

Item No. 2.1	Classification: Open	Date: 26 February 2014	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Questions on report – Policy and Resources Strategy 2014/15 to 2016/17 Revenue Budget	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

How many times did Southwark Council raise council tax between 2002 and 2010?
How does this compare with 2010 – 2014?

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS

How much additional government funding was provided to Southwark Council under the Liberal Democrat led administration from 2002 – 2010? How does this compare with the current administration since 2010?

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Following the shameful behaviour of Liberal Democrat ward councillors in failing to include funding for the Rotherhithe festival in the Community Council Fund proposals to the Bermondsey and Rotherhite Community Council, is there any resource for rescuing this festival for local residents?

4. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

At the meeting in January, council assembly agreed to the Liberal Democrat proposal of 'funding additional childcare hours on top of those already offered by the government', but no resources have been allocated to childcare in Labour's budget proposals. Do Labour councillors intend to honour their commitment to Southwark's families?

5. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

The medium term resource strategy (MTRS) mentions the housing stock as one of the council's key assets, but doesn't provide details of the current state of this asset group. Will the cabinet member provide an update on the current level of its housing stock assets?

6. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

The MTRS discusses the importance of holding reserves and balances. What will be the total value of the council's usable reserves at the end of the 2013/14 financial year?

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

The MTRS states that the council will 'use the New Homes Bonus to incentivise house building by returning the benefits of growth to the community, generally through capital projects'. How will the council pursue this policy in 2014/15?

8. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

The MTRS states that the council will 'increase all fees and charges capped by statute to the maximum level the cap allows'. Would the cabinet member consider aiming instead to achieve London-average levels of fees and charges, in order to help support cash-strapped local residents?

9. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

The MTRS states that the council aims to 'manage rent reviews and lease renewals to maximise revenue income'. How will this ensure the best community value from Southwark properties?

10. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

A key part of managing the council's housing stock assets effectively is determining which properties to sell and which to maintain, and the council currently sets the threshold at which council homes will be considered for sale at £300,000. This has led to a sharp fall in council properties in my ward, and across the whole of the north of the borough, in favour of expensive private flats that local people could never dream of being able to afford. Will the council raise this threshold to £500,000 and stop its council home sell-off?

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

What are the total savings the council has made from freezing performance-related pay over the last three years? Where does this saving appear in the budget?