

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: January 27 2010	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.8 members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one executive member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes.

Members are limited to one question at each meeting.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by questions to other executive members and on the portfolio for education and school attainment. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to executive members will be taken in the order of receipt and portfolio. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the executive member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the last executive member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly.

Executive members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another executive member if this is appropriate.

Responses to member's questions will be circulated on yellow paper around the council chamber on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other executive members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Note: In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.8 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

How do the results of the key stage 2 tests for 11 year olds compare with other areas and what is their impact on the borough in terms of future pupil numbers and people's decisions in where to raise their families?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Following the fires on Sumner Road and Camberwell Station Road, what action has the council taken to seek an improvement of security and fire safety on building sites in the borough?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

How many 16 year olds got five good GCSE passes last year, how has this improved compared to the previous Labour administration and how will it affect the borough's economic prospects to have much better qualified 16 years olds?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES

How is the council using this Holocaust Memorial Day, the 65th anniversary of the liberation of Auschwitz, as an opportunity to raise awareness of the Holocaust across the borough and educate young people about the terrible atrocities during the Holocaust and subsequent genocides?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

Last summer local residents around Lordship Lane were consulted about a new zebra crossing on Lordship Lane outside Somerfield. Over 80% of respondents wanted it. Can the leader please tell me when it will happen?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Would the leader comment on Labour run Lambeth's plans to aim for a minimal recycling, high incineration policy to deal with household waste?

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

Given in 2006 Labour run Lambeth sold off their council housing without telling tenants and Labour run Lewisham is now selling many of its homes to London and Quadrant, what assurances will the leader give to Southwark tenants that their homes will not be privatised against their wishes?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

How many complaints has he received in the last 12 months about the standard of social care in the borough and what information has been published by local MPs about their casework on this topic?

9. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

What was the average response time from the council following reports of a) abandoned vehicles; b) graffiti; c) fly-tipping, broken down by month for the last twelve months?

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Can the executive member provide details of how many fixed penalty notices for environmental crime were issued in each of the past five years, broken down by type of offence? Can the executive member provide details of how many individuals and businesses have been prosecuted by the council for environmental crime in each of the past five years, broken down by type of offence?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

Southwark appears to be experiencing a worryingly sharp rise in incidents of homophobic hate crime, there was an increase of 58% between September 2008 and September 2009. What discussions has the executive member had with the Borough Commander and other senior police officers about the likely causes and most effective methods to reverse this trend?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

Will the executive member welcome the recent proposals from the Secretary of State for Justice to increase the minimum sentence for those convicted of knife crime?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MCGOVERN

Have the council wardens undergone any training in recognising fire risks following the fire at Lakanal House and the fire in Peckham last year? What other work is the member planning with partner organisations to prevent major fires in the borough?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Just before Christmas she wrote to the Home Office and the Department for Communities and Local Government, among others, calling on them to support the council's initiatives to reduce violent crime. What has been the result?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN

In December the Transport Research Laboratory produced its fourth annual survey of mobile phone and seat belt usage rates in London which showed the illegal use of hand held mobile phones on the rise. Given this was a London-wide survey with a single sampling point in Southwark (Wyndham Road/Camberwell Road), will she look at commissioning a local survey to get a more detailed picture of what position is in Southwark?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK

Could he indicate the number of users of the John Harvard Library before and after its refurbishment?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE

Can the executive member provide details of bonus payments made by the council to officers in the last financial year, broken down by the size and number awarded to officers on each pay scale?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

The executive member said he was unable to answer questions about the contents of the borough's refreshed capital programme at the beginning of the month. Given the importance of the programme can he assure members of his full involvement in drawing up the programme?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA

What is the current council tax collection rate and how does this compare with each year from 1994?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

Can he give the figures for the Southwark element of council tax each year from its introduction in 1993-94 to the present and the cash and percentage increase from year to year?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

Can the executive member update the council on the cost savings associated with the move of back office staff to Tooley Street, the environmental benefits and income realised from the disposal of former offices?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

What would be the impact on the council tax if the council hadn't taken tough spending decisions over the past four years?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING

Since 2000 by how much has the Greater London Authority precept increased?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

The leader and other executive members have spent much time over the past few years rubbishing questions from Labour members about the effectiveness of the council's call centre. How does he react to the findings of the Care Quality Commission (CQC) inspection that older people, carers and support organisations have reservations about the performance of the call centre and are, in some cases, refraining from using it?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

What monitoring is there of home visits provided by the council to older people? How many home visits have been planned and carried out in 2009-10 to date compared with 2008-09 (please break down your answer by month)?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI

How many members' questions has he (or his predecessor) dealt with concerning the quality of social care in the last two years?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Can he tell the council what assumptions about social care spending in Southwark are made by the Care Quality Commission (CQC), the Audit Commission and are included in the council's local government settlement?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

Does he agree with the government minister, Phil Hope, in his letter of December 2 2009 that the recent Care Quality Commission (CQC) report on adult social care "does not mean that these councils are poor performers"?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

In April 2008 Camberwell Community Council was allocated money under the improving retail environments programme to improve Crossthwaite Avenue, a row of shops in South Camberwell. Different officers and consultants have spoken to the traders, but the council still appears to have made no progress with the project. Could the executive member provide an update and details of when work will begin?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE

Do the heads of terms agreement signed with Lend Lease meet all the aspirations of the executive member for the regeneration of Elephant & Castle as well as the requirements of the master-plan?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL

What is the executive member's reaction to the Mayor of London's statement earlier this month that there is no money available from Transport for London (TfL) towards the rebuilding of the Northern Line Underground station at Elephant & Castle?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARY FOULKES

Will the executive member condemn the decision by the Mayor of London to hike bus fares by 20% this year, during a period where inflation rates are negative? Does he agree

that this will have a particularly heavy impact on the many areas of the borough where bus is the primary or only means of public transport?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON NARDELL

In the article about shamefully high rates of child poverty in this borough in the Southwark News on January 4 2010, a council spokesperson picked out Sure Start centres, Job Centre Plus and Building Schools for the Future as the initiatives that the administration is taking to tackle child poverty. These are all government initiatives. Does the executive member agree that this council has woefully failed to bring forward any measures of its own to assess and tackle child poverty?

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

Please set out what incentives the parking contractor APCOA receives for issuing parking tickets?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

How many cars and motor bikes have been given parking tickets which were vehicles abandoned because of bad weather? Do you consider this fair and will the council be responding positively to appeals from those who were forced to abandon their vehicles?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

Last February the council ran out of grit following heavy snow. This year the council was reduced to gritting arterial roots after only a few days. What lessons did the council learn after its failure to store adequate grit supplies in February 2009?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICK VINEALL

Please can the executive member for environment publish the number of grit boxes in Southwark and the figures for neighbouring boroughs of Lambeth, Lewisham, Greenwich and Bromley?

38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

The council has agreed to continue to pay vast sums to top corporate manslaughter lawyers BCL Burton Copeland for advice on the Lakanal fire. How much has the council spent in total on training housing staff to carry out fire risk assessments since 2006 broken down by year?

39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

How many lifts are currently awaiting repair and not currently in use, as of January 1 2010? What is the timescale for these repairs? Please break down by ward.

**40. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING
FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Over the festive period, a number of residents on the Aylesbury and Portland estates had problems with loss of heating and hot water. This is now an annual occurrence. What compensation has the council arranged for these outages?