

## **Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)**

Wednesday 28 November 2012

7.00 pm

Harris Academy Peckham, 112 Peckham Road, London SE15 5DZ

# **Supplemental Agenda No.2**

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Date: 20 November 2012



## Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 17 October 2012 at 7.00 pm at Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, London SE1 5UJ

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2012/13, Councillor Althea Smith (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Peter John
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Paul Kyriacou
Councillor James Barber	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Catherine McDonald
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Abdul Mohamed
Councillor Neil Coyle	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Robin Crookshank Hilton	Councillor Graham Neale
Councillor Rowenna Davis	Councillor Wilma Nelson
Councillor Patrick Diamond	Councillor David Noakes
Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle	Councillor Paul Noblet
Councillor Nick Dolezal	Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole
Councillor Toby Eckersley	Councillor Lisa Rajan
Councillor Gavin Edwards	Councillor Lewis Robinson
Councillor Dan Garfield	Councillor Martin Seaton
Councillor Mark Gettleson	Councillor Rosie Shimell
Councillor Norma Gibbes	Councillor Andy Simmons
Councillor Mark Glover	Councillor Michael Situ
Councillor Stephen Govier	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor David Hubber	

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

### 1.1 ANNOUNCEMENTS FROM THE MAYOR, MEMBERS OF THE CABINET OR CHIEF EXECUTIVE

The Mayor announced the sad passing of:

- Former councillor Ron Slater JP MBE, on 18 September 2012. Ron served as a councillor in the 1970s and 1980s and was an Alderman and Free Citizen of the Borough. His daughter, Past Mayor Lorraine Lauder, followed her father into local politics as a councillor.

Tributes were paid by Councillors Ian Wingfield, David Hubber and Toby Eckersley.

- Councillor Helen Morrissey who passed away on 12 October 2012 after battling cancer over the past year. She was a councillor for East Walworth ward since May 2010 and Labour Group chief whip.

Tributes were paid by Councillors Peter John, Anood Al-Samerai and Lewis Robinson.

- Junior Nkwelle, who was a pupil at Walworth Academy.
- Hichame Bouadimi, who was a pupil at Charlotte Sharman Primary School in St. Georges Road.

The Mayor read out a poem offering words of comfort and thereafter the meeting stood for a minute's silence.

Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, stated that Councillor Fiona Colley had been appointed to the cabinet in May 2012 but had been on maternity leave from her cabinet role since April 2012. He thereafter formally announced that Councillor Fiona Colley remained appointed to the cabinet but he was extending her absence from the cabinet for a further three months.

The Mayor welcomed Councillor Fiona Colley back from her maternity leave and congratulated her on the birth of her son.

Councillor Veronica Ward, cabinet member for culture, sport, the Olympics and regeneration (South), thanked all the young people and the community support team who had contributed to the success of the London Youth Games. She also took the opportunity to thank all those involved in making Southwark's contribution to the Olympics so outstanding. A brief written version of the announcement was circulated at the meeting.

At 8.40pm the Mayor welcomed Councillor Victoria Mills back from maternity leave and congratulated her and Councillor Gavin Edwards on the birth of their twins, Ida and Matthew.

### 1.2 NOTIFICATION OF ANY ITEMS OF BUSINESS WHICH THE MAYOR DEEMS URGENT

With the meetings agreement, the Mayor announced that she intended to accept one late and urgent item of business - Late and urgent motion: Urgent help on St George's Road. The Mayor stated that she intended to vary the order of business so that the late motion could be considered prior to members' question time.

The Mayor announced that following consultation with the political group whips, the following items had been withdrawn:

- Item 3.3: Motion 2 – Opportunities for young people, including youth employment
- Item 5.2: Motion 1 – Social housing in mixed communities
- Item 5.2: Motion 2 – Tuition fees apology.

With the meetings consent, the Mayor announced that the four deputations on the theme would be considered but the deputation from Starlight Music Academy on item 6.1 – Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan, would not be heard.

The meeting agreed to suspend the following council assembly procedure rules:

- 2.10(3) Deadline for receipt of members' motions
- 1.6 Variation in order of business
- 2.6 (11) No more than three deputations shall be considered at any one meeting.

### **1.3 DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS AND DISPENSATIONS**

There were none.

### **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillor Linda Manchester and Michael Mitchell. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Victoria Mills and Patrick Diamond.

### **1.5 MINUTES**

*(See supplemental agenda 1, pages 1 – 18)*

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of council assembly meeting held on 4 July 2012 be agreed and signed as a correct record.

## **2. ISSUES RAISED BY THE PUBLIC**

### **2.1 PETITIONS**

There were none.

## 2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

*(See supplemental agenda 2, page 1 of the green paper circulated at the meeting)*

There were two questions from the public the answers to which were circulated on green paper at the meeting. The public questioners were present and asked a supplemental question. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 1 to the minutes.

## 2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS ON THE THEME

*See pages 2 - 5 of supplemental agenda 2)*

### **Deputation from the BOSCO Centre**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the BOSCO Centre.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Sister Cecily, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council. Councillor Peter John provided an oral response.

Councillors Anood Al-Samerai and Claire Hickson asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

### **Deputation from Orchard Hill College**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Orchard Hill College.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Caroline Allen, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, Cabinet member for children's services. Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle provided an oral response.

Councillors Peter John and Rowenna Davis asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

### **Deputation from young people who had received university scholarship from the council**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from the young people who had received a university scholarship from the council.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Peter John, leader of the council. Councillor Peter John provided an oral response.

Councillors Catherine McDonald, Paul Noblet and Gavin Edwards asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

### **Deputation from Southwark Youth Council**

Council assembly considered whether to receive the deputation request from Southwark Youth Council.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle, cabinet member for children's services. Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle provided an oral response.

Councillors Althea Smith, David Hubber, Martin Seaton, Poddy Clark and Mark Gettleson asked questions of the deputation.

Thereafter the deputation returned to their seats in the public seating area.

## **3. THEMED DEBATE - OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, INCLUDING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT**

### **3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT**

Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle (cabinet member for children's services) and Councillor Claire Hickson (cabinet member for communities and economic development), introduced the theme of the meeting.

The opposition spokesperson for children's services, Councillor Rosie Shimell, replied to

the cabinet members' statements.

### 3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME

*(See supplemental agenda 2, page 6 of the green paper circulated at the meeting)*

There was one question from the public on the theme, the answer to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. The question and written response is attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

### 3.3 MOTIONS ON THE THEME - OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUNG PEOPLE, INCLUDING YOUTH EMPLOYMENT

#### MOTION 1 – APPRENTICESHIPS AND WORK PLACEMENTS

*(See page 4 of the main agenda)*

Councillor Paul Noblet, seconded by Councillor Tim McNally, moved the motion.

Councillor Peter John, seconded by Councillor Ian Wingfield, moved Amendment A.

Following debate (Councillors David Hubber, Mark Glover, Catherine Bowman, Cleo Soanes, Lisa Rajan, Sunil Chopra, Eliza Mann, Richard Livingstone and Anood Al-Samerai), the Mayor announced that the time allocated to the themed section of the meeting had expired.

Amendment A was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

The substantive motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly recognises the importance of providing real opportunities for young people in Southwark if we are to have fair and resilient communities and a thriving local economy.
2. That council assembly believes that when the economy is in recession and youth unemployment is high, it is the role of government at both national and local level to take action.
3. That council assembly notes that opportunities for young people mean more than just employment opportunities. Many young people in Southwark want to go to college and university and the council should do everything it can to support that ambition.
4. That council assembly notes the increase in the number of long-term young unemployed people in Southwark and regrets the complacency of the government regarding youth unemployment. It also regrets the government's disastrous decision to treble tuition fees and scrap educational maintenance allowance and notes the negative impact this is already having on the number of people applying for university.

5. That council assembly recognises the value of schemes like the Foot in the Door project run by Southwark Works since 2008 with funding from Southwark Council. Council assembly welcomes the experience which the work placements provide and which leads to permanent paid jobs but notes the project is currently part of a review of the council's economic wellbeing strategy. The aim of the review is to highlight youth unemployment as a major area of focus and will also determine the priorities for allocation of limited resources to support the council's aims for employment and enterprise.
6. That council assembly therefore notes that while the council is reviewing its economic wellbeing strategy it should work to promote other schemes that are creating apprenticeship opportunities for Southwark's young people.
7. That council assembly therefore welcomes this Labour administration £3 million youth fund which is supporting:
  - Talented Southwark scholars through university by paying all of their tuition fees
  - Paying an educational maintenance supplement to 1000 young people so that they can stay on in further education
  - Creating 1,500 job opportunities for young people in the borough.
8. That council assembly calls on councillors on all sides to support the youth fund and consider what more can be done to support employment opportunities for young people and to enable young people to access further and higher education.

## **MOTION 2 – HEALTH AND WELLBEING PRIORITIES**

*(See page 5 of the main agenda)*

Motion 2 was withdrawn.

## **4. OTHER DEPUTATIONS**

*(See pages 7 - 12 of supplemental agenda 2)*

### **RESOLVED:**

That the meeting agreed not to receive a deputation from Starlight Music Academy on item 6.1 – Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan.

## **5. ISSUES RAISED BY MEMBERS**

### **5.1 MEMBERS' QUESTION TIME**

*(See pages 7 - 13 of the main agenda and the blue and white papers circulated at the meeting)*



There was one urgent question to the leader, the written response to which was circulated on blue paper at the meeting. Two supplemental questions were asked of the leader. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

There were 42 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on white paper at the meeting. There were nine supplemental questions, all questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 4 to the minutes.

At 10.06pm the bell was rung and the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

## **5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

### **MOTION 1 - SOCIAL HOUSING IN MIXED COMMUNITIES**

*(See page 15 of the main agenda)*

Motion withdrawn.

### **MOTION 2 - TUITION FEES APOLOGY**

*(See pages 15 – 16 of the main agenda)*

Motion withdrawn.

### **LATE MOTION: URGENT HELP ON ST GEORGE'S ROAD**

*(See paper circulated at the meeting)*

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Adele Morris, seconded by Councillor Barrie Hargrove, moved the motion.

The motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly deeply regrets the tragic and devastating death of 5 year old Hichame Bouadimi on St George's Road and sends deepest condolences to his family, friends and school.
2. That council assembly recognises that there is much work to be done to make St George's Road safer including looking at the railings, speed limits and other traffic calming measures, and councillors from all parties call on cabinet and Transport for London to help with these issues.
3. That council assembly appreciates that, in the meantime, parents and teachers from the three schools and residents of the many homes on St George's Road are very distressed about the dangers on this road and calls on cabinet for a lollipop person to be funded from the council's contingency funds and placed on this road immediately

and until the longer term safety measures are implemented.

**Note:** This motion will be referred as a recommendation to the cabinet for consideration.

## **6. REPORT(S) FOR DECISION FROM THE CABINET**

### **6.1 PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD AREA ACTION PLAN - PUBLICATION/SUBMISSION VERSION**

*(See pages 17 - 35 of the main agenda)*

This report was considered after the guillotine had fallen, therefore in accordance with council assembly procedure rule 1.12 (3) & (4), the report was afforded up to a maximum of 15 minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Veronica Ward, cabinet member for culture, sport, the Olympics and regeneration (South), moved the report.

Following debate (Councillors Paul Noblet, Mark Glover and Fiona Colley), Councillor Veronica Ward exercised her right of reply.

The recommendations contained within the report were put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

1. That the Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan (AAP) publication/submission version (Appendix A), be approved for publication.
2. That the following supporting documents be noted: the consultation report (Appendix B), the consultation strategy (Appendix C), the consultation plan (Appendix D), the sustainability appraisal (Appendix E), the equalities appraisal (Appendix F), the appropriate assessment (Appendix G) and the schedule of proposed changes to the adopted policies map (Appendix H).
3. That the Peckham and Nunhead AAP publication/submission version be approved for submission to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government provided no substantive changes are necessary following consultation.
4. That the approval of any minor amendments resulting from consultation on the publication/submission AAP be delegated to the director of planning in consultation with the cabinet member for culture, sport, the Olympics and regeneration (South).

## **7. REPORT FOR INFORMATION FROM THE CABINET**

### **7.1 REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO CABINET FROM COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**

*(See pages 36 - 38 of the main agenda)*

**RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

**8. OTHER REPORTS****8.1 APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

*(See pages 39 – 41 of the main agenda)*

This item was considered in the closed section of the meeting. See item 10 below.

