

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: December 7 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 borough solicitor rotates the order of the questions 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 DANNY McCARTHY

In light of the government's new licensing legislation, which allows for pubs and clubs to open for longer hours, and their admission that they expect the police to make more arrests for alcohol related offences, can he provide me with an assessment of what effect this new law will have on anti-social behaviour in communities across Southwark?

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

Does the leader of the council believe that the appointment of Councillor Jeff Hook to the board of Southwark Alliance, at the executive meeting of November 22 2005, reflects the recent recommendations of overview and scrutiny that there should be cross party balance of councillors on the board, and the view of council assembly, which have also previously endorsed such a policy?

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

Have all the complainants to Lord Ouseley, featured in his appendix, received reports from the special investigator appointed by the chief executive; do they all include the evidence they gave to Lord Ouseley, and how many have accepted its accuracy and recommendations?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LAPIDO

How many anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) the council has granted each year since they were introduced?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

Can the leader describe the process for developing a safer neighbourhoods strategy for Southwark? Please can the leader identify what contact individuals in the authority (either members or officers) have had with the police on this issue? Will the leader work proactively to facilitate and assist individual members in contacting the appropriate police representative in order to develop safer neighbourhoods in their wards?

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

If a local councillor has a serious complaint/allegation about an officer executive member which has been raised in full council on several occasions and the subject of several e-mails, meetings with the Mayor, the Labour group chief whip, leader of the council, the borough solicitor, and chief executive over the past year, who would he expect to make the final decision in relation to an investigation and would he consider it acceptable that subsequent clarification of that decision should be given by the officers who are the subject of that complaint/allegation. What action does he propose to take to ensure this kind of behaviour is not repeated?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Does the leader of the council receive any other income other than that received in the course of his council duties, for example from other paid employment or consultancy? If so, could the leader please list those sources?

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

What consideration has the council given to joining the London/Sri Lanka Post Tsunami Partnership?

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

Can the deputy leader list all grants relating to early years childcare and education received by the council from the London Development Agency, and list which specific council project each grant was spent on?

10. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

To publish full details of all staffing reorganisations and the creation of any new posts and their responsibilities that has taken place in Southwark education since the local education authority (LEA) resumed responsibilities from Cambridge Education Associates (CEA)?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

Can the executive member please outline the number of incidents of bullying reported to Southwark schools in the last year and comment on the level of under-reporting and effectiveness of the local education authority's (LEA's) leadership in tackling bullying?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

How many visits to the swimming pools in Southwark, run by the company 'Fusion' for Southwark council, were made by children during (a) school holidays 2004/05 (b) the entire period of 2004/05?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

Can she provide me with an update on the proposals for an academy at Waverley school in East Dulwich, including what impact, if any, the recent visit from the secretary of state for education and the prime minister has had?

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANN YATES

Can she provide me with an update on the latest projects to improve school meals in Southwark?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In order to reduce the environmental and economic damage caused by traffic congestion in the borough, will the executive member publish a table of the 20 worst road junctions in Southwark in terms of traffic back-ups and, in respect of each, state:

- a) whether responsibility lies with the council or Transport for London (TfL)?
- b) measures already taken to address difficulties at each of these junctions?

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

When does the executive member anticipate that improvements to the facilities in and amenity of the southern part of Belair Park, to be funded from earmarked capital receipts from the sale of the former Belair stable block, will be implemented?

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

Would the executive member please state the threats to and opportunities for the borough which would result from success by the Mayor of London in his attempts to assume responsibility for waste disposal functions; and, if the threats outweigh the benefits, what steps he is taking to lobby the government and other London boroughs, particularly in the light of the seemingly supine attitude of the chair of the Association of London Government (ALG), as quoted in the November/December issue of the ALG magazine "London":

"There is little doubt that the Mayor is to be given more powers for issues that would benefit from a strategic pan-London approach."

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

How accurate was the statement in the local implementation plan (LiP) (for transport) that the LiP draft was prepared in consultation with community councils?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE PEARCE

When did the executive member first become fully aware of the contents of his street lighting replacement policy and does he consider that he may have misled the Dulwich community council into believing it was solely to replace worn-out concrete lamp posts?

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

How many calls to 020 7525 2000 have been (a) dropped and (b) answered with a recorded message asking the user to call back at another time. In how many cases has no action been taken by the council in response to the call?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Given the considerable traffic congestion caused in Rotherhithe and Bermondsey by the lengthy closure of the eastbound Limehouse link tunnel in November, why was Jamaica Road and the surrounding area subjected to yet further disruption as a result of the latest excavation of that road?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

How much money has been invested in new street lighting in each community council area since 2002?

