

Item No. 5.	Classification: Open	Date: January 28 2009	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 members' 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 members' 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 OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

What progress has been made in the council's attempt to be reimbursed for the costs it has incurred as a result of supporting the inquest into the death of Jean Charles De Menezes?

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

When in years previous to the 2008-09 financial year has Local Authority Business Growth Incentive (LABGI) money previously been treated as a capital receipt?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES GURLING

Can the leader confirm whether he has had any indication from the Department of Communities and Local Government (DCLG) about plans to compensate local authorities like Southwark which have lost out as a result of the recent cuts in interest rates, in the way that it has done for those affected by the collapse of the Icelandic banks?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IAN WINGFIELD

Could the leader confirm that both he and senior officers of the council engaged in a process of attempting to water down the criticisms of the district auditor during the corporate assessment process? Could the leader furnish me with the parts of the drafts of the assessment which he and senior officers disagreed with and explain why he and senior officers thought the district auditor ought to think again?

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

In the light of the recent increases in tube fares, can the leader reaffirm his commitment to the rezoning of Bermondsey and Kennington tube stations, which would result in significant savings for Southwark residents, and will he write to the Mayor of London urging him to consider this option?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JANE SALMON

In a few weeks time the £180million 2.5km extension of the Dockland Light Railway (DLR) to Woolwich Arsenal will open. This started with a study commissioned by DLR Ltd to look at what extensions to the DLR would be viable. Given that will the leader write to the Mayor of London urging him to commission a review of the Bakerloo line, the only underground line with spare capacity, to look at the viability of an extension beyond Elephant & Castle?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JELIL LADIPO

Is the leader able to confirm that there are not now and have never been any plans to close Brandon library and the other three libraries mentioned in the South London Press 'Save our Libraries' campaign?

8. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

Given the recent tragic events in Haringey, can she reassure councillors that all appropriate measures are in place to safeguard Southwark's vulnerable children?

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

Does she agree with me that the recent joint area review results present a positive picture of children's services in Southwark? What work is being done to address areas for concern highlighted in the report?

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

Does she know when the results of the recent inspection of the council's adoption service will be released?

11. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

What consultation has taken place with members of the local community about the plans to redevelop the St Michael's Roman Catholic school in Riverside?

12. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH

What does the executive believe will produce the required "step change in performance" in reducing teenage conceptions?

13. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN JARDINE-BROWN

What work is planned to improve the borough's play spaces?

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

Further to the motion agreed at the last council meeting, can she inform us what action her department is taking to tackle child poverty?

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

Does the executive member believe that there are children in Southwark who are not accessing early years? How does she intend to improve the council's performance at identifying those children and helping them access the early years service? Does she believe that if she is successful at this then the early years service will need spare capacity to cope with the increase in users?

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

On September 24 2008 Ed Balls and Alan Johnson announced a new £20million free school meals (FSM) pilot project. Given the recent positive results of a pilot run in Hull, has Southwark Council submitted an expression of interest to run one of the free school meals pilots?

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

What weaknesses does the executive member believe led to Southwark's youth service being graded only as 'adequate'? What urgent steps will she take to improve the service?

18. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES AND EDUCATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

How many permanent and fixed-term exclusions have occurred in Southwark in the last 12 months? Please itemise this answer by school.

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

Can the executive member for environment assure council assembly that in the 2009-10 financial year there won't be the same massive percentage rise in the costs of funeral charges that there was in 2008-09?

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

What are the executive doing to make sure that there is no loss of capacity on the 436 and 12 bus routes in light of the Mayor of London's pledge to scrap bendy buses, particularly in view of his decision to axe the Cross River Tram?

21. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR KIRSTY MCNEILL

What will be the environmental impact of the development on Downtown?

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

What chance does the executive member believe the Cross River Tram has without the support of the Mayor of London?

23. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE ZULETA

Does he believe that the council has done everything possible to maximise the number of votes received by Dickens Square and Camberwell Green in the Mayor's Help a London Park vote?

24. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

In the light of the recent economic downturn and the recent cold snap, can he inform us of what success the council has had in issuing grants to improve home insulation and energy efficiency in the borough?

25. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

What improvements have been made to the cleanliness of the borough's streets in the last 12 months?

26. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD THOMAS

To ask the executive member to reiterate the current commitment of the Southwark Council and his own personal commitment towards the goal of Southwark becoming the first 20mph borough in London with a default speed limit of 20mph on Southwark controlled roads.

27. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Considering the economic difficulties facing the residents of Southwark, can the executive member tell me what progress has been made at loft and cavity wall insulation especially with council properties in East Dulwich to reduce the money exiting the local economy in payments to energy suppliers; what it would cost to complete all such insulation measures in East Dulwich; and what anticipated savings this would generate for residents?

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

What compensation arrangements have been made for those residents on the Aylesbury who were without heating – and in some cases hot water as well – over the Christmas period?

29. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

The Mayor of London has set Southwark Council a target of securing 2672 new affordable homes by 2011. How will this target be achieved?

30. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR CITIZENSHIP, EQUALITIES AND COMMUNITIES FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

Will the Executive Member for Citizenship, Equalities, and Communities agree, during the present discussions to secure the future of East Dulwich Community Centre (EDCC) to:

- 1) provide clear figures for the years 2003 to the present (the years during which the Voluntary Sector and Community Group Rent and Letting Policy has been in operation) reflecting for each year the monetary value of the work and benefit to Southwark Council of the delivery and management of those services to the

Community by the EDCC, in the light of the Policy contained in the Southwark Compact that "The Statutory Sector will recognise the value of unpaid work done by volunteers as equivalent to paid work", and that the Southwark Compact recognises the value of volunteers working in partnership "to develop and deliver the services that residents deserve"; and

- 2) liaise with the Executive Member for Resources and the Property Department and the EDCC on the terms of any new arrangement, to ensure that the Property costs can be reconciled with the value of the work and benefit and commitment supplied to Southwark and demonstrated by the EDCC over the years; and
- 3) ensure that, during the currency of any new arrangement with EDCC, Southwark Council will work in partnership with the EDDC to set up a suitable management governance model for the EDCC which would be the basis for an asset transfer by Southwark Council to the EDCC?

31. QUESTION WITHDRAWN

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

The borough's emergency help points, which were due to be in operation by April 2008, are still yet to start operating and are now beginning to rust. Can the executive member give a definite start date for their operation or was the money spent on them wasted?

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

In light of the most recent closure of Seven Islands Leisure Centre how would the executive member characterise the condition of the centre? What planned investment is there for the improvement of the centre in the next financial year? What progress has the executive member and his colleagues made in securing a new leisure centre as part of the Canada Water redevelopment?

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

Could the executive member quantify any bonus payments that have been made, in advance of them being earned, in the last three years to Liberata, in relation to their revenue and benefits contract. Could he please outline the basis on which they were paid? If such payments have been made, can the executive member confirm whether the bonus was subsequently earned by Liberata?

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

Could the executive member for resources detail the number of outstanding housing benefit claims which Liberata has not yet processed? How many of those delays have led to proceedings (i.e. as a notice of arrears, a notice seeking possession or a notice to evict) against those tenants?

36. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR MACKIE SHEIK

Is he satisfied with the performance of Liberata?

37. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR RESOURCES FROM COUNCILLOR OLAJUMOKE OYEWUMNI

The council has recently set up its own YouTube site. How much has the project cost in total? Please include officer time and any amount paid to Media Citizen for producing the online videos.

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

If Southwark's homecare services are contracted to the private sector, what assurances can the executive member give that the quality of service will be maintained or improve? What assessment has the executive member carried out of the impact on the voluntary sector if all Southwark's homecare services are contracted to private sector organisations?

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

As the Heygate "early" housing sites will now not be built in time for the decant of Heygate residents, will the executive member for regeneration confirm that those sites will instead be used to decant residents from the Aylesbury estate? Further, does the executive member agree that the decant of the Aylesbury estate is too big to rely largely on the homesearch system?

40. QUESTION TO THE EXECUTIVE MEMBER FOR REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANDREW PAKES

Could the executive member for regeneration detail the number of occasions he or his executive colleagues have written directly to the relevant government ministers since May 2006 to express support for or lobby on behalf of the "fourth option"? Could he provide the dates at which these letters/emails were sent?

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

Could the executive member explain why the development agreement between Southwark Council and Lend Lease has still not been signed and is now running 15 months behind schedule?