

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY MEETING)**

WEDNESDAY 28TH APRIL 2004

MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

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

Can the Leader give me an update on the Council's 'Six to Fix'?

RESPONSE

Pledge	Progress	Progress
1. Crack down on street crime by employing community safety wardens across the borough	<p>There will be 55 wardens on the streets as of May 2004. This figure will rise to a total of 79 following recruitment to the new Rotherhithe and Dulwich schemes.</p> <p>In addition from the summer we will have another 20 wardens in parks.</p> <p>We will have the largest community warden service anywhere in the country.</p>	Achieved
2. Halve arrears of Council tax and rent by 2006	12.5% annual target being met	On track
3. Clean up our streets and triple recycling	<p>The cleanliness of roads graded A & B has risen from 71% in March 2003 to 92% in March 2004. This represents a 30% increase over just one year.</p> <p>Two years ago the recycling rate was 3.6% for the year. The most recent monthly figures is almost 9% for March 2004. However, the figure for the whole year will be lower, reflecting the improvements made throughout the year.</p>	Achieved /On track
4. Introduce a common schools admissions procedure	Co-ordinated admission arrangements will be in place for admissions to secondary schools from September 2005. Details can be found in the Report approved by the Executive at its evening meeting on 13th April. It is likely that primary school admissions will be co-ordinated from September 2006.	On track
5. Provide a fast-track housing freephone repairs service	Freephone repairs line launched, taking 1,300 calls per week.	Achieved
6. Hand back power to local residents by setting up new community Councils	Launched April 2003 with devolved budgets. In addition to existing capital budget, over £1million revenue for 2004/05 has been channelled for CCs to spend on chosen projects.	Achieved

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Noting that Section C of the Council's whistle blowing policy requires all referrals to be notified to the Head of Administrative Services for the purposes of monitoring and review, would the Leader of the Council please schedule all such notifications since 1st January 2002 with date, relevant department, outline of topic and outcome, of each whistle blowing notification?

RESPONSE

The Council's whistleblowing policy and procedure is designed to enable any concern to be resolved satisfactorily, whilst offering protection to staff with a concern and by its mere existence to reduce the likelihood of wrongdoing.

The Council is seeking to raise the profile of the whistleblowing policy and procedure and has been working with District Audit and the Council's own anti-fraud team.

The Public Interest Disclosure Act 1998 specifies certain types of disclosure which qualify for protection under the Act and alleged failures to protect the worker can be referred to the Employment Tribunal.

The protected disclosures are:

- a. that a criminal offence has been committed, is being committed or is likely to be committed
- b. that a person has failed, is failing or is likely to fail to comply with any legal obligation to which he is subject
- c. that a miscarriage of justice has occurred, is occurring or is likely to occur
- d. that the health or safety of any individual has been, is being or is likely to be endangered]that the environment has been, is being or is likely to be damaged
- e. that information tending to show any matter falling within any one of the preceding paragraphs has been, is being or is likely to be deliberately concealed

In accordance with the recommendations of the Committee on Standards in Public Life the Council has adopted the following key aspects of whistleblowing procedures:

- i. a clear statement that malpractice is taken seriously in the organisation
- ii. respect for the confidentiality of staff raising concerns, if they wish it
- iii. the opportunity to raise concerns outside the line management structure
- iv. penalties for making false allegations maliciously
- v. an indication of the proper way in which concerns may be raised outside the organisation, if necessary

The Council's policy encourages staff to raise concerns in accordance with the Council's procedures without a tight definition of which concerns can be raised. As a result, staff can (and do) raise concerns that may not be "protected disclosures", sometimes mentioning the "Whistleblowing Policy" that are in fact matters of personal grievance that should and are dealt with under the Staff Complaint Procedure. This is satisfactory since the most important issue is that staff feel able to raise concerns and they are properly dealt with, rather than labeling of the concern itself.

Of course, certain concerns clearly fall within the broad definition of "Whistleblowing" and since 1st January 2002 these are as follows:

June 2002, Education. Staff management. Concern not proven

June 2002, Housing. Health and safety. Concerns investigated and resolved.

May 2003, Environment and Leisure. Staff management. Concern not substantiated

June 2003, Housing. Concern about potential fraud. Concern not proven

November 2003, Social Services. Staff management. Concern not substantiated

December 2003, Education and Culture, Project mismanagement. Investigation in progress

April 2004, Environment and Leisure. Precise topic to be established.

April 2004, Education. Precise topic to be established.

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

What criteria will be used to select the 8 new area members of the Southwark Alliance Board?

RESPONSE

The aim of the selection process is to identify eight residents who:

- individually bring to the Alliance knowledge of their area - particularly the issues affecting residents in priority deprived neighbourhoods - and have a proven record of working in the community
- together bring knowledge from a resident viewpoint across the issues of greatest concern to Southwark Alliance – children and young people, crime reduction, education, employment, environment, health, housing
- together reflect the age and cultural diversity of the borough

The factors used in the shortlisting were:

- Knowledge of local issues
- Evidence of community involvement and a commitment to the community
- The skills and attributes applicants can bring to the Alliance, including an ability to work with others; good interpersonal skills and a breadth of interests
- An understanding of Southwark's diversity and what this means for the Alliance

These attributes will be tested further in a series of panel interviews, involving members of the Southwark Alliance. The questions will reflect the selection criteria above.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Can the Leader tell me how many Council offices he has visited already as part of his 'Roadshow' and can he tell me how many more he plans to visit this year?

RESPONSE

I've now been around all sixteen current neighbourhood housing offices, the special technical services unit, and the leasehold management unit. Feedback at the events was constructive and really useful. A lot of the staff I met mentioned that they couldn't remember the Leader ever coming round, and they appreciated the chance to interact face to face. I promised to revisit the units, but am first planning to meet all of the staff in social services, followed by staff in environment and leisure. We've prioritised certain units – those most affected by the modernisation we're introducing – but I've made a commitment to talk directly with all staff, and am looking forward to it.

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

The Executive papers for 13th April 2004 (page.320) state that there are 200 shops in the Borough accepting cash for Council Services. Would the Leader publish the details of all the shops in the Dulwich Community Council area?

RESPONSE

The Council now allows payment by cash to be made at a range of Paypoint Payzone and Post Office outlets in the borough, using a Swipecard system.

