

<b>Item No.</b> 6.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> March 28 2007	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

## 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 PETER JOHN**

Does the council monitor the levels of aircraft noise over the borough, and what lobbying is taking place on behalf of those residents affected?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE**

The government recently gave the council new powers to deal with stray dogs. Has the council done any work on tackling this problem since these new powers were granted and has there been any budget allocated by the council to tackling it?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARY FOULKES**

Can the leader of the council provide an annual breakdown of funding that the council has given to the voluntary/not for profit groups from 2002 to 2006? In answering this question could the leader include for each group a brief summary of each group's purpose and the amount of funds allocated.

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

What availability do executive members have to the car pool and/or shared bikes? Can the leader detail their usage by individual executive members?

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

Does the leader of the council agree that this borough needs "Less Ming and More Bling"? (Source: Greener Spaces magazine: March 2007 edition, see press clippings booklet)

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

Will the leader, in the light of the recent takeover of Pearson Government Solutions by a US-based private equity group for a reported \$600 million, please indicate:

- a) What inquiries the council has made to satisfy itself that Pearson remains a suitable supplier of services to the council and able to meet its contractual obligations to the council;
- b) The outcome of those inquiries; and,
- c) What provisions are in place, in the council's arrangements with Pearson and other major contract and project partners, to ensure that council tax payers share in the value released by takeovers and secondary market dealings in the council's public/private contracts and projects.

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

Will the executive member for housing management outline what has happened in the 100 days of change campaign for leaseholders and, if there is, any events planned for them in the rest of the campaign?

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

The government recently gave the council powers to inspect houses of multiple occupation and to force landlords to pay to bring them up to standard. How many such inspections have been carried out, what proportion were in response to either requests or complaints from the public (including tenants or landlords) and are there any plans by the council to use these powers more pro-actively in future?

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

Could the executive member for housing please detail in full the number of calls to the housing call centre or local housing office from residents and calls/emails from ward councillors of reported lift breakdowns on the Portland estate (Broadmayne, Lulworth, Woodsford and Studland) since October 1 2006? Could he also set out the number of times that Southwark Technical Services and/or InterServe have attended on site?

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

Can the executive member for housing confirm how long he believes it will take for the number of homes left empty for more than 6 months to be reduced to near zero for each ward? Can he confirm that, on the basis of answers previously given to me about the number of empty homes and the rate that they are being brought back into use suggests it will take apparently seventy years before this happens? Is the member happy at this apparently sluggish performance to bring 5,000 homes back into use?

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

Would the executive member please set out the events budget for 2006/07 and proposed budget for 2007/08 in respect of events in parks, broken down by each park in the borough; and procedures for monitoring and reviewing the effectiveness in promoting council objectives of each event?

**Note:** Councillor Lorraine Zuleta, executive member for culture, leisure and sport, will answer this question.

**12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON**

Would the executive member for environment please explain why 12 weeks continuous one way signal controlled disruption of the Walworth Road is to take place, in contrast to the much shorter periods of disruption envisaged in the consultation documents, and would she be able to advise the “alternative routes” which drivers are now required to seek (reference: Walworth Project Flyer, March 7 2007)?

**13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICK VINEALL**

Does the executive member agree (a) that for the 2007-08 cleaner greener safer (CGS) round to be as successful as possible, the period of time between application forms being available and the deadline for applications to be made should be as long as possible, and (b) that there is no need to delay the issue of application forms until the precise level of available funding has been decided. In the light of her answers, will she please say when application forms for the 2007/08 CGS round will be made available to the public?

**14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING**

Will the executive member for environment provide council with an update on the cleanliness of Peckham Rye Station?

**15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

Can the executive member for environment make a statement on the inclusion of Southwark in the Green Chain Walk and how this will improve the borough’s green spaces?

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

Will the executive member for environment make a statement on current and future 20mph zones on the borough’s roads?

**17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

To ask the executive member for environment what progress has been made on the Sustrans plans for a new foot and cycle bridge linking Rotherhithe to Limehouse?

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

Could the executive member for environment provide a detailed schedule of when each part of the public highway within Southwark will benefit from street lighting confirmed to modern standards?

**19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN**

Will the executive member for environment outline the responses she has received on the Burgess Park CDT partnership to the approval of revenue growth bids?

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

Will the executive member for environment please update the council on the progress of the monitored collections recycling pilot?

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

Could the executive member for environment provide me with details of the investigation into the damage to the surface of the road in George Row, London SE16 4UT? Could she also inform me when will the work commence to remedy the damage caused to the road by subsidence which has resulted in grass growing in the middle of a very busy street which is used by two schools and many local residents and can the executive member confirm whether there is any commitment to George Row from the current budget for capital road works repairs of secondary roads?

