

# Council Assembly (Ordinary)

Wednesday 16 October 2013  
7.00 pm  
Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shorncliffe Road, SE1 5UJ.

## Supplemental Agenda No.1

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Date: 8 October 2013



## Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting)

MINUTES of the Council Assembly (Ordinary Meeting) held on Wednesday 10 July 2013 at 7.00 pm at Walworth Academy, 34 - 40 Shornccliffe Road, SE1 5UJ.

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### PRESENT:

The Worshipful the Mayor for 2013/14, Councillor Abdul Mohamed (Chair)

Councillor Kevin Ahern	Councillor Lorraine Lauder MBE
Councillor Anood Al-Samerai	Councillor Richard Livingstone
Councillor Columba Blango	Councillor Rebecca Lury
Councillor Catherine Bowman	Councillor Eliza Mann
Councillor Chris Brown	Councillor Tim McNally
Councillor Michael Bukola	Councillor Darren Merrill
Councillor Denise Capstick	Councillor Victoria Mills
Councillor Sunil Chopra	Councillor Jonathan Mitchell
Councillor Poddy Clark	Councillor Michael Mitchell
Councillor Fiona Colley	Councillor Adele Morris
Councillor Neil Coyle	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 Althea Smith
Councillor Renata Hamvas	Councillor Cleo Soanes
Councillor Barrie Hargrove	Councillor Nick Stanton
Councillor Helen Hayes	Councillor Geoffrey Thornton
Councillor Claire Hickson	Councillor Veronica Ward
Councillor Jeff Hook	Councillor Mark Williams
Councillor David Hubber	Councillor Ian Wingfield
Councillor Peter John	

## 1. PRELIMINARY BUSINESS

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

The Mayor

- Informed everyone that Councillor Linda Manchester had recently been in hospital, thereafter the meeting sent her its best wishes.
- Stated that a list of people who worked or lived in the borough who had received an honour in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2013 had been circulated around the chamber.

Councillor Veronica Ward, the cabinet member for culture, leisure, sport and volunteering, made an announcement about "Team Southwark" finishing 9<sup>th</sup> overall in the 2013 London Youth Games.

Councillor Fiona Colley, cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy, made an announcement about confirmed plans for transforming the Elephant & Castle's public transport network and northern roundabout.

With sadness the Mayor announced the death of former College Ward Councillor Margaret Jackson MBE, who had served as a councillor from 1978 – 1986.

Councillor Toby Eckersley paid tribute, thereafter the meeting stood for a minute's silence.

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

The Mayor stated that following consultation with the group whips the order of business would be varied to allow Motion 5.2.1 – Drummer Lee Rigby and Faith Communities in Southwark, to be considered as the first item of business. Thereafter the meeting would hear three deputations (the communication workers union, which would be considered first and two deputations on the themed debate – Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation (SGTO) and Southwark Legal Advice Network).

The Mayor further stated that Motion 1 and Amendment A on the themed debate had been withdrawn and that there would be a single debate on Motion 2 and Amendments B and C. There had also been notice of a change in speakers on Motion 2 and Amendment B - Councillor Claire Hickson would second the motion and Councillors Tim McNally and Adele Morris would move and second Amendment B.

The Mayor advised that a revised Amendment F to Item 5.2.4 – Door entry for the Dickens Estate, had been circulated around the chamber.

The meeting agreed to suspend the following council assembly procedure rules in order to consider the above:

- CAPR 1.14 (4) Order of debate – varying order of business and single debate
- CAPR 1.14 (15) Alteration of an amendment

- CAPR 1.14 (18) Withdrawal of motion and amendment
- CAPR 2.10 (4) Change to amendment – mover/seconded.

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

There were no declarations.

### **1.4 APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received on behalf of Councillors James Barber, Robin Crookshank-Hilton, Linda Manchester and Catherine McDonald. Apologies for lateness were received on behalf of Councillors Paul Kyriacou and Lewis Robinson.

### **1.5 MINUTES**

*(See supplemental agenda 2, pages 1 – 20)*

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the minutes of the annual and extraordinary meetings held on 22 May 2013 be agreed and signed by the Mayor as a correct record.

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

### **2.1 PETITIONS**

There were no petitions raised under the formal petition scheme but the deputation from SGTO handed in a petition as part of its deputation (see item 4).

### **2.2 PUBLIC QUESTION TIME**

There were no questions from the public.

### **2.3 DEPUTATION REQUESTS ON THE THEME - WELFARE REFORM**

*(See pages 1 - 3 of supplemental agenda 3)*

#### **Deputation from Southwark Group of Tenants Organisation (SGTO)**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Angela Krime, addressed the meeting. At the close of her presentation the deputation's spokesperson handed in a petition entitled 'No Benefit

Cuts – No Evictions’.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Ian Wingfield, deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management. Councillor Ian Wingfield provided an oral response.

Councillors Neil Coyle, Michael Situ and Anood Al-Samerai asked questions of the deputation.

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

### **Deputation from Southwark Legal Advice Network**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation’s spokesperson addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Richard Livingstone, cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety. Councillor Richard Livingstone provided an oral response.

Councillors Veronica Ward, David Hubber, Patrick Diamond and Tim McNally asked questions of the deputation.

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

## **3. THEMED DEBATE**

### **3.1 CABINET MEMBER STATEMENT**

The cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety, Councillor Richard Livingstone, introduced the theme of the meeting.

The opposition spokesperson, Councillor Anood Al-Samerai, leader of the Liberal Democrats, replied to the cabinet member’s statement.

### **3.2 QUESTIONS FROM THE PUBLIC ON THE THEME**

There were no questions from the public on the theme.

### **3.3 MEMBERS' MOTIONS ON THE THEME**

*(See pages 6 – 11 of the main agenda)*

Motion 1 and Amendment A on the themed debate had been withdrawn and the meeting had previously agreed to suspend council assembly procedure rules so that there could be a single debate on Motion 2 and Amendments B and C and a change in speakers on Motion 2

and Amendment B - Councillor Claire Hickson would second the motion and Councillors Tim McNally and Adele Morris would move and second Amendment B .

**MOTION 1 - PUTTING RESIDENTS' WELFARE FIRST**

*(See pages 4 – 5 of the main agenda)*

Motion 1 and Amendment A were withdrawn.

**MOTION 2 - WELFARE REFORM**

*(See pages 4 - 5 of the main agenda)*

Councillor Neil Coyle, seconded by Councillor Claire Hickson, moved the motion.

Councillor Tim McNally, seconded by Councillor Adele Morris, moved Amendment B.

Councillor Michael Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Lewis Robinson, moved Amendment C.

Following debate (Councillors Helen Hayes, Eliza Mann, Mark Williams, David Noakes, Gavin Edwards, Graham Neale, Patrick Diamond, Mark Gettleson and Dora Dixon-Fyle), and points of personal explanation from Councillors Anood Al-Samerai and Neil Coyle, the Mayor announced that the time allocated to the themed section of the meeting had expired. The clerk announced that the amendments and the substantive motion would be voted on separately.

**Vote on Motion 2 and Amendments A and B – Welfare Reform**

Amendment B was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

Amendment C was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

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

**RESOLVED:**

That council assembly:

1. Is gravely concerned by the impact the Tory Liberal Democrat government's welfare reforms is having on Southwark's most vulnerable residents.
2. Notes that more than 10% of Southwark's population are affected by the range of welfare cuts. More than 4,000 by the bedroom tax, over 24,000 by the government's £2.8m council tax benefit cut (including over 16,000 who are in work), thousands by changes to DLA beginning this year and hundreds more by the benefit cap from later this year.
3. Notes that local advice and support organisations are seeing a steep rise in demand for help. Over 500 people were fed by foodbanks in Southwark in April alone (compared with 100 in April 2012) and the provider estimates 30 tons of food will need to be distributed to meet demand this year. 10% of the recipients are in work. Southwark's Citizen Advice Bureaux saw a 40% jump in demand for help this year

but legal aid cuts mean the loss of the equivalent of 4 full time advisors across Southwark Legal Advice Network.

4. Notes the action taken by the council to deal with these changes including:
  - Labour's £800,000 Hardship Fund; £400k of which is targeted towards local disabled people and carers
  - An extra £400,000 went into helping people downsize homes to avoid the bedroom tax
  - The Social Fund replacement scheme (the Southwark Emergency Support Scheme)
  - More than 700 people have been supported face to face at the partnership events – Southwark's partnership work is being held up by (national) Citizens Advice as an example of good practice and a model for other councils to adopt.
5. Regrets Simon Hughes's unequivocal support for the government's welfare reforms despite claiming the benefits cap would "drive families apart". It also regrets that Simon Hughes has dismissed reports of a fivefold increase in people claiming discretionary housing payments as "alarmist". It regrets that he has refused to meet with local organisation such as Cooltan Arts to discuss the impact of the reforms and that he missed the "Frontline Welfare" event despite being specifically asked to attend.
6. Calls on cabinet to:
  - Continue to work constructively with advocacy groups in the borough to ensure we are able to continue to support our most vulnerable residents
  - Lobby the Department of Work and Pensions for increased funding for discretionary housing payments
  - Continue to challenge Simon Hughes and the Liberal Democrats regarding their role in enabling the government's welfare changes.

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

#### 4. OTHER DEPUTATION REQUESTS

*(See pages 6 – 7 of supplemental agenda 3)*

#### **Deputation from the Communication Workers Union**

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the deputation be received.

The deputation's spokesperson, Chris Roche, addressed the meeting.

The deputation asked a question of Councillor Catherine Bowman, chair of the overview and scrutiny committee, who provided an oral response.

Councillors Nick Dolezal, Mark Glover and Rosie Shimell asked questions of the deputation.

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

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

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

*(See pages 21 - 28 of supplemental agenda 2 and the blue and yellow 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 1 to the minutes.

There were 47 members' questions, the written responses to which were circulated on yellow paper at the meeting. There were 15 supplemental questions. All questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 2 to the minutes.

At 10.03pm the Mayor announced that the guillotine had fallen.

### **5.2 MEMBERS' MOTIONS**

#### **MOTION 1 - DRUMMER LEE RIGBY AND FAITH COMMUNITIES IN SOUTHWARK**

*(See page 7 of the main agenda)*

This motion was considered prior to the guillotine having fallen.

Councillor Michael Bukola, seconded by Councillor The Right Revd Emmanuel Oyewole, moved the motion.

Following debate (Councillor Mark Glover), the motion was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council:

- Registers its abhorrence at the appalling and savage murder of Drummer Lee Rigby on the streets of south-east London on 22 May 2013, and extends sympathy to his family.
- Welcomes the critical response to the murder by UK Islamic organisations including



the Southwark Muslim Forum, and the cohesion shown by Londoners in condemning the attack, and rejects the divisive agenda of far-right groups who seek to use the murder for their own political ends.

- Recognises the concern from the Islamic community in Southwark about the reported rise in Islamophobic incidents since the murder, including a number of attacks on mosques across the country.
- Notes the excellent work within the Old Kent Road Mosque and Islamic Cultural Centre in bringing together Muslims of all races, and acting as a meeting place for visiting Nigerian Muslims to London.
- Looks forward to the continued involvement of the mosque within Southwark's Multi-Faith Forum.
- Reasserts its support for the charity Help for Heroes and the work it does to support wounded service men and women and their families.

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

#### **MOTION 2 - SURREY DOCKS BROWN BRICK**

*(see pages 7 – 8 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Lisa Rajan and David Hubber formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Barrie Hargrove and Dan Garfield formally moved and seconded Amendment D.

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

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Notes the distinctive brown brick paving in parts of Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe wards and its contribution to the character of the area. Also notes that this style of paving was introduced during the development of the area by the LDDC in the 1980s, is used extensively in the area and is much valued by local residents.
2. Recognises that many of the roads and pavements in the areas around Greenland Dock, South Dock, Canada Water, Surrey Water, Russia Dock Woodland and the Albion Channel have been adversely affected by subsidence issues due to their construction on land reclaimed from historic docks and waterways in the area, and that this has manifested itself in paving that is often severely disrupted by tree roots and subterranean ironworks.
3. Also recognises that the LDDC's over-zealous tree planting strategy in the 1980s, in

which they assumed a much lower survival rate than turned out to be the case, has led to a higher than expected number of London Planes at higher than usual densities in the area, and that the height and root growth network of these trees compounds the paving disruption problems.

4. Acknowledges that the council's longstanding approach to paving and road repairs in this area has been reactive and ad hoc, and has largely involved removing the brown brickwork and replacing it with red, purple or black tarmac. In many instances, the disruptive tree roots were not shaved or cut, and consequently re-erupt through the tarmac within 18 months of the repair. An alternative approach on Rope Street, funded by Rotherhithe Community Council, levelled the ground and re-laid the original brown brickwork, and maintained the valued character of the street.
5. Welcomes the Greenland Dock Subsidence Feasibility Study, prepared by Mouchel, commissioned by Southwark Council, funded by Rotherhithe Community Council Cleaner Greener Safer fund and proposed by local residents.
6. Also welcomes the site meeting on 7th May 2013 attended by the strategic director of environment and leisure, senior highways officers and residents to discuss the problem.
7. Calls on cabinet to recognise the important character of the area.
8. Welcomes the work being done in partnership with the community council to address these issues.

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

### **MOTION 3 - EAST DULWICH AND RYE LANE CROWN POST OFFICES**

*(see page 9 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Mark Glover and Nick Dolezal formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Rosie Shimell and Jonathan Mitchell formally moved and seconded Amendment E.

Amendment E was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

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

### **RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly is concerned that the Post Office is planning to downgrade Crown Services at Rye Lane and East Dulwich to retail operators.
2. That council assembly notes that at present the Post Office does not have any retail partners for Rye Lane and East Dulwich Crown Post Offices and is concerned that this move will lead to a relocation of offices, provide an inferior Post Office Service and will have a hugely detrimental impact on the quality of specialist services for local residents. It also believes it will lead to the recruitment of new staff on

significantly lower pay, terms and conditions. Moreover the specialist trained and committed services and staff will be lost in these offices.

3. That council assembly offers its support to the campaign to protect the Rye Lane and East Dulwich Post Offices in these locations and calls on cabinet to:
  - Work with local councillors to write to the Parliamentary Under-Secretary of State with responsibility for Post Offices, informing them of the concerns regarding Rye Lane and East Dulwich Crown Post Offices
  - Seek assurances from the Minister that any successful franchisees for Crown Post Offices will be strongly encouraged to pay their staff the London Living Wage.

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

#### **MOTION 4 - DOOR ENTRY FOR THE DICKENS ESTATE**

*(see page 9 of the main agenda)*

The meeting had previously agreed to suspend council assembly procedure rules in order to receive revised Amendment F.

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Eliza Mann and Anood Al-Samerai formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Ian Wingfield and Mark Williams formally moved and seconded Revised Amendment F.

Revised Amendment F 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 is pleased that door entry systems are now being included again in major works plans.
2. That Council recognises that residents of Wade House, Bardell House, Tupman House and Micawber House have experienced serious problems with crime, rough sleepers and vandalism.
3. That Council notes that, as is often the case, while new security works are being installed on one block, ASB does not remain static and will travel from block to block. This is evidenced by the request in 2011 from the then opposition spokesperson for housing for new security intercom systems for Burton House, claiming this was the priority for the area.
4. That Council recognises that since this request was made in 2011, incidences of crime and ASB have risen at Tupman House, Bardell House, Micawber House and Wade House.

5. That Council therefore welcomes the commitment made by the cabinet member for housing to meet with residents of the estate to discuss their priorities for security works on the estate.
6. That Council also welcomes the commitment by the cabinet member for housing to allocate extra funding to these blocks which will save money in the long run from crime and anti-social behaviour once those discussions with residents have taken place.

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

**MOTION 5 - ROBIN HOOD TAX**  
(see page 10 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Michael Situ and Patrick Diamond formally moved and seconded the motion.

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

**RESOLVED:**

1. That council assembly notes the suffering forced upon local residents as a result of the Tory Liberal Democrat government's austerity programme which is unfairly targeting Southwark and its residents.
2. That council assembly believes that the levy of a financial transaction tax (FTT) on the speculative activities of banks, hedge funds and other financial institutions would help to alleviate some of this pressure and ensure the financial sector pays its fair share and helps to clear up the mess it helped create.
3. That council assembly therefore calls upon government to enact the FTT and use the revenues from this measure to reverse ongoing shrinkage in central grants to our council.

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

**MOTION 6 - NORTHERN LINE EXTENSION**  
(see page 10 of the main agenda)

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Catherine Bowman and Graham Neale formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Neil Coyle and Patrick Diamond formally moved and seconded Amendment H.

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

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

**RESOLVED:**

That council assembly:

1. Notes Transport for London's (TfL's) plans to extend the Northern Line to Nine Elms and Battersea, and the consultation on the plans that closed on 18 June.
2. Notes with particular concern the plans for a temporary shaft to be constructed on Harmsworth Street and a permanent shaft in Kennington Park, both of which would have a considerable impact on the lives of Southwark residents.
3. Urges TfL to pursue the 'gallery tunnels' option for ground treatment work as an alternative to the Harmsworth Street temporary shaft, thereby minimising the disruption to local people.
4. Regrets TfL's decision to place the permanent shaft in Kennington Park on the site of the much-loved beekeeper's lodge, and urges TfL to ensure that the relocation plan provides a suitable environment for the bee population and meets the requirements of Bee Urban and concerned local residents.
5. Calls on cabinet to work with colleagues at Lambeth Council, the GLA and TfL to obtain the best deal for Southwark residents affected by the plans.
6. Notes the letter from the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling to TfL which already addresses the above points.

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

#### **MOTION 7 – ON THE SIDE OF DISABLED RESIDENTS**

*(see page 10 of the main agenda)*

The guillotine having fallen, Councillors Adele Morris and David Noakes formally moved and seconded the motion.

Councillors Toby Eckersley and Michael Mitchell formally moved and seconded Amendment I.