The details of the outlets available in the Dulwich Area as of the 22nd April are set out below:

Fascia	Address	Postcode	Outlet
S G CONVENIENCE STORES	9 CENTRAL HILL	SE19 1BG	PZ
WEBB HOUSE	136 GIPSY HILL	SE19 1PW	PP
REDAPPLE	81 GIPSY HILL	SE19 1QL	PP
TEXACO STAR	8 WESTOW HILL	SE19 1RX	PP
1 JSS FOOD & WINE	86A WESTON HILL	SE19 1SB	PTS
WEBB HOUSE	44 ANDERLEY HILL	SE19 2AE	PTS
COSTCUTTER	82 ANDERLEY ROAD	SE19 2AH	PP
TEXACO STAR	36 CHURCH ROAD	SE19 2ET	PZ
TOWER WINES	413 BEULAH HILL	SE19 3HB	PP
COSTCUTTER	15 CROWN POINT PARADE	SE19 3NG	PTS
CHEERS OFF LICENSE	55-57 KIESTON STREET	SE19 3RW	PTS
STANSTEAD WINE	3-5 MILROY WALK	SE19 LW	PTS
N.T.S SUPER STORES	36 SEELEY DRIVE	SE21 8QR	PP
THE GUARDIAN	DULWICH VILLAGE SPSO, 84 DULWICH VILLAGE, LONDON, SE21 7BJ	SE21 7AJ	PO/PP
VIJ STORES	70 CLIVE ROAD	SE21 8BU	PP
EURO SERV & THE WORLD LTD	26 FOREST HILL ROAD	SE22 0RR	PP
NEWSAGENT	493 LORDSHIP LANE	SE22 8JY	PP
COSTCUTTERS	86 EAST DULWICH GROVE	SE22 8TW	PP
HILLCREST GENERAL STORE	48 EAST DULWICH GROVE	SE22 9AX	PP
WEBB HOUSE	23 UPLAND ROAD	SE22 9EE	PP
SALAMI ENTERPRISES	FOREST HILL ROAD SPSO, 42 FOREST HILL ROAD, LONDON, SE22 0RR	SE22 0RR	PO
COMMERCIAL WINES & SPIRITS	120 FOREST HILL ROAD	SE22 0RS	PZ
1 JSS SUPERMARKET	4-5 BADMINTON HOUSE	SE22 8BD	PTS
BRIGHTHOUSE	38 GROVE VALE	SE22 8DY	PZ
PREMIER FOOD AND WINE	EAST DULWICH BO, 74/76 LORDSHIP LANE, LONDON, SE22 8HA	SE22 8HA	PO
EASY PHONES LTD	2 LORDSHIP LANE	SE22 8HN	PTS
SUPERMARKET	LORDSHIP LANE (369) SPSO, 369 LORDSHIP LANE, LONDON, SE22 8JJ	SE22 8JJ	PO
CAMBERWELL SUPERSTORE	369 LORDSHIP LANE	SE22 8JJ	PTS
S & L NEWS	393-395 LORDSHIP LANE	SE22 8JN	PP
MINAS	385 LORDSHIP LANE	SE22 8JW	PTS
MILROY FOODS	507A LORDSHIP LANE	SE22 8JY	PZ
AK MINI MARKET	MELBOURNE GROVE SPSO, 7 MELBOURNE GROVE, EAST DULWICH, LONDON, SE22 8RG	SE22 8RG	PO
B N SUPERMARKET	323 UNDERHILL ROAD	SE22 9EA	PZ
LIBERTY NEWS	CRYSTAL PALACE ROAD SPSO, 228 CRYSTAL PALACE ROAD, LONDON, SE22 9EL	SE22 9EL	PO
CORNER SHOP	281 CRYSTAL PALACE ROAD	SE22 9JH	PZ
SOMERFIELD FILLING STATION	66 HONOR OAK PARK	SE23 1DY	PTS
KUNAL CONFECTIONERS	311 STANSTEAD RD	SE23 1JB	PTS

JENNYS MINI MARKET	301 STANSTEAD ROAD	SE23 1JB	PP
RYE NEWS	49 BROCKLEY RISE	SE23 1JG	PTS
WEBB HOUSE	7 BROCKELY RISE	SE23 1JG	PTS
THE WINE GARDEN	53 BROCKLEY RISE	SE23 1JG	PZ
WATERLOO NEWS	125 BROCKLEY RISE	SE23 1JP	PZ
TWINS	58 BROCKLEY RISE	SE23 1LN	PP
EDDI'S FOOD AND WINE	12 PERRYVALE	SE23 2LD	PTS
LORDSHIP LANE PO	6 PERRYVALE	SE23 2LD	PTS
CAPITAL NEWS	1 WALDRAM PARK ROAD	SE23 2PW	PP
CENTRE NEWS	120 WOODVALE	SE23 3EB	PZ
SYDENHAM NEWSAGENTS	17 DARTMOUTH ROAD	SE23 3HN	PZ
D & G FOOD & LIQUOR STORE	67 DARTMOUTH ROAD	SE23 3HT	PP
ONE LOVE INTERNATIONAL	101 DARTMOUTH ROAD	SE23 3HT	PZ
NEWLANDS NEWS	HERNE HILL STATION BOOKSTAL	SE24 0JS	PTS
EAST DULWICH STORES	147 DULWICH RD	SE24 0NG	PTS
J C STORES	260-262 ROSENDALE ROAD	SE24 9DL	PP
SHALOM CHRISTIAN RES	14 HALFMOON LANE	SE24 9HU	PTS
MOHINDER FOODSTORE	HERNE HILL MSPO, 134 HERNE HILL, LONDON, SE24 9QG	SE24 9QG	PO
ALLDAYS	107 KIRKDALE	SE26 4QJ	PZ
ROCKY NEWS	159 KIRKDALE	SE26 4QJ	PZ
DOCKLANDS TRADING POST	266 KIRKDALE	SE26 4RS	PZ
ACORN OFF LICENCE	283 SYDENHAM ROAD	SE26 5EN	PP

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

Could the Leader tell me how many votes have been cast so far in this year's Blue Plaques campaign?

RESPONSE

Blue Plaques 2004 was launched on 11th March. People can choose from ten shortlisted nominees and vote in a variety of ways:

- online through the Blue Plaques section on Southwark Council's website
- emailing to vote4icons@southwark.gov.uk
- sending in the coupon printed in Southwark Life
- sending in the coupon printed in Southwark News each week
- starting up a petition
- sending in a postcard or letter to Southwark News or the Council

So far, we've received over 500 votes with the majority being cast through the Council website.

Community campaigns are gathering momentum with petitions set up at Time and Talents, Dulwich Picture Gallery, the Lavender Pump House and Herne Hill Velodrome. We're about to launch a campaign toolkit which community groups will be able to download from the website making it even easier for them to galvanise support.

Local history groups are spreading the word across the borough and, as well as our partner Southwark News, we've attracted media support from South London Press, SE-1 website and Living South magazine which all helps fuel the debate. We'll be staging a live online debate between supporters of each of the nominees in May.

Experience shows that although paper votes are being gathered, we will not receive them at the Blue Plaque office until much closer to the 24th June deadline. Our target is 5,000 votes.

