

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY SEPTEMBER 13 2006

MEMBERS QUESTION TIME

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
JAMES GURLING**

How many people have visited the One Stop Shops in Peckham and Walworth and can the leader comment on the feedback he has received so far?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

The One Stop Shops in Peckham and Walworth opened to the public on May 15 2006. The housing service was introduced from June 19 at both sites.

Total people visiting the Walworth One Stop Shop from the May 15 2006 to the end of August were 16,311.

Total people visiting the Peckham One Stop Shop from the May 15 2006 to the end of August were 18,611. This is more than 400 people per week than we expected based on figures pre-opening.

Visitors have been very pleased with the new modern look to the facilities and services. Early indications are that overall satisfaction levels are over 90%, based on Pearsons' own exit surveys during the month of August for both sites.

On the issues of service provided, customers' needs resolved quickly and satisfactorily, and the customer service officer's knowledge, the satisfaction levels are over 85% for Peckham and Walworth.

As part of monitoring the quality of service provided at the three One Stop Shops, the council is in the process of commissioning independent customer surveys and is carrying out its own mystery shopping.

The number of visitors and uptake of service has increased month on month, as the One Stop Shops have been promoted via bus shelter campaigns in Walworth, Camberwell and Peckham.

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR
MARTIN SEATON**

Could the leader explain why the AIG insurance group are not covering the council for costs incurred in the event of the council losing the Imperial Garden's court case? What plans are in place to meet the cost of the case if the council does lose and is forced to make a large compensation payout?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

Officers continue to meet with the council's insurers and claims handlers. No decision has been made about liability under the council's indemnity insurance policy. As proceedings have been issued in the High Court, I have been advised that it would be inappropriate for me or any other member of the council to comment further on this case.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you Mr. Mayor. First of all Mr. Mayor I want just to repeat the question that I posed to the council and it is this: "Could the leader explain why the AI Insurance Group are not covering the council's cost incurred in the event of the council losing the Imperial Garden's case and what plans are in place to meet the cost if the council loses the case in the event of paying out large compensation payments." The question is simply are we insured? So I want to formally express my extreme disappointment and dismay that this is a most unsatisfactory response that the council's insurers has still not decided at this advance stage to indemnify the council's legal and compensation costs that may arise from this case.

I now ask the leader how much money has been spent defending this case so far and if he is unaware would he commit to this council to inform members before the next full council meeting

RESPONSE

I am unaware and, in light of what I say in the answer about it being inappropriate to comment further on the case, don't think that it would be wise to circulate that information.

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

Will the deputy leader update council assembly on the establishment with the Citizens Advice Bureau of the independent advice service for leaseholders?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

This service is being delivered by the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB). At a recent meeting the CAB indicated the service would be up and running from their Bermondsey office in October. At the present time they have advertised and are interviewing for an administrative worker dedicated to the project. The CAB has had discussions with 'Law Works' and has identified solicitors who will deliver the advice/advocacy service on a pro bono basis. The CAB has also had discussions with two barristers who are prepared to act as experts/a consultancy board. The general scheme will involve leaseholders seeking advice to attend their local CAB in the normal fashion. Where specific/specialist help is needed they will be referred to the worker so that an interview with a solicitor can be arranged. The numbers of enquiries and consequent referrals will be monitored during the pilot period to ascertain workloads.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

As the deputy leader is no doubt well aware, leaseholders from across the borough and certainly in Dulwich welcome this initiative which is long overdue and will provide a vital service to them. I do note one point, that it would be located in the Bermondsey CAB office, and I hope he is able to reassure us tonight - particularly people interested in the forgotten corners of Camberwell and Dulwich - that this service will be accessible to all leaseholders across the borough

RESPONSE

Yes, I can give you that assurance Mr. Mayor – thank you very much.

4. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY

Could the deputy leader provide me with figures for the number of empty homes by ward over the last 5 years, detailing the number of homes brought back into use each year and the number of newly empty homes added to the list each year, and comment on how successful the council has been at tackling empty homes?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

The Empty Homes Initiative has helped to create over 878 homes since its start in 1997, and 595 homes have been brought back into use throughout the borough in the last five years. Table 1 provides a breakdown of homes back in use by ward.

Over the same period the numbers of empty properties reported to the initiative totalled 1313. In table 2 a breakdown has been provided of the numbers of reported empty properties by ward.

Figures for the numbers of empty properties recorded for each year by ward over the five-year period have not been provided, as the data by ward was not captured at the end of each financial year. However total numbers of private sector empty properties borough wide have been provided as shown in table 2.

The initiative has been very successful in not only creating more homes for Southwark residents, but in meeting the best value indicator BVPI 64 target year on year. The continued success of the initiative has been due largely to building positive relationships with owners of empty properties, members, and multi-agency partners on both a corporate and external level, as well as having a wide range of options available to help owners. These range from providing financial assistance through grants, working in partnership with registered social landlords, offering good quality impartial advice to name a few. An added tool to persuade owners to ensure properties are brought back into use was through legislation in April 2004 in which all vacant properties empty for more than six months are charged the full council tax whereas prior to this council tax was only charged at 50%.

The initiative will continue to build upon existing relationships, develop new options, to enable the council to effectively respond to new priorities, and to meet both empty property owners needs to bring housing back into use, and residents needs for good quality accommodation within the borough.

Table 1

Total numbers of empty properties brought back in use by ward from April 1 2001 - March 31 2006

Ward	Financial Years					Total Units Back In Use
	2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006	
Brunswick Park Ward	1	12	4	13	9	39
Camberwell Green Ward	2	3	15	12	15	47
Cathedrals Ward	0	0	2	0	2	4
Chaucer Ward	2	0	3	7	5	17
College Ward	2	0	4	14	4	24
East Dulwich Ward	5	4	6	13	0	28
East Walworth Ward	5	1	3	6	7	22
Faraday Ward	1	2	2	6	5	16
Grange Ward	0	0	1	3	5	9
Livesey Ward	1	7	6	14	6	34
Newington Ward	1	0	1	5	4	11
Nunhead Ward	9	4	9	15	9	46
Peckham Rye Ward	14	3	9	16	8	50
Peckham Ward	10	0	9	19	15	53
Riverside Ward	3	0	5	2	10	20
Rotherhithe Ward	0	1	3	4	3	11
South Bermondsey Ward	5	1	8	9	10	33
South Camberwell Ward	1	1	3	7	4	16
Surrey Docks Ward	1	1	1	0	1	4
The Lane Ward	9	20	45	9	11	94
Village Ward	4	5	1	3	4	17
Total for the year	76	65	140	177	137	595

Table 2

Total numbers of empty properties reported by ward from April 1 2001 - March 31 2006

Total empty private sector properties	Total reported empty properties	Financial Years				
		2001-2002	2002-2003	2003-2004	2004-2005	2005-2006
		2472	3044	2910	2856	2790
Ward						
Brunswick Park Ward	111	59	6	13	22	11
Camberwell Green Ward	43	6	1	12	13	11
Cathedrals Ward	34	17	2	3	8	4
Chaucer Ward	45	22	1	5	9	8
College Ward	57	20	2	9	18	8
East Dulwich Ward	51	11	4	15	17	4
East Walworth Ward	83	45	9	9	10	10
Faraday Ward	53	30	2	7	6	8
Grange Ward	31	18	0	3	4	6
Livesey Ward	47	3	3	6	26	9
Newington Ward	32	16	2	2	7	5
Nunhead Ward	117	42	6	11	39	19
Peckham Rye Ward	105	55	4	8	21	17
Peckham Ward	70	15	7	10	20	18
Riverside Ward	52	23	2	5	10	12
Rotherhithe Ward	25	10	0	2	6	7
South Bermondsey Ward	33	4	1	7	7	14
South Camberwell Ward	32	5	3	7	9	8
Surrey Docks Ward	19	12	3	1	2	1

The Lane Ward	217	148	10	11	34	14
Village Ward	56	35	2	4	11	4
	1313	596	70	150	299	198

SUPPLEMENTAL

My Mayor I understand that my question is not now geared towards the executive member for housing but is actually geared towards the executive member for regeneration. Can I ask you if that is right?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

I am very grateful to Councillor McCarthy for bringing that to my attention. We are certainly keen to use any powers that we do have to ensure that empty homes are taken back into use as soon as possible and it is a social scandal that there are people who are homeless when we have empty homes – it is an environmental scandal as well that there are buildings lying empty and I am determined that we do all we can to continue our very good and improving record on bringing these homes back into use.

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

Could the deputy leader clarify council policy on at what point right to buy (RTB) ceases for blocks scheduled for demolition, and when the cut-off period applies? Could he illustrate this by providing the figures for the Wooddene, Heygate and Aylesbury estates?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

This area of housing policy is covered by new legislation, Housing Act 2004 - the primary legislation came into force on January 18 2005 and the leaseholder council received a report detailing the new statutory provisions on February 28 2005.

Sections 182 and 183 Housing Act 2004 deal with final demolition notices and initial demolition notices (respectively) and (again respectively) amend schedule 5 and section 138 Housing Act 1985.

The right to buy ends ("ceases") for blocks scheduled for demolition when the final demolition notice is served; the final demolition notices can be served at any time up to two years before demolition is due to take place. However RTB applications can be 'suspended' by the service of initial demolition notices - these can be served at any time up to five years before demolition is to take place. Final demolition notices can be served after initial demolition notices. Neither of these notices affect the RTB application of anyone whose application was before January 18 2005.

Woodene - No notices were served on this estate because no RTB applications have been submitted after January 17 2005.

Heygate - 1214 initial demolition notices served on November 21 2005.

Bermondsey Spa (Site F) - 77 initial demolition notices served on November 21 2005.

