

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 24 November 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes. Members are limited to one question at each meeting.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question from community council councillors followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will also be rotated. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the second to last cabinet member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly. The rotation is in line with decisions of council assembly in July 2014 and rotations circulated by the proper constitutional officer.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member.

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other cabinet members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

The Nest, Southwark's free mental health drop in centre for young people, was recently expanded into schools. How many young people have used The Nest since it was launched?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

What are the expected consequences for Southwark Council and for the Old Kent Road Area Action Plan following TfL's postponement of the Bakerloo Line Extension?

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

Plans have recently been approved for 162 new council homes in Southwark, including 79 in my ward, St Giles. Taking these into account, how many of the 2,500 new homes promised by 2022 are completed or on site?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

The council has recently rebranded the Carbon Offset Fund, and announced it as if it were something new. Can the leader explain why the decision was taken for the Cabinet members to use it for their pet projects rather than having some cross party/and or democratic accountability to the spend? Having sat on this money for some time already, does he agree with me that it would have been better to make this decision after we have heard the recommendations from the Citizens' Jury in February? Can he also detail how the projects will be assessed to ensure that they deliver the per-tonnage, per-£ carbon savings?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

In 2018 the council pledged to halve its carbon emissions by 2022. Can the leader tell us what progress has been made against this and whether we are on track to meet this commitment?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI

The quality of major works in London Bridge and West Bermondsey ward is appalling. At the start of my tenure in 2018, Engie had just completed works on a number of estates. The resultant works left flats with mould, damp and leaks, incomplete painting and decorating (one estate had its railings painted at least 5 times. Some with the wrong paint, some badly!). We have escalated to you the major works at Devon Mansions where repeated section 20 notices are being sent to residents regardless of who (contractors) is damaging the building. A scaffolding company destroyed a 5-year garden project recently. Furthermore,

works on other estates are being asked to be signed off, but are poor quality and incomplete. This all has a large impact on residents' lives. This is especially the case when, for example, scaffolding is left up for weeks (one property has had scaffolding up for over 2 years, but no action).

Please will the leader explain how he will ensure that residents really do come first when we are conducting works; that Southwark Council are not paying the price for this incompetence; and that residents are being compensated for delays, repeat works and the impact on their lives?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

Can the leader update us on plans to bring empty homes in the borough back in to use?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

The council has supported extensive regeneration in the borough, with the aim of improving the economy and further inward investment. However, with these benefits comes an impact on local residents from an increase in busking and construction noise, and late night anti-social behaviour. We congratulate the council's Environmental Protection Team on their recent award for working with a major development site to try to mitigate the impacts of construction on residents. However, we are aware that the team has limited resources with which to do this.

Can the leader of the council confirm what flexibility exists around using CIL funding to support enforcement on Bankside? If community infrastructure levy (CIL) monies cannot be used for revenue, can the leader confirm what options the administration will consider to protect the amenity of residents in Bankside from noise and other ASB nuisance?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

Following COP26, how will the council be working with residents, businesses, schools, hospitals and other organisations to make sure the whole borough is moving towards a carbon neutral Southwark?

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

Despite objections, and the fact that there are no parking issues in the area, the car owners of Surrey Docks are about to be charged for parking outside their homes through the council's controlled parking zone (CPZ). Why is this happening when Surrey Docks has the lowest public transport accessibility level (PTAL) rating in the borough and, consequently, encouraging people to swap to public transport is not an option? If we are keen to reduce car use, what is the council doing to support and improve public transport accessibility in the area?

How will the council make sure that the Surrey Docks Farm, mostly run by volunteers, can carry on providing much needed training and support for the most vulnerable in our society without the worry of parking tickets and restricted parking?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Of approved projects to be built, how many new council homes will rely on fossil fuels to provide their heating and how many will not?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM HOUNGBO

In terms of hygiene, anti-social behaviour and crime, the state of the Harold, Swan Mead and Creasy Estates remains appalling. What is the council doing to avert this acute situation for inhabitants?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

How many litter bins have there been in Southwark each year between 2010 and 2021? How frequently was rubbish from these litter bins collected each year between 2010 and 2021? What number of staff did the council employ in the litter-picking and fly-tipping teams, by year, since 2010?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

The South Dock Marina and Greenland Dock are a unique part of Southwark's heritage. We are grateful for the leader's recent stated support for creating a 'Marine Centre of Excellence' around the Dockyard – seeking to expand and support an eco-system of small marine-related businesses in the Boatyard, cherishing what is the last non-privately owned boatyard on the Thames, whilst providing a much needed revenue stream for the council.

As local councillors, we were concerned to learn that the current Harbour Master has resigned. Can the administration reaffirm its commitment to the Marine Centre of Excellence vision and confirm its support for a role that is vital to the successful delivery of the vision for the Boatyard?

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

Would it be appropriate to offer residents suffering with Alzheimer's disease free access to Southwark's gym and leisure facilities?

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

Can the leader confirm that every council report since July has taken the climate emergency into account, as was agreed at Council Assembly that month? Can he give details of how that is being monitored by each department, and how the impact of any report is assessed by each department?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

According to the Resolution Foundation, despite changes to Universal Credit announced at the Budget, three quarters of families on Universal Credit will still be worse off from the recent £20 a week cut. With families facing a cost of living crisis this winter, does the cabinet member agree that the Budget has failed to support the poorest households?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

The council recently announced a 'Green Buildings Fund', funded by a levy on developers. Can the cabinet member tell us where the fund will be used?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES MCASH

Over the last decade the government has cut core funding for local authorities by 63 percent. Can the cabinet member explain what the recent Spending Review will mean for the council's finances?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

When was the last time the council surveyed pension fund members as to what they would like their money to be invested in? What is the council's net zero carbon investment plan for its pension fund? How much money has the council pension fund directly or passively invested in clean energy compared to fossil fuel companies since December 2016?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

What budget did the council dedicate to street cleaning, by year, between 2010 and 2021? How much money has the council raised from its bulky waste disposal charge since its introduction?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

Can the cabinet member confirm what percentage of the council's pension fund is now divested from fossil fuels?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

Given the projected £3.92bn cost of Southwark's Climate Action Plan, how would the cabinet member respond to the allocation of funding towards climate initiatives in the Spending Review?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, PERFORMANCE & DEMOCRACY FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

How many complaints regarding repairs, by year, has the council received from its tenants since 2010? What service-level agreements (SLA) are in place for the council's call centres and front-facing services? How did the council perform against those SLAs in the past five years?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

It is excellent news for service users that the Riverside day centre will be reopening after intervention from the council and campaigners. When will the centre be reopening and how will this be managed?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR JACK BUCK

Following the Emergency Motion on male violence against women and girls passed unanimously at Council Assembly on 24 March 2021, what steps has the council taken and what work is in the pipeline?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

The 'Summer Food and Fun' programme last summer was a great way to make sure children in Southwark could access free, nutritious food in a fun and non-stigmatising environment. Do you have any plans to continue the programme over the winter?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

At the time of submitting this question, Covid-19 cases in Southwark are low - for this I give my thanks to NHS staff and Public Health colleagues. How will the council ensure that Covid-19 cases remain low?