

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

**(ORDINARY MEETING)**

**WEDNESDAY 16 MARCH 2016**

**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK**

What does the leader believe is the likely impact of the London Fire Brigade Commissioner's proposal to remove a fire engine from Old Kent Road Fire Station?

**RESPONSE**

We are very concerned about the London Fire Brigade (LFB) Commissioner's proposals to remove a fire engine from Old Kent Road Fire Station, which could have a detrimental effect on the fire brigade's ability to prevent and fight fires in our borough.

Southwark has already faced fire service reductions in recent years, including the closure of Southwark Fire Station in 2014, which resulted in a loss of 33% of fire engines in the borough. Since the station closure, fire crews are missing their own response time targets in a number of wards in the borough, and we fear that this trend will worsen with further cuts. If the proposal to remove a fire engine from Old Kent Road goes ahead, Southwark will have lost 50% of fire engines in the borough overall since January 2014.

The proposal, if implemented in its current form, would result in:

- A reduction of front line fire brigade in the borough
- Increased LFB attendance times to emergency incidents
- Reduced ability for the LFB to effectively deliver proactive fire prevention work carried out within the borough.

We recognise and acknowledge the budget challenges LFB is facing, but we strongly believe that the safety of our local residents far outweighs any costs saved. We have urged the LFB and Mayor of London to reconsider their proposals and engage with local councils further to find an alternative way forward.

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

Why is the Seven Islands site included in the current round of Southwark Regeneration in Partnership Programme schemes when there is an on-going public consultation on the new leisure centre's location?

**RESPONSE**

The council is currently consulting on a preferred site for a new Canada Water Leisure Centre. The preferred site (known as plot 6) is part of a large site proposed as a mixed use town centre which comprises the Canada Water Shopping Centre, Harmsworth Quay's Print Works and Mast Leisure site.

The cabinet is likely to consider a report on whether to proceed with this site as the location of a new Leisure Centre in summer 2016. If the cabinet agrees to proceed with the site, then the existing Seven Islands Leisure Centre would be closed when the

new centre opens to the public. In the eventuality that the Leisure Centre remains where it is, the site would fall out of the Southwark Partnership Regeneration Programme (SRPP) programme, so we are not prejudging the decision this summer.

The SRPP is currently progressing through procurement, development partner will be selected later in 2016 to provide much needed new council homes over a five to six year programme. In a time of what is recognised as the greatest housing crisis since the post war period, the council is meeting this challenge head on. The SRPP programme will provide over 1,000 new homes many of which will be council at social rent levels. Speed of delivery is important and therefore a framework is being established to allow for the quick and efficient redevelopment of Seven Islands in the eventuality that it becomes surplus.

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE LYONS**

Given the drive to encourage more people to use public transport (especially from the south of the borough where public transport links are poorer than in the north) what conversations has he and council officers had in the last six months with rail companies with regard to improving access to North Dulwich station?

**RESPONSE**

In the last six months officers have met and discussed this issue with Govia Thameslink Railway (Southern) station access at North Dulwich and attended a general stakeholder event.

Govia Thameslink Railway have advised officers that at present there are no plans in the immediate/medium term future for access improvements (lift access to/from the platforms) at North Dulwich station. The advice we have received is that unfortunately the station does not meet the government's criteria for funding, because the station represents a relatively low priority based on footfall when benchmarked against other stations on a nationwide basis for investment purposes.

Southwark Council supports proposals for Transport for London (TfL) to run all rail services in South East London in order to have a properly integrated transport system. The recent publication of 'A new approach to rail passenger services in London and the South East' proposes a partnership between the Department for Transport and TfL to specify and manage rail services in London and the South East. The partnership sets out to improving standards of customer services and through this council is pressing for prioritisation and investment in Southwark stations.

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR OCTAVIA LAMB**

Can the leader confirm how many children in Southwark will benefit from free books through the Dolly Parton Imagination Library?

**RESPONSE**

The Imagination Library is a fantastic new scheme supported by the Dollywood Foundation and Southwark based business DialAFlight and is available to all children born in Southwark between 1 December 2015 and 31 December 2016. Each of these children will be eligible for a free book every month from birth until their fifth birthday. Approximately 5,000 children are expected to benefit from the free books.

This is a wonderful investment in our children and families, and with our libraries and great local schools, will help give our children the best start in life.

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN**

Can the leader provide more detail on the proposed emissions-based charges for parking permits and the timetable for implementation?

**RESPONSE**

The proposal for emissions based charges is in the budget for 2017/18. Officers are currently in the early part of a feasibility study researching charging for parking permits by emissions. This study will lead to a report outlining those results and making a proposal in summer 2016 before consultation is undertaken.

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

Can the leader explain how the council is ensuring residents in Southwark are aware of the detrimental impact the government's proposals in the Housing and Planning Bill could have on housing services?

**RESPONSE**

We are concerned about the significant detrimental effect that the Government's Housing and Planning Bill will have on council tenants in Southwark, so we want to ensure that all our tenants are aware of the changes and the potential impact on their lives.

The council has provided area housing forums with detailed briefings on the Housing and Planning Bill. Discussions on the bill have also taken place at Tenant Council and the Future Steering Board, the group of residents and homeowners set up to support the delivery of new council homes.

