

Item No. 4	Classification: Open	Date: 29.10.03	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Questions Submitted in Accordance with Council Assembly 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 Assembly 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 Resources; 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 Communication & Performance Improvement, the Executive Member for Community Safety, Social Inclusion & Youth; the Executive Member for Education & Culture and the Executive Member for Environment and Transport. The order of questions are rotated by the Borough Solicitor & Secretary at every meeting (CAPR 3.8 (9) & (10)).

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.

(NOTE: In accordance with Council Assembly Procedure Rule 3.8 (9) & (10) (Prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting).

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

Would Councillor Stanton agree that it is not best practice for officers of the Council to co-sign letters to the press with members of the Executive rebutting points made by members of the public?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY

The Treasury revenue forecast implies a 6% council tax increase next year, whilst local government ministers insist that only an inflationary increase in council tax is required. Could the Leader comment on this discrepancy?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

In the light of the colourful and politicised language of the Executive's resolution of 7th October 2003 on "*Policy and Resourcing Strategy 2004/07*", in particular its support for "*Liberal Democrat campaign*" for a local income tax "*which would take account of a person's ability to pay*", would the Leader of the Council provide full details of the Liberal Democrat proposals (including, for example, confirmation that, in an household where two or more persons with "ability to pay" benefit from services provided through a local income tax, each one of such persons will pay) and, if he is unable to provide details of what his party is campaigning for, would he agree that much of the 7th October resolution should properly be seen as a mask for the Executive's failure to give an adequate steer to officers for responsible budget-making 2004/05, as requested in paragraph 14 of the officers report?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

Could the leader outline what the total cost of the current consultation process for the East Peckham and Nunhead priority areas will be? And does he share the concern of local people and myself that unless the Executive gives a commitment to carry out work following that process, Southwark Council risks raising expectations, disappointing and ultimately alienating local people from future local decision-making?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TONY RITCHIE

Why is Southwark one of the few London Boroughs not to provide data to the panel reviewing members allowances?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Can the Leader confirm whether the Council is going to make any formal input into the consultation on possible Foundation Hospital status which is being conducted by both Guys & St Thomas Hospital Trust and Kings Hospital? The consultation ends on 12th November.

7. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Along with myself and Councillor Sarah Welfare you'll recall the visit you made with Councillor Richard Porter to the East Dulwich Community Centre during the summer. During the visit you met with members of the Centre's Management Committee who then showed you both around the centre and the main topic discussed at the meeting was to secure a lease on the premises in order to safeguard its long term use as a Community Centre. As you know the Management Committee would like to build a new Community Centre on the site that would benefit all sections of the local community.

Therefore, can you tell me what progress you have made on the matter ?

8. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY

Can the Deputy Leader comment on feedback she has received in relation to community councils and give attendance figures for both community councils and area fora?

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

Could the Executive Member for Resources please provide the average and maximum times for passing claimants' housing benefit appeals to the new independent tribunal for

- i. 2002/03
- ii. The current financial year to date.

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

In the light of the fact that all London Council workers have received pay rises of between 7.7 and 11% in the last year (ALG Key Issues Bulletin 26/09/03), would the Executive Member for Resources confirm that, with a view to providing some relief for taxpayers, all payroll savings resulting from "industrial action" will be taken straight to balances, and not used as windfall departmental savings?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Has any decision been taken as to the future of the Aylesbury Day Centre?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Will the Executive Member please inform me how many nursing and residential homes and how many voluntary groups supported by social services she has visited?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

A number of estates in the Nunhead area are terrorised by anti-social neighbours. Can the Executive Member for Housing give a figure for the number of tenants evicted since May 2002 on the basis of evidence gathered by the Anti-Social Behaviour Unit which may not have resulted in an Anti Social Behaviour Order through the courts but which clearly demonstrates anti-social behaviour on the part of the tenants in contravention of the tenancy agreement?

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

Could the Executive Member give assurances that the very serious affects of low water pressure for blocks on top of the hills of East Dulwich Estate and Denmark Hill will be alleviated as speedily as possible?

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

Could the Executive Member please give the number of Assistant Contracts Officers for each Neighbourhood Housing Office at the following dates?

