

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 24 NOVEMBER 2021

RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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?

RESPONSE

Since the launch of The Nest, Southwark's free mental health drop in centre for young people, 468 young people have accessed mental health support (May 2020 to end of September 2021). The Nest opened during the first national lockdown initially as a remote service and subsequently opened its doors for face-to-face drop-in sessions in August 2020 for those aged 0-25 and parents/carers.

As part of Southwark's Youth New Deal, the council has invested £200,000 to expand the service into schools and anticipates a reach of 387 children during the first half term (September to December 2021) of delivery.

As the Leader of Council, I am very proud to announce that Southwark has become the first council to pledge its support to Fund the Hubs - a national campaign for early mental health support for children and young people. The council joins a coalition of mental health and children's charities to call on government to fund a network of early support hubs, like The Nest, which would provide young people with mental health support when their problems first emerge – before they hit crisis point.

The Nest highlights the importance of early support hubs that meet local needs. For example, two in three of their referrals are from young people from Black and minority ethnic backgrounds and the majority of referrals to the hub come from young people themselves.

The Nest has leveraged its place as an effective and trusted mental health service within Southwark to secure additional funding from the Mayor of London's Violence Reduction Unit. This funding will deliver a Parent/Carer Champion Network, and support for parents and carers of young people of Caribbean and mixed ethnicity who are at risk of exclusion. Alongside this, a number of additional work streams have been undertaken to strengthen the service and meet identified needs:

- a. Developed a partnership with Goldsmith's University to have students undertake their placement at The Nest, one of which has returned after their placement as a volunteer.
- b. A monthly peer-to-peer support group for young people with Autism.

Most recently, The Nest was shortlisted in the Children's Services category of the 2021 LGC Awards.

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?

RESPONSE

The delay to the Bakerloo Line Extension (BLE) is of course disappointing. However the Mayor and TfL remain committed to delivering the Bakerloo Line Extension as soon as funding can be secured. Now is a time to invest in public transport to getting our economy going again, to clean up London's toxic air, to unlock the delivery of more homes Londoners can afford and to tackle the climate emergency. That the Government is instead threatening to force a £1.7 billion cut to TfL's day to day finances and to postpone vital project for London's future prosperity, like the Bakerloo line extension, is an extraordinary act of harm. I will continue to lobby with the Mayor and other boroughs for that approach to be changed and I would hope that all councillors would do the same.

We are currently in a position in which the safeguarding is in place for the BLE, and the TfL project team are continuing to develop the scheme's detailed design. In addition TfL will be able to secure the construction of the new Bakerloo line station box at Elephant and Castle, and although this will not currently include its fit out we need to be mindful that this would at least secure a step towards the delivery of the project in the longer term.

I am also mindful that budgetary constraints and national politics can all change, so it's important that the councils response doesn't preclude the eventual delivery of the BLE.

Nonetheless, we need to make more immediate provision for the delay to the BLE in our plans for the Old Kent Road Development (OKRD) and I have instructed officers to explore with TfL and GLA alternative transport options.

The OKRD Area Action Plan (AAP) has always proposed a 2-phase development with the first 9,500 homes being constructed in advance of the BLE, supported by improvements to public transport and walking and cycling. To date just consents have been granted for just over 8,200 new homes and just over 1,500 are currently under construction including over 600 affordable homes.

It is vitally important that momentum and progress on Phase 1 is maintained as the OKRD is providing the borough with one of its major sources of affordable housing delivery.

Prior to the delivery of the BLE, phase 1 development within OKRD was always envisaged to be supported by enhanced bus services, with a S106 charge of £2,700 for every home delivered in Phase 1 which will raise £25.65m and by CIL and S106 contributions to improved walking and cycling provision. These changes are also key to achieving our climate change goals of net zero by 2030.

My officers have already begun work with TfL exploring bus enhancement options and have secured funding through the Future High Street Fund towards improved cycling and walking provision within the OKRD.