The council has written to every council tenant in the borough to warn about the key changes in the Housing and Planning, and Welfare Reform and Work Bills, outlining the impact these changes will have on housing services. This includes the introduction of 'Pay to Stay' for what the government refer to as 'high income' council tenants, the ending of lifetime tenancies for new tenants, and the sale of high value council homes.

Some of the impacts of the Housing and Planning Bill are as yet unclear as the bill is currently being debated in Parliament, and many of the details will be by way of regulations which have not yet been published by the Department for Communities and Local Government. Residents will be kept informed of the details of the government's housing policies and how they affect them as they become available through Southwark Life Housing News Magazine and on the council's website.

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

How many tall buildings does the leader believe Southwark can accommodate?

**RESPONSE**

The councillor's question asks how many tall buildings Southwark can accommodate, whereas our focus is on how many it should accommodate. The New Southwark Plan will have an updated, refined, criteria-based policy for the location of tall buildings. While the revised policy may lead to more tall buildings in more areas of the borough, it is also intended to ensure that the maximum potential benefits of tall buildings are

obtained and that they are appropriately located and designed to the highest standards.

The Mayor's London Plan sets a target for Southwark to deliver 2,736 new homes per year. While we have questioned this target and feel it is not attainable, we are committed to tackling the housing crisis on all fronts, including increasing the supply of new homes. This will require building at higher densities to take advantage of accessible locations in central and inner London to deliver sustainable development. Once again, the New Southwark Plan will ensure the quality and sustainability of these developments. Many, but not all, of these higher density developments will include tall buildings (using the simple definition of a tall building being one over 30 metres or 10 storeys in height). These buildings will contribute to the delivery of new homes, jobs, community infrastructure including parks and public realm and the overall success of the borough.

For example, our current thinking is that the Old Kent Road Opportunity Area could, with the coming of the Bakerloo Line, become part of central London with high quality neighbourhoods, growth in employment and new town centres. This could lead to a doubling of the number of homes in the area from 20,000 to 40,000, but designed in such a way that a high quality, healthy, sustainable collection of neighbourhoods benefits not only the new population moving in but the existing population of the wider area. This is likely to include new clusters of tall buildings designed to the highest standards.

#### **8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON**

Can the leader explain how the new £2 million regeneration fund for shopping parades will be used to support local businesses and encourage people to shop locally?

#### **RESPONSE**

The new £2 million regeneration fund for shopping parades continues the council's commitment to support local businesses, encourage people to shop locally and ensure that our high streets maintain their vibrancy. It follows on from the original council commitment of £4.5 million in the Improving Local Retail Environments programme.

The main focus for this next phase of shopping parade and shop front improvement is focused on supporting investment in and around the council's strategic regeneration areas and town centres. This will include shopping parades on the cusp or fringes of the council's regeneration programme that provide, or could with support provide valued services for local communities but might not directly benefit from regeneration funded initiatives and may struggle in competition with new or revitalised shopping areas and town centres.

The key desired outcomes of the programmes are:

- To support and spread the uplift and investment in strategic regeneration areas and on the fringes of town centres within Southwark
- To improve local business environments that would otherwise be unlikely to receive investment
- To retain existing businesses
- To attract new businesses to vacant premises
- To create and champion incubator and pop up uses in our high streets
- To increase the number of local employment opportunities

- To engage local businesses and traders (owners and occupiers of premises) in the scheme, resulting in local 'ownership'
- To encourage the establishment and capacity of local business networks
- To increase commercial activity
- To increase public safety and reduce fear of crime
- To improve the provision of local amenities (i.e. a broad range of shops and services to meet the needs of local communities) for existing new and emerging communities.

Each site selected to go forward for implementation will be assessed for the suitability of a series of possible interventions. The tool box of interventions could include:

- Business Support
- Branding and Marketing
- Shopping Frontages
- Public realm and accessibility improvements
- Conservation Works
- Art and Events.

Not all elements will be offered to each site; there will be a bespoke programme for each site based on the business and site conditions, the neighbourhood, and site suitability. The exact form of improvements will be up to the shop keepers to determine along with local ward members and shoppers. The parades included are:

- Harper Road (Chaucer) - Initial contact has been made with traders.
- East Street (East Walworth/Faraday) – this is part of a linked programme of works with GLA funded project to improve the market. Consultation is currently being undertaken.
- Walworth Road (Faraday/Newington) – linked to East Street project above.
- Tower Bridge Road (Chaucer/Grange) – part of the GLA New Homes Bonus funded programme.
- Lower Road (Rotherhithe/Surrey Docks) – linked to the TFL funded Lower Road gyratory improvements and part of the GLA New Homes Bonus funded programme.
- Rye Lane (The Lane) – linked to the Townscape Heritage Initiative. Once the THI has started to deliver improvements this scheme will be brought forward to complement it to premises to the south of the station.
- Camberwell New Road (Camberwell Green) – link to the proposed TFL funded town centre improvements.

## 9. **QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON**

How many complaints have there been from leaseholders and what have leaseholder satisfaction rates been in each of the past five financial years?

### **RESPONSE**

#### **Complaints**

Complaints are not logged according to tenure type, so the figures in the table below are for complaints about leaseholder specific services e.g. service charges, sales and acquisitions. The recording of complaints has been reviewed in recent years so that all complaints are properly recorded.