Aylesbury - 619 initial demolition notices served on March 31 2006 (Arklow; Chartridge; Bradenham; Chiltern; Red Lion Close)

6. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY

What assessment has the deputy leader made of the decision by Lambeth's new administration to create a borough-wide arms-length management organisation (ALMO) and does he have plans to do the same in Southwark?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Lambeth council have adopted a 'mixed economy' approach to delivering decent homes, where the funding options are different for different types of stock and are dependent on the stocks condition.

They have submitted two arms-length management organisation (ALMO) bids. One bid was submitted for round 5 to create a tenant managed organisations (TMO) ALMO, now called United Residents Housing. This ALMO is made up of 5. The other bid is for round 6 for the remaining of the council's stock.

In addition, Lambeth are pursuing partial stock transfers to housing associations for 5 estates and a private finance initiative for another. One stock transfer completed in July 2006.

The round 6 ALMO bid is for 30,398 properties and is for £233.8 million, which includes 5% towards sustainability.

The release of funding for this ALMO is dependant on a successful bid, the amount of money available for the Round 6 bidding round, and an established ALMO achieving a 2* rating. The current housing management service within Lambeth is 1* with promising prospects for improvement.

Southwark's option appraisal (OA), based on investment and resource assumptions showed that Southwark could meet decent homes without resorting to ALMO, PFI or transfer funding. The option of Southwark retaining the stock was supported by over 50% of residents consulted as part of the OA process, and opposed by less than one in ten.

The option of an ALMO for the whole stock was considered as part of this process. However as the OA showed that decent homes could be met with the funding identified; a bid to Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) for any additional funding would be given low priority.

The OA was approved by the executive on March 21 2006, and 'signed-off' by the government office in June. Although Southwark's preferred option was to retain the ownership and management of the stock, the OA concluded that this did not rule out different options for part of the stock in the future, if there was resident support. An action-plan to be in place by the end of the calendar year and to be taken forward by members, residents and officers will review the delivery of decent homes and any potential 'local solutions'.

Currently there is a discussion paper from DCLG, 'Decent Homes to Sustainable Communities'; one aspect of this paper is the delay to meeting decent homes in a limited number of cases where authorities wish to pursue major transformations. Southwark's proposed response to this paper will be that because residents want more than just the decent homes standard – particularly investment in environmental,

safety and security issues - that as a council we would like to delay meeting the 2010 target to enable us to deliver these wider improvements to our estates.

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

Does the deputy leader agree that leaseholders' council is an important forum for constructive discussions and consultation between the council and leaseholders, and that this forum is valued by leaseholders? If the leaseholders' council was to be abolished could he say how he would ensure the council engaged with leaseholders?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Yes.

To repeat the answer to a previous council question - there are no plans to abolish leaseholder council.

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

Can the deputy leader provide me with an update on the commitment to provide a new handbook for leaseholders?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

The homeowners' guide has been printed and is now available. All service charge payers received a letter at the end of August detailing how to collect a copy. The guide is available at over 30 locations across the borough, including area housing offices, one-stop shops, libraries, the town hall, the home ownership unit and all TMO offices. It is acknowledged that many leaseholders work full time, but they should be able to take advantage of the fact that all libraries stay open until 7.00pm or 8.00pm on at least one day each week, and all are open on Saturdays. The home ownership unit's office in Lorrimore Road will also be open for the first three Saturdays in September.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

I would like to thank the deputy leader for his response and also mention that the guide is available on the Southwark website as well (that was not mentioned but never mind) and would like to say how pleased I am with the guide and to report the positive feedback I have received from other Leaseholders in my Ward. This is a very important step forward for Southwark Leaseholders and I would ask that the Deputy Leader convey thanks to the Officers in the Home Ownership Unit for producing this excellent guide.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Salmon for her response and I will certainly pass on her thanks to the Home Ownership Unit. I certainly feel that they have been going the extra mile in terms of getting this delivered and getting this delivered in a cost effective way. I played my own small part in that and have personally delivered the Home Ownership guide to a number of constituents in my ward. Thank you.

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

How much money per year is given to tenants and leaseholders in compensation for the housing repairs department (a) missing their appointments (b) completing substandard work?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Under the terms of the current repairs contracts the responsibility for the reimbursement of costs for missed appointments is directly that of the repairs and maintenance contractors. Whilst interrogation of various contractor and council databases would have to be carried out to quantify the actual compensation paid, it is estimated at current levels that no more than £50,000 will be paid this year. The net effect on the housing department for 2006/7 will be a nil cost.

Similarly, if contractors, which necessitate the return of the contractor, carry out substandard works then any rectification works are done under the original order and at the contractor's expense. It is estimated that the costs of compensation resulting from substandard works will be less than £50,000. Again however, there will be no net cost to the housing department.

The council is introducing a new repairs appointment system within the next six months, which it is anticipated, will further drive down the incidence of missed appointments and resulting compensation. The new repairs contract to be let in early 2007 will have built into it similar obligations on the contractors to reimburse for substandard works and missed appointments, but with a partnering ethos and greater customer focus it is anticipated that there will be a drive to deliver a "correct first time" repair service which should also drive down required compensation for both categories.

10. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Does the executive member for housing agree with the decision taken by officers not to compensate my constituents living in Harry Hinkins House for loss of electricity during August?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

Residents of Harry Hinkins were without mains electricity supply for at least 24 hours. The current policy in such cases is to ask residents to make a claim against their home contents insurance or they can submit a claim against the council's insurer. Residents of Harry Hinkins House and their elected representatives were advised on the policy following this incident. It should be noted that periodically over the last few years the council has emphasised to residents the need to have adequate home

contents insurance and does provide access to a value for money insurance policy, which has been widely advertised. Some residents have submitted claims to the council and these will be forwarded to our insurers for consideration of liability. Simultaneously, the council is finalising an investigation into the causes of the supply failure, time taken to effect repairs and relative involvement of council and contractors to improve future responses to similar incidents.

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

Could the executive member for housing outline what, if anything, the current administration has done about the climate of insecurity, vulnerability and fear that drug users and criminals have created on Nelson and Portland Estate and how our residents and their children who experience these conditions are to be helped?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR KIM HUMPHREYS

It is recognised that there has been recurrent anti-social behaviour (ASB) from non-residents involving drug paraphernalia and rough sleepers. This has caused distress and fear in some residents of the estate. Intelligence from police and community wardens indicates that the anti-social behaviour is caused by non-residents. Resident reports to date have also highlighted that such vagrancy is occurring mainly in the evenings but drug use is throughout the day.

A range of initiatives are being undertaken by the police and community wardens to assist the residents. In addition to ad hoc warden patrols, community wardens and area housing staff are co-ordinating targeted patrols of these blocks for additional monitoring and for distribution of crime prevention leaflets to all residents during daytime hours. Faraday Safer Neighbourhood Team are undertaking night patrols and will target any drug users and rough sleepers in the evening. Cleaning regimes have been increased with quicker processes for removal of any needles or other drug materials.

The council and the police have looked at the possibility of CCTV for surveillance, however, the internal design and the high-rise nature of the blocks is not conducive for this type of surveillance.

The police, community wardens and housing staff are also holding an open day for all residents of Nelson and Portland Estate to discuss their concerns and get increased local intelligence on the September 13 2006.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you Mr. Mayor. Can I thank the executive member for their responses given to my question. And my supplemental question: Is the executive member aware that the safer neighbourhood team has stated that the only solution in some blocks is a door entry system. What does the executive member think about this and what is he going to do about it?

RESPONSE

First of all I would like to thank Councillor Mohamed for his supplementary question. I would refer Councillor Mohamed to the officer comments that we will be talking about later on in terms of the motion that's down. I have made this point and I will be making it again in terms of the motion and amendments that, to institute a door entry

system and not expect residents to pay for it, would be truly unique within the whole of the borough. It is a policy that was instituted by a previous labour administration and it would be totally inequitably to residents across the rest of borough if we were to do this solely for the Nelson and Portland Estates. What I would say in terms of Councillor Mohamed's response is that the Housing Department will be going the extra miles in terms of making sure that they are seeking funds as Councillor Mohamed knows perfectly well. Unfortunately, the Nelson and Portland estates has not featured high enough in terms of the hotspots for door entry systems and I hope that that issue can be addressed and that issue will be looked into in further detail. I do also note, and I will be making these comments all again shortly, that in terms of the decent home standards which residents across this borough voted in large numbers and supported unanimously, it is this council's policy to introduce the door entry systems, not part of decent homes – we have got to meet government targets there – there are clearly some frustrations but what I would say is that officers will be seeking to find funds to put these in as soon as possible. I have also stated that I am happy and will be visiting the Nelson and Gordon on the 26 September and meeting with residents there and I am sure they will tell me first hand their views, so there's the answer.

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

Why has the £80,000 holiday grant for older people and people with disabilities been suspended in July, at peak holiday time? Have the eligibility criteria been changed for this grant and who will be eligible from now on from the much-reduced budget of £20,000 for this provision?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Around 15 years ago such a budget was created within adult social care following the sale of holiday properties on the south coast. The holiday grant scheme, as it is now known, provides a degree of financial assistance to older people and people with disabilities, who are Southwark residents, to assist them to have a holiday. The support is limited to £100 with a potential option of a £200 grant if the holiday costs are substantially increased because of an applicant's disability. The holiday grants are coordinated by a range of voluntary organisations.

Over the last three complete financial years, the spend against the budget has been between £31,000 and £35,000, reflecting demand in those years. Any remaining resources have been used to support respite care for eligible service users and their carers. Almost all applications and grant awards are made in the first three months of the financial year. The spend this year has been £33,000 and a decision was reached by officers at the beginning of July to control the spend because of the greater pressures elsewhere on adult social care budgets. The decision has been reviewed following a number of representations and further applications can be considered. Contact is being made with the small number of people who have expressed an interest in receiving a grant in the last two months.