A list of nominees and a pile of voting slips is available at the entrance to the chamber for Councillors who want to cast their vote tonight.

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

Could the Deputy Leader please inform me of the results of the Aylesbury New Deal for Communities bid for London Housing Board funding?

RESPONSE

I am pleased to report that the Council has been awarded £11,328,000 by the London Housing Board for the Aylesbury Estate. This funding will be invested in the scheme for the south west corner of the estate which will act as a showcase for the rest of the estate.

The London Housing Board also awarded funding of £2,300,000 for works to Four Squares Estate which will enable us to carry out a much needed second phase of works to this estate. In addition, £4,000,000 was awarded by the London Housing board for three sub-regional private sector housing programmes.

In total the Council secured 13% of the total available Regeneration funding pot.

8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

What account is taken of low levels of numeracy and literacy by the Council's Communication Strategy and how will the steps you and your colleagues are taking improve communications with these disadvantaged adults?

RESPONSE

Improving educational achievement is one of the Council's five corporate priorities, which provide the framework for the communications strategy and underpin much of the Council's communications activity.

The strategy also deals with the need to tailor communications to suit the needs of different target audiences. In considering the best approach, the communications team takes full advantage of all the communications tools at its disposal, using particular tools to reach particular pre-determined target audiences. In reaching people with low levels of literacy, for example, broadcast media is preferable to print and the communications team would encourage the use of radio and television as part of a campaign.

In addition, all our guidelines and policies emphasise the importance of plain language. Guidance to encourage and support officers in using accessible and jargon free plain language is included in a new communications and style guide which is due out in the next few weeks.

9. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

Can the Executive Member confirm that violent crime, particularly knife related robberies, rape and sexual assault have increased in Southwark, and that the lack, over the last two years, of pro-active campaigns and educational work, especially on knife related crime, has contributed to this increase ?

RESPONSE

Over the last three years the level of crime in Southwark has been falling, including violent crime. Last year Southwark's performance on robbery (Best Value Performance Indicator (BVPI) 127e)) was comparable to the inner London average (Southwark 9 and Inner London 8.6). However during the last year there has been an increase in violent crime. The overall violent crime rate per 1000 of the population has increased in the last year (2003) by 1.3 to 35 per 1000 population, most notably from September onwards. The main type of crime which has contributed towards this increase is robbery; including knife related robbery.

There have also been increased reports of rape and sexual assaults (included in above figures on violent crime the Crime Disorder Reduction Partnership (CDRP) family average for rape and sexual assault is 1.9 per 1000 population, Southwark's rate is 2.1)). In 2003 a total of 420 incidents were reported and 390 in 2002.

The Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP) has reviewed work on rape and sexual assault and it is clear that Southwark has a number of very specialist and successful services (mainly health based) which provide services in this area. Since the opening of The Haven, a specialist rape and sexual assault service based at Kings Hospital, there has been a marked increase in reporting. The Youth Offending Team (YOT) in partnership with the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust have specific programmes of work with young people on sexual offending which are proving successful. The YOT is also delivering work in schools, which engage young people on this issue, and work is being developed as part of the Personal Health and Social Education (PHSE) curriculum.

Levels of knife crime have been gradually increasing and 2002/3 compared to 2003/4 shows a 23% increase. Analysis by the police indicates that carrying knives and knife related crime is spread across a wide age group and not related solely to young people.

The Safer Southwark Partnership has undertaken several areas of activity to address these problems. With regard specifically to pro-active campaigns and educational work there are a number of areas of activity.

- Trading Standards have undertaken some test sales and prosecutions. The recent publicity in the local papers will contribute to increased awareness about legislation on sales of knives

- Theatre in education project (Big Fish Trigger project) will be touring secondary schools and People Referral Unit's (PRU) in May with a piece of work looking at violent crime and the use of weapons
- The Youth Offending Team deliver a number of projects in schools, of particular relevance are the Gangs Prevention Project in primary schools and the Violent Crime Prevention Project crime in secondary schools. This project is now developing to include work with Southwark Mediation (a voluntary sector project) to include sessions on conflict resolution and mediation skills
- Southwark agencies are taking part in a research project on why young people start to use weapons - funded by the Bridge Housing Trust - this should be available in May and can inform future interventions
- Further campaign work on knife related crime is programmed for later in the year.

Although the levels of violent crime have increased this is not due to inactivity on the part of the Safer Southwark Partnership.

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

What impact has the introduction of Street Wardens had on the level of street robberies?

RESPONSE

Wardens in all of our service areas provide a patrolling presence, acting as eyes and ears for the community and working in partnership with agencies that deal directly with anti social behaviour and crime. Wardens have worked closely with the Police in Southwark to help them to achieve their target around a reduction in street robberies.

By the middle of 2003/04 Southwark Police were experiencing a sharp increase in a number of crimes including street crime across the borough. By September 2003 the Camberwell wardens had moved into Camberwell Police Station and by November all the wardens schemes were working in partnership with the Crime Task Force across the borough, gathering intelligence, targeting vehicle crime and providing crime prevention advice in specific areas to assist in addressing the increasing crime statistic. The Police reported a final increase of 4% in street crime across the borough, which represented a much lower figure than expected by the mid year point. The Police will continue to work closely with the warden service across the borough and with the new Police Reassurance team planning to move into the Chaplin Centre on Thurlow Street alongside the warden service on the Aylesbury Estate, the partnership can only continue to have a positive impact on crime across the borough.

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

What are the key performance measures for Community Street Wardens and what is the base measure from which indicators will be assessed?

RESPONSE

The Community Warden service commissioned a street survey in October and November 2003 to establish baseline statistics for each of the scheme areas. The survey is essentially based on satisfaction levels within the scheme areas and focuses on the fear of crime during the day and the night and includes questions about general satisfaction levels with the area as a place to live in relation to environmental hazards. This survey will be repeated yearly and will form the foundation of our baseline data for the performance management process. Based on the results of the survey the service has also agreed a number of performance indicators which will be used to measure the success of the service they are as follows:

1. The percentage of residents in the Warden Scheme area who say they feel safe during the day when outside
2. The percentage of residents in the Warden Scheme area who say they feel safe after dark when outside
3. The percentage of people in the Warden Scheme areas who are satisfied with the area as a place to live
4. The percentage of people in the Warden Scheme areas who are satisfied with the area as a place to work
5. The percentage of people in the Warden Scheme areas who are satisfied with the area as a place to visit (Bankside)
6. The percentage of people who are aware that there is a warden scheme operating in their area
7. Percentage of people in Warden Scheme areas who say that they feel safer knowing that wardens are patrolling
8. Wardens across the borough targeted to serve 1000 Fixed Penalty Notices (pro rata) for 2004/05.

