b> 6.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 26 January 2011	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members' Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

## BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes.

Members are limited to one question at each meeting. One councillor from each community council will be able to submit a question on behalf of their community council.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question from community council councillors followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will be taken in the order of receipt and portfolio. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the last cabinet member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member if this is appropriate.

Responses to member's questions will be circulated on yellow paper around the council chamber on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other cabinet members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

**Note:** In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES**

Unlike the previous administration, this council recognises the importance of Camberwell to the borough. Can the leader confirm whether there will be a consultation exercise for a new library in Camberwell and what the time frame is likely to be? Can the leader also comment on the response from Transport for London (TFL) on re-modelling Camberwell town centre?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Please can you give a summary of the responses from the public budget consultation?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON**

In light of local misgivings expressed about the proposal to relocate to Camberwell Green the building currently housing the “One Stop Shop” and reopen it as the “Camberwell Pavilion” would the leader state whether the council will proceed with the proposals and if so indicate the cost of the move and what further consultation will take place?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS**

Do you think that the cabinet has kept to its election pledge to have the most open budget process in the council's history?

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK**

Will the leader reduce the level of pay of the chief executive by 5%, as suggested by the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL**

Does the leader of the council share my concern about suggestions that the existing very successful community councils are under threat? Does he agree with me that creating fewer larger community councils takes power away from local people and runs counter to the whole localism agenda?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

Given the current financial challenges facing the council does the leader intend to break promises that he has made to the electorate?

**8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

Does the leader think it was necessary to have 8 community wardens in addition to security staff for the cabinet meeting on 21 December 2010?

**9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Can the leader provide an update on the two visits that he has made to Grant Shapps?

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY**

Will the leader be using reserves and the contingency set aside by the previous administration in order to prevent cuts to front line services?

**11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

We are all very concerned that the previous administration accounts relating to the decent homes investment programme highlighted woeful strategic administrative weaknesses coupled with political sleight of hand. Can the leader confirm by ward and how much was spent between years 2006 to 2010 by the previous administration?

**12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

As quoted in question 17 at the last council assembly, can the leader tell me the location of additional CCTV cameras he has installed, not including the link up with Transport for London (TfL) which was agreed with TfL under the last administration?

**13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL**

Does the leader believe that the Conservative/Liberal Democrat government's decision to scrap the Education Maintenance Allowance (EMA) will have an effect on social mobility in Southwark?

**14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON**

What will the leader do to support the development of 'community plans' set out in the Localism Bill and maximise these opportunities for local residents?

**15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

Does the leader believe residents of Southwark value community councils?

**16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Does the leader agree that increased use of the River Thames could make a significant contribution to improving the travel services available to many residents of Southwark and has he pressed the Mayor and Transport for London to treat the river-bus service as public transport, rather than a tourist facility?

**17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

Please will the leader provide attendance for Southwark citizens at all council assembly meetings and all of the community council meetings in Southwark since 01 May 2006? Please can he provide a breakdown by community council?

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES (BOROUGH AND BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Would the cabinet member for environment support a bid for Borough High Street for LIP funding in 2012/13, as both an important strategic road and as an identified local priority by residents and ward councillors for improvements?

**19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK (ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Can the cabinet member for children's services advise how many pupils living in the Rotherhithe Community Council area are having to travel to secondary schools outside the Rotherhithe area due to acute shortage of secondary school places in the north of the borough? How many of these need to travel outside the borough?

**20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU (BERMONDSEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Please will the cabinet member for resources please provide the number of people who have visited the Bermondsey One Stop Shop since it was opened? Please can he provide a breakdown by year?

**21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Please can the cabinet member for children's services please inform me how many primary school applications for Southwark schools have been received from Dulwich residents, which schools she would expect to have bulge classes and what percentage of applicants she anticipates to have their 1st or 2nd choices?

**22. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL**

Has the cabinet member considered evidence given on free school meals by an expert panel to children's services scrutiny sub-committee on 16 November 2010 for the pilot?

**23. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Please can the cabinet member provide the number of children who are currently eligible for free school meals for each of the following schools:

- a) Dulwich Church of England Infant School
- b) Oliver Goldsmith Primary School
- c) Southwark Park Primary School

Please can she provide what percentage of the total population of each school this equates to?