The next steps will be scoping out alternative transport provision beyond 2030, and also looking at options around the mix of uses, residential and commercial, that could be accommodated in phase 2. It will take approximately 10 years to build out Phase 1, and in that time it should become clear when the BLE will be delivered. What we need to do is be in a position to go forward beyond 2030 in the OKRD with sustainable options for development that include the BLE, or allow for its further delay.

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?

RESPONSE

To date we have 2,285 homes currently completed or on site. It is anticipated that remaining planning decisions will be concluded by December 2021 and that would leave a potential total of 2,923 new homes on site or complete by May. This number is of course predicated on all schemes being granted permission and sufficient capacity in construction industry to allow starts on site.

I am extremely proud of the progress we have made in our Council House building programme. This work is directly tackling the housing crisis and securing the safe, secure and genuinely affordable housing that our residents need. I am committed to continuing this vital work. As a council will explore all possible options as we work toward providing a long-term housing solution for Southwark.

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?

RESPONSE

Decarbonising the borough's building stock is a key priority for this council as we aim to achieve our net-zero ambitions for Southwark.

The Green Buildings Fund will collect financial contributions secured through S106 agreements to deliver carbon offsetting. These projects are required to offset the shortfall of carbon reduction onsite from major new development. Other funding sources will be used together to offset existing carbon emissions.

The initial focus of offsetting projects will be the decarbonisation and retrofitting of community buildings, schools and council housing as these types of capital projects will ensure the delivery of the required carbon savings and offer a more straightforward opportunity for monitoring progress.

The 19 October 2021 Cabinet Report agreed the governance and scope of the Fund. Funding criteria for council and community offsetting projects, in terms of how the projects will be assessed to ensure that they deliver the required offsetting (per-tonnage, per-£ carbon savings) are still being agreed.

For offsetting projects to be considered for funding they must demonstrate how much carbon will be reduced per annum, how the project meets a 1:1 carbon offset ratio at the cost per tonne of carbon (£/c02t) secured in the Section 106 agreement, and how the project will be monitored to ensure success.

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?

RESPONSE

I am pleased to say that the council has met this target.

The council has made huge progress in reducing its overall carbon emissions. The Borough Plan in 2018 committed the council to continuing the work we began in 2010 to halve council emissions by 2022. We achieved a reduction of 65% on our 2008 baseline. We have delivered this through work such as investment into our operational estate and consolidation of buildings, as well as benefitting from greater decarbonisation of the grid.

As we have met this target ahead of schedule, we have been able to take further steps to reduce carbon further, such as a move to 100% renewable green electricity for our operational estate.

As we look forward, our actions are making our estate more and more efficient, our main challenge is now to make major reductions in carbon emissions from the housing estate. Much of this is heated with gas and will require substantial investment to reduce emissions. Alongside this, officers are continually looking for way to cut carbon from all aspects of the council's work including our fleet, procurement and our buildings.

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?

RESPONSE

Without references to specific projects, blocks or estates it is not possible to address any specific concerns about major works in this area. We have received high levels of resident satisfaction across the borough, received through the customer satisfaction survey returns, but I recognise that there will always be areas that we can improve and I would encourage Cllr Ali to write to me with details of specific cases.

If works delivered by a contractor are found to be defective and not to the required standard, be it through poor quality, workmanship or materials, there are checks and balances in place to ensure that the works achieve the council's specification. For example, works carried out to balconies on the Arnold Estate, those checks from the Clerk of Works, consultant and Major Works delivery team were effective in picking up the issue and acting on feedback from residents to address a defective element. The remedial painting and all associated costs were at the contractor's liability.

Regarding Devon Mansions, different Section 20 Notices have been issued by the appropriate teams and all have observation periods for comment and follow a statutory process. A comprehensive package of works is currently being delivered. Survey and investigation work has shown that some elements of the

buildings, which were built towards the end of the 19th century, have deteriorated to a greater extent than was revealed during initial feasibility studies.