The service will also be applying for the Quality Standard from the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister in 2003 and Accreditation via the Metropolitan Police Service once available.

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES

Could the Executive Member indicate the extent to which the long-awaited Millwall walkway has reduced criminal incidents near the New Den football ground?

RESPONSE

It is too early to give definitive results. This is because, since the walkway has been completed only two of Millwall's home matches have been high risk fixtures.

However, I am pleased to report that early indications / informal observations suggest that it has been highly successful. De-briefing reports from Lewisham Police (who are responsible for policing on match days) show there has been less crime and anti-social behaviour on match days.

It is pleasing to note that the recent high profile West Ham game passed off without serious incident outside the ground.

The Council is continuing to make sweeps of local streets and housing estates to remove material that could be used as missiles. And the Bermondsey neighbourhood wardens continue to patrol the area and alert the police to any signs of trouble

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Could the Executive Member please tell me how the recruitment for the Rotherhithe Community Wardens is going and when the new recruits are likely to hit the streets?

RESPONSE

The recruitment for the Rotherhithe scheme started in January and is continuing through April. The recruitment process is ongoing and will continue until all of the posts are filled. We are aware of the previous problems with anti-social behaviour in the Rotherhithe area and are seeking to ensure that the wardens are patrolling the streets in time for the summer holidays.

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

Could I congratulate the Executive Member on winning Beacon Council status for Community Safety and could he please explain to the Council what Beacon status entails?

RESPONSE

The Beacon Awards is a national scheme run by the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The Beacon scheme identifies excellence and innovation in local government so that authorities can learn from each other and deliver high quality services to all. It provides a stimulus to other authorities who are seeking to improve, and identifies tools and techniques that underpin service improvement. Southwark will now play an important role in helping to spread good practice to other local authorities.

The Council has been awarded Beacon status for its role in the Safer Southwark Partnership, a statutory partnership between the police, Council and other local agencies who work together to reduce crime and disorder in the Borough. The judges observed that Southwark has achieved excellent success in reducing levels of crime by effectively working with its partners and the local communities. For this work we have become an example to other local authorities and are getting enquiries from as far away as South Africa.

This award means that we are committed to sharing our good practice with others. With the support of the Improvement and Development Agency (IDeA), Southwark will help other Councils to draw on and learn from our successes. Therefore over the coming year or so you may see more visitors around the Town Hall and other Council buildings coming to find out how we tackle crime and community safety concerns, and to learn about projects happening across the Borough to help people feel safer in their homes and neighbourhoods.

Southwark Council will hold Beacon status until the end of June 2005.

We would like to congratulate everyone involved in this achievement.

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR DR ABDUR RAHMAN OLAYIWOLA

Has there been any success in the reduction of burglary in Southwark over the past 12 months?

RESPONSE

The overall trend in burglary figures in recent years is downwards. Southwark has also improved its position, from 5th to 6th (lower) in comparison with the other ten London boroughs in its crime reduction partnership family.

However, the burglary figures over the past 12 months have shown a slight increase over the previous year – from 3,148 (27 per 1,000 household) incidents to 3,363 (31 per 1,000 household).

It should be noted that there are variations in the levels of burglary across the borough. Details of the number of burglaries by ward and community Council can be viewed on the Safer Southwark Partnership website (safersouthwark.org.uk).

We are continuing to support, in particular through Neighbourhood Renewal Funding (NRF) and the Housing Joint Security Initiative (JSI) programme, a number of initiatives to tackle burglary, reduce repeat victimisation and prevent bogus callers across the borough. These include:

- **Victim Support Lockfitting Project:** Free lockfitting for victims of crime and vulnerable people.
- **Elder Care Programme:** Borough wide pro-active crime prevention service and reassurance for the elderly:
- **Neighbourhood Safety Scheme:** Free security devices for tenants over 65 to remind them to be wary of bogus callers.
- **Situational Crime Prevention Measures:** Pro-active target-hardening programmes in hotspot areas, developed with Housing Department.

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Could I ask the Executive Member when he plans to extend the wardens service?

RESPONSE

In March 2003 the Executive agreed a phased approach to the development of the service. The first phase suggested that priority should be given to crime or environmental hotspots. The introduction of the Elephant and Castle warden service completes this first phase of introduction.

During this year two further schemes in schemes in Rotherhithe and Dulwich will go live together with the implementation of the Community Wardens service in parks. This will mean that by the end of 2004/5 over 100 wardens will be active in all the Community Council areas. Once this phase has been completed we will review the boundaries of our existing schemes with a view to ensuring that that any remaining areas has access to a community warden service.

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY, SOCIAL INCLUSION & YOUTH FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

What is the Council doing to prevent crime and the fear of crime in West Walworth?

RESPONSE

A number of targeted projects are being delivered in the West Walworth area:

- A drugs prevention project which includes drug education and awareness is being delivered by the Community Drug Education Project on the Brandon Estate.
- The Crime Concern managed project Kickstart is delivering a project in the Elephant and Castle area which is targeted at young men aged 18-25, the base for this project is on the Brandon estate and includes development of a internet café in one of the shops on Maddox Way. The projects aims to engage young men in education, training and employment and positive use of leisure time.
- Under the Council's Cleaner Greener Safer programme 2003/4 improvement work was undertaken on Pelier Park and pram sheds removed, both of which schemes will have improved informal surveillance of open spaces.
- The Elephant & Castle community wardens scheme will be fully operational from 4th May. The scheme consists of 12 wardens and supervisor who will be based in the shopping centre. The wardens patrol area covers the area around the shopping centre, the Heygate Estate and down Walworth Road to East Street market. The hours of operation will be from 9am to 10pm. The scheme is currently partially operational with 5 wardens patrolling, whilst the additional wardens are currently being trained.
- There are a number of other schemes such as those relating to burglary (see question 15) which will enable services to be targeted to residents in the West Walworth area.

Key areas of crime in West Walworth are in the busy shopping areas of Walworth Road and around the Elephant and Castle. The wardens scheme along with the targeted police hotspot teams will be providing high visibility and reassurance patrols. The launch of the community wardens scheme will be accompanied by posters in the local area and promotional material which will be circulated to local residents.

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

The Executive Member for Education and Culture will be aware that children and parents in the St Mary's Road area of Nunhead have been waiting for many months to see improvements to the play ground adjacent to the Pioneer Centre. Therefore, will he gives responses to the following:

- what plans the Council's legal section has to secure the outstanding £50,000 pledged by the Pioneer Centre developer for play ground improvements?
- does he believe the three year delay in receiving this money is acceptable?
- have there been deficiencies in Council procedures which require action?