However, it is thought that the system needs to be reviewed with the administering voluntary agencies and other stakeholders, including the Pensioners and Disabilities Forums – especially with respect to the eligibility criteria and level of grant. This will take place before the beginning of the next financial year.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you very much for the answer to this. I am very glad that this holiday money is being reviewed as it was unfortunate to withdraw it in July. Many people in Southwark believe that this particular pot of money is held in a trust which then could not be considered as part of a main street budget. Is this the case?

RESPONSE

I thank Councillor Ward for her supplemental and I actually fully agree with her these monies should not have been cut and certainly as soon as I found out that it had been shelved as part of savings I took immediate action to put that situation right. I am not aware that it is held in an actual trust but I do know it is well and truly documented from a committee meeting some time ago. But when these older homes were sold, that money was purely to be used to supplement older people going on holidays and that is documented in black and white. It should not have changed and I will do my utmost to ensure that it does not happen again next year or the year after because, as you quite rightly said, it should never have happened in the first place.

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

Given that next year there will be an increase in demand for healthcare services in Dulwich and Southwark (population increase 1.5%; increase in aids cases 15%), and there is a real need for the development of a wide range of health-care services on the whole of the Dulwich Hospital Site, will the executive member for health and adult care provide me with an update on the future plans for the Dulwich Hospital site, in particular looking at:

1. the plans for the development of the Dulwich Hospital site at the eastern end, spelling out with precision the nature and content of those plans and services;
2. the building cost per square metre of the exact "footprint" or actual floor area that is planned for the primary care centre and the community hospital;
3. the present or proposed future plans for the rest of the Dulwich Hospital site?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

I am advised that Dulwich Community Hospital is a large development by Southwark Primary Care Trust (PCT), estimated at around £40m, via the NHS Local Improvement Finance Trust (LIFT) Scheme. This community hospital will be one of the future schemes developed by the Building Better Health Lambeth, Southwark and Lewisham LIFT Company (LSL LIFTCo). It will become a major centre for integrated community based services for older people and for rehabilitation with a wide range of extended community services including a large primary care centre.

Question 1:

The current estimate size of the new Dulwich Community Hospital is 11,418 square metres gross internal area. The service model remains subject to review in order to ensure that the community hospital services reflect current and future needs, but currently includes:

- Cardiac rehabilitation
- Community assessment & rehabilitation service (includes intermediate care inpatient 30 beds, intermediate care community team, adult community therapy and day services)
- Community long-term conditions centre
- Diagnostic suite
- East Dulwich Primary Care Centre, providing capacity for 16,000 patients
- Foot health services
- Musculo-skeletal physiotherapy
- Satellite dialysis unit
- Rehabilitation equipment services (inc prosthetics, manufacturing, orthotics, wheelchair services, reception, assistive technology, physiotherapy, occupational therapy, gait lab)
- Rehabilitation research unit
- Well being centre

Question 2:

The exact footprint and building cost for the new community hospital will be confirmed in advance of the full planning application and financial close respectively. The current design, which is not finalised, is for a building of 11,418 square metres gross internal area spread over a mix of three and four story blocks. The estimated total cost for the new building is circa £40m but this will not be finalised until contracts are signed. Under LIFT the NHS pays a rental cost to LIFTCo, who are responsible for fully financing the construction and then maintaining the building. The cost per square metre will depend upon the detail of the final design/service model.

Question 3:

The western and central part of the current Dulwich Community Hospital site will be used for the continuing functioning of the community hospital. This will continue to be the case until the new community hospital is completed.

Once the new Dulwich Community Hospital is completed in the eastern part of the current site, the remainder will be surplus to the PCT's service requirements. Southwark PCT is committed to support an appraisal and consultation process on the options for the surplus site in line with NHS regulations regarding disposal of surplus estate. However, Southwark PCT has stated a desire to encourage a use for the residual site that is complementary to the community hospital.

These issues will be explored further in the public consultation process which will take place prior to plans being finalised for the remainder of the site following the community hospital development.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

I would like to welcome and applaud the excellent presentation of the facts and figures in relation to the Dulwich Hospital site and to ask a series of questions in my supplementary question dealing with the apparent downsizing or downscaling of what we thought was planned for the site. First of all, has the executive member a set of statistics which show whether the health of the population in the area actually matches the need revealed by these statistics? And if she has not got them now, and I don't expect her to have them now, could she provide them for me in the future? In relation to the large primary care centre spoken of in the first paragraph this is going

to be run in part by two private organisations. Are we going to see a concentration on private patients to the exclusion of all the other residents in Dulwich and Southwark in this part of the hospital? Can I ask in relation to Question 3, and I applaud the fact that the primary care trust have a desire to encourage on the rest of the site something that is complementary, but would she stiffen the resolve of the primary care trust to use the western end for health services which is what local people really want. And finally, can I note with concern the figure of £11,418 for the square meterage of the foot print is less than we have heard before which is 1200 sq metres. Is there a reason for this cut – are there other reasons why we have not seen a final plan, what is going on behind the scenes – is the national Government reduction in the amount available causing there to be a smaller hospital being done?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Mitchell for his supplementary and I will try my utmost to go through those points. On the population growth and the change in health care conditions it is predicted that the population across Southwark will grow in the region of 20% - 30% I am not sure what figures we have around predictions or how that relates to how many more people contract heart disease, diabetes etc. I will do my utmost to see if we have any of those figures and of course if they are there I will produce them. On the issue of private patients there are no plans whatsoever to develop a private patients unit within Dulwich Hospital. It is a lift project so the buildings have to be built through private contractors as has any new build across the health service but certainly there are indeed no plans to introduce a private patients' wing and I hope that would never be the case. On the subject of the west end of the hospital I know that Councillor Mitchell is very keen as a local resident to see that the vast majority if not all of the Dulwich Hospital site continue to be for health purposes. I do not disagree with that but would obviously have to take on board the prediction of health needs and the services that can be delivered on that site and maybe look at complementary services that could be delivered on the western end of the site. This is something that I am quite keen to be looked at in more detail because I do believe that there is a need for care in the community in Southwark. So there are things like that which are health related that should have been looked at and, obviously, I am continuing to lobby for that at the moment. On the question about floor space that has, I am afraid gone in one ear and out at the other, but certainly I presume it has been documented clearly what the exact question was and I will get that information and get back to Councillor Mitchell as soon as I possibly can.

14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

What steps are being taken to ensure that the provision of doctors, dentists, and access to emergency treatment in Southwark will increase to match the rapidly growing residential population, with particular reference to the increase in private residential developments in the north of the borough?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Southwark Primary Care Trust (PCT) is developing an asset management strategy which encompasses a picture of what community and primary care services could look like in ten to fifteen years time, the workforce that will be needed to 'staff' these modernised services and the premises that will be needed to house these services.

It is projected that the population growth in Southwark over the next fifteen years will be in the region of 20 to 30%. Currently there is a resident population of 266,030 and

48 general practices over 47 sites¹. The current list size of GPs ranges from 1,300 to 23,000. If list sizes were to remain at current levels the estimated population growth would require an additional 16 GPs.

To meet this challenge Southwark PCT has developed a model of integrated primary health care teams that bring together GPs, community nurses, social care staff, pharmacists, therapists, optometrists, dentists, midwives and social care staff. This model is not only about increasing the number of GPs but other primary and community and social care professionals housed within specialist resource centres and extended health centres.

The specialist resource centres will provide a range of specialist services such as diagnostics, extended minor surgery facilities, access to specialist opinions, community based health and social care services, and walk in facilities. The extended health centres will provide universal services. This could include walk in facilities, out of hours, extended access, and a range of enhanced/additional services, e.g. sexual health, dermatology, clinics, diabetes, Ear, Nose & Throat (ENT), anti-coagulation, and/or gastroenterology.

The minimum list size for a resource centre would be 18,000 (to 22,000) and the minimum size for a health centre would be 10,000 (to 15,000). The model therefore increases the capacity for additional GPs and other allied health professionals to meet the growing population and the shift of health services from a hospital setting to one closer to the patient's home.

Access to emergency treatment

Demand for accident and emergency (A&E) has been rising every year, partly as a result of increases in the population. This is considered within the commissioning process. A&E is paid for under 'payment by results' and therefore the income to acute trusts reflects the activity they undertake. Issues which are kept under review include the physical space e.g. Guy's & St Thomas' is planning to extend their A&E department during 2006/07 in response to increasing demand. As part of matching the capacity of A&E to the demand, skill mix is an important factor. Lambeth and Southwark PCTs are currently working with both Guy's & St Thomas' and King's College Hospital to examine whether the current skill mix is both clinically appropriate and cost effective. This would include use of practitioners such as GPs, primary care nurses and paramedics, who are skilled in minor illness/injury as well as specialist emergency department staff. Finally, the PCTs are also working with trusts to reduce demand - for example, actively identifying patients who are attending frequently with unplanned care needs and who may therefore not be having their needs met in planned care services. Ensuring that these patients are able to access appropriate services will result in improved care for patients and reduced demand on unplanned services. The two PCTs are also conducting a yearlong campaign to raise awareness of the unplanned care services available in the community as an alternative to A&E - the aim is to improve patient care and reduce demand on A&E.

Dentists

The new dental contracts came in to force on April 1 2006. These gave PCTs the budget for primary care dentistry for the first time and the budgets were based on activity during the test period October 2004 to September 2005. These budgets are cash limited and fixed for three years. After that period the Department of Health will

¹ Some practices share a site and some have branches.

be issuing dental budgets on a weighted capitation basis, so any increase in population will be reflected in increased budget. When funding and population change, PCTs will recommission services to meet local need.

There is no "access" problem to primary care dentistry in Southwark. All dentists took up the new contract and most are accepting new NHS patients. Therefore there is capacity in the system.