Councillors Fiona Colley and Victoria Mills formally moved and seconded Amendment J.

Amendment I was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

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

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

That Council:

1. Notes that currently the process for installing a resident's disabled bay requires a report to come to community council.
2. Further notes that changes to community councils mean they now meet less

frequently and no longer have monthly planning meetings.

3. Recognises that this can mean long periods with no meetings to receive reports on residents' disabled bays, particularly between June and October, which can lead to unacceptably long delays in bays being granted.
4. Requests that constitutional steering panel explores alternative arrangements for a bay to be installed.

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

### **5.3 REPORTS FOR INFORMATION**

### **6. REPORT BACK ON MOTIONS REFERRED TO THE CABINET**

*(See pages 12 - 20 of the main agenda)*

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the report be noted.

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

#### **7.1 FAIRER FUTURE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/13**

*(See pages 21 – 24 of the main agenda and supplemental agenda 1, pages 1 – 132)*

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.

There were seven questions on the report the responses to which were circulated on green paper at the meeting. There were seven supplemental questions to the leader. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 3 to the minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Peter John, leader of the council, moved the report.

At 10.25pm the Mayor announced that the time allocated to this report had expired and the meeting would move to the vote.

The recommendation contained within the report was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Council Plan's cabinet member portfolio objectives and targets for 2013/14

be agreed (see Appendix 1 of the report).

## **8. OTHER REPORTS**

### **8.1 GAMBLING ACT 2005 - SOUTHWARK STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY 2013 - 2016**

*(See pages 25 – 90 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.

There was one question on the report the response to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. A supplemental question was asked of the leader. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 4 to the minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (1), Councillor Renata Hamvas, chair of the licensing committee, moved the report.

Following debate (Councillors Nick Stanton, Stephen Govier, Patrick Diamond and Nick Dolezal), the recommendation contained within the report was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the Southwark Statement of Gambling Licensing Policy for 2013-16, attached as Appendix A to the report, be agreed with effect as of 1 September 2013.

### **8.2 TREASURY MANAGEMENT PERFORMANCE 2012/13 ANNUAL REPORT AND PRUDENTIAL INDICATORS**

*(See pages 91 – 100 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 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

The recommendation contained within the report was put to the vote and declared to be carried.

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the 2012/13 outturn report on treasury management and prudential indicators be noted.

### 8.3 CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW 2013/14

*(See pages 101 – 188 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.

There was one question on the report the response to which was circulated on green paper at the meeting. A supplemental question was asked of the leader. The questions and written responses are attached as Appendix 5 to the minutes.

In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.11 (2), the report was formally moved by the Mayor.

It was noted that reference made to the 'Mayor' in Appendix D of the report (cabinet procedure rules), would be replaced with 'chair'

Councillor Jonathan Mitchell, seconded by Councillor Catherine Bowman, moved Amendment K.

Following debate (Councillors David Noakes, Toby Eckersley, Anood Al-Samerai and Dan Garfield), Councillor Jonathan Mitchell made a point of personal explanation and at 10.56pm the Mayor announced that the time allocated to this report had expired and the meeting would move to the vote on the amendment and substantive.

Amendment K was put to the vote and declared to be lost.

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

#### **RESOLVED:**

That the following constitutional changes be adopted by council assembly, as recommended by the constitutional steering panel:

#### **PART 2 - ARTICLES**

##### **Overview and Scrutiny function**

1. That it be noted that consequential changes are required to the constitution following the introduction of the Local Authority (Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Boards and Health Scrutiny) Regulations 2013.
2. That the revised Articles attached at Appendix A and the revised Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules attached at Appendix B to the report, be agreed (see paragraphs 12 – 27 of the report).

#### **PART 3H - COMMUNITY COUNCILS**



### **Section 106 Release – Consultation with community councils**

3. That the proposal to streamline the consultation process on the release of Section 106 monies over £100,000 be agreed (see paragraphs 28 – 36 of the report).

### **PART 4 - RULES**

#### **Access to Information Procedures Rules and Cabinet Procedures Rules**

4. That it be noted that consequential changes are required to the constitution following the introduction of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.
5. That the revised access to information procedure rules attached at Appendix C and the revised cabinet procedure rules attached at Appendix D to the report, be agreed (see paragraphs 37 – 51 of the report).

### **PART 6 – PROTOCOLS**

#### **Member and Officer Protocol and Communications Protocol**

6. That the revised member and officer protocol at Appendix F of the report be agreed (see paragraphs 52 - 62).
7. That the marked up copy of the proposed communication protocol as set out in Appendix G of the report, be agreed.

### **CONSEQUENTIAL CHANGES**

8. That as a result of the above changes officers are authorised to undertake any necessary consequential changes in order to update the constitution.

## **9. AMENDMENTS**

Amendments are set out in supplemental agenda 4. Revised Amendment F was circulated at the meeting.

The meeting closed at 10.58pm.

**CHAIR:**

**DATED:**

**SOUTHWARK COUNCIL****COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2013****URGENT QUESTION****1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Does the Leader welcome the commitment of Education Minister, David Laws MP, to new primary and secondary schools in Southwark? What has he personally done to ensure a new school is built on the Dulwich Hospital site?

**RESPONSE**

I welcome any interest that Ministers show in the provision of schools in Southwark. However, the Minister has not informed the Council of any new commitment and so I am asking officers to seek clarification from the department about whether or not there is any new commitment.

I am disappointed that we as a local authority are not in a position to build and open our own new schools. David Laws' and Michael Gove's obsession with free schools as the only solution to problems with school place provision is about their commitment to conservative ideology rather than what is in the best interests of children and the educational needs of boroughs like Southwark. While I recognise that free schools can be part of a solution, they should only be part of a solution, and I would encourage Liberal Democrat Councillors to use any influence they have with David Laws to enable Southwark to build and open our own schools.

There is an urgent need for an additional 420 primary places (or 14 forms of entry) by 2015. How we will respond to this is set out in the Council's primary investment programme which is coming to Cabinet next week. This is in addition to the 1080 additional places which we have already created between 2009 and 2013.

With limited capital funding allocated to Southwark from central government we are working creatively with popular and successful schools to enable them to expand, as well as actively sourcing opportunities for new schools. Tonight, I am pleased to announce that governors and staff at Ivydale Primary School in Peckham Rye have been working with officers to expand the school onto a new site, in an area where we know there is a shortage of high quality local places for local families. Brand new provision on the Bredehurst site means that more children will have access to this popular community school.

In addition we will shortly come forward with plans to reopen the Old Bellenden School site as part of an expansion of an existing primary school. We are also working to find a suitable site for the Southwark Free School and are bringing the Galleywall School back into use once the Southwark Park School go back into their refurbished buildings.

Our forecasts are that with new secondary schools planned to open in the borough in September 2013 (Ark All Saints academy in Camberwell and Compass academy in Rotherhithe) and in September 2014 (the University Engineering Academy South Bank in Walworth) there should be sufficient secondary places available in the short term. The forecasts show continuing demand for secondary places and suggest that in the medium term from 2016 additional secondary places may be needed in the borough. We will be keeping this under careful review including working with our existing secondary schools.

In terms of the Dulwich Hospital site, I have been regularly briefed and updated on the potential uses of the site and have given my full support to the recognition of the site as suitable for a school. The Dulwich SPD, due to be adopted by Cabinet next week, sets out that the use of part of this site for a school would help to meet the requirements of the planning brief and Cllr Fiona Colley and Stephen Platts, Director of Regeneration, have met with NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) to confirm our support for this use on the site.

Schools and school places remain critical for not just Southwark, but all of London. The best way to address this is to take an all of borough approach, ensuring that places are available in the right places and meet the needs of our growing population. Whilst the Liberal Democrats focus on one school on one site in one part of the borough, we are working hard to ensure that all children in the borough have access to the best schools. I am confident that Southwark has one of the most robust plans in place to deal with the future shortage of places to ensure that all children get access to a good local school.

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

Thank you Mr Mayor, yes I do and thank you to the leader for his answer. I am slightly concerned that he is worried about the ideology and talking about politicians being obsessed with ideology, but he is still going on about his own obsession against free schools and frankly we live in the real world and if free schools is what we have got to work with then we should be getting on and building some new schools but his answer only talks about expansion, so I will try and ask again, what has he done as Leader in a massive school place crisis to actually get new schools? For example has he meet with Harris who are offering to do a new school in Dulwich?

#### **RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Al-Samerai for her supplemental question.

I mean, school places is one of the most urgent issues facing us as a borough and it is an issue which occupies both myself as leader and Councillor Dixon-Fyle as cabinet member with responsibility and the cabinet generally; that is why we are going to be considering a paper on primary places and pupil places at next week's cabinet meeting.

I think looking across London where there is an incredible pupil place shortage, anticipated to only get worse over the coming couple of years, and I think in comparison to where a lot of councils are, we are in a very good place and actually taking very robust action, and I am delighted actually that today we are in a position to say that Ivydale School will be expanding onto the Bredinghurst site, providing effectively a new school on that site, a new primary school for the people of Peckham and Nunhead where we have a particular shortage. It might be regarded as just an expansion by

Councillor Al-Samerai but actually it will be very, very warmly welcomed by the parents of young children in that area who are in desperate need of a place.

We are looking at how the Galleywall site will be opened up and we are also looking at how the old Bellenden site will be opened up and we do have to quite frankly as a local authority, at this time look at expansions really of existing schools. We as a local authority cannot open new schools and new free schools. It is an absolute nonsense, even academies cannot have difficulties opening new academies. Free schools are the only game in town that the government will support, and we will work with free schools where they seek to work with us. And we are working with Southwark free school to try and find a more suitable site for that school, I think it is very regrettable again at this time that they are operating in a tenants hall for the second year in a row, which is not suitable accommodation for twenty first century education of young children.

On the Dulwich Hospital site I have not met with Harris, officers have, Councillor Dixon Fyle points out; I have met with Academy chain sponsors with my hat on as executive member for children and young people on London Councils. Harris is the only academy chain of all in London that we have written to and who have not taken up the offer to meet and discuss education right across London not just in Southwark, so I think the fault does not lie with Southwark Council, the fault lies with Harris and why they won't work with us as a very good and improving local authority. And I was very pleased when I met with Sir Michael Wilshaw, the Ofsted Chief Inspector of schools, and he praised the work that Southwark is doing and the school improvement work that is going on and the fact that our results in Southwark are improving year on year.

So I think we are on a robust and in a good place so I think we should be congratulating the schools in Southwark for the work that they are doing, and the officers in the council for the work they are doing in trying to resolve this very difficult issue but I think we are ahead of the game across London in terms of the robust plans we have got in place.

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

Thanks Mr Mayor; I think there is a slight danger of the Leader sounding a bit complacent. There is clearly a school places crisis, there is a place for expansion but actually he is right to say free schools are the only show in town so the answer is to go and talk to people who are would-be free school providers, make sure we get the ones we want in this borough who have a proven track record in this borough. Can I just ask him about the community council meeting we had recently where we had a presentation on the Canada Water action plan, we asked officers whether there was any thought about a primary school in the area – we know we are desperate for places – and the answer was no, so can I make a suggestion to him, in that he takes some leadership and goes and talks to some potential free school providers about the desperate need for primary school places in Bermondsey and Rotherhithe?

#### **RESPONSE**

Well I don't think I sound complacent. I was telling council assembly about the work we have done in a fairly lengthy answer but if that is complacent, well I am sorry that I am telling you all about the work we have done, and if I had a shorter answer which would suggested I was doing nothing you might have thought I was sounding less complacent. I don't quite understand your response at all. Albion school is going to double in size. That is meeting the increased need for places in the Canada Water area. Now, I think that is a good move and a very exciting move for education. Compass Free School will be opening on Southwark College site; that is a secondary school I know that.

Galleywall School is opening. Redriff have got a new link with the City of London Academy. There is a lot going on in schooling in the Rotherhithe and Bermondsey area, and I think, as I say, I am not being complacent, it is a big issue; we are dealing with it and I am confident we are dealing with it in an appropriate way. We are not having to panic we are dealing with these things, and we are not going to be a council which was in the position of the Liberal Democrat administration between 2006-2010 when kids were not getting school places and there was utter chaos and disarray.

And I am just going to make this final point as well, about free schools I am not ideologically opposed to free schools, anticipating a question from Councillor Mitchell a bit later on, at all. But the overwhelming choice of parents where they have a choice is to go to a good community school; a good local authority school, they still trust us as the number one provider so where we are seeking to expand good existing schools that is parents' choice and if we are in an era of parental choice, that's what they want and that's what we are responding to.

**APPENDIX 2****COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 10 JULY****MEMBERS' QUESTIONS****1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK**

How many green spaces on council owned estates are currently being considered as building plots?

**RESPONSE**

The first phase of the council's plan to build 1,000 new council homes has identified nine sites for development, none of which are on green spaces on housing estates. No further sites have yet been agreed for later phases. There are no plans to dispose of any parcels of amenity land on housing estates, whether green space or otherwise, to third parties for development or any other purposes.

This administration has placed special emphasis on its green spaces. Not only have we invested £8 million revitalising Burgess Park, 14 of the borough's parks received the prestigious Green Flag award last year; a record for Southwark.

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK**

Yes thank you, Mr Mayor, I thank the Leader for his answer and the fact that he can confirm that the nine sites identified in his answer do not include any green or open spaces on housing estates. Notwithstanding, does he agree that his commitment to build 1,000 new council homes will trump current residents' desire to retain their estates' green and open spaces if more land is needed to fulfill his pledge; or can he guarantee tonight that none of Southwark housing estates' green and open space will be utilised to meet his target?

**RESPONSE**

Is the thrust of Councillor Hook's question that he does not want new council housing in Southwark? Because if that's the thrust of his question, I think the majority of council tenants and residents, and actually residents right across the borough, would not support him in that view and I think it is fantastic that we are building 1,000 new council homes. We are clearly using under-utilised spaces, disused garages, in order to build 1,000 new homes at the present time and that is our current intention going forward. It is not our intention to build on metropolitan open land or green spaces in any event, but you know, at the end of the day if we need more social housing and more council housing, we need to build that on our estates; sometimes compromises are needed. But we are going to work with residents at every opportunity to make sure that whatever we provide is supported by residents and I think, to help that, is the fact that of course we have a local lettings policy. At least 50% of the 1,000 new council homes that will be built will be locally let to residents on the estate affected, so I think that it is an important

issue and an important piece of information you need to take back to residents. We are not going to demur from our commitment to build 1,000 council homes between now and 2020. More council homes than have been built across all of London in the previous decade.

## **2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL**

Would the leader of the council confirm that the council in principle is not opposed to the opening of free schools in the borough?

### **RESPONSE**

The council does not have any in principle objection to free schools. I am however concerned that to make free schools viable and to appear popular, the government has set lower standards for free schools than other schools.

My primary concern as leader of the council is the standard of education for children in this borough, and so I would want free schools to provide a good or outstanding education and work with the authority and other schools as part of the community.

Unlike Conservative and Liberal Democrat councillors in Southwark, we believe free schools are only part of the answer to a much broader challenge, namely, how do we meet rising demand for school places in our borough. Free schools can play a part, but our primary investment strategy, which is due to come to cabinet next week, will set out a range of measures that we are taking to create additional school places; including working with outstanding existing schools to design and run new schools in the borough.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL TO THE LEADER**

Thank you Mr Mayor and I thank the Leader for his answer.

He is in error about his assertion of Conservative councillors though, because I am very happy for a variety of education provision to be made in the borough. And I also differ from him and the leader of the opposition in that I specifically asked at an education briefing in the last few months whether free schools were the only show in town in Southwark and I was told no. So he should not give up on the other opportunities. But as I asked a question specifically about free schools, can I ask the Leader to give assurances that the council's bureaucracy will not be used to obstruct the opening of new free schools?

### **RESPONSE**

Yes I can, and I think that has been played out with what we have seen across the borough. I think the Judith Kerr free school has found a site; the Southwark free school is clearly operating – in accommodation which I think is utterly unsuitable – the Harris free school primary school is open in Peckham. So no, there is no way in which the council bureaucracy will stand in the way. We have an issue with Southwark free school not getting through planning committee, but planning I think is a completely different consideration to bureaucrats, as you might want to describe them, within any department of the council standing in the way. I want to make it absolutely clear; in terms of free schools, if we are going to get funding for new schools it is very difficult in Southwark to get anything other than a free



school. That is the reality of it. There are things you can do with existing academies to expand them, and that is what we are talking about, expansions really, in terms of providing new school places; but if you want to start a brand new school, really, this government is only interested in free schools. And that is what I was referring to when I said "the only show in town", but I welcome Councillor Mitchell's commitment to a variety of answers being a response to this particular shortage that we face. I do think this is important that councillors right across the chamber do unite on this issue, because this is an issue which affects so many of our constituents in every part of the borough.

### **3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

Will the leader join me in praising the work of the council's anti-fraud team after it won an award for its work tackling social housing fraud?

#### **RESPONSE**

I will, and I hope councillors from all parties will join me in congratulating the council's anti-fraud team for winning the prestigious Cliff Nicholson award for its relentless work on social housing fraud.

Everyone recognises the challenges that Southwark faces in terms of meeting the demand for affordable housing. While we are building 1,000 council homes over the next eight years, our fraud team's energetic approach to finding fraudulent tenants means that we can make sure that every council home in Southwark goes to someone who really needs it.

As London's largest social landlord, we set the ambitious target of recovering 300 properties in 2012/13. By the end of the financial year, we exceeded this target, freeing up 322 properties that could then be given to people with a genuine need. This was 17% of all houses recovered nationwide despite Southwark making up just 1% of the total housing stock.

I would also like to draw attention to the comments of Tim Crowley, chair of the Chartered Institute of Public Finance and Accountancy audit panel, who said: "The approach that has been developed by Southwark Council can be replicated elsewhere and this kind of innovation is a shining example of how the finance function can contribute to driving up standards despite public sector cuts."

### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

Could I, as the chair of audit and governance committee, thank the Leader for his answer in this question which was about the council's anti fraud team winning a reward for its work in tackling social housing fraud. However I know as a Labour council we are never satisfied, so I ask the Leader what further steps we can take to tackle social housing fraud?

#### **RESPONSE**

Can I thank Councillor Glover for his supplemental. I think congratulations are due to work of the officers on this issue. It is a great frustration for tenants, lawful tenants on our estates when they think that there has been unlawful subletting and effectively they are subsidising people and effectively supporting people to live in

neighbouring properties. So I am really pleased that we have had such great work recovering over 300 properties this year.

The target for next year is to recover 500 homes and that really would be record breaking and I am confident actually with the team that we have got we could really do that.

The council has also been shortlisted, you might be interested to know, for the Institute for Rates, Revenues and Valuations (if you did not know that existed, well you do now) on tenancy fraud, council tax fraud and benefit fraud.

I really do want to pay tribute to the brilliant work of our team in this area; it is a national leader, and I think we should be proud of the work that officers have been doing this time to actually increase the supply of council homes for Southwark residents. That is what we are talking about.

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

What estimates has the council made about the number of new properties built in Southwark being sold to foreign investors?

#### **RESPONSE**

Overall two thirds of all landlords own fewer than five properties. The council does not therefore consider that there is a large scale overseas investment issue. Regarding leaving homes vacant this is largely confined to very large value homes being kept as the occasional residence of extremely wealthy individuals. Most investors, either from home or abroad, rely on the income generating ability of their assets and therefore put them into the private rented sector to generate that income. The current government does not impose any restrictions on purchase of property be it commercial or residential by foreign investors.

Nonetheless, it is fair to estimate that within the prime residential sector represented in Southwark by the highest value developments along the river, sales to foreign investors make up a significant proportion. We are turning this situation to our advantage by using planning agreements with developers of a handful of the most valuable riverside sites to fund the delivery of 1,000 new council homes in Southwark over the next eight years – more than have been built in London in the last 10 years. These council homes will be built across the borough, from Long Lane to East Dulwich, and represent the biggest council house building programme of its kind in the country.

I know this is an issue that has been raised by her party colleague in parliament. I note that he made the claim that new properties at the Heygate were advertised to buyers in Asia first. This is not the case. The new homes at both One The Elephant and Trafalgar Place were launched in the UK and overseas simultaneously, with the local community having first sight of the homes at specially arranged community events.

I would also remind her that the overriding reason why there is a shortage in new affordable housing, not just in Southwark but across the country, is because her government slashed the social housing budget by 60% back in 2010. A cut which Simon Hughes praised. It feels that this focus on foreign buyers is an attempt to hide that fact.

## **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR AL-SAMERAI**

Thanks Mr Mayor thank you to the Leader for his answer. I am slightly concerned; I thought we might be able to agree that it was a bad thing that homes in Southwark got sold and marketed abroad first rather than in Southwark or in London, but clearly the Leader from his answer seems to think that that is a good thing. Perhaps he could rethink that or talk to residents about what their view of it is because certainly I know lots of residents who would rather have the opportunity of buying locally.

I know he likes going for dinner at the Ivy with developers, so possibly the next time he is having dinner with them, he could ask whether what was done with the Old Docklands development, I understand, where actually developers agreed they would market first locally for sale so that actually local people have a chance to buy first. If he could ask developers in Southwark to commit to that I think it would be a really good step forwards.

## **RESPONSE**

I make a case every time I meet developers about how they should market their properties because I am incredibly conscious, I do want to thank your for your supplemental question by the way.

I am very conscious; I do make this point to developers and I am reassured actually that there is often a joint launch of property sales both at home and abroad. More often than not actually property sales are launched in London; and that might not be the impression that one gets but that is the reality of the situation. I do think it is important to recognise, with some of the very high end expensive developments where we are getting a levy from them which is going to fund 1,000 new council homes, that those development are only happening because of the fact that money is coming in from abroad. We might not like it but that is the reality of the world economy that we are working in and living in in Southwark. That is paying for 1,000 new council homes which are going to go to Southwark residents. Now I think that is really good news and is something that we should be celebrating, absolutely. It is also the fact that money is going into these developments from abroad, it is also meaning that they are getting built in the first place and that is providing jobs for Southwark residents.

You know the fact is that we saw 7,400 more people find work in this borough last year than the previous year. That is because, in part I have no doubt because of what is going on in our borough in terms of building and the opportunities which are coming from it and I think as everybody has said in the debate this evening, the best answer to the problems of poverty that we face in this borough is to find work for people, and I still sign up to the aspiration that everyone who wants a job should have a job, and that is our aim and our mission in our borough; and we will carry on pursuing that aim and that mission because it is the right one for a Labour council in Southwark.

## **5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES**

What action is the council taking to meet demand for school places in the borough?

## **RESPONSE**

The council has developed a detailed and robust strategy to meet the demand for places that we are experiencing and anticipate will increase in the coming years. This detailed strategy is to be considered by cabinet on 16 July 2013.

We have worked closely with our existing schools, diocesan authorities, neighbouring authorities, the Department for Education and free school proposers to draw together a strategy that can meet the need for places through the expansion of successful and popular schools, the delivery of new places at new schools delivered directly by the council and through free schools.

The first phase of this programme is funded and the existing and initial increased demand can be met through the delivery of new permanent capacity but it is essential that further funding is made available by the Department for Education if future phases are to be delivered to meet the ongoing need for places.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES**

I would like to thank the Leader for his answer. There has been a degree of discussion about the issue of school places during this question time already this evening, but I would like to ask the Leader because I think it is part of the nub of the problem with free schools, how is the council seeking to ensure that free school providers in Southwark have fair and open admissions criteria?

#### **RESPONSE**

I want to thank Councillor Hayes for her supplemental question. The reality is that as a local authority we don't have any control over a free school's admission policy. With academies we can work together and they will agree that they will sign up to our admissions policy so we have a common admissions policy. This is not the case with free schools, and this is just one aspect of free schools that is worrying. The lack of qualifications that are required for teaching in a free school is also I think another worrying concern.

You know, free schools, interesting, one or two maybe across London; and I'm not ideologically opposed at all, I want to make this absolutely clear, I should not even have said that, but there are issues with free schools which I think we would not accept them in local authority schools. The issue is concerning how pupils are admitted, their admissions policies and the qualifications of teaching staff and I don't see why somehow because it is a free school, a second rate, potentially, of education and a different form of admissions policy is somehow acceptable. I don't find it acceptable. I think free schools should be signing up to a common admissions policy right across our borough. I think that would win support of the local community; it would certainly support of this local authority.

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

Can the leader provide an update on the council's progress against the four identified priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board?

#### **RESPONSE**

##### **1. Prevention and reduction of alcohol-related misuse**

Championed by Professor John Moxham of King's Health Partners, this strand oversaw a refresh of Southwark's alcohol strategy. Resulting key partner actions included a roll-out of training on 'identification and brief advice', strengthened responses around the sale of alcohol and anti-social behaviour, and closer working between King's Health Partners, GPs and the local authority's drug and alcohol team as well as with housing and community safety services. Rates for hospital stays for alcohol-related harm for adults and under-18s are both better than the national average.

## **2. Coping skills, resilience and mental wellbeing**

This strand focused on developing a mental wellbeing, coping and resilience strategy, and underpinning work programme, and was championed through the board by Dr Patrick Holden. Key actions over the past year include developing a personalised 'support planning' package alongside personal health budgets to help people with continuing care needs to choose how best they can achieve their health goals, and testing '5 Ways to Wellbeing' in a number of schools via peer educators to improve understanding of mental health issues.

## **3. Early intervention and families**

Championed by Romi Bowen, strategic director of children's and adults' services, this strand links directly to the borough's children and young people's plan, which is being updated currently. Activity in support of this strand includes the reconfigurations of a range of services including the local authority's early help locality teams, as well as the health visiting and school nursing services. As a result of joint action, performance in key maternal and early years' indicators is improving, for example with above national average levels for breastfeeding initiation, smoking in pregnancy, and early years' education outcomes.

## **4. Healthy weight and exercise**

Following the refresh of the borough's healthy weight strategy in 2012, activity in this strand has focused on taking forward its recommendations. Led by the director of public health, actions include increased support to schools to promote a whole school approach to health and wellbeing, alongside the introduction of free healthy school meals; increased support to promote physical activity through the Change 4 Life clubs, and investment in early years' interventions, including activity in children's centres. As a result, although still high, obesity rates in reception-aged pupils have fallen over recent years from 14.7% in 2009/10 to 12.1% in 2011/12. Future activity will focus on older children, where performance remains significantly below national rates.

### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

Can I thank the council Leader for his response. Can I ask him to confirm whether he thinks it is acceptable and consistent for Southwark Council's pension funds to invest £2.6 million in British American Tobacco when we are now responsible for public health and encouraging residents to quit smoking and live healthier lives? And if he agrees this is unacceptable, will he pledge now to insure that these unethical investments are ended, reinvested, and no further investments are made in tobacco companies?

### **RESPONSE**

I want to thank Councillor Noakes for his supplemental question. He has raised a very interesting issue, I mean, I think when this issue was raised in the press Councillor Livingstone pointed out there will be no change in our investment policy, in fact we were just rolling on an investment policy from the previous administration.

I think it is probably right actually that we as a local authority do look where we are investing, and, you know, I would far rather see us have the ability of our pension fund to invest in infrastructure projects in our borough to create jobs and opportunities but that freedom does not lie – and Councillor Livingstone is looking very nervous now. I do also think that members have to remind themselves though that there is a deficit within our pension fund at this present time and many former employees and current employees of Southwark Council look to that pension fund for their security and safety in retirement. We do owe it to them to insure the best return on our investment.

But it will be an issue. I think with my public health hat on that I might sit down and have a discussion with those who have control over our pension fund in the council and see what we can do. I think it is right that we do look at it, it is right that we are self critical about how we invest, but bearing in mind all the very different competing interests that we have to try and manage this process. But we will have that conversation. I don't want to scare Councillor Livingstone anymore this evening, so I'm going to end up.

#### **7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

Southwark now has the highest demand for food banks in London. The director of Pecan food bank in Peckham attributes this increase in demand to the government's benefit changes. Does the leader agree?

#### **RESPONSE**

I think it is a national disgrace that in the 21st century in one of the most affluent cities in the world some families are struggling to have access to food – a basic human right. I think it is reprehensible that a coalition government Minister, Lord Freud, has tried to claim that the increase in demand for food banks is because more of them existed.

I know anecdotally from Pecan that last year there were no referrals from Jobcentre Plus in the first two months of the year. This year for the same period there were 117 referrals (109 of these from Peckham alone) - all seeming to be due to delays in benefits. Their view is that the Jobcentre rather than dealing with the problem by, for example, making advances on benefits is just to refer people straight on to the food bank.

This is the harsh reality of this government's welfare reforms which Southwark Liberal Democrats and Simon Hughes have supported from day one.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

Thank you Mr Mayor I would like to thank the Leader for his comprehensive response to my question, however I would like to ask a substantive. I hope he was

able to recognise yesterday that the Archbishop of Canterbury joined the chorus of condemnation of the Minister's comments on food banks. I would like to ask: who does the Leader think has the right on the impact of the Liberal Democrat/Tory welfare reform, the Archbishop of Canterbury or the Liberal Democrats?

## **RESPONSE**

Well I don't think there is any choice; a very holy man of the cloth or not. So look – I mean, I think I think it is a tragedy, it is truly a tragedy in 21st century London, that we have food banks and that people are reliant on food banks. And, you know, we are doing our bit as a council and encouraging staff to bring in donations for the food bank and they are getting positive support from us and our employees are playing our part, and everyone thinks 'This is great that we are playing our part.'

It is one of the charities I wish we just did not have to support, continue to support. It feels completely wrong, and in this whole welfare debate we have had this evening it really feels that we are going backwards and some of the decisions that you have heard representatives from the law centre and others having to make about whether people get food vouchers or not. You know we are really, we really risk going back to the era of the work house and the Poor Laws and the overseers deciding who gets what. That is not a Southwark that I think any of us wants to live in; but I fear however that this is the consequence of what this government is doing.

We are opposed to the welfare reports forms, we are opposed to poverty in this borough; we are working for jobs and growth. And as I say I commend absolutely Pecan and the work that those who provide that support in Southwark do, but I hope this is a charity that after 2015 and return of a Labour government we will see wound up as people actually have the opportunities and the money in the pocket that they need and deserve to live a proper and fulfilling life in our borough.

## **8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON**

How much has been spent across the council departments on a) catering b) alcohol in each of last three years and specifically, how much was the total cost of the new mayor's reception this year?

## **RESPONSE**

Council expenditure on catering and refreshments since 2007/8 is as follows:

2012/13	£586,000
2011/12	£750,000
2010/11	£913,000
2009/10	£1,179,000
2008/09	£1,765,000
2007/08	£2,765,000

The budget does not separate alcohol from other refreshment costs, but alcohol is restricted to a very limited number of events.

The table below shows the cost of catering for mayor making for each of the last seven years.

Municipal Year	Mayor	Political Group	Catering costs for Mayor Making exclusive of VAT	Notes
2007/2008	Bob Skelly	Liberal Democrat	£4,437.25	Ceremony held at St Giles Church in conjunction with Honorary Alderman Ceremony
2008/2009	Eliza Mann	Liberal Democrat	£2,637.88	Ceremony held at Town Hall - outside caterers Refreshments for all attendees at Ceremony
2009/2010	Jeff Hook	Liberal Democrat	£1,354.00	Outside caterers supplied refreshments for Past Mayors, Free Citizens & Hon Alderman only
2010/2011	Tayo Situ	Labour	£870.00	Election year - followed format for previous year
2011/2012	Lorraine Lauder	Labour	£2,217.00	First ceremony at Tooley Street - outside caterers supplied refreshments for all attending ceremony - no inhouse catering available at the time
2012/2013	Althea Smith	Labour	£1,440.00	Refreshments for all attendees at ceremony supplied by in house caterers
2013/2014	Abdul Mohamed	Labour	£1,444.50	Refreshments for all attendees at ceremony supplied by in house caterers

#### 9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON

Is he surprised that it has taken Southwark Liberal Democrat councillors three years to publicly criticise Simon Hughes MP for a decision he has taken in parliament?

#### RESPONSE

Yes I am.

While I welcome Southwark Liberal Democrats' public criticism of Simon Hughes for his recent vote on marriage equality in the House of Commons, I am surprised



that they have been silent on so many other issues where Simon Hughes has failed to stand up for people in the borough:

- Tax cuts for millionaires – reducing the top tax rate to 45p
- Increasing VAT to 20% costing hard working families an extra £450 a year
- Scrapping the education maintenance allowance
- Trebling tuition fees
- Scrapping of secure tenancies
- Introduction of “affordable” rent at up to 80% market rent
- 60% cut to social housing budget
- Letting developers wriggle out of section 106 affordable housing requirements
- David Cameron’s NHS privatisation
- 20% cut to the police
- Cuts to legal aid
- The bedroom tax

These are decisions he has made which are having a very significant impact on people in this borough, and yet their local Liberal Democrat councillors say nothing.

Not to mention the fact neither Simon Hughes nor Liberal Democrat councillors have once challenged the government about the 28% cut this council has seen in its budget. This is not about party politics. This is about the government taking an axe to the vital services this council provides and which our residents depend on.

It is shameful that they have lacked the courage to stand up for Southwark residents and I believe it is something residents of this borough will not forget.

#### **10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

What number of private sector homes does the council estimate to have a category one hazard? How many complaints and requests for assistance with private accommodation issues have been received in each of the last three years?

#### **RESPONSE**

The latest census data indicates there are 28,400 dwellings in the private rented sector (PRS). The most recent data available on the condition of the PRS in Southwark comes from the council’s housing condition survey in 2008 which concluded 37% of dwellings had category 1 hazards. Therefore, assuming conditions have remained the same it can be estimated that there are over 10,400 dwellings in the PRS that have category 1 hazards

Below are the statistics for the number of complaints received for assistance with private sector accommodation.

Service requests over the past 6 years have increased by approximately 30%.

<b>From</b>	<b>To</b>	<b>Service Requests</b>
01/04/2013	30/06/2013	264
01/04/2012	31/03/2013	1302

01/04/2011	31/03/2012	1107
01/04/2010	31/03/2011	1040
01/04/2009	31/03/2010	1038
01/04/2008	31/03/2009	901
01/04/2007	31/03/2008	949

The level of service requests have been increasing for a number of reasons. There has been a significant increase in media interest in conditions in the PRS particularly with regard to "beds in sheds". This has led to more enquiries received from concerned neighbours informing the council of potentially seriously overcrowded dwellings.

We have also had two particularly cold winters which leads to an increase in housing related issues such as cold and dampness. The environmental health and trading standards team that regulate the private rented sector have also improved the links with other services that deliver services to private sector tenants and so internal referrals have increased.

I want people in Southwark to have a good place to live. In our council owned properties our priority was to make homes warm, dry and safe. Now, in the private rented sector I have appointed Councillor Mark Williams as deputy cabinet member to focus on driving up standards across the sector.

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

What are the latest employment levels in the borough?

#### **RESPONSE**

Overall in the last year, Southwark's employment figure has increased by 3.3% from 66.5% to 69.8% of the total working age population in employment. To put this into context, at the same time, our 'near neighbours' Lambeth and Lewisham saw small decreases in employment rates of 0.3% and 0.2% respectively. In pure numbers there has been a 7,400 increase in numbers of people in employment, an increase of 5.3% on the year before (against a change in the London average of +1.8%).

Because the London employment rate also increased over the last year, it is important to look at the extra growth in employment for Southwark's residents versus London's. Southwark's employment numbers increased by 5.3% versus a London average of 1.8% i.e. an additional 3.5%. In numbers this equates to an extra 4,900 people into work above the number we would have seen if Southwark's employment were growing at the same rate as London's.

