

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: January 24 2007	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Member's Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Chief Executive (Acting Borough Solicitor)	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

Members are limited to one question at each meeting.

Questions 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 according to member's respective portfolios.

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 DANNY McCARTHY

I understand that the council has just undertaken interviews for the appointment of the director of legal and democratic services, and that part of the process was a dinner at the Hilton Hotel for members, officers and candidates.

My question is therefore, what was the total cost of the dinner; these costs should include any ancillary costs such as cars for members, officers and candidates, and any overnight accommodation etc?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

To publish a table of expenditure incurred (accommodation, training providers etc) at the recent corporate management team (chief officers team) meeting which I understand took place from Wednesday January 10 until Friday January 12?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

What is the total number of homes that have returned voter registration forms by ward compared to habitable homes? Is any cross referencing being done between council housing records, council tax records and the electoral role with what results?

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

Does the leader agree with the executive member for resources' statement, made at the executive meeting in December 2006, that it is "a shame" that the government has ring-fenced the record investment in schools in Southwark, thereby preventing him from cutting the schools budget to cover over-spends elsewhere?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH

Could the leader give some examples of how recent key decisions about council policies could benefit from the implementation of the aim to "demonstrate a commitment to be open and transparent about the policy dilemma and decisions that need to be taken" (*Southwark's Corporate Plan - Draft, December 2006, page 17*)?

6. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENNY JONES

Are council officials, in the light of the restructuring of the housing department or otherwise, now considering, investigating or evaluating options for the transfer of ownership of the council's whole housing stock, how many individual privatisation (i.e. ALMO, PFI, LSVT or other) schemes for specific areas are currently being

considered in Southwark and how many homes do they cover, bearing in mind the total cost of Southwark's options appraisal process?

7. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES

Can the executive member for housing explain why the original plans to install new lifts in Heron House on the Pelican estate this month (Jan 2007) have now been delayed until August or September 2007?

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

Could the deputy leader please outline the steps taken by council officers and other agencies to monitor and combat anti social behaviour such as vagrancy and drug abuse on the Portland estate since the summer? Could he also set out whether this work has been successful?

9. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

The deputy leader will be aware of the recent death of a council officer in tragic circumstances on Perronet House and the continued issues connected to anti social behaviour, difficulties with CCTV and now the publicised problems of dumping of rubbish in tenants' gardens in the block. Each of these separate issues have been extensively reported to local housing officers on repeated occasions by residents of Perronet House. With this in mind, can the deputy leader confirm his own view of the performance of housing managers in Borough and Bankside area office?

10. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Does the executive member consider bed bugs to be a pest and if so, should the council take steps to eradicate infestations when they are reported by affected residents?

11. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Recent press reports state that the increase in vermin infestations can be partly attributed to the fact that affected residents are less keen to report problems where local authorities charge for pest control treatment. Can the deputy leader confirm his view on whether the London Borough of Southwark should charge for pest control treatment?

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

In relation to the housing revenue account, can the executive member provide details on the following - both borough-wide and broken down by area housing office:-

- (a) The target for the amount of rent collected;
- (b) The amount of rent income budgeted for;
- (c) The amount actually collected.

13. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER OF THE COUNCIL AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARY FOULKES

There is subsidence in parts of the Caroline Gardens estate and a lot of the flats are in disrepair. Can the executive member detail what plans are in place to tackle these problems?

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

In Lord Herman Ouseley's report it was recognised that there were some good initiatives on race and equalities coming out of the now disbanded housing department. Lord Ouseley highlighted the need to address the shortfall in data and feedback and detailed analysis of complaints and trends, diversity profiles and satisfaction levels by response. Nearly two years since the report was published can the executive member provide council assembly with the customer satisfaction targets and the results for 2006 broken down by the ethnic group?

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

Will the executive member for children services make a statement on current adoption rates?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI

Will the executive member for children's services comment on the results of the Ofsted Inspection of Cobourg Primary School?

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

The current feasibility study into youth provision in Dulwich has not been able to access data regarding number and ages of children and young people living on the borough's estates. This information is obviously important to be able to plan for future need. Can the executive member inform me which data is used to assist the council with such forward planning and where it can be found?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Can the executive member give an update on the working of Southwark's Youth Council, including how the members are chosen to sit on the council, how

regularly they meet, and what scope or mechanisms it has to influence the council's decision making?

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

Can the executive member for environment make a statement on the effectiveness of the 'Bag it and Tag it' scheme?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY

Will the executive member for environment inform council assembly of the impact of the Green Flag scheme for Southwark parks?

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

Will the executive member for environment outline the level of award Southwark has secured from the recent Transport for London (TfL) settlement?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

Will the executive member for environment outline the situation regarding cleaning in and around Peckham Rye station?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD

I understand that current vehicle access policy in relation to crossovers is being reviewed. Will this review include a consideration of the increased need for crossovers in the future, anticipating that many more residents will be acquiring vehicles powered by electricity which will need to be charged from home at night?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Could the executive member outline the policy of this administration with regard to differentials in levels of parking permits by vehicle engine size, as has been introduced in the London Borough of Richmond?

