COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
22 MARCH 2017
RESPONSES TO MEMBERS’ QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Will the leader tell me how close the council is to meeting its target of 2,000 apprenticeships by 2018 and how this compares to other London boroughs?

RESPONSE

In 2014 we made the commitment to deliver 2,000 apprenticeships by 2018, double the Liberal Democrat commitment of just 1,000. We were determined to be bolder and more ambitious and make the creation of apprenticeships central to our commitment to the residents of our borough.

I am pleased to report that for the last two years, Southwark has out performed every London Borough and in the last year, one in five new apprenticeships created by councils in London has come from Southwark.

This year we will reach 1,000 and have plans in place to hit 2,000 by 2018. Every one of these is a person gaining the skills they need to get a good job and is part of our commitment to make this a great borough for work.

Our success has been recognised and last year were named one of the top 100 Apprentice Employers in England and awarded a London Councils apprenticeship award for our work with local businesses.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Please can the Leader set out how much has already been spent to date on legal costs for the council’s appeal against the Secretary of State’s refusal to grant the Aylesbury Estate Compulsory Purchase Order and how much more the council has budgeted for this appeal?

RESPONSE

The question refers to the legal costs incurred arising from the council’s application for judicial review of the Secretary of State’s decision not to confirm the compulsory purchase order for the Aylesbury estate.

The sum of £20,730 has been incurred for barristers’ fees. The figure has increased from the original estimate since the two judges who have so far considered this claim arrived at very different decisions. The second judge expressed the view that it would be unlawful for the council to offer any more to residents than allowed by the compensation code since this was a use of public money.

A court date for the full hearing is scheduled for 9 May 2017. In view of the rather unusual course of this litigation with the views of two eminent judges diverging quite considerably, it is difficult at the present time to anticipate the likely future costs of the case.
3. **QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL**

At the recent meeting at Dulwich Hamlet School, I was delighted to join the leader of the council in supporting the call for Fairer Funding for Schools. At the time he mentioned that he would be part of a group meeting the Minister of State for Education, Nick Gibb MP, on the day of this council assembly. Would the leader make a statement about today’s meeting?

**RESPONSE**

I am very concerned about the Government's decision to reduce funding to Southwark schools and so wrote to the Education Secretary jointly with the borough’s three MPs to outline our concern and to urge her to think again about these proposals.

Education Minister Nick Gibb has agreed to meet with me and our MPs today. I intend to make a statement at council assembly about this.

4. **QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE ROSE**

Will the leader tell me what will be the impact of government education cuts on Southwark’s schools?

**RESPONSE**

Under the government's new national funding formula there are projected to be significant reductions to schools budgets in 2018-19 and 2019-20. This will have a significant impact on all schools within the borough.

I have written to the Secretary of State for Education about this and am due to meet with the Education Minister ahead of council assembly this evening. I intend to make a statement to the meeting.

The predicted cut is £2.44m in the dedicated schools grant in 2018-19 with a further £2.43m on top of that in 2019-20.

In most Southwark schools their staffing costs make up around three quarters of their overall budget. This means to make savings, schools will have to look to cut teachers and valuable support staff.

In addition, this could mean for local children:

- Fewer interventions and less specialised support affecting those most vulnerable learners.
- Bigger class sizes and less capacity to meet the needs of individual learners.
- Reduced parental choice of schools as smaller settings become less sustainable.
- At secondary schools, there is likely to be reduced subject choice.
- Accommodation and resources that adversely impact on maintaining a quality learning environment.
- Less teaching and support staff - this would be as a last resort but one that is fast becoming a reality for some schools.

Over time this could lead to reduced attainment, poorer outcomes and poorer life chances.
The government is right to try and address the standards gap between London and the rest of the country but the solution must be to pull the rest of the country up and not to drag London down.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

A recent ‘Transparency International’ report showed three new developments in Southwark where more than half (and in one case all) of new properties have been sold to overseas owners. Please could the Leader outline the percentage of affordable homes built onsite in each of the three Southwark developments in the report (South Gardens at the Elephant and Castle, One Tower Bridge and 251 Southwark Bridge Road)?

RESPONSE

The council has been enormously successful in delivering affordable homes. Over the last 5 years a total 7,600 units were delivered – with 2,600 affordable [34.2%]. Of these 1,600 were for social rent.

We are achieving our 35% target overall – but the level on each development is different, being determined in accordance with planning policy following an assessment of the viability appraisal submitted by the developer (which are now made public). In each case this means that the level provided was the maximum considered to be viable given the particular circumstances that applied at the site in question. These consents were agreed a number of years ago when economic conditions were different to those that exist today.

In relation to the three sites in the question:

- South Gardens – 76 on site units [26%]
- One Tower Bridge – 43 on site units [10%] with a further £10.5m in lieu payment towards off site provision. This is the equivalent of 25% affordable housing. The council also has a profit share agreement which will deliver considerable benefits for our capital programme.
- 251 Southwark Bridge Road – 65 on site units [24%]. This decision was taken by the Mayor of London following call-in.

