

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: July 9 2008	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Legal and Democratic Services	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.8 member's question time shall not exceed 30 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 to the leader will be taken first, followed by questions to other executive members. The strategic director of legal and democratic services will rotate the order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader. Questions to executive members will be taken in the order of receipt and portfolio. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the executive member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the last executive member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly.

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 2.8 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PETER JOHN

What change has there been in the number of people receiving meals on wheels in the last month compared to the same period last year? What change has there been in the number of meals that the council has distributed through the scheme in the last month compared to the same period last year?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING

Will the leader explain what action the council is taking to tackle benefit fraud?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

What representation has the leader of the council made to the new Mayor of London in support of the proposed Cross River Tram? Can he guarantee that all his executive colleagues remain committed to the scheme?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Could the leader explain what impact increased wholesale gas prices is likely to have on those Southwark council tenants whose estates are heated through district heating?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Will the leader explain what level of community engagement there has been in the area surrounding Potters Field since the appointment of Squire and Partners as the architects?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

How much money was spent in the last financial year on advertising, providing a breakdown of different types, in a) Southwark News and b) South London Press. What proposals will he bring forward to reduce this total?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

What was the result of the district auditor's investigation into the formal complaint made about the information distributed with Southwark's council tax bills earlier this year?

8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Could the executive member for health and adult care confirm that Southwark Carers are facing a shortfall in funding of £25,000 from Southwark Council for this current financial year and is he aware that one of the implications of this cut is that Carers in Southwark on the "Fix Yourself a Break" Scheme will now get a maximum of £250 whereas before they received a maximum of £300?

9. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

How many Freedom passes were issued at Southwark's one stop shops in the first two week in June 2008? How many passes were issued at the one stop shops to individuals had been refused a pass earlier in the renewal process? What is the total number of Southwark residents previously holding Freedom passes who have been refused renewal in 2008?

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

To which other councils was the executive member referring to when he informed the public that ten other London councils had missed the May 31 deadline for disabled Freedom pass renewals? Does the executive member agree that by informing a member or members of the public he was putting this information into the public domain? Does he regret his decision to do so given that London Councils are of the opinion that only two other councils were in this position?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES

How many entitled Southwark residents had not received their renewed disabled Freedom pass when the deadline passed on May 31? On what date was the executive member first made aware that council officers expected to miss the deadline? How many applications for compensation had the council received as of July 1?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

How many Southwark residents were issued with disabled Freedom passes which could only be used in the greater London area? Will all of these have been changed for nationwide passes by July 9? When did the last applicant for a disabled Freedom pass renewal receive their full, nationwide pass?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

How many social workers in Southwark have taken stress related leave or sickness in the last year? What proportion of the total number of social workers in the borough does that represent? How many social workers were on long-term stress related leave or sickness as of July 1?

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

Could the executive member outline what action he took on learning of the problems with the distribution of Freedom passes on June 2 onwards?

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

What are the plans for the consultation around changes to social care eligibility arising from the budget agreed in February?

16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN

Could he provide an update on the consultation around the merger of two day care centres announced in the budget?

17. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

Could the executive member give us an update on the selection of a host to support the new LINKs?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK

Could the executive member provide an update on the outcome of the social care funding summit?

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

Could the executive member inform full council about the newly trained lay inspectors for care homes in Southwark?

20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES

Will the executive member for health and adult care provide details of the outcome of the council's consultations on increasing the calculation basis for client contribution levels for social care to 80% of surplus income by 2010-11? Can he provide details of the estimated increase in the average weekly client contributions between 2007-08 and 2010-11? Can he provide the council's estimate of how many individuals are expected to be affected by the removal of the £200 ceiling for weekly contribution levels?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

Does the executive member intend to make a compulsory purchase order (CPO) on the Elephant and Castle shopping centre site from St Modwen? If so, when? When does he anticipate work on the demolition of the centre will begin?

22. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARY FOULKES

Please detail the dates and agendas of every meeting that a) the executive member for regeneration and b) strategic director of major projects had with traders at the Elephant and Castle since January 1 2008? Please include information on meetings with traders operating inside the shopping centre and those who operate immediately outside.

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

Could the executive member update us on any plans he is aware of for the use of the remaining New Deal for Communities (NDC) funding held by the Creation Trust?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR BOB SKELLY

Could the executive member give an update on progress at the Bermondsey Spa development?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR CAROLINE PIDGEON

Can he provide an update on the latest meeting of the Cross River Partnership?

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

Can he give a progress report on the Elephant and Castle regeneration project?