The PCT also commissions a community dental service for special needs and high need patients and an urgent dental service for treatment out of normal surgery hours.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you Mr. Mayor and thank you Councillor Capstick for your very comprehensive response to my question. The PCT has identified clearly the needs for provision across the whole of Southwark over the next 15 years but could you assure me that it is going to be able to find suitable premises from which to conduct it in the north of the borough where the population is increasing and the available property is decreasing?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank the Councillor Morris for her supplemental. What I can say is that the PCT is very aware of the growing health care need and the need for more GPs as that population increases and as the answer actually says, a lot of work has been done about developing a sort of resource centre so that GPs practices are not just the old fashioned GPs practice and we have services like chiropody, nurse practitioners, sexual health services, etc. And certainly that work is being started in the Bermondsey Spa area part of the regeneration there include a brand new health centre which is based in Spa Park which has replaced the sort of old, almost falling down building across the road and certainly, in the Cathedrals Ward, there are plans at a very advanced stage now for a new centre to replace the Princess Street surgery and certainly that surgery has been doing a lot of good work in recent years around developing the service well beyond GP service. And in partnership with South Bank University a new building is actually in the process of being developed and will be built in the very near future and I look forward to seeing that building open because I believe it will produce a very good service for the residents of Cathedrals ward.

15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the executive member for health and adult care provide the figures for the infection rates of the main sexually transmitted diseases (STDs) in Southwark over the last 5 years and figures for how much money has been spent by the primary care trust (PCT) in tackling STDs year-on-year over that period?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Infection rates for the last four years for the main sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in Southwark – chlamydia, gonorrhoea, syphilis and HIV – are given below. It must be noted however that it is not possible to provide infection rates specifically for Southwark residents as the data is collected by genito-urinary medicine (GUM) clinics whose clients attend from a wide geographic area, many of whose consultations are anonymous and data is submitted in an anonymised format. The

following information is based on STIs presenting in South East London, primarily at the GUM clinics at King's, Guy's and St Thomas' hospitals.

	2000	2001	2002	2003	2004
Chlamydia	3278	3558	3685	3840	3894
Syphilis	9	42	107	150	147
Gonorrhoea	2388	2406	2618	2172	1745
HIV	520	656	774	762	733

The PCT's budget allocation for STI services has been:

	2002/03	2003/04	2004/05	2005/06	2006/07
	£000	£000	£000	£000	£000
HIV	11,063	13,236	15,236	17,181	18,281
Other STIs	2,545	2,646	2,792	2,944	3,061
Total	13,608	15,882	18,027	20,125	21,343

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Can I thank the executive member for her response. In light of the depressing figures that we have before us - we normally have a 20% increase in Chlamydia, a 1600% rise in syphilis and a 41% rise in HIV in the last 4 years - in the borough with highest teenage pregnancy rates in the country and against the backdrop that the news that many PCTs are raiding their sexual health prevention budgets to balance their books, will the executive member support me in ensuring that Southwark PCT keeps to its present position of not reducing its sexual health budget despite the difficult financial outlook?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Noakes for his supplemental question – yes indeed there is an awful lot of pressure on public health monies at the moment and certainly recently in the health social journals there is a big article about the fact that the Government were saying that we should be prioritising our public health, and that's totally not wrong, but a lot of the money that was promised to public health is not coming through and some of the money that was promised is being used to plug gaps to actually replace the deficits from the top slice in the various PCTs. In Southwark I certainly have discussions with the chair of Southwark PCT and yes, monies are going to be short. But we do believe that such sexual issues in Southwark and the teenage pregnancy rate are massive priorities for us. Certainly it has been confirmed to me that the money from the public health side of things will not be taken away from that sexual health budget or the sexual health services that go towards helping the cut down the number of teenage pregnancies.

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE

What plans does the executive member have for regeneration and investment in Camberwell Green? Will he undertake to make Camberwell a priority area for this council to invest in, to make Camberwell a better place to live in the future?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

The council is heavily engaged in some major regeneration projects in areas within the borough that have been prioritised for attention by need but also by opportunities that have attracted external investment. The scope for attracting major investment to Camberwell is very much more limited and consequently the opportunities for regeneration on a similar scale are equally limited. This also begs the question of whether major physical regeneration would address present community ambitions and needs.

Camberwell is nevertheless currently receiving renewal attention. Three priority neighbourhoods were designated within the Camberwell area under Southwark Alliance's neighbourhood renewal programme. These neighbourhoods, covering the West Camberwell, East Camberwell and Denmark Hill/Champion Hill areas were designated in response to a range of indicators identifying them amongst the 16 most deprived neighbourhoods within Southwark and falling within the 10 per cent most deprived areas within the country.

Over the period 2003/6 over £2.7m has been invested in initiatives designed to improve health, educational achievement, employment, community safety and livability and to improve access to mainstream services for local people.

Currently plans include, further development of local partnership working between council and other agencies in order to improve service delivery, continued support for business development and a fresh bid to the London Development Agency's opportunities fund to establish a regular arts and crafts market.

An important piece of work has also been commissioned from the South Bank University's Housing and Regeneration Research Group. This work, '*Camberwell Forward*', will:

- Develop a methodology for better understanding the range of issues affecting the Camberwell town centre economy
- Help develop a consensus among key stakeholders who are either able to represent or advocate for different local interests and/or engender organisational commitment
- Inform the development of an initial vision and identify the scope, limits and priorities for a regeneration framework for the Camberwell area.

A report will be made in due course on this work to the Camberwell community council.

Under neighbourhood renewal, town centre focused initiatives have included:

- Successful and ongoing action to reduce the anti-social behaviour of street drinkers
- A radio links scheme to create a safer shopping environment
- A study into the viability of an arts and crafts market resulting in two successful events and the prospect of a regularly held market
- The funding of a number of events on the Green including jobs and health fairs and a range of community/arts events
- Support for the development of the local economy through the Camberwell Traders Association and to businesses to meet environmental obligations

- Support for a number of community council events reaching out to the local community
- Investment in physical improvements linked to the cleaner greener safer programme.

Alongside this support, but outside the town centre, there has been significant investment in:

- Local schools (improving behaviour, establishing positive links with local communities, establishing information technology (IT) facilities and an early years facility)
- The health of local people (one to one and group based community sessions focused on healthy eating, activity, smoking cessation)
- Improving employment prospects (jobs fairs, employment and training advice, English for speakers of other languages (ESOL) classes)
- Tackling poverty (development of credit union facilities)
- Livability (improving recycling facilities, tackling grot spots, children's theatre)
- Community cohesion (new community centre, advocacy project).

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you very much Mr. Mayor. I would like to thank the executive member for his answer but there are two parts of the question he has not quite answered. I am talking about the future and about what is going to happen in Camberwell in the future. So I would like to know whether he will make Camberwell a greater priority area for regeneration and investments in the future and also what plans he has to do things in the future. While I very much welcome the things he has set out in his answer I want to know about what he is going to be doing next to try and make Camberwell a better place to live.

RESPONSE

The point I think I was trying to make in my answer is that we need to try and regenerate many different areas of the borough without necessarily the kind of intervention that would perhaps make it the Elephant and Castle and the Aylesbury which is based on a large amount of land that the council owns and the large amount of housing which needs frankly knocking down and rebuilding. I do not think that kind of regeneration is appropriate for Camberwell. I think we need regeneration less focussed probably on buildings and much more focussed on improving what buildings are already there. I think I would refer again to the points I made in the second part of my question about the Camberwell forward worker. I hope that will identify some of the things we could do in the future and I hope the community council will very much need that. I think that would be very helpful. The other thing I have not mentioned in my response which I should mention now is our local enterprise growth initiative bid which the executive approved earlier this week. That's a competitive process but hopes to bring in around £80m to spend in Southwark over 10 years. We will be very lucky if we get it as only 2 or 3 London boroughs will, but if we are successful in that bid then that will bring us a lot of money for the things like supporting business for enterprise growth, start-up units those sort of things I think will be very relevant to Camberwell.

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Could the member kindly list the total monetary amounts realised through section 106 (Planning Gain) developments since 2002 by council ward and list by monetary totals where such section 106 have been spent by council ward with a balancing figure on how much money is left to be allocated overall?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

This will be circulated separately at the meeting.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you Mr. Mayor and I would like to thank my good friend Councillor Thomas for his reply to my question. I try not to take as long as Councillor Mitchell in putting this question to you but obviously there are various tables here which I am sure you did not prepare because they are not clear as they usually are – I guess somebody else must have done them for you but if we look at Table 1 my quick maths has calculated that about just over £2m has actually been spent since 2002 which leaves the current available balance of £8.8m which you can see in Table 2. In Table 3 we have £23 in total identified so that leaves £15m still to come in and yet that concentrated in 6 Wards in the north-west of the borough. Now I am sure also given the reply that you gave to my colleague, Councillor Page just before you are well aware of the Southwark Alliance overall index of multiple deprivation and you will know that none of those Wards are actually the most deprived areas so my question to you is, will you give a commitment to spend the available money within the foreseeable future and secondly pass that money on to environmental improvements in those wards most in need in this borough and not just those wards in the north-west of the borough.

RESPONSE

I am seeking to provide as full an answer as I could based on the figures and the evidence that we have got available. I am glad that Councillor Wingfield appreciates that. The first part of the question is will we spend the money as quickly? Yes, in the foreseeable future. Yes, I can see a long way into the future, but yes, clearly, I take the point clearly we want to spend as quickly as we can. The second parts of the question, can we spend Section 6 money in the areas of need – the exact answer to that is no Section 106 money needs to be spent in the area for which it was originally negotiated as I expect Councillor Wingfield probably understands. There is an issue there that means that the necessary development in a particular needy area and they don't benefit from that 106 money and everyone accepts and understands that and that's why 106 is not the only source of money that we have got, the only source of capital and the only way we can intervene. But section 106 ultimately has to be spent according to the terms of the 106 and that means in the immediate vicinity.

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BAICHO

When will the section 106 money from the development on the grounds of Southwark College be released for the restoration and improvement of the recreation facilities on the Four Squares estate?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

No funds have yet been received by the council for the Southwark College site (area bounded by Keetons Road, Tranton Road and Drummond Road S106/111848).