When totalling up over the last year so far our programmes found jobs for some 650 people through initiatives such as the youth fund and other employment support.

This is obviously fantastic news for the borough and shows the difference that can be made by working proactively to boost jobs and growth. Whereas the government's flagship jobs programme, the work programme, has floundered and

failed to deliver, Southwark's economic development team has done a fantastic job in making sure Southwark residents benefit from the opportunities that come from being in the heart of London.

I think it is also worth noting that this administration's determination to get moving on major regeneration projects in the borough after eight years of dither and delay has also had a really positive impact on the local employment market.

## **12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

How many council homes do the council plan to build in each year between now and 2020?

### **RESPONSE**

The current projections for completion of new homes up to 2020 are as follows:

2013/14	12
2014/15	11
2015/16	200
2016/17	100
2017/18	350
2018/19	200
2019/20	150
<b>Total:</b>	<b>1,023</b>

The 2013/14 and 2014/15 projected completions are hidden homes that are either on site or are being worked up for development. To achieve the completions in 2015/16 we will be starting construction of the 200 homes in the current financial year.

The additions to the housing stock through new build for the preceding years are as follows:

2012/13	16
2011/12	3
2010/11	7
2009/10	0
2008/09	0
2007/08	1
2006/07	0
2005/06	12

## **13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD**

What does the leader think will be the impact of the Conservative/Liberal Democrat's latest spending review on Southwark?

### **RESPONSE**

This latest round of cuts from the Tories and Liberal Democrats are likely to add to the massive budget pressures the council is already facing. Taking into account the £90 million cut Southwark has already faced from this government, we now have to plug a further £23 million gap for 2014/15. It is no wonder that local authorities of all parties are telling Eric Pickles that enough is enough.

It will mean more difficult decisions in the year ahead, it will mean an increased use of reserves and balances but most importantly it will mean vital services which people in this borough depend on being cut while more affluent places face a much smaller cut.

People should remember that since 2010 Southwark has had the equivalent cut of £249 for every man, woman and child in the borough compared to £15 in Epsom and Ewell.

People should remember that we were told these cuts were a necessary tonic to eliminate the deficit by 2015 and boost the UK economy. This has not proven to be the case.

People should remember Southwark Liberal Democrats calling for us to use up the council's reserves in 2011 and to stop inventing "future cuts".

And people should remember that despite the difficult decisions we have had to make, this administration has delivered on its promises, is building more council homes, is keeping libraries and leisure centres open and is creating a fairer future for all in Southwark.

**14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Please will the council support the campaign to improve the 343 bus route and lobby Transport for London to improve services on that route?

**RESPONSE**

We are maintaining pressure on Transport for London (TfL) to provide a better service for local people that use the 343 route and have called on the London Mayor and TfL to improve provision, especially along Southampton Way, Wells Way and through the Aylesbury Estate.

We have regularly lobbied TfL for improvements to the 343 service, including on at least nine occasions since the beginning of 2011.

Through the biannual review of bus service provision in which TfL advertise those services which are due for a contract renewal. Local authorities are given the opportunity to comment on these services, but are also invited to make representations on any other service, as they see fit. On each occasion, the council have requested a review and improvements to the 343 service.

The council have the following concerns:

- This service links New Cross with London Bridge passing through Peckham, north east Camberwell, the Aylesbury estate and Elephant and Castle, providing these areas with a link to London Bridge and opportunities to interchange at Peckham and Elephant and Castle. It is these communities that would have particularly benefited from the cross river tram.
- The low levels of public transport access within the Aylesbury and North Peckham Estates, which feature as areas of high deprivation.

- Overcrowding: It has been noted that increased overcrowding is a particular problem during school closing hours as there are four schools on the route. The increased level of service during the Olympic Games made a significant difference to the crowding levels.
- The 343, which has both reliability and capacity problems, regularly passes stops, at peak hours, in the Southampton Way/Wells Way/Albany Road/Thurlow Street portion of the journey without taking on passengers resulting in considerable waiting times. At other times, even well into the evening, gaps of up to 30 minutes can occur between buses.
- Concern has also been expressed over the speed of the bus, particularly in the evening. It should be ensured that sufficient time is allowed within the timetable.

The local campaign is gaining much headway with 926 signatures in support of the need for improvements to the service collected so far. At a public meeting earlier this year, commuters and key stakeholders also had the opportunity to highlight their concerns. At this meeting a senior TfL officer gave a commitment from TfL to respond to the problem areas along the route (they have undertaken to update the Camberwell, Peckham and Walworth community in the autumn on progress made).

Changes to frequency will contribute to reducing overcrowding and will lead to a more efficient service that residents can rely upon. In addition, there needs to be direct, modern and efficient transport links to the places where residents need to travel to and from, the north and south of the borough and central London.

A six part TV documentary showcasing the public meeting is currently featuring on BBC2, helping to highlight the important of improvements needed on the route and raising awareness of this local issue.

In recognition of the importance of this issue, the GLA transport committee have undertaken to make a site visit to the area to see the problem for themselves and for it to inform their scrutiny report into bus services in the capital.

**15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety confirm that a substantial part of the recent £750,000 capital allocation to support policing and community safety will remain available to the Dulwich area, to ensure resources, in the event that the new policing model for the south-west cluster is shown by the autumn review to require additional premises expenditure?

**RESPONSE**

Yes.

The Mayor of London's new policing plan, resulting from the 20 percent cut in police funding made by the coalition government, will have a detrimental impact on Southwark: the closure of two police stations, the reduction of hours as two more,

the loss of the successful ward-based safer neighbourhood teams which are being replaced by multi-ward cluster teams, and the net loss of 14 percent in police numbers from this borough since 2010.

We are committed to ensuring that our communities as well as those that are victims of crime have the ability to access police and victim support when in need of it. The council's decision to secure a capital allocation of £750,000 funding for the community safety programme is intended to provide resources to ensure that there are contact points and neighbourhood policing teams in each part of the borough, along with broader initiatives.

From this allocation, we have identified £100,000 specifically to provide solutions in Dulwich arising from the closure of East Dulwich police station. This could include a neighbourhood policing base but it is for the Metropolitan Police Service to determine what form this might take and ensure that this money is spent in ways that meet their own operational requirements, within the constraints of the new multi-ward cluster model.

The police in Southwark are not currently convinced that a neighbourhood policing base is required in Dulwich. Their south west cluster is operating out of Camberwell police station.

As Dulwich councillors will be aware, I met with representatives of the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) and Southwark police on 17 May 2013 to discuss this issue further. Given the strength of local concern, a review on how successful the new cluster arrangements have been operating in Dulwich will take place in December, six months after implementation.

We are therefore holding back the £100,000 identified for solutions in Dulwich until that review takes place. MOPAC have also offered match-funding.

During this initial six month period, Scotland Yard's property services department will undertake a feasibility study of the Dulwich Hospital Gatehouse proposal to assess whether the use of that building for a patrol base or patrol dropping-off point offers good value for money in case the review identifies that such a facility is required.

In the interim, the council has used other funding from the £750,000 to establish a contact point for both the police and victim support at Dulwich Library. The police contact point would move to the Gatehouse if a base/dropping off point is established there.

**16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

What actions are being taken by Southwark council to address the very considerable impacts on local residents that will arise from the proposed Northern Line extension, and the shaft which is being constructed in Kennington Park, and with specific regard to:

1. The impact on Kennington tube station
2. The structural, planning, and parking control issues arising from the construction process

3. The impact of the construction process on the very important green space of Kennington Park?

## RESPONSE

The cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling, Councillor Hargrove, made a representation to the Secretary of State for Transport, outlining the council's support in principle but detailing a number of concerns regarding the impacts on Southwark residents. These include:

1. We have seen evidence to indicate that the proposed cross-passages at Kennington Station are sufficient to allow the station to operate without increased congestion arising from the extension, but we have requested that the cross-passages are introduced before the extension is opened. We have also asked that works to address ticket hall congestion, largely unrelated to the extension, be brought forward.
2. Modelling has shown that ground movement, and hence the structural impact on properties, is likely to be minimal but will be monitored and addressed if necessary by TfL under obligations set out in their Transport and Works Act Order submission. All planning matters are being resolved satisfactorily. The transport assessment has shown that the impact on residents' parking will be minimal.
3. The construction necessarily takes part of the park on a temporary basis. I am persuaded that this is the only realistic construction option, and that the temporary relocation of facilities (the dog-walking area and bee-keeping project) is appropriate.

## 17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What is the council doing about general improvements in the Peckham town centre area including Rye Lane and Peckham High Street, in particular shop fronts, and what steps are being taken to attract different retailers in this area, due to the number of empty retail shops? Please confirm whether there is a lottery grant available to carry out these improvements?

## RESPONSE

The council has listened to the concerns of residents and local businesses to improve Peckham town centre. The Peckham and Nunhead area action plan (AAP) incorporates these views, and was submitted to the Secretary of State for the Examination on Public (EIG) to be held at the end of July.

The draft AAP sets out policies for Peckham town centre with the aim of making a major town centre a magnet for retail growth. The key aims are to:

- Enable the provision of additional retail floor space. We have identified capacity for approx 8,000 sqm (net) of additional retail floor space in Peckham town centre to mostly be accommodated on two development proposal sites, the Aylesbury shopping centre and the Copeland Road Industrial Park. There are also smaller amounts at 1-27 Bournemouth Road.

- Regenerate the area around Peckham Rye railway station. There is scope to create new and enhanced retail and business provision on this site.
- Improve the public realm and create space for new markets and street trading and encourage a mix of complementary arts, culture, leisure and entertainment in Peckham town centre which will help to contribute to supporting a lively and vibrant centre.

The council is currently in the process of preparing a stage 2 bid for the Peckham townscape heritage initiative (THI) to the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) for up to £1.675 million. This is subsequent to a stage 1 pass received by the council in November 2011 and an award of £50,000 for the development of the scheme.

The Peckham THI area includes Rye Lane, south of the railway station, the junction with Rye Lane and Peckham High Street and the junction with Peckham Hill Street with Peckham High Street.

If the council is successful with the Peckham THI it will allow some property owners and leaseholders to receive grant funding as well as:

- The restoration of shop fronts, doors, windows, pilasters, cornices, etc
- Cost of eligible repair works such as brickwork cleaning and repairs, mouldings, cornices and parapets.

The team has been working collaboratively with a range of stakeholders including local community groups, the business community, property owners and designated council officers to develop the application in time for the deadline submission in January-February of 2014. The project has a five year implementation period and is projected to commence in June-July 2014 pending a successful stage 2 bid.

In addition, the council has invested £100,000 from the community restoration fund to support the development of business-led improvements to Peckham town centre through a town team model.

In line with the council's economic wellbeing strategy the Peckham town team involves businesses and community groups directly in decisions on local improvements while enabling the voice of local businesses to be heard in influencing council service delivery that affects them. Monthly meetings have resulted in:

- Deep cleaning along Rye Lane: this has shown noticeable improvements along Rye Lane and has also brought the businesses together to get involved in all stages of the process, from selecting and commissioning a provider to providing feedback to the contractor during a 'walk around'.
- Improved parking measures including working with the council's public realm team to develop ideas for new signs to inform people about free parking at the weekends.
- Consumer research study: The town team have commissioned a street survey of visitors in Peckham town centre from Thursday 11 July 2013 to Saturday 13 July 2013, returning for further interviews the following week.



They aim to conduct 300 interviews using a questionnaire agreed by the town team. The objectives of the survey are to:

- Profile visitors currently found in Peckham town centre
  - Benchmark their current behaviour as shoppers and leisure users
  - Identify what visitors wish for to enhance their experience in Peckham.
- Footfall cameras: developing proposals to install footfall cameras – on hold pending longer term funding.
  - Map: Peckham Vision have developed proposals for a map of Peckham and Rye Lane promoting local shops and activities, the final designs will be presented to the Town Team for approval.
  - Pop-up shop: Positive discussions underway with a local landlord about utilising a large commercial unit on the ground floor to host a series of pop-up shops prior to new tenants moving in.

LSE Cities has been reporting to the council on its in depth research into the economy of Rye Lane as an example of an 'ordinary street' in a town centre. Their research found that the many and varied uses and occupiers in Rye Lane bring strength, vitality and resilience to its economy, demonstrated by a strong commercial rental market and high occupancy rates. The capacity of Rye Lane to host such a dense and varied mix of business, cultural and community uses that draw people to the street is its key strength, along with its surrounding residential density. According to the GLA's High Street London report, Peckham town centre has 2,100 businesses and 13,400 employees.

#### **18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

What priority is the cabinet member giving to ensure that Fisher FC can return to the Surrey Docks Stadium?

#### **RESPONSE**

I have met with Fisher FC representatives and directed officers to try and secure a return of the new Fisher FC to their former area. However, the council is not able to assist Fisher FC to return to Surrey Docks stadium as the council sold its freehold interest in the site to the directors of Fisher Athletic in 2006.

£1 million of the agreed receipt was to be spent on improvements to the stadium facilities. This never happened and the stadium was abandoned.

The Surrey Docks stadium is being sold by the administrators and council officers have been working with the proposed purchasers to get back the metropolitan open land former football pitch into council ownership as a public park, whilst re-providing a football facility with a new 3G pitch for the use of Fisher FC and the general public on the St Pauls site on Salter Rd.

At the Fisher AGM last month Fisher FC members, including Simon Hughes MP, agreed to support the St Pauls ground proposals. Club officials thanked officers for their efforts in trying to bring this about.

Negotiations are still ongoing with the developers and if this is successfully concluded a report will be brought to cabinet and the developers will make a single planning application to cover both sites.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

Thank you, Mr Mayor. A belated welcome to your new role. Can I thank the cabinet member for her very warm, glowing and welcome answer on the issue of Fisher FC moving back to their spiritual home in Surrey Docks Ward? I think I particularly welcome in her answer the issue of having one planning application, I think that's going to be particularly important in securing this deal. But can I ask, two very quick points, Mr Mayor – one is, is she in a position to guarantee that the proposed park on the old pitch at Surrey Docks stadium will be a park which is open to all residents at all times of the day; and can she also given an assurance that St Pauls Field itself will be transferred to the club for the future use at the end of the deal which the council is proposing?

#### **RESPONSE**

Thank you very much for the supplemental. It's easier for me to answer the second one than the first one, because I think the subject of whether this park will be available for everyone to use I think is still the subject of discussions with the developers, is that right? But I would have to find that out and I myself don't know the answer to that because it's about a planning matter.

I think in discussions with – yes, Fisher is very pleased indeed about this, we have been talking for some time, and they are really thrilled. They desperately get back to Bermondsey and not have to play in south Camberwell ward, which is rather a long way away. And I think – well, certainly the discussions so far, because they are sort of at the beginning stages, are that we will evolve a process of the club sort of working into that site and we will think about how they want to develop their particular role on that site. I think that's probably about all I can say at the moment because that's about as far as we have got.

#### **19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

How many leisure centre visits for swimming and other water-based activities were made to council run facilities between September 2011 and February 2012? How many were made between September 2012 and February 2013?

#### **RESPONSE**

The council has swimming pools at Peckham Pulse, Camberwell leisure centre, Seven Islands and Dulwich. Surrey Docks Water Sports Centre (SDWSC) also has an outdoor water based activity programme.

##### **September 2011 - February 2012**

Total wet side visits 206,549 - broken down by:

- 196,946 wet side visits (all swimming) at the four sites with pools
- 9,603 wet side visits for sailing at SDWSC.

##### **September 2012 - February 2013**

Total wet side visits 196,238 - broken down by:

- 186,290 wet side visits (all swimming) at four sites with pools
- 9,948 wet side visits for sailing at SDWSC.

Wetside visits at the leisure centres with swimming pools dropped by 5% between the two periods. This was indicative of a downward trend nationally shown for swimming as demonstrated by Sport England's active people survey over recent years. This is in stark contrast to the overall picture of increased general participation across all Southwark leisure centre activities.

For the period September 2011 to February 2012 total leisure centre participation was 636,129 of which Elephant and Castle leisure centre accounted for 127,040.

For the same period the following year, September 2012 to February 2013, participation was 603,705. However, Elephant and Castle leisure centre was closed during this period. Like-for-like comparison of general leisure centre usage across all sites that were open for both periods shows an increase in participation of 94,616 or 18.6% (509,089 to 603,705).

This supports research undertaken since the Olympics that shows that nationally, people are taking up new and more sports. Whilst this may have had a slight negative impact on wetside activities, it has had a far greater positive impact on general participation levels at our leisure facilities overall.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

Thank you, Mr Mayor. Thank you for your answer, Councillor Ward. I was going to ask you about the problems in Camberwell swimming pool, but I'll write to you about the problems with condensation there. I just wondered if you could give us the proposed opening time for the leisure centre at the Elephant & Castle?

#### **RESPONSE**

The leisure centre at the Elephant & Castle, 2014, month – late 2014; the second half of 2014.

#### **20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

What role has the cabinet member played in securing Section 106 money for leisure facilities at the Elephant and Castle?

#### **RESPONSE**

It was agreed by cabinet in July 2010 to adopt the site of the current leisure centre as the preferred location for new leisure facilities at Elephant & Castle. Cabinet also agreed that receipts generated from the sale of the residential component would be reinvested to deliver the leisure facility. Subsequently in August 2011 the cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy agreed a consultation plan to establish what leisure facilities residents wanted.

The consultation was successful. 1,316 responses were received - a 16% response rate compared to an anticipated rate of just 5%. It clearly demonstrated

as we had expected that what people really want was a new swimming pool. The next most popular facilities were a gym, exercise studio and sports hall.

In July 2011 we agreed to dispose of the front part of the site to Lend Lease. All the monies for the capital receipt will go towards the costs of the scheme.