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016 (to date)
<b>Complaints received</b>	<b>81</b>	<b>85</b>	<b>183</b>	<b>249</b>	<b>231</b>

### Satisfaction

The results in the table below are in response to the question: “**How satisfied are you with the overall service provided by Southwark Housing Services**” included in the periodic tenants and residents survey.

No survey was performed in 2011/2012 or 2015/2016.

	2011/2012	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	2015/2016
<b>Leaseholder satisfaction with landlord services</b>	-	29%	28%	27%	-

The establishment of the new My Southwark Homeowners agency seeks to provide greater transparency in leaseholder matters and give a voice to homeowners. It is hoped that this will result in greater satisfaction among the council's homeowner population.

#### 10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Can the leader give an update on community consultation on the proposals for Walworth Town Hall?

### RESPONSE

The estimated cost of the refurbishment of Walworth Town Hall has increased to £36 million. At a time when there is mounting pressure on the council's budgets it has become more important than ever to ensure we are getting value for money on the projects we fund. We have therefore decided to consult the public on three general options for taking forward this project which are as follows:

1. Work with developers to find an alternative building at Elephant and Castle to house the services we want to deliver and identify a partner who can lease the building from us and invest in the historic fabric of the building.
2. Work with Historic England to explore whether there is an acceptable design solution that is focused on maintaining the facades of this important group of buildings, allowing for a more simple and cost effective internal layout. Such a solution would be better able to meet the council's requirements for the provision of public services in the 21st century; however it is likely to require the removal of many historically important internal features such as staircases and chimney breasts.
3. If public opinion is that we stay committed to the original plan to rebuild within the confines of the original structure and interior then the project will have to be put on hold until we know where the extra funding is coming from. There remains a cost to keep the structure maintained in the meantime.

Online consultation via the link below on these options is now underway and it will remain open until the 31 March.

<https://consultations.southwark.gov.uk/planning-and-regeneration/walworth-town-hall-redevelopment-options>

Over 350 letters regarding the consultation have been sent to local groups and stakeholders. A meeting to discuss the options with the Walworth Society is being arranged. Any other groups who wish to arrange a meeting to discuss the options should e-mail can do so by emailing [regen.info@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:regen.info@southwark.gov.uk)

The council will consider all the responses it receives before deciding how to take forward the project later in the year.

**11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

What action has been taken by the administration in response to the motion passed by council assembly in January 2015 calling for additional powers for local authorities to increase the empty homes premium and reduce the qualifying period?

**RESPONSE**

Following the motion passed by council assembly in January 2015, the administration reviewed council tax exemptions on empty homes, in order to increase the number of existing empty homes in the borough that are charged council tax.

From 1 April 2016 we no longer grant a discount for empty and unfurnished properties.

Southwark was one of the first local authorities to use new powers to charge additional council tax for second and long-term empty homes. The council charges 150% council tax for homes which are empty for more than 2 years, which is the maximum allowed by legislation. There is currently no local discretion or power to change the time period or the amount of the premium; however we have called for a reduction in the qualifying period for charging the empty home premium from two years to one, and for the amount to be increased from 150% to 200% council tax.

This administration continues to make every representation that it can to both government and other organisations who can help tackle this situation. In particular, we look forward to the government introducing changes in its proposed legislation giving local authorities more discretion in dealing with this important issue for London.

**12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM**

What factors are currently taken into account by the council when deciding whether to dispose of a council home on the open market?

**RESPONSE**

The current voids disposal strategy was approved by cabinet report on 22 July 2014. The report sets out specific criteria that must be met in order for the council to consider disposal of certain void properties to help fund the housing investment programme.

The criteria set out in the report are as follows:

- Bedsit, 1 & 2 bed converted street flats above the ground floor, with a view to being able to sell the freehold interest of the house.

- Void properties valued over £500,000 (where properties are identified for disposal under the £500,000 value criterion, at least one of the other criteria should also apply).
- Listed residential properties.
- Properties deemed uneconomic to repair, following consideration of its value as a long term asset to the council and in parallel with available resources in the annual major voids repair budget.
- Properties with inappropriate layouts e.g. where the bathroom is off a bedroom and where changes to the layout are restricted or uneconomic.
- Flats in house with an already high level of leaseholders, and where sale would potentially allow the disposal of the freehold.
- Prefabricated bungalows.

**13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PARKS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

*Note: This question has been redirected to the cabinet member for environment and the public realm*

Can the cabinet member for public health, parks and leisure advise, what is the net loss of trees within the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community council area over the last five years. How many of those trees will be replaced and with what type or types of tree?

**RESPONSE**

564 trees were felled in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe over the last five years. The primary reason trees are felled in the borough is that they are dead, dying and dangerous - nearly three quarters of trees felled in the last two years were for this reason.

Year	No of trees felled	No of trees planted	Net loss
2011/2012	112	22	90
2012/2013	111	71	40
2013/2014	96	47	49
2014/2015	129	111	18
2015/2016	116	76	40
2016/2017 proposed planting		20	
Total	564	347	217

The total number trees in the area is 14,171. The new trees planted are of varied species with small, medium and large trees both native and non native covering a range of landscape attributes, as set out in the council's 2012 Tree Strategy.

**14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Would the leader of the council give an update on the position in Camberwell on improving safety for cyclists and pedestrians and how the council has been putting pressure on Transport for London (TfL) to see how that is achieved?



