

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: June 28 2006	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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 management; 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 acting 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 ELIZA MANN

Does the leader agree with the findings of the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister: Housing, Planning, Local Government and the Regions select committee that the “restriction placed upon [councillors and MPs] making representations against licensing applications” is “clearly a problem for councillors and MPs” and with the committee’s recommendation that “the restriction placed on elected representatives... be lifted”? Can he outline what is being done by cross-party organisations, such as the Local Government Association and Association of London Government, to lobby the government for a change in the licensing laws?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR OLA OYEWUNMI

Could the leader indicate when he expects to reply in full to the following pieces of correspondence?

1. Letter of March 3 2006 from Val Shawcross AM re Bermondsey Street Antiques Market, plus follow up letters on the April 3 2006 and the June 6 2006
2. Letter of the March 3 2006 from Val Shawcross AM re shower installation at the Samuel Lewis Trust dwellings, plus follow up letter on the June 6 2006
3. Email of the April 5 2006 re recycling for Doddington Grove from Val Shawcross’ PA, plus follow up on the June 6 2006.

3. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BAICHOO

Could the executive member for housing provide an update on the work agreed by the council on the Four Squares Estate in Riverside ward?

4. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES

Can the executive member confirm whether council ever agreed the options appraisal before it was sent off to Government Office for London?

5. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Will the deputy leader confirm that a website for Southwark leaseholders is being planned and set out a timescale for implementation?

6. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Is the executive member able to give a guarantee to the council that the experience of tenants on the Wooddene estate during the decant process will not be replicated on the Heygate estate? What measures will he be taking to ensure the security of tenants on the estate during the decant?

7. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL

Will the executive member for housing outline his plans to rectify the chronic failings of the Heygate heating and lift systems and guarantee that tenants will not be left without working heating and lifts for more than 24 hours at a time?

8. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

Can the executive member for housing outline how decisions are made with regards to which blocks are given double-glazing?

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Does the executive member for housing believe that effective leadership can be achieved for the borough on a part-time basis?

10. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

How many estates has the executive member for housing visited since he took over responsibility for housing management, and what are his plans to engage tenants and leaseholders in the good running of the housing department?

11. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

Does the executive member for housing believe that leaseholders are getting a fair deal from the council?

12. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

How will the review of tenants' halls now be progressed? Is the executive member planning to ensure that close links are set up with the youth service as part of the review to ensure the high level of demand from residents for activities for young people in their immediate areas can be addressed by this review?

13. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

Does the deputy leader agree that the leaseholders' council is an important forum which provides constructive discussion and consultation between the council and leaseholders and that this forum is valued by leaseholders? If this forum was to be abolished could the deputy leader outline how he would ensure the council properly engages with leaseholders about their homes on collective issues they wish to discuss with officers or members?

14. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE

Can the executive member for housing explain whether he is satisfied with the performance of current pest control programme on the estates in Camberwell Green

ward - in particular on the Elmington Estate and the D'Eynsford Estate, and whether he will be working 'full time' to resolve ongoing problems?

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE

Will the new executive member for finance stand by the policy proposals he made with his colleagues in February 2006 in an 'alternative budget' which proposed cutting £132,000 from Southwark's libraries and £45,000 from the parks service, in addition to cutting off council funding of the Peckham Partnership, and closing the 'events section' and the Tourism team. Is he willing to reduce his special responsibility allowance from over £30,000 to £15,000 in line with this alternative budget?

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

How much money was spent during the financial year 2004/5 on taxis for council officers?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

I am frequently told by officers that the reason why the Nunhead & East Peckham Renewal project is falling behind schedule is that they have been unable to fill six vacant positions. What steps are you taking to address this problem and ensure that the team is fully staffed as soon as possible?

Note: The executive member for regeneration will respond to this question.

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

Would the executive member for resources provide me with an update on the VAT situation with regard to institutions like the Salmon Youth Centre and the City of London Academy opening their buildings for use by the general public?

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Does the executive member have any plans to say anything to the Mayor and Transport for London about the number 12 bendy bus?

Note: The executive member for environment will respond to this question.

