

Item No. 84	Classification: Open	Date: 30.4.03	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		QUESTIONS 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 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, the Executive Member for Housing, and the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development. The order of questions are 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

"To ask the Leader of the Council to provide details of the Council's relationship with the Southwark Race and Equalities Council and if he attended their Consultation Meeting on 22nd November 2002 on 'The Future of Black Women in Southwark'".

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
STEPHEN FLANNERY**

“The Leader may be aware of numerous fly-posters around the borough, particularly on Walworth Road and Newington Causeway, advertising an SWP meeting at which the Southwark Labour Group Leader is guest speaker.

Does the Executive Member agree that fly-posting is a blight on the local environment and could he please advise members how much it is likely to cost the council to remove these posters?”

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF
HOOK**

”Can the Leader of the Council please give details of all Councillor surgeries held in the borough?”

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS
ROBINSON**

“The Leader of the Council may recall that at Council Assembly in November 2002 he informed us that the new Council internal telephone directory would be published in March 2003, and that in the meantime he would endeavour to obtain copies of the previous edition for councillors without one. In the light of his remarks could he tell us:

- a) Why the new internal telephone directory has still not been published?
- b) Do any copies of the previous edition still exist and if they do why have they still not been distributed to councillors?”

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE
PEARCE**

“Will the Leader of the Council agree that at the Council meeting of 22nd January 2003 he misled Members in his written and verbal replies to Question 7 which was:

‘Does the Leader agree with the statement of the Executive Member for Community Support and Safety that Southwark Police are ‘...illogical, inconsistent and apparently motivated by institutional homophobia?’

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL
BATES**

“Can the Leader explain why neither the Leader of the Majority Opposition, nor the Leader of the Minority Opposition, were invited to sign the Community Statement on Iraq which was issued by the Council?”

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TONY RITCHIE

“In the ‘Local Government Chronicle’ of the 4th April there is an advertisement from the ‘Guide Dogs for the Blind’ thanking councils who had helped them in their recent campaign to make people aware on the dangers of obstructed highways. As Southwark’s name was not in the list of thanked councils can we assume that Southwark refused to help the Guide Dogs for the Blind in its safety campaign?”

8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR SERVICE DELIVERY FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

“When will the Council’s website be up to date with Council Assembly, committee and sub-committee agendas, papers and minutes?”

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

“Can the Executive Member tell the Council how many guns have been handed in to Southwark Police following this month’s amnesty?”

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

“Could the Executive Member please clarify how the new warden schemes proposed for this year will be funded? Is it actually the case, as Councillor Simmons suggested at the last Council meeting, that these schemes will be funded by the Government?”

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

“Can the Executive Member please outline how many Southwark projects are facing cuts or withdrawal of funding from the Association of London Government (ALG)?”

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

“Can the Executive Member inform Council of the outcome of his recent meeting with Network Rail as it relates to the Millwall Walkway and Queens Road station?”

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

“In answer to my supplementary question at Council Assembly on 22nd January 2003, the Executive Member said:

‘... initially we should be targeting the Wardens Scheme within the [crime] hotspots. With regard to the criteria as to where we place Wardens Scheme after that priority neighbourhoods and other areas of high crime seem a natural place to go’.

In the Executive meeting on 11th March 2003 the Executive agreed:

“... that the second phase of development should focus on other main shopping and retail areas in the borough, and including railway stations. This would include areas such as Lordship Lane, Nunhead, Bankside, London bridge and Canada Water.”

Can the Executive Member clarify whether or not Priority Neighbourhood status will be a factor in determining the location of second phase schemes?’

14.. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SUPPORT AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

“What impact has the Community Learning Chest and other complementary Neighbourhood Renewal programmes had in ensuring that the socially excluded in the renewal areas have the support, skills and knowledge they need to improve their Neighbourhoods and how has this been evidenced to date?’

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

“Can the Executive Member please make a statement on the future of education in Southwark in light of the problems reported in the press?”

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

“How many schools are currently on Special Measures or Serious Weaknesses and how does this compare to the situation a year ago?’

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

“Is the Executive Member for Education, Youth and Leisure confident that the total number of schools on Special Measures will not rise any further?’