## RESPONSE

The council has recently received a letter from Transport for London where they were unable to support the council's preferred design for the main junction. The council is continuing to work with TfL on developing changes to the main junction which is part of the Transport for London Road Network (TLRN). A high level meeting is planned for mid-April to discuss the scheme.

In light of the above, the council has taken the decision to move forward with proposals on its own road network including the road safety improvements on Denmark Hill. A paper is going to Camberwell community council on 19 March 2016 setting out the outline designs for Denmark Hill and the Camberwell Pocket Places. Subject to statutory consultation these proposals will be implemented between July and November 2016.

15. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

The community council would like to ask how the council were working with the police and other statutory/community agencies to address crime and community safety issues in the Dulwich area?

## RESPONSE

The Crime and Disorder Act 1998 compels the council, the police and its statutory partners to work together to tackle crime and disorder. Resources are allocated using an intelligence based approach through monthly partnership tasking meetings, focusing on priorities rather than specific geographical locations.

The current focus in Dulwich is tackling residential burglary. The police and the council are working on a target hardening programme in the area, which has involved distributing SmartWater, (forensic marking system). By April 2016, approximately 5,000 properties will have received these kits. The local police and the council have been working in unison to communicate this initiative to residents through street signage, along with crime prevention advice provided by the joint enforcement teams (police and community wardens).

16. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PARKS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

*Note: This question has been redirected to the cabinet member for adult care and financial inclusion*

The community council would like to ask the council to provide an update on the provision available for people with learning difficulties and mental health issues including the support they provide to projects in the Peckham and Nunhead area?

## RESPONSE

### **Information, advice and guidance services**

The Wellbeing Hub is based at Peckham Employment Academy, as well as weekly pop-up sessions at the Nunhead GP Surgery. The wellbeing hub has been accessed by 150+ clients over the past nine months. They provide short-term support as well as information and signposting to an array of services.

Follow this link for the Wellbeing Hub directory - <http://www.together-uk.org/southwark-wellbeing-hub/the-directory/> for further details of specific services in Southwark

### **Befriending and peer support services**

Peckham Befrienders, is a befriending service to support people with mental health needs. Southwark peer support project based at the Maudsley Hospital, and Athena peer support covering both Peckham and Nunhead.

### **Day opportunities**

Palm Springs day service (Nunhead) caters for a variety of needs for people with learning disability and mental health needs and Queens Road Day Centre caters for people with profound and multiple disabilities (run by Camden Society).

### **Training and employment support**

Southwark Rehabilitation Association (SRA), which has social enterprises (cleaning and cafes) based in Peckham, Artichoke Place and at the Maudsley Hospital. The service supports their 'trainees' who have medium to high level needs to become ready for training, volunteering and employment opportunities in the borough.

### **Accommodation based services**

There are numerous accommodation based support services for mental health or learning disabilities, including:

- Southampton Way (SWAY) in Peckham – provided by Equinox. The service provides support for people who are working towards independence and are on a journey to recovery in the community.
- Hexagon is based at Kirkwood Road between Peckham Rye and Nunhead stations and provides accommodation based support services.
- Turning Point provides accommodation based support services for male community forensic clients.
- Half of the mental health 'step down', 'move on' and short term medium support services for adults with a mental health need are located in Nunhead and Peckham. The projects provide housing and support for people coming out of mental health services (whether hospital or care) who require additional help before returning to independent living.
- The medium-support and forensic mental health accommodation-based support service is located in Camberwell.

There are numerous supported living services for people with learning disabilities including:

- Highshore Road supported living (support provided by Aurora)
- Ivydale Road supported living (support provided by Choice and Family Mosaic)
- Garden House, a residential home (support provided by Leonard Cheshire)
- Colls Road supported living (support provided by Right Support)
- Hinkley Road supported living (support provided by Choice Support)
- Rye Road supported living (support provided by Choice Support)
- Oglander Road (support provided by Choice Support).

## **Services for children and young people**

For families with children and young people with special educational needs and disability (SEND), Sunshine House offers a range of service provision for children and young people with learning disabilities and or mental health needs including child and adolescent mental health services (CAMHS) and therapy services and various workshops for parents. Contact a Family offers information drop in information and advice sessions for parent carers of children and young people with SEND from Sunshine House.

There are a wide variety of short break services available throughout the borough that can be accessed by children and young people from Peckham and Nunhead. There are three supported accommodation services for young people across the borough that may take residents with lower levels of support needs that may be due to a learning disability or mental health issue. These services are not exclusively for people with Learning Disability or Mental Health services.

## **Personal budgets**

If an individual with learning disabilities and / or mental health issues is assessed under the Care Act 2014 (an outcome based assessment) as eligible for social care, the council provides them with a personal budget. A personal budget is the money the council allocates to an individual to meet their eligible support needs.

### **17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Could the cabinet member give an update regarding the proposals for the changes to East Street?

## **RESPONSE**

The council is committed to keeping one of London's oldest, largest and famous street markets viable and help it adapt to the changing face of shopping and retail. Last year the council were successful in bidding for a High Street Fund grant from the Mayor for improvements to East Street and Old Kent Road.

This grant funding is intended for relatively low cost, highly visual interventions that improve the physical environment and make a better connection between the western and eastern ends of East Street as it meets the Old Kent Road.

Last year the council appointed architecture and design practice, We Made That, to work with local people and assess the area and generate ideas and recommendations for short, medium and long term improvements. This work is close to completion and the end product is a catalogue of projects that benefit the physical environment as well as support the local economy and communities.