**22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES**

Will the executive member explain why no bid for road safety improvements at the Brayards Road/Consort Road junction and the Consort Road/Harders Road/Clayton Road roundabout was made in the Transport for London 2007/08 bid? Will he assure me that it is included in the 2008/09 Transport for London bid? And in the meantime, will he ensure that the section 106 funding which was allocated for a zebra crossing as part of the 41-75 Consort Road development in 2005 gets used to fund a zebra crossing by St Mary's Church of England primary school within the next month?

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

Can the executive member set out in detail the official trips abroad he has taken, in part or entirely in his capacity as executive member, including in his answer full details of his engagements, his expenses and which council officers attended with him?

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

How many review meetings to consider anti-social behaviour orders (ASBOs) have been held since the executive member announced the change in policy on naming those in receipt of ASBOs at the executive meeting in February? What has been the extent of any reviews?

**25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY McNEILL**

Can the executive member set out the executive's policy with regard to dispersal orders on the Four Squares estate?

**26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

Can the executive member clearly detail the policy of the executive with regard to the community warden service?

**27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO**

Can the executive member for resources tell me when the distribution lists for various committee papers were last reviewed with recipients and how can paper copies distributed be reduced or replaced by email to those that need and use them. Additionally, has consideration been given for charging for paper copies where distribution by email is offered?

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

Could the executive member for resources provide a breakdown by department of:

- a) The number of external consultants who are currently working for the council; and,
- b) An estimate of the current fees and associated costs paid to these per week.

**29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE**

Could the executive member for resources provide a breakdown by department of:

- a) The total number of external consultants who have worked for the Council over the last year; and,
- b) The fees and associated costs paid to these over the last year

**30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON McGOVERN**

What criteria does Southwark apply to bids by its departments for capital investment projects, and what criteria are used to prioritise those that are agreed?

**31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD**

In noting the executive member's previous responses to question 17 (September) and question 24 (December) could he confirm how much in interest the council has received from section 106 money in its bank accounts since 2002 (listed

annually), how much of this has been transferred to central council balances and how this interest money has been spent (or is still held in council bank accounts)?

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

Will the executive member for health and adult care please give an assurance to the residents of Southwark that charges for home care services will not be raised to £17.50 per hour like they have for neighbouring Lambeth?

**33. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ADE LASAKI**

With the current chronic shortage of donors in ethnic groups, what is being done to encourage members of these communities to give blood and sign up for donor cards/transplant?

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

How many older people with dementia has the Oasis Project helped to safely remain in their own home rather than have to move into residential care?

**35. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE**

Could the executive member outline the plans to move a drug and alcohol clinic to Badsworth Road? Can she detail any consultation process carried out including any outcomes? Can she also give reasons this site was chosen over any others considered?

**36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

How many mobile phone masts owned by each service provider are situated in Surrey Docks ward? Would the executive member for regeneration ask officers to approach each company to ascertain whether more mast sharing could be introduced, to reduce these numbers?

**37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR TIM McNALLY**

Would the executive member please detail for Chaucer ward since 1 January 2000:

- The values of all section 106 planning gain agreed split between the monies claimed and spent, claimed and due for spending, that which is contracted and waiting to be claimed and that which has expired and reverted to developers due to lack of usage by Southwark within the contractual time;
- A timetable for the claim and usage of the remaining monies; and,
- The proposed usage of any monies contracted, where a specific usage has been identified.

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

Can the executive member please explain the reason why the special executive meeting to consider the Elephant and Castle development was cancelled?

**39. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

Do you know of any concerns for, or limitations on, the Elephant and Castle project arising out of the plan to create a “non-car parking destination?”

**40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR EVRIM LAWS**

What lessons have been learnt from the delay in choosing a partner for the Elephant and Castle project?

**41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE**

Why at this late stage of the process has Southwark council only now realised that they are not yet in agreement with Transport for London (TfL) over traffic and transport plans for the Elephant and Castle regeneration?

**42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR JENNY JONES**

What is the average spend on school meals per pupil per day for each school in Southwark?

**43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

Can the executive member for children’s services tell me how well Southwark schools comply with the Water is Cool in School campaign objectives of all school children having ready access to drinking water throughout the school day?

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

Will the executive member for children’s services please make a statement on the allocation of secondary school places for Southwark residents for 2007?

**45. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN’S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Will the executive member for education and children’s services please inform council assembly when there is likely to be a new secondary school in the north of the borough?



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

Could the executive member for children's services give an outline of the plans to invest £2 million in youth facilities in the Dulwich area, how this compares with investment elsewhere in the borough and the costs of any consultants employed in drawing up these plans?

**47. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES**

Could the executive member outline the progress towards academy status of Walworth School - specifically can she set out the school's position with regard to the Building Schools for the Future programme and what discussions are ongoing by the council on sourcing suitable sites for sport and recreational activities for the school's children?