

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: 28th January 2004	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor & Secretary)	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 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, the Executive Member for Resources and the Executive Member for Health and Social Care. The order of questions is rotated by the Borough Solicitor & Secretary at every meeting.

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 OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Can the Leader outline details of any bids submitted by the Council for the Liveability Fund (piloting new approaches to improve environmental service delivery) announced by the Office for the Deputy Prime Minister last year?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Were any payments received by any member of the Executive for attendance at the "Peace on the Streets Concert" held last summer in Burgess Park?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY

How has the Council fared so far in the London Government Chronicle awards?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

In the light of the comments by Simon Hughes MP, (a) in Parliament on 21st October 2003 and (b) as reported in Southwark News of 11th December 2003, appearing to call for a new tax on owners and/or occupiers of properties, including residential properties, benefiting from new infrastructure such as the Jubilee tube line, would the Leader of the Council please provide more detail of how the advent of the East London Line extension through Peckham and Camberwell would increase tax payable by owners/residents/businesses in those areas of the Borough (including housing and commercial properties owned by Southwark Council), should the legislation proposed by Simon Hughes be enacted?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

Did Southwark Council charge the Mothers Against Guns organisation and anti fire arm campaigner Lucy Cope for the use of Burgess Park when M.A.G. held its summer concert in July 2003?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

How many Council services/schemes have been short-listed for Beacon Status?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Given that an article on Islington Council in the winter edition of the I&DeA's 'Modern Members' stated that –

“In turn Islington is able to send some help Southwark’s way, most notably in education.”

Could the Leader then please specify and quantify that ‘help’?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

How many other Councils went from ‘Weak’ to ‘Fair’ in the recent Corporate Performance Assessment?

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

Would the Leader Of Southwark Council please provide a break down of costs for all full and part time employees being paid out of the Neighbourhood Renewal Fund with their job titles and a summary of their job description?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY

Does the Leader think this Council deserves to have its Corporate Performance Assessment upgraded from ‘Fair’ to ‘Good’?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

Will the Executive Member state what steps the Council is taking to prevent the unauthorised use of council owned housing blocks to site illegal pirate radio transmitters, and whether these measures are adequate?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the Executive Member please state whether the tender for works to the Canada Estate (contract awarded to CJ Sims, now in receivership) called for the issue of a performance bond in favour of the Council; whether such bond was issued; and if not, why not?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

What is the Council’s record in dealing with reported anti-social behaviour cases and has the Council secured any full anti-social behaviour orders yet?

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

Is it the intention of the Executive to close Rodney Road Housing office?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

Since the abolition last year of the house renovation grants, what has Southwark Council done to let vulnerable homeowners, particularly the elderly know about any new arrangements for accessing funds to help improve their homes?

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

How many lifts on the Heygate estate have been reported as out of order in the last 6 months?

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

What urgent steps is the Executive Member planning to take to address the vermin problem on the Heygate estate, which according to local tenants, has worsened in recent months?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

What provision has been made as part of the future Elephant and Castle masterplan for residents' facilities – such as tenants' halls – if the Heygate estate is demolished?

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

Any demolition of the Heygate Estate will have an effect on the activities of the Heygate Tenants & Residents Association (TRA). What discussions has the Executive Member had with the Heygate TRA regarding the logistics of their association meetings and activities during the regeneration process, so that the TRA can effectively continue its work?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Could the Executive Member tell us how much longer the people of Elephant and Castle area are expected to wait before they see community wardens on their streets?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

Can the Executive Member detail what meetings he has had in the 6 month period from June to December 2003 to improve safety in the Elephant & Castle underpasses?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

Can the Executive Member please explain why the Government for London office is seriously considering closing the Southwark Community Empowerment Network, withdrawing the remaining Community Empowerment Fund from Southwark and investing it in Community Empowerment Networks in other parts of London?

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

How many nursery day care places are at risk of closure due to the Executive's proposals to reduce the funding by £800,000?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

Does he share the concern of parents whose children attend St. Mary's Pre-School in Nunhead that due to funding cuts to the Pre-School Learning Alliance (PSLA), St. Mary's looks set to lose its special needs provision and PSLA development worker, which will have severe impacts on the excellent services St. Mary's Pre-School provides. Will he do all he can to ensure that any cuts do not affect vital services such as those provided by St. Mary's Pre-School in my ward. Finally, if cuts are absolutely necessary would he and his colleagues in the Executive consider plugging the gap with their recent £7,000 increases?

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

How many streets (as a percentage) are now cleaned to a satisfactory standard?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

At the Walworth Community Council held on 6th January, local residents made plain their opposition to the disbanding of parks ranger services because of the problems with drug dealing and other criminal activity in Victory Park, Pelier Park and Burgess Park. Why is the Executive persisting with plans to disband the vital parks ranger service?

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

Will the Executive Member tell the Council if he is aware of the concerns the Friends of Burgess Park and local people about the possible delay in re-turfing the sports pitches in Burgess park with additional costs and what steps has he taken to address this?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Would you please tell me why the noise patrol was not working over New Years Eve/New Years Day as 18 calls had been logged up until 3.38 am on 1st January 2004 and nothing could be done to rectify the noise because Southwark Council didn't have a service to offer?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR VICKY NAISH

Can the Executive Member guarantee that in future years the Council will keep the cemeteries and crematoriums open throughout the Christmas period?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Can the Executive Member tell me what extra provision he has put in place so as to avoid the chaos that was caused last winter during the period when, after heavy snow fall, it took between two to three days for the main roads to be gritted and that the majority of the side roads and pavements were not gritted at all. Can he assure me and my constituents, many of whom were unable to leave their homes because of the treacherous conditions, that they will be able to walk the streets of East Dulwich safely if heavy snow and freezing conditions occur again this winter?

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

When will the much delayed Walworth Controlled Parking Zone finally be in place?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

Could the Executive Member publish a table detailing the cost in pounds by council tax band to the residents of Southwark of the mayoral precept levied by the London Mayor Ken Livingstone for each financial year since his election?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

How does the Executive Member rate performance in council tax collection so far this year?

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES

Has the processing of housing benefit claims improved this year?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

Can the Executive Member give the total costs of resourcing planning and licensing applications for the past 3 months as compared to the same 3 months a year ago.

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

What allowance is being made within the Council's revenue and capital budgets to ensure that none of the options currently being consulted on for the future of Galleywall School are effectively ruled out by the budget process, thus pre-empting the results of the consultation?

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

In light of the letter sent to all Councillors by the Members Services Manager dated 8th December 2003 concerning the tax implications on telephone allowances, would the Executive Member please provide a table giving a break-down of all individual Councillors telephone costs paid for by the Council since May 2002 – including totals for all home, mobile and blackberry bills? In addition could she also give a breakdown of the total figures paid for telephone bills for the same period for each Party group room?

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

How many "unaccompanied" children were presented to the London Borough of Southwark in the last two years (listed numerically and by country of origin/ethnic origin) and how many of these children were found foster homes with families of the same ethnic origin? Will the Executive Member also outline what initiatives the Council and other agencies take to try and ensure that the parents of such children are traced?

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

Could the Executive Member for Health and Social Care please explain why so many Black and Minority Ethnic (BME) Day Care Centres are currently under threat of closure and whether the implications of potentially leaving BME older people isolated have been thought through?

40. 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?

BACKGROUND PAPERS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Questions	Town Hall Peckham Road London SE5 8UB	Lesley John Constitutional Team 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
Version	Final
Dated	15.1.04