

Item No. 12	Classification: Open	Date: 25.6.03	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 45 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 shall be taken in the following order; the Leader, the Deputy Leader, the Executive Member for Community Safety, Social Inclusion & Youth; the Executive Member for Education & Culture; the Executive Member for Environment and Transport; the Executive Member for Resources; the Executive Member for Health and Social Care; the Executive Member for Housing; the Executive Member for Regeneration and Economic Development and the Executive Member for Communication & Performance Improvement. 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 FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Does the Leader of the Council support a system of floors and ceilings for local Government Finance?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Could the Leader please confirm whether Southwark is now below the London average in terms of its Council Tax at band D level?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

In the light of the Leader's view expressed to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 16th April 2003 that "*consideration might also be given to Community Councils controlling sections of the Revenue Budget*", would the Leader set out his proposed timetable for undertaking such a consideration?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

I understand that on 2nd May 2003 there was a meeting held at the Town Hall in room A8 at 12.30 p.m. between the Leader of the Council, Councillor Richard Porter, Bob Coomber, Chris Berry and representatives of Imperial Gardens Nightclub.

What Decisions were reached?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Is the Leader aware that the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham has managed to exceed "Livingstone's magic number" (*Housing Today* 16 May 2003) with regard to the provision of more social housing? Can he comment on the figures in the rest of the article which show that many boroughs are working towards the London Mayor's target of 50% affordable housing?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY

Does the Leader agree with Stephen Byers MP (former Secretary of State for Transport, Local Government and the Regions) that there should be a level playing field between stock retention and transfer and that this can only be achieved by allowing councils to borrow to fund improvements (*Inside Housing*, 30 May 2003)?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN HUNT

Can the leader throw any light on the previous administration's secret cabal, the so-called War Cabinet, established to plot and control plans for a new railway station at Camberwell New Road; its membership, activities and decisions. And can he assure Council Assembly that any similar group set up by the present executive would be open, transparent and above board; keeping residents and organisations affected by its discussions fully informed, subject only to the requirements of commercial confidentiality?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

In light of the report in London Bulletin (May/June 2003) that London could lose a huge chunk of the £100m per year it receives in European funding following the Government proposal to end EU regional policy and structural funding for more prosperous member states including Britain, can the Leader advise whether Southwark benefits from any EU funding?

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

How many recommendations of the Standards Committee has the Deputy leader supported at full Council Assembly and how many has she opposed since May 2002?

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

I would like to ask the member if he shares my concern that at the opening of the 'knotted gun' in Peckham to highlight the battle against gun crime-the only politician invited to attend by the Council, other than the members of the Executive , was the Liberal Democrat MP for North Southwark and Bermondsey.

Does he share my concern with the fact that at what should have been a cross party event not even the MP for the constituency at which the event took place Harriet Harman was invited or indeed any other representative from the Labour party.

Can he then tell me why this was?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

Will the Executive Member outline both the number of permanently employed and supply teachers for each school in the Borough (by each category) for 2002/03 and 2001/02 and will he also state the number of current permanently employed teachers who have given notice of their intention to leave their school this year (in numerical and % terms by school) while also listing the figures of teachers who left employment in Southwark schools in 2001-2002 (by school)?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

How many schools have had their right to a delegated budget suspended? For how long for in each case and what has been or is being done by the LEA to assist these schools?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Could the Executive Member please update Council Assembly on the latest position with regards to Southwark education?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

What books are provided in the reference sections of the libraries in Southwark for students taking 'GCSE' examinations and 'A' level examinations?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

In the light of recent press reports concerning the case of Georgina Rolfe can the Executive Member confirm it is still this Council's stated intention to ensure primary school pupils continue their education together in local secondary schools, and not one of having to be sent from one end of the borough to the other?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

Would the Executive Member provide a detailed analysis of the reliability and running costs of the alternative fuelled vehicles used by the Council?

On reliability the statistics should set out the total number of days that each vehicle has been out of service for the last 3 months.

On running costs the information should provide a comparison with the fuel and maintenance costs of equivalent sized diesel or petrol vehicles.

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

How many cars have been crushed in error by APCOA on behalf of the council since May 2002?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Can the Executive Member outline any proposed programme of works to improve East Street - with special reference to streetscene, road & pavement surfaces, street cleaning and market regulation?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

In light of the recent injury of a child from Charter School what action is being taken to listen to the requests of the school and parents to take urgent action to improve safety?

In particular when will the warning lights on Red Post Hill between the entrance of the school near St Faith's Centre which have been switched off for nearly three years be re-activated, when will a school crossing attendant be introduced and when will warning lights and/or signs be placed near North Dulwich Station.

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

Could the Executive member give Council an update on progress made so far in transferring land adjacent to Queens Road station to Network Rail and could he also tell Council what he has done in the last month to make this happen?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

Can the Member confirm that Southwark has increased its financial portfolio holding in BAE Systems (that sells £9b of arms worldwide) from 658,000 shares to just under 5m shares and from 205,800 shares to 890,321 shares in GKN (owners of Westland helicopters), and whether she agrees this is in line with the comments of the Chief Executive that the Council is "...taking a pro-active approach to ethical investment?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

Is the Executive Member satisfied with the Council's Superannuation investment strategy?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

I would like to ask the Executive Member to explain why it has taken more than 12 months for the Council to allocate premises for the East Peckham sure start in Asylum Road and when will the matter be finally resolved?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

Can I ask the Executive member if Southwark Council is planning to respond to the Work & Pensions consultation document on 20th May proposing that Housing benefit payments be withheld from claimants responsible for anti-social behaviour?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the Executive Member for Regeneration provide a table showing the average purchase price of homes compulsorily purchased (whether "by agreement" or otherwise) for purposes of the Peckham Partnership since its inception, with breakdowns into categories such as year of purchase, size of property, whether owner occupied or let out, and any other category the Executive Member believes relevant and/or helpful?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

Can the Executive Member give Council Assembly full details relating to the 'door to door' survey she has committed the council to carry out (Southwark news, 05-06-03) on the Heygate Estate?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

What was the nature of the consultation that took place about the Grove Vale Environment Improvement Programme , and who was involved in the process?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

When will the Council be publicising the last municipal year's total sum of allowances paid to each member in respect of basic, special responsibility and childcare and dependent carers allowances, as it is required to do under the 2001 regulations governing the publicity of members allowances?

29. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

What are the number of appeals against decisions of the Planning Committee
a) upheld
b) refused in the municipal year 2002/03?

30. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

What are the number of appeals against decisions of the Licensing Committee
a) upheld
b) refused in the municipal year 2002/03?

31. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

Does the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agree with the comments of Cllr. Jenny Kingsley (Con, Kensington & Chelsea) that "One questions how constructive scrutiny can be if what is being scrutinised is party policy, and 'whipping' pressurises members not to risk awkward questions and make recommendations...Party policy is meant to be debated, not dictated..(and) vice-chairs and chairs should be from opposing parties...", and with those of Cllr. Ross Laird (LibDem, Haringey) that "...where scrutiny usually fails it is because it is run by the ruling group...", and what parallels and lessons does he draw for the operation of scrutiny procedures in Southwark?