RESPONSE

The difficulty arose in this case because the developer sought to agree a payment in lieu of carrying out the works and subsequently the freehold ownership of the site changed. It is not acceptable for this to take as long as it has and I have asked officers to follow up the need for compliance vigorously. We now have a full database of s106 agreements which will ensure that progress can be monitored more effectively. I have asked officers to ensure that it will highlight any case of this kind in the future so that follow up action can be prompt.

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Would the Executive Member please outline his proposals for undertaking the review called for in the School Organisation Plan 2003/08 (agreed by the Schools Organisation Committee on 29th March 2004 and by the Council Assembly's resolution on 29th October 2003 (item 5.1) which asked the Executive and the School Organisation Committee;

“To consider no later than October 2004 a report, based inter alia on research into the success/failure of admissions applications for entry in January and September 2004 to maintained schools in the Herne Hill and Dulwich area, on the desirability of increasing primary provision in that area.”

RESPONSE

Officers are currently updating the demographic data on the basis of the new planning areas based on the community Councils. In addition, analysis will be carried out on the data relating to admissions to primary schools in the area. This will include allocations on first preferences but officers will also seek to identify any differential use of the private sector at primary level.

This analysis of both demographic data and parental decisions will identify significant issues relating to the provision of primary places in the area. Having identified any problems, officers will identify options for addressing them through existing or new provision.

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

In December 2002 the Executive received a report on Education Performance that stated "Basic skills amongst adults in Southwark continues to be very low with 25% residents lacking basic numeracy and literacy skills" What overall improvement in percentage terms has been achieved in adult basic numeracy and literacy in Southwark in the past two years?

RESPONSE

Since the Basic Skills Agency survey carried out in 1997 and reported to Executive there has been no follow up survey at a borough level carried out by the Basic Skills Agency. It is not possible therefore to provide a percentage improvement figure for Southwark. All local authorities are still awaiting notification as to when the Basic Skills Agency will be conducting the next comprehensive borough level Basic skills survey. Member will be informed as soon as we have this information.

The recent Adult Inspection of Adult Basic Skills teaching has shown that the Southwark Adult Education services provided a 'Satisfactory' grade with good examples of basic skill teaching and learning.

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

I am pleased to learn of the launch of the Southwark Community Games. Will all Southwark school children be given the opportunity to participate and how?

RESPONSE

All primary schools have been invited to enter teams into competition for the Southwark Community Games. Sports co-ordinators for all primary schools have been sent invitation letters and have been visited by a Council Officer to explain the competition, if required. The response has been enthusiastic and take up is significant. The number of schools taking part in the athletics competition has almost doubled since last year to 30, and 40 schools are expected to take part in the rugby part of the competition compared to 20 last year.

All schools can receive coaching, hire equipment and get assistance to organise teams if they wish. There has been very encouraging take-up of these offers as well as much demand for help with coaching and sports-coach training for teachers in general.

A number of preliminary competitions are being held around the borough so that every school that wishes to enter a team may do so. Winners of these competitions will then go forward to the borough finals and the top scorers from each Community Council will go forward to the Southwark Community Games finals.

There are clear signs that the competition has caught the imagination of children, teachers and parents in the borough.

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Will the Executive Member welcome with me the Audit Commission rating given to the play services/after-school service and could he/she tell me about any plans to expand and improve this service?

RESPONSE

Following a rigorous external evaluation of the Play and After School Services by the Audit Commission in November 2003, an evaluation report was published in January 2004 which awarded the service a two star standard out of a possible three which recognised the service as good with promising prospects for improvement.

The report identified that services are good because:

- parents, children and other stakeholders trust, value and are well satisfied with the services on offer;
- there is extensive provision of after school clubs provided both by the Council and by voluntary organisations;
- there are long established adventure playgrounds in different areas of the borough; and
- there are now sound arrangements for the maintenance of playgrounds on housing estates and in parks.

The prospects for improvement of the service are promising because:

- there is a high level of commitment from Councillors and service staff to improve and extend the service;
- the service has a strong track record of securing funding to support its development; and
- service management is experienced and has been successful in broadening the horizons of the service to link with wider agendas around education attainment and community safety.

There are a number of new exciting developments for both services over the next three years, the details are as follows:

Play Service

- A new adventure playground is planned for the centre of Peckham on the site known as Kelly Avenue which is just off Commercial Way. The plans for this site have been developed and will include under 5 fixed play facilities as well as a play building where traditional play activities can take place. The site will make a significant contribution to play activities during the school holiday periods and will provide a safe environment for children in the Peckham area.
- Lottery funding has been secured to redevelop the adventure playground in Peckham Rye Park. It is proposed to replace the existing play building and develop an adventure play area. This will

be linked to local schools who will be able to use the play space to introduce children to adventure play activities.

- As part of the Bermondsey regeneration project, there is a new adventure play facility planned for Spa Gardens, this will replace the existing adventure play sight in Spa Road but will have additional features for under 5 play activities.
- The mobile play service has proved to be very successful therefore additional funding has been raised to extend the mobile play service to a second vehicle which should be available for the forthcoming summer holidays.
- The play service continues to manage a grant programme which is designed to extend summer play activities and to bring play opportunities to housing estates across Southwark.
- In April 2004, the Executive Member launched the new Toy Library Service. Having raised over £100,000 from external funding including funds from the local Sure Starts, Children's Services has established a toy library service from 4 sites in the Borough. This was made possible following Neighbourhood Renewal funding of over half a million pounds which was used to rebuild the 4 play facilities within the parks.
- There are currently 120,000 play visits recorded in 2003/4, it is anticipated that this will rise by a further 40,000 visits by 2006.

After School Service

- The After School Service has doubled in size over the last four years from 18 to 31 clubs and currently caters for over 2,000 children, aged 5 - 11 in the term time. The expansion has been funded from the new opportunities Lottery Fund and from fee increases. Further funds are available from the Sure Start unit to continue to expand After School Services in Southwark and it is anticipated that a further 500 places will be created in each of the next two years.
- There has also been an expansion in homework club activities, both within the after school clubs and by community groups establishing new homework clubs. It is anticipated with the new partnership with Cambridge Education Associates that further assessment will take place on how after school and homework clubs can continue to attribute to the Raising Achievement Agenda.
- The after school service will continue to expand working in partnership with schools as part of the new out of school and extended school strategies. It is anticipated that there will be more breakfast clubs, an introduction of wrap around services (these are after school services for under 5's linked to nursery classes) and extensions to the holiday programmes.
- The after school service is designed to be fully inclusive for children with special needs and in 2004 a new post will be created to support the expansion of special needs activities within the out of school sector.

The play and after school services currently hold the Investors in People (IIP) and Charter mark quality standards and these are due to be reviewed in 2004. The intention is in the next three years to lead these services from being good to excellent and to continue to support the needs of the children of Southwark.

