

<b>Item No.</b> 6.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> December 6 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 will be taken in the following order: the leader and the deputy leader and executive member for housing management, followed by the remaining executive members. The borough solicitor will rotate the order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader and deputy leader (CAPR 3.9(10) & (11)). Questions to executive members, other than the leader and deputy leader, will be rotated by executive portfolio.

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 MAYOR FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

Does the Mayor agree that the chauffeur/civic attendant/mace bearer performs an important civic role?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Can the leader demonstrate that the residents of Southwark are satisfied with the work of the council?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN**

During the week commencing November 13 the leader took part in a trip to the United States of America. Can the leader outline the purpose of the trip, who financed his travel and hospitality and give details of any activities that related to council business during the trip?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICHOLAS VINEALL**

Royal Mail has decided to close the Herne Hill Sorting Office at 130 Herne Hill.

This facility is used by numerous Southwark residents in SE24.

(a) Does the leader of the council share the views of Village ward councillors that the failure of Royal Mail to engage in any form of prior consultation with the local community is completely unacceptable;

(b) Will he please write on behalf of the council to Adam Crozier, Chief Executive of Royal Mail, to urge Royal Mail to suspend the decision to close this office pending proper consultation with residents.

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI**

What assessment has the leader made of recent government announcements about local enterprise growth initiative (LEGI) bids and Big Lottery funding?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON NARDELL**

What are the procedures for elected executive members signing off officers' advice on motions to full council assembly?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

Can the leader outline what the current situation is regarding the Potters' Field site?

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

Can the leader substantially refute all the allegations made in a recent edition of Private Eye relating to the working conditions and labour relations pertaining to workers in the call centre?

**9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR OLA OYEWUNMI**

Can the leader explain how the deputy chief executive was appointed to that newly created post without prior executive approval?

**10. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING**

In an article about recent management changes in the housing service in the South London Press on November 21 2006, Councillor Pakes is quoted as saying "we have spoken to tenants and residents and they are deeply concerned about the proposals". How many representations from tenants and residents have you received about the changes?

**11. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES**

Who did the executive member for housing management consult on the contents of his letter to tenant and resident (TRA) representatives dated October 30 and what plans are now in place to consult tenants and leaseholder representatives with regard to the proposals to shift responsibility for housing management from the housing department to environment and leisure?

**12. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN**

Will the executive member for housing management inform the council how well housing management is providing best value for money?

**13. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR EVRIM LAWS**

To ask the executive member for housing management what steps he is taking to improve fuel efficiency of the council's housing current stock?

**14. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

Can the deputy leader outline the rules regarding the political impartiality of Southwark Group of Tenants Organisations (SGTO)? What action has the deputy leader taken over a recent flyer advertising a meeting allegedly called by SGTO, Unison and the Southwark Labour Group?

**15. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE**

Could the executive member for housing provide the records of which estates have had enforcement action and on which dates since April 2005 by Southwark's estates parking contractors?

**16. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

Will the executive member for housing management consider implementing a support scheme for tenants and leaseholders from vulnerable groups who are unable to use lifts on their estates due to persistent technical failures to help with everyday tasks like carrying their shopping upstairs?

**17. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Can the executive member for housing please detail the number of missed appointments made by contractors which have been reported to the housing department, by ward, since January 1 2006?

**18. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON**

Can the deputy leader give me the ratio for the number of people who are paid to report on repairs against the number of people actually doing repairs?

**19. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL**

The executive member for housing attended a 'crisis meeting' with the tenant and resident's association (TRA) of the Four Squares estate at which he promised a task force of senior officers to co-ordinate all the work that is being done on the estate on various issues, to include Councillor Jeff Hook, police, housing, Southwark anti-social behaviour unit (SASBU), and Four Squares representatives. Could he update me when the first meeting was held, who was involved and how regularly the meetings will take place from now on?

**20. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM**

Will the executive member for housing confirm he is not planning to out-source Southwark's council housing stock during this administration?

**21. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE**

Was the deputy leader aware that the decisions on changes to the housing department were interim decisions when he wrote to tenants and leaseholders informing them of these changes? If so, why did he choose not to make this clear in his letter of October 30?

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

To ask the executive member for regeneration whether he is pleased with the standard of planning enforcement in the borough and whether he believes that people in Southwark receive a good service, given that residents in Warner Road have been living with a car pound which does not have planning permission for three years, and residents in Caspian Street are forced to live next door to a building which has been uncompleted for over a year and is now attracting problems to the area?

**23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

Could the executive member for regeneration indicate where in the borough he advises Heygate leaseholders might be able to purchase an equivalent property for the sums the council is currently offering for their homes?

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

Noting the executive member's response to both question 17 and the supplemental question at the last assembly meeting that his department has spent only £2.5m of section 106 money since 2002, but has nearly £9m in currently available section 106 balances and a future promise of a further £17m or more;

Could he list, by council ward:

- (a) The total expenditure of the regeneration department;
- (b) How much section 106 money has been transferred to spending on borough-wide objectives and initiatives;
- (c) How much section 106 money has reverted to the council's central funds as unspent section 106 money since May 2002?