In addition to the number of units, there is additional infrastructure investment which including new public spaces, improvements to the Northern Line as well as over 700 residents to date benefitting from work and training opportunities on site.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE LYONS

Can the leader of the council put pressure on Transport for London and Will Norman, the Walking and Cycling Commissioner, to press ahead quickly with the installation of a new crossing on the South Circular, as this crossing has been identified as a prerequisite for the re-routing of the coaches which currently clog Calton Avenue every school-day morning?

RESPONSE

The cabinet member for environment and the public realm has already written to the Mayor of London requesting a joint meeting with Dulwich Foundation Schools and TfL to progress this crossing as soon as possible. In addition, officers and councillors as
well as the local MP, Helen Hayes, have met with TfL to press them to pursue the feasibility study of the proposed crossing. I will gladly add my weight to such pressure on TfL as I understand how important it is for implementing the council’s cycle strategy on Quietway 7 as well as greatly improving ‘school run’ conditions in Dulwich Village.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY

Will the leader update me on what progress is being made to provide adequate burial space for local residents who want to be buried in the borough?

RESPONSE

Faculty permission from the Diocese of Southwark was received this month which will allow us to implement schemes on consecrated land at Camberwell New and Old Cemeteries. We will now be able to progress with schemes that will create much needed burial space so that local residents who want to can be buried in Southwark. The scheme at Camberwell New Cemetery adjacent to One Tree Hill will create 121 burial plots and is due to be ready for burial in summer 2018. The scheme at Camberwell Old Cemetery will create approximately 710 burial plots and is due to be ready for burial in winter 2019.

We have recently submitted a planning application for another scheme at Camberwell New Cemetery near to Honor Oak Park, which is not on consecrated land and is currently unused and inaccessible, will create 1,022 burial plots and is due to be ready for burial in spring 2019.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

Can the Leader outline what research the council has undertaken into the potential effects of Brexit on the demographics of the Southwark population along with any preparations which are being made to respond to these effects?

RESPONSE

Demographic analysis is done at a London wide level, and then boroughs use this data to plan for things like school places or demands on housing and local services. The Greater London Authority is including data and research on the potential impact of the UK’s exit from the EU in its regular economic forecasting data and bulletins, with a specific reference to the impact on the working age population in London.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR OCTAVIA LAMB

Will the cabinet member tell me what steps the council is taking to increase the amount of affordable creative space across the borough?

RESPONSE

The council recently set out its commitment to the provision of affordable creative spaces across the borough in our newly refreshed cultural strategy. The key themes in the strategy are creative economy, creative growth and creative people, which make commitments to benefiting residents and supporting business and employment in culture in the borough. In addition, our refreshed economic wellbeing strategy makes a clear commitment to support the creative sector; acknowledging the important economic role that it has to contribute within the borough and across London.
Our key objectives for creative spaces are:

- To retain viable cultural venues (indoor and out) and creative workspace;
- To strategically plan and work with partners to create new cultural venues and workspaces;
- To continue to use Section 106 and Community Infrastructure Levy to support the provision of cultural assets, and provide opportunities for the cultural sector to engage in regeneration and planning processes;
- To promote opportunities for the creative use of council properties;
- Continue to develop libraries, offer flexible working spaces, which can host wider cultural and heritage activity.

In February 2017 cabinet noted the good progress towards our target of ‘Achieving 500 New Affordable Business and Creative Spaces by 2018’, with 143 affordable business and creative spaces already delivered across our borough, through projects such as the artworks, spare street creative workspace, temporary studio space on the Aylesbury Estate and the Peckham Enterprise Centre. Cabinet also agreed proposals to deliver a further 482 by 2018. This pipeline includes council projects like Peckham Levels, Peckham Palms, and the council’s redundant garages project, along with creative studio spaces secured through S106 agreements at the rich industrial estate, among others.

Looking further forward, the draft Old Kent Road Area Action Plan provides that developments which provide over 1,000 sqm of employment floorspace should deliver workspace managed by a specialist provider to support creative businesses, start-ups and small and medium enterprises.

The council has also developed an approved workspace provider list to support these policies and encourage early discussions between developers and high quality providers of managed small business and creative workspace.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Can the leader provide details of all surveys since 2010 that have asked residents about their satisfaction with the regeneration of the borough, including a breakdown of when and where the surveys were conducted, the approximate location of respondents and details of all responses?

RESPONSE

The resident survey is designed to provide the council with information about resident behaviours and attitudes to help us improve our services and communication. A quarterly telephone survey of approximately 500 residents is carried out by independent research company InfoCorp. The survey is weighted to reflect Southwark’s population profile as per the 2011 census. It is weighted by age, gender, ethnicity, working status and housing tenure. The sample is drawn from across the borough.

Between 2010 and 2016 the council measured awareness of major regeneration projects, but not satisfaction. In 2016 we introduced a series of questions looking at the impact residents feel our major regeneration projects have on their lives. The findings were very positive.
Consistently over time, the majority of people we asked felt that the regeneration of different parts of the borough would have a positive impact on their lives. For example, in February this year:

- 57% of respondents thought the regeneration of Elephant and Castle would have a positive impact on their lives, and only 7% thought it would have a negative impact (33% thought it would have no impact and remainder didn’t know)
- 61% thought the regeneration plans for Peckham would have a positive impact on their lives, and only 8% thought it would have a negative impact (26% thought it would have no impact and remainder didn’t know)
- 53% thought the regeneration of Canada Water would have a positive impact on their lives, and only 7% thought it would have a negative impact (31% thought it would have no impact and remainder didn’t know).

