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| Item No. 6 | Classification: Open | Date: 20.10.04 | 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 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, the executive member for education and the executive member for environment and transport;. 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 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 3.9 (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 PETER JOHN

Can the leader give a categorical assurance to council assembly that no council officer was involved in the production or distribution of the Liberal Democrat group document "News from the Group Room", as reported in Southwark News on 23 September?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

How much has the council spent on the last two CPA Assessments?

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

Can the leader of the council say which of the following statements are incorrect and if any are, can he please explain why:

1. Local councillors are not Southwark Council.
2. Advice given by officers can be rejected by any member receiving it.
3. All officers without exception should adhere to the 10 working day deadline for responses to e-mails and letters".

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

I welcome your commitment to the Southwark Tenant Conference to return to the old neighbourhood housing structures if the new area structures don't work. Please could you clarify how you will measure the success or otherwise of the structures and when this review will take place?

5. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

What assurances will the deputy leader give that the planned Peckham children's centre on the Ann Bernadt site currently budgeted at £1.2 million will be delivered by March 2006 and that the services will include up to 60 places, a parent and toddlers room, crèche, community room for training and meetings, and space for health, family support and other complementary services?

6. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR VICKY NAISH

In 2002/2003 the funding of sheltered housing units (SHUs) was transferred by the executive from the housing revenue account (HRA) to the new supporting people fund leaving a recurring £4 million annual windfall for the HRA.

Given that this transfer of funding was made with the knowledge that supporting people would not cover the full costs of the SHUs in the future, could the executive member please explain how much money was set aside in the 2004/05 HRA budget from the £4 million windfall to finance the housing management costs of the sheltered housing units for the current financial year?

7. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

A constituent of mine recently received 23 letters from the council tax and housing benefit department over a period of one week. The letters contained different information and amounts and my constituent, being an elderly woman, was very upset and confused. The reason given by housing benefit and council tax was that there had been a problem with the information system at the time and that it had now been rectified.

Could the executive member set out how many other people since April 1 2004 have been affected by similar circumstances and does each person receive a written apology and an explanation as to why it happened?

8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

What funds have been identified to augment the community alarm scheme so that it can cope with the extra demand from the sheltered housing units?

9. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Would the executive member publish a table of the number of anti-social behaviour orders issued in Southwark for each year on a ward by ward basis since legislation came into effect?

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TONY RITCHIE

Will the executive member ensure that there is an independent review into the role of officers in the following areas?

- degree of impartiality of officers in dealing with organisations on the Grosvenor Estate.
- undermining the tenants & residents association and the local ward councillors.

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

How long has it been since plans were first laid to cut the 24 hour sheltered housing warden service?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

Can the executive member please explain why leaseholders have still yet to receive their bills for the heating works on the Consort Estate?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Can the executive member for housing please explain why the relevant housing office managers did not attend the first Nunhead and Peckham Rye area housing forum on Tuesday October 5 2004 nor send apologies or a deputy despite clear assurances from the executive that they would?

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

Can the executive member please comment on the poor provision of education information on the council's website?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In light of the government's laudable desire that all secondary school pupils should wear a uniform to school (Department for Education & Skills Five Year Strategy), and recent reports that the cost to parents/carers is an average of £185.00 a year (Citizen's Advice Bureau), could the executive member inform us (a) what grants for pupils from low income backgrounds are available from the authority, (b) what assessment criteria apply and (c) the take up rate?

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

Could the executive member please give the number of fixed term exclusions and permanent exclusions for each school in the borough for 2001/02, 2002/03 and 2003/04 with the schools grouped by pupil referral unit, primary, secondary and special schools?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

Could the executive member outline what action has been taken to establish a public transport liaison committee since the relevant motion was referred to the executive by council assembly on April 28 2004?

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

Can the executive member please comment on the council's arrangements for ensuring the security of its vehicles overnight and whether the police have provided advice to the council on keeping vehicles at Chumleigh Gardens safe?

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

Doctors at the Elm Lodge Surgery in my ward are finding it very expensive for the practice to have to fund three business parking permits. Would the executive member be willing to review the present policy on business parking permits in controlled parking zone areas in order to consider whether doctors could be exempt from payment or have a discount on the full rate?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

Would the executive member join me in welcoming the £4.35 million grant provided to Southwark by the government to begin work on a combined heating and power system for the Aylesbury estate, and can he outline what steps he intends to take to attract further funding so that the system can be ready as quickly as possible?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

According to a senior council officer in the transport group, approximately 80% of Blue Badges are not really correctly issued. Why is this?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

All credit and congratulations should go to the Bromar Road/Grove Hill Road Community Association and all their supporters for achieving Transport for London agreement to re-route the P13 away from the twists and turns of Bromar and Malfort Roads to Pychley Road. What is the timetable for completing the works to enable the re-routing to take place?