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

Would the executive member for regeneration set out his plans for revising the planning brief for the Dulwich hospital site with a view to strengthening the key heritage features of the buildings?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Can the executive member for regeneration please provide figures for what section 106 money is ring-fenced and available for projects in the Rotherhithe community council area?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES

Could I ask the executive member to reassure the residents of my ward (Lane) that the Copleston Centre childcare facility will receive appropriate levels of funding to maintain its existence after August?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR NICK VINEALL

Can the executive member provide an update into the preparation of a feasibility study into additional primary provision in North Dulwich given that the council's corporate plan states that task is to be completed by November 2006?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE HOLFORD

What is the proposed timetable for carrying out the feasibility study to identify practical options and funding to satisfy youth provision in Dulwich as incorporated into the corporate plan and what plans will be made to include ward members and community representatives in taking this forward?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES

Can the executive member for children's services and education outline what support could be given to the local community in forming a new youth club for the Rotherhithe area?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

Can the executive member give the list of all parks and green spaces designated as metropolitan open land within the Southwark borough boundary?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Is the executive member for environment aware that the initial success of the council in preventing the abandonment of trolleys from Tesco's supermarket in Surrey Quays has now faded and that the menace seems to be returning? Will she review the position with a view to taking stronger enforcement action?

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

Does the executive member for environment have any plans to consolidate grass-cutting contracts in a similar way to the very successful street cleaning contract changes?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

How many cleaner, greener, safer projects are currently outstanding in Chaucer ward?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK

Could the executive member for environment provide me with an update on the proposed traffic study of the area bounded by New Kent Road, Great Dover Street, Borough High Street and Newington Causeway?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENNY JONES

When will you begin the installation of solar panels, photo voltaic cells or wind turbines on all Southwark council properties and council housing and how long will the process take?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

What will be the structure of International Development Services in Southwark and does it include the long standing Southwark Twinning programmes and how can it be funded?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

Will the executive member for citizenship, equalities and communities provide me with an update on future plans for the East Dulwich Community Centre (EDCC) on Darrell Road, in particular looking at:

1. the arrangements for the East Dulwich community centre to continue to occupy the whole site at Darrell Road for all of the indoor and outdoor activities (social, play, sporting etc.) that take place there;
2. continuing to allow the EDCC to use the site for Class D2 purposes; and,
3. how to develop and preserve this community centre to maximise the contribution it makes to the local community in East Dulwich?

**34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY**

What is the executive member personally going to do to respond to the recent report identifying Southwark as having an increase in serious crime (almost 20,000 reported incidents in one year) and is he satisfied that the current 'Policing in Southwark Report 2006/2007' from the Safer Southwark Partnership is addressing this matter as a top priority?

**35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON FYLE**

Will the executive member now allow the details of anti-social behaviour orders, including names, to be made public where appropriate, given the new political make-up of the executive, and overwhelming public support for this policy?

**36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

How many community wardens are in post in each of the community council areas, and how many vacancies are there in each area?

**37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT**

To ask the executive member if it is the council's intention to employ exactly the same number of wardens in the Nunhead and Peckham Rye community council area as for all other community council areas. If not, can he explain why? Can the executive member report back on progress in recruiting these wardens?

**38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR MARY FOULKES**

At the meeting held on March 20 where the chairman for Millwall FC, Peter de Savary gave a presentation on the potential regeneration plans in the South Bermondsey/Ilderton area the leader of the council identified improvements to South Bermondsey station as a key issue for Southwark. Can the executive confirm that all of the £270,000 given to Southwark council for the refurbishment and improved security at South Bermondsey station will be used for that purpose and will the executive also confirm when the works will start and exactly what the money will be spent on?

**39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN**

Could the executive member for community safety outline which offences currently fall under anti-social behaviour order legislation?

**40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI**

To ask the executive member for community safety what action is being taken by the council to tackle knife crime in the borough?

**41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

How many cases of fraudulent use of Blue Badges have there been over the last five years and what is the average fine imposed?

**42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

There is a big problem in my ward – Cathedrals – with street drinkers, particularly in Mint Street Park. Please could you provide me with an update on the plans for a designated public places order and how you expect this to address these issues in the Mint Street area?

**43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

Could the executive member for community safety provide me with the figures for street crime and knife-related crime in Southwark over the last 8 years?

**44. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND
SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MCGOVERN**

Can the executive member for leisure give a timetable for repairs to Camberwell leisure centre and a date by which Fusion and the council will announce long-term development plans?

**45. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND
SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

To the executive member for culture, leisure and sports - Dulwich pool has had minimal maintenance, let alone investment, for over forty years. Its current sad condition means many people are not willing to use it. How and when will it be brought up to a decent standard?

**46. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY FROM
COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON**

Would the chair of overview and scrutiny outline her priorities for the scrutiny function for the forthcoming municipal year?