

Item No. 6	Classification: Open	Date: January 26 2005	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 STEPHEN FLANNERY

What has been the cost of extraordinary council assembly meetings since the start of the municipal year 2002 and what has been the cost of call-ins where there has been no change to the recommendation in the same period?

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

Can the leader of the council please publish the following information regarding extraordinary meetings of council assembly requisitioned since May 2002;

Name and political party of councillors requisitioning a meeting?
Approximate cost of each meeting?

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

Could the leader give an update with regard to the council's plans for funding the regeneration of the East Dulwich Estate?

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

What are the likely costs of introducing the new licensing laws and how much of this cost is being covered by the fees charged or the Department of Culture Media and Sport?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

In the December 31 issue of the South London Press in an article headlined 'Our Hopes for 2005', the leader stated: *"I am looking forward to everyone in Southwark having access to arts and culture facilities in 2005"*. Could the leader please confirm to this council if or when work will start on the building of the performance venue on the Peckham Wharf site?

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

Could I congratulate the leader, executive and the staff of Southwark council for being nominated for the Local Government Chronicle Most Improved Council of the Year award, for the second year in a row?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Can the leader of the council please give examples of how community councils have brought democracy and decision making closer to the vast majority of Southwark residents?

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

Will the leader join me in welcoming the implementation of the Freedom of Information Act, and tell us what guidance and/or instructions have been given to staff about the criteria to be used for the destruction of council documents and how these affect such matters as age, importance, levels of financial value, matters relating to individuals or partner bodies and degrees of commercial or political sensitivity?

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

Will the executive member for housing and community safety state whether this council has an anti social behaviour strategy, with a dedicated victim support service in place, as required under the Anti Social Behaviour Act 2003?

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

Could the exec member for housing tell me what efforts are being made to ensure the smooth transition from the current neighbourhood offices to the new one stop shops?

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

July 2005 is the deadline by which all local authorities are expected to sign off their stock options appraisal, detailing their plans for meeting the decent homes standard.

Can the executive member give an update as to what Southwark council has done to meet this deadline and how tenants have been involved in the process?

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

At what point over the festive break was the executive member made aware of problems relating to heating and hot water on the Aylesbury estate and what action did he personally take to help resolve the matter?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR VICKY NAISH

How will the executive member ensure that the housing department respects the high importance of the Arbitration Tribunal (and, in turn, respects the tenants and leaseholders, who have often gone to great trouble to attend), by ensuring that the relevant officers are available to attend the hearings by their being given adequate notice of hearings?

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

Why did the reorganised neighbourhood housing offices open for business under the new arrangements on Tuesday January 4 when a number of them were clearly not adequately prepared to provide an acceptable service to residents?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING & COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Is the executive member satisfied with the performance provided to tenants and leaseholders by the council's out-of-hours telephone service?

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

Can the executive member please provide a breakdown of the number of calls, letters and emails received by the Leasehold Management Unit each month since April 2002, together with the percentage dealt with within the Council's target timescales?

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

When will Pelican neighbourhood housing office close?

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

In September you assured my colleague Councillor Hayes that a decision about the declaration of a new renewal area in Nunhead/East Peckham would be taken in October and that there had been no delays. The decision since been deferred three more times.

Please can you explain these delays and guarantee that the in-principle decision will be taken at the executive meeting on February 1 2005?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

Local people in Nunhead/East Peckham continue to be concerned about the lack of information surrounding regeneration in the area of Queen's Road station. Officers in both Southwark's planning and property departments seem unwilling to explain clearly what they are intending.

Will the executive member responsible for regeneration:

i) investigate to establish whether the planning consent related to 157-163 Queen's Road (TP:2330-157) has been properly managed – local people confirm they received no consultation letter in February 2002 as stated by Southwark planning, yet the development is now ongoing.

iii) confirm which local people/local businesses will be consulted in relation to 151-155 Queen's Road (TP:2330-155) and the project timetable?

iii) confirm whether the shops at 151-153 Queen's Road will be offered right of return if the planning proposal goes through?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

As far as the Aylesbury New Deal for Communities (NDC) is concerned, could we know the following:

i) the fees expended so far on management and administration and when it is envisaged that the Aylesbury NDC Board will have a full complement of their own staff?

ii) the cost thus far of work on the south west corner scheme?

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

Both Camden council and the Greater London Authority have simultaneous web-casts of their meetings. Why does Southwark not have such a facility and could the possibility of this be investigated?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

Can the executive member please inform me how much money has been spent providing security for the cricket area at the Trafalgar Avenue end of Burgess Park and could he give full details of the sports development programme for Burgess Park including relevant time-scales?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

Could the executive member please update me on progress on the common admissions programme? Is there any progress on a London-wide programme?

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

In the light of the new Pan-London Co-ordinated Admissions System which commenced in October 2004 for applications to enter secondary schools in September 2005, would the executive member for education please state, for each Southwark school participating in the system, the number of first preferences expressed for each school?

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

Could the executive member please inform me as to the number of children in the borough without a permanent place at a school or pupil referral unit broken down by year?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

What steps has the executive member taken to support schools in fulfilling their Freedom of Information obligations?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

What lessons can be drawn from the improvements demonstrated by Goose Green and Snowfields primary schools over recent years and how will these be applied to other schools in the borough?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CATRIONA MOORE

What discussions have been held with residents and businesses in the Bankside area on improving recycling facilities?

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

Could the executive member please comment on the recent figures that show 243,439,000,000 litres of raw sewage has been dumped in the Thames since January 2001?

What impact would this have had on waterways that are the responsibility of Southwark council? Would the executive member agree with me that increasingly the 'Interceptor' sewer proposal is looking like a necessity?

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

Could the executive member please indicate whether Southwark will be lending its support to the Sustrans – Biodiesel Initiative for Sustainable Transport from Recycled Oil (BISTRO)?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Could the executive member please tell me what progress is being made on removing unnecessary street clutter from Southwark's streets?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

Bearing in mind numerous complaints about the Nike-sponsored night time "fun run" on Sunday November 28 2004 (e.g. Evening Standard, 29/11/04: "*Hundreds found themselves trapped in huge traffic jams or unable to leave their homes at all because of none major road closures*"), would the executive member for environment and transport please provide a schedule of all items of council expenditure (including officer time) and income related to this event; and state whether it is the executive's intention to repeat the inconvenience and if so on how many occasions per year and in which areas of the borough?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

The planned works to open out the forecourt at Queens Road station have been delayed time and again. At the Nunhead & Peckham Rye community council meeting on January 11 an officer reported that these works should be completed by March 31 2005. When will the work actually start and will the executive member give us his personal assurance that there will be no further delays?

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

Would the executive member for resources please estimate, for 2004/05 and 2005/06, the amount by which the cost of servicing the council's debt will exceed the cost which would be incurred if the entire debt were refinanced at current interest rates, ignoring (for the purposes of this question) any early redemption penalties, and would she state by how much the excess cost is mitigated by receipt of higher government subsidy on housing debt than would be received in the event of a refinancing?

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

The LEA High Ethnicity Authorities' Special Interest Group estimates that Southwark receives £12.6million per year from the existing 'ethnicity' indicators.

Can the executive member for resources indicate how these funds are being used to meet the needs of ethnic minority residents?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Does the executive member agree with me that it is patently improper that elderly people have to liquidise their assets, for example a home earned over a lifetime of work, in order to pay for their own long term nursing care?