The planning authority carried out an independent appraisal of the Lend Lease scheme which concluded that their residential scheme could sustain a £3.5 million affordable housing contribution but that in this specific case the need to provide a new leisure facility to support the regeneration of the area justified a departure from normal policy and that therefore this Section 106 sum should be put towards the provision of the new leisure facility.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Thank you Mr Mayor. I thank the cabinet member for her answer. I think in principle, people didn't have a problem with the affordable housing contribution going towards the leisure centre, and I think that they believed that the contribution that was made from that and the sale of the land would in fact pay for the leisure centre. We did get, in fact, probably the worst percentage settlement we've ever had on affordable housing on that, at something like 4.2% on the LendLease deal, which was a great disappointment and I wondered therefore whether or not the cabinet member can tell us how far short that leaves us of actually completing the leisure centre which we all thought was going to be paid for by that development?

#### **RESPONSE**

As I hope you all appreciate, my role has been about the development of the leisure centre and the funding that we have and how we use that to provide a very good facility. I don't have – my colleague Councillor Colley, who was involved in the regeneration process, may be able to give you an answer where I won't be.

#### **RESPONSE FROM CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY**

All I can say on this really is to say that the development of the new leisure centre at the Elephant & Castle is fully funded and will be going ahead. It will be opening – I have to just quickly correct the previous answer, afraid we got a bit confused; I thought you were asking about opening hours. The leisure centre is now due to open in early 2015 because of the delays there were in finding the burial site underneath the previous leisure centre.

#### **21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

What objects belonging jointly to the South London Gallery and to the council art collection were being housed at the Cuming museum and/or adjacent buildings at the time of the fire?

#### **RESPONSE**

Since 2003 the Cuming Museum has managed Southwark's art collection from the South London Gallery.

At the time of the fire the museum's temporary exhibition gallery housed the Birds, Beasts and Beyond ceramics exhibition which displayed 81 pieces of Martinware (and ceramics by other artists) together with four related framed works.

Within the museum's History of Southwark gallery there were four framed works by artist and painter Austin Osman Spare. The rest of the art collection is housed in secure storage.

#### **SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

Thank you. I'd like to thank the cabinet member for her response. I have to say it is not entirely consistent with my understanding. As you know, I'm a council-appointed trustee of the South London Gallery, and at the last couple of board meetings this has come up. The gallery are of the view that there were a number of their items, the items jointly owned by the council and the South London Gallery, that would have been in temporary storage in the old Town Hall site, because they would have been between locations, permanent locations, and that has been the custom. And they've tried to get information from the department, who understandably found it difficult to produce an inventory. But I wonder if you would go back to officers and say can they look at this again, because the Gallery's view is that there were works that were temporarily housed in that building complex, and they're very keen to find out what exactly they were?

#### **RESPONSE**

Thank you very much; I will do that, but I know that the storage was – is above the library, and that's where the storage is, and in the museum which of course we sadly actually we haven't got the analysis of what is missing, although we can suspect, there was no storage in that area; it's above the library. But I will get clarification.

#### **22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

Can she outline plans for events in Southwark for summer 2013?

#### **RESPONSE**

There is lots going on this summer in Southwark. I would encourage members to check out this summer's Southwark Life which has a section on events, and to keep up to date through our website. Some particular events to highlight include:

**David's Peace Day**, by David Idowu Foundation

**Tabard Gardens**

**Saturday 13 July 2013 10am to 6pm**

This is a peace event in the memory of David Idowu and all the victims of violent crime. The main concept of this event is to create awareness of knife and gun crime to the general public and how it can affect lives. A dance troupe of young people is performing.

**Park-to-Park Ride**, by Parpose Projects / Southwark Council

**Wednesday 17 July 2013, 9am to 3pm**

A circular cycle ride for school pupils starting and ending in Burgess Park, with pick up points for pupils in Dulwich Park and Peckham Park, culminating in a picnic in Burgess Park at lunch time.

**Rotherhithe Festival**, by Rotherhithe Festival Group

**King George's Field**

**Saturday 27 July 2013, 11am to 9:45pm**

One of Southwark Council's north of the borough events. It is a community event with face painting, a bouncy castle and live music in a stage, with a variety of arts, charity food and information stalls.

**Biped's Monitor**, by Arbonauts

**Nunhead Cemetery**

**Wednesday 31 July to Sunday 4 August 2013, 8:30pm to 10pm**

Biped's Monitor is a site specific, immersive performance taking place in the avenues, trees and chapel of Nunhead Cemetery at dusk. Biped's Monitor brings opera, installation and performance art to this magnificent cemetery.

**Love Parks Week**, by Friends of Nursery Row Park

**Nursery Row Park**

**Sunday 4 August, 12:30pm to 4:30pm**

A community event in the park, organised by the friends of Nursery Row Park with farm animals provided by Surrey Docks Mobile Farm, games, face painting and the chance to meet the animals.

**The African Market Day**, by The African Market Day

**Goose Green**

**Saturday 17 August 2013, 12 to 9pm**

Free community run event that provides an opportunity for ethnic minority business from the African Caribbean community to showcase their goods and services, alongside cultural activities such as drumming, storytelling and African dance.

**The Elephant and the Nun**, by Southwark Council

**Peckham Rye Common, St Marys Churchyard, Camberwell Green and Peckham Square**

**Saturday 17 August 2013,**

Celebrating the heart of Southwark from the Elephant and Castle all the way down to Nunhead. There will be four community events with live music, comedy, dance, mini outdoor cinema, fairground sideshows, food, arts and crafts, and storytelling.

**Project BISCEY**, Careers in the Park, by Project BISCEY

**Burgess Park**

**Wednesday 21 August 2013, 12 to 6pm**

An afternoon of career driven presentations and information stalls in an entertaining format or at least in a comfortable enjoyable setting. There will be a whole range of different career type representatives on the day: vocational courses/work, full time work, university, entrepreneurship, college, apprenticeships and consultancy services like CV surgery and career advice.

**The Luna Cinema in Dulwich Park**, by The Luna Cinema Ltd

**Dulwich Park**

**Monday 26 August 2013, 7pm to 10pm**

Open air cinema in Dulwich Park, screening Pretty Woman.

**Free Film Festivals**, by Free Film Festival

**Peckham Rye Common**

**Friday 6 & Saturday 7 September 2013, 8 to 10:30pm**

Friday 6 Sept – Free screening of a silent classic film with live soundtrack played by composer Neil Brand.

Saturday 7 Sept – Free bike-powered screening of a family-friendly film to be confirmed.

**Peckham Rye Fete**, by Friends of Peckham Rye Park

**Peckham Rye Common**

**Saturday 7 September 2013, 12 to 5pm**

Small scale traditional community fete with dog show, children's games, fancy dress parade, Punch and Judy show, tea tent, Pimms, beer and cider tent, and stalls including local traders and local charities.

**Midsummer Festival**, by Friends of Brimington Park

**Brimington Park**

**Saturday 7 September 2013, 12 to 7pm**

A community festival celebrating the good things about living in East Peckham, This includes local acts including singing, exhibitions, dancing, drumming, stalls and sports activities.

**23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

As we approach the one year anniversary of the London 2012 Olympics, what work has the council undertaken to ensure Southwark has a lasting Olympic legacy?

**RESPONSE**

The Olympic legacy is very much alive in Southwark and the Olympic legacy board aims to ensure that Southwark has an enduring legacy from 2012.

The board's prime objectives will ensure a legacy in terms of greater participation in sport and physical activity coupled with improved facilities being made available to our community. Recent figures demonstrate increased participation.

Between April 2012 and April 2013, which includes the Olympic period, the number of Southwark people performing 1 x 30 min of sport and active recreation per week rose against the same period last year from 36.5% to 37.9% according to Sport England's active people survey. Southwark is still one of only three London boroughs to increase participation since the measurement started in October 2005.

This exceeds both the London (currently at 36.0%) and the national average (35.2%) and means that over 4,000 additional Southwark adults are doing at least 1 x 30 mins of activity every week since the London 2012 Olympic Games finished. Our commitment to investing in improved facilities together with work delivered by the community sports service is helping to encourage more people to take up exercise.

The council's capital legacy fund provided £2 million of funding to improve a range of facilities across the borough. The facilities benefitting from this programme are:

- BMX track for Burgess Park - £150,000
- Bethwin Road playground - £95,000
- Camberwell Leisure Centre sports hall - £490,000

- Herne Hill velodrome - £400,000
- Sports ground development in Homestall Road - £175,000
- Peckham Town Football Club - £85,000
- Peckham Pulse disability pool hoist - £5,600
- Peckham Rye - £200,000
- Southwark Park athletics track - £370,000
- Trinity outdoor sports area in Camberwell - £30,000

Several of these projects are either now completed or near completion. Most are scheduled to be delivered by the end of the financial year. They are providing and will provide lasting benefits to communities right across our borough for years to come. The funding allocated to these projects has also successfully brought in a further £1 million of external funding.

In addition to the sporting legacy, the council has built on the spirit of the games through its work on volunteering. The council strategy for volunteering is now being implemented, as is the volunteer passport, a joint project between Southwark and Lambeth designed to increase volunteering in the cultural sector amongst people from black and minority ethnic communities.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

I would like to thank the cabinet member for her answer, and I would like to ask a supplementary.

After the legacy projects are completed, what plans does the council have to keep people engaged in sport, and to keep the borough active?

#### **RESPONSE**

Thank you very much indeed Councillor Lauder. We are just about to publish, as soon as we come back from the summer break, a sport and physical activities strategy because the present one we have at the moment is coming to an end, with most of the objectives achieved. And that strategy will look at how we ensure in the future that more people in the borough than before are involved in some kind of sport and physical activity. We have more funding from Sport England through the ProActive programme to look at school facilities and see how they can be opened up to the community, we have more activities in primary schools, and we also have our own programme of supporting clubs and ensuring that they receive resources to improve the work that they do and the amount of people that are involved. I think what we are looking at is making sure that we absolutely maximise resources so that as many people as possible – I think it's quite difficult to describe a whole range of programmes in amongst – I can provide a written reply if you would like one, but I think – we are working on that.

#### **24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES**

Given their great achievements in recent years, can the cabinet member provide an update on the performance of Southwark's young people at this year's London Youth Games?

#### **RESPONSE**



This weekend saw the finals of the London Youth Games. The organisers began to say this is Southwark's year half way through the day. They were right, and so I am very pleased to announce the fantastic news that "Team Southwark" made it to the top ten, finishing 9th overall.

Team Southwark has been improving year on year from 29th in 2009, to 15th last year and this year breaking into the top ten.

- Team Southwark claimed 11 top three victories (1st place: girls' basketball, water polo and boys' table tennis, 2nd place: boys' cross country, wheelchair basketball, 3rd place: boys' disability football, BMX, boys' handball, cycling, boys' football, girls' hockey)
- Entered 42 sports competitions across 26 sports
- Entered some new sports this year, which included weightlifting, girls judo and girls table tennis
- Achieved 19 top 10 finishes
- Engaged 363 young people in actual competitions and over 1,000 in the London Youth Games experience.

Congratulations to all our wonderful young people, their team managers and the Southwark sports development team for their very hard work in getting our teams together to achieve this result.

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

How will the Cuming Museum continue to carry out its exhibition and educational work while Walworth Town Hall is closed for the foreseeable future?

**RESPONSE**

The fire was a terrible blow to all those involved with work in the museum. It has been a priority to continue its events and outreach programme, which is being delivered from InSpire at St Peter's Church in Liverpool Grove.

The 2013 summer programme includes family events during the school holidays, arts and crafts workshops for adults and a regular Thursday morning event for under 5s. All events are free and no booking is required. Details are available on the council's website.

The council is currently identifying other premises to house a temporary museum space whilst the plans for the town hall's redevelopment are progressed.

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

What action has the council taken to deliver on its promise of cutting the cost of meals on wheels?

**RESPONSE**

We are on track to halve the price people pay for meals on wheels by May 2014, compared to the price people paid when we came into office in May 2010.

We have already reduced the price by over a third, and a further reduction to 50% will take effect by May 2014, in line with our promise.

This is a very important policy, ensuring vulnerable people get hot nutritious meals every day. It is even more important at the moment, given the large increase in the cost of living due to this government's failed economic policies.

**27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY**

What is her reaction to the latest available data from Guy's and St Thomas' which shows that the number of people in accident and emergency being seen within four hours has fallen to 94.38%, below the previous Labour government's target of 98% and below even the Tory/Liberal Democrat government's downgraded target of 95%?

**RESPONSE**

It is completely unacceptable that Southwark residents are having to wait longer to be seen in accident and emergency (A&E).

A&E waiting times in England are at a 9 year high – the number of people waiting over four hours has more than doubled since this government came into office, including waiting in ambulance queues outside A&Es.

The government is taking resources away from the front-line to spend £3 billion on an unnecessary and unwanted top-down reorganisation of the NHS; 4,000 nursing posts have been lost since May 2010; and the government has watered down waiting time targets.

It is clear that this government is not putting patients first.

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU**

What progress has the cabinet member made towards her commitment to create a new dedicated telephone line for people needing social care advice?

**RESPONSE**

We brought in a single phone helpline, where residents can get social care advice from experts, last year - in line with our promise. It has already successfully helped over 20,000 callers.

The single phone number (020 7525 3324) simplified services by replacing over 20 previous phone numbers.

The number is staffed by the council's team of social care experts who are able to offer immediate advice and support for over 90% of the calls first time, or are able to ensure the request is put to the right team who can call back as quickly as possible.

Callers can use the number to ask for help with a wide range of things, from requests for hand rails to reporting financial or physical abuse.

People can also go online for a free guide to the council's adult social care services and a range of other services in the community at:

[www.southwark.gov.uk/mysupportchoices](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/mysupportchoices)

The new helpline number is for calls relating to adult social care services only and residents requiring other council enquiries can use the main customer services number on 020 7525 5000 or email [csc@southwark.gov.uk](mailto:csc@southwark.gov.uk)

**29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN**

The cabinet member has recently taken on responsibility for public health. Can she comment on the level of public health funding for Southwark?

**RESPONSE**

Responsibility for public health transferred from the NHS to local government on 1 April 2013. For 2013/14 Southwark will receive a ring fenced grant for public health to meet the cost of these new responsibilities of £21.809 million. However, it is unclear whether the resources allocated to fund these new responsibilities will be sufficient to meet the costs. Close revenue monitoring during 2013/14 will seek to identify any unfunded pressures.

Government data shows that Southwark receives less public health funding per head of population than boroughs that the government says have far lower health needs, like Kensington & Chelsea. This is disgraceful.

**30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

How many adapted council properties are currently inhabited by persons without disabilities? What measures is the council taking to ensure that when adapted properties become available that persons with disabilities are given priority? How many adapted council properties have been authorised to be made 'un-adapted' in each of the last three years?

**RESPONSE**

Effective monitoring of this was introduced in 2011. Prior to this it was not established so the information provided is from that date.

On rare occasions properties with low level adaptations (such as just a level-access shower) are let to general needs clients but all that we call fully adapted properties (with wheelchair access) go to households with a medical need for an adapted home.

Since October 2011, 19 low level adapted properties have been let to general needs clients; 14 of these were housing association properties and five council homes. There is a regional scheme for recording adapted properties called LAHR (London Accessible Housing Register). This was adopted by Southwark in October 2011. Southwark advertise adapted properties separately to our general needs homes and households themselves are given a separate code from general needs clients. There are three different codes for different property types from fully adapted with a lowered kitchen (when main household member is a wheelchair

user), fully adapted with standard height kitchen (e.g. when the wheelchair user is a child and parents would undertake cooking) and where a property has some adaptations, such as a level access shower and stair lift and minimal steps to access. For those who use a wheelchair outside the home but have some mobility difficulties, we do our utmost to match clients to these specific property types based upon an assessment from Occupational Therapy or our own medical assessment service.

The council does not have a policy to 'un-adapt' properties because these properties are required for our most vulnerable residents and are generally in great demand. In the past, we have removed stair lifts and recycled them and have removed some external modular ramping where they are no longer needed, but this would not affect the rest of the adaptations in the property.

**31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL**

The report on a strategy for primary expansion was due to come to cabinet several months ago according to the forward plan. The latest plan moves the decision again until July. What is the reason for the delay?

**RESPONSE**

The report was first proposed as an April decision on the forward plan. The report was subsequently deferred in order that the strategy and proposals could be effectively informed by the Department for Education funding announcement in March 2013 and the free school announcements towards the end of May 2013.

**32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

How much has the council received from the government in each of the last three years for permanent expansion places in primary schools? How much has the council spent in each of the last three years and how much has the council carried over from year to year?

**RESPONSE**

	<b>2010/11 (£ million)</b>	<b>2011/12 (£ million)</b>	<b>2012/13 (£ million)</b>
Grant income	9.9	10.6	6.5
Capital spend	13.7	4.5	6.2
Carried forward	N/A	6.1	6.5

In addition we have committed £15 million to the expansion programme: £5 million in 2013/14 and £10 million in 2014/15.

There is however still likely to be a gap between the resources available and those required to meet the projected need for places. Officers will seek to source additional grant from the Department for Education. Should this not become available, or such additional grant is insufficient, any shortfall would need to be met from relevant section 106 or community infrastructure levy or through the council's own funding.

**33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

How many children have been excluded from each secondary school in Southwark in each of the last three years? What has been the reason recorded for their exclusion? How many students were sent home for disciplinary reasons in each month of the last three years?

