

Item No: 56.	Classification: OPEN	Committee: COUNCIL ASSEMBLY	Date: 27th NOVEMBER 2002
From: CHIEF EXECUTIVE (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)		Title of Report: QUESTIONS SUBMITTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.8	

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.8 : MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.8 Members' Question Time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During the 30 minutes, 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 shall be taken in the following order; the Leader, the Executive Member for Finance, the Executive Member for Health and Social Care, the Executive Member for Housing, the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development, the Executive Member for Service Delivery, the Executive Member for Community Support and Safety, the Executive Member for Education Youth and Leisure and, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport. The order of questions is rotated by the Borough Solicitor & Secretary at every meeting (CPR 3.8 (5)).

Executive Members and Committee Chairs have discretion to refer a question to another Executive Member if this is appropriate.

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 first question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, 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.

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

“Would the Leader of the Council acknowledge the inconvenience being caused to Officers and Members by the absence of an up-to-date Council telephone directory; summarise steps taken to date by Officers to produce one, and indicate when one will be published?”

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

“Does the Leader of the Council consider that the effective way to dispose of community assets such as Pelican House is to encourage as much as possible community organisation participation?”

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

“What action is the Council taking in response to the racist incidents in Bermondsey?”

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Officers have provided an estimated cost for Community Councils of £1million for 2003/04. Is this a higher priority than partially or fully restoring the £3 million cut from homecare services for the elderly and disabled made earlier this year?”

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

“In the Education Development Plan the target for the percentage of half days missed at secondary schools is 8.3% for 2003. Can the Leader explain why between May and October the percentage of Executive meetings missed by the Executive Member for Service Delivery was 33%, whereas the Deputy Leader, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, the Executive Member for Education and the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development have missed 25% of Executive meetings? Is he satisfied that taxpayers are getting value for money?”

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY

“Can the Leader confirm whether an agreement has been reached with Berkley Homes in respect of affordable housing provision within the development at Chambers Wharf? Can he give any details of this agreement?”

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

“Will the Leader comment on the contrast between the analysis in respect of political leadership given in the McAusland report and the Corporate Performance Assessment team’s report?”

8. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

“Was Bermondsey represented in an Area Forum under the previous administration?”

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

Does the Deputy Leader agree with the comments made by Councillor Manchester in the Southwark News in relation to Bermondsey Town Hall that ‘we are hoping to go back to localised town halls’?”

10. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

“How much resources (in real terms) does the current administration plan to contribute to the physical regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate. And what priority does it attach to investment on the Estate?”

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR VICKY NAISH

“How many residential and nursing homes and voluntary groups funded by social services have you visited since you have been in office, and can you please name the ones you have visited in the Borough? How many private nursing homes in Southwark have had their admissions stopped?”

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

“Do you have plans to end home improvement grants currently available to home owners with language difficulties and to those who are elderly or disabled?”

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

“How much in total is the failure of Silk & Mackman likely to cost the HRA this year?”

How much money has already been spent on the Tissington Court fob entry system and is it planned to complete this system?”

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

“With regard to the cost of removal of dumped objects and fly-tips on estates, are any Neighbourhood Housing Offices exceeding their budget? If so, what is the expected overspend each is likely to incur?”

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

“With regard to the Council’s discretion to deny the Right to Buy in cases of suitability of the dwelling for occupation by persons of pensionable age, would the Executive Member for Housing please state:

1. The number of occasions on which such discretion has been exercised since 1st April 1999, including the post code of each relevant dwelling;
2. The person or body who in each case took the decision;
3. The scheme of delegated powers relevant to each such decision.

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

“Can the Executive Member confirm whether the housing department is meeting its rent collection target?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

“What effect is the delay in appointing a new commercial and development partnership having on the future social and economic prospects of the Elephant and Castle development given a possible downturn in the economy?”

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

“What is the budget for the Elephant and Castle for the current financial year and what budget would the Executive member like for 2003/04?”

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN HUNT

“Can you tell us how many people were stopped and searched in Southwark (in the last period for which records were kept), of these how many were black, and what plans do the police and council have for fully engaging the minority communities, and especially young people who know what’s happening on the streets, in the fight against crime?”

20. QUESTION TO EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

“Why did the Liberal Democrat administration put the Best Value Review of Equalities on hold?”

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

“With regard to the appointment, with effect from 1st January 2003, of Professor Tim Brighouse as ‘London Schools Commissioner’ would the Executive Member for Education please advise;

1. Under what statutory powers was he appointed; who appointed him; to whom is he accountable and what powers will he have over Southwark LEA and Southwark schools?
2. What are the likely effects of his appointment on the management and performance requirements of the Council’s contract with WS Atkins?
3. What budget has been allocated for the first year of Professor Brighouse’s activities and who is paying for it?
4. What performance criteria, if any, are built into the terms on which he will hold office?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

“How many children are without school places and are not receiving tuition?”.

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

“Could the Executive Member say how soon it will be before buses are running once again in both directions along Rye Lane? And could he set out the steps, if any, that the Council has taken recently to hasten this process?”

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

“Would the Executive Member for Environment and Transport please set out the Council’s policy on the Mayor of London’s congestion charging scheme both generally and with specific reference to (i) the likely disadvantages for Southwark’s residents and businesses and (ii) the reported remarks (The Times, 7 November 2002,p.14) of Ms.Gavron, Labour’s choice for the next mayoral election, ‘that she backed Mr Livingstone’s plans for congestion charging....but that she would initially spend all the proceeds in Outer London Boroughs”.

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DERMOT McINERNEY

“How many complaints has his Department received in each of the past five years concerning infestations of *Senecio jacobaea*?”

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

“Nunhead residents are much troubled by gangs of youths setting off loud fireworks in the period surrounding November 5th each year. The period of disruption can last for a number of weeks either side of this date. Can he advise what steps the Council has taken to work constructively with local residents, retailers, the Chamber of Commerce and the police to reduce this anti-social practice. Can he advise what plans the Council has to fine and/or name and shame retailers who flout the law by selling fireworks to minors?”

27. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

“Would the Chair please set out his policy on consulting with other councillors, such as Chairs of Scrutiny Sub-Committees, when called upon to exercise powers vested solely in him by the Council’s Constitution, for example to permit key decisions to be taken notwithstanding their absence from the Council’s Forward Plan?”

Lead Officer: Ian Millichap, Constitutional Support Manager
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Background Papers
Council Questions/
Answer File

Held At
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