

<b>Item No.</b> 5.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> September 13 2006	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.9 member's question time shall not exceed 45 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one executive member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes.

Members are limited to one question at each meeting.

Questions shall be taken in the following order: the leader; the deputy leader and executive member for housing management; the executive member for health and adult care; executive member for regeneration; the executive member for children's services and education; the executive member for environment; the executive member for citizenship, equalities and community; the executive member for community safety; the executive member for culture, leisure and sport; and, the executive member for resources. The borough solicitor rotates the order of the questions at every meeting (CAPR 3.9(10) & (11)).

Executive members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another executive member if this is appropriate.

Responses to member's questions will be circulated on yellow paper around the council chamber on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other executive members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

**(Note:** In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 3.9(10) & (11) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting).

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR 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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

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

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

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

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

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)?

**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?

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

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?

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

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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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?

**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)?

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

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?

**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?

**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?