**RESPONSE**

The number of children excluded by secondary school over the past three years is set below:

	<b>Exclusions – fixed term and permanent</b>		
<b>School</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Bacon's College	2	4	2
Globe Academy *	115	99	109
Harris Academy at Peckham	19	19	15
Harris Academy Bermondsey	3	4	4
Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich	1	1	4
Harris Girls' Academy East Dulwich	8	41	40
Kingsdale School	2	0	0
Notre Dame School	2	0	1
Sacred Heart RC Secondary School	36	27	44
St Michael & All Angels CE Academy	91	84	31
St Michael's Catholic College	23	10	2
St Saviour's and St Olave's School	2	1	2
The Charter School	38	28	22
The City of London Academy	5	13	8
The St Thomas the Apostle College	3	2	4
Walworth Academy	15	28	10
<b>Total</b>	<b>365</b>	<b>361</b>	<b>298</b>

The total number of exclusions by secondary school over the past three years is:

	<b>Exclusions – fixed term and permanent</b>		
<b>Secondary school</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
Bacon's College	2	4	3
Globe Academy *	198	180	190
Harris Academy at Peckham	22	21	26
Harris Academy Bermondsey	3	5	13
Harris Boys' Academy East Dulwich	1	1	6
Harris Girls' Academy East	14	70	67

Dulwich			
Kingsdale School	2	0	0
Notre Dame School	2	0	1
Sacred Heart RC Secondary School	49	44	63
St Michael & All Angels CE Academy	138	142	62
St Michael's Catholic College	29	13	2
St Saviour's and St Olave's School	2	1	3
The Charter School	60	36	30
The City of London Academy	6	16	14
The St Thomas the Apostle College	3	2	5
Walworth Academy	17	31	11
<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>496</b>

\* All-through school, primary and secondary.

The reason for exclusion is set out below:

	2011/12		
<b>Secondary school</b>	<b>Fixed</b>	<b>Permanent</b>	<b>All</b>
Physical assault against a pupil	102	9	111
Physical assault against an adult	9	1	10
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against a pupil	36	16	52
Verbal abuse/threatening behaviour against an adult	81	4	86
Bullying	9	0	9
Racist Abuse	2	0	2
Sexual misconduct	14	0	14
Drug & alcohol related	14	2	16
Damage	12	1	13
Theft	19	0	19
Persistent disruptive behaviour	154	8	162
Other	2	0	2
<b>Total</b>	<b>454</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>496</b>

All exclusions by month for each of the past three years is set out below:

<b>Secondary school</b>	<b>2009/10</b>	<b>2010/11</b>	<b>2011/12</b>
January	36	57	66
February	57	52	49
March	114	96	80
April	28	31	30
May	71	51	69
June	55	44	24

July	34	35	31
September	14	49	31
October	43	52	15
November	53	69	47
December	43	30	54
<b>Total</b>	<b>548</b>	<b>566</b>	<b>496</b>

The schools maintain records of exclusions, and notify the local authority of each exclusion.

We are working closely with all schools and academies to explore alternatives to permanent exclusions. The managed move forum has established a process whereby schools can agree to transfer young people at risk of exclusion to a new school in cases where it is considered that a fresh start in an appropriate setting could be successful. We are also working closely with our pupil referral unit to develop a range of preventative services.

It should be noted it is also Ofsted's role to challenge academies on their level of exclusions through either inspection or the annual risk assessment.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

I notice on the – I'm looking at Bacon College, where it says that two members have been excluded in 2009/10, four in 2010/11 and two permanently, and I don't think these figures are correct, because I have been heavily involved in Bacon College, and I'm asking the member to look at that again, please.

#### **RESPONSE**

Thank you for your supplementary question, Councillor Nelson. I hear what you say. Obviously I can't give you an in depth answer now, but I promise that I will go back to officers and check these figures again. I'm glad to hear that you're a governor at the school, and I would be happy to talk to you about your interpretation and learn more from you about what you feel the correct figures are, and, probably more importantly, Mr Mayor, to try and delve deeper into the meaning of these figures, because it is important; and I think Councillor John said earlier on, how important it is for us to be working with our secondary schools.

As you know, most of them are faith schools or they are academies, so apart from influence, we have very little control over them, but this is a very important area that you have raised, and with your added knowledge as a governor, I am happy to work with you about how we can actually sort of see the reasons behind some of these figures, which I think is more important. But also, as I said, if you're saying that these figures are wrong for one particular school, I am happy to go back and clarify that with officers, Mr Mayor, and give Councillor Nelson a written response, if that's okay.

**34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON**

What is the number of children in care housed in private-run children's homes? What is the total cost to the council? What is the highest fee per child paid by the council to a private-run home?

**RESPONSE**

Number of children in private residential: 42  
Annual expenditure: £5.85 million (2012/13)  
Most expensive placement: £5,157 per week (disability placement).

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

What is the cabinet member doing to make the junction of George Row and Bermondsey Wall West safer?

**RESPONSE**

Our key objective for making the council's residential roads safer, including through the introduction of 20mph limits on borough roads, extends to George Row and Bermondsey Wall West.

The junction of George Row and Bermondsey Wall West was included within the recently introduced 20mph zone in Riverside area which also includes a number of other measures including one way westbound traffic with a pedal cycle contra flow at Pottery Street and one way northbound traffic working with a pedal cycle contra-flow in Wilson Grove. These combined measures are designed to reduce rat running, provide improved cycle routes and control the speed of traffic.

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

What consideration has the council given to give relief from parking permit charges to vehicles with very low emissions, further to the existing relief for hybrid or electric vehicles? Will the council consider coming into line with Transport for London (for Congestion Charges) and HMRC (for vehicle excise duty) by giving a permit discount to vehicles emitting 100g/km or less of CO<sub>2</sub>?

**RESPONSE**

We are of course committed to promoting more sustainable transport and travel, which means reducing the levels of air pollution. Currently, drivers of hybrid or electric vehicles receive a discount of 75% for resident and business parking permits. We are keen to ensure that residents are spared additional costs that could be brought on by policy changes and earlier this year froze all parking charges for the next 12 months.

The introduction of forms of relief for very low emission vehicles would be a development on existing policy. Clearly the more greener vehicles we can encourage onto our streets as replacements for existing more polluting vehicles, the greater the reductions in CO<sub>2</sub> and other harmful emissions.



The council did undertake an initial consultation exercise through the community councils in May 2011 about CO2 based parking permits. Parking officers gave a presentation to each community council to gauge whether there was support for this to be instigated. At those meetings there was no clear support for this change and a number of objections were made. The decision was taken at the time not to pursue this to a full consultation of all permit holders.

Any change in policy in this area would need to be based on substantial evidence. As more data becomes available to support the effectiveness of introducing carbon based parking permit charging, we will consider whether there is a case to consult all residential permit holders on the introduction of such a scheme into this borough.

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

How many parking penalty charge notices (PCNs) have been issued in the borough in each of the past three years? How many of these PCNs have been written off because of failure to collect the fine, and what are the primary reasons for fines not being collected on PCNs?

**RESPONSE**

	<b>Issued</b>	<b>Paid</b>	<b>% Paid</b>	<b>Written off</b>	<b>% Written off</b>
<b>2012-13</b>	102,212	72,781	71.2%	238	0.2%
<b>2011-12</b>	98,747	69,555	70.4%	6,189	6.3%
<b>2010-11</b>	100,615	67,612	67.2%	12,471	12.4%
<b>2009-10</b>	121,724	80,730	66.3%	19,684	16.2%
<b>2008-09</b>	131,743	84,597	64.2%	20,131	15.3%

The council wants any PCNs which are issued to be done so appropriately and fairly. Since taking control of the council the proportion which is being paid has risen from 66.3% to 71.2%.

The primary reasons for fines not being collected once they have become a debt is that information provided by the DVLA to the council about who owned the vehicle proves to be incorrect. Broadly speaking the vehicle owner at the time of the contravention has either moved, never lived at the address or does not exist.

PCNs which are cancelled at the stages before they reach the bailiff are neither considered debt nor are they written off. Again, one of the main reasons for cancellations will be incorrect returns from the DVLA.

Parking services has been concentrating on ensuring that appeals made at the formal and informal stages to the council are dealt with quickly and that the public are re-offered the chance to pay at the discounted rate if their appeal is unsuccessful. Parking services has also been concentrating on the quality of formal adjudication packs which go in front of the parking adjudicator at the Parking and Traffic Appeals Service and our success rate has improved considerably over the last 5 years.

This hard work is reflected in the payment rates for PCNs which have improved in each of the last five years.

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

Will the cabinet member confirm that future paving repairs in Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe wards in areas with the brown-brick paving will, wherever possible, be replaced 'like with like', as agreed with the strategic director for environment and leisure in a site meeting on 7 May 2013 and in subsequent emails; thereby avoiding the use of tarmac that is eroding the character of the area?

**RESPONSE**

The council appreciates the importance of the character of the area and will look to options which preserve that. Unfortunately, the government continues to cut Southwark's budget and so we have to make hard choices about where to prioritise money. Therefore, sometimes the cost of replacing 'like with like' may become prohibitive. However, I can confirm that I have asked officers to work with local ward councillors to look across a range of solutions including cleaner greener safer bids.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

I'd like to thank the cabinet member for his answer. I appreciate what you say about prohibitive costs, but in a lot of cases, the cost of replacing like with like is not prohibitive; particularly when we are talking about re-using existing bricks. In some cases, that can actually be cheaper than using tarmac. I've already discussed the cost side of it with the director of law and communities, and we've agreed that there are other ways we could possibly do this; and what I'm after in my question is political will to try to preserve the character of the area, by saying that where possible, and if we can find the additional funds that it takes, will you agree that that is the strategy for this area, please?

**RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor, and congratulations on your appointment as mayor. I'd like to reassure the member for Surrey Docks ward that this isn't about a political issue at all. She and her party was in power for eight years; she was in fact in my post for at least one year, and I don't know really what they did strategically about this issue during that time. We are very happy to come along and work with you in Surrey Docks ward and look at where we can replace like with like, but as she knows, these bricks are not easily available, and in some cases it may not be possible to replace them all the time.

**39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL**

Can the cabinet member confirm the numbers of properties lost from and added to the housing stock in 2012-13, and set out how that compares with previous years?

**RESPONSE**

The changes in the stock of council homes for 2012-13 are contained in Table 1 below.

For comparison, the data for a 10 year period is also included. There are a few points to note about the construction of the data:

- For each of the ten years, there has been a loss of stock; the summary part of the table shows the cumulative effect of the detailed columns to the right.
- There can be a net effect in the conversion and deconversion columns. If for example, three flats in a converted house have been deconverted, there will be an addition of one property in the conversion column, and three in the deconversion column.
- The buybacks column relates mainly to leasehold owned properties on regeneration estates. The buyback is a precursor to demolition, so is a temporary effect. The buyback and demolition do not necessarily occur in the same year.
- In the demolitions column, the units are entered in the year that they are removed from the housing stock, not necessarily when they are physically demolished

Year	SUMMARY				ADDITIONS (+)					REMOVALS (-)						
	Total Brought Forward	Total Carried Forward	Total Loss/Gain in Year	Cumulative Loss/Gain since 2002	New Build	Acquired	Conv	Buybacks	Total Additions	RTB Sales	Deconv	Demol	Dulwich Coll L/H	Amos Estate	Other Sales/Removals	Total Removals
02/03	47173	46055	-1118	-1118	78	3	3	1	85	975	5	110	59	0	54	1203
03/04	46055	44544	-1511	-2629	125	3	14	5	147	1458	18	152	12	0	18	1658
04/05	44544	42863	-1681	-4310	150	3	15	19	187	1742	8	93	0	0	25	1868
05/06	42863	41484	-1379	-5689	12	1	8	52	73	733	16	694	0	0	9	1452
06/07	41484	41026	-458	-6147	0	0	23	29	52	207	22	263	0	0	18	510
07/08	41026	40497	-529	-6676	1	0	33	28	62	180	0	359	0	3	49	591
08/09	40497	39827	-670	-7346	0	2	68	122	192	45	53	648	0	72	44	862
09/10	39827	39337	-490	-7836	0	0	35	82	117	23	15	434	0	59	76	607
10/11	39337	39062	-275	-8111	7	1	8	37	53	23	40	154	0	0	111	328
11/12	39062	38990	-72	-8183	3	0	18	17	38	24	0	30	0	0	56	110
12/13	38990	38787	-203	-8386	16	0	3	20	39	94	2	119	0	0	27	242
<b>2002-2013</b>	<b>47173</b>	<b>38787</b>	<b>-8386</b>		392	13	228	412	<b>1045</b>	5504	179	3056	71	134	487	<b>9431</b>

For 2012/13, one significant trend to note is the upturn in right to buy completions compared with the sales rates in recent years. This can be attributed to the increase in maximum discount for right to buy applications to £100,000. Most of removals from stock for demolition last year were on the Aylesbury Estate, as part of the ongoing regeneration scheme. Other sales, which are largely individual void properties, were less than in previous years; the sales continued to provide capital receipts for investment in the housing stock through warm, dry, safe and other programmes, but were supplemented last year by some larger land disposals in regeneration schemes.

#### **SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL**

Can the deputy leader tell me how does he think the right to buy will affect our housing stock, and what he plans to do to try to alleviate the problem?

#### **RESPONSE**

Thank you Mr Mayor, I'm very grateful for Councillor Merrill's question in relation to this particular issue. I think it is quite pertinent for Councillor Merrill to raise this matter, given that if members look on page 30 at the table, where you can see between the year 2002 and 2010, the cumulative loss to the council was 7,836 properties. Obviously, as Councillor Hargrove said in the previous question, it was not under our guardianship at the time, but under the party opposite; and I'm sure they will account for that tremendous loss of council housing in the borough at the next election.

You will know that this government introduced a discount again, to tenants across the country, in order for them to revitalise the whole issue of right to buy. In the year before last, we had 23 applications for right to buy – sales, I should say, for right to buy; in the last year we had over 250. We expect at least the same number this year, and for it to grow because of the discount which is being given of £100,000. This is not the way to solve the housing crisis in this country or this borough. We heard this before from the SGTO. The way to solve the housing crisis in this borough and in this country is to build more council homes, and that's what this council is committed to.

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

Why were Tupman House, Bardell House, Micawber House and Wade House on the Dickens Estate not prioritised for door entry systems even though they had more reports of crime and anti-social behaviour than other blocks which were put forward, particularly given that the issues had already been raised by ward councillors and the police? Will the cabinet member review the situation in these blocks given that residents are suffering break-ins, rough sleepers and vandalism and provide door entry systems?

#### **RESPONSE**

As part of a package of redirection measures cabinet approved a two year programme for door entry upgrades and renewals. A total of £726,000 per annum has been included in the base budget. The two year programme of works from 2013-2015 was also endorsed by area housing forums and tenant and home owners' councils.

However, the overall need across the borough for new door entry systems greatly outstrips the available funding. In the short-term the council has tried to strike a balance between installing complete new systems and renewing/upgrading existing systems. Unfortunately, there are a number of existing systems that are obsolete and if they fail they will not be able to be reinstated. These are a priority. Accordingly, there are 51 upgrades and 21 new systems planned over the next two years.

The new systems were identified and prioritised at a point in time, taking on board police support, anti-social behaviour, crime, and in some cases ward member support. There are other blocks that would benefit from door entry systems but with a finite budget available the programme had to start with an initial number of blocks.

Officers are aware of the more recent problems residents of these blocks have been experiencing and will arrange to meet with residents to fully understand their concerns and explore the options available to find a solution.

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

How many council tenants in Chaucer ward are currently in a state of overcrowding listed by bands 1-3 and what number of council tenants are currently under-occupying?

**RESPONSE**

Tenants may be registered as statutorily overcrowded (Band 1), overcrowded and in insanitary conditions (Band 2), or overcrowded and have a medical need (also Band 2) or overcrowded (Band 3).

The numbers for Chaucer ward are as follows:

<b>Chaucer Ward, July 2013</b>	
Band 1, statutorily overcrowded:	<b>1</b>
Band 2, overcrowded and in insanitary conditions	<b>1</b>
Band 2, overcrowded and in medical need	<b>8</b>
Band 3, overcrowded	<b>103</b>

The number of tenants registered as under-occupying in Chaucer ward is 15.

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

How many council housing tenants have rejected offers to move to alternate council housing in each month in each of the last three years? What are the top three reasons given for refusal?

**RESPONSE**

The table below shows the number of refusals for each month for the last three years. The top reasons for refusing an offer are:

1. No response to offer/pre-allocation letter
2. Rooms too small
3. Condition of property
4. Personal reasons

<b>Year</b>	<b>Month</b>	<b>Refusals</b>
2010	July	362
2010	August	343
2010	September	310
2010	October	301
2010	November	216
2010	December	267
2011	January	224
2011	February	203
2011	March	287
2011	April	262
2011	May	277
2011	June	214
2011	July	259
2011	August	216
2011	September	210
2011	October	237
2011	November	185
2011	December	132
2012	January	158
2012	February	141
2012	March	200
2012	April	188
2012	May	263
2012	June	182
2012	July	282
2012	August	304
2012	September	192
2012	October	283
2012	November	322
2012	December	248
2013	January	329
2013	February	176
2013	March	221
2013	April	285
2013	May	272
2013	June	238
2013	July	41
<b>Total</b>		<b>8830</b>

**43. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO**

Why does the cabinet member believe only 35% of respondents in a recent satisfaction survey were satisfied with the council's housing complaint handling performance? What is he doing to make sure this performance improves over the next year?

**RESPONSE**

Improving satisfaction levels in any area is always challenging, as customers are already dissatisfied that they have had to make an initial complaint. However, we believe we can improve satisfaction in this area and the customer resolution team have identified this as a key priority for this year.

We are currently undertaking a benchmarking exercise against the highest performers, to learn from their experience. While most organisations also report very low satisfaction from complainants, some organisations do extremely well and we want to understand what they are doing differently.

From our work to date there are a number of areas we have identified that will improve customer's experience of making a complaint. We have found there is a gap between the complaint being logged and an officer from the service contacting the customer. Those logging complaints now also acknowledge them and where possible assign them directly to an officer, to speed up the process.

We have begun running regular training sessions for front line officers who respond to complaints to improve their complaint handling. Some of the points customers have made in the surveys have been around basic customer service skills. The council is currently developing a programme of customer service training, but in the meantime the customer resolution team are also looking at introductory customer service training around the basics of customer care.

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

Would the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management outline the steps taken by the council to promote the advantages to tenants arising from recent changes to the right to buy legislation?

