

Item No. 4.1	Classification: Open	Date: 6 July 2011	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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.

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.

Notes:

1. The procedures on members questions are set out in council assembly procedure note 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. 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 NEIL COYLE

What are the leader's views on the calls to further delay the regeneration of Elephant and Castle shopping centre?

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

Does the leader agree that the community should be actively involved in managing local spaces and facilities?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

Has the leader had any parental feedback regarding the council's roll-out of free, healthy, school meals?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

Please can the leader provide the number of decisions which were called in for each year since the introduction of overview and scrutiny?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES

Does the leader believe the roll out of food waste recycling across the borough will help the council meet its pledge to double the borough's recycling rates?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Can the leader tell me whether he would consider extending the plans for harnessing power from SELCHP to estates in Surrey Docks ward?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY

How much have overview and scrutiny committee meetings to consider call-ins cost the council in the last year? (Please itemise by meeting).

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

To ask the leader, how many parking tickets have been issued by post at The Blue, Southwark Park Road in the last 12 months? How many of these were as a result of the use of surveillance cameras? Have any been challenged successfully?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND

Has the introduction of deputy cabinet members been beneficial to the work of the council?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

If we are waiting for the Democracy Commission report before any savings have been made to community councils, why were the number of regular community council meetings reduced to six for 2011/12?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN AHERN

Why does he think Labour was able to increase its majority in The Lane by-election?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

A decision was taken by the cabinet member for children's services to reduce council funding for teenage conceptions prevention by 54% in March 2011 because "allocations in previous years overanticipated levels of need and have been underspent by over £150,000." Does the leader think the excellent recommendations of the Teenage Pregnancy Commission require more funding than previous years? Does he think the good work of the commission will not be fully implemented because of this disproportionate cut?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Southwark is being forced to find £500,000 of savings to its library services budget because of the cuts from central government. A library review is promised. What is planned to ensure maximum involvement of residents in this review and that all possible options are considered so that closure is a last resort?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the leader please state the specific increase in unallocated reserves and contingency funds so far this year?

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

At the Southwark Pensioner's Parliament it was highlighted that the number of podiatrists at Guys and St Thomas Hospital has been reduced from 25 to 12 since the start of the financial year. Is this the first example of the Tory and Liberal Democrats' disastrous NHS reorganisation impacting upon NHS services in Southwark?

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Please can the leader give an update on the Southwark Park Athletics Track?

17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

How many hours a week did the deputy leader work outside his cabinet position in 2010/11? How many will he be working in 2011/12?

18. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK (ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Now we have confirmation of the exact amount of the New Homes Bonus, will the leader look again into keeping open the Pumphouse in Rotherhithe?

19. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER (BERMONDSEY COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the security works on the Four Square Estates be done any earlier?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK (BOROUGH & BANKSIDE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Please could the cabinet member give details of all council owned land in Borough and Bankside that has been sold since June 2007, and how much of that land was sold to provide affordable housing?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Peckham Community Council recently held a youth themed meeting entitled "Peckham's got Talent" celebrating the achievements of our young people. Could you outline the council's current programme for engaging young people/empowering them to take part in the decision making process about their services?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS (NUNHEAD AND PECKHAM RYE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Following traffic and road changes in the Pomeroy Street and Kender Road Triangle area, how is the cabinet member working with Transport for London and counterparts in Lewisham to review that the new schemes are successfully combating traffic congestion in this area?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND THE OLYMPICS FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Residents in Camberwell have waited a long time for Camberwell Baths to be fully refurbished. Can the cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and the Olympics confirm that the council will complete phase 2 refurbishment, including the gym, dayside changing facility and Warwick Hall, this year?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

There can be no doubt that the regeneration of the Elephant & Castle shopping centre is absolutely central to the transformation needed in the Walworth area. After 8 years of dither and delay from the Liberal Democrats, how will the cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy ensure that residents in Walworth see the change to the shopping centre which they have been calling for?

25. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Will he provide an update on Southwark's housing investment programme and revised housing strategy?

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

What were the criteria on the scheduling of the works programme to bring all homes to a warm, dry and safe standard?

27. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS

On 6 October 2010 Southwark News printed a letter from Councillor Al-Samerai, regarding the unfinished security works on the Four Squares Estate stating "The previous executive allocated £8 million for security works and at no point made a decision not to complete the work because of overspend." Since then, Southwark's housing and community safety scrutiny sub-committee has investigated the unfinished works and concluded: "No formal decision was ever made by the previous Executive to allocate money specifically to the Four Squares Security Works" and "No formal decision was ever made by the previous Executive

to allocate additional funds to the Four Squares security works following the overspend in phase 1 of the project." Is he surprised that Councillor Al-Samerai has made such potentially misleading comments in the local press in an apparent attempt to divert attention from the last administration's failure to monitor and direct decisions made by senior officers?

28. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROWENNA DAVIS

What impact will the Localism Bill – and especially the proposals regarding flexible tenancies – have on council and housing association tenants in Southwark in the future?

29. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

Will he provide an update on the restructuring of the housing department?

30. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA

Can the cabinet member for housing management provide an update on why 14,000 rent incorrect statements were issued to Southwark Council tenants?

31. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

Following Ed Milliband's speech on 11 June 2011, does the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management agree that people who are unemployed should not be given social housing? Will he be including this when he sets his own social tenure policy?

32. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

In view of the closure of the Long Lane Housing Office, can I have the cabinet member's reassurance that the proposed mobile housing office will be in place prior to its closure and how will he inform residents and councillors of Chaucer ward?

33. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Please can the cabinet member provide the number of estates that will receive warm, dry and safe works a) before 2014/15 and b) including and after 2014/15? Please can he provide a breakdown by community council area?

34. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

What is being done to tackle anti-social behaviour, including vandalism and even arson, in the communal areas of the Osprey Estate in Surrey Docks ward?

35. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Please can the cabinet member provide site specific details for all council homes sold in the last ten years, detailed by bed size and type of property? Please can he provide a breakdown by ward?

36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON

Can the cabinet member comment on the practice of accepting in-lieu payments from developers in place of affordable housing being built?

37. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

Now that Southwark is in charge of its own social tenure policy, can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management please outline his plans for consulting with local residents and tenants and residents associations?

38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management tell me whether district heating boilers and connecting ducts will be included in the five year housing investment programme?

39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

Please can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management please give an update on the progress of giving housing priority for ex-service men and women in Southwark?

40. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Will tenant management organisations be warm, dry and safe by 2014?

41. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

Please can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management confirm what date the works on the Manor Estate will commence?

42. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

Now that Southwark is free to determine its own social tenure policy, please will the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management confirm whether he will choose to give all new tenants life time tenancies?

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

How can people in my ward and the rest of the borough find out when they can expect decent homes work to be carried out on their estate or street?

44. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

What does the cabinet member for housing management make of reports in Southwark News that, under the government's new affordable rent model, council tenants on the Aylesbury would need a household income of £50,400 for a two bedroom council house?

45. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

Can he outline the council's efforts to prevent housing benefit fraud and to improve accountability and fairness in the system?

46. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

Can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management account for the sudden increase in parking enforcement activity on the Brandon Estate as of March this year?

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

Can the cabinet publish the total amount of public money spent on new signage on council estates in College ward since May last year?

48. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Can the cabinet member of equalities and community engagement provide an update on Southwark's transition fund, what was the publicised aim of the fund and how many voluntary organisations applied for the 1st round?

49. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

How many voluntary organisations were successful in applying for the transition fund, how many organisations appealed following an unsuccessful application and how many appeals were successful?

50. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

Can the cabinet member give clear assurance that no decisions have been taken regarding the savings required in the community council budgets and that the Democracy Commission will investigate all possible options for making the £344,000 savings and ensure that the views of members, community councils and local residents are heard?

51. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

What role has and will be taken by the council's 'critical friend' in responding to cuts to voluntary sector funding?

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

How can we ensure that Black History Month is appropriately celebrated in Southwark?

53. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

Can the cabinet member state how much the Holmhurst Day Centre is valued by our property department and how much a sale of the property could be expected to release?

Please can she provide a breakdown of operating and maintenance costs for the grounds and property?

54. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

Could the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling please provide the amount spent by the council on highways and pavements major works since May 2006 for each ward, broken down by funding source?

55. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

What is the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling doing to stop the rat running that occurs through the estates from Jamaica Road through the estates of Riverside and Rotherhithe?

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

What is the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling's intentions for the future of the street leader scheme?

57. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Would the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling please set out:

(a) the current policy on assessing the merits of, and deciding upon, the provision of short-term free parking bays to assist shoppers and traders in shopping parades in areas within controlled parking zones, with particular reference to flexibility with regard to the time permitted for free parking; and

(b) any proposals he may have for improving and/or localising decision-making in this regard?

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

Would the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling please explain the circumstances, if any, in which the council will designate a "disabled" bay for a specific vehicle, with particular reference to bays in controlled parking zones?