

Item No: 50.	Classification: OPEN	Committee: EXTRAORDINARY COUNCIL ASSEMBLY	Date: 30TH OCTOBER 2002
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (BOROUGH SOLICITOR & SECRETARY)		Title of Report: REQUISITIONED QUESTIONS – THREE QUESTIONS SUBMITTED TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY ON THE 18 TH SEPTEMBER 2002 IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.8	

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.8 the three questions outlined below were submitted to Council Assembly on 18th September 2002. However, Members did not have the opportunity to ask a supplemental question at the meeting. Therefore, Councillors Alison Moise, Tony Ritchie, Dora Dixon-Fyle, Robert Smeath and Dominic Thorncroft requested that the questions be requisitioned to an Extraordinary Council Assembly meeting to enable supplemental questions to be asked. The requisition was received on 19th September 2002.

2. REQUISITIONED QUESTIONS

2.1 QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TONY RITCHIE

“Does the Deputy Leader believe that all Officers in the Council have a duty to refer serious allegations that are raised with them regarding the conduct of Councillors to the Standards Committee? If so, have any serious allegations regarding the conduct of a Councillor been raised with a Council Officer and has this been referred to the Standards Committee?”

RESPONSE

No. Serious allegations regarding Councillors should in most cases be referred to the Standards Board if they give rise to reasonable belief that there has been a breach of the Code of Conduct. If they do not, or if the officer seeks advice as to the right course of action to follow, the matter should be referred to the Monitoring Officer. A matter may be reported for consideration to the Standards Committee by the Standards Board directly or through the Monitoring Officer, or by the Monitoring Officer.

An allegation which may concern the conduct of a councillor has been made. It has not been referred to the Standards Committee.

2.2 **QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

“Has the Council received any formal or informal requests to investigate possible wrongdoing in the hiring of community halls through Tenant and Residents Associations in the last month and if so will the Deputy Leader issue a brief statement?”

RESPONSE

The Council has received an allegation of financial impropriety in relation to the letting of the Heygate Tenants Hall. It is understood that the Tenants Association has referred the matter to the police since it is not a matter for the Council.

The Council is keen to ensure the highest standard of probity in tenant and residents associations and has recently extended the terms of reference of the Best Value Review of Housing Management to include

- tenant participation and funding thereof
- a review of the effectiveness and outputs of grants made from the Tenants Fund

2.3 **QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES**

“Is the Deputy Leader satisfied that the Council has adequate monitoring systems in place to ensure that the hiring of community halls through Tenant and Residents Associations are protected from abuse and possible fraud?”

RESPONSE

The Council is generally satisfied that it maintains systems of monitoring of independent external bodies which protect any council funding or assets which the body may use. It will however review its position in the light of any facts which indicate otherwise.

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Background Papers

Council Questions & Motions Register

Held At

Room 3.15
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