In addition, the fire safety status of the buildings was reclassified following a Fire Risk Assessment which determined that the buildings' fire safety strategy should change from one of 'stay put' to an evacuation policy. In order to facilitate this, a communal fire alarm system needed to be installed. Additional Section 20 Notices were issued for this alarm work in 2020 as a separate item procured by Engineering Services to address an immediate fire safety issue.

To add to the complexity of the site, the blocks are located on a Red Route which resulted in permissions to erect the scaffolding taking some time to be secured.

In regards to the garden project, the contractor has acknowledged that this should not have happened and they have apologised to the residents and those associated with the project about this incident. They have made remediation agreements which will be delivered at the conclusion of the works.

Before work on other estates are signed off as complete, all works elements are checked by the principal contractor and the Clerk of Works who will assess the works as per the contract for compliance with the specification and quality of workmanship and materials. If the works do not meet the required standard or are incomplete they are not signed off and further work is agreed and carried out accordingly.

Scaffolding is erected for a set programmed period. Any extension to that period, i.e. if works have not progressed sufficiently, is at the risk and cost to the contractor. At the regular progress meetings, the council will ask the contractor to report on and account for any slippage and how this is being addressed. There may be certain circumstances where additional works or essential changes to the programmed works are required and this may extend the period that the scaffolding is up. In these circumstances, the council would work with the contractor to update and inform residents.

Regarding Asset Management; we have recently refreshed our 'Putting Residents First Standards', Cllr Cryan set out in the report Foreword the importance and commitment to putting residents at the heart of every major works scheme:

"This report sets out our commitment to work with our tenants and residents to get major works to their homes right and details the standards residents should expect from the Council for all of our major works projects. It details the approach we will take, including asking residents their view on what work is needed before we develop a specification, setting up a Resident Project Team so we can work closely with people from each estate, consulting all tenants and homeowners on the full scope of work to their homes, and involving residents throughout the works to make sure they are done to a high standard.

The new Putting Residents First principles will include a refresh and update on the standards that underpin resident engagement and involvement on

major works projects, enhanced Standards developed with a dedicated resident volunteer group and a commitment to providing more avenues for resident engagement to capture key local knowledge in decision making about the design and delivery of major works. Alongside more traditional forms of consultation, residents will be able to access online meetings and improved information and updates about their major works scheme in different ways.

I believe that enhanced resident involvement will ensure that the right scope of works is designed, delivered and communicated to the highest standards, ensuring that we will always put our residents first.”

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?

RESPONSE

Empty homes are not just a blight on our borough, but a key part of the housing crisis facing our city as a whole. This is an enormous challenge, driven by the private sector, which accounts for 75% of all empty homes in the borough.

In order to tackle this issues head on, in October we approved a detailed Empty Homes Action Plan*. The plan will:

- Take a zero tolerance approach to long term empty private sector homes;
- Work with residents and property owners to quickly bring homes back in to use;
- Improve our understanding of private sector empty homes to better target action and support;
- Campaign for more resources and more effective powers to tackle empty homes in the private sector; and
- Reduce the number of empty council homes.

We have already made notable successes including:

- Bringing 231 long-term empty homes back into use in 2020/21, many of these homes have helped house homeless households;
- The introduction of a new reporting route for empty homes to make it easier to report empty homes and to find out information on letting the homes to the council;
- Appointing a contractor to conduct an audit of empty homes to help improve our understanding of the reasons for this and the types of support which would help to bring the properties back in to use;
- Delivering a more comprehensive incentives programme for letting properties to the council to help meet housing need; and
- A review of the council’s financial support to owners, funding for compulsory purchase orders and other resources has been conducted. This will be presented to the council’s Housing Investment Board next month.

It should be noted that of our 37,000 council tenanted homes, there will always be a number that are being re-let or made ready for a new tenant to move in, but in October this accounted for only 1% of available council homes across the borough. We have ambitious targets to make sure all council homes are turned around and re-let as soon as possible.