27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN FRIARY

Is the executive member aware of any moves made by Lend Lease to subcontract the development of any of the Elephant and Castle regeneration project? How would the executive member characterise Lend Lease's current relationship with the council? Does he think that it would be fair to say they are growing 'impatient' with the council?

28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA

Could the executive member set out the planning department performance in each of the following the categories: major developments; minor developments; and all other developments for the financial year closing March 31 2008?

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

Will the executive member give her assurances that Phase 2 of the children centre capital programme will go ahead as agreed at the executive meeting on May 15 2007?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY MCCARTHY

Recent news stories have highlighted the concerns about children missing from school whose current whereabouts are not accounted for. How serious is this issue in Southwark ? What procedures and policies are now in place to ensure that the situation of children missing from school without a known reason is monitored. Do all schools presently have a child protection coordinator?

31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Could the executive member explain the likely impact on schools in Southwark of the announcement made by the Secretary of State for Children, Schools and Families about school performance?

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

Could the executive member provide a progress report on plans for the new Harris Academy in East Dulwich?

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

How many cars have been removed or clamped by the council parking enforcement contractors this year? When vehicles have been removed or clamped what was the average length of time that elapsed between issuing a parking ticket and removing the vehicle? What is the council's policy on the minimum period that should elapse?

34. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES

How many unannounced tenancy and resident checks were carried out in the year 2007, by housing area?

35. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL

Can the executive member for housing update council assembly on the progress of the Heygate new-build housing sites? Which sites have been identified and how far has development progressed on each individually?

36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR OLAJUMOKE OYEWUNMI

What was the total number of stage 2 and stage 3 complaints on housing matters (including repairs delays, customer service complaints etc.) made in the municipal year 2007-08 (May 2007 - May 2008)? What was the number for the preceding year (May 2006 - May 2007)?

37. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Where do the lift contractors source their 'spare parts' from when residential lifts break down? How much would it cost to hold a 'spare part' for every part of the residential lifts? What's the average amount of time it takes to fix a lift that requires 'spare parts' to be sourced externally?

38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY

How many council houses were empty in Southwark as of July 1 2008? How many have been empty for longer than six months? What has been the average turnaround time for council housing voids to be brought back into use in each year since 2001-02? Please itemise by year.

39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR GORDON NARDELL

How many recorded missed repairs appointments have there been in the last 12 months? How many individual compensation payments were awarded for missed

appointments in the same period? Please itemise each figure by month. How confident is the executive member that the recorded number of missed appointments reflects the actual number of missed appointments?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU

How much has been paid as compensation or out of court settlement by the council to members of staff past or present in the last 24 months, not including redundancy packages? Please itemise by loose category of what the payment was for (e.g. accidents or injuries, sexual harassment, racial discrimination)

41. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ALISON MCGOVERN

Why does the council's tourism website www.visitsouthwark.com contain separate sections for the comparatively small areas of Bankside, London Bridge, Bermondsey, Rotherhithe and Dulwich, yet place the majority of the borough in terms of population into a single catch-all section entitled 'Peckham and Elephant & Castle'? Is this a further example of the couldn't-care-less attitude that the Liberal Democrat/Conservative coalition has so frequently shown towards the central areas of the borough?

42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

How many incorrect council tax bills have been sent out in the last year? Is this an improvement on the previous year? How many times in the last year has the council or its contractors sent bailiffs to collect council tax arrears which were not actually owed?

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

We received the keys to the new Tooley Street building on 11 June. I understand that the original landlord, UBS, has now passed on ownership. Who is the new landlord? What assurances can the executive member give that the council's new landlord meets the ethical standards that Southwark residents might expect?

44. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR DOMINIC THORNCROFT

How many instances of double charging of council tax, where a council tax payer pays for a single instalment of the tax more than once, have there been in the last 24 months? How many of those instances have been refunded? What checks does the council have in place to make sure that where double charging occurs it is refunded?

45. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR NICK VINEALL

Would the executive for resources please outline his position on the:

- (a) Desirability and
- (b) Feasibility

of providing voluntary bodies in receipt of grant funding from the council with 3 year settlements and, if he agrees that to do would be desirable, would he please say what steps

he has taken or proposes to take to introduce either indicative or binding 3 year funding of voluntary bodies.

**46. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR
EVRIM LAWS**

How much has the publicity (including advertisements in the press) for the 'No More Reminders' campaign cost since it began? How much have council tax collection rates increased over that period? How much extra revenue does that increase in collection rate represent in monetary terms?