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

Could he outline this year's programme for resurfacing non-principal roads?

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

Would the executive member provide a summary of the council's policy on the provision of mobile phones and blackberrys to officers and members, supported by a table providing an analysis of the total number of mobile phones and blackberrys provided by the council to officers and members.

The analysis should be split by department for officers and by party for members, and also indicate if individuals have access to "third generation" services paid for by the council.

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

In light of the new requirement (from 2004/05) for local authorities to make to the government a cash payment equal to the prescribed proportion of capital receipts (£108 million for Southwark 2004/05) instead of being required to redeem the debt would the executive member please:

- a) estimate the council's total debt in respect of housing at March 31 2006 and March 31 2007;
- b) state what undertakings the government has given to increase subsidy on the rising burden of debt interest so as at least to ensure neutrality for the council as compared with the previous regime.

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

Is the executive member aware of any other local authority in the UK which has had five or more different finance directors since May 2002?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR BILLY KAYADA

What was the total amount spent during 2004/05 by the council on hospitality?

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

Can the executive member give the total cost of the last meeting of each (a) normal community council meeting (b) planning community council meeting in Southwark, including the cost of room hire and all officer pay? Can he also list the total number of members of the public who attended each meeting?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Can she outline what steps she is taking to explore the possibilities of eliminating investments in arms companies with pension fund assets?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD PORTER

In light of recent reports in the national press that the construction costs for the 2012 Olympic and paralympic games have been "seriously underestimated by Tessa Jowell's Department of Culture, Media and Sport" (Observer, 20.11.05), which could lead to a doubling in the costs, and that the Mayor of London, Ken Livingstone, has guaranteed the Prime Minister that any overruns will be met by Londoners, can she provide me with an assessment of what the impact will be on the level of council tax paid by Southwark residents?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH WELFARE

The health and social care scrutiny sub-committee on September 7 2005 received a briefing about four of the contract service providers for homecare in the borough which stood out because they received a high number of quality alerts. Can the executive member provide an update on the performance of these providers since then?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

What impact will the national shortage of flu vaccine have on Southwark residents?

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

Could the executive member describe the action that has been taken to keep the promises made to residents of the Aylesbury estate that the appalling and disastrous failure of the heating system that occurred last winter will not happen again?

Now that heating failures are again occurring in winter, could the executive member outline what is planned to deal with the situation?

**34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

A new lift was installed on the Dartford Street block on the Gateway estate on Friday, November 18. By Saturday, November 19 it had broken down. Why was this?

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

As of the date of response to this question, how many reports have been made to the call centre by Aylesbury estate tenants and leaseholders about loss of heating and hot water since the heating system was switched back on for this winter?

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

Could the executive member explain why squatted properties in Painswick Court were not included in his answer when the matter of squatted properties was raised at last council assembly?

**37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE**

How many letters were sent to tenants incorrectly informing them of the new heating charge and what has it cost to reissue these?

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

A document was recently sent to tenants informing them of how to make an official complaint. Why was no mention made in this document of recourse to the housing arbitration tribunal in cases of breach of the tenancy agreement? Is the executive member aware that a breach that is upheld under the complaints procedure allows a tenant to refer the matter on to a court with an admission of breach by the council already obtained?

**39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT
FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD**

For each of the past three years, what has the housing department had to pay out in legal costs (not recoverable from the other party) from the general fund and, similarly, from the housing revenue account?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BEVERLEY BASSOM

How many people have made successful applications to Southwark Homeseach and how many people have moved since the beginning of the scheme?

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNICATIONS AND PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING

Can he provide me with an update on the progress of providing web casting of council meetings?

42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

Does the executive member for equalities, culture and sports agree with me that is a matter of concern that only two councillors who are members of the Lord Ouseley review working group on race equalities attended the last meeting of this working group on the November 21 2005; a concern which throws into doubt the council's commitment to the aims of this working group. And can he tell council assembly if he has raised these concerns with members of this working group?

43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR EQUALITIES, CULTURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Southwark Park took a real pounding from last November's Nike 10km night run. As compensation, the Friends of Southwark Park were told that Nike would contribute £230,000 to improve the athletics track in Southwark Park. Environment and leisure has since said that this £230,000 is earmarked to be spent on the redevelopment of Mellish Fields. Which is the case?