

Item No. 6.	Classification: Open	Date: January 25 2006	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 member's 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 member's 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 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 TAYO SITU

What steps has the leader taken in his role as Southwark's representative on the Cross River partnership to ensure ward councillors are aware of discussions and decisions by the Cross River partnership of relevance to their wards?

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

When I queried the wisdom of selling the Orchard Lodge playing fields, given the lack of facilities and rise in obesity, the leader pledged to increase the amount of land and number of sites devoted to recreation and leisure uses in the borough. Can he tell us how this programme is progressing, including plans for Greendale and measures to exclude the public, and how many of the Orchard acres have been replaced?

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

Would the leader of the council state how much the cost of printing and postage was for the Christmas cards recently sent round by the community councils and whether the chairs of the community councils were consulted before the cards were printed? Would he also state what was the council's overall spending on Christmas cards?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES

What action has been taken to prevent the theft of Blue Badges from Southwark residents' cars and what has been the result?

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

Can the leader outline the council's plan should there be an outbreak of avian 'flu in the borough?

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

Could the leader inform council assembly if Southwark council has a coordinated policy for responding to mental health clients and if there are any instances in the past two years where service user/s have been taken from schools and or any other council establishment to a mental health hospital or unit for emergency assessment. If so, could he give the ethnic breakdown of such clients?

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

Have there been any additional responsibilities added to the executive brief held by Councillor Paul Kyriacou since he took it over from Councillor James Gurling?

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

Despite the fact that 82% of the public agree with the issuing of anti social behaviour orders (MORI poll, Social Research Institute, 9th June 2005) the MP Mark Oaten has described the government's Respect agenda to tackle anti-social behaviour as a "mish-mash of gimmicks and spin".

Does the Leader agree with Mr Oaten's attitude towards these new anti social behaviour measures, and if so, will this prevent him from implementing the full package of 'Respect' measures in Southwark?

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In light of the 115 occasions when young people aged 16/17 spent more than 6 consecutive weeks in bed & breakfast in 2004/05 can the deputy leader explain what "prevention methods will accelerate the rate of decrease in youth homelessness" to the performance target within the local public service agreement (PSA) of 0 occasions in 2007/08 (page 24, Executive Agenda 18/01/06)?

10. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

What action is being taken to ensure local school children are enjoying a decent and nutritional meal at lunchtime?

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

How many environmental crimes have been investigated in each year since 1998 and how many have reached a successful conclusion?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD PORTER

What arrangements were put in place to grit the roads over winter and how well are they working?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Recent repairs to pavements in the Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe area have involved substituting the attractive brickwork native to the area with black tarmac. This is detrimental to the appearance of the area, which has walkways that are predominantly brickwork or tiled paving. Many of the repairs are at tree bases, and officers have explained how the choice of black tarmac is to accommodate the growing tree roots, so although it is a good functional choice, it is visually unappealing and out of keeping with its surroundings. Can the executive member investigate whether there are other options that will address the tree root problem without being so unsightly? Can he also instruct that where the pavement damage is not attributable to tree roots, officers will endeavor to replace paving on a "like with like" basis wherever possible to respect the local street scene?

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

How many fixed penalty notices have been issued for littering each year since 1998?

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

How many outside bodies and other councils have sought advice on tackling environmental crime from Southwark Council?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM ROWE

In the light of the boasting by the Mayor of London about the 2012 Olympics leaving a legacy of vastly improved transport, would the executive member for environment and transport provide a schedule of the transport improvements proposed for the borough, to include the status of the proposals, the dates on which they are expected to be completed and steps he is taking to secure early implementation of those whose status is uncertain.

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Would the executive member for environment and transport please state what steps he is taking to achieve early approval of stage two of the East London Line extension through Peckham and Camberwell to Clapham Junction and to re-instate the proposal for a branch of the line to serve Dulwich?

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

Would the executive member for environment and transport state whether in his view the current arrangements for bus lanes on Lordship Lane, throughout its length, are optimal, with particular regard to traffic flows and preservation of local businesses; and, if he thinks improvements could be made in certain locations, would he specify those locations?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KENNY MIZZI

Can the executive member outline the council's policy on the provision of public conveniences in the borough, the outcome of the current review, and their maintenance schedule?

