

<b>Item No.</b> 5.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> November 5 2008	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members' Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		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 will be taken in the following order: the leader followed by the remaining executive members. The monitoring officer will rotate the order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader. Questions to the other executive members 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 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 LORRAINE ZULETA**

What impact is the credit crunch likely to have on the council's capital programme?

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

What change has there been in the number of people receiving meals on wheels in each month since the beginning of the financial year when compared to the corresponding months in the 2007-08 financial year? What change has there been in the number of meals that the council has distributed in each month since the beginning of the financial year when compared to the corresponding months in the 2007-08 financial year?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING**

Will he give an update on the review and restructure of the communications department?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS PAGE**

Can the leader of the council confirm how he would apply the proposals of the Liberal Democrat treasury spokesman to "require" public sector workers earning over £100,000 to re-apply for their jobs to senior officers in Southwark? Can he further confirm whether he will use his office to implement this or whether this particular proposal requires a Liberal Democrat government?

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

Can he tell me how many of the borough's schools are involved in the council's junior street leaders scheme and what reaction the scheme has had from the young people involved?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

What impact does he believe proposals from the Department for Works and Pensions (DWP) to restrict the backdating of benefit claims from 1 year down to 3 months will have on Southwark's most vulnerable people?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

What is the estimated cost to Southwark of supporting the De Menezes Inquiry?

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

Will he give an update on the progress of the Elephant and Castle regeneration project?

**9. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS**

What steps is he taking to ensure that the views of East Dulwich residents - that the area should be designated as a suburb - will be taken into account in the Southwark core strategy?

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

Can he update us on the most recent developments in the campaign to secure the future of the cross river tram?

**11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO**

Does he agree with the labour candidate in the recent Rotherhithe by-election - and with me - that money raised from the sale of council-owned land in Canada Water should be invested in Rotherhithe?

**12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN**

What can I and councillors do to ensure that their constituents are able to respond to the consultation on the Southwark core strategy?

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

Can he confirm that there are no plans to build on the Surrey Docks Farm?

**14. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

What progress has been made in locating a site for the new Rotherhithe Academy?

**15. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL BATES**

Can the executive member give a cast-iron commitment that Lend Lease are not having funding difficulties that will negatively impact the Elephant and Castle regeneration project? What discussions has he had personally to reassure himself and his executive colleagues that the company remain 100% committed to the scheme?

**16. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL**

Can the executive member explain the budgetary increase for the Canada Water library?

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

Can the executive member outline his plans to lever in potential local authority new build dwellings on the Aylesbury estate as part of the larger private finance initiative scheme? What percentage of the total residential units might be council housing?

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

Could the executive member provide a full breakdown of GCSE results for each Southwark Secondary School or their direct predecessor in 2008, compared with those in 2001?

**19. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK**

What is being done to support young people to get work experience and access job opportunities?

**20. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO**

What progress has been made in identifying possible sponsors for the new academy in the Aylesbury area?

**21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK**

What is the council doing to tackle homophobic bullying?

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

What proportion of applicants in Southwark got their first choice of secondary school this September? What proportion of parents failed to get any of their top six choices?

**23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR TAYO SITU**

How has the council pushed academies to encourage local parents to become governors? What proportion of governors at Southwark's academies are parent governors? Why has the executive managed to secure so few parent governors for Southwark's academies?

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

Residents in Nunhead have been disappointed to hear that a planned lighting renewal scheme for a number of roads between Linden Grove and Howbury Road has been delayed yet again. We have been told work will start in the new year. Can the executive explain why this work will have taken nearly three years to get on site? And who has been responsible for the delays in this scheme to date?

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

Can the executive member for environment explain to what extent "levels of complaints" played in deciding which roads received investment as part of the highways capital programme as agreed by him on August 22 2008? Could he provide council assembly with an example of a road scheme from amongst those agreed as planned works to non-principle roads 2008-09, whose inclusion was in any due to "levels of complaints?"

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

To ask the executive member for the environment to identify any decisions falling within their portfolio that they expect will be made within the next 12 months (whether by the council's executive, or as an individual member decision or by officers under delegated powers) and which could either

- a. sensibly be delegated to community councils; or
- b. in relation to which they believe formal community council consultation would be appropriate and potentially useful

and, in relation to each, to say what steps they have taken or intend to take either to delegate those decisions or to engage in formal consultation with community councils?