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS

Following the recent judgement in relation to the Lakanal fire, can the leader reassure me about what steps the council has taken to improve fire safety in the borough’s housing estates?

RESPONSE

Following the fire, the council began an ongoing programme to ensure all its properties received a regular full fire risk assessment, beginning with those deemed to be most high risk. Since 2009 the council has spent approximately £62 million on its fire risk assessment programme and associated fire safety works for all its social housing in the borough, and continues to invest as necessary as part of the ongoing major works programme. The council works closely with London Fire Brigade (LFB) and meets regularly with them, both on an operational and fire safety level, informing them of progress on the risk profile of the borough and other issues. LFB assists the council in advising residents on fire safety and fitting smoke alarms inside their homes. The council also has its own fire safety programme. In February 2015, all fire risk works to all high rise and lower/more complex housing were complete. Since then the council has completed a programme to fit state of the art smoke detection systems in these blocks, and has a rolling programme underway to introduce a similar system in all remaining blocks.

A quarterly strategic meeting with LFB (operational and fire safety teams) has been a regular feature of the joint working approach following the agreement of a memorandum of understanding signed up to in June 2010.

During 2010, the council also created its own in-house fire safety team who continue to carry out a rolling programme of high standard fire risk assessments across the council’s housing stock.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the Leader outline to Members any representations which were made on behalf of the council to Harriet Harman, the Member of Parliament for Camberwell and Peckham, in relation to her decision to vote for triggering article 50 to begin the process of the United Kingdom leaving the European Union?
RESPONSE

No representations were made by the council.

Individual Labour councillors did make representations to Harriet Harman MP and the borough’s other MPs. However, it is disappointing the same can not be said of the Liberal Democrat councillors, who the MPs confirm made no representations ahead of the vote.

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the cabinet member for environment and public realm confirm, over the last 12 months, how much has been raised by the £16 charge, how much does it cost to collect all the fly tipping in the borough, and how much has been collected in fines?

RESPONSE

In the last 12 months, £152,000 income has been received for our bulky waste service.

Fly tips are collected by the council’s in-house cleaning service. The service operates a ‘clear all policy’ which means that the trucks clear any waste they find whilst touring the borough as this is the most efficient use of resources.

This does mean however that we can not specify the cost of clearing fly tips as the trucks collect various waste types as a mixed load such as:

- Waste from litter bins
- Waste sacks generated by our street cleaners
- Domestic waste from households that do not have access to a wheelie bin, typically, flats above shops
- Legitimate commercial waste
- Commercial fly tips
- Domestic fly tips
- Street market waste

The service deploys 8 trucks on the council’s housing estates and 13 on the public highway. The trucks range from 3.5 ton caged tippers to dust carts. The annual costs are as follows and cover the cost of the vehicles and the crews:

- Estate trucks - £485,000
- Public highway trucks - £856,000

These costs have remained static, except for annual pay increases for the last four years and the bulky waste charges were introduced to help continue to protect front line services such as these and our street cleansing teams in future.

During the same period, £9,500 of income from fixed penalty notices has been received from those caught fly tipping in the borough and a further 16 offenders prosecuted and taken through the courts receiving fines amounting to £37,500.
14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Would the cabinet member confirm how many schools are oversubscribed and what effect will a reduction of £1000 per student have on teaching and learning?

RESPONSE

An oversubscribed school would be one where there are more families and children expressing a preference to attend the school than there are places available. In these cases a school would need to use their oversubscription criteria to allocate places. Primary school places for September 2017 entry are yet to be allocated. However, on primary school offer day for September 2016 Reception starters, 42 out of 75 Southwark primary schools used their oversubscription criteria to allocate places. For the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council area that was 9 of 19 primary schools. On the recent secondary school offer day for September 2017 Year 7 starters, 18 out of 19 Southwark secondary schools used their oversubscription criteria to offer places.

In terms of the effect of budget cuts by government upon teaching and learning, I would refer to the Leader's response to question 4 in addressing, namely that under the new National Funding Formula there are projected significant reductions to schools budget in 2018-19 and 2019-20 in Southwark.

We are very concerned about the impact on our young people and their education, which is the foundation for them to access great life and career opportunities. We are also concerned about the pressure this will put on teachers and head teachers, with cuts to staffing and cover for maternity/paternity/ill health, and less time for enhanced opportunities for targeted learning and additional support.

However, it is important to note that under both the current funding system and the proposed funding formula, funding follows the pupil. This means that there is no disadvantage in funding terms to being an oversubscribed school. The greater challenge is currently, and likely to remain, those schools which are under-subscribed and have vacancies on their roll. We have relatively few schools in this situation and where they exist it is usually linked to a short-term change in local population – for example the regeneration around Elephant and Castle. As we are confident these places will be needed longer-term, schools are supported through these periods with Schools’ Forum funding.

Note: Questions to the cabinet member for public health and social regeneration will be answered by the cabinet members who have been given that area of responsibility while the cabinet member is on maternity leave.