East Street Market is a fundamental component to the vitality of this area. A number of improvements to the market have been proposed, which include:

- Creating a better sense of arrival at the Walworth Road and Dawes Street market entrances
- New and refurbished market stalls and gazebos
- Introducing a strong visual identity through new branding of East Street

- Better way finding through signage
- Street enhancements such as street furniture and signage
- Reconfiguring and simplifying the lighting and power supply
- Improvements to the surfacing around Walworth Place.

Feedback from the shop keepers was positive where as some traders had reservations. Following these trials all stall holders were invited to a meeting which was jointly chaired by the Project Team. The meeting was very productive with stall holders welcoming the financial investment in the market and embracing the proposals of new gazebos for some traders, canopies and refurbished stalls for others. They were also keen for the market to be rebranded and to have a dedicated online presence plus the regular inclusion of visiting markets.

With on-going dialogue with the established stakeholder group and market traders, it is anticipated that these improvements can be implemented in the coming months.

Another public consultation is planned at the next Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council meeting. We want as many views as possible to help shape and sustain the future of this market as it represents a much loved part of Southwark's rich and diverse history.

The council is also supporting projects to enliven the street and bring communities together through our High Street Challenge programme.

Three vacant shops will be brought back into use this year as a community enterprise hub in partnership with Peabody and Carnaval del Pueblo Association, providing new space for entrepreneurship, retail and community uses.

The popular Plaza Latina festival in Nursery Row park has already brought thousands of people to East Street and will another, larger event is planned for this summer to coincide with the opening of the enterprise hub and the capital improvements to the street and market.

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL**

What is the budgeted cost of the Quietway construction works currently proposed for Calton Avenue, Turney Road and the Dulwich Village junction? How many additional cycle journeys a day are expected to arise as a direct result of these works, were they to go ahead?

**RESPONSE**

The overall budget for the Quietway cycle route which runs from Elephant and Castle to Crystal Palace (excluding a section within the London Borough of Lambeth) is £2.5 million. All funding for the route is Transport for London grant as part of the Mayor of London's cycling vision.

The breakdown of budgeted costs of the quietways construction works is as follows:

- Carlton Avenue - £100,000
- Village junction - £400,000
- Turney Road - £100,000.

While no modelling has been undertaken on anticipated additional journeys on a route/scheme specific basis, the overall works are part of our cycle strategy target to increase cycle mode share to 10% by 2025/26.

**19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY**

What is the council doing to keep the borough's high streets clean?

**RESPONSE**

The street cleaning service in Southwark carries out a range of activities to maintain good cleanliness standards in the borough including litter picking, manual sweeping and mechanical sweeping. The cleaning service also undertakes a number of ancillary services including fly-tip removal, graffiti and flyposter removal, and weed control which all contribute towards maintaining clean streets.

All major retail areas within the borough are designated as permanent cleaning presence which means that they are cleaned throughout the day from Monday to Saturday between 6:00am to 6.00pm and on Sundays between 6:00am and noon. In addition to the daytime cleaning arrangements, the main retail areas are also visited on Sunday night through to Thursday night by a mobile cleaning team that undertakes litter picking and sweeping where required.

We would like to improve the cleanliness and appearance of our high streets by implementing measures to co-ordinate the times when trade waste is left out for collection with the times when it is collected. To this end we have established a pilot timed waste collection scheme in Walworth Road. This scheme also requires the removal of trade waste bins that have been permanently stored on the pavement. The pilot scheme will be assessed in the summer to determine whether it has been successful and following this consideration will be given to implementing similar schemes at other high streets in Southwark.

**20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING**

Can the cabinet member give an update on the implementation of cycle quietways?

**RESPONSE**

**Quietway Route 1**

The route is almost complete and resurfacing of the carriageways will start on 4 April. This will be the first complete Quietway in London when works in Greenwich and Lewisham are completed.

**Quietway Route 7**

Consultation on the southern section ends 13 March, with the results due to go to Community Councils in June/July. A decision for implementation will be taken in August, with implementation in late 2016/early 2017.

**Quietway Route 8 (formerly 82)**

Initial design is being carried out with a view to carrying out a consultation in June 2016.

**Route 14 (grid)**

The consultation on this route is complete and a decision is due to be taken this month. The route will be implemented late 2016.

**Route 14 (non-grid)**

Initial design is being carried out with a view to undertaking a consultation in June 2016.

As well as Quietways, the council is also delivering the Southwark Spine, an important new addition to the cycle network in Southwark which will complement the proposed Quietway routes. Initial designs for the Southwark Spine are being carried out in summer 2016 and will be implemented mid-2017.

21. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE KIRBY**

Following the completion of the works at Townley Road, what has the response from residents in the local community been to the changes?

**RESPONSE**

Although no formal after-surveys have been undertaken on the Townley Road works, we have received positive feedback around the impact of the works on pedestrians. There were initially some concerns raised by local people which have been addressed, including:

- Insufficient time given to vehicles turning right into Townley Road and vehicles being stranded in middle of junction, which has now been addressed by TfL via vehicle detection equipment.
- Vehicles turning left out of Townley Road, (particularly large vehicles) crossing the centre line when completing the turn into East Dulwich Grove, which was raised immediately after the scheme was completed. We believe this has now settled down as drivers have become familiar with the layout.
- Cyclists from Greendale being vulnerable as they cross the junction as drivers turning right Townley Road assume they have priority - this has improved slightly since the early release signals for cyclists were introduced. TfL are monitoring the impact of this early release by video camera and we are currently awaiting the results of their monitoring.

