

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: 15.9.04	Meeting Name Council Assembly
Report title:		Members Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

COUNCIL PROCEDURE RULE 3.9 : MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.9, 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 environment and transport; the executive member for resources; the executive member for health and adult care; executive member for housing & community safety; executive member for regeneration & economic development; the executive member for communication & performance improvement, the executive member for equalities, culture and sport and the executive member for education. The order of questions is rotated by the borough solicitor at every meeting (CAPR 3.9 (10) & (11)).

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 by 6.00 p.m. on the day 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 3.9 (10) & (11) (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 GRAHAM NEALE

Has Southwark any plans to assist the government with the compulsory implementation of an identification card for its entire adult population, starting with immigrant workers, and those of non-UK status requiring health care?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

Would he publish the full text of his letter to the Southwark Alliance as requested by the amended standards committee report voted on by council assembly at its July meeting?

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

Could the leader please list for me the following:

1) The number of attendances by each individual councillor at the tenants arbitration panel 1 April 2003 to 31 March 2004.

2) Can he list and name on each occasion that councillors have cancelled (when they have been listed to attend) at forty eight hours notice or less and the amount of notice that has been given prior to cancellation on each occasion.

3) Can he list and name on each occasion when a councillor has failed to turn up and has failed to inform officers of the arbitration tribunal for a tribunal that they have listed to attend.

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

Would the leader join me in thanking the newly appointed resident members to the Southwark Alliance for the time and hard work that they will undoubtedly bring to the organisation, which can surely only be a good thing for Southwark and does he agree that it is unfair that these local volunteers have been vilified in the press by the opposition parties?

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

How much money will be spent servicing Southwark Alliance in the financial year 2004-05?

Could breakdowns be given for each of the following areas:

- Training and equipment for members
- Staff support for Southwark Alliance provided by the council
- Office space provided for Southwark Alliance by the council.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Could I congratulate the executive, chief officer team and the staff of Southwark Council for the superb achievement in raising this authority's comprehensive performance assessment rating from weak in 2002 up to good in 2004. What does the leader feel has been the key to this success and how does he feel that we can improve even further?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MICK BARNARD

What policies and internal memoranda relates to transfer requests by staff in sheltered housing units and what consideration is given to residents?

8. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

Will the executive member outline to me what steps this council is taking to meet the current legal framework of the Adoption and Children Act 2002 and how is it meeting the recommendations of the government report 'Excellence not Excuses' (2000)?

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

Will the executive member agree to consider the East Dulwich Community Centre on Darrell Road for the siting of a new children's centre?

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

Would the executive member lend his support to Walworth Community Councils sub-group looking into the possibility of extending 20mph zones within the community council area?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

How often are the trees in Riverside pruned and when is the next pruning session?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Could the executive member please explain to me how the current environmental difficulties happened at Surrey Water along with South Dock, Greenland Dock and Albion Channel. What measures are being taken to rectify the problem?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

What is being done and what is going to be done to improve the management of Surrey Water et al in order to ensure that the current problems with the water do not reach this stage again?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY

Could the executive member please comment on the recycling rates published recently in the Evening Standard and could he please clear up the confusion surrounding what is in fact a Southwark success?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BEVERLEY BASSOM

Will the Executive Member support me in my representations to Transport for London to get the phasing of the new traffic lights at the junction of St James Road and Southwark Park Road extended so that pedestrians have longer than 10 seconds to cross this busy junction?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Could the executive member tell me how much consideration there has been for partnership working with other boroughs with regard to Southwark's long-term waste management strategy?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

Despite repeated promises, Nunhead and East Peckham residents are still waiting for phase 1 of the improvements planned to Queens Road station (opening up the station forecourt). When will this phase be completed?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

It appears that a significant number of recycling collections have been missed in Faraday ward, increasing the amount of street litter as a result. What steps has the executive member and the environment & leisure department taken to improve the situation?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

When can we expect the investigation into the Dulwich floods to be complete and a report available for Village ward residents?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

There are a number of ground level car parks in Peckham which are very popular and an underused multi storey car park. Does the executive member have any plans to address the lack of use of the multi storey car park and if so, do those plans include closure of any of the ground level car parks?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

Will the executive member explain to this chamber why Southwark has not signed up to the Nottingham Declaration on Climate Change?