Southwark's Play Policy continues to confirm Southwark's commitment to the rights of children to have access to good play and recreational opportunities as per article 31 of the United Nations Convention.

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION & CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Can the Executive Member tell me when the new common admissions arrangement will be in place?

RESPONSE

Co-ordinated admission arrangements will be in place for admissions to secondary schools from September 2005. Details can be found in the report approved by the Executive at its evening meeting on 13th April. It is likely that primary school admissions will be co-ordinated from September 2006.

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

Further to the planned improved works to the forecourt at Queen's Road station, will the Executive Member for Environment and Transport agree with me that issues of access mean that the station platform is out of reach for many elderly/disabled people? If so:

- will he support an access survey, (the findings to be discussed with the station users group)?
- will the Council executive support the use of some Council funds to allow the installation of a stairwell lift at Queen's Road station?
- will he support the earmarking of section 106 monies from adjacent development sites for this purpose?

RESPONSE

The works that the Council are undertaking to the station forecourt in conjunction with Network Rail will provide safer access to the station entrance for all users, including those with disabilities.

Officers and Network Rail are currently working on initiatives to improve passenger security on the trains and platforms and some funding by the Council may be made available as part of a safer stations project..

The concerns about accessibility were discussed at a public meeting chaired by Councillor Thorncroft and it was made clear by Network Rail and the Train Operator that Queens Road is not considered a priority by the Strategic Rail Authority. The costs of making the station fully accessible are substantial, up to £1 million. It is unlikely that the Council would be able to allocate funding at that level to this project.

However I have asked officers to write to Network Rail suggesting that an improvement plan should be prepared, including an access survey, and to review the possible sources of funding, including the potential of section 106 from any nearby developments.

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

I shall be grateful if the Executive Member for Environment & Transport could set out for us what he is proposing to do to address the growing discontent with the standard of the kerbside collection recycling service provided?

RESPONSE

I do not accept the premise of the question; there is not a growing discontent with the standard of kerbside collection. Most people are delighted that we now provide a comprehensive doorstep collection that was so clearly lacking under the previous administration; and furthermore issues associated with the roll out of this new scheme are being resolved.

There has been very significant public interest in the Council's new multi materials kerbside collection scheme, with many residents contacting the Council wishing to participate in the scheme or giving the Council positive feedback on its introduction including:-

- Street Leaders have been delighted with communal bins and doorstep services, saying they would have had to put these recyclables in the bin before
- Residents have phoned and written in to thank us for the new collection services enabling them to recycle things they could not carry to communal sites before
- E-mails and the web site discussion forum have nearly all been requests for additional information and services based on the success of those recently implemented
- Our flexibility has been praised – where we tailor what we provide wherever possible
- The majority of problems when discussed with residents have been one off, they have later thanked us for the improvements and participate more fully in all recycling initiatives now they understand the issues more
- Other Councils have asked us for guidance when implementing new schemes based on the huge increases we have recently had in recycling tonnages collected

Tonnages of recycled material collected have increased significantly, for paper alone by 42%; and for recycled materials in total by 89%.

In practical terms two years ago only 70 tonnes of recyclables were collected a month from peoples' homes; this figure now stands at 172 tonnes a month.

As with any new scheme of this nature there have been some teething problems, however, officers have put in place a plan to address any issues that have arisen in the initial phase of the scheme. These include:-

- More project managers and supervisors
- Rescheduling operations

- An additional crew and collection vehicle
- Administrative changes

Since actioning these issues the numbers of missed collections has fallen and the time taken to deliver bags and boxes has been reduced.

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

With regard to the new wardens in parks, aside from trying to measure reduction in the fear of crime, what other measures is it intended to use to assess whether wardens bring tangible improvements, represent value for money and "achieve the results the scheme has signed up to" ?

RESPONSE

The Warden scheme in parks should not be seen as an initiative in isolation, but as part of a package of measures designed to improve the quality and experience of parks for users in the most effective manner available.

These include, the new grounds maintenance contract (which includes litter-picking previously undertaken by Rangers in major parks); the Outreach Team; the Young Friends of Parks Officer and the Ecology Officer as well as more strategic Area Park Managers.

The primary aim of the Warden scheme is to ensure that parks are safe and feel safe by ensuring that crime and anti-social behaviour are reduced and that users are assured. This will allow for a number of other activities and initiatives to take place including education and out-reach, activities to encourage non-traditional users of parks, initiatives to improve the health of people in the borough as well as sport and informal recreation.

Like any new initiative it will take time to bed-in but the tangible results will manifest themselves in a number of ways; cleaner and better used parks and open spaces, reduced crime and anti-social behaviour, increased levels of usage by a wide range of the population and last, but not least, overall satisfaction.

We have existing performance indicators for parks including standards of maintenance, cleanliness and recycling and indicators on satisfaction. In addition to this we propose to develop new indicators for education and inclusion. Performance measures for wardens both in the street and parks are set out in the response to question 11.

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

What is the "vision" of the Dulwich Park area "potential" and what is the "strategy for its improvement" that wardens are expected to achieve?

RESPONSE

Between October of last year and March of this year the Park Manager at Dulwich recorded over twenty-two incidents of serious anti-social behaviour in the vicinity of Dulwich Park; including assaults on staff and members of the public as well as extensive vandalism. Quite apart from the effect on the victims of these incidents this is a costly drain on resources and undermines the public's confidence in the safety of their environment. The "vision" is for a park area where acts of this sort are minimised and the "strategy" is for the Wardens to work closely with the police, the public and other agencies in order to achieve that "potential" situation.

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

Can the Executive Member please tell me when the free green waste collection begins and any other relevant details about the scheme?

RESPONSE

A review to identify the properties eligible to participate in the scheme across the whole borough is being conducted now.

A reusable bag plus additional paper compostable bags and information on how to participate in the scheme will be delivered to participating residents in May.

An article about the scheme will appear in the next edition of Southwark Life.

Vehicles have been ordered and the first collections are programmed to take place on 24th May 2004. Following this the scheme will continue to be rolled out throughout June as further requests for inclusion on the scheme are received.

For residents who produce a large amount of garden waste additional paper compostable bags will be available for resident collection at a number of distribution centres borough wide (e.g. libraries, Neighbourhood Housing Offices, parks, Manor Place depot). The locations of the distribution centres will be identified in the publicity material provided to launch the scheme and via the Council's web site.

Collections will take place on a fortnightly basis, through to November to ensure residents are able to compost during the leaf fall season.

All garden waste collected will be brought to Manor Place and transported by our waste disposal contractor – Waste Recycling Group – to be turned into compost, some of which will then be sold back to residents at a reduced rate through the Manor Place Reuse and Recycling centre.