**8.2 EXEMPTION FROM THE RULES GOVERNING FAILURE OF A MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETINGS**

*(See closed agenda)*

Item withdrawn.

**9. AMENDMENTS**

The amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 3.

**EXCLUSION OF PRESS AND PUBLIC****RESOLVED:**

That the press and public be excluded for the meeting for the following item of business on the grounds that they involve the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in category 1 of paragraph 10.4 of the Access to Information Procedure Rules of the Southwark Constitution.

**10. APPOINTMENT OF INDEPENDENT PERSONS**

This item was considered in the closed section of the meeting as it contained personal information about the appointees. As council assembly agreed the appointments the open minutes can record the decisions of the closed section of the meeting.

**RESOLVED:**

1. That Mr Mark Roelofsen and Mr Steve Phillips be appointed as independent persons subject to resolution 2.
2. That the commencement date of each term of office be confirmed by the director of legal services.

**11. EXEMPTION FROM THE RULES GOVERNING FAILURE OF A MEMBER TO ATTEND MEETINGS**

Item withdrawn.

The meeting closed at 10.22 p.m.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012****PUBLIC QUESTIONS****1. QUESTION FROM MR PATRICK YORKE TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Does the council fully abide by the agreements with "Five Estates plan" under the Peckham programme not to undertake to sell or dispose of its responsibility of Rosemary Gardens neighbourhood office, Sumner Road, SE15 to any interest outside the community partnership which legally still resides with the community of Peckham?

**RESPONSE**

The council has researched this matter and has not discovered any legally binding agreement that would prevent the disposal of 170 Sumner Road. The Five Estates Plan and Peckham Partnership have been superseded by newer planning policies. Redevelopment of this site for residential use is within the scope of current planning policy subject to the full application process.

More generally, we recognise the concern locally about the lack of community facilities and this is a matter that the council will look at carefully as it considers the future of the old Sumner workshops site.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY**

Thank you Madam. On behalf of the community, I welcome the council to this new facility that was appointed for the people of Peckham. It is a magical development for the whole of Southwark, and we should champion our cause for that development. For this reason I am here for the community for this question being put.

The history of Peckham pertaining to this development within the Five Estates programme is well-documented. It has got a historic approach but of late what the community within Peckham's Five Estates programme have been experiencing is the eroding of community facilities, without adequate consultation and involvement.

The question that I am putting now to the council is why is it that, up to date, the community has not been involved in any removal of these services, of the community facilities for Rosemary Gardens, from us, and to date we have our capital equipment within the facility, but what I have learnt is that there's going to be a facility at the Sumner site? Can we put this on hold or can we have access to the Cator Street education unit before the disposal, because the community is now being ostracised for development for our youth, for which

everyone here supports and champions the cause for the development of Peckham?

## **RESPONSE**

I'd like to thank Mr Yorke for his supplemental question. Clearly, then, we're aware that, as you rightly say, that there is I think a lack of community facilities in the Peckham area, and that has been something that has always been part of the Peckham programme, and some of those services in response. I identified that what we would like to do is look at the development on the site of Sumner workshops and what can be done with those facilities, on that space in terms of a new development; whether that includes a community space to help make good that deficiency, which I think we all recognise.

The Rosemary Gardens housing office, or Sumner Road, whatever you want to call it, I think probably will never be a good site for a community resource; obviously it has always been a housing office. So I don't think that is the right site. I think what we do need to do is to be working with you to find alternative locations for your activities nearby. I'm happy to look at whether Cator Street is a temporary facility, whether there are other places and look at the equipment that is in there, we need to look at that to make sure you can have access to that.

## **2. QUESTION FROM MR JEFF KELLAND TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

What number of penalty charge notices issued by ACPOA on behalf of the council under the Traffic Management Act 2004 for the last year for which records are available was a representation received and what percentage were conceded as wrongly issued by parking when first challenged by residents?

## **RESPONSE**

In 2011/12 the parking service's contractors issued 98,747 penalty charge notices (PCN) for various parking and moving traffic offences. The council received a representation in relation to 15,829 of these PCN's (16.03%) and of these 1,607 (1.63%) were cancelled due to an error on the part of the contractor.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING**

The error rate in the issue of the tickets at 1.6% perhaps is something that even the most fastidious dictator would be happy with from an electoral situation. Could you tell me or can you advise me, I don't expect you to have the figure, how many of those 14,000 representations were appealed up to the parking appeals service and how many were upheld at that stage?

## **RESPONSE**

I thank Mr Kelland for his follow up question. Before I answer, just to go back a little bit, about five or six years ago the council did not appeal, did not respond when appeals went to the appeals service and something like 95% of appeals were upheld at that stage. During those years we complained a lot about that and consequently the council has tightened up quite a lot on how it responds to

appeals with the result that we have a much lower percentage of success appeals. So that is the situation in terms of the approach the council has, just a bit of historical context, but I am very happy to get that information for you. I know that partly behind your question there is a situation you are aware of that happened a while ago and I am happy to look into that and the detail of that as well, thank you Mr Kelland.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012****PUBLIC QUESTION ON THE THEME****1. QUESTION FROM RICHARD WALKER TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES**

What is Southwark council doing in response to the level of hate crime endured by young people with learning disabilities?

**RESPONSE**

We recognise that children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities are more at risk of harassment and hate crime than their peers and that this type of crime is often under reported due to the nature of the offences. Young people may not understand or recognise that what is happening to them is a crime and furthermore have difficulty telling people about it. A 'one size fits all' approach is unhelpful when supporting young victims and their families and as such Southwark's approach to tackling this type of hate crime as and when an incident occurs is tailored to each individual case. This will depend for example on the identified needs of the victim, background to the case and the wider circumstances surrounding the incident to ensure that our response is balanced and appropriate.

Southwark council are committed to tackling all forms of hate crime that fall under the six equality strands. The Safer Southwark Partnership (SSP) published the four year hate crime strategy for the borough in 2011. The strategy is available on the Southwark Council website: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/hatecrime>.

The delivery of the hate crime strategy is overseen by the multi-agency Southwark Hate Crime Network (SHCN). The network is co-ordinated and administered by a community safety officer who supports and maintains an oversight of the hate crime work across the borough. The officer works closely with the co-chairs of the network to ensure the delivery plan remains up to date, that members of the SHCN are accountable for delivering the agreed actions and current priorities around tackling hate crime regionally and locally are reflected.

We are conscious that reported disability hate crime are low with only 6 crimes recorded by the Metropolitan Police Service, between April and October of this year. To increase reporting of disability hate crime, the council in partnership with the SHCN developed the first 'easy read' hate crime document. The document aims to explain the nature of what hate crime is in an easy to understand format and provide details of what to do if you are a victim or indeed witness of hate crime. The easy read document has been distributed and publicised at various community safety events and is available for download on the Southwark Council website: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/hatecrime>.



Furthermore, the Community Safety Partnership Service (CSPS) is currently liaising with the Fast Forward project in Peckham, a borough-wide project for young adults (11-25) with learning difficulties and disabilities. Through this project, CSPS aims to scope how young people are being affected by hate crime in Southwark, distribute appropriate information and materials to encourage reporting and deliver awareness training sessions where appropriate.

Children and young people with disabilities that significantly impair their functioning are eligible for a social work service from either the children with disabilities team based at Sunshine House or the 14 - 25 transitions team based at the new Queens Road office. Services from these teams are always based on a thorough assessment of need carried out by a social worker. In the course of this assessment the social worker will always consider vulnerability and risk factors and will communicate with the child using the most appropriate means (many of the children and young people we work with have limited speech and ability to communicate so Makaton and other communication methods will often be used). Information, views and feelings will also be obtained from the child's parent(s) or carers. This assessment process therefore provides an opportunity to find out whether there is any question of the young person having been subjected to hate crime, or possibly lesser types of abuse such as bullying and name calling. If it is found that this is an issue it will be addressed in the care plan arising from the assessment.

The council funds a wide range of local voluntary organisations that work closely with disabled children and young people and their parent carers. These services are all provided by staff with specialist training and experience in working with disabled children and these organisations and their staff are aware of the risk of disabled people suffering hate crime and are alert to the signs that a child or young person may be suffering in this way.

**SOUTHWARK COUNCIL****COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012****URGENT QUESTION****1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

How much money could be saved for the council by getting rid of council tax exemptions for second homes, repossessed homes and empty homes? How much income could the council generate by charging extra council tax (150%) on long term empty homes?

**RESPONSE**

The cabinet will agree next Tuesday to recommend to council assembly that we get rid of the council tax exemption for second homes. This will generate an additional £94k of income, equivalent to roughly 3% of the money that the Tory/Liberal Democrat government has cut from council tax benefit in Southwark. This information is available at paragraph 14 of the cabinet report.

The power to remove the exemption for repossessed homes was contained in an earlier consultation of proposals on the government's Local Government Finance Bill. It was subsequently removed and as such the council does not have the power to change this exemption. This is, of course, subject to the final legislation.

The cabinet will task officers at our next meeting to fully investigate opportunities for removing the exemption for empty homes and charging a premium on long-term empty homes. This proposal requires further work as a proportion of empty and long-term empty homes are council properties. This would mean we would be charging ourselves. Any removal of the exemption on these homes would, therefore, simply move the burden of the government's council tax benefit cut onto council tenants in rent. Officers also estimate that (assuming that all long-term empty homes not in the housing revenue account (HRA) are band D properties), charging a premium on long-term empty homes will raise roughly £60,000, or 2% of the total government cut to the benefit.

Once the full work has been completed the cabinet will make proposals on removing exemptions on certain empty homes and any charge of a premium on long-term empty properties. However, it is clear that this will not be sufficient to make up the full amount cut by the government. If the leader of the opposition was really concerned about this matter, she had the opportunity to call on all of Southwark's MPs, including Simon Hughes, to vote against it in parliament. She chose not to.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Yes I do thank you very much Madam Mayor. I am very pleased you are looking at this next week Councillor John. Thank you for your answer. I just wondered if you could confirm because you have explained how much revenue it would generate. Will that absolutely be put into offsetting the cut?

## **RESPONSE**

Thank you very much for that supplemental question. I can't honestly say that we have actually concluded that is definitely going like for like. I think what we know is that if we try to fund the whole council tax benefit being passed down to us to administer, if we try to fill that hole we have to find £2.8 million pounds, which we as a borough do not have realistically for the longer term. What we are looking at and will be bringing forward shortly is a separate fund, probably a welfare fund, which I hope that people who are being affected by so many different benefit changes at the moment will be able to look to for some additional financial support. Not only those who are affected by council tax benefit changes but those who will be receiving universal credit from April onwards.

I do not think we can underestimate the scale of change that this means for Southwark residents - the changes for the benefit system going forward in particular to some of our most vulnerable residents, our council tenants in particular. We need to be ready as a council to help them in every way that we possibly can and that is what we are trying to do. That is why we have consulted on the scheme, which in common, I think, with every other council, say for Kensington and Chelsea maybe Hammersmith and Fulham, in London. We are passporting through this cut down to those who have otherwise received 100% council tax benefit until now. We are trying to get them ready to manage these changes to realise that they will have an obligation, which they did not have before. But at the end of the day we do come back to the fact that this is a government cut which we are having to administer. It is not of our choosing. I would much rather be in a situation where we were given the whole amount of council tax benefit we had previously had and we were able to administer that going forward so that people who are genuinely vulnerable can be supported by us as a council. It is invidious, I think, if we start trying to pick between those groups who currently receive council tax benefit and start saying this group is more deserving than this group, than this group, than this group. That becomes an invidious task for us to undertake, and as I think Lord Beecham has written in a blog this week "I do think this council tax benefit change begins to smell and feel and look a bit like the return of the poor law when we as a council are beginning to hand out alms to the poor". It really is not a nice position for us to be in and I do regret the changes that this government has introduced. Sorry that was a long and rambling answer but this is a big and important subject which people do need to be ready for.

## **SECOND SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

I am not completely convinced I got the assurance that the money you can claim back on in getting rid of exceptions on second homes and empty homes would help to offset the cuts for some of those most vulnerable people. The other part of my question had been about whether we can actually make anything out of the new flexibility where we can charge extra for second homes or empty homes and that would certainly be something that at least a bit more assurance that you will try and do that, to help offset that cut for people would be helpful.

