

Item No. 74.	Classification: Open	Date: 26.03.03	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Questions from Members Submitted In Accordance With Council Procedure Rule 3.8	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)	

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 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, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport, the Executive Member for Finance, the Executive Member for Health and Social Care, and the Executive Member for Housing. 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

"What volumes of correspondence and what postage and stationery costs have been incurred by Members Services since 3rd May, 2002 for communications from Councillors to ward residents broken down by each ward Councillor?"

Note: This question was originally submitted for Council Assembly on 22nd January 2003 but was withdrawn for reconsideration of the answer. Council Assembly agreed that it should be resubmitted to a future meeting and that this question would be in addition to Councillor Humphreys' ordinary question entitlement.

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

“Would the Leader of the Council provide details of:

- 1) The eligibility criteria exercised in Southwark for the Starter Home Initiative for all categories of key worker employees; and
- 2) The level of take-up within Southwark by key-workers working here.”

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

”As a Council, what efforts are we making to encourage film makers, whether feature, documentary or television, to come to Southwark, bring investment into Southwark, and portray our Borough as a place to live and work?”

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

“Given the results of the Local Government Chronicle Councillors survey which gave a figure for the percentage of black/ethnic minority Liberal Democrat Cabinet Members across the country as 0.0%, could the Leader inform me how long it will be before Southwark has a BME Liberal Democrat Executive Member?”

5. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

“Can the Executive Member confirm that she supports the principle that the distribution of Environmental Improvement Programme and community safety funding for 2003/2004 should be carried out according to the objective by which the Council measures need?”

6. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

“How will community safety and environmental improvement programme capital funds be divided between the eight Community Councils?”

7. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

“Would the Executive Member please explain what action he is currently taking to address the concerns of residents of Surrey Docks ward in relation to poor police response times and the general presence of police in the area?”

8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN O'BRIEN

“Can the Executive Member advise of the level of cuts that were made to the voluntary sector for the 2002/2003 funding round, under the previous administration?”

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

“As the member knows the Millwall walkway will considerably reduce dangers to my constituents who live in adjoining roads. Can he explain why the Millwall Walkway has not yet been completed and why Mayor Livingstone and Greater London Authority member Valerie Shawcross seem to be under the misapprehension that the police are opposed to this scheme?”

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

“Can the Executive Member please detail the attendance of Councillors at the SRB6 Hate Crimes Board since May 2002?”

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

“Would the Executive Member for Education please state, for each maintained school in the Borough for 2003/03 and 2003/04:

- (a) the number of pupils
- (b) the formula funding allocation from the Council
- (c) the overall resources available to the school after taking account of Standards Fund and other relevant changes

with the totals (and percentage change from year to year) for primary, secondary and other schools.”

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

“Given recent press reports (Southwark News ‘Race is on for school places’), can the Executive Member for Education, Youth and Leisure give parents an assurance that every Southwark pupil needing a secondary school place within the Borough will get one? Could he also inform Council as to the steps being taken by WS Atkins to reduce the disruption caused by parents accepting more than one place and dropping it on the first morning of the school term?”

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

“Could the Executive Member for Education, Youth and Leisure please detail the current number of excluded secondary school pupils at present and the equivalent for this time last year?

Could he also provide a breakdown of the figures to include ethnicity and inform the Council what proactive actions are in place to reduce the number of pupils excluded from schools, in particular black males and older pupils of Key Stage 3 and above.”

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

“Can the Executive Member for Education, Youth and Leisure please provide details of the total arts grant for 2003/2003, the total arts grant for 2003/04 and the real terms cut between the two years after taking into account inflation?”

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

“Why have Southwark Headteachers written to the Department for Education and Skills in an expression of no confidence in WS Atkins?”

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

“Does the Executive Member for Education, Youth and Leisure agree with me that significant cuts in local authority’s funding to voluntary groups, in particular education, leisure, youth and arts (15%) will severely hinder the ability of community groups attracting external funding for Southwark in the future. Can the Member tell this Council what the Liberal Democrats’ long-term strategy is for funding the voluntary groups?”

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

“Was any Southwark Council Member or Officer responsible for the delay in granting planning permission for the Bermondsey City Academy?”

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION, YOUTH AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

“Would the Executive Member for Education please state the distances, for purposes of primary schools admissions, in metres between:

- (i) Bessemer Grange School pupil entrance and (a) the dwelling in Ruskin Park House, Champion Hill, SE5, which is nearest the school [point A], and (b) the eastern-most house in Half Moon Lane, SE24 [point B];
- (ii) point A and all other community schools admitting pupils at reception or Year 1 (whether in Lambeth or Southwark) within 1 kilometre of point A; and
- (iii) point B and all other community schools admitting pupils at Reception or Year 1 (whether in Lambeth or Southwark) within 1 kilometer of point B.”

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

“What response have officers received from Transport for London regarding its willingness or otherwise to fund a ‘limited hour’ scheme in the streets near Herne Hill rather than an all-day controlled parking zone”?

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

“What are the level of parking charges for 2002/03 and 2003/04 for each of the Council's car parks, and what percentage increase will there be for each of the car parks?”

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

“Will the Executive Member confirm that the Council has ring-fenced funding agreed in 2002/2003 of £272,000 necessary to carry out regeneration work at Queens Road Station? Will the Executive Member also agree that delays in implementing a project of improvements at Queens Road Station are down to in-action on the part of Rail Track, and will he write to them to urge their speedy recovery?”

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

“What arrangements will the Executive Member be instructing Officers to make in order to provide Members who wish to receive it, with clear, detailed, reliable, timely and regular information on the Council’s income and expenditure compared to the budget?”

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

“Given that many Local Education Authorities have ‘passported’ resources for 2003/04 into schools under the Education Act 2002 on the basis of actual (rather than uncapped) Formula Spending Share (FSS) resource increases, and that the Secretary of State has not found that unacceptable, please would the Executive member explain:

- (a) When she became aware of the opportunity to passport on the actual basis?
- (b) Why the Executive persisted in using the uncapped basis?”

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

“The Liberal Democrat budget for 2003/04 contains a number of cuts targeted specifically at the Peckham area, for example, the reduction to the Sojourner Truth and Unity budgets and the Peckham Town Centre Management work programme. What assessment has been made of the adverse impact on service delivery and community access, and how will this impact on the black and minority ethnic communities in particular?”

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR FINANCE FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

“What is the total cut in capital and revenue to the Peckham area as a result of the 2003/04 budget?”

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY

“Could the Executive Member please give an update on the progress of the Four Squares feasibility study?”

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

“What reassurances can she give that tenants and residents of the Aylesbury Estate will not again have to tolerate the situation where, because of the problems with the

District Heating system, they are without heating and hot water; and can she confirm that in cases where both heating and hot water have been out of commission for a long period, compensation will be paid?”

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

“Will the Executive Member confirm definitively whether or not the Council plans to implement a programme of private sector housing renewal in the Nunhead area in 2003/2004?”

Note: This question was originally submitted to the Executive Member for Regeneration. In accordance with Council Procedure Rule 3.9(6), the Executive Member for Regeneration has referred it to the Executive Member for Housing.

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

“Will Councillor Bassom confirm that Taplow Neighbourhood Housing Office will not be closed as a result of the Best Value report on Housing Management – yes or no?”

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

Held At
Room 315
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