It is the developers' obligation to notify the council and to make any necessary payments. However, as we understand the development has been implemented we will seek immediate payment.

When these funds have been received they can then be spent in accordance with the obligations in the agreement including £32,500 that can be spent towards the establishment and/or improvement of play areas in the vicinity of the site.

19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

When will fairly traded tea and coffee be provided in council buildings?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

Fairtrade tea and coffee is already available at community council meetings. In addition, it will be made available in council public meeting rooms from December 1 2006. This is an essential requirement for the borough to be successful in its bid for Fairtrade status, planned for the end of 2006.

A trial is under way, piloting two Fairtrade coffee machines at 29 Peckham Rd and in meeting room A2 of Town Hall.

Many of the existing non-fair trade drinks machines have leases with some time left to run. We are currently reviewing the options as to the best way forward for replacing these.

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANN YATES

Given the comments of the Mayor of London earlier this year that he intends to challenge the Southwark Plan's designation of parts of Rotherhithe and East Dulwich as 'suburban', will the executive member provide an update on any action taken by the Mayor of London or the council on this issue?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

The council prepared modifications to the Southwark Plan (UDP) in response to the Inspector's report on the public inquiry. These are out to consultation from September 1 to October 15 2006. The Mayor of London was provided with a draft set of these modifications along with the Inspector's report prior to members' consideration and decision to adopt. At this stage the Mayor wrote to the council stating that he did not accept the officer recommendation to accept the Inspector's recommendation to retain the suburban north zone. The council resolved to approve the modifications version of the Southwark Plan on June 28 2006, which retains this designation. The Mayor may write to the council continuing to raise this matter as an issue of 'general conformity' with the London Plan. At this stage the council will need to discuss this issue with the Mayor. If agreement cannot be reached the final decision on the density zone will be made by the secretary of state.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you Mr. Mayor and I would just like to thank the executive member for regeneration for his answer and ask him to keep us fully informed of what is happening with the Mayor and what he is doing.

RESPONSE

I can certainly give that undertaking – we clearly took the decision that we did on the UDP a couple of months ago we have now launched on the process of consultation on those revisions to the UDP which will be submitted in the usual way and we await with bated breath as to whether Ken Livingstone will intervene to once again ignore the wishes of Southwark people or whether he will on this occasion take note of their government's professional planning inspectors.

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

Does the executive member for children's services and education personally support the decision of Southwark schools who wish to apply to become academies?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

Southwark now has four academies up and running in the borough. Three other existing secondary schools plus one primary are in feasibility. One new school for boys has been agreed and planning for its opening is progressing. In addition, Bacon's City Technology College is in the process of transforming into an academy. These developments have taken place with the full involvement and support of the council. Southwark has been commended for the positive and productive way in which it has engaged with the programme.

The academies programme, when the above are completed, will have delivered well over £200m of capital investment to improve the borough's schools.

Relationships with the academies are good and they work cooperatively with other secondary schools and the council on key issues such as admissions, special educational needs and 14-19 education.

The academies are providing good quality and improving education to local children.

For these reasons I am in favour of the academies programme as developed and delivered in Southwark.

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

Will the executive member for education please tell council assembly which schools, colleges, nurseries and other education centres are using fingerprinting or any other form of biometric tracking of children and pupils? What is the rationale being given for this type of tracking? Is she considering issuing guidelines for the fingerprinting or biometric tracking of children and pupils in Southwark's schools?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

One primary school in Southwark was considering the use of fingerprints to replace cards in a library system. The advice given to the school was that any move in this direction needs considerable thought, discussion and a consensus with parents, as it is a civil liberties issue not primarily a technological one. The school decided to reinstate the use of library cards instead of the new technology. We understand that the Academy at Peckham, which is independent of Southwark council, has introduced fingerprint recognition for its library and schools meal system.

The council will be developing a policy on this matter with consultation across a wide range of stakeholder groups. In the meantime individual schools will be discouraged from the use of this technology.

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

In light of recent building contractor problems, could the executive member for communities assure us that the Salmon Youth Centre's funding has not been affected and that Southwark is doing all it can to ensure that the project is completed as planned?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

The difficulties with the contractor working on the Salmon Youth Centre have required the trustees to seek to appoint an alternative company. This created a potential funding gap which they will be seeking to bridge by raising alternative funds. Consideration was being given to reducing certain elements of the project until the funding had been secured. This would have compromised the operation of what will be a very valuable facility for young people. To avoid this, the council has discussed with the trustees the underwriting of the additional funding requirement while alternative sources of support are sought.

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

Will the executive member for education and children's services provide the results of GCSEs and A Levels in the borough and comment on these results?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

At this stage of the year the data we have is only provisional and not validated, and therefore could be subject to change as a result of post-examination processes. We are also dependent upon the information supplied by the schools and it is very early for them to be able to provide a complete picture.

However, early results at key stage 4 show a good overall improvement and consolidate the upward trend since 2003. The 2006 results indicate a 4 percentage point rise, which gives an overall result of 51% of students having attained 5 or more A*-C or the equivalent. In addition, the proportion of pupils achieving this level including English and Mathematics has improved at an even greater rate (5 percentage points above 2005 results) to 36%.

At key stage 5, provisional results remain incomplete but indicate students gaining an average of a C and a D grade at A Level and a C at AS Level.

Figures will be confirmed through formal publication procedures later in the term. At that stage we will be able to more accurately evaluate the progress and performance of individual schools.

Raw scores, though, do not indicate the progress made by students. This is shown in value-added measures that are not calculated until November. I shall be happy to report back to members further when the full results and value-added calculations are completed.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Can I thank the Executive for her answer and I am sure we would all like to congratulate the staff and pupils for the improved results. Can I ask the executive member if she has any information about the Key Stage 3 results this year?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Skelly for his supplementary and I am delighted he has one. I had four questions and he only had 1 question tonight and perhaps I shall fill my 15 minutes I have talking about the Key Stage 3 results that have come out. What I would like to say is they have been commended and the results show that Southwark's Key Stage 3 results have jumped 15 points since 2002 with 65% of pupils now achieving the level 5 benchmark. Maths Key Stage 3 results have risen 19 points over the last 4 years to 65% and Science Key Stage 3 results have improved by 12 points since 2002 to 57%. So this is a really incredible progress being made by the pupils in our schools at this level. And what it does show is that we are in the top 25 most improved local authorities in the country at this level and I think there is another one here somewhere I think we are in the top 2 in the whole of London this year. But the key thing here is though the actual Key Stage 3 results are really important early indicator about good GCSEs results and I think it is really promising that we are seeing that improvement and it shows the investments we are having in our secondary schools is having an effect.

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

I have been approached by residents in the Grove Hill/Malfort Road/Bromar Road/Ivanhoe Road area who are very concerned about the amount of traffic in their streets and the frequency of vehicles' speeding. Will the council look into installing traffic management measures in this area to calm the traffic, possibly even to create a home zone?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

A bid has been submitted to Transport for London (TfL) for funding for 2007/08 to progress consultation and detailed design for an area based scheme for the Malfort Road area. The proposal is to introduce a streets for people scheme which is similar to the home zones concept. The objective is to create a place where pedestrians and cyclists have precedence over motorists and to make improvements to create a public realm environment that is safe and inviting. The bid forms part of the local implementation plan reporting and funding submission which was submitted to TfL in July 2006, the results of which will be known in December.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you for your response. My supplemental is only in two parts and I can't compete with a number of clauses that we heard earlier. The first is can I have some clarification that the Malfort Road area – the term that you use in your response - is actually the triangle that I was talking about. So if you could just clarify that. And the second thing is, its great that you are applying to TfL - and I very much hope that the money will be there - but what is going to happen in the meantime? We were talking about it being at least a year before anything is going to happen and the problem is there now and people could get injured or even killed. So what is going to be done within the next 12 months.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank the member for her question. The answer to the first part - it does indeed involve the triangle of roads all the roads that you referred to in your question. I cross-referenced it earlier today with the map that has the zone cross-hatched and it does include all the roads that you have mentioned. In terms of what can be done in the meantime, I understand that when bids go into TfL there is obviously a waiting time. We won't hear about our successful bids to TfL until December this year. I am quite happy to come down with you and look at the area in question and have a look at some of the transport issues, the traffic and safety issues and meet with local residents to talk to them and bring some officers with me so that we can try and see if there is something that can be done to address their issues in the meantime. Because I do take your point that these things do take sometime to go through. We are very hopeful that we will get the funding for this particular bid. It was one of five places as basis scheme that we have put in and hopefully we will get it.

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICHOLAS VINEALL

Would the executive member publish a table showing a breakdown per head of population of cleaner greener safer (CGS) funding in each community council area, explain the basis by which total CGS funding was split between community councils this year and how it is proposed the split should be carried out for funding in 2007/08?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Breakdown of CGS funding to community councils for 2006/07

CC	Berm	B&B	Camb	Dulw	N&PR	Peck	Roth	Walw
Sum £k	369	400	425	309	353	443	315	387
Per head	£10.67	£15.29	£12.07	£9.77	£10.54	£23.86	£11.40	£10.30

The above figures use the latest available census figures. The population total for Livesey ward has been split according to super output (SO) areas (with SO18b having been split 75% Rotherhithe and 25% Peckham and SO18c being split 50/50 between the two areas. This is due to the fact that whilst these are the smallest areas for which census data is readily available they still cross the Old Kent Road in approximately those proportions).

The first round of the devolved capital programme for 2003/04 was based on a number of factors including area population and the ratio of the then declared priority neighbourhoods as a reflection of deprivation. Each community council received a £250,000 base and a share of a further £1m determined by the weighting noted above.

The same formula has been used in subsequent years. The 2004/05 allocation decision was called-in and considered by the overview and scrutiny committee (OSC), which decided not to refer the matter back to the executive.