- (a) 1st June 2002
- (b) 1st June 2003
- (c) 1st October 2003

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

In deciding the future of housing forums, what factors are under consideration and how much weight will be given to the views of tenants and residents. At the Peckham consultative meeting on the future of housing forums held on 24 September, tenant representatives from Rosemary Gardens and Acorn Neighbourhood Housing Forums argued and voted unanimously for the retention/continuation of their individual forums. Will their views be acted upon and those of others who wish to retain their forums?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Can the Executive Member confirm what steps have been taken so far to ensure a better deal for leaseholders?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN HUNT

Can the Executive Member reassure residents on the Tustin Estate, particularly in Ambleside Point and the other two tower blocks, that interruptions to electricity and water supplies will be dealt with; that lifts will be repaired to a satisfactory standard and a full-time concierge restored?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

In the past two years how many public houses have been developed into dwelling houses? Please provide the information by ward.

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

Can the Executive Member for Regeneration tell the Council how much money the Council is giving to provide Christmas lighting in the Peckham South Centre for this festive season?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

Can the Executive Member outline any compensation arrangements that are in place for market traders currently based within the elephant and castle shopping centre and who have indicated that they do not wish to re-locate to Walworth Road?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Does the Executive Member welcome the £7.8 million of new money awarded to Southwark by the Labour Government as part of the latest Neighbourhood Renewal Fund allocation, and does she agree that this significant investment is further evidence of the government's commitment to providing Southwark with resources to fund regeneration in the borough?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

Can the Executive Member outline her personal views on how she feels the Aylesbury New Deal for Communities scheme has progressed since May 2002?"

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

You will have heard about the vicious assault by 10+ youths on a young man during the early evening in Russia Dock Woodland. There are all too frequent assaults, many of which are attacks on international visitors to the youth hostel.

Following the recent meeting held between Canada Water Community Forum, the Mayor for London, the Borough Commander, Val Shawcross AM and Rotherhithe residents, what steps is this Council taking to address this growing problem in Rotherhithe?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY AND SUPPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

Will the Executive Member for Community Safety list the number of burglaries and serious assaults that have taken place in Southwark since May 2002 and will he inform the Council

- (a) if he thinks that people convicted of crimes in Southwark and who are sentenced to prison should be entitled to vote in elections, and
- (b) if he agrees with the Member of Parliament for North Southwark & Bermondsey that first time burglars should not be sent to jail?

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

Before Railtrack went into receivership, talks were in progress with them about using derelict land around South Bermondsey railway station for a motorbike scramble track. Could the Executive Member tell me whether these talks have been kickstarted with Network Rail?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

Does the Executive Member for Education & Culture agree with me that voluntary groups such as Southwark School Governors' Forum, Southwark Black Education Forum and Southwark Parents' Forum are important organisations that ensure stakeholders participate and contribute to education and cultural services across the borough. Could he tell Council what contact he has had with these Forums in the past 6 months?

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

How does the Executive Member rate the performance of Cambridge Education Associates to date?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

What action has been taken by Southwark Council to recover the rent owed to Langbourne Primary School by the nursery formerly on the premises, and when will the money be paid to the School?

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

Which budget will the £50,000 improvements to the East Street market toilets come from?

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

How many parking offences have been thrown out on appeal in the past two years because the road markings or signage do not conform with the

requirements of the law and the parking tickets were therefore not issued validly? What percentage of successful appeals occur because of this?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

Would the Executive Member please report on what progress is being made in reducing the risk of harm from possible car accidents to pupils at The Charter School?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

Could the Executive Member for Environment and Transport please outline the original repair and maintenance budget for each park in the borough, the level of cuts made for each park and the reason for the cuts?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

With the one million pound scheme planned for Walworth Road, can the Executive Member with responsibility for the environment, please inform me if he has similar plans for Rye Lane?

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

Is the Executive Member aware of blue badge theft being a particular problem in Southwark? Is there a particular mechanism in place for reissuing stolen badges which reduces as far possible any hardship/inconvenience caused to the user?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Would the Executive Member for Environment and Transport advise us as to the reasons why Transport for London (TfL) refused to pay for the promised Underhill Road Consultation Exercise and what steps he is taking to restart this process given the traffic difficulties in the area recently recognised by Transport 2000 by their shortlisting of Underhill Road as one of the worst rat runs in Britain?

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Background Papers
Members Questions

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