**RESPONSE**

There are statutory provisions governing information to be given to tenants about the right to buy. The primary legislation was introduced in section 189 of the Housing Act 2004 with the detail contained in subsequent statutory instrument 2005/1735. Here is a link to the current webpage which reflects the booklet distributed to all council tenants in accordance with the legislative provisions:

[http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/345/buying\\_your\\_council\\_home](http://www.southwark.gov.uk/downloads/download/345/buying_your_council_home)

**45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**



What is the total amount of compensation paid out by the council in each of the past three years for personal injury, loss or damage? Please list the 10 largest payments and the reasons for these payments in each of the last three years.

### **RESPONSE**

The total amount of compensation paid out for the last three years is set out below, along with a summary of the ten highest payments in each of those years. For comparison, I have also included the same details for the previous four years.

You will note that the total paid out peaked in 2009 and the trend since then has been downward. The total for the last full year, 2012, was 60% of the 2009 level.

	2006		2007		2008	
	Payment	Description	Payment	Description	Payment	Description
1	£ 200,812.85	SUBSIDENCE	£ 50,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL - EMPLOYEE EQUIPMENT FAILURE	£ 52,565.56	SUBSIDENCE
2	£ 28,000.00	HIGHWAY TRIP	£ 45,000.00	- EMPLOYEE	£ 42,500.00	SUBSIDENCE
3	£ 24,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 23,712.84	HIGHWAY TRIP	£ 40,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
4	£ 20,300.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 18,345.17	SUBSIDENCE	£ 37,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
5	£ 16,000.00	DISREPAIR	£ 17,500.00	INJURY IN A PARK	£ 35,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
6	£ 14,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 17,500.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 35,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL
7	£ 14,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 17,000.00	HIGHWAY TRIP	£ 34,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
8	£ 13,250.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 16,500.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL	£ 33,250.00	SUBSIDENCE
9	£ 10,250.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 14,550.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 19,500.00	SUBSIDENCE
10	£ 10,100.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 13,500.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 18,250.00	SUBSIDENCE
<b>Total</b>	£ 826,538.29		£ 811,384.54		£ 1,184,233.61	

	2009		2010		2011	
	Payment	Description	Payment	Description	Payment	Description
1	£ 65,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 105,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 32,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
2	£ 50,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL - EMPLOYEE PERSONAL INJURY -	£ 85,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 29,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
3	£ 37,528.03	EMPLOYEE	£ 85,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 26,250.00	SUBSIDENCE
4	£ 34,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 51,250.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 24,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL
5	£ 31,500.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 40,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 23,500.00	SUBSIDENCE
6	£ 29,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 30,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 18,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
7	£ 26,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 30,000.00	PERSONAL INJURY - EMPLOYEE	£ 15,000.00	PERSONAL INJURY - EMPLOYEE

	2009		2010		2011	
	Payment	Description	Payment	Description	Payment	Description
8	£ 25,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 25,000.00	HIGHWAY TRIP	£ 14,000.00	DISREPAIR/PERSONAL INJURY
9	£ 25,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL	£ 22,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL	£ 13,500.00	SUBSIDENCE
10	£ 24,750.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 20,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 13,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL
<b>Total</b>	£ 1,459,905.08		£ 1,199,019.45		£ 723,138.60	

	2012		2013 to 5th July	
	Payment	Description	Payment	Description
1	£ 28,000.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL	£ 17,250.00	DISREPAIR
2	£ 27,800.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 14,180.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL
3	£ 25,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 14,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
4	£ 24,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 12,836.00	SLIP/TRIP/FALL
5	£ 24,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 12,500.00	DISREPAIR
6	£ 21,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 12,500.00	SUBSIDENCE
		PERSONAL INJURY -		
7	£ 20,000.00	EMPLOYEE	£ 11,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
8	£ 20,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 9,000.00	SUBSIDENCE
9	£ 19,900.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 8,300.00	SUBSIDENCE
10	£ 19,000.00	SUBSIDENCE	£ 8,205.00	INJURY IN A PARK
<b>Total</b>	£ 882,278.89		£ 279,199.57	

**46. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON**

Will the cabinet member provide a full list of every police constable, sergeant, inspector, chief inspector listed by ward and cluster, including their public contact details and their police base?

**RESPONSE**

Defining and providing the public with detail of the neighbourhood policing offer is a matter for the police. There are, however, details currently available on the Metropolitan Police Service website which details the individual inspector, sergeant, dedicated police constable and police community support officer for each ward along with contact details. This can be found at the link below:

[http://content.met.police.uk/Page/TeamFinder?scope\\_id=1257246764302](http://content.met.police.uk/Page/TeamFinder?scope_id=1257246764302)

**47. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety outline the steps the council is taking to reduce any need for a council tax increase in the near future, and to learn from good practice shown by low-tax London boroughs, with particular reference to shared services and the tri-borough initiative of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, and Hammersmith & Fulham?

**RESPONSE**

This administration has ensured that there have been no council tax increases since it took power, and aim to repeat this in 2014. We are therefore the only administration in Southwark's history not to increase council tax. We have therefore demonstrated that we will do all we can to reduce the need for increases in council tax.

Clearly the largest pressure on Southwark to increase council tax comes from the coalition government, which has chosen to cut local government more heavily than other parts of the public sector and has unfairly decided that councils with higher levels of deprivation, such as Southwark, should face far greater cuts in spending than more affluent areas: between 2010 and 2014, Southwark will have lost £249 per head compared to only £15 per head in Epsom and Ewell. So the most important thing we can all do to reduce the need for increases in council tax here in Southwark is to campaign for a Labour government in 2015.

On the specifics of shared services and cross-borough working, we have been working with neighbouring boroughs to explore those opportunities that might be available to us. To date, the shared service arrangements that we have entered into include:

- Introducing the Southwark and Lambeth barristers framework
- Establishing communications, shared with Westminster, as a social enterprise

- Sharing the new public health service with Lambeth, with a single director for the shared service

We are continuing discussions with Lambeth and Lewisham in particular to look at closer working on services, in particular those where a single council “salami-slice” approach to cuts could critically weaken expertise and cross-borough working would add resilience. The leader has asked Councillor Colley and I to take these discussions forward.

On the tri-borough initiative, this joint work between Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea and Hammersmith & Fulham councils is envisaged to save £33.4 million by 2014/15. It should be noted that since 2010, Southwark has already saved £43.3 million through efficiency savings (56% of the total savings made) and we understand that the savings recorded for the tri-borough initiative could also include similar efficiency savings. The jury is therefore still out on the scale of savings that tri-borough working will realise. Nevertheless, we will continue to watch their work with interest to see if there are further opportunities for efficiencies we should learn from.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2013****QUESTIONS ON REPORTS****ITEM 7.1: FAIRER FUTURE ANNUAL PERFORMANCE REPORT 2012/13****1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL**

The council has an objective to increase the percentage of children getting one of their preferences for a primary school. Why does the council not have a similar objective for secondary school children given that its performance in offering children their first preference is among the worst in the country?

**RESPONSE**

The highest ever number of Southwark secondary school pupils have received a place in one of their preferred choices for September 2013, with 93 per cent of pupils offered a place in one of their six preferred schools. Of these, 85 per cent received a place in one of their top three choices with 58.7 per cent getting their top choice.

Once again, all 2,500 pupils that applied have been allocated a school place.

Though primary preference is a priority in terms of children living less than two miles from their primary school, at secondary school age distance becomes a less critical issue for many families with older children who are better able to travel and cover longer journeys.

Even where a target is included within the council plan to increase the proportion of pupils obtaining their preference of secondary school, it would be extremely difficult to directly influence this measure in the short term. It is not possible for the council to expand oversubscribed secondary schools, as no secondary schools are controlled by the local authority. This would make the issue of target setting and performance management of the target a risk area.

It should also be noted in this context that many children's secondary choices are for out of borough schools, and, many out of borough children also apply for Southwark schools, further reducing local authority influence on this measure.

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL**

Thank you Mr Mayor; I would like to thank the Leader for his answer. Only slightly over 50% of Southwark children receive their first choice of secondary school, which is the fifth worst in the country to be specific. Could the Leader explain why

Southwark children and parents have to accept fourth, fifth or even sixth choice schools in September?

**RESPONSE**

I thank Councillor Shimell for her question. Obviously we are working very hard to ensure that every child gets their choice of primary school and secondary school place. It is more difficult where the secondary schools are out of borough and further away to control that admission system, but I think it is an encouraging percentage of children who were offered a place at one of their six preferred schools. I think what we should recognise is that schooling and education not only in Southwark but in London as a whole is improving and London has a great advantage over the rest of the country in terms of our GCSE performance. I think that is something we should celebrate in London and I don't think we recognise the fact that every child who goes, whatever your background, if you go to school in London, to a state school in London, you are going to out-perform a child from in a similar background going to school in any other part of the country. So I think we should celebrate the fact that Southwark schools and London schools are getting better and the children who go to whichever school in London are going to get a better education, a better start in life, than schools elsewhere in the country.

I do hear what she says in terms of the thrust of her question, as I say we will continue to work on it to try and improve that in time.

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

Can the Leader provide a breakdown of the assessment of public satisfaction with leisure centres by leisure centre and by satisfaction rating? How many users were surveyed at each of the leisure centres?

**RESPONSE**

Public satisfaction with the borough's leisure centres is measured through the Council's reputation tracker survey by asking the people who were surveyed who said that they were users of our leisure centres.

The tracker survey does not ask for the specific facilities used, so there is no means of splitting results in this way

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

Thank you Mr Mayor and can I thank the Leader for the answer that is given on page 2 of the green paper here. Of course we are disappointed that the tracker survey does not ask the specific facilities so in that sense the responses given by members of the public and users of the leisure centres is of little use to any of us.

That notwithstanding, could I ask – I don't expect it now verbally, but can I have a written response as to what is going on with the condensation problems at Camberwell Baths? Thank you.

**RESPONSE**

Yes.

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK**

How many residents from each community council area were sent satisfaction surveys in 2012/13? What were the criteria for selecting the residents to be surveyed? What satisfaction results were recorded in each community council area?

**RESPONSE**

The numbers sent questionnaires were as follows:

Bermondsey & Rotherhithe	550
Borough Bankside & Walworth	900
Peckham & Nunhead	550
Camberwell	236
Dulwich	470

Questionnaires were sent to all residents who had given council officers their contact details in each community council area and consented to us sending them further information about community councils. There was no selection applied to this; they all received a copy.

<b>Community council</b>	<b>Number of responses</b>
Camberwell	34
Borough, Bankside and Walworth	39
Dulwich	51
Peckham and Nunhead	24
Bermondsey and Rotherhithe	42



## Community council 2012-13 Survey Summary

<b>Q2. Please tell us how much you think the Community Councils are fulfilling the following roles:</b>	<b>Extent of agreement</b>	<b>C %</b>	<b>BBW %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>PN %</b>	<b>BR %</b>
To promote the involvement of local people in the democratic process and to bring decision making closer to local people	<b>Definitely</b>	44%	15%	41%	25%	57%
	<b>Mainly</b>	18%	44%	35%	54%	19%
	<b>A little</b>	15%	26%	22%	21%	14%
	<b>Not at all</b>	18%	5%	0%	0%	10%
	<b>No response</b>	6%	10%	2%	0%	0%
To take decisions about local matters e.g. the cleaner, greener, safer capital and revenue programmes, community council fund, traffic management and community project banks.	<b>Definitely</b>	32%	31%	41%	54%	55%
	<b>Mainly</b>	32%	31%	35%	42%	26%
	<b>A little</b>	21%	18%	16%	4%	14%
	<b>Not at all</b>	9%	5%	6%	0%	5%
	<b>No response</b>	6%	15%	2%	0%	0%
To act as a formal consultation mechanism on council wide policies and strategies.	<b>Definitely</b>	21%	28%	29%	33%	31%
	<b>Mainly</b>	35%	21%	47%	29%	36%
	<b>A little</b>	21%	28%	22%	33%	19%
	<b>Not at all</b>	15%	10%	2%	4%	14%
	<b>No response</b>	9%	13%	0%	0%	0%
To be a focal point for discussion and consultation on matters that affect the area.	<b>Definitely</b>	21%	26%	45%	42%	45%
	<b>Mainly</b>	35%	23%	39%	38%	29%
	<b>A little</b>	21%	31%	10%	17%	14%
	<b>Not at all</b>	15%	8%	4%	4%	12%
	<b>No response</b>	9%	13%	2%	0%	0%
<b>Q3. Please indicate how strongly you agree or disagree with the following statements:</b>	<b>Extent of agreement</b>	<b>C %</b>	<b>BBW %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>PN %</b>	<b>BR %</b>
I feel that, through the Community Council, I am able to influence decisions made about my area	<b>Definitely</b>	11.76%	10%	12%	8%	26%
	<b>Mainly</b>	8.82%	18%	16%	33%	21%
	<b>A little</b>	38.2%	36%	57%	38%	29%
	<b>Not at all</b>	32.35%	21%	14%	8%	14%
	<b>No response</b>	8.82%	15%	2%	13%	10%
The Community Council allows me to learn more about my area	<b>Definitely</b>	38.2%	31%	45%	42%	60%

	<b>Mainly</b>	23.5%	31%	29%	42%	17%
	<b>A little</b>	29.4%	26%	20%	4%	7%
	<b>Not at all</b>	2.94%	0%	2%	0%	7%
	<b>No response</b>	5.88%	13%	4%	13%	10%
The Community Council allows me to learn more about what the council is doing in my area	<b>Definitely</b>	29.4%	28%	41%	42%	50%
	<b>Mainly</b>	26.47%	44%	35%	38%	17%
	<b>A little</b>	29.4%	13%	18%	13%	19%
	<b>Not at all</b>	8.82%	0%	2%	0%	5%
The Community Council helps the local area to be a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together	<b>No response</b>	5.88%	15%	4%	8%	10%
	<b>Definitely</b>	11.76%	18%	14%	21%	21%
	<b>Mainly</b>	29.4%	26%	25%	38%	29%
	<b>A little</b>	26.47%	33%	45%	29%	26%
	<b>Not at all</b>	23.5%	3%	10%	4%	12%
	<b>No response</b>	8.82	21%	6%	8%	12%
	<b>Q4. Please indicate what you most value about Community Councils by ticking below as appropriate:</b>	<b>C %</b>	<b>BBW %</b>	<b>D %</b>	<b>PN %</b>	<b>BR %</b>
	<b>Finding out what happens in my area</b>	65%	56%	73%	79%	74%
<b>Contact with councillors</b>	68%	44%	63%	54%	45%	
<b>Contact with officers</b>	38%	28%	35%	46%	26%	
<b>Contact with other residents</b>	47%	41%	24%	25%	40%	
<b>Influencing decisions</b>	24%	33%	39%	25%	24%	
<b>Consultations</b>	32%	36%	25%	29%	12%	

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK**

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would like to thank the leader for his answer.

When we consider community council and the way the agendas and so forth are brought forward, I thought it would be interesting to ask all of the chairs of community council to look up question 3 where it says "Please indicate where you strongly agree or disagree with the following statements" and if they feel that it is only quite concerning that 32.35% of people that replied said that they did not think they could have any influence on the community council decisions at all, so I think we should be looking at that and reviewing it?

**RESPONSE**

That is actually Camberwell, that percentage, because people are incredibly satisfied with the work that their councillors are doing and decisions that are being taken, so they do not need to be influenced. No, I am being facetious.

Again there is always work to do, but I think what is telling is that some of the most positive responses in this survey came from people who attended Bermondsey and Rotherhithe Community Council, where we are told that the world is in a decline and a despair and nobody has any idea of what is going on or feels able to influence decisions. That is obviously not what residents are telling us through this survey; they have a different view to the benches opposite on that one.

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

Why did the 2012/13 target for warm, dry and safe change from the £68m predicted in the council's annual performance report in 2011/12 to £61.8m in the latest council's annual performance report?

**RESPONSE**

The £68 million from the council plan annual performance report 2011/12 was a provisional target (provisional as 2011/12 spend was being finalised). The target was set at £63 million (£61.8 million excluding Leathermarket).

**SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

Thank you Mr Mayor I am grateful to the Leader for his answer.

The answer however does not actually say why the money from warm dry and safe will be reduced. It says in his answer that £68 million was provisional, so can I ask the Leader why was this money reduced and what impact will this have on people's homes?

**RESPONSE**

I want to thank Councillor Bukola for his supplementary question, I don't think it has any impact on the amount of work we have been able to do in the past year, it means in some cases we are driving actually more value for money out of the work we are doing and a full plan of work is delivered on time and for a slightly smaller price. What we do see is a target for £80 million next year and what I can guarantee to him and residents in

the borough is that we will deliver on our commitment to make every home warm and dry and safe by 2015/16. That is an absolute commitment which we are absolutely confident we will deliver, and I think what we have seen from last year to this year and beyond is that this work is stepping up and the pace of it is stepping up and I believe we are delivering good quality improvements to people's homes which has got to be welcome to him and all councillors who have too much case work concerning the issues of damp, warmth and safety of people's homes.

#### 5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

How many complaints have been received about leaseholder billing in 2012/13?

#### RESPONSE

It can be challenging to categorise complaints as leaseholders will often complain about several matters, which may be unrelated. However of the 195 complaints received by Specialist Housing Services, around 126 were about billing. The Revenue & Income and Service Charge Construction teams are responsible for major works and service charges and this is the main subject of the complaints they receive, often combined with service delivery issues.

