

Item No. 4	Classification: Open	Date: 26.11.03	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 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, the Executive Member for Environment and Transport; and the Executive Member for Resources. 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 to the Leader 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 MARK PURSEY

Does the Leader of the Council consider that honesty and integrity are important attributes for elected Southwark Councillors?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

To ask the Leader of the Council to publish a schedule of costs falling on the Council as a result of additional duties imposed or encouraged since June 1997 by the Government without commensurate financial support, and in each case provide an estimate of the uncovered cost?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

The amended Race Relations Act 2000 and the Crime And Disorder Act 1998 gives public authorities a new statutory duty to promote race equality and to work with the police to reduce crime and the fear of crime, in particular 'hate crime'. What action has Southwark Council taken, in conjunction with the Borough Commander, to detect and root out racism?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

How many staff does the Council employ who earn more than £20,000 per annum, and how many of these have received performance-related increments since May 2002? What are the comparable figures for staff earning less than £20,000 pa?

5. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

What steps have been taken to ensure that socially excluded groups can have their input into Community Council meetings?

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

Can the Executive Member give the number of funded places at each of the community run day centres in the borough in April 2002 and the anticipated number following the assessment of each attendee?

7. 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?

8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

Can the Executive Member tell me how the social services department has fared in any recent inspections?

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

Can the Executive Member for Housing please outline the performance of the Bellenden Renewal Area team since April 2002 against the corporate targets for correspondence answering and complaints handling?

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Can the Executive Member please provide the original estimated average cost for leaseholders of the heating works on the Consort Estate, the level of overspend on the project and the current estimated cost per leaseholder?

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

The demolition of Bramham and Badminton Houses on the East Dulwich Estate will require the forced removal of residents of those blocks, some of whom have lived there for nearly 30 years. Given the enormous emotional and physical upheaval that such a move will cause, is there any moral reason why the residents of these blocks should not be offered 'like for like' accommodation in any move, irrespective of their current housing needs?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Comprehensive tenancy checks have recently been carried out on the East Dulwich Estate prior to the start of the regeneration process. Some residents have complained of feeling intimidated by the manner and behaviour of those officers carrying out the checks. Can the Executive Member give us some assurance that any future tenancy checks will be conducted in a lawful and sympathetic manner?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

I understand that the Council has been shortlisted for a UK Housing Award in the category 'Best Practice for Promoting Diversity'. Can the Executive Member give details of the work that her department is doing in this area?

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

Could the Executive Member tell me whether progress is being made on rent collection and could she provide collection figures for each year for the last five years?

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

What ratio of small retail units to larger stores does the Executive Member consider to be appropriate in any future regeneration scheme at the Elephant and Castle?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

Could the Executive member please explain why the Council has made a u-turn and put in a bid to the London Development Agency for a new tourist information site in the Pool of London area following the closure of the heritage centre and further confirm that the reason for the closure of the heritage centre was that a tourist information site was not needed in the area?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

With regard to the establishment of new posts of departmental communications managers would the Executive Member please state:

- a. now many new posts have been created and the full-year cost thereof;
- b. how many posts have consequently been deleted and the full-year savings there from;
- c. the net effect on expenditure in the current year?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In the light of the report in the latest issue of "*Staff Voice*" of the staff barbeque in Southwark Park starting at 3.30pm on Wednesday 17th September 2003 would the Executive Member please state;

- a. how many staff attended this event during working hours?
- b. how much the event cost and to whose budget the cost has been charged?
- c. any plans for similar events in the future?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

How many Anti-Social Behaviour Orders have been issued in Southwark since their introduction (by year and age of offenders); how many are currently being applied for and how many overall have been breached (in numerical and percentage terms)?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Can the Executive Member please provide details of all parks and open spaces which currently have faulty lighting?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

How does the Executive Member rate the standard of lighting on the Aylesbury Estate?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR TONY RITCHIE

An NOP survey commissioned by the Disability Rights Commission, found that disabled people experienced difficulties using everyday services because poor access and building design effectively barred them. When asked to name the two biggest obstacles disabled people faced the survey found:

- 45% said steps at the entrance to buildings
- 9% said being unable to use the disabled parking spaces.

The Disability Rights Commission joined forces with the Local Government Association (LGA) to warn local authorities to start making preparations for the introduction of new access routes in 2004 or risk facing prosecution. Can the Executive Member for Community Support, Social Inclusion and Youth let me know what preparations this Council has made to date?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Can the Executive Member give his view on the Government's intention to exclude faith-based organisations from the sexual orientation discrimination legislation coming into force in December?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Could the Executive Member confirm how many wardens are currently operating in Southwark and how this compares with numbers pre-May 2002?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Can the Executive Member update me on the recent visit by Lord Toby Harris and the Metropolitan Police Authority to Southwark?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION AND YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN O'BRIEN

Can the Executive Member please explain what he is doing to ensure cross-border cooperation on community safety issues?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

Does the Executive Member believe that the Council took the right step in Fresh-Starting the then Grove Vale primary school (now Goose Green primary school)?

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

Could the Executive Member for Education and Culture please provide details of the total number of children out of school in Southwark in the form of a

table broken down by school year and by the number of hours of alternative tuition being provided, including those children with no alternative provision?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

What level of cuts is the Executive Member proposing for the Early Years service for 2004/05?

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

Does the Executive Member accept that the cuts applied to the Early Years service were too severe ?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

At present the No 37 bus is one of only two bus routes which permits east-west travel in the south of the borough. It is the only bus route serving Dulwich Hospital. The No 37 bus service is seriously erratic and gives rise to a very large number of complaints from my constituents who are forced to depend on it. One reason for its poor performance is the bottleneck in Melbourne Grove caused by illegal parking.

Will the Executive Member undertake to investigate the problem caused by this bottleneck, and will he consider directing additional parking wardens to Melbourne Grove frequently enough to ensure illegal parking ceases to impede the No 37 bus?

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

Can the Executive Member for Environment and Transport give any assurances on the possible introduction of traffic calming measures to residents of South Nunhead (Limesford and Harlescott Roads in particular) in the light of the significant increase in traffic associated with the housing developments at Borland Road and adjacent sites?

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

We learn that plans for the area around Queens Road Station have changed again. Can the Executive Member set out the new plans in as much detail as possible? By what date will a management agreement be confirmed for the land immediately adjacent to the station? What is the target date for clearing and bringing this land into operational use for passengers?

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

What action is the Executive Member taking to raise awareness of the dangers of poor air quality in the Peckham area as recommended in the Air Quality Strategy?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

Given that £50,000 was found to go towards works to the East Street toilets, when will the same sum be allocated for works to re-introduce toilets in Peckham Town Centre?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

I understand that the door-to-door recycling scheme is about to be expanded. Could the Executive Member please give me further details about this and indicate the likely impact of this scheme on recycling targets?

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

What action if any, has been taken by Southwark Council since the release of the district auditors interim annual report to have effective reconciliation of schools cash balances?

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the Executive Member please state her understanding of the circumstances in which the Government is threatening to cap Council Tax levels, and include details of the timing of possible Government actions in this regard?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

Does the Council have a full and accurate schedule of all the land and property it owns, together with a detailed plan for disposal of surplus property in an orderly manner to achieve the best profit for the Council?

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Following the LGA's announcement that councils are facing an £800 million funding shortfall next year, is the Executive Member concerned that local taxpayers will have to pick up this tab?

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Background Papers
Members Questions

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