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

Could the executive member please give me a progress report on the action taken by officers to secure a clean-up of the empty William IV public house on Albany Road?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

Can the executive member update council assembly on the document "Together we are making Southwark a great Place" since the 3rd draft dated October 2004?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON NARDELL

Does the executive member agree that it is unacceptable that residents in Bellenden Road SE15 and surrounding streets continue to be disturbed by refuse collections at or before 6 am every Saturday, despite numerous attempts by ward councillors and others to negotiate the re-timing of these collections? As a matter of urgency, will she arrange for Saturday collections to be moved to a more social hour?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

Last October the executive member for environment wrote in a letter to a local newspaper regarding Peckham Rye Station:-

"Southwark Cleaning are currently in fruitful negotiations with Network Rail and I'm pleased to announce that Southwark and Spacia are now working in partnership to ensure a consistent cleaning presence is provided that will bring cleanliness standards up to the levels that the public expect and deserve. This work will be well in progress by Christmas."

Can the executive member confirm if this promise has been kept and can she also please inform members whether she considers the current level of cleanliness outside the station to be satisfactory?

29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES & COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING

Will the executive member for citizenship, equalities and communities outline how the council has tackled discrimination against its large lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgendered (LGBT) community? Will he make a statement on the LGBT community's response to council initiatives?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES & COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the executive member for citizenship, equalities and communities please provide for each community council area the number (and percentage) of planning applications received during the last 12 months, which were (a) resolved and (b) not resolved within target, and (c) the average time taken for those not resolved within target.

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES & COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR EVRIM LAWS

Could the executive member fully detail his programme of work connected to his portfolio since May 2006?

32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Will the executive member for community safety make a statement on the effectiveness of the community safety response team?

33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

In light of the recent savaging to death of Ellie Lawrenson by a pit bull and the incident on an estate in my own ward where it was necessary to shoot a dog that was out of control, is the council working in partnership with the police to deal with this problem and what is the role of the community wardens?

34. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE YATES

Can the executive member for community safety outline how well Southwark council are performing in detecting domestic violence, racist and homophobic hate crimes?

35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

Will the executive member for community safety please provide an update on the opening hours of the police stations of Southwark?

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

Can the executive member provide a breakdown of annual costs for (a) the community warden scheme and (b) the park warden scheme?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

What is the total number of staff in the Southwark community warden team? Of this, what percentage are black and minority ethnic (BME) staff, and what is the percentage of BME staff at both supervisory and management levels?

38. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL

In a recent meeting with the East Walworth safer neighbourhood team, local councillors were told that the team had had to pass up extra resources in the form of police cadets because the area they could have been most usefully deployed - the Heygate estate - posed too much of a health and safety risk for cadets to visit after dark. Does the executive member for community safety have any apology to offer to the residents who must return in the evenings after work and school to an estate deemed too dangerous for officers in training?

39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES

Can the executive member provide an update on when the council expects to install CCTV cameras on Meeting House Lane?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN

Will the executive member for leisure, culture and sport outline the current plans for the Peckham Pulse pool?

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Will the executive member for leisure, culture and sport outline the costs and benefits to Southwark of the 2012 Olympic Games?

42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BAICHOO

Will the executive member for leisure, culture and sport outline the costs and benefits to Southwark of the 2007 Tour de France?

43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE & SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Can the executive member for culture, leisure and sport explain what plans, if any, are being put in place by the council to celebrate next year's centenary anniversary of the opening of the Rotherhithe Tunnel?

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

Can the executive member explain why there has not been any meeting of the Fusion board including elected members since at least May 2006?

45. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Will the executive member for health and adult care make a statement on the provision of mental health services and support in Southwark?

46. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON McGOVERN

Does the executive member for health & adult care agree with me that there should not be any reduction either in the level and quality of services or any increase in fees and charges to health & adult care service users, and that the council has adequate resources to ensure that this is the case in the coming budget?

47. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM

Can the executive member for health & adult care inform council assembly of the number and percentage of vacancies in the elderly and disabled people's care services, for commissioners and front line staff (including agency obligations)? If there is are significant numbers can the executive member inform council

assembly how long she has been aware of this and what steps are been taken to address problem/s identified?

48. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

What progress has been made in filling the vacant posts in the Nunhead & East Peckham renewal team? When do you anticipate the team will be fully staffed?

49. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER OF REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

The Nunhead & East Peckham renewal area project was due to deliver £900,000 worth of new street lighting in the areas as a “quick win” in the first 12 months of the project. 20 months have now passed and there is still no sign of the new lighting. When will this promise be kept?

50. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE

Can the chair of planning committee give his view on the decision of officers not to submit any evidence in support of planning committee’s position on the planning application for 45 Urlwin Street?