**27. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

Does he agree with me that the South London Line offers a crucial transport link for people from across Southwark?

**28. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JENNY JONES**

(1) What are the results of the council's monitoring of the use of the paper based liquid food and drink collection facility that was established at Sainsbury's in East Dulwich? (2) Does the council have plans to extend recycling facilities for paper based liquid food and drink containers throughout the borough and (3) if so, what are they?

**29. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES**

What is the average length of time that a Southwark resident joining the waiting list for an allotment today could be expected to wait before being allocated with a space? What proposals has the council developed to expand the provision of allotments in the borough?

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

In what ways has the council sought to encourage investment in sustainable micro-energy generation schemes on new houses and developments? How many houses and developments have been approved in the last four financial years which include such schemes?

**31. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DANNY MCCARTHY**

Could the executive member update the council on progress towards the creation of a zero emission zone in the north of Southwark?

**32. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE**

How many public toilets in the borough have a) been opened and b) closed by the council in the 2006-07 and 2007-08 financial years and in the financial year 2008-09 to date? How many of the public toilets identified as newly opened are like-for-like replacements for older facilities in the same or similar location?

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

Can he explain the increase in fees payable by market traders and investigate the possibility of creating individual accounts for each of the markets in Southwark to encourage greater local accountability and flexibility?

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

How many recycling bins have been installed on Southwark's streets in each of the most recent four financial years for which figures are available? What is the total number of such bins currently in place in the borough? How many such bins are planned to be installed in the current financial year?

**35. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR VERONICA WARD**

Would the executive member not agree that it is often the lack of sound proofing rather than anti social behaviour that is causing misery for both tenants and leaseholders in upstairs and downstairs street properties? Would it not be more cost effective to put good sound proofing into these properties than spending hours of housing officers, SASBU and mediation time to resolve concerns like people walking noisily across floors, children playing, running washing machines late into the evening and having friends round?

**36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

At a recent Walworth community council meeting, Councillor James Gurling described the enforced eviction of residents from the Heygate estate as "a tragedy". Does he agree with that assessment?

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

How many lift breakdowns were reported across each ward since January 1 2008 to date, compared with a full year from January 1 2007 - December 31 2007? Please make clear where breakdowns are due to vandalism/misuse and general engineering problems.

**38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ROBERT SMEATH**

Can the executive member please detail any cost over-runs on major repairs contracts in this financial year and explain the reason for the over-run?

**39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR EVRIM LAWS**

How much has the council's housing department paid out in compensation for missed appointments in the last two years?

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

How many offenders in Southwark were subject to council-operated community payback schemes in each of the most recent four financial years for which figures are available?

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

Can the executive member provide a guarantee that the Camberwell Leisure Centre will remain open for the use of the public with at least the current range of facilities up to and beyond 2012?

**42. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

To ask the executive member for leisure, culture and sport to publish the latest available data on book issues at the council's libraries

**43. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHELLE HOLFORD**

To ask the executive member for leisure, culture and sport to outline details of the community sports leadership awards scheme

**44. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE AND SPORT FROM COUNCILLOR AUBYN GRAHAM**

In the last 24 months how many slots per month have trained IT professionals been available for advice and assistance in Southwark libraries?

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

How much had the 416 agency staff who had been employed at the council for six months or more as of September 26 2008 cost in total over the full period of their employment up to that point?

**46. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR OLAJUMOKE OYEWUNMI**

How much has the council cut from grants to voluntary sector organisations in the last two years? Please itemise the answer.

**47. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR FIONA COLLEY**

How many members of agency staff were employed in each council department in the last month? Please fully itemise your answer.

**48. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

Has the council been exposed to any loss of reserves due to the turmoil in the banking sector at home and overseas? Will the executive set up a credit crunch task force similar to those in Lambeth and Lewisham to look at how the council could help residents who are going through tough times as a result of the turmoil?

**49. QUESTION TO EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND ADULT CARE FROM COUNCILLOR SUSAN ELAN JONES**

In the most recent year for which data is available, what was the average wait for the installation of minor home aid equipment for Southwark residents? In the same period, what was the average wait for the installation of complex equipment?