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

“When was the Executive Member first aware of problems with the Schools Improvement Division?’

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

“What does the Executive Member anticipate the GCSE pass rate for the borough will be this Summer?’

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

“What action has been taken as a result of schools being provided with wildly inaccurate provisional budget figures this year?”

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

“What proposals does the Executive Member have for parents who want their son to attend a mixed secondary school in the East Dulwich and Nunhead area?”

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION YOUTH & LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

“Is the Executive Member for Education now in a better position to update us on the progress on the proposed Children & Families centre in Peckham and would he join with me in welcoming the £5 million earmarked by the Government for Childcare in Southwark?”

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

“Will the Executive Member please state whether, in regard to the proposed controlled parking zone in Herne Hill what assessments the Council has made of the cost-effectiveness of some form of ‘limited hours’ scheme with a view to the possibility of putting forward such a scheme to Transport for London for funding?”

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

“Further to the Council’s success in January 2003 in obtaining lottery funding for the improvement of Dulwich Park, will the Executive Member please give an update on further developments, especially with regard to the early implementation of works to speed up the introduction of car-free status to the park, as desired by the Dulwich Park Friends?”

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

“I have noticed a significant improvement in street cleaning in my ward recently, and across the borough. Does the Executive Member agree that there is already a noticeable improvement in the cleanliness of our streets since the new contract started?”

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

“How confident is the Executive Member for Environment and Transport that the Old Kent Road gasworks site is sufficiently free of toxic pollutants to enable it to be safely put to use as a Waste Transfer Station?”

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

“Bearing in mind the inherent problems caused by our national dependence on imported mineral oil, could the Executive Member with responsibility for Environment and Transport tell me how many gallons of mineral diesel, and how much money we could save, as a borough, by converting our fleet to run on a biodiesel type fuel such as vegetable oil?”

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN HUNT

“Can the Executive Member please reassure members that plans for a recycling centre at Mr Livesey’s former gas works on the Old Kent Road do not include an incinerator; that local residents will be fully consulted and their views will count; that the Council will make every effort to ensure that other sites will be sought and properly considered and evaluated; and that there are no plans for an incinerator anywhere else in the borough?”

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

“Why were reports made at the launch of the Street Leader scheme still not actioned by the time of the Street Leader briefing on Tuesday 8th April 2003?”

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

“What progress has been made in the last month towards completing the sale of land at Queens Road Station to Network Rail and when do you expect the improvement works to commence?”

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

“Is the Executive Member aware of any plans to re-surface Champion Hill?”

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

“At the Executive Meeting on 25th March 2003 the Executive agreed to extend the contract for Day Care Services with Age Concern Southwark for just six months whilst the consultation on Modernising Day Care continues.

What comfort can you give to users of the Nunhead Age Concern Early Intervention Centre that there will continue to be services provided for the elderly in the Nunhead area when the six months are up?’

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES

“Can the Executive Member tell me approximately how many tenants have so far taken advantage of the new freephone repairs number, one of the Council’s ‘Six To Fix’, since its launch earlier this month?”

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL WATSON

“Can the Executive Member indicate to Council how our ‘Supporting People Strategy’ is viewed by the Government?”

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

“Can the Executive Member advise Council on the current level of families in Bed & Breakfast accommodation at the end of the 2002/03 financial year and how this compares with the position at the end of 2001/02.”

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

“How much will the “freephone” repairs line cost to run for a year?”

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

“What performance measures will be used for the new housing door entry contract. Can she provide the anticipated monthly figures for these measures over the next year?”

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

“Can Councillor Bassom explain how residents on the Rouel Road estate were selected to participate in the consultation regarding potential improvements to the estate?”

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

“About once a month I am contacted by a family living in seriously overcrowded accommodation in council property. Presently these families have little chance of being offered alternative housing.

What plans does this Council have to alleviate this very serious problem which is breaking up relationships, affecting children’s education and often the health of family members?’

Lead Officer: Ian Millichap, Constitutional Support Manager
Report Author: Kevin Flaherty, Constitutional Support Officer

Background Papers
Council Questions/
Answer File

Held At
Room 315,
Peckham Town Hall

Contact
Kevin Flaherty
0207 525 7236