At the time of this question formal proposals have not been presented to the executive for the 2007/08 round. It is understood that this will however be on the same basis as the previously agreed formula.

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE HOLFORD

Would the executive member confirm what proportions of the lighting budget is being spent on replacing concrete lamp posts, and what proportion is being spent on repairing damaged, broken or inadequate lights?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

The 2006/07 revenue budget for all illuminated street furniture repairs and maintenance is £1.758m. This includes all zebra crossings, bollards and signs along with lighting columns. £439k (24.98%) of this is spent on energy and £1.32m (75.02%) on reactive repairs and planned maintenance.

In addition, concrete column replacement is funded from capital. £2.75m has been agreed for concrete column replacement over three years. £750,000 was committed in 2005/06 and it is planned to spend £1m in 2006/07 and £1m in 2007/08.

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Could the executive member for environment explain any connection between any council owned facilities and Raw Leisure Ltd?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Raw Leisure ran a series of club nights at the Unity Centre on Peckham High Street on a Friday and Saturday night for the South American and Caribbean communities from January 2006 until June 2006. Raw Leisure charged on the door, at the bar and ran the security which was approved by Paul Compton at the Metropolitan Police. They also hired a small office on the 3rd floor of the Unity Centre.

The arrangement agreed with Raw Leisure was for a trial period of six months. This trial period came to an end and the Peckham Programme decided not to pursue this commercial activity with Raw Leisure. Raw Leisure have now ceased the club nights at the Unity Centre and no longer hire the 3rd floor office at the Unity Centre.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Does the executive member agree that entering into a commercial transaction by letting out a local authority property to such a club, which has a well-publicised history of serious violent incidents, brings the council into dispute

RESPONSE

I would like to thank the member for his question. I take issues like that very seriously. I personally was not aware of the violent history of the company that you refer to. It is my understanding that they are no longer trading in the borough and the council no longer has any dealing with them. The information that I have relates to their past dealings with the council. I understand that it is a very serious issue. If I had been aware I would certainly addressed the issue earlier.

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY McNEILL

Can the executive member for environment & transport outline the council's consultation process with the respective emergency services with regard to the proposals to 'improve' Walworth Road?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

The first step in the process for consultation with the three emergency services (police, fire and ambulance) on a scheme like Walworth Road is to hold a meeting to discuss the design. This was arranged for Wednesday April 19 2006 but unfortunately only the fire brigade attended. They had no particular comments and were happy with the proposals as outlined. Following this the police and ambulance services were sent further copies of the proposals for comments but no response has been received to date.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

I would want to follow on by asking if any consideration has been given to the implications of the Walworth Road improvement? In particular, for the residents of Manchester House who have been complaining for some years now about access for the emergency services to their block since it is completely inadequate as it stands. Also, whether there's been anything about improvements that could actually rectify the situation which they have been bringing to the attention of the council for sometime now.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank the member for her question. Access for the emergency services is something that we should all have – I mean nobody can know when there is going to be a serious fire or a medical emergency. I understand that the position of Manchester House does make access issues difficult. The emergency services were consulted with over the Walworth Road Project. Officers have made a lot of efforts to get in touch with them and to get their response. The fire brigade did not express any particular concerns. I was at a meeting of local residents about the Walworth Road Project about 2 months ago and the issue of emergency access was raised and I remember there was a representative there from the ambulance service who said that quite often ambulances don't use Walworth Road because of the existing

traffic problem making it impossible to get down there at any speed and quite often use other routes. Now presumably this has a direct effect for the residents of Manchester House who are set back from Walworth Road. I will certainly ask officers to look into specific issues of emergency access to this area because I can understand that there are various areas of concern to residents in that block.

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

In view of the growing number of problems arising from street trees in the Rotherhithe peninsula area, would the executive member consider authorising a complete survey to plot where such problems as lifting pavements, root damage to structures and associated matters are prevalent, with a view to seeking a long-term solution?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

The issue of tree roots and the footway surfaces is a particular problem in the Rotherhithe area due to the original design and construction of the roads in the 1980s. Whilst many residents are anxious to keep the distinctive red brick paving in the area, in some areas this has proved difficult without causing undue harm to the street trees. Officers are arranging for such a complete survey to provide an overview of the problem and to advise on the options for a long-term sustainable solution.

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

How many unregistered and untaxed vehicles have been found across Southwark over the last 5 years?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

The council does not hold information regarding the number of unregistered vehicles in Southwark. However a report published by the Home Office for 2005/6 suggests that there are in the order of 950,000 unregistered vehicles across the whole of the UK.

In relation to untaxed vehicles, the council started collecting information and taking enforcement action against untaxed vehicles in September 2004. To date 935 vehicles have been identified. Prior to September 2004 there were no figures available.

In respect of untaxed vehicles, it is the Driver and Vehicle Licensing Agency (DVLA) who issue fixed penalty notices to vehicle owners, so officers identify vehicles that are untaxed and remove them upon authorisation from the DVLA. The vehicles are taken to the council's car pound where the owner can recover the vehicle by paying a fee. At the time of attendance the driver is cautioned. If they fail to produce a valid vehicle tax disc they are required to pay a surety of £120 in addition to the removal and storage fees.

If the vehicle is not registered to the person collecting it, they are required to complete the registration document and pay a further £19. Completed forms are then forwarded to the DVLA. Failure to complete the document means the vehicle will not be released.

Any vehicle removed which remains uncollected after 14 days is authorised by the DVLA for disposal.

Of course any unregistered vehicle that is considered to be abandoned is removed immediately.

Environment and leisure officers also work with the police through "Operation Atlas" to deal with nuisance vehicles, including unregistered ones, using a number of legislative powers.

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Can the executive member for the environment explain why the large More London development has no cycle parking for visitors and explain what is being done to ensure the site complies with a sustainable travel policy?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

More London have consistently emphasised that they regarded this development as being a pedestrian environment and that although cycle parking was to be provided within the basements for the occupiers, cycle parking for visitors should be at the extremities of their site. For example, More London has provided bike stands behind City Hall and opposite the Crown Court. At the time this provision did comply with policies regarding cycle parking, however these standards have since been revised as part of the unitary development plan (UDP) process.

There is scope to improve the current level of provision and officers are currently working with More London and other key stakeholders in the area to achieve this.

Officers are seeking to improve cycle parking at More London by:

1. Asking More London to instruct their designers to look at additional cycle parking facilities and improved signage;
2. Asking the designers of Potters Field Park also to look at additional cycle parking facilities;
3. Liaising with TFL (the highway authority for Tooley Street) to get further parking provision;
4. Working with the business improvement district company to map existing facilities and determine need within the area;
5. Working with the planners to ensure that any new buildings on the More London estate have adequate facilities;
6. Having monthly progress meetings with More London to raise these matters and concerns.

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

Can the executive member for equalities tell us if he knows why the chair of Southwark Race and Equality Council (SREC) is also working as a director of SREC? Does he agree that this is a potential conflict of interest?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

Southwark Race and Equalities Council (SREC) is currently undergoing a period of transition following a number of personnel changes within the organisation, including the resignation of the former director.

During this transition period the chair of SREC is attending a number of strategic meetings e.g. local area agreement steering group, Southwark Alliance, the equality and diversity panel, to ensure that the organisation continues to operate at a strategic level within the borough.

It had been agreed by the SREC board that the chair should, during this time, carry out functions within the organisation that will enable SREC to continue operating and to ensure continuity during this period of change. Clearly this includes some functions which would formerly have been carried out by the director of the organisation. The chair receives no remuneration for this work, which is necessary to keep the organisation operating and delivering.

The intention is to appoint a new director to the organisation in the future.

At its board meeting on September 5 2006, the board acknowledged that a description such as “Interim Director” might be confusing for people external to SREC, who might not understand the chair’s role. Given this, it was agreed that the chair should continue to carry out whatever functions necessary to support and develop the organisation, including tasks which would normally fall within a director’s remit, but that his title be confirmed as chair of the organisation. The board gave their support to the chair in this role.

In these circumstances, I do not consider that the chair has a conflict of interest. I do however believe it is desirable to move onto a fully staffed footing so that SREC can become the strong advocate and challenge that we would wish it to be.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

I would like to ask the executive member a supplemental question but he is not in the chamber here.

I would like to thank the executive member for his reply. I would like to know what is the organisation’s future? Also, is he not concerned that the chair has been given too much power and what his functions are

REPONSE

I thank you very much for your question. I think we all know that SCREC work has been going through difficult times and at present they are going through a period of transition for a number of personal changes and because of that they have a chair who, in the absence of the Director, has been given the power by the SREC Board to carry out some functions in the absence of having an elected or appointed director. He is not having any money for this. Basically what they have done - they have put him in place because he is involved in other strategic bodies representing SREC – they have to make sure that business goes on as usual and definitely he is delivering some good work there strategically. That was why the Board asked him to carry out these functions in the absence of a director but in the future or very soon there will be a director appointed and everything will be normal but as for now the word chair has been removed so that they will use the word Acting Director in the meantime until a

director is appointed. But for now work is business as usual and we have to really give a lot of thanks to the person running that position for the hard work he is doing and representing SREC in all the strategic committees and organisations. And SREC, in the meantime, I believe is doing very well so there is no matter of conflict of interest there and he is not getting any money for it – in fact we should be saying thanks to him for that.

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK

Will he provide a list of members’ attendance for the first round of community council meetings this year?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

The first round of meetings were attended by a total of 56 members (equivalent to 85% attendance) as detailed below.