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN DENNIS

Will the cabinet member tell me what the take up has been of the free swim and gym offer in Southwark?
RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

The Free Swim and Gym (FSG) Scheme launched in July 2016 has been a huge success with 56,000 local people now registered for the scheme. From the launch until February 135,000 visits have taken place.

In Southwark female participation in physical activity and sport is below that of males. However the FSG scheme is showing that the numbers of female attendances are similar to those by males, which strongly suggests the scheme is already having a positive impact on overcoming barriers to participation.

The current (end of February) registrations by BME communities are more than representative of the Southwark population demographic showing 67% as opposed to 46% BME residents. Moreover, attendance rates by BME residents also show a very healthy take up of the offer.

As of the end of February 2017, 430 council staff have registered on the scheme resulting in 621 attendances.

To continue to measure and track the health impact and coverage that this scheme is having, a survey will shortly be carried out and participants will also be surveyed again on renewal of their FSG membership, one year after they have joined. The aim of this is to ensure the scheme can be evaluated on an ongoing basis.

During 2017 more community outreach will take place aimed at other groups who do not yet show such high levels of take up. Working with our partner Everyone Active we will be concentrating particularly on attracting more young residents and disabled residents to the FSG scheme.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL

Will the cabinet member tell me what steps the council has taken to combat poor air quality in the borough?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

Throughout 2016/17, we have been updating our Air Quality Strategy. It has been consulted upon widely and we have had over 150 comments from interested parties. These will be incorporated in the final strategy that is due to be presented to Cabinet in May 2017.

One thing to come out of this piece of work is the acknowledgement that for Southwark the biggest impact on air quality is transport and particularly, diesel vehicles. We are therefore focussing on reducing the impact transport has in the borough on the air we breath. Some examples of the work underway or planned are listed below:

• 1st cycle Quietway in London opened last year encouraging residents to switch from four wheels to two
• Two more planned for construction in the next year along with the Southwark Spine – providing a quick but safe route through Southwark
The vehicles our services use to undertake their functions are being replaced and will use petrol over diesel unless no such option exists.

Electric vehicles will also be trialled to assess their suitability to some of our services.

Any diesel vehicles still required by our services (such as dustcarts and large tippers) will have the very latest engines to minimise their impact on local air quality.

Working with five schools to examine the possibility of closing surrounding roads to traffic during school start and finish times.

Working with Westminster Council to share best practise in introducing emission based parking fees, applying a surcharge on diesel vehicles to encourage the shift to less polluting forms of transport.

Warm Dry Safe Programme – 6,970 homes so far have benefitted from wall insulation, double glazing and roof insulation treatments, increasing their energy efficiency and reducing emissions. More are planned.

Over 9,000 domestic boilers have been replaced with energy efficient models and many more residents have benefited from work undertaken to district heating systems to improve their efficiency.

Supported the Mayor of London’s proposal for the planned Ultra-low Emission Zone to extend to the South Circular and asked that he considers going further in the future and rolling it out to M25.

We are a partner authority in the Cleaner Air Better Business project working with local Business Improvement Districts (BIDs) to educate the commercial sector on how to reduce their carbon footprint, reduce operational costs and improve air quality.

Greening the Elephant – Southwark worked with the developers to test damping agents and other dust control methods and to measure air quality around construction. This was to provide tested best practice guidance to the construction industry with regard to reducing particulate emissions.

Member of the London Low Emission Construction Partnership – in collaboration with several London authorities. Again to encourage the uptake of ‘best in class’ pollution reduction measures in construction. Several measures are currently being trialled at various sites in Southwark.

Member of the Central London Air Quality Cluster Group ensuring air quality is not just tackled on a local level but across the region.

Whilst our focus is on local air quality, we are still playing our role regionally and nationally. Since 2011, we have reduced the carbon emissions from our operational buildings by 26%. We now provide heating and hot water to 2,600 of our properties with low carbon energy from the SELCHP energy from waste facility. This has reduced the carbon emissions from our boiler houses by 7,000 tonnes CO\textsubscript{2} per annum and we installed one of London’s largest solar panel systems on the roof of our waste facility.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR KARL EASTHAM

Will the cabinet member update me on the council’s capital investment into leisure facilities and what response has there been from the public?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

Into its twelfth year now, the council has continued its commitment to investment in leisure through the allocation of significant capital funding for improvements. These have been very well received by customers. The newly refurbished gym at
Camberwell Leisure Centre has received very strong words of commendation. At the council’s brand new flagship leisure centre The Castle, attendances are increasing each month since opening in April 2016. It is anticipated by the end of 2017 that it will be the busiest centre within Southwark. A good proportion of these customers are new users or people who used the previous centre. Southwark’s investment has been added to as part of the new leisure management contract with Everyone Active, whose contract started in July 2015.