With all schemes there are initial issues to address while changes bed in, but we are confident that these improvements will make it more pleasant to walk or cycle and will particularly improve journeys for those parents and children on the school run.

22. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL**

Can the cabinet member update us on Southwark's recycling performance in 2014-2015?

**RESPONSE**

The council's household waste recycling rate in 2014/15 was 34.6% which maintained performance at the level achieved the previous year. Whilst the recycling rate target for 2014/15 was a 2% increase from the previous year, the performance achieved was

the best in inner London at a time when many other London authorities had seen recycling rates fall significantly.

This is in contrast to the last Liberal Democrat administration, who had the 6<sup>th</sup> worst recycling rate in the country.

**23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

What steps are being taken by the council to address the issue of residents without access to bins leaving their refuse/recycling in the street?

**RESPONSE**

The council provides wheelie bins or bulk waste containers for the storage of household refuse and recycling for the majority of residents in the borough. However, there are some household property types where it is not possible to provide bins due to there being insufficient space to do so, for example some flats above shops. In such cases the council provides a sack collection service for refuse and recycling. The standard collection frequency is once per week.

In order to ensure that the presence of sacks of waste on street is appropriately managed and controlled, it is important that residents are aware of the collection services that are provided so that they can leave their waste out for collection in the right place and on the right day. Residents are provided with information and advice about their waste collection services through a dedicated communication and engagement team using a combination of letters, leaflets and door-knocking.

If residents leave waste out on the street in the wrong place or on the wrong day, the council will address this by providing information, advice and guidance detailing what is required. If this advice is not followed the council can consider taking enforcement action against the responsible person, however this would be a last resort and would require sufficient evidence.

**24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE**

Can the cabinet member provide the most recent figures on the council's diversion from landfill rates?

**RESPONSE**

The proportion of all waste collected by the council and diverted from landfill from April to December 2015 was 99.3%. For the last 5 months, including December, no waste at all was sent to landfill. This is one of the best results in the country.

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL**

Since the Herne Hill flood alleviation project was complete, what other schemes has the council been working on to protect properties in the borough from flooding?

**RESPONSE**

The council as a Lead Local Flood Authority takes seriously the risk of flooding and the potential impact on the community and has undertaken the Preliminary Flood Risk

Assessment (PFRA 2011) to understand the level of flood risk. The PFRA identified 5 critical drainage areas (CDAs) in the borough:

1. Herne Hill area
2. East Camberwell in the Burgess Park.
3. Peckham Rye area
4. West Camberwell area which crosses the boundary with Lambeth
5. London Bridge area.

The council's Surface Water Management Plan (SWMP 2012) outlines the general approach to managing flood risk in the borough and prioritised the critical drainage areas for further investigation, scheme development and implementation subject to funding availability.

Herne Hill which was top of the list has seen a £4.2 million innovative flood alleviation project jointly developed and implemented with Thames Water with the support of the Environment Agency (EA). The scheme protects over 400 properties from surface water flooding and another 100 from sewer flooding. The scheme has been held up as a model of urban surface water management and partnership working in the industry and has duly been recognised with three awards (the EA Project Excellence Award, the ICE London Civil Engineering Community Contribution Award and the British Construction Industry Sustainability Award).

While the Herne Hill Scheme was being developed, the Camberwell CDA was under investigation with the intention of developing a similarly sustainable surface water management scheme. However the combination of the densely built up environment, lack of storage space and lack of sewer capacity rendered a sustainable solution ineffective in addressing flood risk. Over 500 properties are predicted to be at risk of flooding in the wider CDA in a storm that has 1 in 75 years chance of occurring.

The council is currently undertaking a pilot project comprising property and street level protection (P&SLP) in the Wells Way Triangle area with the aim of expanding that to the wider CDA upon successful completion. It is estimated that the P&SLP pilot project will protect about 100 properties within the pilot project area. This is contingent on enough people willingly taking the offer of protection to boost the likelihood of a successful funding application.

Consultation with the affected community is on-going and it is anticipated that a decision on the way forward will be made by Autumn 2016.

The council is also undertaking detailed investigation into the flooding mechanism in the Peckham Rye CDA and currently engaging the community to gather anecdotal evidence of flooding that will be used to support the funding application. The consultation process is expected to lead to the development of a business case which will be submitted to the EA by the end of the calendar year. The Peckham Rye Flood Alleviation Scheme is estimated to protect 120 properties from surface water flooding.

In view of sewer flooding risk to about 15 properties on Barry Road, the council is exploring the opportunities for a collaborative project with Thames Water.

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH**

Since the introduction of the bulky waste fee, can the cabinet member confirm how fly tipping rates in the borough have changed?



## RESPONSE

The bulky waste collection fee was implemented with effect from 1st December 2015. The table below provides details of the number of fly-tips reported by the public in the three months since implementation compared to the same period one year earlier.

	Dec 2014 to Feb 2015	Dec 2015 to Feb 2016
Fly-tip reports	1413	880

As the implementation of the bulky waste collection fee is still quite recent, it is too early to determine what effect this has had on fly-tipping rates in the long term but as can be seen, there has been no negative impact so far.

27. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

Please provide a table showing the number of Fixed Penalty Notices issued by the council for idling vehicle engines over each of the past five years.

## RESPONSE

The Road Traffic (Vehicle Emissions) (Fixed Penalty) (England) Regulations 2002 enables officers authorised under the legislation to issue a Fixed Penalty Notices (FPNs) to anyone idling their engine who refuses to turn it off when asked by the authorised officer. The law covers all vehicles on public roads including buses, taxis and private cars. However, it does not apply to vehicles moving slowly due to road works or congestion; vehicles stopped at traffic lights; vehicles under test or repair; or vehicles defrosting a windscreen. The fixed penalty notice is issued to the driver of the vehicle. The FPN fine is £20.00.

The amount of engine idling in Southwark is limited due to the low number of coach parks and taxi ranks (in comparison to other boroughs). Officers have taken the approach of informally requesting that drivers turn off their engines when idling and in the majority of cases achieve compliance. No FPNs have been issued.

With regard to coaches, the council has the power to issue Penalty Charge Notices (PCNs) to coaches in coach bays with their engines idling, the PCN amount is £80 reduced by 50% if paid in the first 14 days to £40. There is no Department for Transport approved signage for this contravention. However there are traffic management orders for this on Lambeth Road and Southwark Bridge Road.

Once again civil enforcement officers informally speak to coach drivers and explain the situation who then comply with the request to shut the engine off while stationary. Officers are currently reviewing the signs at Lambeth Road.

If engine idling is causing disturbance i.e. in the case of vehicles making early or late night deliveries to construction sites or commercial premises, then this is dealt with under the legislation covering noise nuisance i.e. The Environmental Protection Act and The Control of Pollution Act.

From February 2016, drivers using Tower Bridge have been encouraged to stop idling and switch their engines off when the bridge is open to help lower emissions and improve air quality. New road signs provide a simple but innovative approach to help drivers save fuel and reduce emissions when there is likely to be a long wait.

The scheme, delivered by Southwark Council and Tower Hamlets Council and jointly funded by the Mayor of London, is part of the Mayor's £20 million Air Quality Fund (MAQF), which has supported bold pollution-busting projects across the capital over the past three years. The council has installed an air pollution monitoring station to measure the impact of the Tower Bridge no idling project and we hope local residents will benefit from less polluted roads around the bridge.

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

Can the cabinet member provide year-on-year figures for the number of fly tips reported in the borough since the introduction of charges for bulky waste collections?

**RESPONSE**

Please see answer to question 26.

**29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA**

Would the cabinet member explain what the council is doing to reduce business crime and make the borough a safe business environment?

**RESPONSE**

The council is part of the Southwark Safe Business Partnership which is facilitated by Safer London Business Partnership, (funded by the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC)). Current live sites include the Elephant and Castle, Walworth Road, Camberwell and London Bridge. Currently over 70 local businesses are signed up to business link which through a radio system enables the sharing of 'real time' crime related information. This also links directly with the police, community wardens and the CCTV suite in the borough. Businesses also have access to an intranet providing training, information exchange to tackle crime which affects businesses, their customers and the communities they trade in.

Peckham and Bermondsey are sites due to come online later this year.

**30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

Can the cabinet member set out how the noise service is fulfilling the council's Fairer Future promise of zero tolerance to noise nuisance?

**RESPONSE**

The council recognises that noise is a significant issue for Southwark Residents with the Noise Team dealing with over 11,000 complaints each year.

To fulfil the council's Fairer Future promise of zero tolerance to noise nuisance, additional resources have been provided to the Noise and Nuisance Team to allow officers to increase the hours covered to include providing 24 hour cover at weekends and from 7.00am to 2.30am on weekdays. It allows the team to have more officers working at times of peak demand. This new service is being introduced gradually as new staff take up their roles. The official launch of the new enhanced service will be 1 April 2016.

The service looks to respond to complaints of noise when it is 'on-going' within one hour of a report being made. This year the Noise Team have responded to 89% of the 7,398 rapid response calls made, within this one hour period.

In order to improve the noise teams' customer service, complainants and perpetrators will where possible be provided with a letter informing them of the noise teams actions whilst on site.

As well as dealing with many cases through proactive dialogue, general advice and negotiations, the Noise Team have up until the end of February issued 127 abatement notices, a 120% increase on the previous year. In addition to this, a further 127 Control of Pollution notices have been served to regulate construction sites and commercial premises.

The noise and nuisance team have recently been combined with Southwark anti social behaviour unit which is helping both teams work together to resolve some of the more complex noise and neighbour disputes.

31. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE**

What can the council do to tackle the rise in hate crimes?

**RESPONSE**

The council has a statutory duty along with the police and other agencies under the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 to work together to tackle crime and disorder. It is also statutory to promote equality and fairness under the Equalities Act 2010 and when carrying out public functions have due regard to eliminating discrimination, advancing equality of opportunity and stimulating good relations between different groups.

Following on from the Hate Crime Strategy, the council and key partners and members of the Hate Crime Network in Southwark are developing a Hate Crime Action Plan. The aim is to further build on the work of the strategy. Key areas being considered include:

- Focusing on specific under reported hate crimes, e.g. disability
- Increasing confidence and awareness of support available to victims
- Further roll out of training for front line staff working across Southwark
- Providing education including theatre in schools which aim to address identity issues such as homophobic/gender and disability bullying
- Taking a robust enforcement approach across the partnership when tackling perpetrators of hate crime and support for the LGBT Forum.