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

What powers are available to combat the increasing menace of cycling on pavements?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MOISE

How many cyclists were prosecuted for road offences in the last two years, and can he tell me what he is doing to ensure that the police, Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP), the council warden service and police community support officers are responding to local complaints from residents borough wide about cyclists and moped users who flout the law by riding through red lights, riding without lights, riding down footpaths and riding on pavements?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT & TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

What formal procedure is followed when a resident applies for a crossover (lowered pavement into the driveway of their residence) -

- a) In a controlled parking zone (CPZ) area
- b) In a non CPZ area

What factors are taken into account when recommending to the relevant community council whether or not to grant a crossover?

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

Can the executive member please tell me if there is going to be any improvements made to the whole of East Street (i.e. specifically new pavements, seating and litter bins) and, if so, when will these improvements take place?

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

Can the executive member please indicate what percentage of Southwark's waste which is potentially recyclable via the council's current recycling contracts is not separated from refuse by households and businesses?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING

What was the increase in Southwark's non-schools grant and how does this compare with other London boroughs?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN O'BRIEN

How much is the Band D council tax in a) Southwark and b) the inner London average?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ALUN HAYES

What is the expected/quoted cost of the upcoming refurbishment of the Town Hall?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

How many affordable homes have been built in Southwark since May 2002?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Looking at the general direction of government subsidies for housing and repairs, how does London compare to northern cities, such as Sheffield and Hull and what is his assessment of the factors behind the government's U-turn over Southwark's housing subsidy determination?

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

What action is the council taking to address the problem on the Cossall Estate and in other areas where a minority of anti-social residents are persistently dumping black bags of household waste around the estate?

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

What steps has the executive member taken to ensure that ward councillors are kept updated with regard to leasehold management issues, such as delays in the production of finalised accounts etc.?

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

Can the executive member give his current best estimate for the average leaseholder service charge from 1998-2002 and the average leaseholder service charge from 2002-2006?

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

In light of the decision to demolish the Aylesbury, what steps are the housing department intending to take to minimise costs to leaseholders once the delayed planned preventative maintenance programme commences across the estate?

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

Is the executive member satisfied with the arrangements for pest and vermin control on the Aylesbury estate, following the changes in the contract held by Cannon Hygiene? Can he outline the council's holding arrangements during the period of change?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BEVERLEY BASSOM

What services will be provided out of the new Ellen Brown community centre located on Spa Park, delivered as part of the Bermondsey Spa regeneration project, and who will manage them?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

What is the total current balance in our section 106 account compared with May 2002?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

What plans does he have to use the model of the Tenda Road nursery project, which will provide a new nursery with much needed additional capacity for some Bermondsey residents at no extra capital cost to the council, to provide new community facilities elsewhere in the borough?

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

I understand that the council is no longer a planning standards authority for planning application performance in 2006/2007. Can the Executive Member confirm that this is the case?

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK PURSEY

Do you agree that the Mayor of London should have the power to direct councils to accept planning applications?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Can the executive member please supply a list of all council owned properties and pieces of land that have been sold since April 2003 with the total of monies received from these disposals?

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

Can the executive member for housing explain why, despite representations from councillors, there are still no information packs available for local residents wishing to access funding for improvement initiatives in the Nunhead/East Peckham renewal areas? This is despite a promise from officers that such information packs would be available in September 2005. Can the executive member explain why there have been delays to date and what will be done to improve communication with local residents in the future?

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

What effect will the department for education and skills (DfES) delay in making a decision regarding the Expression of Interest for Waverley school have on the proposed schedule for opening the new academy?

43. QUESTION TO THE WORSHIPFUL THE MAYOR FROM COUNCILLOR MICK BARNARD

In relation to the events listed below, can the Mayor confirm that: -

1. At the meeting with the borough solicitor and chief executive on July 19 2005 to discuss my recent allegations, both officers indicated that there was a conflict of interest which prevented their involvement;
2. At the meeting with the leader of the council and myself on August 17 2005, the leader agreed to three independent members of the current standards committee investigating the allegations – a proposal which the leader promised to confirm in writing the following week;
3. That on October 18 2005 (over a month later), it was in fact the borough solicitor who responded to me indicating that the chief executive had persuaded the leader of the council to renege on his promise?