Similarly, with three-quarters of all empty homes in the private sector we will support private-owners to bring their homes back into use including offering a grants and loans. However, where a landlord is unwilling to bring their home into use the enforcement powers are extremely limited. For example, an Empty Dwelling Management Order (EDMO) or Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO) can only be sought if a property is proven to be empty for more than two years. This is unacceptable. More effective powers and additional resources from central government are needed to help us to bring more empty homes back into 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?

RESPONSE

The Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) is used to fund the delivery of a range of facilities such as play areas, open spaces, parks and green spaces, cultural and sports facilities, healthcare facilities, academies and free schools, district heating schemes and police stations and "other community safety facilities", in essence infrastructure to mitigate growth within a neighbourhood.

The council took a very localised approach to the distribution of local CIL, allocating funds generated within wards to those wards with projects agreed in accordance with priorities for that neighbourhood and public consultation. However, spending CIL monies to fund enforcement officers in limiting noise from construction or Anti-Social Behaviour would be some way outside the stated purpose for CIL monies.

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?

RESPONSE

The council's ambitious climate change strategy sets out our plans and commitments to make the borough carbon neutral by 2030. We will only deliver this by working with our residents, businesses, schools and other institutions and organisations.

The council is using a range of approaches to engage and has set up different mechanisms to do this. The council is increasing resource on communications, engagement and partnership working and has created two new roles to manage communications and engagement and to support better partnership working.

Most recently, the council has begun a process of in depth engagement with residents through the formation of our first Climate Change Citizens' Jury. A citizens' jury is a deliberative forum that brings together a cross section of a local community to better understand, learn and discuss complex policy issues.

A group of residents has been selected, that fully represents the diversity of the borough. The jury selects the areas they would like to focus on which could include topics such as housing, transport or waste. The jury will hear from expert speakers, and after the jury's deliberation, will make a series of recommendations about what should be done to address the climate emergency in Southwark. The council will respond to the recommendations in March 2022 which we expect to form part of the first annual review of the council's Climate Change Strategy and Action Plan later next year.

In addition to the Citizens' Jury, the council engages with organisations and individuals in a variety of ways around climate change. These include:

- Climate Change Conference – the council held its annual climate change conference in October 2021. This included residents, businesses, and local organisations who met to share progress on climate change work and discuss action.
- Partnership working – the council is developing partnerships with organisations in the borough where we can work together to tackle climate change. A recent example includes a collaboration with a designer from London College of Communications who is working in the council for seven months to design new ways of engaging with residents who traditionally have been under represented in council engagement.
- Anchor Network – the Leader has established a network of anchor institutions in the borough to work on issues of shared interest. Alongside building a strong local economy that works for everyone and tackling racism and inequality, the network brings together Leaders and Chief Executives in the borough to engage with and find solutions for the climate emergency.

- Community Groups – the council established a partnership steering group to bring together groups in the borough with a shared commitment to tackling the climate emergency. Since the publication of the strategy in July the group is no longer fit for purpose. Officers are developing new proposals to ensure that we have a forum for local groups and campaigns to engage with the council on climate change.

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?

RESPONSE

The Controlled Parking Zone is designed to ensure parking is prioritised for residents and businesses in the area, with aim of this project not to mitigate against current parking stress levels but future increases due to upcoming developments. We will conduct a review of the zone in six to twelve months following implementation to ensure that the restrictions are working well and make any minor changes.

We will encourage TfL to improve public transport accessibility in the area. There are buses that serve the area, Canada Water, Surrey Quays and Rotherhithe stations in close proximity, plus the option to cycle for those who can.

We consulted directly with Surrey Docks farm during the public consultation in 2019 and amendments were made to the parking layout to accommodate their deliveries, staff and visitors. A length of Shared Use parking bays were proposed, which allow Blue Badge holders, permit holders and casual visitors to park. Double yellow lines in the area also allow for loading and unloading for up to 40 minutes where safe to do so.

In addition, officers have recently met with Surrey Docks Farm to discuss options for the farm. It was noted that the CPZ restrictions would not be operating at the weekend and the parking options in the surrounding roads were explained. The farm stated that the majority of their staff use public transport and that it was good that the zone does not operate at the weekend when most of their visitors visit the farm.

