

Item No. 6	Classification: Open	Date: 8.12.04	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 TONY RITCHIE

- 1) What was the cost paid of the consultant who recently presented two sessions to elected members on members security?
- 2) Has that consultant done other work for the council and what was its cost?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

Could the leader please outline the aims and update me on the progress of the 'Rightfully Yours' campaign?

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

What response has the leader of the council received from the borough's three MPs in respect of the motion passed at council assembly on October 20 2004 asking them to lobby the Mayor of London to retain the existing "suburban" boundaries in the unitary development plan?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

What action is being taken by the council to ensure that next year the people of Bermondsey, in particular West Lane, receive a better Remembrance Sunday service and can the leader give assurances that the council will commence repairs to the memorial and stone tablet and can he guarantee that these works will be completed in time for Remembrance Service 2005?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Could the leader confirm that Simon Hughes MP has signed early day motion 430, 'Investment and Choice for Tenants'? Is he aware of Southwark's other MPs signing this motion or providing any kind of support for this campaign?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

In the light of the executive's requirement set out in its resolution of September 14 2004 on "*Award of Contract for the Customer Service Centre*" that the chief executive consult with him and two other named executive members before the award of the contract, please would the leader of the council set out the matters that were consulted upon before signature of the contract on November 23 2004 and confirm that all three executive members participated in the consultation and expressed no reservations about the final contract terms?

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

At two previous full council assembly meetings two separate and unconnected members of the public during public question time suggested officers not councillors had the real power in Southwark. One member of the public suggested: "when will councillors stop dancing to the officers tune" - which is recorded in the minutes.

Time and again members complain about officers' attitude (otherwise known as "the Culture"). When is the leader going to take steps to ensure either officers and councillors work together with the community for the benefit of all Southwark's residents and businesses, or take the necessary action to return real control and power to elected members?

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

I note that the draft London Fire Safety plan draft relies on 2001 census figures, figures that initially underestimated the number of people living in the borough. Does the leader know whether the correct figures were taken into account when the plan was developed?

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Does the executive member agree with the Mayor of London that Southwark is seeking to accommodate the needs of small businesses in the area, in particular the Elephant and Castle?

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

What benefits does the executive member see from the intermediate care beds pilot in Dulwich?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR BEVERLEY BASSOM

I would like to congratulate the executive member, the deputy leader and their departments on the fabulous achievement of achieving the top rating of three stars for social services in Southwark. Can the executive member indicate how many other London boroughs have achieved an uprating to 3 stars this year?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

For each neighborhood housing office, how many households have benefited from the new garden maintenance scheme? What proportion of the allocated budget has been spent? Are there plans to continue or extend the scheme in 2005/06?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Could the executive member explain how the trees and flowerbeds are managed in housing estates and could he indicate when the department last pruned trees in Riverside ward housing estates?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Will executive member for community safety outline what action this council and the police are taking to address anti social cyclists and moped users who use the public footpath posing a real danger to constituents in my ward and elsewhere?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

The executive member for community safety will be aware that in the close knit communities of Camberwell, issues of racial harassment and intimidation of residents are rife on estates. One case has resulted in the stabbing of my constituent who is now homeless, another involves a family who fled their home in fear, and are now homeless with no council support. Can the Crown Prosecution Service get involved with the police, victim support, and this local authority, in the case of antisocial behaviour orders; from the beginning of the process to ensure that witnesses and victims stand a real chance of seeing it reach a just conclusion, and will he confirm what this council intends to do to address the above incidents on the Glebe Estate?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

Would the executive member provide a detailed analysis for each service charge area showing the estimated total value of annual service charges to leaseholders for each neighbourhood housing area in the borough for both the years to March 31 2004 and March 31 2005?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

Would the executive member please give information and statistics relating to the number of (a) serious violent crimes and (b) common assault, by ward from April 2003, and list the total for the whole borough for both categories?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Could the executive member please outline for me:

- (a) the number of known illegal tenants in the borough
- (b) the number currently under investigation
- (c) year by year over the past 5 years how many of these cases have been resolved?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY

Could the executive member explain the significance of being named as a Home Office TOGETHER Action Area?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

I have received numerous complaints from leaseholders about the recently issued 2004/05 estimate service charges. Many of them have been billed for services they do not receive. What investigations have been carried out and what is your best estimate of the number of leaseholders who have been incorrectly billed?

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

When will the final service charge bills for 2003/2004 be provided to leaseholders, and is the executive member confident that they will be accurate?

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

South Camberwell ward councillors have had many angry complaints from leaseholders about service charge bills for services they are not receiving. Could the executive member give assurances that the mess that the leasehold holders charging system seems to be in will be sorted out as a matter of urgency?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

What is the average increase in leaseholder service charges since last year and since May 2002?

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

Why was local residents request for a delay of the auction of a prefab next to the McDermott Road nature garden refused?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

Would the executive member please comment on the success of the pilot scheme and outline how the formal business improvement district – the first of its kind as I understand – will continue to benefit the area.

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

Could the executive member please provide a breakdown for each ward of the amount of section 106 funds received from developers for the local community throughout the last 3 years and please provide a list of community facilities that have been built or developed or are in the process of being built or developed in each ward receiving such funds?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT LEWIS ROBINSON

Can the executive member (a) publish the full details of why the internet watchdog SiteMorse ranked the council website one of the worst in the country (South London Press, November 19 2004) and (b) does he accept these findings?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT LORRAINE LAUDER

Can the executive member please explain why Southwark's website has been ranked as one of the worst in Britain and "is dogged by errors and delays"?

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

Parents of children with serious disabilities who attend Coney Hill School have been told that their children will not be able to continue at the school after July 2005. What steps is the executive member taking to ensure that every Southwark child now attending the school has alternative local provision?

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

What is the latest position with regards to the exciting work of the Walworth Road project?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Have there been any developments on the Southwark 'alternative transport fuel' programme, which may help us to reduce waste, running costs and reliance on oil imports, and potentially prevent future oil-related type international conflicts?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

Would the executive member please state (a) the number of staff departures within the last six months from the traffic & transport division, and (b) the reasons for the departures; and (c) provide a current organisation chart for the division with an indication of whether each post is filled, showing whether permanent or interim or vacant?

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

Would the executive member for environment & transport support the use of anti-social behaviour orders to prevent illegal parking and dropping off during the school run?

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

Is the executive member for environment & transport aware that the MP for North Southwark and Bermondsey described proposals for a 20 mph speed limit across the borough at the Bermondsey community council as "ludicrous" and "against human nature to confine people" and does he agree with this assessment?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

Can the executive member provide an update on the results of Southwark's spending bid to Transport for London for 20mph zones? Could he also tell me what proportion of Southwark's own minor road improvement budget (funded by government) will go into traffic calming projects such as these?

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

How many permanent parks wardens are now in post?

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

As the executive member for environment will be aware, there have been travellers on Brimington Park since August 13. They are causing considerable inconvenience to local people, who perceive that the council response has been tardy to date.

Will the executive member therefore:

- i) take action to ensure this matter is resolved as soon as possible and the Travellers moved on
- ii) review this case with officers and the police to see what lessons can be learnt for the future in dealing with similar traveller camps?