In the communities area of my portfolio, I am also promoting inter-faith dialogue with all major religious groups and building on the wonderful wave of enthusiasm that was evident at the peace breakfast last year, which can only enhance community cohesion as a whole.

We will learn from research by the Tizard Centre and ensure our implementation reflects best practice in encouraging people to report all hate crimes and offer assistance and advice.

32. **QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL**

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the installation of sprinklers in individual sheltered housing unit flats, and fire and heat alarms in dedicated older person dwellings?

**RESPONSE**

The council has a programme to install sprinkler systems to its 20 sheltered housing schemes by autumn 2016. To date, six installations are complete and six have works in progress. The schedule of works is set out below.

<b>Housing Scheme</b>	<b>Sprinklers Completed Yes/No</b>	<b>Sprinkler Work Commenced/ Commencing</b>	<b>Sprinkler Work Ended/Ending</b>
Russell Court	Yes	December 2014	August 2015
Silverlock	Yes	August 2015	December 2015
Ray Gunter	Yes	September 2015	November 2015
King Charles Court	Yes	September 2014	January 2015
Hughes House	Yes	November 2014	August 2015
D'Eynesford	No (On Site)	January 2016	June 2016
Grosvenor	No (On Site)	November 2015	May 2016
Harry Lamborn	No (On Site)	November 2015	June 2016
Pedworth	Yes	August 2015	January 2016
Barset	No (On Site)	January 2016	April 2016
Brookdrive	No (On Site)	February 2016	June 2016
Locksfield	No (On Site)	March 2016	May 2016
Cossal Walk	No	April 2016	June 2016
Keetons	No	May 2016	July 2016
Rock Grove	No	May 2016	July 2016
Lew Evans	No	June 2016	September 2016
Consort House	No	June 2016	July 2016
Marden	No	August 2016	October 2016
Lucy Brown	No	July 2016	September 2016
Jack Jones	No	September 2016	October 2016

Every sheltered housing scheme has a Part 1 Fire alarm system comprising of Smoke and Heat detectors within the communal areas. These systems are connected to magnetic door holders to allow corridor doors etc. to be released/shut in the event of fire alarm panel being activated. The fire alarm system is connected to the central monitoring station (SMART), to alert them when the system activates.

Each of the dwelling units has a LD2 part 6 Fire detection system (comprising of smoke and heat detectors) which are connected to a "Hush" button. These systems were installed approximately three years ago and are interconnected with the main (Part 1) Fire alarm system, to alert SMART when the system activates.

Each of the dwelling units also generally contain domestic type smoke/heat detection. These domestic detectors are connected to SMART via a connection to the Warden Call system/module within dwelling unit.

**33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Can the cabinet member explain why the council is allowing non-policy compliant levels of car parking in developments when Southwark is supposed to be a borough that promotes walking and cycling?

**RESPONSE**

In accordance with planning legislation, planning decisions must have regard to the development plan and any other material considerations. The development plan does, indeed, seek to limit the number of car parking spaces in new developments as part of the strategy to promote sustainable modes of transport such as walking and cycling. In many cases the council requires developments to be car free. However, as in all planning considerations, the harm caused by not complying with one or other policy of the development plan must be weighed against other material considerations including the overall benefits of the scheme such as contributions to the delivery of new homes, especially affordable new homes, and contributions to the quality of the environment and sustainable development.

In view of this, there have been some developments where the benefits of the development have been seen to outweigh the disbenefits of not complying entirely with our parking policies. There have also been cases where applicants have submitted evidence to show that while car ownership in the new development may be supported by the provision of car parking, there are reasons to expect that car use will remain low with this managed via a bond system. In other planning decisions, contributions have been secured to invest in walking and cycling to shift people away from private vehicle usage.

Southwark was the first local authority to require developers to provide cycle hire membership to new residents, where developments are located within the cycle hire scheme. Mode share for car/motorcycle trips has fallen from 24% (2008/09 to 2010/11 average) to 22% (2012/13 to 2014/15 average), and in this time we have also seen the number of people cycling in the borough increase. In addition, the council require planning applicants to contribute to or provide car club bays and membership.

Overall, policies to promote a shift to sustainable modes of transport are achieving their objectives, cycle use is increasing and car ownership is decreasing.

**34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN**

How many Southwark children are being taught in classes of thirty or more pupils?

**RESPONSE**

Southwark Council (on behalf of maintained schools) and individual academies and free schools report on class sizes across maintained schools to the Department for Education (DfE) each year. While general rules apply to class sizes of schools, only infant classes (Reception to Year 2) are limited to class sizes of no more than 30 children. Additional children may be admitted to infant classes in limited exception circumstances - for example multiple births to allow all siblings to attend the same school or looked after children outside the normal admission admissions round.

During 2015, a total of 1,532 pupils in primary and secondary schools across Southwark were taught in classes of over 30 pupils. 379 of these were within key stage

1, but of these 345 (11 classes) were in classes which included 'excepted pupils' (those admitted in exceptional circumstances in addition to the 30 pupils allowed). In 2015 there was one unlawfully large class (34 pupils), but this was not at a maintained Southwark school.

This derives from the Schools' Census for 2015. The figures for January 2016 are not yet available or complete, as we have yet to receive academy data.