

<b>Item No.</b> 5	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 31.03.04	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		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 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; the Executive Member for Health and Social Care and the Executive Member for Housing. 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 OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD**

The Leader stated at the Executive meeting of 2nd March in answer to the Downtown Defence Campaign deputation that the Mayor of London had to been invited to conduct a site visit to familiarise himself with the Downtown regeneration scheme area issues. The Mayor's office are unable to locate any invitation or recall any verbal invitation being made. To ensure clarity in this situation, could the Leader please specify how and when the invitation was made for Ken Livingstone to visit Downtown and by whom it was made?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN O'BRIEN**

Could the Leader comment on the Majority Opposition Group referral of the new tenancy agreement, which contains new Anti Social Behaviour clauses approved by Tenants' Council, to the ODPM?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE**

Would the Leader of the Council please set out for 2003/04 and 2004/05 best estimates of:

- a. The gross costs incurred by the Council in supporting the Southwark Alliance – including the costs of Officer and Executive Member time, and all other kinds of support (for example use of premises at less than market rent).
- b. The amount of any recoveries of the above costs from the Neighbourhood Renewal or other sources.
- c. The net cost to the Council of support provided to the Southwark Alliance (ie a-b).

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

Has a mistake been made on every council tax demand notice sent out for 2004-2005 ?

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY**

Would the Leader welcome the news that the Audit Commission has agreed to a CPA reassessment in June giving Southwark the opportunity to climb the rankings to 'good'?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN**

Can the Leader provide details of the attendance figures of all councillors on all the scrutiny committees within the Council, from May 2003 until 15th March 2004?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DR ABDUR RAHMAN OLAYIWOLA**

Could the Leader please comment on the present management situation at the Rockingham community centre?

**8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN HUNT**

Is the Leader aware that plans for Queen's Road station and for development on adjoining sites impact severely on small, mainly ethnic, businesses and can he assure them that they will be treated with moral fairness as well as within the law, and wherever possible will be offered an opportunity to return when developments are finished?

**9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Cllr. Pidgeon states in the latest Aylesbury New Deal for Communities newsletter (Feb 2004) that: "it [the NDC] helps us to speed up the introduction of innovative new schemes that make a real impact to residents, such as neighbourhood wardens." While this backing for the Government's scheme is welcome, can the Deputy Leader explain the Executive's view on NDC schemes is and how that policy would affect the Aylesbury NDC scheme in particular?

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

Considering the bold and welcome promise to provide a better deal for leaseholders can the Executive Member indicate any recent achievements in reaching this goal?

**11. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD**

What do you envisage the relationship to be between Community Councils and Neighbourhood Renewal programmes and what is the formal basis whereby one can work with the other rather than the ad hoc and seemingly confused relationship we have at present?

**12. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL WATSON**

Could the Executive Member give details of any new or proposed developments in Burgess Park?

**13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CATRIONA MOORE**

What progress is being made on re-opening the Borough Community Centre at 56 Southwark Bridge Road, and what opportunities will be offered to local residents to comment on proposals for the future use of the centre?

**14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY**

Would the Executive Member for Regeneration please advise whether all aspects of the compulsory purchase of, and home loss payment in respect of, the former 3 Filton Court, SE15, have now been fully settled; and outline her proposals for avoiding such delays and perceived injustices in respect of the proposed Elephant & Castle regeneration?

**15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

The Executive Member will be aware of Ken Livingstone's stated intention of 'crushing' "NIMBY" local authority opposition to his new homes policy (Evening Standard, 16/03/04).

Would the Executive Member agree that the Mayor's statement: a) smacks of desperation born out of a failing policy; b) fails to reflect this Council's record on affordable housing; c) will undermine the spirit of co-operation between his office and London's boroughs

**16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON**

Could the Executive Member update Council Assembly on the development of the Borough wide planning policy on mobile telecommunications masts and publish a table of how many masts in the borough are available for "*mast sharing*" as requested by Council Assembly on 17/09/03?

**17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

Could the Executive Member outline the timetable for the Bermondsey Spa regeneration – in particular, when work is going to start on St Giles, Carlton and Darnay Houses?

**18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON**

When does the Executive Member expect the first new homes in the Elephant and Castle regeneration area to be completed?

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

Could the Executive Member outline the Executive's strategy, as distinct from the Aylesbury NDC's, to ensure the stock on the Aylesbury estate meets the Decent Homes standard by 2010?

**20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES**

Many residents of Nunhead and East Peckham are keenly awaiting regeneration/environmental improvements in the area of Queen's Road station. Can the appropriate Executive Member confirm:

- When will contractors begin work on phase 1 of the scheme (the station forecourt)?
- Is it correct that the council owned properties at 151/153 Queen's Road will be acquired and demolished as part of phase 1?
- What consultation, if any, has taken place with local businesses/residents affected by phase 2 and phase 3 of the scheme?

**21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH**

Could the Executive Member please confirm how much Southwark Council will have to pay in the first year for the space it is renting from Vinopolis to house the Tourist Information Centre?

