

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 27 March 2019	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes.

Members are limited to one question at each meeting. One councillor from each community council will be able to submit a question on behalf of their community council.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question from community council councillors followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will also be rotated. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the last cabinet member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly. The rotation is in line with decisions of council assembly in July 2014 and rotations circulated by the proper constitutional officer in April 2015.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member.

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

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

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

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.
3. A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2).

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM HOUNGBO

Given recent comments by the Metropolitan Police Commissioner Cressida Dick calling for more police officers to deal with knife crime, and the fact that there are 100 fewer police officers in Southwark than there were two years ago¹, does the Leader believe that a specialist knife crime unit in Southwark would be an effective part of a broad strategy to tackle knife crime, which has been particularly acute in Southwark over recent years?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MAGGIE BROWNING

Can the Leader update us on how the council's Fizz Free February campaign went this year?

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

Can the Leader please confirm how many children were permanently excluded from Southwark secondary schools in each of the last three years and how this figure compares to other London boroughs? Can he also outline what our education authority does to identify and support children at risk of permanent exclusion?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER BABUDU

Sections of Rye Lane are due to be closed to traffic until January 2020. Can the Leader tell us what work the council is doing to minimise the impact of this closure on Rye Lane's small and independent businesses?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

The recent Care Quality Commission inspection into the NEXUS Health Group of GP surgeries found 1023 patient test results which had not been appropriately viewed or filed, including 442 which were abnormal. Can the Leader outline what contact he has had with the leadership of the NEXUS Health Group or Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group to seek assurances that affected patients have now been made aware of their test results and that any appropriate clinical follow-up actions have been taken?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JACK BUCK

Can the Leader update us on what impact the additional social housing agreed for the Aylesbury Estate will be for local residents and the Aylesbury community?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI

Can the Leader please confirm the average amount of time someone in Band 1 on the Housing Register with a 1 bed need has waited to be offered a suitable home over the past five years? Can he also confirm the average amount of time someone who is in Band 1 with a 1 bed need because their current accommodation is not appropriately adapted for their access needs has waited to be offered a suitable home over the last five years?

¹ Police Officers in Southwark, Dec 16 – Dec 18: <https://www.london.gov.uk/what-we-do/mayors-office-policing-and-crime-mopac/data-and-statistics/policing/workforce-dashboard>

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

Can the Leader tell us how the council is preparing for Brexit?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

The policy and resources strategy documents for 2019-2020 that were considered by the overview and scrutiny committee on 28 January 2019 contained proposals to cut library opening hours, asserting that this would save £1 million. Following questions asked by Liberal Democrat Councillors, these proposals were abandoned. Can the Leader confirm how this additional money was identified, given that no further efficiency savings or increased revenues were subsequently introduced to balance this last-minute budgetary change?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL FLEMING

The March 2019 cabinet meeting agreed to develop a programme to deliver our manifesto pledge on ensuring every primary school child gets a free visit to the theatre every year. Can the Leader tell us what he thinks the benefits of this programme will be?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

Members of the public who attend council assembly have frequently found the process alien and intimidating, with little genuine debate allowed and with votes all too predictably breaking along party lines. Will the Leader commit himself and his cabinet to working with the opposition to find a better way to engage both the public and elected members in council decision-making?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE

Can the Leader update us on the work of the Youth Violence Commission so far?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Can the Leader please confirm how many council homes have been sold or demolished in each ward in Southwark since 2010?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the Leader of the Council indicate whether he supports Southwark residents being able to benefit from the additional rollout of HIV Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP) IMPACT trial places, and if so whether the council are prepared to find additional resources to ensure that the funding to pay for testing and research costs is found to protect men who have sex with men in Southwark, for whom all the PrEP trial places have been used up? Will he also use his position as Chair of London Councils to urge London Councils to find the money collectively to ensure that Londoners are not denied the additional PrEP trial places being made available by the Government, while continuing to lobby the government to fully fund PrEP for all those who need it in England?

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

Can the leader state whether his administration have any plans to phase out car lease schemes for senior executives?

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL REGENERATION, GREAT ESTATES AND NEW COUNCIL HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

When will the council's Place and Wellbeing department be visiting the local communities including community councils to consult on social regeneration and the new Consultation Charter, and when will the Statement of Community Involvement be updated on the website?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Does the cabinet member support the following statement?

"In light of the recent report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, this Community Council asks Southwark Council to declare a Climate Emergency, to review the council's current carbon reduction to establish the actions needed to be compatible with targets to limit global warming to 1.5C, and to bring its current timescale forward from 2050 to 2030.

Further we ask the council to call on national government and the Mayor of London to give Southwark Council the powers and funding to enable Southwark Council to become carbon neutral by 2030."

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Will Southwark Council declare a Climate Emergency?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, TRANSPORT MANAGEMENT AND AIR QUALITY FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the cabinet member for environment, transport management and air quality, provide an update on the controlled parking zone consultation in West Peckham and East Dulwich?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Can the cabinet member please outline what preparations Southwark Council has made for any increase in homelessness as a result of Brexit?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

Can the cabinet member please advise how tenants and leaseholders on Southwark estates have been made aware of the U-turn Southwark Labour have made away from a zero-tolerance policy on the keeping of items on balconies, to the more measured approach of assessing what is an actual safety hazard and what is not, as Southwark Liberal Democrats advocated from the very start?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the Queens Road 4 site and proposals?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Can the cabinet member report on the current progress being made to strengthen the Ledbury Estate tower blocks?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Following the recent district heating outages across the Wyndham, Comber and Brandon Estates, what work is being done to upgrade the system and prevent further problems?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Can the cabinet member please confirm how long Maydew House has now been empty? Can she also confirm the latest plans and timescales for the refurbishment of the block?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Can the cabinet member please outline what provision is being made for residents in council properties who are having their satellite dishes removed, but who do not have a communal aerial or broadband connection, to ensure that they can continue to access the television services for which they are paying, often on a minimum 1 year contract? Can she also confirm whether the council is prioritising those properties without satellite dishes, communal aerials or broadband connections for the rollout of the new broadband service? If not, could she please give details of the prioritisation process which has been used to choose which council blocks are due to receive this new service first?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

How have the changes to the management of the Shared ICT Service helped to create and maintain independence of the service and address the wider service capacity issues across the service?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT AND MODERNISATION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Can the cabinet member give an update on Capital Letters and the pan-London temporary accommodation procurement process?

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

Could the cabinet member please confirm what steps he has taken to ensure that, as per the recommendation of the overview and scrutiny committee on 21 January 2019, the neighbourhood portion of the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) will be spent in the ward or locality in which it has been collected, to ensure that the effects of development are mitigated where development has taken place? Can he also confirm what effect the proposals for changes to community councils will have on the process for allocating neighbourhood CIL as well as outlining what conversations have taken place with the community on the proposal to introduce community infrastructure plans?

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR LEANNE WERNER

Could the cabinet member update us on the delivery of the Low Line?

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR SIRAJUL ISLAM

Could the cabinet member update us on the ongoing campaign to ensure the Bakerloo Line is extended down the Old Kent Road?

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR GROWTH, DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Could the cabinet member tell us how many social homes have been approved this year?