

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: September 14 2005	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Borough Solicitor)	

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY 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 JONATHAN HUNT

Can the leader tell us whether the council's indemnity insurers are going to accept liability for all of the Imperial Gardens claim, if successful, above the £100,000 excess, and if not, for what proportion?

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

At the council assembly meeting in November 2004 in answer to my question "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".

He answered: "Members are representatives of Southwark council and to that end must bear responsibility for decisions or actions taken by the council and must adhere to the members code of conduct in representing the authority". In the next edition of the South London Press on November, 12 2004, the headline "A riddle less understanding".

Despite several requests in council assembly for a clearer explanation to be provided to date neither I nor any other member appears to have received anything.

May I suggest he considers the following and finally puts the mystery to rest. "In their roles as local councillors, members are not 'the council' and have no decision makers powers. As local councillors, members are representatives of their constituents and bring their concerns to officers. Members on committees take a different role and act as decision makers of the council. They become 'the council' and their decisions are those of the council".

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

Is the leader of the council satisfied that proper weight is given in Southwark's constitutional arrangements for the representational role of ward members, with particular reference to procedures for individual decision making by executive members, and to officers awareness of the likelihood of local member knowledge and experience adding value to decision making?

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

How does the council support the work of Southwark Credit Union?

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

The council leader's colleague in Europe, Chris Davies MEP, recently wrote that all drugs including heroin and crack cocaine should be legalised and sold publicly. Does the leader of the council endorse this approach, and does he believe that if put into action in Southwark, it would have a positive effect in reducing drug related crime and deaths? If so, will he be lobbying the government on Southwark's behalf for a liberalisation of drugs laws?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

What steps has the council taken to ensure community cohesion in the wake of the London bombings?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

How many antisocial behaviour orders, acceptable behaviour contracts, and dispersal orders have been issued on a) the Aylesbury estate b) The Canada estate c) The Wooddene estate?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

One of the "six to fix" pledges was to employ community safety wardens across the borough. Can you confirm that the council has delivered on this pledge?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

What steps has the council taken to make it easier to report incidents of anti-social behaviour?

10. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATRIONA MOORE

What progress is the Council making towards establishing a children's trust?

11. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

When did officers decide to refer the planned refurbishment of Bishop's House children's centre back to the executive, and when were parents and staff informed of this?

12. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

Why was it decided to go ahead with the closure of Bishop's House children's centre in August 2005 despite the deferral of the planned refurbishment work?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATION & PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

What feedback have you received from customers using the new Bermondsey one-stop shop?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

I note the success of the Rise anti-racism festival held in Burgess Park over the summer. Can you confirm that Southwark will be hosting the event next year?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR BEVERLEY BASSOM

Can the executive member for education comment on Southwark's performance in the recent key stage 2 results?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LAPIDO

Can the executive member for education comment on Southwark's performance in the recent GCSE results?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL WATSON

How many new trees have been planted in the borough on an annual basis since 2000?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN O'BRIEN

Can you update me on the current situation regarding the recent flood of licensing applications?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DR. ABDUR-RAHMAN OLAYIWOLA

What progress is being made towards establishing the feasibility of the cross-river tram?

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

In light of changes to licensing regulations and the extension of drinking hours in some establishments, can the executive member detail what extra provision is being invested in the council's noise team to deal with complaints from residents?

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

What steps will the executive member be taking to tackle the unacceptably high level of appeals residents are forced to make against unfair parking fines and the equally unacceptable success rate of the council at appeal stage?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

What progress have you made in helping small and medium-sized companies do business with the council?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

What action has the council taken with regard to the Proceeds of Crime Act and the Money Laundering Regulations 2003?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

What is the total amount of a) council tax arrears and b) rent arrears written off since 2002?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY

How will the planned Integration of social services and primary care trust services benefit Southwark residents?

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

How many delayed discharges from the acute trusts has Southwark had since January 1 2005?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN YATES

I understand there has been progress in your commitment to introduce choice-based letting. Please could you provide me with an update?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

Can you update me on the scheme to put smoke alarms in council homes?

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

In answer to a question regarding lift breakdowns in Witcombe Point at the July 2005 council assembly, the executive member indicated that there had been 56 recorded repair requests for one of the lifts since April 1 2004.

Could the executive member please supply a list of all lifts anywhere in the borough for which there have been more than 56 recorded repair requests in the same period?

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

At a meeting held in Spring 2004, residents living in flats 1 - 44 Gateway on the Gateway estate were given a commitment for major works to improve their homes; including new kitchens and bathrooms, roof repairs, door entry system, rewiring and heating work.

Residents are now being told, however, that the full list of works, as promised, will not now take place.

Can the executive member for housing explain why promises made by housing officers to Gateway residents about improvements to their homes have been broken?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

Can the executive member for housing supply statistics on the number of recorded lift breakdowns on the following two estates in Faraday ward, from the period January 1 2005 - August 15 2005?

- a) Aylesbury estate
- b) Portland estate

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

Can the executive member tell us how many homeless applicants are currently designated as "homeless at home" in Southwark?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

Can the executive member for housing describe his level of confidence in the accuracy of the housing stock condition survey, and is he satisfied that it is a reliable basis for estimations of the cost of meeting the decent homes standard?

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

With regard to proposed works to the lighting of public areas of the East Dulwich estate, and other proposed external electrical works, which, it is feared, may cost each leaseholder over £550, would the executive member for housing state whether the tenants and residents association's request for a meeting with the executive member has been/will be progressed? If not, would he state the current position with regard to complaints about consultation and the need for the works?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

How many case files are missing in the development control section and can he confirm with certainty that some files do not have documents missing from them?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Why did Southwark miss the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister's deadline for completing the options appraisal proposal?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

How many trees will have to be felled in and around the Heygate estate as a consequence of the Elephant & Castle regeneration proposals?

38. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE BY COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

Would the chair please outline the council's licensing policy in dealing with applications made by sports clubs and other similar facilities in Dulwich?

39. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE LICENSING COMMITTEE BY COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

Has the licensing unit experienced any difficulties with local councillors or residents having concerns about extended hours applications and being unable to make their objections due to the constraints placed on who is defined as an "interested party" by government guidance?

40. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

The proposed St Mary's conservation area (Nunhead) threatens plans to re-develop St Mary's church, and, by extension, the improved community facilities for the church which local people have long been demanding.

Can the chair of planning therefore explain why officers have indicated that the final decision will be taken by Southwark planning committee and not by Nunhead and Peckham Rye community council acting as a planning committee?