## **RESPONSE**

As I say, I don't know because I don't know, and I don't think there is a recommendation yet on this but the cabinet papers will be coming to us next week. I wonder if Councillor Richard Livingstone should answer this bit as he is more knowledgeable than me on this topic and rather than me waffle on a second time, get some direct information from him. I wanted to make a general point as well.

**RESPONSE FROM CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY, COUNCILLOR RICHARD LIVINGSTONE,**

Thank you, just very briefly, we think on those longer term empty properties we already charge those at a 100% council tax so you would only be able to get the extra 50%. For non council properties, that's around £60,000 we could raise through that. So we have got the £60,000 there and the £90,000 that the leader talked about from second homes. Clearly there are other things that we want to look at and the report that is going to the cabinet next week is recommending that on the empty homes issue we spend a bit of time looking at that with a report coming in November. A big challenge we have got with the empty homes issue is that the biggest landlord in Southwark is Southwark and we don't want to have a situation where the empty homes discount being removed suddenly creates a big bill for the HRA which council tenants have to pay for.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**  
**(ORDINARY MEETING)**  
**WEDNESDAY 17 OCTOBER 2012**  
**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

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

Can the leader state how many council homes have been built in Southwark since May 2010? How many council homes will be built in Southwark by May 2014? The promise to build 1,000 council homes has been widely heralded by the leader – could he confirm that this will be a net gain to the borough of 1,000 new council homes?

**RESPONSE**

13 council homes have been built since 2010, despite the government's 60% cut to the national social housing budget. In the 2010/11 financial year, 10 hidden homes were created out of redundant space within existing housing blocks. In 2011/12, three new houses were completed at Firbank Road, SE15. Seven further hidden homes are in the pipeline to be delivered by May 2014. The cabinet will consider a report on the proposals for new council housing development at our meeting on 23 October and further details on the projections for development will be available thereafter. However, I can say that an indicative development programme has been drawn up for nine phase 1 sites to deliver 217 affordable homes, and it is projected that the sequence of the construction stages across the sites will run from November 2013 to December 2015.

It is impossible to calculate the net gain of council houses that the programme to build 1,000 units will achieve, without details of stock loss due to right to buy sales, sales of void properties and number of losses due to regeneration programmes. Suffice it to say that the government's extension of the right to buy discount will not cut down the number of properties that will be lost from the stock.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Thank you Madam Mayor, and thank you to the leader for his answer. I dare not accuse him of waffling again but of this 1000 new homes are there actually going to be 1000 new homes or will you by that point, have sold off or demolished 1500 - so is it a net gain or isn't it?

**RESPONSE**

Well look I would like it to be a net gain. I think what we have got to acknowledge today, of course is that we commissioned at the end of last year a housing commission report, a truly independent commission which was reported at the beginning of this week. I think it is important to recognise that the housing commission is tasked at looking at the long term future of council housing in our borough and it has come back with some interesting options and thoughts about

the direction of travel for our council housing. One thing I want to say tonight, because your supplementary question is about this 1000 more homes etc, one thing I want to put to bed and rest absolutely this evening is that the housing commissions report suggests a situation where we might reduce our council stock to 20,000. That is not an option which a Labour council will endorse or pursue. So I want to put that to bed today for once and for all. Nobody can accuse us that we are going to do that or halve our housing stock. Even though it has been picked up by some of the housing journals, it is not the position.

I think and can I make this plea please to everybody, the housing commission report is a serious piece of work, it is trying to look into the future to crack some of the long term problems that we have in our housing because of short term decision making in the past. It is 150 pages. Please read it before you jump to a conclusion about what we need to do with our council housing, because no option and no decision we take about our council housing is free of consequences. If we build more houses we and our tenants have to pay for those new houses and we have to increase the burden of our debt. If we just do nothing our housing stock the housing commission predicts just goes down to about 30,000 in 30 years time. We have to think about those options, those consequences and we have to think about them seriously over the longer term.

So I do urge all members, including Liberal Democrats, please participate in the consultation that we will launch next week and carry through for six or nine months because it is important for all of us, for our tenants, for our leaseholders and for all the residents in our borough that we get this right. No more short term fixes, a long term solution and a long term strategy for our council housing so we can meet that aspiration of more council housing, I hope, in this borough. But it is not consequence free. It does carry a cost which we all have to be aware of. I just want to finally make this point - the biggest pressure on our net council housing is right to buy. It is right to buy and this government has changed the rules on right to buy so that people have a £75,000 discount. That means we will lose a lot more of our properties through right to buy than we have in the past few years. That is an important factor, don't forget it.

## **2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS**

How important is it for Southwark to have not only a strong police presence but infrastructure in order to tackle crime and anti-social behavior?

### **RESPONSE**

It is vitally important. Local police front desks, in particular, root the police in the community, providing a reassuring police presence and a vital hub for neighborhood policing. What is most distressing about the changes that are currently taking place in the Metropolitan Police Service, however, is that almost every aspect of our police service is being undermined. Police numbers are falling. Police front desks in community stations are closing and the previous commitment to replace them has been torn up. The organizational structure of our neighborhood policing has already been diluted through the abolition of some safer neighborhood teams. And the leadership – the steady and experienced hand at the top of our borough's police – has been removed seemingly without any thought given to how or who will replace it in the short-term.

These facts represent the wholesale undermining of our police service. The blame does not lie entirely in any one place. But it is clear that City Hall, responsible for

city-wide policing, and those MPs who supported the decision to cut the Metropolitan Police Service's budget by 20% (of which Simon Hughes is the only local example) should shoulder the political responsibility.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS**

I would like to thank the leader for his answer and am glad to see him campaigning on behalf of the people of Southwark.

Her Majesty Inspectorate of Constabularies highlighted three police forces where there were very serious financial pressures and they were unclear that they would be able to carry on delivering a decent standard of service, one of which was the Metropolitan Police. Given that the government imposed a 20% cut on the Metropolitan Police does he think it is ironic that Southwark Liberal Democrats have signed a petition opposing the police cut, a cut which Simon Hughes did not oppose in parliament on behalf of the people of Bermondsey and Old Southwark?

### **RESPONSE**

It is regrettable, it is truly regrettable, but I think we are used to it now. Say one thing and do another, time and time and time again since May 2010 we have seen that from Simon Hughes and the Liberal Democrats regrettably. I do really regret this because this is going to have a hugely negative impact. I did raise these concerns with the commissioner on Tuesday at a meeting. He knows how important we believe the whole issue of front counters is for us in Southwark and to maintain a good front line police force, and I did urge him to consult in the way we consulted when we faced budget challenges back in 2010. But they would not have to do this, they would not have to consider how they are going to manage this situation, if these cuts weren't coming so far and so fast.

### **3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

What opportunities will residents have to publicly voice their opinions on the outline application for the regeneration at the Elephant and Castle at committee stage? Does the leader think that one evening at planning committee is enough time to discuss such a major project? Will he commit to holding the relevant planning committee meeting at the Elephant and Castle?

### **RESPONSE**

Planning committee represents the formal point in the decision making process about the master plan for the Heygate. It is not the only time residents will have an opportunity to make their opinions on the scheme known and Lend Lease have been working side-by-side with the local community to co-develop their planning application, which has led to substantive changes and improvements on the original proposals. Since May 2011 Lend Lease have carried out an exemplary programme of pre-application consultation and engagement with residents and other stakeholders interested in their proposals for the Heygate estate. There have been 11 Elephant and Castle Regeneration Forum meetings, three major exhibitions, and 12 liaison group sessions to discuss specific topics arising from the scheme, including housing, sustainability, business and employment, interim uses and community facilities. In addition Lend Lease have visited individual tenant and resident associations, resident groups, and schools affected by the scheme and also regularly attended community council meetings. Through their

engagement in this process residents have helped shape the content of the application that Lend Lease have submitted. The evidence for this is set out in the statement of community engagement which Lend Lease have submitted in support of their application.

In turn, planning officers have extended their normal period of consultation for planning applications to six weeks and have issued just under 3,000 letters seeking views on the scheme to residents and community groups. As part of the statutory consultation process there have been 12 drop in sessions at the consultation hub at Walworth Road at which residents could view the planning documents, three of which have been attended by council planning officers.

Arrangements for the planning committee are primarily a question for the chair of planning, acting in his quasi-judicial role.

### **Further comments from the chair of the planning committee**

The planning committee arrangements are long-standing and have been used to make decisions on other large and complex applications. The planning committee is not the appropriate stage in any planning application for the applicant to begin engagement with the community – this should have already happened at the pre-application stage and we would expect the applicant to have undertaken the relevant consultation with local residents to inform their proposals. Rather, the decision-making meeting is the moment that the committee must weigh the evidence and come to a decision. I believe that this can and should be done in a single meeting. To date 129 representations have been received on the outline planning application and these (and any other responses that are subsequently received) will be summarised in the committee papers and residents will have an opportunity to highlight directly to the planning committee the issues which are still of concern to them. I have recently attended an Elephant and Castle Regeneration Forum with officers to brief interested residents on the committee arrangements and how they can most effectively use the current format to make their points. I am content that the proposed arrangements will allow sufficient time for residents to raise matters of concern and for members of the committee to give them due consideration. Just to remind everyone, this is the outline planning application and each of the elements that make it up, the individual buildings, will have to come before committee for detailed planning permission, over the next 12-15 years, where the impact on the local area and other planning matters will be considered.

I am satisfied that Tooley Street, at 20 minutes maximum travel time from the Elephant and Castle, has the facilities required to hold a public meeting of the sufficient scale and is accessible to people living in the area.

### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

Thank you Madam Mayor and can I thank the leader and my good friend the chair of the planning committee for their lengthy and fullsome answers.

I thought the leader of the council's answers were quite good actually. I think it set out the position that the council cannot do anything about this issue. I was a little bit disappointed and I wonder if the leader of the council might go away and talk to colleagues on planning committee. In the chair's answer, he may be aware that on Monday evening the overview and scrutiny committee heard from residents and actually reached some consensus with residents across all parties. One of the



best things we can do to de-risk which would be subject to the meetings, future planning applications or major projects was actually to make sure that people felt everyone was being open, transparent and properly heard. I think there was some consensus, and I am sure people will correct me if I am wrong, that the committee go away and report back on a cross party basis to planning committee and indeed the leader that it would like it very much to look at cases like Elephant and Castle and other major projects about doing what Camden did at Kings Cross, Madam Mayor, and having the committee over a number of evenings in the locality so people can be heard and what ever that decision, people can walk away knowing that justice has been done one way or another.

## **RESPONSE**

I will discuss this matter further with the chair of planning committee and with officers and others involved in this application. I think if it were over one evening I do not think there will be any reason why people would not have thought their views had not been heard and considered. But I do recognise this is an exceptional application. We need to get it right and it is important that is seen to be got right, but I will have that discussion and it maybe that the chair of planning discusses it with colleagues further going forward.

#### **4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA**

How does he feel the record of this administration's record on housing compares with the last previous administration?

## **RESPONSE**

It is not a question of a 'feeling' about how our records compare; it is a question of facts. And these are the facts:

- Under the last administration: the number of council homes not warm, dry or safe rising every year, with no programme of improvement works to bring all council homes up to scratch and no certainty for tenants. With this administration: every council home to be made warm, dry and safe by the end of 2015, with a clear timetable and certainty for tenants.
- Under the last administration: zero new council homes built. With this administration: a pledge to build 1,000 new council homes by 2020, more than have been built in the whole of the rest of London in all of the last decade.
- Under the last administration: abject failure to get to grips with the repairs service or crack down on failing repairs contractors. With this administration: a new housing director committed to improving housing services and the contracts of failing repairs contractors cancelled.
- Under the last administration: no leadership to secure the long-term future of council housing in this borough. With this administration: the leadership to task an independent housing commission to set out the long-term choices for our community.

Each one of these progressive steps – the warm, dry and safe programme; the funding for 1,000 new council homes; a new housing director; the housing commission – has been opposed by the opposition. Combined with their disastrous

record in power in Southwark and the record of their government it should be clear to all who care about council housing in Southwark, who is best placed to improve the present and secure the future of our borough's council homes.

#### **5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

Will the leader state how many new a) primary and b) secondary school places will be needed in Southwark by 2015? What is the leader personally doing to support a new secondary school in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe area?