This substantial, wide-ranging and geographically spread investment noted below combined with our Free Swim and Gym scheme has and will continue to encourage increased activity, creating an over all positive impact on the health of the borough.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Project</th>
<th>Investment</th>
<th>Status</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seven Islands Leisure Centre</td>
<td>£1.7m</td>
<td>New reception, spin studio and improved gym area opened in February with the refurbished pool and wet changing rooms due to open in spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peckham Pulse</td>
<td>£1.8m</td>
<td>Project by Everyone Active and the council. New reception, children’s soft play, larger gym, redeveloped 3 studios &amp; dry changing rooms have all been completed. Refurb of wet change to be completed by late spring</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>St. Paul’s Sports Ground</td>
<td>£1m</td>
<td>New 3G pitch &amp; club house have been built. Millwall Community Trust appointed to manage the facility for 3 years working closely with Fisher FC who have returned home to the Rotherhithe area. The ground is also home to the Millwall Lionesses. Numerous football development programmes are being rolled out at the site.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Homestall Road</td>
<td>£1.2m</td>
<td>Pitch drainage works completed &amp; 3G pitch built. Planning permission has been granted for club house with construction due to begin in April. The ground is home to Athenlay FC a youth football team engaging the local community.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Southwark Park Athletics Centre</td>
<td>£3m</td>
<td>Track opened summer 2016 and is being used on Tuesday and Thursday evenings by the resident athletics club and King’s College, a public session is held every Saturday. Youth provision is being developed. Planning approval is in place for the redevelopment of the building, construction is starting in April 2017</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Camberwell Leisure Centre (EA)</td>
<td>£1.1m</td>
<td>Works completed in December 2016, services remained open during the works.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Dulwich Leisure Centre</td>
<td>£400k</td>
<td>As part of the new leisure management contract Everyone Active redecorated the gym and studios and installed new equipment in both. Works were completed in August 2016</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Surrey Docks Watersports Centre</td>
<td>£200k</td>
<td>As part of the new leisure management contract Everyone Active redecorated the gym and studios and installed new equipment in both. Works were completed in August 2016.</td>
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18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Can the cabinet member outline what they understand “social regeneration” to mean, and explain why this has not previously been implicit in the Regeneration portfolio and has now been tagged on to two other portfolios?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL REGENERATION

The scale and pace of regeneration across the borough is unprecedented with over 40% of the borough experiencing significant investment and development, from Elephant and Castle, Old Kent Road, Canada Water, East Walworth and Blackfriars Road. As this physical regeneration continues apace there has been considerable investment in organisations, voluntary sector agencies and core services in these areas to support existing and new communities. However building on our current achievements is needed to ensure that every opportunity is taken to deliver real improvement for Southwark residents. For that reason the Leader has taken the decision to formally recognise this crucial role by aligning social regeneration firmly with Public Health and also with business, the economy and culture. Two executive roles have been changed to reflect this, and we now have the cabinet member for business, culture and social regeneration and cabinet member for public health and social regeneration.

In addition Southwark recently announced that Professor Kevin Fenton will be seconded to Southwark as Director of Health and Wellbeing from April 2017. From his current role as Director of Health and Wellbeing for Public Health England (PHE), he will help develop and shape our public health and social regeneration work moving forward.

We will need to understand more fully how this can be shaped in Southwark, but key to our understanding of social regeneration is ensuring Southwark residents continue to feel part of the growth within our borough with no community feeling left behind. For now, we intend to bring a new focus onto the wider benefits of regeneration through the executive portfolio roles and by bringing Public Health, Culture and Environment services together.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

Please can the cabinet member update members about the progress of the Old Kent Road regeneration proposals and how these will reflect the input of the community through the consultation process?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL REGENERATION

Following an 18 month process of informal consultation with the public through the Old Kent Road (OKR) community forum, the council consulted on the draft area action plan (AAP) from June to November 2016. Over 1,000 responses were received including 1,075 questionnaire responses submitted online. Headlines from the online responses are:

- 75% agree with the vision
- 74% agree with the strategy to transform industrial land and retail parks into mixed use
- 75% agree with revitalising the OKR as a high street
- 77% agree the Bakerloo Line extension should be a key part of the vision.

Officers are currently considering all the responses received with a view to publishing an updated final draft of the AAP in late 2017 for consultation and submission to the Planning Inspectorate for an examination in public. In the meantime, the council is planning to consult on supplementary planning documents which provide more detailed guidance on the AAP and cover smaller areas in the opportunity area. Consultation on the SPDs will be through a range of means, including digital consultation and workshop events with local residents, TRAs, businesses and other stakeholders. The first of these SPDs for the area between the Old Kent Road, Glengall Road and Latona Road will be published for consultation in April 2017. The council is also continuing to engage with local businesses and recently launched an Old Kent Road business network to better understand the requirements and aspirations of existing businesses in the area and inform the types of new business space that are built in the area. In the longer term it will be used to help create a database of businesses that would be interested in occupying new space in existing or new developments. The Bakerloo Line extension is a key part of the vision for the OKR. Transport for London is currently consulting on locations for new stations on the Old Kent Road and has received over 3,700 responses so far. Further details can be found on TfL’s website as well as through a number of drop-in events which have been advertised.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

Southwark Council planned to ensure that 21,000 NHS health checks for people aged 40 to 74 be carried out by 31 March this year. Will the cabinet member tell me what progress there has been and how many places have been taken to date?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

The council is pleased to confirm that we have exceeded our target for health checks. The total number of completed NHS Health Checks for people aged 40 to 74 in Southwark as at 28 February 2017 is 25,445. Southwark now ranks in the top quartile nationally.