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

Would the Executive Member for Resources, please provide a breakdown of the basic pay and the special responsibility allowances paid to the following posts stated below from May 2002 to March 2003.

Also, will she print the name of each person in receipt of the above, sorted alphabetically,

Southwark Council's Chief Officers

Southwark Council's Private Sector Consultants,

and Southwark's Executive (which is made up of 10 Councillors who each hold a special 'portfolio' of responsibility).

RESPONSE

- (i) The pay of Southwark Chief Officers for the period 2002/2003 is set out below. As this is personal information covered by data protection, names have not been provided. Chief Officers do not receive special responsibility allowances.

£131,609.50

£111,212.75

£100,567.50

£94,050.00

£94,050.00

£90,964.50

- (ii) The position of consultants is as follows. As a category, professional consultants used by the Council cover an extremely wide range of disciplines. However, for the period 2002/03, a large proportion of the expenditure was made up from four key areas, which include: Internal Audit, legal consultancy, building/surveyors/architects and general management consultants.

Most fees paid to consultants are project specific and negotiated at the time of engagement with employing organisations rather than individuals, it is not possible to provide an analysis of individual consultant remuneration. No special allowance payments are made.

Consultants are engaged in accordance with agreed procurement procedures either directly from the market following the Council's Contract Standing Orders, or through SCAT, a pre-tendered central government approved list.

(iii) The position of Executive Members is set out below:

	Name	Basic Allowance (£)	SRAs (£)	Total (£)	Comments
	Bassom, Beverley	7,395.69	17,921.67	25,317.36	
	Bowman, Catherine	7,395.69	17,921.67	25,317.36	
#	Gurling, James	7,395.69	6,671.67	14,067.36	
#	Mizzi, Kenneth	7,395.69	3,546.67	10,942.36	Resigned from Executive w/e 18.11.2002
*#	Moore, Catriona	7,260.63	2,500.00	9,760.63	Became Executive Member w/e 27.11.2002
#	Pidgeon, Caroline	7,395.69	12,471.25	19,866.94	
*	Porter, Richard	7,260.63	17,921.67	25,182.30	
*	Skelly, Robert	7,260.63	17,921.67	25,182.30	
	Stanton, Nicholas	7,395.69	34,291.25	41,686.94	
#	Thomas, Richard	7,395.69	10,421.67	17,817.36	
*#	Zuleta, Lorraine	7,260.63	17,296.67	24,557.30	Became full time Executive Member w/e 01.08.2002

Notes: per annum
 Basic Allowance reduced from £8,375 to £8,000 per annum w/e 01.07.2002
 Executive Allowance increased to £22,500 per annum w/e 01.07.2002
 Figures quoted based on previously published figures in South London Press in August 2003.

- * New Councillor for 2002 Administration - received basic allowance with effect from 07.05.2002
- # Reduction in full Executive Allowance due to work commitments outside Southwark

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

In the 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 Councillor 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 break-down of the total figures paid for telephone bills for the same period from each Party group room?

RESPONSE

Councillors	Landlines, £100 & £21.97	Mobiles & Blackberries	Total
Alfred Banya	£275.76	£62.28	£338.04
Mick Barnard	£4,430.17		£4,430.17
Beverley Bassom	£884.04	£905.54	£1,789.58
Paul Bates	£275.76	£62.28	£338.04
Columba Blango	£253.79		£253.79
Catherine Bowman	£1,912.00	£62.28	£1,974.28
David Bradbury	£253.79		£253.79
Denise Capstick	£325.61		£325.61
Fiona Colley	£275.76	£32.42	£308.18
Dora Dixon-Fyle	£253.79	£1,388.16	£1,641.95
Toby Eckersley	£674.65	£62.28	£736.93
Stephen Flannery	£275.76	£32.42	£308.18
John Friary	£253.79	£62.28	£316.07
Norma Gibbes	£769.05		£769.05
Mark Glover	£275.76	£125.27	£401.03
Aubyn Graham	£698.38	£1,856.86	£2,555.24
James Gurling	£253.79	£123.24	£377.03
Barrie Hargrove	£615.08		£615.08
Alun Hayes	£275.76		£275.76
Jeffrey Hook	£275.54		£275.54
David Hubber	£275.76	£43.08	£318.84
Kim Humphreys	£253.79	£185.49	£439.28
Jonathan Hunt	£599.25	£32.42	£631.67
Peter John	£275.76	£32.42	£308.18
Billy Kayada	£253.79	£897.41	£1,151.20
Paul Kyriacou	£546.22		£546.22
Jelil Ladipo	£253.79		£253.79
Lorraine Lauder	£1,597.93	£175.00	£1,772.93
Linda Manchester	£218.98	£62.28	£281.26
Eliza Mann	£376.78	£32.42	£409.20
Daniel McCarthy	£583.14	£62.28	£645.42
Dermot McInerney	£253.79		£253.79
Kenneth Mizzi	£253.79		£253.79
Abdul Mohamed	£413.55	£32.42	£445.97
Alison Moise	£275.76		£275.76
Catriona Moore	£639.83		£639.83
Vicky Naish	£5,304.09	£135.15	£5,439.24
Graham Neale	£228.78	£37.46	£266.24

Gavin O'Brien	£275.76		£275.76
Dr Olayiwola	£736.53		£736.53
Michelle Pearce	£253.79		£253.79
Caroline Pidgeon	£463.37	£38.49	£501.86
Richard Porter	£1,184.74		£1,184.74
Mark Pursey	£275.76		£275.76
Lisa Rajan	£275.76	£62.28	£338.04
Tony Ritchie	£253.79	£626.09	£879.88
Lewis Robinson	£275.76	£62.28	£338.04
William Rowe	£253.79	£62.28	£316.07
Andrew Simmons	£382.82	£271.79	£654.61
Tayo Situ	£275.76		£275.76
Robert Skelly	£275.76		£275.76
Robert Smeath	£275.76	£32.42	£308.18
Charlie Smith	£275.76	£62.28	£338.04
Nicholas Stanton	£253.79	£62.28	£316.07
Richard Thomas	£409.34	£62.28	£471.62
Dominic Thorncroft	£253.79	£1,224.44	£1,478.23
Veronica Ward	£275.76	£62.28	£338.04
Neil Watson	£253.79		£253.79
Sarah Welfare	£618.97	£62.28	£681.25
Ian Wingfield	£253.79	£1,753.09	£2,006.88
Anne Yates	£1,746.35		£1,746.35
Lorraine Zuleta	£275.76		275.76

Above costs relate to dedicated landlines, mobiles and blackberry charges. Some Members elect to receive £100 per annum towards calls and £21.97 a quarter towards rental. These costs are also included in the above figures. The £100 due for 2003/04 is not included in the above figures and will be paid in the May payroll.