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?

RESPONSE

The climate emergency is the challenge of our time. Southwark Council declared a Climate Emergency in 2019 and set 2030 as our target date to get to carbon neutral.

The Southwark Climate Change Strategy (July 2021) sets our level of ambition in response to this global threat, and under lines our commitment to tackling the Climate emergency together.

The carbon impact of our housing stock is an area that the council has influence and I am pleased to say that we have made significant strides in reducing the reliance of fossil fuels on our council estates. Of the 29 schemes that already are already planning approved since July, only 24.14% will rely on fossil fuels for their heating needs.

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?

RESPONSE

In terms of cleanliness, we run regular estate inspections across the borough. An inspection of all three estates was carried out on the morning of Sunday 14th November between 10 and 12 by the Business Unit Manager for Licensing. While this inspection didn't reveal major areas of concern, I accept that these things change on a daily basis and urge residents to report these issues to us as soon as they emerge.

Our Environment and Housing colleagues have recent taken action in response to specific concerns; the RSO, the cleaning team and the Communal repairs team are working in close partnership and inspect the estates at least monthly. The last joint inspections took place on 9th November and the on 23rd November. There is a rolling programme to jet wash moss from the walkaways and bulk waste is collected promptly. Rodent treatments of the communal grounds have been taking place, with the most recent being 21st October and 11th & 12th November.

Police ASB calls average at around eight per month. This covers the estates and surrounding streets. Drug related offences are very low. I would encourage residents attend the Ward Panel meetings where they can raise issues directly with police and the Council ASB lead for the area.

Crime and ASB are monitored and joint responses agreed at monthly Partnership Tasking Group meetings. While Harold, Swan Mead and Creasy Estates have not been raised at these meetings, and our current reporting data does not show they are experiencing disproportionate levels of crime and ASB issues, I would encourage local residents and councils to make use of these channels so that any issues can be addressed quickly.

These estates are close to a vibrant night time economy area and I understand this can affect the community. The Council has a Night Time Economy (NTE) Team who monitor complaints of ASB or crime from NTE venues. The team work at weekends in to early hours of the morning. This work includes monitoring how venues manage dispersal from their venues so as not to cause any cumulative impact on adjoining residential areas. The Councils Environmental Enforcement Team have also been checking Trades Waste agreements with businesses near these estates to ensure that they are not using the facilities allocated to residents. Contact has also been made with a Housing Co-operative adjacent to Swan Mead Estate as their poor waste management and cleaning was impacting on our residents. A reduction of fly-tipping and general refuse has been noted. The Enforcement Team will continue to monitor this location.

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?

RESPONSE

The last litterbin audit carried out in October 2019, showed that there were 1,552 street bins and 312 estate bins. On the whole these figures have remained constant during the period 2010 to 2021.

During the summer of this year we arranged for an additional 50 large wheelie bins to be deployed in the busiest park areas that had seen problems with overflowing waste from static bins the previous spring and summer. These made a significant difference in the larger parks; Burgess Park, Dulwich Park, Peckham Rye Park & Common and Southwark Park but they were also deployed in some of the smaller parks, which also see very high use.

The frequency of bin emptying is dependent on the location of the bins. Bins on high footfall street locations such as major retail areas are emptied two to three times per day, bins on residential streets are emptied two to three times per week whilst bins on estates tend to be emptied on an as required basis.

The street cleaning service currently employs 64 litter pickers and 39 staff allocated to fly tip removal teams on streets and estates – these levels have remained fairly constant since 2010.

I am proud that we have been able to maintain the high-quality of this service, despite the previous decade of austerity and the two-thirds cut in the council's funding from Conservative and Liberal Democrat governments 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?

RESPONSE

The council is committed to finding the right person with the right skills to replace the current Harbour Master who has, over the last 9 years, been invaluable in improving the services we offer at the Marina. We know there is much more we can do to ensure the growth and sustainability of this thriving and unique community within our borough.

