

Item No. 5	Classification: Open	Date: July 20 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 LEWIS ROBINSON

In the light of previous problems on works at the town hall, would the leader publish a breakdown of the full costs of refurbishment of the council chamber and whether at present it is still expected to be in budget?

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

Do you agree with Simon Hughes' view of Southwark Police (as quoted in the Southwark News, (28\04\05) that "given the money that's spent on them and the pay they get, which is quite considerable, they are not terribly successful"?

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

It has been six months since the executive offered £25,000 to the former directors of Imperial Gardens towards the cost of formulating a legal claim against the council. Could he provide an update on the progress of this claim?

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

Could the leader tell us what action he has taken as a result of the Ouseley Report, and what other measures he plans to take?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID BRADBURY

Would the leader of the council please explain whether he is satisfied that the council's nominees to the board of Fusion Lifestyle are adequately protected and indemnified in the event of the service of legal proceedings against directors individually or collectively, with particular regard to the risks of personal injury litigation in respect of leisure centre operations?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

Could the leader please provide the name and job title of the lead council officer responsible for tackling anti-social behaviour in each ward of the borough?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING

Anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) which name and shame individuals can be a highly effective way of reassuring the community. But in some cases, for example young people and vulnerable adults, naming the individual can have a detrimental effect on their rehabilitation. Are there any plans to issue guidelines about publicising ASBOs in Southwark?

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

Following my question in April 2004, could the leader please update me with current amount telephone costs recorded to each councillor since the last council elections in 2002. In addition could he also update me with the charges for the telephone costs for each individual group room for the same period?

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

The WC situated on Camberwell Green has rarely ever worked for longer than 24hours, which is cause of rising level of frustration amongst local residents. What is the cost to the council of repeated call-outs and repairs by the contractor in the last 12 months?

Furthermore, does the leader of the council believe this offers value for money and if not what does he suggest should be done to rectify the situation for my constituents?

Would he supply me with a copy of the council's strategy on public conveniences?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY

How many ballot papers were cast in North Southwark and Bermondsey in the general election, what time was the declaration of the result and how does this compare with other constituencies where returning officers were not having to separate local and general election ballot papers?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

Are you confident that all community council meetings are being held in venues compliant with the Disability Discrimination Act?

12. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

In light of the report in the Local Government Chronicle (09/06/05) that Southwark is likely to lose £20million of funding for children's social services would the deputy leader please comment on this threat and what she is doing to remove it?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL WATSON

Could the executive member confirm what additional resources central government will commit to the Aylesbury Estate to assist with the physical regeneration?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Could the executive member update me with progress on the Bermondsey Spa regeneration scheme?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BEVERLEY BASSOM

How many visitors have there been to the new Bermondsey One Stop Shop since it opened and what is the average waiting time?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

What assessment he has made of the impact of the success of the London 2012 Olympic bid on Southwark.

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Does he agree with me that it is outrageous that the Peckham Pulse swimming pool has been closed yet again and may not re-open for another year, taking away one of Peckham Pulse's core facilities?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CATRIONA MOORE

How many books have Southwark libraries bought each year over the last six years?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

The Young Southwark strategy prioritizes giving children and young people positive activities which improve levels of health and fitness. The strategy also prioritizes reducing childhood obesity levels. In the light of the urgent need to improve sports and leisure facilities generally in the borough - both indoor and outside facilities - what action plans are now in place to meet the very serious situation in relation to the closure of the swimming pool at Peckham Pulse. How will immediate demands for facilities be met and how is the borough planning to restore residents' confidence that facilities will improve in the foreseeable future?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

I understand that three pilot OFSTED inspections were carried out in Southwark's secondary schools last month. Could the executive member for education tell the council assembly the result of these?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

What progress has been made in getting a secondary school built in the East Dulwich area?

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

In respect of the Mayor of London's persistence with his proposals for the western extension of the congestion charging zone, would the executive member state what action is being taken by the council in respect of the Mayor's failure to comply with the government's recommended code of practice on consultations (with particular reference to the results of the first round of consultation on this matter and the recommendation in the code to "give feedback regarding the responses received and how the consultation has influenced the policy"), and would outline the likely effects on Southwark of such an extension?

Note: The government's code of practice is set out in part 6 of the Standards Board for England consultation document on Member's Code of Conduct – "A code for the future" – issued earlier this year.

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

What impact has the introduction of plastic bottle recycling had on overall recycling rates?

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

What extent is fly-posting a problem in the borough and what solutions he is considering to combat it?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Why were early applicants for liquor licences informed by the council to send applications to Camberwell Green magistrates court since the council's licensing IT systems were not ready, much to the annoyance of staff at the magistrate's court?

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

What is the current timescale for installation of a disabled parking bay?

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

Why is litter picking of Peckham Rye Common and Park so poor at weekends?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY MCCARTHY

What plans are there for next year's government grant to Southwark and what effect will this have on council tax?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Could the executive member provide details of the recent investigation in the homeless unit into the mishandling of homeless investigations?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

Would the executive member please state (a) the total value of major housing works committed since 01/04/03 together with the total contribution thereto expected to be received from leaseholders by way of service charges, and (b) how much of the cost of works at (a) above are expected to be met from sources to which the generality of leaseholders, as national or council taxpayers, can be expected to have contributed, or to contribute in the future?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES

What activities has he undertaken recently to promote a level playing field for local councils to be able to fund decent homes?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

How satisfied is the executive member for housing with the performance of officers in the housing department in terms of responses to member enquiries?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA

How many member queries were not responded to within the 10 working day deadline by officers in the housing department in between January 1st and June 1st 2005?

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMMED

How would the executive member describe the way in which the refurbishment of lifts on the Portland Estate has been managed in recent months? Is he satisfied that officers have acted properly in appointing the contractor to carry out the works in the way they did and is he satisfied with the performance of that contractor?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

Could the executive member for housing rank area housing offices in terms of performance - with the best first - in terms of responding to member enquiries within the 10 working day deadline?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

How many tenants have expressed an interest in returning to a re-developed Woodene scheme?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

What will the average leaseholder service charge be for 2005 / 2006?

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

What is the approximate cost of an average call to the housing call centre from a mobile phone?

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

How many times have the lifts in Witcombe Point broken down since April 2004 according to council records and do you believe these records are accurate?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

What work has been carried out by the housing department to date with respect to the current consultation on the new Commission for Racial Equality statutory code of practice on racial equality in housing?

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

Can the executive member for housing confirm to the residents of the Grosvenor Estate that the roof renewal project will be completed by July 2005 as promised by the then neighborhood housing manager?

42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

Could the executive member please give average turnaround time for void houses and flats broken down by area (a) at present (b) 12 months ago?

43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

What progress has been made towards implementing the Choice Based

Lettings Scheme, and will there be any further delays to the planned schedule?