#### **RESPONSE**

The current projections forecast that up to an additional 12 forms of entry or 360 primary reception places will be required in the 2014/15 school year. Officers are working closely with our primary schools in order to meet this, and future, demand.

Ahead of September 2015 the need for secondary Year 7 places should be met by the provision of an additional four forms of entry or 120 Year 7 places at the Ark All Saint's academy, which is due to open in September 2013, and an additional five forms of entry of Year 7 places at the New School Aylesbury, which is due to open in September 2014.

In September 2015 a two forms of entry or 60 pupil shortfall in available Year 7 places is predicted with this shortfall increasing in future years. This pattern of need is supported by the increases in primary rolls currently being experienced. These forecasts indicate a need for further new secondary provision.

Members and officers are working with Compass Free School and the sponsors of the proposed university technical college and support both in their intention to establish new secondary provision in the Bermondsey and Rotherhithe area and I have been fully involved.

Alongside this we are working with other secondary schools to see where it would be possible to add further places as required.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

Thank you Madam Mayor, I would like to thank the leader for his response to my question. I would like to ask you if it is possible for you to give me an assurance that by next summer every child will have a place in Rotherhithe in the school.

#### **RESPONSE**

Well, thank you very much Councillor Nelson for your supplementary question. We are certainly doing our very best to meet the problems we are facing in terms of pupil place shortages and I think tributes should be paid actually to the very hard work of council officers who are working at the moment to make sure we have a solution in place for our pupils. Some councils have gone around, run around like headless chickens, we don't know what to do, we don't know what to do.

Our team and this administration is absolutely committed to finding a solution to this problem which is immense. Be under no illusion the number of additional places we need to find, the finance that we need to find and put in place is not an

easy task but we are doing our best. I do have to say though, that the government really has got to let go of the dogmatic love of free schools. I do not think it is suitable in any way, shape or form for Southwark Free School and the pupils of that school to be operating out of a tenants' hall. This reminds me of the self help school that we were running in Southwark back in the late 90's and early 2000's.

It is not a proper place for kids to have their education, the good start in life that we were talking about earlier on, and you know but for Michael Gove's love of free schools that would not be happening.

Whilst at the moment they advertise they are going to be there for two years in this tenants' hall and they are going to move to 399 Rotherhithe New Road, I think we all know that there is no guarantee that they will move to 399 Rotherhithe New Road. They don't even own the land and they don't have planning permission. Is it going to take a week to build a school? No not at all, so I do say and I do urge you to make it quite clear to your colleagues that if we are going to operate free schools we are going to have to operate them properly.

They should not be in tenants' halls, they should be in proper school buildings and at the same time the government should not throwing money at free schools as the only answer to school place shortages, but should be trusting local authorities again I think actually to be answering the problems that we have with the shortage of school places.

#### **6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

How many affordable homes would have been delivered at the Heygate under the previous administration's development agreement and how many will be delivered under agreement secured by this administration?

#### **RESPONSE**

The last administration's draft development agreement included no commitment to a guaranteed level of affordable housing. This means that, had they signed it, the proportion of affordable housing would have been decided through the planning process based on what was commercially viable. That figure would have been less than 10%. That would have been between 230 and 247 homes dependent upon the outcome of reserved matters applications.

When we came into power in May 2010 we renegotiated the development agreement to include a guarantee of at least 25% affordable housing: equivalent to 575-617 homes dependent upon the outcome of reserved matters applications.

Put starkly and simply: had the electoral result been different in May 2010, between 345-370 fewer affordable homes would be built on the Heygate site.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

I would like to thank the leader for his answer to my question, but I do have a supplementary for him.

What does he make of the crocodile tears of Southwark's Liberal Democrats, of councillors who pretend to care about affordable housing at the same time by

being cheerleaders to a government which has slashed the social housing budget by 60% and introduced affordable rental of up to 80% of market rates.

## **RESPONSE**

I think Councillor Seaton has made the point that I would make. That is why I actually think that we are doing well at the Heygate in terms of us having negotiated that 25% affordable housing on the Heygate site when we came into power in July 2010.

If we had done as we were urged at the time by the Liberal Democrats opposite and we had just left it to the planning process, do you know what the planning process would have delivered under the usual financial viability for the Heygate? Between 7% and 8%. Between 7% and 8%, that is what you would have delivered if you sat back and not got a minimum guaranteed level of affordable housing at the Heygate site. I think you are mishearing. I was saying 7% and 8% is what you would have delivered in terms of affordable housing at the Heygate as opposed to the 25%, at least, that we are guaranteeing at the Heygate site.

That is what you have to get through your mind because don't forget in this council chamber both Councillor Bowman and Councillor Al-Samerai criticised us, for foregoing some cash at the end of the deal in order to guarantee that housing. So what they would have done: taken the cash and 7% affordable housing. Shame on them.

## **7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

What process does the council currently undertake to verify that developers are meeting their Section 106 commitments?

## **RESPONSE**

I assume that the councillor means "verify".

Planning obligations are set out in legal agreements that run with the land. These agreements set out the specifics of the obligations, the schedule and the triggers when they are due. These triggers are monitored by officers on an ongoing basis including visiting sites. In most instances the legal agreement places a positive obligation on the developer and successors in title to give notice to the council in advance of obligation becoming due. This allows officers to inform the developer of the amount and any interest due, or other requirements for the proper discharge of an obligation. Should a developer or successor fail to meet its obligations, there are a number of remedies open to the council including injunctive action through the courts.

Officers regularly update the balances and report annually on Section 106 obligations, the next update will be published in December.

## **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

Thank you Madam Mayor. A little less controversial, but no less important. I thank the leader for his answer and also, he is absolutely right in his assumption. It ought to have read verify so apologies on behalf of me and my office for that little typo.

There was a piece of public work delivered in my ward at Strata tower, which you may or may not be aware of. In the case of that piece of work which cost £100,000, which is no little figure, residents of the Elephant and Castle used the Freedom of Information Act, or tried to use the Freedom of Information Act to get the council to give a break down of the costs and how the costs were actually spent.

The council, after repeated attempts was unable to give that information and concluded that in this instance and I quote 'A site visit from an officer did not take place and on reflection it ought to have done'. I just want to ask does that seem good enough for you, does it seem good enough that developers can verify their own Section 106 spend?

### **RESPONSE**

Well that's a specific example I will look into as that is very worrying. I think you are absolutely right we do, if Section 106 obligations had been carefully negotiated by officers, need to ensure they are being delivered and that they are being delivered as value for money. I think that is equally important.

When we move to a CIL, a community infrastructure levy, in the not too distant future, when Section 106 will not stand alone as the only money that comes out of development we will have, I think, probably greater council control, political control and planning committee control over how that money is spent. Rather than, as it some times feels to me Section 106 money goes in, disappears and do we actually see it or the value for money of it coming out the other end?

So a very important point that you have raised, I will look into the particular scheme you have indicated and come back to you.

### **8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS**

Could the leader give an update on the work to deliver on Southwark Labour's administration commitment to turn plans for a new One O'Clock Club on Peckham Rye into a reality?

### **RESPONSE**

A project team has been established to take forward the redevelopment of Peckham Rye One O'Clock Club, with a project manager allocated by the property team and representatives from children's services. An initial assessment has been carried out of options for the location of the proposed new building, with a further site visit for the project team scheduled for October 2012. The project is estimated to be completed by autumn 2013.

### **9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY**

As of 1 October 2012, what is the current amount held by the council in a) reserves and b) contingency funds?

### **RESPONSE**

Reserves maintained by the council continue to be reported in detail within the annual statement of accounts. These are open to public scrutiny and are subject to

external audit. Reserves are maintained for a number of purposes and the accounts also provide further background and explanation as to the nature and purpose of these reserves. An updated extract of the current position is shown below.

### Reserves as of 1 October 2012

Group	Reserve item	Balance
Revenue - Corporate		£
	<b>Modernisation, service &amp; operational improvement reserve</b>	
	General service development pressures	(5,066,247)
	<b>Community, Business and Youth Support Funds</b>	
	Community restoration fund	(115,234)
	Voluntary Sector Transition Fund	(257,416)
	Contract realignment (low paid staff)	(1,051,939)
	Youth Fund Reserve	(469,327)
	Artefacts replacement & security reserve	(579,000)
	<b>Financial Risk &amp; Future Liabilities Reserve</b>	
	Emergency small business relief	(74,000)
	General service development pressures	(2,666,759)
	<b>Funds set aside for future risks</b>	
	Land charges	(200,000)
	<b>Funds set aside for specific projects</b>	
	Early Years Review	(300,000)
	Illegal tobacco	(90,000)
	Internal audit & anti fraud	(356,200)
	Community engagement & Links development	(250,000)
	Queen's Jubilee	(50,000)
	Youth service minibuses	(200,000)
	Schools condition survey	(775,000)
	School improvement	(300,000)
	Youth service restructure	(250,000)
	<b>Revenue Grants</b>	
	Revenue grants	(344,281)
	<b>Service Reviews and Improvements</b>	
	Adult Workforce development	(142,175)
	Blackfriars trust allocation	(137,821)
	Camden Society transition funding support	(300,000)
	Early intervention pilot	(435,000)
	Homelessness	(214,686)
	HR transformation	(290,000)
	LD transfer continuing care returned clients	(315,480)
	Member development	(94,000)
	OT clients adaptations works	(885,500)
	Prita Road rent	(15,092)
	SEN/Learning difficulties	(140,000)
	Homelessness	(200,000)
	Ofsted inspection	(200,000)
	Signage	(108,334)
	Dedicated School Grant	(7,373,371)
	SSF PFI equalisation St Michael's	(57,775)
	SSF PFI equalisation STAC	(60,689)

**Reserves as of 1 October 2012**

<b>Group</b>	<b>Reserve item</b>	<b>Balance</b>
	Managed accounts underspend	(450,592)
	General Litigation Costs	(172,127)
	Management and administration of elections	(409,383)
	SALIX energy efficiency	(200,000)
	Street Trading	(110,000)
	Street Trading Account	645,071
<b>Capital</b>		
	<b>Capital contingency</b>	(2,650,628)
	<b>Modernisation, service &amp; operational improvement reserve</b>	
	Local public sector agreements	(578,790)
	Performance reward grant	(4,284,914)
	General service development pressures	(1,500,000)
	<b>Regeneration &amp; Development Reserve</b>	
	Canada Water & Bermondsey Spa EIP	(17,044)
	John Harvard Library	(16,600)
	General service development pressures	(5,961,944)
	<b>Funds set aside for specific projects</b>	
	Planned contribution to reserves - Aylesbury	(4,231,191)
	Burgess Park project	(350,000)
	Building compliance	(1,065,585)
	CCTV	(250,000)
	Cator Street development	(12,064)
	Contracts re-alignment reserve (capital)	(1,395,720)
	IT & Customer services development	(3,171,019)
	Carefirst procurement	(200,000)
	Resource Centre	(181,071)
	RFID for libraries	(300,000)
<b>Strategic financing &amp; technical liabilities</b>		
	<b>Modernisation, service &amp; operational improvement reserve</b>	
	Office accommodation - Queens Rd rental	(673,444)
	<b>Financial Risk &amp; Future Liabilities Reserve</b>	(4,400,000)
	<b>Funds set aside for specific projects</b>	
	Waste PFI Equalisation Reserve	(10,567,394)
	Council tax and housing benefit equalisation	(635,746)
	<b>Funds set aside for future risks</b>	
	Insurance	(9,106,060)
	Refinancing & Interest equalisation	(4,000,000)
	Care homes fees judgement	(1,480,372)
	Unaccompanied Asylum Seeking Children Equalisation	(387,733)
	Contractual disputes	(324,257)
	Schools in financial difficulties, schools closures and academies	(482,479)
	<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>(83,286,412)</b>

The vast majority of reserves are for earmarked activities (such as the capital programme) and for financial risks underlying key council functions. The general fund balance is not earmarked, but represents 'working capital' to manage any

unforeseen difficulties in the financial position of the council. The current general fund balance is not inconsistent with that held for other London councils, although Southwark is, of course, one of the larger councils and therefore carries at least the equivalent degree of risk.

