

**SOUTHWARK COUNCIL**

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

**(ORDINARY MEETING)**

**WEDNESDAY 12 OCTOBER 2011**

**URGENT QUESTION**

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

Will the leader repeat the comments which he made about community groups at the overview and scrutiny committee on Monday evening, and does he think his comments apply to the Latin American Recognition Campaign, the Black Parents Forum, the Peckham Voluntary Sector Forum, the Norwegian Church, the Peckham Shed and the Bermondsey Street Area Partnership?

**RESPONSE**

I am unsure of the comments Councillor Al-Samerai is referring to. My interview with the overview and scrutiny committee was extensive and far-reaching and included discussion of many subjects including localism. If she is implying that anything which I said was critical of Southwark's voluntary sector or community groups then she is utterly mistaken.

This administration values all the work of our voluntary sector particularly at these times when Liberal Democrat/Conservative government cuts are making it increasingly difficult to undertake that work.