Bermondsey - 12 July

Councillor Mann
Councillor Baichoo
Councillor Capstick
Councillor Jardine-Brown
Councillor Kyriacou
Councillor Lasaki
Councillor Skelly
Councillor Stanton

Borough and Bankside - 21 June

Councillor McCarthy
Councillor McNally
Councillor Morris
Councillor Sheik
Councillor Zuleta

Camberwell - 26 June

Councillor Wingfield
Councillor Rhule
Councillor Ward
Councillor Friary
Councillor John
Councillor Dixon-Fyle

Councillor Jones
Councillor McGovern
Councillor Page

Dulwich - 3 July

Councillor Vineall
Councillor Robinson
Councillor Barber
Councillor Eckersley
Councillor Crookshank
Hilton
Councillor Holford
Councillor Humphreys
Councillor Mitchell
Councillor Thomas

Nunhead and Peckham Rye - 26 June

Councillor Glover
Councillor Jones
Councillor Graham
Councillor Nardell
Councillor Smith
Councillor Colley
Councillor Thorncroft

Councillor Laws

Peckham - 3 July

Councillor Situ
Councillor Foulkes
Councillor Pakes
Councillor Oyewunmi
Councillor Hargrove
Councillor Livingstone

Rotherhithe - 14 June

Councillor Noblet
Councillor Yates
Councillor Blango
Councillor Hubber
Councillor Livingstone
Councillor Rajan

Walworth - 12 July

Councillor Mohamed
Councillor Salmon
Councillor Pidgeon
Councillor Bates
Councillor Lauder
Councillor McNeill

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

In as much as I thank the executive member for his response I just want to ask what measure is in place to make sure that you work closely with the different community council

RESPONSE

Thank you very much for your question but as you can see the first wave of meeting was highly attended by most members and 85% is a very good record. There are strategy plans really to make Community Councils more effective and I have to say Community Councils have been working very well but would admit that they could do more. In fact what we are trying to do to make it more effective there are strategies of looking at how we could link part of developing the sector that is area based groups directly with Community Councils and also how we can involve businesses. We are looking at strategies of timing, agendas and all of those stuff so we are having an overall about Community Councils to make them more effective – a report will be coming out on that very soon and I am sure every members here will have the opportunity to be briefed on that report and have their input. Most Members on the other side who were at the meeting on 7th agreed that a lot of hard work have been put into that and there are a lot of strategies coming out that will really please everybody and that will please the community so strategies for the community councils are on their way, people have been briefed, chairs have been briefed, vice-chairs have been briefed you were there and I am sure you were happy with all you heard and thank all of you for your bigger contribution towards what will be coming out as a comprehensive report.

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

Note: in the absence of the executive member for community safety, Councillor Jeff Hook, the leader, Councillor Nick Stanton, answered the supplementary question.

Would the executive member agree that whilst indiscriminate “naming and shaming” might be considered extreme and irresponsible, it would now be a good opportunity to review and advance a more balanced approach to inform the specific communities who are affected by individuals with anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs)?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

We have always looked at the effectiveness of publicising ASBOs on a case-by-case basis. I see no way to significantly change this approach.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Thank you Mr. Mayor - Councillor Stanton could you clarify the parameters under which you would be happy to release the identity of an ASBOs to the immediate community which is affected

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

Mr. Mayor where the individual concerned is over 18 – where there is a vulnerability for example like the street drinkers in Camberwell where the victim consents because sometimes they fear reprisals and where it is felt by the police and the other statutory agencies that it is appropriate either in terms of ensuring that the terms of the ASBOs are stuck to or in terms of ensuring the community that action has been taken. In those cases consideration is given.

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

How satisfied is the executive member for community safety with the way in which serious allegations of anti-social behaviour in Perronet House have been handled by respective agencies including Southwark anti-social behaviour unit (SASBU) and the council's housing department?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

The anti-social behaviour issues at Perronet House primarily involve a single address and relate to the behaviour of a tenant of a leaseholder.

There have been allegations involving drug use which have been investigated by the police and SASBU, using the award winning crack house protocol, but no evidence or intelligence has been found to support a crack house closure.

SASBU and the police have also done a leaflet drop to the whole of the block to seek community intelligence but no response has been received.

Following reports of further incidents the alleged perpetrator is now subject to twin track action by agencies and the leaseholder, who, with the advice of the housing department, has served a notice to quit on the tenant which has now expired with intelligence suggesting that the tenant may have vacated.

The agencies, police, area housing office and SASBU - are simultaneously pursuing legal action with witness statements currently being collated. An (interim) injunction or anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) will be considered, supported by evidence of earlier interventions by the area housing office in the form of warning letters.

The case continues to be reviewed by senior housing staff to ensure progress is maintained with updates being provided to the principal witnesses.

A number of associated allegations regarding the lease are also the subject of a current investigation and therefore it would not be appropriate to discuss these issues further at this time.

I am satisfied that with the level of evidence available. All the agencies involved have escalated their involvement as the problems have persisted and the options for resolving have been maximised by taking action under the leaseholder's tenancy agreement.

It is anticipated that either the occupant has or will vacate shortly or that SASBU and the area housing office will put in place control measures in the same timescale.

**37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY
FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES**

Note: in the absence of the executive member for community safety, Councillor Jeff Hook, the leader, Councillor Nick Stanton, answered the supplementary question.

How many calls to attend incidents of anti-social behaviour on the Aylesbury and Portland estates respectively have been responded to by the local community wardens?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Since April 1 2006 the community wardens have responded to 24 calls in respect of anti-social behaviour on the Aylesbury estate and to 4 drugs related issues.

They have also responded to 4 anti-social behaviour incidents and 8 drugs related issues on the Portland estate.

Both these estates are patrolled on a regular basis and from April 1 this year a total of 631 anti-social behaviour related intelligence reports have been recorded by community wardens on the Aylesbury estate, and 21 anti-social behaviour intelligence reports on the Portland estate.

Wardens continue to patrol these areas on a daily basis, working with partners to reduce this type of behaviour and make the area safer for the local communities.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Yes Mr. Mayor - thank you very much for the answer. Could the Leader please tell us in light of the answer whether or not he thinks the Faraday Ward Community Ward Wardens provide good value for money.

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

Yes

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Note: in the absence of the executive member for community safety, Councillor Jeff Hook, the leader, Councillor Nick Stanton, answered the supplementary question.

Does the executive member for community safety agree with the majority of Southwark residents that speeding is anti-social and dangerous behaviour? Will he consider giving community wardens access to radar speed guns to allow them to pursue repeated anti-social speeding behaviour and does he have any plans for distance-based speed camera enforcement?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Whilst speeding can be deemed as anti social in legal terms it is a criminal act, which carries criminal penalties. Where speeding is a significant problem in a key area, partner agencies (police, wardens, parking attendants, other council or partnership services) will work together to address the issue using the powers they have. The powers to enforce speed restrictions on borough roads lie with the Police and therefore wardens cannot enforce.

The council has the agreed aim of making the whole of the borough a 20 mph zone. Under current legislation, the council has no powers to enforce against moving traffic offences such as speeding which remains a matter for the police.

Under government guidance, when a 20 mph zone is introduced it must be supported by physical measures (humps etc). The guidance makes it clear that the aim should be to ensure that vehicle speeds are maintained at or below 20 mph by the use of physical measures. Current regulations do not allow camera enforcement of 20 mph zones, although Transport for London (TfL) and a number of local authorities are trialing area-wide speed cameras in 20 mph zones where road engineering may pose difficulties and the council will review this option once the results of the study are known.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

Could Southwark join in with the trial of various speed limits being enforced?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

Yes, he said happily - dropping either Councillor Hook or Councillor Rajan in it. But I shall liaise with them appropriately.

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

What is your analysis of the success of the council's recent "Lives not Knives" campaign in the local press and is this approach going to be rolled out to other community safety campaigns?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

The Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP) and Southwark News developed a joint campaign to raise awareness of knife crime issues across the borough and promote the many projects being coordinated by SSP to tackle the issue. The 12-week campaign contributed to some significant outcomes including:

- In three months of the campaign knife related incidents were reduced by 25% on the same period last year, continuing a downward trend in violent crime since the end of the last financial year. During the same period there were also more than 350 fewer woundings (made up of actual and grievous bodily harm), representing a decrease of 32 % compared to last year.
- During the period of the campaign the number of people arrested for carrying knives and blades reduced significantly to 44 compared to 74 in the previous 11-week period. This represented a decrease of more than 40%.
- Nearly 330 knives were surrendered in Southwark during the amnesty with a further 50 knives seized by police during targeted enforcement activities.
- More than half of the businesses in the borough joined the campaign with 46 retailers signing the trader's charter that promotes the responsible sale of knives and enforces tougher rules around underage sales.
- Two of the UK's biggest supermarket chains – Asda and Somerfields – signed up to the trader's charter. Asda has subsequently adopted the charter throughout its stores nationally.
- The Trading Standards Institute recognised the campaign and adopted the charter and associated as best practice in tackling underage knife sales.
- UK music group Big Brovaz backed the campaign and said: "Knife crime – it ain't big and it ain't clever".
- The number of underage knife sales significantly reduced with seven of the nine shops visited during test purchasing refusing to sell to an underage

customer. When the same test purchasing exercise was carried out earlier in the year, more than half failed and sold the weapons.

- Southwark's youth offending team launched a competition for young people aged between 10 to 18 years old to design a memorial out of recycled knives that were handed in during the amnesty.

Whilst these outcomes are positive, it is important to note that there is a considerable amount of other work being done behind the scenes to tackle knife crime that has contributed to these results. We know that no single approach can address the issue in isolation – we need to channel our efforts into education, prevention and enforcement.

The media has an important role to play, especially at a local level, in raising awareness about community safety issues and reassuring residents that their fears are being addressed.

Following the success of the 'lives not knives' campaign, a similar approach is being considered for other theme areas and work is currently being carried out on a proposal to run a similar campaign focused on alcohol related issues.