For 2012/13, the general fund contingency budget is £5.5 million. The main purpose of this contingency is to underwrite the extent of challenges contained within the 2012/13 budget, not least savings targets of circa £27 million, largely necessary to meet reductions in government funding and a continuing increase in demand for critical council services, not least for children and for the elderly. The position of contingency continues to be reported to cabinet on a quarterly basis. Currently (as at quarter 1) adverse variances (circa £3.3 million) will need to be met from the contingency budget.

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR THE RIGHT REVEREND EMMANUEL OYEWOLE**

Can the leader provide an update on Southwark Circle?

**RESPONSE**

In June 2009, the council announced funding to establish Southwark Circle, a membership organisation for older people, which provides both help with practical tasks and a social network that aims to increase opportunities for local residents to build up their own informal support networks.

The original research which underpinned the decision to set up Southwark Circle was ground-breaking, and established Southwark as being at the forefront of thinking about the transition of people from the end of their working life to older age.

Following the completion of the first stage of its development, the government have now provided £800,000 to help Southwark Circle grow into "London Circle".

This is an exciting development and we wish Southwark Circle all the best as they take the next exciting step in their journey.

**11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMMELL**

How much has been spent on agency staff for a) schools, b) children centres and c) nurseries in the borough since 2011 (broken down in years)?

**RESPONSE**

One of our chief priorities when we formed an administration in 2010 was cutting down the huge bill for agency staff that the previous administration had left us. From 2006-2010 they spent £109 million on temps and agency staff.

Last year we managed to bring total agency spend down from its previous high by 46%.

The information on total agency spend in the areas requested over the period 2006 to 2012 is set out below. Please note, that children's centre total agency spend is not available. This is because the two council-run children's centres are incorporated into the early years centres' spend and, the council does not hold



records specifically on children's centres agency expenditure where these are run by other providers.

<b>Provision</b>	<b>Southwark Early Years Centres (two of these are also Children's Centres) (£)</b>	<b>Maintained Nursery Schools (£)</b>	<b>Maintained Southwark Schools (excluding Nursery Schools above) (£)</b>
<b>2006-07</b>	218,155	156,364	7,120,948
<b>2007-08</b>	410,141	221,232	5,902,999
<b>2008-09</b>	435,423	194,767	6,120,446
<b>2009-10</b>	426,661	298,603	6,471,622
<b>2010-11</b>	332,508	444,652	6,237,561
<b>2011-12</b>	361,984	162,140	5,692,596
<b>2012-13 to Sept 2012</b>	209,697	40,553	1,481,122

We will never be able to bring down agency spend in these areas to zero. The early years centres' spend is mainly incurred when staff cover is needed to maintain minimum child to adult ratios for the childcare provision. Maintained nursery schools and maintained schools have delegated budgets, and therefore the school agency spend is the decision of the head teacher and governors.

Staffing in early years centres is highly regulated in terms of ensuring sufficient staff for the numbers of children daily. When there is short or long term absence, cover staff must be engaged to maintain the appropriate staff to child ratio.

Following a recent review of the council run day care centres, a new operational model will ensure a reduction in agency staff in the future whilst at the same time maintaining the current balance of staff to child ratio.

## **12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**

How is the council ensuring that the views of parents are included in the review of council-run nurseries?

### **RESPONSE**

The council has conducted an extensive consultation providing the opportunity for parents and other stakeholders to express their views on the future of the nurseries. The responses have been very helpful in planning for future provision and parental views have been taken into account, and will inform the planning going forward.

Parents are also represented on the children's centre advisory boards, and they will have the opportunity to discuss the nursery provision. Follow up meetings with parents will be held when the plans for the operating model are clearer. At present officers are developing options for the future staffing structure of the centres and these will be relayed to parents at meetings in the near future.

### 13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

Could the leader state how many Olympic tickets were given to councillors and council employees, from whom were they received, and what were the value of tickets individually?

#### RESPONSE

All gifts and hospitality worth £50 or more received by councillors should be declared and records are available on the council website. All gifts and hospitality received by staff are declared to their appropriate head of service.

196 tickets for the Olympic and Paralympic Games were purchased by Southwark Council in early 2011, as part of a number of tickets that were made available for all London boroughs to purchase. Approximately 50% of these tickets were allocated to children in care via the looked after children service. 64 tickets went to children in care, with 32 staff and support workers accompanying the young people to the events. Where pairs of tickets were available it was a ratio of one staff/support worker to one young person and where there were groups of six, it was a ratio of two staff to four young people. The other 50% of tickets were allocated to Southwark residents via the council's community nomination scheme. A small number (eight) of these tickets were returned by nominated individuals who were unable to make the events for which they had been randomly allocated. These tickets (all for Paralympic events) were added to the 520 tickets received by the London Organising Committee of the Olympic and Paralympic Games (LOCOG) for Paralympic Athletics, and allocated as shown below.

The total face value of the 196 tickets purchased by the council was £38,400, inclusive of VAT. Excluding VAT the cost to the council was £32,033. 50% of the total cost will be met by the Potters Field Park Management Trust; therefore the cost to the council for purchasing London 2012 tickets will be £16,016.

520 tickets to see Paralympic athletics were given to Southwark Council by LOCOG in compensation for the Paralympic Torch Relay not turning up as planned at Surrey Docks Watersports Centre. The council was given only three days to distribute the tickets and given no indication of the value of the tickets, which were given to the council free of charge.

Following approval by the leader and chief executive, these tickets were allocated as follows:

Fusion distributed 144 of the tickets, 46 were allocated to councillors who had attended the proposed Paralympic Torch Relay event, 106 were given to volunteer stewards, 134 to staff that worked on the relay and the remaining 98 were opened up to general staff through The Source when it became clear they would not otherwise be allocated.

The council also received 38 Olympic athletics tickets, at no cost to the council, from Virgin London Marathon, for young people and staff who represented the borough at the London Mini Marathon on Sunday 22 April 2012. 32 young people attended alongside four members of staff, the Mayor and a guest who acted as chaperones for the young people.

**14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON**

What is the average waiting time for a social care users being assessed for a personal budget and actually getting the money?

**RESPONSE**

The length of time taken to set up a personal budget depends very much on how the person chooses to use their budget. Not all personal budgets are paid to the person. The vast majority of people in Southwark choose to have their personal budget managed by the council.

Where people choose to have a council-managed budget, arrangements are usually put in place within seven days.

Where people choose to manage their own personal budget and some or all is in the form of a cash payment, this takes between one to eight weeks, depending on urgency and complexity.

Some of the reasons why a self-managed budget takes longer to set up are set out below. However, no one is left without a service and interim arrangements are put in place if required:

- More creative support planning takes longer as the focus is on outcomes and generating ideas about how the person wants to achieve these
- The support planning is usually done with the person and their support network so it can involve several meetings including with family and friends where support is provided to help people find the best options for them
- The plan needs to be costed and suitable supports sourced on an individual basis, rather than accessing block contracts
- A separate bank account needs to be set up by the individual and an agreement signed by them.

**15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

How many apprenticeships were created in the borough for each financial year since 2009/10?

**RESPONSE**

There have been approximately 2,890 apprenticeships created in the borough in the academic years since 2009/10, based on government data. 1,590 apprenticeships were started in 2010/11 and a further 1,300 in 2011/12 so far (noting that 2011/12 data is based only up to March 2012 with this figure expected to be higher when data for the remainder of the academic year becomes available).

38 apprentices started the programme this year working across the range of council departments and services. On top of our own apprenticeship scheme, the council supports apprenticeships across the borough, working with our partners, in several ways, including:

- Supporting construction apprenticeships where possible, negotiated with construction firms through Section 106 agreements

- Working with Connexions Southwark to gather and publish London and borough-wide apprenticeship vacancies each week
- Ensuring that the most vulnerable young people are given the opportunity to fully participate in apprenticeships through work with schools and Lewisham incorporating Southwark College
- Offering advice on opportunities through the Southwark Works programme to clients interested in pursuing an apprenticeship.

As we develop our new economic wellbeing strategy we will be exploring further opportunities to work with businesses across the borough to encourage more apprenticeship schemes locally.

#### **16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

Can the leader of the council explain why the Labour amendment discussed at the full council meeting on 4 July stated "the council's intention to build a new centre for excellence for older people" before a public consultation on the merits of the proposal had even been concluded?" What confidence can staff, service users and their relatives have that the consultation is genuine and meaningful and that all options will be considered including the retention of the existing day centres?

#### **RESPONSE**

As has been reported in the minutes of the meeting, this statement in relation to a proposal to build a new centre of excellence was factually incorrect; the council concluded a very successful consultation exercise involving families, stakeholders and members of the public at the end of September. The consultation findings are currently being carefully considered, alongside feasibility studies on the two existing buildings and other sites. The consultation can only be genuine and meaningful if it includes options that are financially possible. As the government has made the largest cash-terms cuts to our budget of any council in London – £90 million in real terms – it is difficult to see how retaining two centres could deliver upon our vision for the centre of excellence, but the council will make a formal decision on this matter in December cabinet.

#### **17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

What is the council doing to pro-actively ensure that conservation areas are respected and improved?

#### **RESPONSE**

All developments within conservation areas or affecting their setting are required to conserve or enhance the character and appearance of these important historic areas. In this way we are embracing English Heritage's approach to heritage assets of *managed change*, which requires good design and a sensitive choice of materials.

We also have a number of proactive measures to ensure that our conservation areas are respected and improved which include:

- Preparing conservation area appraisals for every new designated conservation area

- Supporting the conservation areas advisory group which meets on a monthly basis, which includes independent representatives from a number of conservation areas, and reviews planning applications affecting conservation areas and their setting
- Actively seeking external regeneration funding for our conservation areas, e.g. securing £1.6 million through the townscape heritage initiative to improve the recently designated conservation area in Peckham, improving shop fronts in Nunhead and a successful GLA Outer London fund bid will provide further improvements to the Nunhead conservation area
- Providing cleaner, greener, safer funding for projects such as in the Trinity Church Square conservation area
- Making improvements secured through Section 106 agreements, such as in Flat Iron Square in the Union Street conservation area and Redcross Way
- Working with building owners to address specific issues like the proliferation of satellite dishes in the Sutherland Square conservation area
- Replacing trees, where they are removed, with appropriate species.

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

What improvements does the cabinet member anticipate as a consequence of the cleaner, greener, safer (CGS) revenue money allocated to the cleanliness of Rye Lane by the Peckham and Nunhead community council?

**RESPONSE**

From April 2012, the additional funding has enabled the street cleaning team to extend the hours of operation in the area. Cleaners now start work at 5.00am, an hour earlier than anywhere else in the borough, to ensure the streets are cleaned before the morning commute starts. The money has also paid for a later collection of trade waste and flytipping with a truck now visiting the area at 7.00pm each evening.

This additional work is already delivering good results and the cleanliness of the area has perceptibly improved.

Nevertheless, I am aware that litter and dumping is still evident later in the evening and overnight. I'm determined to make Rye Lane even cleaner. To this end I met with a sustainable services representative on site on 9 October at 8.00pm in order to assess the situation and see what more the council can do to improve matters still further.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Yes thank you Madam Mayor. I would just like to thank the cabinet member for his response and would like to ask a supplementary question. Could he give us an update on the meeting of the 9 October which was cited in his response? Thank you.

**RESPONSE**

Yes Madam Mayor, I would like to thank the member for her follow up question.

What we looked at on that evening was that after the shops started closing there was quite a bit of dumping going on, and this was one of the reasons why Rye Lane is in a pretty bad state over night and in the early morning. We have already introduced early morning cleaning but what we decided to do from that visit is to rearrange the times that our lorry goes round to pick up the bulk rubbish. I think Lane ward councillors in particular but anybody that travels through Rye Lane would appreciate this. We are also thinking of bringing in some level of enforcement now for the dumping that is going on. We are also in discussions with our market section because at the moment it appears that some of the market traders have no where to put their rubbish. So it is a work in progress to keep Rye Lane clean but we are certainly are working with our sustainable services department very hard to keep on top of this.

**19. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Would the leader support in principle a new Dulwich police station in any redevelopment of the current Lordship Lane site via a Section 106/community infrastructure levy (CIL) agreement?

**RESPONSE**

It is vitally important that the police retains an infrastructure that enables our diverse communities the ability to both report crime and anti-social behavior. We will continue to press the police to provide the facilities that are needed to ensure this happens.

