

<b>Item No.</b> 5.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> October 19 2005	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		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 PETER JOHN**

Approximately 50 people attended a meeting of the strategic reference group on Tuesday October 4 2005 and agreed terms of reference for the group and a number of recommendations for its work. The council had sought to cancel the meeting at short notice on the apparent basis that the leader and the chief executive would be unable to attend. Why could the council not be represented at the meeting by the deputy leader and an appropriate senior officer and what message does the leader believe the attempted cancellation sent to those who were anxious for the meeting to proceed?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

How many members have opted not to accept a) their full basic allowance and b) any full Special Responsibility Allowance to which they are entitled?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

Could the leader name all the executive members who are claiming full band 3 Special Responsibility Allowance?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

Would the leader outline the policy and programme to tackle anti-social behaviour in Riverside ward in particular and also in the borough as a whole?

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MICK BARNARD**

To date I have received 2 responses to question 1 of 3 put at a previous council assembly the first from constitutional support and the second from legal services.

The question:

"Can the leader of the council say which of the following statements are incorrect and if they are can he explain why."

"Local councillors are not Southwark Council."

Explanation Number 1: 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 member's code of conduct in representing the authority

Explanation number 2: In their roles as local councillors, members are not "the Council" and have no decision-making powers. As local councillors, members are representatives of their constituents and bring their concerns to officers. Members on committees take a different roll and act as decision makers for the council. They become " the Council" and their decisions are those of the council.

Can the leader indicate his preferred response?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM**

Will the leader tell the council how many community organisations have had council funding withdrawn since 2000 and of these how many are black and minority ethnic organisations.

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES**

Could the leader please list all council buildings that have been squatted in the last three years and those that are currently squatted.

**8. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

Can the executive member give a number of vacant nursery places in the borough's nurseries for each year since 2002?

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

How many vacant reception places are still available in primary schools for the January 2006 intake? Could the executive member list the schools that still have vacancies and the number they have?

**10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE**

For each primary school in the Dulwich school community area having no vacancies at reception level, how many pupils are on the waiting list?

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

How does the level of primary school unauthorised absence compare to that of other local education authorities?

**12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE**

How many street trees planted during or since 2002/03 have died in each ward due to indiscriminate salt gritting, and what was the value of these trees?

**13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE**

Was the executive member for environment & transport happy to scrap the southern part of the Trafalgar controlled parking zone?

**14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA**

What will the total cost be of employing consultants for the review of the Peckham town centre controlled parking zone (zone B)?

**15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALFRED BANYA**

What will be the annual income and expenditure in relation to the operation of the Camberwell cemetery mausoleum?

**16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING**

To ask executive member for environment and transport whether the mayor has consulted him or provided any information on the southern extension of the congestion charge zone.

**17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

The council recently won a Green Fleet award for its use of bio diesel. To date how much bio diesel have we used and how many tonnes of CO2 + carbon does that represent as a saving (compared to if we had used mineral diesel or other fuel)?

**18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DR. ABDUR-RAHMAN OLAYIWOLA**

What progress has been made in improving Falmouth Road playground and when will the advertising hoardings fronting the New Kent Road be removed?

**19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD PORTER**

What action did the council take following the incident on October 4 2005 in which a sinking barge discharged around 10 tonnes of red diesel into the river Thames?

**20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

Increasing Southwark's recycling rate has been both a priority and a success story for this administration. Encouraging residents to participate by making it easy for them to recycle are fundamental to the scheme's success. The collection of recyclables from blue boxes and bags from Surrey Docks ward has been erratic over the past few months, with residents from different parts of the ward reporting ongoing problems. What actions have been taken to (a) identify the cause of the problems, (b) resolve these difficulties and (c) prevent their recurrence?

**21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SKELLY**

What progress has been made with the updating of street nameplates?

**22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANN YATES**

Would the executive member for transport outline the policy and procedures on informing the resident parking permit holders when their parking space is suspended temporarily or permanently for their use?

**23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD**

What are the current funding streams for Southwark's community wardens, and are any of these funding streams time limited?

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

What was the cost to the council of the 'cleaner' billboard, which was displayed on the Elephant and Castle roundabout during the first weeks of September? How much money has been spent on this advertising campaign?

**25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH**

How much has been spent by the council on new office furniture between April 2003 and the present?

**26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH**

What plans does the executive member for housing have to improve both the physical environment and the service received by customers at the homeless persons unit in Bournemouth Road?

**27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD**

I understand there is presently a delay in installing booster water pumps for the flats on the top of the Denmark Hill estate. In the meantime residents continue to suffer lack of water, particularly between 7-9am. When will the booster pumps be installed, and can you confirm that your schedule will be kept to?

**28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR CATRIONA MOORE**

Shere House and Selbourne House in my neighbouring ward have had several days without water. What assurances will the executive member for housing get from Thames Water that they are dealing with this issue to prevent similar occurrences in the future?

**29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON**

Could the executive member for housing provide me with an update on Southwark Homesearch since the launch last month?

**30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES**

Bearing in mind the scale of the task in redeveloping the Aylesbury estate, can the executive member for regeneration and economic development set out what specific, detailed lessons have been learnt by the council from the examples of Wooddene and Heygate?

**31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

As an early commitment to the current residents of the Aylesbury estate, can the executive member for regeneration and economic development give me a firm reassurance that premises and facilities for a vibrant and active tenants and residents association(s) will form part of any master plan?

**32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION & ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMMED**

Can the executive member for regeneration and economic development outline how the steering group for the redevelopment of the Aylesbury estate is to be composed bearing in mind the diverse composition of the estates residents, and what the terms of reference for this steering group is to be.

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

Does the executive member for regeneration and economic development believe that the Wooddene briefing note, circulated by the housing department to all councillors, gives an accurate assessment of the current situation on the estate?