**22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH**

Would the Executive Member advise what action is being taken to complete the agreement with One Tree Hill Allotment society?

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

In her response to my question at the 17th September 2003 Council Assembly, the Executive Member stated that she had personally met with representatives of the Downtown Defence Campaign to discuss the regeneration proposal for the area as part of the 'Executive process'. Can the Executive Member specify the *precise* dates, times and venues at which these meetings took place?

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

Would the Member for Community Safety please provide a break down of violent crime, robbery, street crime, sexual offences and "violence against person" offences, such as assault and murder by Ward in the Southwark Police Sectors, from May 2002 to March 2004?

**25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS**

Does the Executive Member for Education believe that the Council should use its Compulsory Purchase Order powers to buy people's homes in the East Dulwich and Nunhead area in order to build a new school there and would he consider this to be a good use of public money?

**26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**

Could the Executive Member confirm that the City Academy is still due to open on St James Rd in September 2004?

**27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA**

Have any key members of staff indicated they will be leaving the Early Years service?

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

Could the Executive Member please update me on the operation of the SEN panel ?

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

What is the percentage of Southwark primary schools without a permanent head teacher?

**30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Could the Executive member report on how the supermarket trolley collection scheme has operated since its adoption by the Council?

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

Is the Executive Member for Environment & Transport in a position to explain the duration of two large trenches in Peckham Hill Street beside Peckham Library and their safety implications for pedestrians.

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

Many residents in the borough are unclear about the council's policy in respect of urban foxes. Will the Executive Member for Environment and Transport confirm:

- Does the council have any policy for responding to residents who seek assistance in removing urban foxes?
- Has the council identified a contractor to deal with issues around urban foxes?
- Has the council considered whether it is right to help defray the costs of urban fox removal for poorer residents?

**33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR SARH WELFARE**

Will the Executive Member for Regeneration and Transport agree to set up a cross-party Parking Commission to investigate "parking fine madness" in the London Borough of Southwark ?

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

Could the Executive Member please provide a breakdown of how much money Southwark Council has spent on road maintenance within each crematorium and cemetery in the past year?

**35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DERMOT McINERNEY**

The Executive Member will be aware of the ongoing saga in respect of Imperial Gardens and the enquiries and litigation it has engendered. She will also be aware of the role that the Council played in this. Will she accordingly state:

(i) the total cost to the Council of the report by the District Auditor in respect of the planning application concerning Fairview Homes and its impact on Imperial Gardens;

(ii) the total cost to the Council of the report by the Local Government Ombudsman in respect of the same matter; and;

(iii) the total cost to the Council to date of the legal proceedings (including Court appearances) to which Mr Raymond Stevenson is a party?

**36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA**

Could the Executive Member inform the Council why suitably experienced black led companies are excluded from the Council's procurement process - contrary to the aims of the New Deal for Communities and the Council's Equalities Statements?

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

Since the transfer of appeal hearings, how many appeals to the Appeals Service against housing benefit and council tax benefit decisions were heard in the absence of council representation and what percentage is this of the total number of appeals heard?

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

What is the total value of housing benefit and council tax benefit claims that have been determined by the Appeals Service against the decisions of the council (including both claims put into payment and overpayments disallowed)?

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

At Housing Benefit and Council Tax benefit appeals tribunals when the Council has been underrepresented how many claims have been successfully appealed?



**40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR TONY RITCHIE**

Since housing benefit appeals were transferred from the council to the Appeals Service, what percentage of housing benefit and council tax benefit appeals to the Tribunal have been successful?

**41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

Can the Executive Member make a statement on the future of the Yalding Day Care Centre?

**42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM**

Does the Executive Member agree with me that the fears of elderly people not being safe in their homes can have a damaging effect on their health and quality of life?

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

The Government has identified obesity as a health issue to be tackled as a matter of priority. What measures is the Council taking either independently or through its partnerships to work with the government to reduce this problem in Southwark?

**44. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

Will the Executive Member welcome with me the large investment going into the Friary Estate and would the Executive Member indicate at what stage the project currently is?

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

How many tenants have benefited so far from the Council's free Fire Angel installation programme?

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

Could the Executive Member indicate the level of funding that has gone into the Brandon estate and how much is ear-marked for investment in total?

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

When will the repairs on the Bells Garden Community Centre be completed?

**48. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Would the Chair of Overview & Scrutiny Committee please explain why Article 6.05 (e) of the Council Constitution appears to be unimplemented?

**49. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR DANIEL McCARTHY**

Can the Chair tell me:

- (a) How many planning applications in Cathedrals ward have there been over the past twelve months?
- (b) How many were taken at Member level bodies and how many were agreed under delegated authority?
- (c) How many have been referred to the inspectorate?

**50. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY**

Could the Chair of Planning outline how the Council is faring on enforcement on illegal advertising hoardings?

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

<b>Background Papers</b>	<b>Held At</b>	<b>Contact</b>
Member Question File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Kevin Flaherty 020 7525 7236

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
<b>Report Author</b>	Kevin Flaherty, Constitutional Team
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