The most recent evidence from Public Health England reports that health checks are effective in reaching people from the poorest communities, not just the ‘worried well’; the programme does detect more cases of raised blood pressure and impaired glucose intolerance than routine care; and that the programme is achieving small but significant reductions in stroke, blood pressure, cardiovascular risk and body mass index.

This figure not only exceeds the 21,000 target for the current year but the 24,000 target for the full 2014-18 municipal term.
21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR SAMANTHA JURY-DADA

Will the cabinet member detail the investment in parks and play areas planned for the coming year?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

Since 2014 in excess of £30m of council capital has been allocated to parks and play areas. This level of capital investment is unique in London and is testament to the cabinet’s commitment to these valuable community resources. In the next year there are exciting developments planned for both parks and play areas (in line with the council plan target to deliver a top quality children’s play area in every local area). We intend to complete refurbishment or improvement projects at:

- Pullens Open Space,
- One Tree Hill,
- Burgess Park,
- Geraldine Mary Harmsworth Park,
- Southwark Park,
- Peckham Rye Park and Mint Street.

New play areas will be delivered at:

- Peckham Rye,
- Pullens Open Space,
- Brunswick Park,
- Leyton Square,
- Southwark Park and Burgess Park.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY

Will the cabinet member tell me whether there has been any change in the early detection of sexually transmitted infections since the launch of the SH24 initiative?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

Since SH:24 was launched in March 2015 over 18,701 people have used the service. The service has supported greater detection of sexually transmitted infection as it has enabled easier access to testing. Once diagnosed, people are fast tracked into clinics for treatment. 67% of service users get their results within 24 hours and 90% within 48 hours.

Over 72% of people who order a test return it, suggesting it is highly popular with the public.

Southwark’s late detection of HIV continues to fall. This is due to number of interventions including improving the accessibility of HIV testing, including online and outreach, and increasing the number of tests carried out including as part of routine blood testing through GPs and local hospitals.
Just over a third of HIV diagnoses in 2013-15 were made at a late stage of infection. This represents a significant improvement since 2009-11 when just under half of HIV diagnoses in the borough were made late. The rate of new HIV cases in the borough is down by more than a third since 2011. However, Southwark still has higher rates of new HIV diagnosis compared to England (60.1 compared to 12.1 per 100,000 population among people aged 15 or above) so we will continue the work to tackle this issue.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the cabinet member confirm what the council’s plans are for the Fred Francis centre site, if the centre is to be merged with the Southwark Resource Centre, as indicated in his comments to Southwark News earlier this month?

RESPONSE

I can reassure the councillors that there are no plans to merge Fred Francis and Southwark Resource Centre. The services provided at Fred Francis will transfer to the new Cator Street Centre once building works are complete – operating as a centre and hub for older people and people with dementia in the borough.

Last year we set out how we would deliver 605 new homes on land currently held by the council as part of the Southwark Regeneration in Partnership Programme for ‘Lot B’. This will deliver 283 new council homes, 94 intermediate homes and a range of other spaces including new workspace, space for a GP practice, improvements to a school, a new community centre and improved public realm. The Fred Francis site is one of ten sites in the centre and south of the borough which will contribute to these new and much needed homes.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Can the cabinet member confirm what progress has been made in transferring the cost of adult social care equipment provision to the NHS, and outline the council’s plans for consultation and engagement with user groups, the NHS and the voluntary sector around both these changes and any ideas which they may have for making efficiencies or mitigating the impact of cuts?

RESPONSE

The council and NHS have been in joint partnership arrangements for the provision of community equipment since 2009. This integrated model has ensured that those with an assessed need, rather than having to stay in hospital or care, have been helped to stay living independently in their own home - whether by taking up a walking aid, a pressure relieving mattress, a hoist or another piece of equipment.

The shift in recent years is as a result of a greater focus in the NHS on ensuring timely discharges from hospital. It is anticipated that this pattern will continue with an even greater proportion of community equipment purchases deriving from health needs in the future, rather than social care.

The council is not transferring the cost of adult social care equipment to the NHS, it is moving to paying for equipment that we are responsible for providing only, and ceasing subsidy of equipment that the NHS should provide.
We are actively working with the NHS locally to implement this change and as there are not specific user groups for people who use community equipment, we will work with Community Southwark to reach the voluntary sector organisations locally for those whom this may be a feature, to ensure that together we mitigate any impact on people.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Will the cabinet member tell me what effect the Chancellor’s budget will have on adult social care and the council’s ongoing work to tackle the social care crisis?

RESPONSE

The spring budget announced by the Chancellor on 8 March 2017 included that an additional £2bn of social care funding will be made available to local government in England over the next 3 years

- £1 billion in 2017-18
- £674m in 2018-19
- £337m in 2019-20

For Southwark Council the allocation is:
- £7.471m in 2017-18
- £4.497m in 2018-19
- £2.223m in 2019-20.

We expect that the monies will come in the form of a ring-fenced specific grant, but the conditions attached to the monies for expenditure and reporting requirements have not yet been published.

In his budget statement, the Chancellor was clear that his rationale for providing this resource was to prevent delayed hospital discharges, and so there may be conditions associated with addressing this issue.

It must be noted that government has yet to announce how the funding for 2018-19 and 2019-20 will be funded. Previously, some increases of better care funding have been resourced through cuts to new homes bonus funding and so it is unclear what the net impact of the announcement will be on the total resources to the council in those years.

