

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 1 DECEMBER 2010

URGENT QUESTION

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

Does the leader believe in the local delivery of local services?

RESPONSE

We believe in services being accessible to all who need them. The challenge we are facing is a government who are determined to cut deeply and cut as quickly as they can. In this context local delivery must be balanced with affordability so that we are able to ensure the fairest possible future for all Southwark residents.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you to the leader for his answer, I am sure he knows I am very troubled about the decision about town halls and one stop shops and I am concerned that this administration may be using government cuts as an excuse to centralise services. I just would be grateful if he could tell me where Bermondsey and Rotherhithe residents are meant to go for services?

RESPONSE

Well there are significant parts of the borough that are not served by one stop shops at all at the present, so Bermondsey and Rotherhithe residents have benefited from that provision for some time over some residents of the borough. At the moment we have not finalised plans as to where Bermondsey and Rotherhithe residents will have to go, there has been some discussion with colleagues about some possible facility at Canada Water Library and that is something which we may be able to roll out in due course. Because I remind her about the Bermondsey one stop shop – that that was a decision to sell that piece of land and that site which was a decision taken by her party when in administration before May of this year, so this is not a decision that we forced through as the new administration in this borough; it is something that she, I am afraid that she is going to have to take some sort of responsibility for.