**24. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

How many young people have a) visited and b) are members of Brandon Library?

**25. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK**

Does the cabinet member think that stigma is an issue in the uptake of free school meals in primary schools?

**26. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

Please will the cabinet member list all the primary schools that require capital investment in their kitchens to provide universal free school meals? If she is unable to provide a complete list, please can she provide a list of schools that she knows require capital investment?

**27. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**

Will the cabinet member ensure that she will not make any cuts to the youth service in order to fund universal free school meals?

**28. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

What will the cabinet member do to ensure that every meal eaten by primary school children outside school are healthy and nutritious?

**29. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON**

How will the cabinet member measure the success of her teenage pregnancy strategy?

**30. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

Following the abolition of the previous government's shameful policy on detaining children in asylum centres, would the cabinet member congratulate the coalition government and further would she confirm how many of our residents are affected locally in Southwark?

**31. QUESTION TO CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS**

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the progress made to bring in free healthy school meals and any early findings from the pilot schemes that are now underway?

**32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

Southwark winters appear to be trending towards colder more extreme weather - so far a very snowy third winter in a row. Recently stocks ran very low and we witnessed people being sent out litter picking in the snow due to running out of salt. Does the cabinet member agree with me that 1,000 tonnes of salt in stock at the winter start no longer seems adequate and would he please consider a proper salt barn that can hold more salt in ideal condition rather than in an open yard and hold sufficient salt such that side roads and pavements can be salted during snowy periods?

**33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

The council's travel plan prioritises pedestrians and public transport over car use. Do you therefore agree that pavements, particularly bus stops, should be gritted during snowy/icy periods in response to residents' requests to grit pavements to reduce risk of injuries caused by slips and falls?

**34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON**

Please will the cabinet member provide an update on the MUSCo?

**35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK**

Why are commuters allowed to use Southwark Park as a free car park while local residents around the corner have to pay to park outside their homes?

**36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK-HILTON**

How many trees have died over the past three years due to salt damage from gritting exercises, how much have the replacement costs been, and what is being done to make contractors and the public aware of the costs incurred by the unfortunate application of salted grit in tree pits on the pavements during inclement weather conditions?

**37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Would the cabinet member for the environment care to advise what response has been issued, or is being prepared, to the Civil Aviation Authority's current consultation entitled "Future Airspace Strategy"?

**38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

Could the cabinet member provide leaf collection amounts for the years 2008/09, 2009/10, 2010/11?

**39. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY**

Can the cabinet member update council assembly on plans to increase the number of intelligent speed adaptors (ISAs) used on the council fleet?

**40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD**

Has the cabinet member made any requests for the extension of the Mayor's cycle hire scheme into new parts of our borough?

**41. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

How has the car club scheme contributed to reduced car usage in the borough and how well is the scheme used locally?

**42. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL**

Please can the cabinet member tell us how the newly formed housing department plans to make changes to improve the repairs and maintenance department to ensure that where possible we have a improved quality and response times for repairs?

**43. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON**

Can the cabinet member outline how he has worked to undo the legacy of the previous administration and what steps he is taking to make sure that every council home is warm, safe and dry?

**44. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND**

The government has broken its election pledge of automatic jail terms for criminals caught carrying knives. What message does this send to the small minority of people in Southwark who think it is acceptable to carry a knife?

**45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA**

Concerns have been expressed for the future of adult learning in Southwark by some users due to changes in funding and rules through the creation of the Skills Funding Agency, the existing funder. What steps is the cabinet member taking to ensure Southwark continues to provide sustainable learning opportunities for residents in Southwark?

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

What will the effects of the budget settlement be on culture and arts in Southwark?

**47. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO**

How will the cabinet member make the monthly list of expenditure over £500 more user friendly for members of the public? Will he ensure that it is made clear exactly what each item was spent on?

**48. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE AND RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS**

Where does Southwark rank in terms of cuts to its formula grant compared to other London boroughs?

**49. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

What work has the council done with Thames Water to find an alternative site for the sewage tunnel?