The spring budget also stated that a green paper will be published by the end of 2017 focusing on long-term sustainability of the social care sector.

Finally, whilst this funding announcement is of course welcome, it is still significantly less than the funding that the council has lost from its resources for social care since 2010, despite increasing budget pressures for both adult and children’s social care.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR TOM FLYNN

Will the cabinet member update me on what progress has been made to expand housing provision for older people in the borough?
RESPONSE

Adult Social Care and Housing are working together, and with partners, to ensure we have sufficient, high quality choices for older people in Southwark as part of the council’s commitment to provide 11,000 new council homes.

Tayo Situ House is a new extra care housing scheme for older people in Southwark. Delivered across two phases, it will provide approximately 90 units of accommodation, for single people and couples.

Phase 1 opened in December 2016 and delivered 42 units of accommodation. The development has been designed with input from Stirling University to achieve the “gold standard” in dementia design, future proofing the scheme.

Phase 2 is scheduled for completion in 2018, and is scheduled to open close to the opening of the new centre for excellence for old people as part of the same development.

The housing is managed by Southwark Council, with Allied Healthcare providing 24 hour on-site support, and care flexibly, as much or as little as each resident needs.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE DALE

There has been much in the news lately about hospitals not being able to discharge patients due to adult care support not being available. Will the cabinet member tell me how delays in discharge due to this reason in Southwark compare to other London boroughs?

RESPONSE

Southwark is sixth best in London for low levels of Delayed Transfers of Care (DTOCs) and our hospital social workers and our care providers have done an excellent job in managing pressures in our hospitals.

This last winter has been hugely challenging across the country and this was also the case locally. However, none of the local DTOCs were the result of adult social care support not being available.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Low pay for home care workers is a national disgrace – many council contracts pay less than the London Living Wage and employ on zero hours contracts. Will the cabinet member tell me what progress is being made in Southwark to implement the Ethical Care Charter to address these concerns?

RESPONSE

We introduced the Southwark Ethical Care Charter in October 2014. This Charter ensures that home care workers who are providing care in Southwark through contracts with Southwark Council have a range of protections in the terms and conditions of their employment including London Living Wage, payment for travel time, and the offer of guaranteed hours.
We know that this has made a positive difference to home care workers and very importantly to the people they care for by supporting continuity of care from regular carers, with time to care.

The Southwark Ethical Care Charter is enshrined in our current re-procurement of home care services as we are committed to high quality home care in Southwark and to treating everyone, the carers and the cared for, with dignity and respect.

The contracts covered by the Charter currently encompass just over half of the total home care provided by the council, with the remainder provided through spot purchases. We are currently in the process of tendering for our new home care contracts that will cover all our home care provision, through ten area-based contracts. Cabinet will decide the successful bidders in October.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O’BRIEN

With the impending implementation of Quietway 14, can the cabinet member outline any measures which are planned to improve cycling safety on Bermondsey Street, including, for example, installing clearer cycle contraflow markings and improving signage on the street?

RESPONSE

The proposed Quietway works in Tanner Street and Leather Market Gardens should considerably improve conditions for cyclists both cycling along the Quietway route across Bermondsey Street as well as cyclists travelling along Bermondsey Street itself.

The council continues to monitor along with Network Rail traffic patterns in the area. Significant changes to Bermondsey Street will not be possible until London Bridge station redevelopment is complete in late 2018.

In the meantime, Bermondsey Street is an identified route in the council’s cycle strategy which will see further development post-2018 subject to funding being available. Officers will review markings and signage on an interim basis at the same time as implementing the Quietway 14 proposals.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

Can the cabinet member confirm what plans the council has to respond to Transport for London’s (TfL) recent review of bus services in the Southeast Riverside area, outline the content of that response and explain how the council is intending to consult residents on the proposed changes?

RESPONSE

The council will be responding to TfL’s review of bus services. Officers are currently drafting the response, which will highlight the needs of the local area and the lack of adequate bus provision on the Rotherhithe Peninsula.

As part of any changes to bus services TfL are obliged to undertake public consultation before undertaking any changes.
31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Over the last three years, how many trees across Southwark have been felled and how many have been planted? Why are trees in Southwark Park being cut down to make way for construction traffic?

RESPONSE

Over the last 3 years a total of 1,705 trees have been removed, where they have been found to be dead, dying or dangerous, or as part of development where we seek to offset any essential tree loss with new trees. A total of 987 trees have been planted by Southwark over the past three years.

The council has not cut down any trees in Southwark Park to make way for construction traffic; however seven trees will need to be removed to accommodate the new café/office/public toilet building. 12 new trees are due to be replanted in the park in order to mitigate this tree loss.

The effect of development on trees and canopy cover is assessed as part of planning applications. Conditions can be imposed to replace a certain number or to fund planting via section 106 agreements. Since 2015, the Lendlease Elephant and Castle programme started planting 1,000 trees both on and offsite. Taken together with other minor and major planning applications, up to 2,000 new trees have been planted over the last three years as a result of development.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANN KIRBY

A resident in Village ward has contacted me who has been the victim of 4 burglaries in nine months – including whilst they were asleep. They have improved their security and reported the crimes but remain concerned that not enough has been done to tackle burglary in the area. Will the cabinet member tell me what discussions he has had with the police about tackling burglary, and what steps the council can take with the police to improve the situation in the area?