The council has extended the offer of working with the police and the Mayor's office for policing and crime to provide adequate replacements for those police stations that are set to be closed and we are willing to look at every feasible option. Fundamental to any such proposal, however, is the willingness of the police to take up our offer.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Thank you Madam Mayor and I thank the Leader for his answer. I do have a supplemental picking up on your point that you were making a few minutes ago about the council having greater control over the community infrastructure levy (CIL) payments. I just wanted to point out that we had twelve councillors across four wards, representing 50,000 people, sign a letter to the Deputy Mayor for Locap. You know I sent it to you today and this represents about 20% of the borough so would you keep this in mind. While I do agree we need to engage with the police and Locap on this but if it comes down to it would you support reverting the CIL payments down to East Dulwich to build a police station on the site of current police station as part of a development?

**RESPONSE**

Thank you very much councillor. I think the issue here is whether the Metropolitan Police can actually afford to maintain a front office presence which we believe they should do in both East Dulwich and Rotherhithe.

Going forward it is not so much the physical presence in a way where the CIL would help, it is the revenue issue. I think there is a tension here, there is a tension between the Metropolitan Police Commissioner who is responsible for providing and managing the police service and the Deputy Mayor for Policing and the Mayor who owns all the buildings now. I do not know how that tension is going to be resolved. I think we have got to be working with them to try and find a suitable solution. We have offered to the police the possibility of co-locating of services. The police were a bit nervous about that because a lot of people who go to police stations aren't just going to report their cat struck up a tree, they are going because they are criminals on bail condition who are going to report in and you cannot really have council officers sometimes dealing with things like that, you would not want it so we have to think through this. I think we need to be looking and having these conversations going forward both with the Deputy Mayor and with the commissioner and I welcome the letter from Dulwich councillors because I hope that will help our case be made.

**20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Following the introduction of the tables and chairs policy, please can the cabinet member give me details of 1) the amount of money that has been generated so far; 2) what that money is to be spent on; 3) what enforcement action has been taken to date against businesses who continue to obstruct the pavements without licenses for their A boards, tables and/or drinkers?

**RESPONSE**

In the current financial year to date the following income has been raised from tables and chair and other street furniture licences:

- Tables and chairs - £10,125
- Street furniture licences - £6,375.

This income pays for the management and administration of the service and enforcement of the licences.

Since the approval of the tables and chairs individual cabinet member decision, we have visited a large number of businesses and discussed and agreed what items would be allowable. We have also followed up with removal notices around the borough including Bermondsey and Borough Market and on two occasions have carried out removals. In line with the policy we treat every case of enforcement on its own merits. We also have current plans to tackle further areas with studies now taking place on several key areas including Rye Lane and Lordship Lane.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Thank you Madam Mayor and I thank the cabinet member for his response. I am glad that in Borough and Bankside at least we are starting to be able to reclaim some of our narrow streets, particularly the pavements. I wondered whether or not now that Southwark is working through this process, whether or not the cabinet member would put pressure on Transport for London (TfL) to do its bit in relation to the TfL roads like Borough High Street where we still have these issues and where our council officers are not able to intervene?

**RESPONSE**

I would like to thank the member for her follow up question. I will double check this Councillor Morris, but my understanding is that we have agreed with TfL that we will enforce along the TfL roads but I will go away and look at that and will come back to you.

**21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK**

When the cabinet published their council plan, the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling set a target for the percentage of streets and highways with unacceptable litter at 4% and detritus at 9% for each of the next three years. In the council plan performance report 2011/12, the cabinet member then changed the target for litter to 7% and detritus to 10%. Why has the cabinet member changed the target? Does he think it is transparent and acceptable to change a three year target after one year because he has failed to meet it?

**RESPONSE**

In the last two years Southwark's budget has been cut by £90 million in real-terms, the largest cash-terms reduction of any council budget in London in this round of cuts and largest ever reduction to our budget. The cuts were of such an extent that no service area could be protected entirely from budget reductions. Street cleaning was no exception.

Despite budget reductions, the street cleansing team fundamentally reconfigured the way they worked to keep the streets of Southwark clean and mitigate the impact on the service they provide. However, it would be unrealistic to imagine that there would be no impact and that the service will be able to achieve the same standard as before the government cuts. The new targets transparently reflect a challenging, but realistic level of performance that will still meet the expectations of Southwark residents. This is reflected in the fact that resident satisfaction with our street cleaning is currently at 92% - the highest ever result.

**22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK**

Residents on the Rockingham Estate have raised with me a recent increase in flytipping. What is the council doing to tackle flytipping on the Rockingham Estate? How many cases of flytipping have been reported within the last year and how does this compare with the previous year?

**RESPONSE**



The table below sets out the number of flytips reported on the Rockingham Estate in the previous two years:

Period	Warden Reports	Resident Reports	Total
Oct 2010 – Sept 2011	11	1	12
Oct 2011 – Sept 2012	70	4	74

As can be seen from the data above, although the number of reported flytips has increased, the vast majority have been reported by our wardens. This means that they are doing their job and ensuring environmental issues are passed to our cleaning service before the public have to get involved.

For the record, flytip and bulky waste is pro-actively collected from the Rockingham Estate by the cleaning service every day of the week (Monday to Saturday) and upon receipt of a request from the public on Sunday.

All flytips collected are subject to a rigorous checking procedure to ensure that as much of the material as possible is recycled.

The published performance target is for the cleaning service to remove 97.5% of all reported flytips within 24 hours. Current performance exceeds this target with 98.6% collected in the specified time.

**23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON**

Can the cabinet member update me on the progress of the tree warden scheme? Please can he specify what their role will be and will they also be instructed to monitor the salt in the tree pits in order to ensure that trees are not unnecessarily killed by the laying of salt on the pavements?

**RESPONSE**

The council tree strategy, currently out for comment, contains a commitment to establish a tree warden scheme in the borough.

Officers have met with the Tree Council who run tree warden schemes and the London Tree Officers Association to determine the level of interest in Southwark and some 20 volunteers have been identified as potential wardens.

The tree team manager will also be meeting with Islington officers to discuss the implementation of their programme and use their knowledge and experience to deliver a programme in Southwark.

We will be looking to ensure that we have borough-wide network by March 2013.

The wardens will work closely with highways, parks and housing officers through a series of meetings, training days and conferences. The main role of the wardens will be:

- To become tree champions for their area. (In other words they will liaise with local residents on tree works being undertaken by the council)

- To assist in the care of young tree maintenance to ensure the newly planted trees get established
- To be additional eyes and ears for the council on damage to trees.

Council staff responsible for pavement gritting have all received guidance and training with regard to the correct procedure for the spreading of grit on pavements as part of the winter service plan. In addition, staff who carry out gritting operations only use mechanical spreaders which prevents the over-application of grit that has in the past been responsible for damage to street trees.

**24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

What is the council doing to deter landlords from flytipping on Trident Street in Surrey Docks ward?

**RESPONSE**

Trident Street is routinely checked for dumped waste by the street cleaning service on alternate days. In addition any dumped waste reported via the customer service centre is required to be collected within 24 hours. For the period April to August of this year 99% of fly-tip removal requests across the borough were cleared within the 24 hour response time.

Our environmental enforcement team report that their work in this area can be summarised as:

- April 2012. Incident of building waste which had been placed out by a builder working adjacent to Trident Street. Builder was waiting the arrival of a waste vehicle to remove. Waste was removed in 45 minutes
- Problems in the area seem to be irregular and occur once per quarter at this location.

If the member for Surrey Docks Ward has any further information about the perpetrators of these breaches, could she please notify the sustainable services division who will appropriately follow up.

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK**

What is the council doing to stop the Tesco Express on Southwark Park Road using the pavement as an extension to their store and why are their delivery lorries permitted to block the traffic thoroughfare rather than use the parking bays on a regular basis?

**RESPONSE**

The parking bay was installed for the purpose of providing car parking for visitors to local stores. The dimensions of the bay are unsuitable for accommodation of large delivery vehicles although there is not a loading ban in operation in this area.

Observations have shown that vehicles making deliveries to the store are too large to fit wholly within the parking bay. Delivery vehicles then extend onto the double

yellow lines or, if the parking bay is occupied by a car, double park. This is causing obstruction of the westbound traffic lane. Currently this can only be dealt with by issuing parking tickets on the vehicles causing the obstruction.

Tesco's transport consultants have indicated that they would be prepared to pay for a five metre west-ward extension of bay and changing its use so that only delivery vehicles can park in it during certain hours (8am-11am) and by shoppers outside of those hours. It is noted that the extension of the bay would only be possible with the removal of the adjacent plane tree and approximately five metres of footway.

A proposal will be brought to the local community council for a decision within the next three months.

Regarding the cages on the footway, we have brought the issue to the notice of the store manager and will continue to inspect the area and take enforcement action when we find evidence of an obstruction on the highway.

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

How will the recent court ruling that co-mingling has not met the EU directive impact on Southwark's recycling services?

**RESPONSE**

It is not the case that commingling has not met the European Union (EU) directive. Both the EU, in guidance published in June this year, and the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs in their amendments to the Waste Regulations 2011 (brought into law at the start of October) clearly state that commingled collections are compliant with the Waste Framework Directive provided they can achieve the same aims of high quality recycling as a source-separated collection system.

In dense urban authorities such as our own, with a large variety of housing types and a very high proportion of medium and high rise developments, a uniform, commingled collection service absolutely presents the best solution for the needs of the council and more importantly our residents. This is why our new state-of-the-art materials recycling facility is built to process commingled recycling and to produce the highest possible quality of separated recyclate for re-processing.

**27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON**

The most recent officers report into Grange Road indicated the road was in a state of disrepair and in need of resurfacing. Is the cabinet member for environment willing to prioritise the resurfacing of Grange Road in the 2013/14 programme?

**RESPONSE**

We have recently agreed to a £45 million investment for highways infrastructure assets to fund a 10 year programme of carriageway and footway resurfacing and officers are currently preparing the annual programme for 2013/14 for approval.

The selection for renewal of footway or carriageways for inclusion in the programme is primarily based on an annual condition survey. This survey identifies the 100 worst roads in terms of condition which are then scored and ranked based on the following criteria:

- Survey condition rating
- Condition assessment based on engineers' inspections
- Cost of reactive repairs over the past two years
- Functional importance of the road
- Delivery risk.

Surveys following recent urgent works to deal with a number of potholes and sunken areas, predominantly around the utility boxes, show that Grange Road is in need of resurfacing.

Therefore, Grange Road is likely to feature in the forthcoming programme and I will ask officers to bring the report on the 2013/13 programme to me for a decision as soon as possible.

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON**

How many employees have participated in the council's cycle to work scheme since it was launched? Please provide a breakdown by financial year.

**RESPONSE**

For the years for which we have records, the number of employees for each given year participating in the bikes to work scheme is as follows:

<b>Summary of Bike Scheme Participants</b>	
<b>Scheme Run</b>	<b>Number of employees joining scheme</b>
July 2007	25
January 2008	36
July 2008	41
February 2009	41
July 2009	80
February 2010	39
August 2010	40
<b>Total</b>	<b>302</b>

**29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD**

What measures is he undertaking to improve recycling on Southwark's housing estates?

**RESPONSE**

We are well aware that making recycling easy for people who live in flats and on estates is a challenge. We have therefore put significant effort into making sure we have a really strong recycling infrastructure on our estates.

We already have the most comprehensive housing estate recycling service in the country but we are doing and will continue to do more.

A number of measures are in place to ensure that housing estates are able to recycle their waste material:

- An easy to use door-to-door collection service, tailored for medium and high-rise households, serving over 44,000 properties
- 1,400 accessible 'bring' sites in the borough, including in parks, schools, and on estates
- Communal recycling bins are provided wherever possible to residents living in flats
- Commingled recycling services
- Garden waste recycling collections and community composting schemes are now on offer where feasible and we also recycle as much bulky and fly-tipped waste as possible.

I am delighted that this autumn we will be adding to these measures by extending our food waste recycling service to another 4,000 households, mostly on estates.

But even more than this we want to properly understand what the barriers to recycling are for tenants and residents on our estates. So we have spent the first six months of this financial year carrying out in-depth surveys. Information from our collection crews, feedback from tenant and resident associations and many individuals has been gathered and analysed. This information will inform the marketing and communication work we have planned for the second half of the year, specifically aimed at our residents living on housing estates.

The initiative will also include house to house visits, and over the next 18 months we aim to visit every household eligible for the clear bag recycling scheme to promote the recycling service.

