

## Interview with the Executive Member for Resources

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

- 1 Could the executive member update the scrutiny panel on the borough's Council Tax collection rate for 2007/08, providing the current performance and the anticipated performance by the close of the financial year? Could he also provide figures to estimate the anticipated level that could be collected after the close of the financial year?
- 2 Could the executive member update the scrutiny panel on the borough's Council Tax collection rate for 2006/07 as it currently stands?

### **2007/08 budget performance**

- 3 At the December meeting of the executive committee, figures were shared showing the levels of overspend by department. Could the executive member provide an update of these figures, comparing:
  - a. profiled budget expenditure to date
  - b. actual expenditure to date
  - c. budgeted expenditure for the full 2007/08 year
  - d. anticipated full-year expenditure?
- 4 Assuming that the level of over-spend identified in the answer to the question above is still high, can the executive member set out how this shortfall will be met?

### **2008/09 budget**

- 5 Could the executive member update the scrutiny committee on discussions held with government regarding the settlement for 2008/09 and future years? What work can be done by council officers and elected representatives to strengthen the case for Southwark, either for the forthcoming year or 2009/10?
- 6 In relation to your responsibility for "*management of the Council's property portfolio, including all disposals and acquisitions*", can you provide a schedule of all vacant or under used land owned by the Council with a market value of more than £5 million and how best value and efficient use of these assets might be realised?
- 7 Can you confirm and comment on the recent reports of an increase in fees payable to the Audit Commission of up to 22% for London authorities?