RESPONSE

I am very sorry to hear of this resident’s experience. Burglary is something we, the police and other local partners take very seriously.

Burglary continues to be a challenge in Village ward and has seen an increase in both burglary in a dwelling and overall burglary rates.

I understand, that the dedicated ward police officer for Village ward has worked extensively with the resident mentioned in the question. The police have stated that from speaking with the resident, they are appreciative of the efforts police have made. The council mobile CCTV provision is also operating in the vicinity of the address as a further preventative measure.

Across the borough, police continue to work with a number of partners including the council to tackle burglary which is one of the local police priorities and a priority for the Mayor’s Office for Policing and Crime, (MOPAC) for this year. In the coming weeks, the focus will also continue to include the second hand market (through Operation
Neptune), forensic examination and targeting specific burglars and handlers via police proactive task force teams.

When burglaries do occur, police enact a cocooning approach around the neighbouring properties which consists of face to face crime prevention advice and local intelligence gathering. Here, police visit 5 properties either side of the resident affected and 10 on the opposite side of the road asking if anything unusual was noticed before or after the incident. As part of this cocooning approach, police work with London Fire Brigade colleagues who also visit local properties offering fire and home security advice.

Intelligence and incident data has the added benefit of providing police with burglary hot spot locations where high visibility patrols are targeted to deter opportunistic criminality. The wide roll out of the Met Trace, (security marking system) product also continues to deter burglars and leaves a legacy benefit.

On a monthly basis a partnership tasking group is convened which includes the police, council departments and other key partners to pro-actively monitor burglary hotspots and deploy resources accordingly.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Can the cabinet member confirm whether figures for hate crimes in Southwark have risen since the referendum on the United Kingdom’s membership of the European Union, in comparison to the equivalent period before the referendum, and outline what steps the council is taking to both prevent hate crime and reassure groups who may be targets of hate crime?

RESPONSE

The council treats all hate crime reports very seriously. Our housing and anti-social behaviour team (SASBU) work alongside the police to ensure that victims are supported and that robust action is taken against perpetrators.

Analysis of recorded hate crime in Southwark between 24 June 2016 to 28 June 2016, (the period immediately after the EU referendum) indicated that there was an increase in reported hate crime during this period. This is compared to the period 19 June 2016 to 23 June 2016 prior to the referendum and when compared to the same period the previous year (24 June 2015 to 28 June 2015).

During the 6 month period following the referendum (July 2016 to December 2016) overall recorded hate crime saw an increase compared to the same period during 2015. This was mainly driven by large increases of recorded offences during July and August, during which offence levels peaked. Since August 2016 levels have largely returned to similar levels experienced during 2015.

The council’s community safety team works closely with community groups, including faith groups and the LGBTQ+ community who could be disproportionately affected by hate crime. Southwark also supports the Southwark Hate Crime Network. This group is made up of statutory partners and community groups and meets on a quarterly basis to discuss issues affecting the community.
To increase hate crime awareness the council provides free hate crime awareness training open to organisations that work in Southwark. Throughout the year we also support events such as Hate Crime Awareness Week. The council and its partners also support educational programmes in schools including the Heartstone Project and Boy, a play that focusses on the issues of discrimination and identity based bullying.

In recognition of the impact of Brexit on many parts of the community in Southwark we have increased our engagement with community groups, working closely with the Police providing reassurance and developing relationships with new community groups.

Southwark Council have also increased work and communication with Citizens UK. This has included handing out leaflets and engaging with members of the public, giving the clear message that hate crime won’t be tolerated in Southwark.

34. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

Will the cabinet member tell me what powers the council has to crack down on unscrupulous individuals and companies who encourage tenants to exercise their right to buy with large cash incentives, in order to then buy them and rent them out at high rents or sell them for huge profits?

RESPONSE

The council is aware of some companies that will seek to encourage tenants to purchase their council property which could lead to them losing their home. They often advertise their services by posting flyers through tenants’ doors.

When it is appropriate to do so, the council has reported these organisations to Trading Standards and/or the Financial Conduct Authority.

Southwark has also introduced stringent anti-fraud checks on all Right to Buy applications, which will pick up on any such financing arrangements and when necessary, applications will be suspended.

This will not affect the prospective purchaser’s Right to Buy, but will ensure that all mortgage providers are approved by the Council of Mortgage Lenders and any other loans investigated under money laundering regulations.

Both tenants and council staff have been made aware of such marketing by items on the council’s internet site and intranet site, The Source, and Southwark Life - see the following link: http://www.southwark.gov.uk/housing/council-tenants-services/right-to-buy?chapter=2.

All Right to Buy applicants are invited for interview to talk about their application and the council’s My Southwark homeowners staff will ensure that they are made aware of the existence of such companies. Staff have also attended training conducted the council’s finance and governance officers on tenancy fraud and the Proceeds of Crime Act 2002 (money laundering regulations).

I share Councillor Hamvas’ concerns about this practice and will write to the Minister about it, asking what more the government will do to tackle this.