We are extremely grateful for all the work our current Harbour Master has undertaken and we know that he is highly regarded across our Marina community. Colleagues in our Human Resources and Leisure Department are working to deliver a bespoke recruitment process to ensure we find the right person to fit this specialised post.

Both officers and the Lead Cabinet Member will continue to correspond and meet with berth holders to discuss with them the future vision of the boat yard and marina and any other current issues they may have.

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?

RESPONSE

Southwark's Free Swim and Gym (FSG) is available to all residents who register, all day on Friday and from 2pm until close on both Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to the times above, those aged 60 and over are also able to access the Silver sessions programme which takes place across all the Southwark

leisure centres during each week. Residents should see individual centre programmes for more detail on this as they may vary.

If you are disabled and live in Southwark you can access free swim and gym facilities at all Southwark leisure centres 7 days a week.

Southwark residents are eligible for this part of the scheme if they can show proof of one of the below

- Receive Disability Living Allowance (Inc. for Children) at either:
 - the higher rate or lower rate for getting around (mobility);
 - or the higher or middle rate for help with personal care
- Receive Personal Independence Payments (PIP) at any rate
- Receive Attendance Allowance
- Are registered as deaf or use a hearing aid
- Are registered as having a visual impairment
- Blue Badge parking permit holder
- Young people with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.

A list of approved documents can be found on the council's Free Swim and Gym web pages. <https://www.everyoneactive.com/southwark-free-swim-gym/>

At the moment, meeting the requirements above is the only way to access the disability FSG membership, however, Leisure Officers are currently working with Adult and Social Care and Public Health colleagues to review whether this can be expanded.

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?

RESPONSE

Following the decision at council assembly to include climate impact in decision-making reports, officers have updated the process for writing reports, to ensure that all reports take the climate emergency into account. The steps taken include:

- Report templates have been updated and circulated around the council.
- Training has been offered to departmental co-ordinators and report authors.
- The climate change team have written advice for departments on what relevant issues need to be considered.
- The constitutional team make a final check on all reports for publication to ensure the relevant paragraphs are completed.

This is monitored by each department through their internal processes, including departmental review boards and departmental co-ordinator support. This is

monitored council-wide by the legal team and the constitutional team checking the report and offering comments before the report can be published.

The assessment in each report should give the decision maker information about carbon impact, so that they can take this into account when making a decision. When preparing a report for decision, officers are asked to comment on the following:

- Has the impact on climate change been considered (i.e. the carbon emissions of the project)?
- What measure(s) have you taken to reduce the impact on climate change as part of this project?
- How do you intend to monitor the emissions/climate impact of this project?
- How does this decision relate to the Climate Change Strategy?

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?

RESPONSE

The government has entirely failed to deliver on its levelling up agenda, once again leaving the very poorest shouldering the broadest burden.

Of the more than ten thousand households in Southwark claiming Universal Credit (UC) and currently getting help to pay their council tax bills through the Council's "council tax reduction" scheme", 83% will be worse off following the removal of the £20 per week UC uplift – even after the changes announced by the Government in the Budget.

Even before the removal of the £20 per week uplift, council tenants reliant on UC were almost twice as likely to have rent arrears as other council tenants. Those on UC also had higher rent arrears than other tenants with rent arrears but not claiming UC.

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?

RESPONSE

See answer to Q4, as below:

Decarbonising the borough's building stock is a key priority for this council as we aim to achieve our net-zero ambitions for Southwark.

The Green Buildings Fund will collect financial contributions secured through S106 agreements to deliver carbon offsetting. These projects are required to offset the shortfall of carbon reduction onsite from major new development. Other funding sources will be used together to offset existing carbon emissions.

The initial focus of offsetting projects will be the decarbonisation and retrofitting of community buildings, schools and council housing as these types of capital projects will ensure the delivery of the required carbon savings and offer a more straightforward opportunity for monitoring progress.

