

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: April 8 2009	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.8 member's 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 will be taken in the following order: the leader followed by the remaining executive members. The monitoring officer will rotate the order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader. Questions to the other executive members will be rotated according to member's respective portfolios.

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 OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

Council tenants in Southwark will be pleased that the council was the first in London to pass on the cut in rents. What indication has he had that other boroughs have also passed on the cut?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE

At a previous meeting of council assembly, council agreed to publish the production costs of all council publications on the council website. Why has the executive failed to do this? Can the leader of the council tell me when this will be done?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

In a 2002 referendum, the people of Southwark overwhelmingly rejected the option to have a directly elected mayor. The Local Government Act 2007 seeks to impose either a directly elected mayor, or a 'strong leader' model with many of the same functions as a directly elected mayor, on boroughs, without a mandate from local people. Does he stand by the results of the 2002 referendum, and will he oppose any government moves to impose an alternative system on Southwark?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

Given the public statements made by the chief executive accepting that there is toxic waste in the cemetery on Forest Hill Road, SE22, can the leader give my constituents, particularly families living along Rydale, any assurances that the toxic waste poses no risk to their health?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

What plans are in place for the use of the £6 million of funding which has been secured for Burgess Park?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

Why, in the leader of the council's opinion, have satisfaction rates with Borough and Bankside as an area to live fallen by 15% since 2006, according to the recent MORI residents survey?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM JAMES GURLING

Given that the first teams have now moved into the new offices at Tooley Street, can he update us on what feedback staff have given on the new facilities?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

What progress has been made in negotiations with Transport for London about funding for transport works as part of the Elephant and Castle regeneration?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA

What progress has been made in implementing the measures to support local businesses which were agreed as part of this year's budget?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL SAMERAI

Can he provide a progress report on the council's plans for Potters Fields?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

What plans are there for Southwark to resurface The Hamlet, Champion Hill, which has not been resurfaced since The Hamlet was built over 40 years ago?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

Since the council outsourced its waste collection service there has been growing problems with large piles of rubbish bags left on estates waiting for collection for long periods. This obviously represents a risk to public health. What steps has the executive member taken to ensure that this problem is resolved?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Following reports in the local press of dangerous traffic light organisation at the crossing on Walworth Road at East Street, members of the council said that it was Transport for London's responsibility. Transport for London have since said that changing the light arrangement would require a request from the council for such a change, which has not yet been made. Why has the executive member done nothing to change this potentially dangerous traffic light organisation?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

What discussions have transport planning officers had with Transport for London regarding traffic management at the Rotherhithe Tunnel roundabout?

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

In this year's budget, a saving was identified as a result of improvements to the council's parking charges collection. Can he explain how these savings will be delivered and what the impact will be on local residents?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

What progress has been made in developing a markets strategy for the borough?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI

In his answer to a question at council assembly in January, the executive member said that the council's funeral charges were significantly below the London average. Can he confirm whether he has plans to increase these charges to bring them into line with the London average?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Can he provide a list of those private housing blocks which do not allow access to the council to collect recycling?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

In the Canada Water Area Action Plan, Figure 11, 'Sites which may be suitable for new homes', the Fish Farm is given as an example site. Can he explain why the Fish Farm is designated as a site for development when many local people consider it to be part of Southwark Park?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES

Why is the council putting speed humps on streets in Southwark where average speeds are already lower than 24mph and which could, therefore, just be given 20mph speed limits?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

Can the executive member for the environment provide the results of the consultation on the proposed zebra crossing on Lordship Lane outside Somerfield and will he make a statement?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Does the executive member believe that the standard of the council's highways maintenance across the borough is acceptable?

23. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Given the commitment of all political groups in Southwark to the retention of the council's housing stock, can he confirm whether the council is a member of ARCH, the Association of Retained Council Housing?

24. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

What is the council doing to support those who are having difficulties paying their mortgages?

25. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

How many Heygate tenants have been re-housed to date?

26. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK

What representations has he received about his decision on charges for parking on council estates? Has he decided to reduce any of the charges as a result of representations?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES & COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

In October 2007, the then executive member for citizenship, equalities and communities told the overview and scrutiny committee that the council could only guarantee that 2810 members of council staff, roughly half, had completed equalities and diversity training. How many have completed it today?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

How does the council ensure that minority communities in Southwark are not excluded from health, education and community and council services and how is this monitored?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR NICK VINEALL

Is it correct the police have sourced and offered to the council (free of charge) an existing redundant CCTV camera which could be installed in Norwood Road (using the CGS funds, which have already been awarded, to fund the installation)? If so what response has been given on behalf of the council? What would the executive member's advice be if such an offer were to be made in the future?

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

How has the violent crime summit held in February changed the council's approach to this pressing issue? What is the next stage of this process?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the executive member for culture, media and sport please set out what plans he has for reviewing arrangements relating to ownership, trusteeship, custody, and the like, for the works of art which were formerly kept at the South London Gallery (some being loaned for use in council offices), and would he state whether there are any proposals to put some of them on public display?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE HOLFORD

Can the executive member please provide an update on the progress that has been made to date with the refurbishment of the Dulwich leisure centre?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MCGOVERN

Regarding the project management of the new sculpture in Burgess Park: who has been consulted? Which arts organisations are assisting the council? What is the anticipated cost?

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

On February 20 the executive member for resources sent all councillors an email listing ten ways that the new Tooley Street building will save the council money. Given the fact that the council hopes to save several million pounds on top of the £7.5 million that it will spend every year on the rent, will the member account for how much money the council will save for each of the ten points individually?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

I have been informed that members of staff who become home workers will not receive an allowance for the extra utilities they consume at home. They will not be given an allowance for ICT equipment. They certainly will not be provided with £600 chairs by the council. Up and down the country employers are offering their staff allowances to work at home so that home-working does not become a financial burden. Why hasn't Southwark?

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

Southwark has the 19th highest unemployment rate as an authority in Britain. Will the executive member provide the detailed breakdown of job losses that come as a result of the executive's budget for 2009-10 that he was not able to provide at the last council assembly meeting?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

How much has the council spent on private hire vehicles for the Mayor since it disposed of the permanent vehicle?

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL

Given the changing real estate market, has the member re-estimated how much he plans to make in capital receipts from the sale of the council's existing offices? How would the executive member characterise the sales process so far?

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES

In the light of the above inflation increase in adult care fees and charges announced for 2009-10, on top of the 10% increase in the proportion of disposable income that Southwark can charge for care services, can you provide us with an estimate of the average charge that Southwark residents in receipt of adult care services will pay in 2009-10, and the equivalent figure for 2008-09?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

The Conservative party housing spokesman (Grant Shapps MP) announced in a recent interview in 'Regeneration & Renewal' magazine that an incoming Conservative government would review the performance of the Homes & Communities Agency within 1 year of a Conservative government entering office. Could the executive member tell me his opinion of the performance of the Homes & Communities Agency thus far and what effect would its closure have on Southwark's regeneration schemes?

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

How much money has the council invested in regeneration projects in Southwark over the three years up until May 2009 broken down by parliamentary constituency, and what is the planned expenditure over the next three years.

42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

The executive member stated at the Monday March 16 Walworth Community Council that he will resist attempts by Guinness Trust to submit building proposals to build on Nursery Row Park. Has he changed his mind since then?

43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

In the residents survey the council was doing worst in the facilities for young people. In the joint area review (JAR) the council scored only two stars in youth services against a backdrop of three stars in every other category. Why did the executive decide not to prioritise youth services for new funding in the budget? Why did it decide to cut funding to youth provision?