Specialist Housing Services	Apr '12	May '12	Jun '12	Jul '12	Aug '12	Sep '12	Oct '12	Nov '12	Dec '12	Jan '13	Feb '13	Mar '13	Total
Home Ownership & TMI	1	1						1			1	3	7
Revenue & Income	13	11	2	5	8	2	23	14	12	19	7	9	125
Sales and Acquisitions			1	1	2		1					2	7
Service Charge Construction	5	3	4	5	3	3	6	6	3	4	2	4	48
Tenant Management Initiatives	1	2	1	1	1						1	1	8
	20	17	8	12	14	5	30	21	15	23	11	19	195

#### SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

Leaseholders are facing a large major works invoice going into 2013 and 2014. Given the chaos in the major works programme in 2013 and 2014, how can the leaseholders of Grange, who have been paying an average of £11,000 and those in South Bermondsey who are on average paying £9,000, also those in Rotherhithe who are paying an amount of £43,000, how can they be convinced that they are getting value for money and what more than the council can do to inspire more confidence and fairness of leaseholder charges?

#### RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Nelson for her question.

I think with the work that Councillor Wingfield is doing with the home owners councils, we are exploring constantly issues of value for money and in particular leaseholder issues and I think one thing that has come out absolutely clearly from the housing commission report and the community consultation conversation, from that is that residents, particularly leaseholders, want a greater say and a different form of management. They want to feel greater control over what's going on with

their leasehold properties because we are now seeing many more second and third generation leasehold owners of properties in the borough.

Having said that, we as a council do more to offer our leaseholders alternative options, easier ways to pay, than any other council I think across the country; and I think particularly in the Four Squares where we have extended the period beyond our previous policy, to allow people greater time to pay some of these bills. But she is absolutely right to concentrate on value for money, and we as an administration are not complacent on this. It is really important that leaseholders see that the works being done to their properties are providing true value for money. Because they think "I can go out and get a private builder in to have the works done at half or three quarters of the price", and we have got to be satisfying them absolutely that actually what they are getting is work that is value for money, and it is worth the money they are being asked to pay for it.

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY**

Why has the council reduced the target for the number of empty private homes brought back into use from 135 in 2012/13 to 100 in 2013/14?

**RESPONSE**

The cost of doing extensive improvements to private empty homes is becoming too expensive for independent freeholders to do.

Whilst the council provides grants, there is a ceiling on the maximum amount that an owner can apply for, and with the rises in building materials and associated charges outstripping the grants available.

As a result it is proving much harder to bring empty homes back into serviceable use. As a result the target was reduced to a more realistic level to reflect these pressures

**SUPPLEMENTARY QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY**

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would like to thank the Leader for his answer.

Given that he has reduced the target of empty homes being brought back into use by the freeholders, what plans does he have to use council's powers to purchase homes to bring them back into use, given the scandalous number of empty homes there are in the borough?

**RESPONSE**

I want to thank Councillor McNally for his supplementary question. I mean he will have seen from my answer, this is a really difficult and thorny issue to crack and whilst this is one target which has reduced slightly, I think what I am really pleased about is the target that I was talking about earlier on where we have increased the number of our council homes which we are bringing back for council tenants from 300 to 500 over the next year. We are always looking at ways in which we can bring empty homes back into use, but it is a very slow and cumbersome process and sometimes I think we are better diverting our resources where we have easier and quicker control where we can deliver homes for Southwark residents.

## 7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Please provide a full breakdown of results from the council's reputation tracker on satisfaction among residents regarding ability to influence decisions affecting their local area.

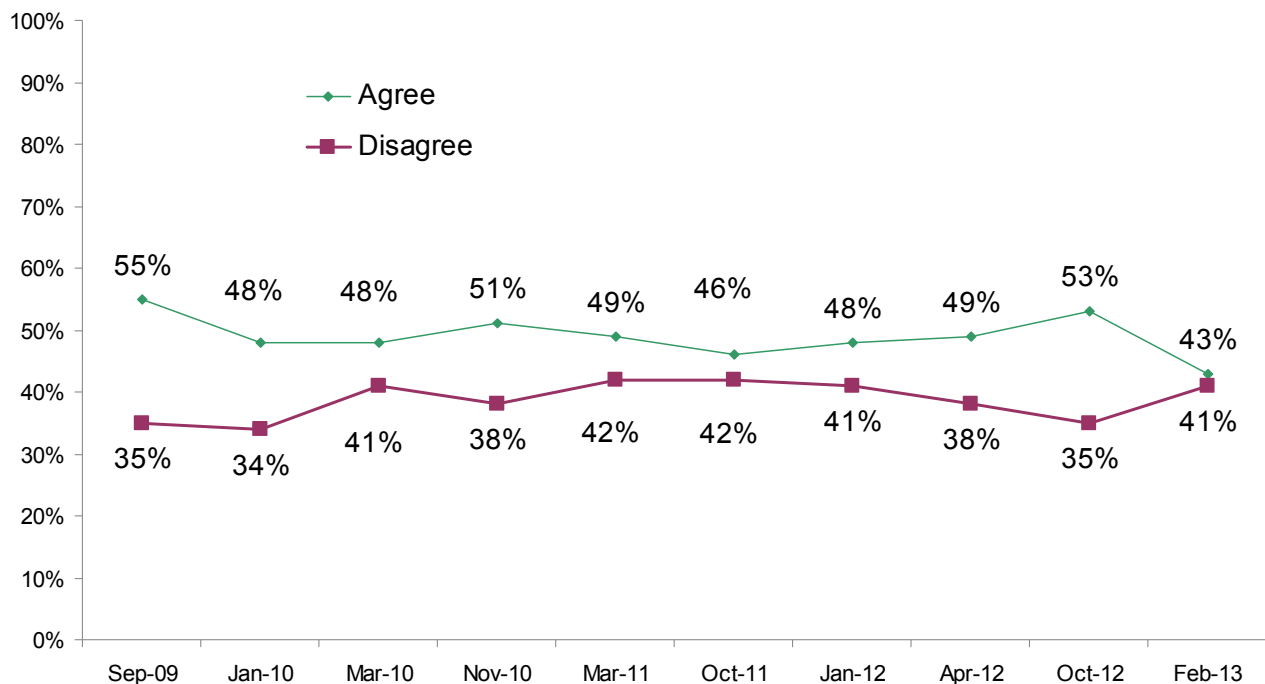
### RESPONSE

The graph below shows those who agree or disagree that they can influence decisions affecting their local area.

As the graph shows, the proportion of residents agreeing that they can influence decisions has been broadly consistent over time at around the 50% mark. The most recent result in February 2013 saw a lower proportion of residents agreeing and so we are awaiting the next tracker result to see if this is part of a new pattern or a one off set against the overall trend.

It is possible that residents' views may have been influenced by the headline changes to welfare that were prevalent in the media at the time of the survey – namely those about or affecting: bedroom tax, council tax benefit passing to local control, the scrapping of Disability Living Allowance and the welfare benefit cap

## Agreement that can influence decisions affecting local area



**Question:** Q4. Do you agree or disagree that you can influence decisions affecting your local area?

**Source:** c.400 Southwark residents, aged 16 +, interviewed face to face, between September 2009 – February 2013

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

Thanks Mr Mayor, and thank you to the leader for your answer. You can blame the government and we can blame you I suppose about why satisfaction, or why residents feeling they can influence decisions has declined gradually. I would hope that all of us in this chamber would want that figure to be higher whether it had gone up or down but actually but it would be really good if we could be aiming towards 100% of residents of this borough feeling like they can influence the decision that affect their lives.

One of the problems it seems to me might be that your fairer future principles don't actually cover anything around that; so they have some laudable aims, but nothing in there is about actually giving people a say over the decisions that the council makes. So I wonder if the Leader might commit to spending a bit of time thinking about how we could as a council do that better, whether there is central decision making that could be devolved – we can argue about community councils till kingdom come – but whether there are other ways where we are making decisions at the centre that could actually be devolved to the communities that they really affect?

**RESPONSE**

I would like to thank Councillor Al-Samerai for her supplementary question.

She raises some very important issues there; I would be amazed if we ever got to 100%, that would be back to the good old days of the Liberal Democrats and satisfaction with repairs, which would be pretty unreliable, but she raises an important issue.

I think a really good example of community engagement and influencing decision making we have seen through the community conversations on the housing commission and where that has gone, and actually rather than standing and forcing people to come to meetings, going to where people are and talking to them in their communities, at their shopping centres, in their parks, in their squares, about the issues that affect them. That is a record response that we have had, and we have seen that in the past. Where we involve people in budget making back in 2011 and went out to the community and spoke to people at that time 2010/11, we saw a spike in people's appreciation of their ability to influence decisions. So this does go in spikes in particular times and I would not be surprised if we do see an improvement on the back of the community conversations.

We have really improved community engagement, I think as a council, over the last twelve months and I think with rolling out community conversations, not just on the housing commission but on other issues as well, we are setting again a national bench mark on how this things should be done. And really, I hope, empowering people to feel that their views have been taken on board. And certainly residents' views are going to be reflected when cabinet considers the Housing Commission report next week, one of the most important reports and decisions that we as an administration will be taking during our four years in office.

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**  
**(ORDINARY MEETING)**  
**WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2013**  
**QUESTIONS ON REPORTS**

**ITEM 8.1: GAMBLING ACT 2005 – SOUTHWARK STATEMENT OF GAMBLING LICENSING POLICY 2013-2016**

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

Does the council agree that local residents should have more say over the types of shops on their local high streets?

**RESPONSE**

Yes. However, the recent changes to legislation by the coalition government are weakening the opportunity to address any issues on our high streets.

For instance the changes to the general permitted development order in May 2013 now allow a range of buildings to convert temporarily to a set of alternative uses including betting shops, payday loan shops and takeaways without needing planning permission.

The government is also currently considering allowing shops to be turned into flats without requiring planning permission. This would undermine borough policies to regenerate town centres and high streets. It could also potentially raise retail rents (and therefore costs) as well as creating high streets and shopping parades that have fewer shops and therefore lower footfall, undermining the viability of those shop units that remain. This could sound the death knell on many of our smaller shopping parades because residential development is generally far more profitable for landlords than the yields from commercial floorspace.

We will do everything we can to oppose this policy to ensure that appropriate and effective safeguards are in kept in place to protect local economic activity and the scope of local decision making. I hope that members of all parties will join us in opposing the government in this forthcoming consultation.

There is also the issue of clustering of betting shops on our high streets, and to some extent, pay day loan shops and pawn brokers. These types of businesses are in the same use class as banks, building societies, bureau de change, professional services, estate agents and employment agencies i.e. A2 (financial services). Changes between uses in the A2 use class do not require planning permission. Legislation allows a change of use from restaurants and cafes (use class A3), drinking establishments (Use Class A4) and hot food takeaways (use class A5) to a use in the A2 use class without requiring planning permission. In September 2012, the government consulted on changes to the use classes order. In response to the consultation the council



requested that betting shops, pay day loan shops and pawn brokers are re-classified as 'sui-generis' use which would require a separate planning application to be made for the use. We understand that the government is not proposing to make any changes to the legislation in this respect.

Given these recent actions by the government I can announce today that I am asking the planning committee to introduce an Article 4 Direction with immediate effect to remove permitted development rights for the change of use from hot food takeaways (A5), drinking establishments (A4) and restaurants and cafes (A3) to a use in the A2 use class.

The immediate Article 4 Direction should be applied to all of the borough's protected shopping frontages. These are set out in the schedule of shopping frontages which accompany the adopted policies map (2012).

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY****(ORDINARY MEETING)****WEDNESDAY 10 JULY 2013****QUESTIONS ON REPORTS****ITEM 8.3: CONSTITUTIONAL REVIEW 2013/14****1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

Will the Leader guarantee that members' arrangements to visit front-line services will not be obstructed by chief officers?

**RESPONSE**

There are no plans to prevent members visiting front line services. The rules around these are clearly set out in the member and officer protocol.

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

Thank you Mr Mayor, yes I do and thank you to the leader for his answer.

I would like to ask the leader of the council why on earth this change is being made then?

**RESPONSE**

I want to thank Councillor Al-Samerai for the supplemental question.

I think it is important, particularly at the time when we have reducing staff dealing with increasing work loads because of government cuts, that councillors – well it is the truth of the matter, you might not like it and I think it is a funny matter and absolute hysterics that we have had to find £28.3 million this year, the fact that we are going to have to find over £20 million in the next year; the fact that we have had to find savings of £80 to £90 million over the last four years is not a laughing matter on this side of the chamber and it is not a laughing matter for the residents of our borough.

So I don't know why Councillor Al-Samerai finds this hysterical that I should raise this as an issue. I will answer the question Councillor Bukola in good time, and if it takes more than fifteen minutes you can wait and listen to it.

But I am going to give you an answer, and the answer, Councillor Bukola and Councillor Al-Samerai, is that the time of increasing work loads for front line staff it is important that councillors do not just simply turn up without chief officers knowing, because it can be disruptive to the work that is going on, on the front line and I am delighted that councillors do want to visit the front line. I think it is important that people should do. But I don't think it is an unnecessary burden that

we should ask that chief officers should be advised when a councillor is visiting, I do not think that it is an unreasonable request at this time at all and I think it is really for her to justify why she thinks that it is an unreasonable request this time.

## COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

WEDNESDAY 16 OCTOBER 2013

### Themed debate on Green Southwark

#### SOME COMMUNITY VIEWS

*Do you think Southwark is more biologically diverse than it was 10 years ago (i.e. more variety of plants and animals)? What do Southwark's parks mean to you?*

- I have a degree in Botany, and so I find this question very interesting to me. I think that Southwark has made more of an effort with increasing the number of pollinators, and the pollinating sites around Rotherhithe are a welcome feature. Russia Docks Woodlands and Stave Hill Ecological Park are two such sites, and are near to where I live.

I am a frequent user of parks – I walk around my local park when I want to get over the stresses of the day, so you could say that parks form an important part of my lifestyle.

- I think that Southwark is a fantastic part of London for its parks, it has kept up with the rest of London for developing them - although, how useful the development is at Burgess Park is debatable....

I think that the biodiversity has increased.

- I work in Guy's Hospital – contrary to the biodiversity increasing, I have noticed a reduction in the green space, with the density of concreting impinging more and more.

The access to a park has been essential for me, the nearest space that I can find has been along Borough High Street, at Little Dorrit Park. In there I find a place where I can just escape the pressures of my day.

- I haven't paid a lot of attention to the wildlife in Southwark, even though I travel into and out of the borough quite a lot.
- It is hard to say because I have only been living in Southwark for three years, but I don't think so to be honest. Southwark is not as green as other areas in South East London.
- I have been in London nearly 3 years and although I don't live in Southwark I come very often, at least 3 times a week, and I don't think Southwark is a very green area or more biologically diverse than before. What I see is the deterioration in some parts due to the amount of trash on the floor that does not help to have a greener environment.
- Although I don't know many parks in Southwark, generally I enjoy parks a lot. I think that there should be more parks around Elephant and Castle. Sometimes I feel this area is a world of concrete and just a few trees.
- I really like parks because I feel free and I just can relax and escape the city for a couple of hours, I can read a book, and breathe some fresh air. I think Southwark is not as green as other areas. However, I occasionally enjoy Southwark's Park with friends and I really like it.
- Is Southwark a green borough? I suppose so yeah. I used to use the parks, but not recently. I work for the council so I know they encourage people to cycle. It's all "you gotta do this, do that, recycle."

- I lived in West Dulwich before and now I am in East Dulwich. Erm, the parks are lovely but they could do with some bins. I don't often find a bin for recycling stuff. It would be quite easy to do. You search for a bin to put your litter in and when you eventually find one there aren't any for recycling.
- There's the park just over there with the basketball courts [Warwick Gardens in Peckham]. It would be good to have some night lights so we could play when it gets dark.
- I think it is [a green borough] yes yes. Yes we've got recycle bins. I have Burgess Park just round the corner but I don't use it. I'm too lazy.

*Do you make cycling a part of your transport - what would encourage you to walk and cycle more?*

- I would love to cycle, but I won't do so until I see better infrastructure, with less accidents happening to cyclists.
- There really seems to be some thought about the cyclists in their transport strategy. I use the Old Kent Road as part of my route to work, and I feel safe enough, but it could do with more infrastructure around that area for cyclists. I keep up to date with the latest news and developments for cycling, including the cycling proficiency training, through the social media. The forum I use includes the Southwark Cyclists group.
- I come from High Barnet to work in Guy's, so do not use my cycle or walk as much as I should; I have to use the gym to exercise. I need to think more about my carbon footprint, besides recycling, which by the way, I think can be quite taxing for the elderly.
- I used to cycle, but had a few minor accidents. I will wait until the roads are safer before I start cycling again.
- I cycle daily to go to work, but I have not seen much information about safer cycling and I am not part of any network.
- Not as part of my daily transport but I cycle during the weekends to move around in areas close to my house, I don't have any information about cycling facilities.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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!
- 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.
- 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.

- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

<b>Item No.</b> 5.2	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 16 October 2013	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Motion	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

This motion was received within the deadline for members' motions but was omitted from the report circulated in the main agenda.

**1. MOTION FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS** (Seconded by Councillor David Noakes)

**Making Cathedrals Ward Safer for Residents and Cyclists**

Council assembly:

- Recognises the large number of developments that are either under construction or soon to be under construction in Cathedrals Ward
- Notes that many of the major construction sites have a difficult time managing the arrival of deliveries, leading to lorries having to find places to wait or circle endlessly around the streets; creating nuisance to residents and potentially increasing the danger to pedestrians and cyclists
- Calls upon cabinet to find a suitable council owned site and make it temporarily available for development sites to use as a waiting area for construction vehicles which arrive before their allotted time.

**Note:** If the motion is agreed, any proposals will be submitted to the cabinet for consideration.

**BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
Member Motions	Constitutional Team 160 Tooley Street London SE1 2QH	Andrew Weir 020 7525 7222

**AUDIT TRAIL**

<b>Lead Officer</b>	Alexa Coates, Principal Constitutional Officer
<b>Report Author</b>	Lesley John, Constitutional Officer
<b>Version</b>	Final
<b>Dated</b>	7 October 2013

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY AGENDA DISTRIBUTION LIST (OPEN)  
(SUPPLEMENTAL AGENDA)  
MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/14**

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