Costs relating to Group rooms are currently being prepared and will be made available to Members by letter at a later date.

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

What progress is the Council making with regard to staffing and equal opportunities? What is the current position with regard to ethnicity, gender, disability etc. of Southwark's workforce ? Please advise on numbers at each salary grade and show similar information for the last two years?

RESPONSE

The Council's equality record on employment is good. For black and minority ethnic (BME) staff, senior staff (women) and people with disabilities, the Council has exceeded its own 2003/4 targets and its performance ranks in the top quartile of Local Authorities.

A specific section in the Council's recently approved Equalities Action Plan shows our ambition in this area including our aim to improve both the statistical data and qualitative application. Below is shown a breakdown of information which has been analysed corporately for the past three years. It is important to note that with the exception of women in the whole workforce, each of these data sets are Best Value Performance Indicators (BVPI) and as such are subject to rigorous definition and audit annually. The Executive monitors target setting and quarterly progress. It should be noted that there was an impact on the 2003/4 data due to the return of ex-Atkins staff and street-cleaning staff.

	<u>Mar-04</u>	<u>Mar-03</u>	<u>Mar-02</u>
Council workforce			
Black & ethnic minority staff	44.5%	44.8%	42.5%
Women	53%	55%	56.0%
People with disabilities	2.2%	1.9%	1.2%

Senior staff (top 5%) *

Senior staff – women	43.0%	38.0%	33.0%
Senior staff - people from black & ethnic minority communities	20.0%	21.0%	Not collected

** Until 2002/3 monitored JNC graded staff by gender
March 2004 data yet subject to verification and audit*

The Council does not normally analyse this data by grade as without some qualification, this could lead to some wrong conclusions. Salary grade alone does not determine salary level. Furthermore, within salary grades, salaries are not necessarily normally or uniformly distributed. People could possibly have the same salary level in any of three different grades. If the Councillor wishes, data can be analysed in comparison salary bands and the information forwarded to him. It would however be a costly and time consuming exercise to provide historical comparisons.

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

How many disabled adults, especially those with learning difficulties are in residential homes out of the borough, and London; away from relatives and friends. How many times a year are these people visited by Social Services and have their case reviewed?

RESPONSE

A total of 284 people with disabilities are placed in residential and nursing placements outside Southwark. This can be broken down as follows:

Placement	Residential		Nursing Home	
	In London	Outside London	In London	Outside London
Learning Disability*	17	177	0	5
Physical Disability	18	28	29	17

*The figures for learning disability placements include health and social care placements made by the integrated Primary Care Trust/Social Services Learning Disability Service.

Placements are made outside Southwark/London where specialist/complex care is required and appropriate provision is not available within Southwark/London. All placements are reviewed at least annually, with additional visits by social workers as required.

A number of measures are underway to address the problem of placing people away from their families and friends, including:

- Development of a commissioning strategy to establish a market of provision in-borough, including a range of community services, to ensure best quality and monitoring of residential placements.
- Appointment of a specialist placement review social worker, who will re-assess all existing physical disability placements to ensure the placement remains the best option and where people's needs have changed and a move may be appropriate

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR CATRIONA MOORE

Could the Executive Member please reiterate her position on Aylesbury Day Centre given the speculation surrounding this site?

RESPONSE

A strategy for commissioning day services for adults with physical disabilities has recently been discussed at the Physical Disabilities Partnership Board and the Health & Social Care Scrutiny sub-Committee. The strategy was agreed by the Executive on 13th April 2004.

The commissioning strategy was developed following reviews of service users that establish both eligibility and types of needs/services. There has also been widespread consultation with users, carers and stakeholders.

The key components of the strategy are:

- A recognition of the continuing need for day care for a smaller number of service users with the most complex and highest level of need
- A wider range of community based services and opportunities, including the development of outreach and access services. An investment of £250,000 is being made this financial year in these services
- A commitment to maintain and improve day care and community based services for people with physical disabilities
- Transfer to external management through a process of negotiated tender

In the first instance the Aylesbury Day Centre building will continue to be used as a base for the new range of day services, from building-based day care to assertive outreach (including access to work, adult education/training, leisure and libraries, etc).

The site of the building is in the south west corner of the Aylesbury estate, a site for potential regeneration. If the Executive agrees the regeneration proposals then the building and services will be re-provided through a day centre on the current site or another site. The intention is to develop a range of day services for people with disabilities enabling greater choice and a focus on social inclusion alongside care services. It is very likely that the services will be based at the Aylesbury Day Centre for at least another two years.

**34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM
COUNCILLOR GAVIN O'BRIEN**

Could the Executive Member give details of the consultation timetable with regard to the housing allocation review?

RESPONSE

The Executive received a report on the Housing Allocation Policy Review and agreed the recommendations for the draft Lettings Policy and consultation on 13th April 2004. The consultation will run for 5 months over the summer period ending in September 2004. A report detailing the consultation programme will be presented to the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee on 11th May 2004.

The results of the consultation programme will be reported to the Housing Scrutiny Sub-Committee in the autumn prior to its presentation to the Executive for their final ratification.

**35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION
FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON**

Would the Executive Member for Regeneration please publish a schedule of all outstanding undertakings to make contributions under "Section 106" agreements, which will include the following information by ward:

The date of the section 106 agreement, the undertakings given and whether any payment has been made to the Council and remains unapplied to the purpose stated in the agreement?

RESPONSE

The full details of the section 106 agreements are maintained on a database. We have presented some of that to individual Community Councils and, in due course, hope to give online access. Meanwhile I will arrange for officers to send Members a printed copy of the information.

**36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION
FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY**

Further to the award of planning permission for a new health centre at Bermondsey Spa could the Executive Member please tell me when work is due to begin on this centre?

RESPONSE

The Council is still in negotiations with the developer and has yet to exchange contracts. Work on site will not commence until contracts have been exchanged and both parties have fulfilled all their contractual conditions. Due to a number of unknown variables in this process (including a trespass on the site by travellers), it is difficult to determine when work on site will commence, but it is estimated to be early autumn 2004.

**37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION
FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN HUNT**

What plans does she have for notifying Community Councils of property that may become available to sell, thus allowing Councillors and citizens to determine whether such property might continue to be required by the people?

RESPONSE

The Council undertakes a significant programme of disposals and secures capital receipts which enable us to deliver new buildings and projects for the community. Sites and buildings are declared surplus by the service using them. The property team will consider whether those sites or buildings would fulfil the identified needs of other services in the short or medium term. A review of the accommodation requirements of the Council is nearing completion.

If Community Councils have identified a need for additional accommodation in an area they should, in conjunction with the relevant service department, set out the requirement so that the property team can consider the best way to meet it.

Details of individual disposals are not normally disclosed in advance as there may be a need for confidential negotiations.