**25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

Can the executive member for education and children's services outline the current situation in the development of a boy's school in East Dulwich?

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

Will the executive member for education and children services make a statement on the success of environmental initiatives for both primary and secondary schools in Southwark?

**27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD**

What reassurances can the executive member give to parents with children in bands 5-7 of special educational needs on proposals to decouple special education needs (SEN) funding from statements? Will the executive member give a commitment that parents and teachers will be properly consulted on this issue, and that their views will have a real effect on the drafting of any final policy?

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

Were Southwark executive members or council officers invited to the meeting at which the decision was taken not to proceed with the Bredinghurst temporary school site? What proportion, if any, of the meeting did both Southwark officers and executive members attending comprise?

**29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

Did officers give advice to executive members as to the suitability of the Bredinghurst site for the Harris Boys Academy in East Dulwich? If so, did officers recommend proceeding with the temporary school on that site or not? What information was used to inform that advice?

**30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON**

When utility companies (for example, EDF Energy and Thames Water) carry out works which require their contractors to excavate and then relay Southwark roads and pavements, what action is taken against the utility company or their contractor if works are not to an acceptable standard, and can she publish information (last known year) on how many occasions we have required works to be redone and whether prosecutions have had to be pursued?

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

Can the executive member confirm whether the new lamp posts that have appeared in the Bellenden area have been funded from the capital budget being used to replace potentially dangerous concrete lamp posts and why monies needed to be spent on replacing working, adequate metal lamp posts?

**32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BAICHO**

What assessment has the executive member for environment made of the impact of the Disability Discrimination Act on the provision of waste collection and recycling services in the borough?

**33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY McCARTHY**

Will the executive member lobby for the right for people with disabilities to use the freedom pass on the railway?

**34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

Has the executive member for environment considered changing existing controlled parking zone charging rules to a system based on vehicle emissions?

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

Could the executive member for environment provide me with the reasoning for siting traffic violation cameras at locations where there are already cameras?

**36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MCGOVERN**

To ask the executive member for environment what action she is taking to monitor and tackle the lack of recycling facilities available for residents on estates?

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

To ask the executive member for environment what action she is taking to reduce the overall current carbon footprint of London Borough of Southwark?

**38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED**

Can the executive member please give an update on the current progress of the Walworth Road project?

**39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH**

What resources are available to enforce breaches of the food safety regulations outside normal working hours?

**40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES & COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO**

Will the executive member set out how effective community councils have been in making the borough as a whole cleaner greener & safer?

**41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES & COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU**

Does the executive member consider the organisation of this year's Black History Month event as good, satisfactory or unsatisfactory, and does he believe the organiser of the event had sufficient knowledge of the local issues and fostered sufficient involvement of the local groups in the activities?

**42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHIEK**

Gun crime is a concern for the people of Southwark, especially as this is happening to young people in nightclubs. What plan has the executive member for community safety put in place to address this?

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

In the light of the serious recent events in East Walworth and Camberwell, and the fact that both those wards have been identified as being in the top five worst wards for serious violent crime in London, what action has the executive member personally undertaken to tackle these problems?

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

This summer Southwark libraries held its annual reading challenge – the Reading Mission. Can the executive member give me details of the successful of the Reading Mission for each library compared to previous years? What plans are being developed to ensure that the great work that has been done on reading challenges can be built on in the future?

**45. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

To ask the Executive Member if she will confirm:

- The timetable or draft timetable in place for the announcement of the investment plan for Camberwell Leisure Centre;
- That she and the strategic director for environment and leisure will attend Camberwell community council to discuss the proposal once it is announced, or by the end of February 2007 to discuss the absence of an investment plan for the centre, whichever is the sooner?

**46. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES**

Will the executive member for health and adult care please make a statement on the likely results of the commission for social care inspection (CSCI) assessment of Southwark social services?



**47. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON**

Can executive member tell me how many showers and adaptations have been installed in individual households in response to assessed need by social services since November 2005 and at what cost? And what is the typical wait from the initial request from a resident to the work being carried out?

**48. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

In light of concern in Southwark about the apparent accelerating loss of petrol station sites, would the chair of planning committee indicate what powers we might have, if any, to ensure an adequate number of sites are retained across the borough?

**49. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

What steps are the planning department taking to encourage smaller new build developments to use sustainable energy sources and energy saving light sources and appliances, and what powers of enforcement does the council have in cases where this is included as part of a planning application?

**50. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK**

What plans she has to scrutinise the government's centralisation of education provision?

**51. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY**

Whether she raised any objections or concerns with the chief executive when consulted on plans to reorganise housing management?

**52. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

What plans she has to scrutinise plans to close three of the borough's police stations?

**53. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS**

What plans she has to scrutinise the performance of Metronet and other companies involved in the government's failed privatisation of the London Underground?