We will also be engaging with residents' groups and using our mobile recycling centre, which is a specially designed truck, externally funded to promote recycling of specific items like batteries, textiles and small electrical items.

Further work will be undertaken to thank residents for taking part.

We are starting this campaign this autumn and concentrating in the first phase on some of the areas where we know that recycling has not been reaching levels that we might reasonably expect.

### **30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED**

What is the council doing to improve cyclists' safety on Southwark streets?

#### **RESPONSE**

##### **Joint working with Southwark Cyclists**

The council has established a cycling joint steering group with Southwark Cyclists to work together to increase the level of cycling and reduce road dangers; making cycling safer. Supporting this, a working group was established to discuss and review various cycling related highways/traffic improvement projects.

In the last year, we have commissioned a detailed survey of the authority's roads and motorised vehicle free paths to assess the skill level needed to cycle on them in relative safety. These are classified using a system based on the three core levels of the National Standard for Cycle Training (Bikeability). This information along with input from the cycling working group has developed a programme of schemes to increase permeability for cyclists across the borough e.g. contra flows and cycle 'cut throughs'. Incidentally, the interactive Bikeability maps are available for use on the Southwark website.

### **Physical works**

The permeability schemes for cyclists have been developed in consultation with the working group consisting of public realm officers and members of Southwark Cyclists. It has identified 20 locations where improvements for cyclists are being followed up for planned implementation in 2013/14.

Other major initiatives that the council are developing include the Greenlink programme at Salisbury Row to Burgess Park, Greendale from East Dulwich Grove to Denmark Hill/Champion Hill, and in Camberwell, (access improvements to Burgess Park). The Connect 2 programme will also deliver a significant off road facility for cyclists in South Bermondsey.

I am happy to note that Southwark was the first London borough to install 'Trixi' mirrors. These mirrors can make it easier for lorry and bus drivers to check for cyclists who may be in the blind spot on the left hand side of their vehicles.

The junctions where Trixi mirrors have been installed are:

- Junction of Denmark Hill / Coldharbour Lane / Daneville Rd / Milkwell Yard
- Junction of Ilderton Road / Surrey Canal Road
- Junction of Rotherhithe New Road / Ilderton Road
- Junction of Croxted Road / Park Hall Road / South Croxted Road.

A further eight junctions are planned to receive the mirrors by March 2013.

### **Awareness events**

The council offers free cyclist training to anyone that lives, works or is educated in the borough with around 900 children and 600 adults receiving training each year.

### **HGVs and cycling**

Currently, under the planning applications process we require construction management plans at application stage on large developments. Through these we seek Fleet Operator Recognition Scheme (FORS), membership from contractors and require that drivers have undertaken a Drivers' Certificate of Professional Competence course which includes cyclist awareness/safety training.

We offer one day safer urban driving courses in Southwark. This is a Drivers Certificate Professional Competence (DCPC) training course which is available free of charge to any professional larger goods vehicle driver who drives in Southwark. This accredited course includes practical on road cycle training and will count for seven of 35 hours DCPC that all professional lorry drivers need to complete by September 2014.

The council continues to run the Exchanging Places programme and events. Where cyclists have the chance to sit in a lorry driver's cab to see where they need to be on the road in order to stay safe. At these events, cyclists also have the chance to receive expert cycle safety advice from the police and road safety officers.

### **Enforcement days**

We have also recently held two cycling awareness and enforcement days on 26 and 27 September in partnership with the Metropolitan Police Safer Transport Team. The purpose was to raise awareness and reduce the number of road traffic collisions, with a particular emphasis on vulnerable road users safety, which involved identifying and warning those cyclists about the risks of jumping traffic lights as well as making very clear the implications to those drivers who entered the advanced stop lines (ASLs) junction area, which are supposed to be reserved for cyclists.

A number of spot checks at undisclosed locations will also be taking place in the future, where if need be on-the-spot fines will be issued.

### **31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU**

What impact will the Southwark heat network have on carbon emissions and air quality?

#### **RESPONSE**

I am delighted we are getting close to being able to sign a contract for the delivery of the Southwark heat network. Some 25 years after it was built, the South East London combined heat and power plant will finally be generating useable, low carbon heat for the benefit of Southwark residents.

Not only will the cost of heat be significantly lower than the cost of heating using the existing gas boilers, but residents will have greater security of energy supply and there will be major environmental benefits. The project will save 8,000 to 10,000 tonnes of CO2 emissions every year, and it will cut nitrous oxides emissions by two tonnes per year. So the project will deliver a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, improve local air quality and provide cheaper heating and hot water to our tenants and leaseholders.

### **32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Does the council still supply rose bushes and gardens for estates? How much money is allocated for each estate?

#### **RESPONSE**

The council maintains existing landscaping areas and will replace plants/bushes as and when required.

In regards to new requests for landscaped areas or planting, each request will be considered on an individual basis. Specific funding is not provided for 'new landscaping,' however, limited funding may be available from existing budgets if there is surplus available.

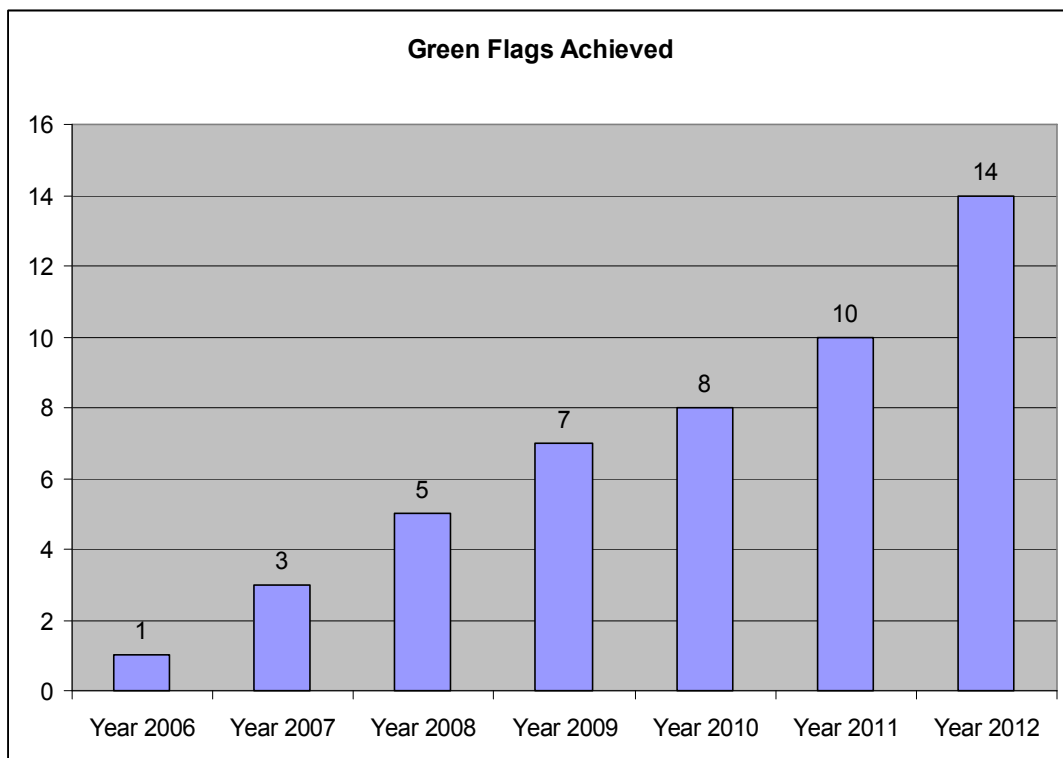
Depending upon the scale/size of the request we will always work towards a positive response to a request if the resource is available.

**33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES**

How many of Southwark's parks received Green Flag awards this year? How many received the awards in the previous five years?

**RESPONSE**

The record number of Green Flags awards received by our parks this year is a tremendous achievement.



I have thoroughly enjoyed participating in the awards and visiting a number of the 14 parks that were awarded this year as part of the acknowledgement and celebration of their status.

Fourteen of our parks have won this prestigious award:

- Southwark Park - 2006, 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012



- Dulwich Park - 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Bermondsey Spa Gardens - 2007, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Sunray Gardens - 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Peckham Rye Park - 2007, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Russia Dock Woodland - 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Paterson Park - 2009, 2010, 2011, 2012
- Brimmington Park - 2010, 2011, 2012
- St Mary Frobisher - 2011, 2012
- Brunswick Park - 2011, 2012
- Geraldine Mary Harmsworth - 2012
- Leathermarket Gardens - 2012
- Nunhead Cemetery - 2012
- Warwick Gardens – 2012.

I am grateful for the efforts of the park management team, Friends of Park groups and parks and gardening staff from Quadron and other stakeholders that have worked to preserve the status of our parks despite a backdrop of severe financial constraints.

**34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

Can the cabinet member explaining the delay in consulting residents on the tree management strategy adopted in 2010 with a one year review window? Will he commit to ensuring that the revised strategy gives increased priority to replacement tree planting and young tree maintenance (currently a low priority, band 3 of 4 bands)? Can he assure residents of Reverdy Road that tree-pits made vacant as a result of council felling, which the residents intend to plant up, will not be dug up by council staff - as was recently the case in Trinity Street?

**RESPONSE**

The draft tree management strategy was adopted in December 2010 with an undertaking to review any comments received within one year of implementation. By December 2011 very few comments had been received and a final document was being prepared. However earlier this year following the implementation of the proactive approach to tree management contained in the strategy a number of concerns regarding the changed focus were raised by residents and I decided to delay producing the final strategy and undertake further consultation so the community had another opportunity to inform the strategy.

The consultation on the tree management strategy will be completed by the end of October 2012. The consultation will inform the priorities for the revised strategy.

There is no disagreement about the importance of maintaining the numbers of strong and healthy trees across the borough. To achieve this, we also need to have introduced good maintenance and a programme of tree planting. However, the removal of trees that pose a threat to personal safety must be our most urgent priority.

All trees on Reverdy Road will be replaced in the upcoming planting season. This will be incorporated with a wider programme of footpath renewal works. Residents are currently being consulted on preferred species and will be finalised by end of October with works undertaken by March 2013.

**35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Given the high exposure of Southwark residents to aircraft movements, would the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling please set out the principles on which the council will base its responses to consultations about issues of aircraft noise, additional airport capacity in the London area and changes to night take-offs and landings?

**RESPONSE**

The government has released its draft Aviation Policy Framework for consultation. In previous consultation there was little comment requested by the government in respect of noise. This consultation addresses this and has a more focussed look at aviation noise issues.

Southwark's principle is to pursue policies that best protect the residents of Southwark from excessive aircraft noise. To help achieve this we believe that the impact of aviation noise requires an up to date and independent study, the last comprehensive study having been completed in 1985. We also believe that noise level contours (the acceptable average daytime noise over a 16 hour period) should be reviewed and based on community annoyance, which is a concept developed and recommended by the World Health Organisation.

One of our principles is for the government to improve transparency and regulation. We recommend that airports that have large volumes of traffic and/or passenger movements should be designated and subject to more rigorous regulation; for example if traffic numbers are exceeded then they should be subject to a penalty scheme. These same airports should maintain and operate noise monitors to produce noise measurement reports.

The closing date for consultation on the draft Aviation Policy Framework is 31 October 2012. Southwark is already working with London Councils as part of a London wide response. The same principles would apply in any government consultation on airport capacity or aircraft noise.

**36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

What is the most recent estimate of the number of empty homes in the borough, and how often are such figures collected?

**RESPONSE**

The most recent estimate for the total numbers of empty homes in the borough as of November 2011 is 2,679. The breakdown is as follows:

- Private sector - 1,881
- Council owned empties - 603
- Housing association empties - 195
- Other public bodies - 0.

With regeneration schemes taking place in various parts of the borough on the Aylesbury, Maydew, Lakanal and Elmington Estates, it is very difficult to be as accurate as we would like as void figures include properties being used for temporary accommodation, or awaiting void disposal.

We also have 173 active voids in various stages of preparation for re-let. This figure understandably changes on a daily basis as they become available.

The figures are collected throughout the year and recorded on the council tax base form, which is submitted during October.

**37. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

How many council homes have been a) sold as voids and b) sold through right to buy, since 2011 to date (broken down in years)?

