

<b>Item No.</b> 5.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 27 November 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members' Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## **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 members' 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 rule 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.
3. A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2).

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

In the light of the recent report in "Southwark News" of the leader's views on pension fund investment, would the leader advise how many complaints have been received to date on the investment policy from our pension scheme members; and would he set out his view on whether the cost of any survey of scheme members should be met from the pension fund or from the general fund?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE**

What response has the leader of the council had from the House of Commons Standards Committee on his complaint against Simon Hughes for breaches of the Parliamentary Code of Conduct?

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

What steps are the council taking to regenerate and revitalise the Old Kent Road?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU**

Can the leader of the council confirm the live date for the SELCHP energy waste facilitator and explain the benefits this project will have for residents in Southwark?

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

How much has the council so far spent on legal fees in the pursuit of its appeal against the Information Commissioner's Office ruling that it must publish viability information for the Heygate Estate redevelopment? How much has it budgeted for its total spend on legal fees associated with the appeal? What resources [financial, human or other] has the project developer contributed toward this legal challenge?

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

Can the leader of the council confirm what action is being taken to reduce the number of payday lenders opening on our high streets?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

What are the council's long-term plans for South Dock Marina and the boatyard?

**8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY**

Can the Leader of the Council confirm whether Lib Dem claims that fly tipping has tripled are true? Can the Leader assure me on the Council's performance on fly-tipping?

**9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

What is the leader's view on investing in residential property via the council's pension fund, with the returns from rent or sales being put back into the pension pot? Will he ask the council to look into such a policy?

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS**

How is Southwark Council promoting equality and opportunity within its housing service?

**11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK**

Please give an update on the trial scheme to prevent rat running through residential streets to the north of Jamaica Road? What are the Leader's views on implementing a further series of one way systems in the area around Cathay Street to reduce rat running in residential areas?

**12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON**

Can the leader of the council update me on the likely budget settlement from government and what impact this is likely to have on services in Southwark?

**13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

What percentage of invoices to the council were paid within the best practice target of 10 days in 2012/13? What is the average number of days the council takes to pay an invoice in 2012/13? Will the leader commit to pay invoices within 10 days in order to support businesses?

**14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Why is there no dedicated telephone line which handles calls from older people to the council's adult social care department?

**15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Under the provisions of the Localism Act an application was submitted, on 7 July 2013, to the council to establish a neighbourhood forum in the Rotherhithe and Surrey Docks neighbourhood area. The regulations require the council to carry out a public consultation on the application. As all the requirements of the legislation have been met, why has this not been done?

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

Further to the answer given at October's council assembly on take up of free early education provision, how many free early learning outreach officers (FTE) will be employed by the council? What tasks will they undertake in order to assist parents to take up their free entitlements? When will those officers be in place?

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

Of the total number of troubled families, how many has Southwark identified to date? How many have been turned around, broken down by each of the outcomes specified by government? How much funding has the council received from the government for troubled families?

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

What is the average cost of school uniforms in Southwark? What is the range of cost? What does the council do to monitor the cost?

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

How many staff are employed in the council's family information service? What targets exist to monitor success rates in getting parents to take up the government's free early education offer?

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

How many Southwark looked after children are placed with foster parents outside the borough? Of those outside the borough, how many are placed further than 35 miles away from central London?

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

How many parents have applied for a statement of special educational needs for their children in each of the last three years? Of these applicants, how many children have been refused a statement in each year? How many parents have had a statement changed in each year?

**22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

What success has the 'Find 40 Families' scheme had in the borough?

**23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL**

What steps is the council taking to enhance and better recognise the role of school governors in the borough?

**24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

Can the cabinet member confirm what proportion of young people in Southwark are staying on in education or training post 16 years old and how this compares to the London and national average?

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROWENNA DAVIS**

Can the cabinet member reassure me that this administration will not follow the lead of the Liberal Democrats and restrict free school meals to the youngest children?

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA**

Can the cabinet member update me on the work the council has done to clear up after the recent storm?

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

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the cycling to school partnership in Dulwich and Herne Hill?

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES**

Can the cabinet member confirm what actions have been taken by the council to ensure the borough is prepared for any poor weather conditions, including snow, this winter?

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

How far have plans progressed to secure heritage lottery funding for Burgess Park?

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

Considering the 2008 Transport Research Laboratories research "The effectiveness of speed indicator devices on reducing speeds in London" found that speed indication devices on average reduce traffic speeds by 1.4mph and their 2000 report "the effects of drivers' speed on the frequency of road accidents" concluded that 1mph reduction in average speed reduced crashes by 5.6%, why have officers banned speed indication devices, blocking their deployment?

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

Please provide a detailed breakdown of the council's capital and revenue spending on cycling in each of the last three financial years (2011/12; 2012/13 and 2013/14 to date)?

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

How many streetlights are currently broken in Southwark? How many of these have been broken for more than 3 months? What is the average time to fix a broken street light?

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

Now that the Barbara Hepworth replacement sculpture has been awarded for Dulwich Park, please provide a price comparison of all four artworks shortlisted for

the project. How much insurance money remains left over from the previous statue, and what will this money be used for?

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

When will the signage be amended on Kipling Street? Will the cabinet member consider not issuing any more fines until the signage has been amended and will he consider annulling the fines already issued?

**35. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS**

Can the cabinet member give an update on the progress of the new annual tenancy checks?

**36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

Can the cabinet member outline the detail of the new lettings policy?

**37. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN**

Can the cabinet member list the new measures introduced to assist leaseholders?

**38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN AHERN**

Can the cabinet member inform the assembly of how many illegal sub-lets have been identified and recovered?

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

What is the council's policy on repairs to council homes affected by leaks from neighbouring leasehold properties? As the landlord, what specific steps does the council take to hold the leaseholder responsible for damages to its properties? Will the cabinet member commit to repair all ceilings damaged by leaks from neighbouring leasehold properties?

**40. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK**

How many applications have been made for arbitration in each of the last three years (2011/12; 2012/13 and 2013/14)? Of those cases heard by arbitration, what number of cases failed to receive a written judgement within 30 days of the hearing? What is the longest length of time a case has remained open before arbitration in each of the last three years?

**41. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

Of the 7,330 leaseholders who were asked to pay additional service charges in the latest rebalancing, what was the largest amount invoiced? Of the 4,815 leaseholders who received a credit note, what was the largest amount refunded? What was the largest difference between the estimated service charge and final service charge?

**42. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

What incidents of data loss or other data breaches has the council reported to the Information Commissioner's Office in the past two years? For each case, please give a description of the data affected including how many records were affected.

**43. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY**

How many a) formal disciplinary notices and b) dismissals have been issued to council staff in the past 12 months for misuse of social media and internet and for what reason in each case?

**44. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

How much has the council spent on bailiffs in each of the last three financial years (2011/12; 2012/13 and 2013/14 to date)? How many times have bailiffs been used in each of these years (broken down by reason for intervention)?

**45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

Of the total, what number of freedom of information (FOI) requests does the council issue a final response to within the statutory time limit of 20 working days? For what percentage of responses was an extension period requested? How many complaints has the council received about its handling of FOI requests in each of the last three years?

**46. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL**

Following the success of the recent awards presentation at Canada Water library for the Olympic programmes, what are the council's plans for 2014 to ensure we sustain our Olympic legacy?

**47. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBO BLANGO**

How many planning applications have been a) approved and b) refused by the council's three planning committees since 1 January 2012, broken down by ward and type of application?