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

Can the executive member assure me that educational activities such as reading groups, story telling and other activities involving children and schools will not be discontinued at Nunhead library, or any other library, following the re-structuring of library services in November?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA

The range of activities currently provided in libraries, including homework clubs, reading groups, story telling and activities for children and schools will be maintained at all libraries following the re-structuring of library services. In fact this will ensure we further develop the programme of activities on offer for people of all ages, but particularly for children. Work has already begun on these service enhancements with an 18% increase in take-up of this year's Summer Reading Challenge compared to last year, and reading help sessions offered at all libraries during the summer holidays. We have also ensured that young people are engaged in the consultation over the new library for Canada Water.

One of the key purposes of the new structure is to improve and enhance services to children and young people with the creation of a specialist team to lead in this area. Early results show this is already beginning to happen.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

I would like to thank the executive member for her answer which will be certainly be reassuring some of the residents we have been writing to move with their concerns. Just as a follow-up question one of their other concerns was around whether these restructuring actually constituted a cut – I mean does this restructuring result in a saving on the libraries budget

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Colley for her question. I believe that there could be some savings materialize out of the restructuring but that's not the primary aim of the restructuring. The primary aim is actually to improve the services that the library services are offering because in fact we are below some of the standards required of us by the Government and this is something that we are taking terrible seriously and that's one of the main drive for what we are doing in the library service but what we also tried to do is to take on board feedback that we have received within the libraries from different groups particularly children and young people and they have been involved in the ideas that have formulated the restructuring and I think that the story telling for instance and activities for young people and children are going to be on the increase. I think we should be watching out for that and we certainly heartened by the outcome of the summer reading challenge for example so I think there are likely to be some savings not large ones but hopefully those could be reinvested in providing better services so the idea is better services more than savings.

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Could the executive member for culture, leisure & sports detail what steps the council is taking to support Millwall's 'The Home of Real Football' campaign to attract fans, old and new, to The New Den?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA

The council is taking a number of steps that will encourage people to Millwall Football Club. Football is one of the council's priority sports and as such the policy objective is to increase participation in football by children and young people throughout the borough. For example, it is hoped that a substantial number of the 8,000 young people that are currently taking part in Southwark Community Games will develop a love of football as participants; and consequently as spectators of their local professional team.

The Millwall Community Scheme (MCS) gives away match tickets to young people that attend their sports coaching sessions. MCS is a voluntary and independent organisation that is authorised to use the Millwall Football Club brand to help promote its programme of sports coaching in the community. In partnership with the Council, MCS delivers football coaching on housing estates and other community venues across the borough. MCS has delivered football coaching and other sports on housing estates across the borough as part of Southwark Community Games. Also, the council has actively supported MCS's scheme to redevelop and improve its community sports facilities, which is immediately adjacent to Millwall FC. This will attract thousands of local people to the site to play sport and who are therefore a captive audience of potential MFC spectators.

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

Could the executive member for resources outline the full cost (including staff costs) of re-locating the Conservative group within the Town Hall complex?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

The relocation of the Conservative group was part of a larger programme involving:

- Relocating the scrutiny team
- Relocating the community council team
- Relocation the Conservative group
- Modifications to the executive suite

The costs of all associated works were:

Access and security modifications to the executive suite	£2690
Building works to Conservative room*	£950
IT relocation (22 PCs in total)**	£3567
New furniture for Conservative group room	£869
Physical move costs***	£400
TOTAL	£8476

* blocking in and soundproofing door opening to adjoining office.

** this cost includes moving officer PCs in scrutiny, community councils, the executive office as well as Conservative members and telephone connections.

*** the only staff costs were those of the town hall facilities team who undertook the physical relocation of desks etc. The figure above is an estimate of the salary costs for the work undertaken over two days.

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

How much money, if any, has been allocated for community and voluntary sector organisations for activities during the upcoming black history month (October 2006)?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

The council's budget for Black History Month is £30,000, from a total amount of £75,000 set aside for Equalities events. This is the largest budget of the equalities events. Of this £30,000, funding is allocated in the following way:

- £10,000 to publicity, including for directories, advertising, web site and banners. All publicity materials promote community and voluntary organisation events as well as council events
- £15,000 to the Launch event - a large celebration that involves community and voluntary organisations - this year to be held on October 7 in Peckham Square
- £5,000 to community involvement and development unit (CIDU) for working with community and voluntary sector organisations, as agreed by the Black History Month Steering Group

Officer time is also allocated to working with and advising community and voluntary sector organisations and advising them of other sources of funding, for example who give grants to small organisations for Black History Month events.

44. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON NARDELL

Note: the leader, Councillor Nick Stanton, answered the supplementary question.

Can the executive member provide details of the total cost to Southwark council following the failed anti-social behaviour order (ASBO) case that took place at Tower Bridge magistrates' court on Thursday August 3 2006 (including, where possible, officer time spent on the case and relevant costs to all departments involved)? What was the member involvement in the decision to bring proceedings? Does the executive member consider the taxpayers' funds spent on the application to be value for money?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

The anti social behaviour order to which the question refers was taken out against an individual who was an active member of the Street Traders Association for Southwark.

The individual concerned had been responsible over a number of years for being abusive to council staff, particularly street trading enforcement officers as well as to council members. The behaviours complained of included racist abuse and physical assaults.

On April 26 2006 an application was made to Camberwell magistrates' court on notice for an anti-social behaviour order (ASBO). The judge on reading the papers granted an interim ASBO. The matter was put over for trial at Tower Bridge magistrates' court over two days ending on August 4 2006.

The judge was not convinced by the council's case and the application for an ASBO was dismissed.

The council were ordered to pay costs for the other side.

The total legal costs for the case were at £25,294.00. This includes the council's own costs of £11,125 and the other side's costs of £14,169.

A number of officers attended court to give evidence over three days including the senior client enforcement officer, two market enforcement officers, one temporary market officer, a senior-anti social behaviour caseworker and two ex-employees of the council.

The total costs of officers' time amounts to £1,970.

There was no member involvement in the decision to bring proceedings. The decision to proceed followed a multi agency anti-social behaviour problem solving case conference. The conference heard that the individual concerned had refused mediation, that he had expressed no remorse for his actions and that his behaviour towards council officers was deteriorating.

The council regrets that a full order was not granted but would advise that since the imposition of the interim anti-social behaviour order no further reports of anti-social behaviour have been reported.

The anti-social behaviour unit has a good track record of successfully obtaining anti-social behaviour orders through the courts. To date 70 ASBOs have been successfully obtained and have helped alleviate serious anti social behaviour being perpetrated across the borough.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

I am very grateful to the leader for his answer to this question. Just a short supplemental – does the leader accept, while clearly its necessary for the council to take decisive action where individuals for example abuse council officers which may, for example, include in that abuse racial abuse of council offices, while it is necessary to take decisive action, the blunt tool of an ASBO is not always the most appropriate course. And what is necessary is for the council to take serious steps to overall enforcement of street trading licence conditions and that would be a more appropriate and more focussed tool for preventing inappropriate behaviour by street traders and the protection of council officers.

RESPONSE

Answer unavailable.

45. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MARY FOULKES

After Botes went into administration, the council used an emergency contract with other firms to carry out housing repairs. So far, what are the total extra costs incurred by the council as a result of this arrangement, when compared to the cost of the Botes contract over the same period?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

After it was revealed that Botes Building Ltd was about to go into administration due to financial difficulties, the assistant borough solicitor advised that no further work should be placed with Botes, and that no further payments should be made to Botes, until the situation had become clearer. A series of back-up contractor arrangements was built into the existing repairs and maintenance contract which provided ready access to maintenance services immediately through contractors working elsewhere in the borough, though rates payable to the back-up contractors generally exceed those payable to the main contractor.

Botes went into administration on June 23 2006, by which time Southwark building services (SBS) and Morrison began to take on additional work as back-up contractors pending a decision about whether or not to allow Botes to continue with their contract or to determine their contract. An individual decision was taken by the deputy leader on July 21 2006 to determine the Botes repairs and maintenance contract, at which point longer term interim arrangements with both SBS and Morrison were negotiated, revising the areas that they operated in and lowering the rates at which they provided back-up maintenance services.

Apart from the higher rates being paid to back-up contractors for repairs, there have been a range of other costs associated with Botes' problems e.g. legal and quantity surveyor' fees. In addition, there are outstanding financial issues of a much lesser magnitude from other one-off contracts that the company was carrying out at the time of determination.

The housing department, advised by external legal consultants, is currently exploring all cost and payment-related issues and will in due course agree with Botes (in administration) and the firm they were acquired by, Connaught Partnerships Ltd, on a final payment based on what is owed for work already completed by Botes less any sums that are to be withheld. It is hoped that the financial situation will be resolved

by the end of September 2006 but as yet final figures have not been quantified. It should be noted however, that withheld payments far exceed the worst-case scenario of likely costs and it is anticipated that the final settlement will not materially disadvantage the council.

46. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI

Given the recent changes to the way post is priced, can the executive member for resources explain what financial impact this will have on the council and what advice is being given to staff?

RESPONSE – COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

It is very difficult at this stage to comment on the financial impact of these changes as they have only been in operation for a few weeks and the data currently available is limited. Through the next few months a more detailed analysis will be carried out. If Councillor Ade Lasaki would like to see this detail I will quite happily forward it on once completed.

However, in order to ensure that costs are kept to a minimum the following advice was circulated, on July 13 to all facilities/premises contacts in the council. This advice will also be put onto the council's Source for all staff to reference.

Royal Mail is bringing in a new way of pricing postage from August 21 2006. The new system will be based upon not only weight, as it previously was, but also size. In general, this means we will be paying the same or less for small items of post and more for larger items.

Royal Mail will be sending size guides to every home in the UK, but staff can also visit their local post room for details. We are encouraging staff to familiarise themselves with the new size structure and remember that by simply folding letters to use smaller envelopes rather than A4 will add up to considerable savings.

SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION

I would like to thank the executive member for his reply and I look forward to receiving the completed detail when he has it. Will he be in a position to tell us when we can compare cost?

RESPONSE

Thank you Councillor Lasaki. I will make sure the information is provided as soon as is practicable.