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

In light of the government's mistakes with the 2001 census, which resulted in an understating of Southwark's population by 4800, would the executive member for resources please state when, and in what amount, the council will be reimbursed by the government for the consequent erroneous grant settlements for 2003/04 and 2004/05 and would she state how the executive intends to spend the reimbursement? (see Public Finance 16/22 July 2004 p.16)

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

In light of the executive's decision of 6th July 2004 to earmark £1million of the proceeds of the sale of Site D Bermondsey Spa for local purposes, instead of pooling the entire proceeds for the borough-wide capital programme, would the executive member for resources (a) please publish a schedule of all disposals where similar earmarking has been agreed, with information on progress in each case in effecting the disposal and (b) (if the proceeds have been received) in achieving the agreed earmarked purpose; and (c) would she set out what the Executive's policy is in agreeing departures from the normal "pooling" practice?

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

In the light of the increasing number of "partnered contracts" being entered into (e.g. Alfred Salter Neighbourhood, £19million; executive 13th August 2004) allowing works to be ordered on a non-competitive basis, would the executive member for resources please publish a schedule of all such contracts entered into across the council to date showing:

- a. Basic description – e.g date of authorisation/contractor/value originally authorised/purpose of contract.
- b. Whether works are being (or were) carried out on time and to budget originally authorised.
- c. Any other information the executive member considers relevant to the overall duty to secure value for money.

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Following the government's substantial cut to the 'Supporting People' grant that is given to local authorities, could the executive member explain how Southwark has a) made the best of a bad situation and b) looked to make improvements to the service so that all vulnerable adults might benefit?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

How many full time staff were employed in the sheltered housing service in April 2002 and how many full time staff are currently employed?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN FLANNERY

Could I please be updated on funding for the security measures for Lockwood and Newplace Square?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Could the executive member for housing please update me on progress with the housing allocations review?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

Could the executive member for housing and community safety please outline any progress that the council has made in providing a better deal for leaseholders recently?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

It is rumoured that the auditors found evidence that Perronet House Tenants Management Committee had been carrying out inappropriate repairs for leaseholders. Could the executive member confirm whether or not this is the case? If it is the case could the executive member set out what steps are being taken to redress this, in particular what steps are being taken to recover the funds?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

Can you indicate why Brookstone and Nunhead Tenants & Residents Association have lost their funding allocation for 2004-05?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

Why at the time of submitting this question have leaseholders still not received their service charge bills for April and July 2004?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Can the executive member outline the executive's current policy and strategy to ensure Southwark's housing stock meets the decent homes standard by the deadline announced by central government?

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

Could the executive member explain why the decision on whether or not to declare a new renewal area in Nunhead and/or East Peckham has been repeatedly delayed? Could he also give a firm date for when the decision will be taken?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

Can the executive member explain what is the executive's - as opposed to the Aylesbury New Deals for Communities - preferred policy of housing management for the Aylesbury estate – retention of the status quo or another option?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Would the executive member for regeneration outline what measures have been undertaken to develop ideas to market the site occupied by the East Dulwich Community Centre since 1998?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

Will the executive member ensure that a regeneration officer is given responsibility for the Queens Road area given that there is unspent environmental improvement programme funding, section 106 funds in the pipeline and potential for Cleaner Greener Safer funding and consult with the ward members and the community and puts an improvement strategy in place?

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

How many outlets will accept cash for council services following the implementation of the 'face to face' review?

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Can the executive member set out the cost of production and publication of the first two editions of the members newsletter, as distributed from the borough solicitors office to all councillors?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

Further to the letter of 21st May 2004 from Paul Robinson, chair of the Association of London Chief Education Officers to the DfES Student Finance Divisional Manager, reporting a collapse in confidence in the capacity of the student finance support system to work in time, can he update council assembly on the situation in Southwark?

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

Can the executive member please comment on this year's key stage 2 results?

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Deputation Request File	Town Hall, Peckham Road, London SE5 8UB	Lesley John 020 7525 7228

Lead Officer	Ian Millichap, Constitutional Team Manager
Report Author	Lesley John, Constitutional Team
Version	Final
Dated	3rd September 2004