

Executive interview: Councillor Thomas [portfolio for resources]

Questions for the Regeneration and Resources Scrutiny Sub-Committee meeting, October 31 2007.

1. What percent of staff in the Regeneration Department are classified as BME?
2. Could you please outline progress in meeting our targets for deciding planning applications?
3. What is the plan for affordable housing on the Wooddene? Southwark Council's website indicates that it there will be 'more than 100 homes to be let at an affordable rent and more than 200 homes to buy by 2009.' I have been informed by Officers that a decision has not been made. Can the Executive Member confirm the plans.
4. SMEs in the Elephant and Castle are concerned with the lack of consultation over the past 8 months, and one of the many questions that has yet to be answered is whether the council will provide compensation for the lost of earnings to the SMEs dating back to when the regeneration of the area was announced which including the demolition of the shopping centre.
5. How are the Council going to address the concerns of the Leaseholder on Heygate Estate about the valuation of their homes. They have been devalued due to the neglect of the council. Will this be factored in when considering the market value for their homes.
6. Following the survey of residents in the area surrounding Burgess Park the main findings included a demand for better facilities, there is a fear of crime but despite this the park seemed highly valued by the respondents. Can the executive member's vision for Burgess Park, in light of this feedback and also in relation to the regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate.
7. At your meeting last year with this scrutiny committee, you expressed your disappointment regarding the borough's unsuccessful round 2 LEGI bid, but undertook to seek other ways of delivering parts of that proposal through other routes.
 - a. Could you update the committee on the progress of that work?
 - b. What progress has been made in preparing a round 3 submission?
8. Could you outline your strategy for the continuation of the work carried out by Southwark Works once its agreed funding ceases?
9. At the joint meeting of the Housing and Regeneration & Resources scrutiny committees on 9 October, the Deputy Leader of the Council explained that the plans to rehouse Heygate tenants locally have had to be changed due to delays in developing early housing sites.
 - a. In your view, is this a fair assessment?
 - b. What are the reasons for these delays?
 - c. What action have you taken to quicken the pace for these developments?
 - d. Will sufficient housing capacity be developed through early housing sites to meet the need created through the Elephant and Castle regeneration project?