**RESPONSE**

- a) In the 2011/12 financial year 56 void properties were sold. In the first two quarters of the current year (2012/13) 16 voids have been sold.
- b) Below is a list of council homes which have been sold through right to buy since 2011 to date:
- 1 January 2011 to 31 March 2011 - 3
  - 1 April 2011 to 31 March 2012 - 24
  - 1 April 2012 to 4 October 2012 - 22.

The increase in discount from £16,000 to £75,000 in April is yet another Tory red herring. It will increase numbers on the housing list increasing the length of time spent on it, with fewer council properties available to residents. A recent survey in the publication Inside Housing revealed that only one in 25 families who would like to purchase their homes have done so. The current right to buy scheme is another false dawn from government, devoid of thought or consequence.

**38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

How long are the current times for registering for housing and for medical assessments with the medical assessment department of Southwark Council's housing services department?

**RESPONSE**

The target for completing medical assessments is 10 working days and the medical assessment service is now on track with this. There was however a historical backlog caused by a change of staff but this has now been resolved.

There are occasions when the nursing officer has to request further information from GPs/hospitals, and depending on how quickly a response is received, this can delay the outcome of an assessment, but we aim to make a decision within four weeks.

## Registrations

Registration officers are expected to input applications on system within five working days. At this point the applicant is asked to respond with their documents. Home visits to verify overcrowding, for example, are to be booked within five working days. A senior assessment officer needs to authorise visit results, check eligibility and add additional persons, all within five working days. Registration officers create a priority list within five working days.

We are currently awaiting the statistics for September. In August there were 391 applications received.

## Median figures

- Registration of application where no verification is required - seven days (96% registered within 5 working days - and 45% of these on same day).
- Registration of application where verification is required - 35 days (applicant has up to 28 days to provide necessary documents).
- Registration where verification and home visit required - 59 days (applicant has up to 28 days to provide necessary documents; the visiting officer is available to visit an applicant within 5 working days, however some applicants are not available within this period and require more notice).

### 39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

Please can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management provide the average time for a void property to be re-let for a) 2010/11 and b) 2011/12? What process is used to check the quality of these refurbishments?

## RESPONSE

The average re-let time for void properties has fallen considerably in the last few years saving the council a significant amount of money in regards to void loss. Average re-let times for 2012/13 are projected to improve upon last year and be in the region of 24 to 25 days by year end.

Year	Average Re-let Time
2006/07	111 days
2007/08	85 days
2008/09	53 days
2009/10	36 days
2010/11	26 days
2011/12	26 days
2012/13	24-25 days (projected)

The overall quality of the void is improving and each property is post inspected to help ensure that the void standard is attained. Revised satisfaction testing is being introduced to ensure we get better feedback from new tenants about their experience of the service and also property condition.

Satisfaction with the whole letting process has increased in 2012/13 to 87% compared to 81% in 2011/12 and 72% in 2010/11, demonstrating continuous improvement and significant progress.

**40. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL**

What impact does he believe the government's housing benefit cap and introduction of "affordable" rents at 80% of market rent will have on promoting mixed and sustainable communities in Southwark?

**RESPONSE**

The double whammy of the government's impending housing benefit cap and introduction of "affordable" rents at up to 80% of market rents will have a significant impact on the promotion of mixed and sustainable communities in Southwark. The combination of changes will make some areas of the borough potentially unaffordable and no-go to households on benefits.

The introduction of housing benefits caps from 1 April 2013 will mean there will be a limit on the maximum amount of benefits working age households can claim. This will be targeted on non-working households but also affecting some part-time workers. The cap will be £350 per week for single people without children and £500 per week for all others, including couples, lone parents and couples with children.

Based on the current data available, around 527 existing claimants are currently projected to be affected by the cap. The projected annual loss of housing benefit by postcode as a result of the cap is set out in the table below:

Postcode	Number of claimants	Average loss by postcode
SE1	61	£3,033
SE11	8	£2,366
SE14	2	£5,928
SE15	173	£4,189
SE16	71	£3,445
SE17	58	£2,971
SE19	5	£3,944
SE21	14	£3,674
SE22	44	£5,188
SE23	6	£2,852
SE24	7	£3,036
SE26	2	£8,211
SE5	74	£3,633
SE8	1	£5,388

The welfare benefit cap is most likely to have the greatest impact on larger family households, i.e. those with four or more children.

The full impact of the introduction of the "affordable" rent product for new build has yet to be seen. A small number of housing association re-lets of the "affordable" rent product have taken place in the last year.

**41. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

What is he doing to ensure Southwark estates have adequate CCTV coverage?

**RESPONSE**

CCTV is a valuable asset in crime prevention and anti social behaviour, but also provides reassurance for local residents in the areas that they live. The council has embarked on an ambitious programme of improvements to the CCTV assets across the borough, including our own housing estates. Cabinet agreed the capital bid for £1.4 million in September 2012.

This will be used to upgrade the camera systems on estates where it currently exists, and install new systems on the Four Squares Estate where crime analysis and anti-social behaviour indicates that CCTV would be a valuable long term investment.

Alongside the upgrade are 30 redeployable cameras for other estates such as the Aylesbury, which can be relocated swiftly in response to emerging evidence of crime and anti-social behaviour.

This investment will provide the most comprehensive CCTV coverage on our housing estates that Southwark has ever seen, whilst ensuring that we use CCTV in an efficient and effective way.

The programme will commence in early 2013 and will build on the improvements to our digital CCTV control, developing our ability to transmit images captured on camera directly to the upgraded CCTV control room using a combination of microwave and radio waves from a greater number of locations. The new control room went live in June of this year and has already supported police in making 258 arrests.

**42. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON**

Please can the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management publish the total number of outstanding repair jobs left by Morrisons (including those defaulted to other contractors) on termination of their contract in the south of the borough at the end of September and processes for dealing with any backlog?

**RESPONSE**

At the end of the contract with Morrison on 2 October 2012 there were no jobs outstanding. During demobilisation of the Morrison contract the council put in place robust transitional arrangements to ensure that jobs were managed effectively and passed to back up contractors and Southwark building services (SBS) where necessary. Tough action was also taken on jobs that were of a poor quality or overdue.

To illustrate the point, over the last 12 months 2,858 default notices were served on Morrison and the work passed to back up contractors. Of these, 1,412 were served in the period from July 2012 to 2 October 2012, nearly 50%. A large

proportion of this work was passed to and completed by SBS. Since 3 October 2012 all new work has been passed onto Mears.

## **Council Assembly - Community Views**

### **28 November 2012 – Transport in Southwark**

#### Resident 1

The cost of transport has certainly affected me as I have come off benefits to take up full-time education. I have a tight budget for bus fares and walk whenever I can. The C10 bus is not frequent or regular enough, and that has a big impact.

I and people from my college, who live in my area, are now walking to avoid one leg of our bus journey, to save on fares to commute to college. Street lighting is an issue for us – we don't feel safe to walk in the dark footpaths.

#### Resident 2

I'm a taxi driver and I don't think the prices should have gone up - £2 is a bit expensive for a bus – it's like Council Tax, you don't get a choice....but my kids use the bus every day. Pricing hasn't affected my passengers who use my cab to keep safe.

#### Resident 3

It's very expensive, especially if you're going out as a family...as a single mum, I can't take them out as much.

#### Resident 4

The cost of transport impacts a lot on the way I have to travel....I have to travel a lot less often, only to and from school, trains cost too much money and stuff...because I have a 16 plus Oyster card, I can take the bus for free, but it's costing me a lot to travel to and from school as then I need to take the train as I don't know the route...my friends take the bus to get to college and back, but I don't.



## Resident 5

I am on benefits so I pay half price for buses, but some other people who are working have to pay more for bus fares, and a couple of them ride bikes instead. But you know it's not everyone that can afford to buy a bike and they are expensive!

## Resident 6

Yes my husband travels every day, I don't normally go to work everyday now because I am on maternity leave. My husband pays as he goes. And he doesn't use an oyster card; so it's expensive. I think people will change how they travel, for example I have some friends, they are actually much younger than me. They go to central London to learn English and they have to take buses and it takes them about an hour and a half more actually.

## Resident 7

Well my earnings never increase, but transport fares always increase, they are very high now. And sometimes on the Northern Line there is a signal failure, and so it affects my work because the manager will not want to listen to such excuses – the tube is expensive and unreliable. The tubes need to be more frequent. The bus is not easy either, so we are forced to walk or to cycle. It's not easy, but that is life.

## Resident 8

Transport costs make it harder to travel to places; it makes it harder to get to work as well. And you don't get a good service either I think on trains or buses. So, to get somewhere quickly, it's quite expensive to do, so sometimes you don't really want to do it. Or it just costs too much money. I used a train the other day from Peckham to London Bridge, and it cost me £2.60, to get to work, so it's expensive but you have to pay it. I think it is going to take some people off of transport and I feel it might make people walk or ride bikes, or some other form of transport, like sharing cars. For sharing cars it's got to be organised so more people can do it.

## Resident 9

Well for me personally I just feel that the fares are just too high, and sometimes you get on a bus or a tube, and they are just so full. You paying more and nothing's really changed on the buses or the trains. People will stop using trains altogether. And we need more buses out on the road, or they can put down the fares a bit and so increase the number of people using them.

## Resident 10

I have a freedom pass and a car. I expect transport costs to have gone up because it has affected my sons, especially as they are low earners. They have no money left over to do other things. I wish there was a new Jubilee line tube station along Jamaica Road

## Resident 11

Too many diversions make people late. [The right people] should have fixed all roads by now. I notice there are a lot more bikes on the road. Some [vulnerable people] don't use transport because they can't walk and need help with their wheel chair getting on the bus, etc. I'm going to get a bike, and will walk from the Blue to Peckham.

## Resident 12

The cost of transport, as with the cost of living in general affects a lot of people who have not got a job. I don't use a car as it's expensive but travel on public transport and walk. More people are turning to using bikes because it's cheaper.

## Resident 13

I've just moved 2 months ago into this area, and have found the cost of transport too expensive. It has restricted my job search to Elephant and Castle and Borough. I get the impression more bikes are in use in the winter. I'm satisfied with what I have but I would like buses to wait a little longer if I'm running to catch one.

## Resident 14

I would like to be able to afford travelling on public transport like the buses [as I used to] but the increased cost of transport is negatively affecting me. Now I always ride my bike.

## Resident 15

I don't see myself getting a good deal for the amount of money I pay on transport. The cost affects where I will work, and whether or not I take a job. I notice people are walking and cycling more than they used to, and I myself will aim to walk and cycle and walk more.

## Resident 16

The increased cost of transport has affected me badly. I can't afford travelling by train or the tube. I am a bus user but even a weekly bus pass is very expensive.

The buses are very full [nowadays], and I would like to cycle if I felt safer on the road.

## Resident 16

I like cycling for fitness, and for convenience's sake. As a former tube worker, I have always found bus and trams heavily used. With fares doubling, I think I'll continue cycling, although it would depend on where the jobs are re-located.

## Resident 17

I'm learning to walk a lot and often walk to Camberwell, because of the high cost of transport. More people are now using public transport because of the [good] network, with Peckham bus garage and Peckham train station. I would really like to see [another] local tube station.

**From the SE1 discussion forum:**

Resident 18

I use bikes about 3 to 4 times a week, but with the annual charge soon to increase by 100%, I'm thinking of buying a bicycle – that would also solve the problem of not being able to use the bikes in the evening because of not finding docking stations.

Resident 19

I bought a bike on the bike to work scheme for £60 a month, and save myself £100 a month in spite of this, and I'm getting fitter....Getting on a bike and cycling across the centre of London is soooo much nicer than squashing on the tube or waiting for a non-existent bus!

If you are healthy and live less than 7 or 8 miles from work, there really is no excuse for not considering this.

Resident 20

I was quite sceptical that I could cycle 7 or 8 miles, until I did it. It's not that far on a bike. However, I probably wouldn't want to do it everyday before work without building up to it.

Southwark visitor

The cost has affected my work anyway, because they don't give me transport anymore. I am a social worker and here is my client, he has learning disabilities. I take him on the train and buses, and we are visiting Southwark, well he is and I am looking after him. So I pay for myself. I used to get a little bit of money towards it, but now, cuts and that. I think it is unfair also that the people I work with also have to pay. After all they don't get much money anyway, so it's kinda like, a bit hard. So everything he has to pay for now, basically he has to pay for himself.

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