

## APPENDIX A

**Councillor Barrie Hargrove**  
**Cabinet Member for Transport,**  
**Environment and Recycling**

Labour Member  
for Peckham Ward

**Date:** 22 December 2011

**Ref:** BH/20111122

Dear Colleague,

### **Council Assembly 25 January 2012 – Themed Debate on Environment**

Looking after and enhancing our environment is not an optional extra to be pursued only when times are good. A good quality local environment and access to open green space are essential for a healthy happy life for us and our families. Ensuring the future health of the planet is our duty to future generations.

The financial pressure that the council continues to be under, due to the unprecedented cuts in government funding presents new challenges for continually going further in enhancing the local environment and minimising our impact on a global level. And at times of financial pressure it is all too easy to talk green, whilst being neglectful of green issues in practice. But in spite of the challenges, this council is prioritising environmental issues; we are not just talking a good game we are following through by delivering.

In just the last eighteen months we have piloted and are now rolling out food waste recycling, and we have seen considerable increases in recycling rates where it has been introduced. We have already and are committed to protecting green spaces and cutting our carbon footprint as an organisation. We have managed to retain Cleaner, Greener, Safer capital budgets and will in this year's budget introduce a new revenue budget for community councils as well.

But we recognise that there is still more that needs to be done, and as the cuts continue to bite, finding new ways to enhance our environment will be increasingly difficult.

We would therefore welcome the views of members from across the chamber on the following four questions, to help direct the work of the cabinet and council in the future:

- How the council can promote energy efficiency, not just in buildings owned by the council, but in all properties?
- How the council can further encourage local residents to recycle?
- How the council can encourage more sustainable travel, especially cycling and walking?
- Given the huge reductions in the council's budget this year and in the coming years, how the council can further protect the public realm, Southwark's parks and green spaces by encouraging people to respect and care for their local environment?

Members from all sides of the political divide recognise that caring for our local and global environment goes beyond party politics. I hope that it is in this spirit, of cross-party working and measured consideration that we will be able to find solutions together in this upcoming themed debate.

Yours faithfully,

**COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE**  
**CABINET MEMBER for TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**