The 19 October 2021 Cabinet Report agreed the governance and scope of the Fund. Funding criteria for council and community offsetting projects, in terms of how the projects will be assessed to ensure that they deliver the required offsetting (per-tonnage, per-£ carbon savings) are still being agreed.

For offsetting projects to be considered for funding they must demonstrate how much carbon will be reduced per annum, how the project meets a 1:1 carbon offset ratio at the cost per tonne of carbon (£/c02t) secured in the Section 106 agreement, and how the project will be monitored to ensure success.

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?

RESPONSE

The government has given no clear indication in its spending review around how any additional resources for local government are expected to be used or the purpose they are allocated.

While the government will tout increased spending for councils, in any event, funding of local authorities in 2022-23 will still be below the level it was at in 2010 in both cash and real terms.

The Provisional Local Government Finance Settlement will be issued sometime in the period from the 6th to the 16th December and until that time it is not possible to speculate with any certainty on the impact of the spending review not only for 2022-23 but for beyond.

Cabinet will be receiving regular reports through December, January and February providing further detail on the impact for Southwark as it becomes known.

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?

RESPONSE

The Pensions Advisory Panel (PAP) has recently received a draft update to the Investment Strategy Statement that commits to net carbon zero by 2030. This puts the Southwark pension fund at the vanguard of this approach and is a commitment that the fund is pleased to make on the basis of progress made since 2017 when the strategy was last updated. The strategy is currently out for consultation with admitted and scheduled bodies and will be re-presented to PAP for formal agreement in December. The strategy will again include short, medium and longer term plans that will target fund investments for review by PAP over the next nine years.

Members of the fund (existing, deferred and retired) were last consulted in 2015-16. Despite a number of reiterations of this survey over an extended period, the number of responses from all categories of scheme members was lower than had been hoped. To date, very few council funds have conducted such a comprehensive survey of their membership.

Once the new investment strategy has been set in in December 2021, a further survey will be conducted within the next 2 years. This survey will once again review governance of the fund, administration of the fund and the investment strategy; all efforts will be made to maximise the number returns.

The information requested is not readily available across the whole of the fund. However, more than £100m has been invested in sustainable infrastructure funds (Nuveen, Temporis and Black Rock) since 2018. Additionally, all passive investments have moved into reduced or low carbon mandates (c £1bn) and active investments are now fossil fuel free. New mandates have also been committed with other fund managers amounting to approximately £200m; all of these investments are in pursuit of a reduced carbon footprint for the fund and are supported by an estimated reduction of 43% since 2017.

It is estimated that the next finalised quarterly figure will be as high as a 50% reduction in carbon footprint as current investment commitments made by the PAP are implemented in full.

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?

RESPONSE

The table below outlines net expenditure budgets for street cleaning for the period in question.

2010-11	2011-12	2012-13	2013-14	2014-15	2015-16	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000
7,767	6,643	6,176	6,663	6,925	6,879	6,938	7,014	7,339	7,566	8,071	8,071

Since introducing the charge for bulky waste collection, the council has raised £1.189m.

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?

RESPONSE

In 2017, the Southwark Pension Fund committed to reducing exposure to fossil fuels through an updated strategy. Since 2017, and as at June 2021, the actions taken by the fund have reduced carbon exposure by an estimated 43%. As a consequence of other movements within the fund that are still underway, it is estimated that the next finalised quarterly figure will be as high as 50%, with further reductions still planned.

Given the success of the strategy to date and commitments made by this Council, the fund will be resetting the strategy in December 2021 to confirm our target net zero carbon by 2030. This is an extremely ambitious target but is felt reasonable on the basis of the significant achievements that have been made to date. The movement to net zero carbon will need to be measured in order to assure the financial performance of the fund is sustained to the benefit of all participating members.

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?

RESPONSE

This government has consistently ignored the importance of local councils as a key partner in tackling the climate emergency. The comprehensive spending review is no different.

Our Climate Strategy and Action Plan is extremely ambitious, covering a comprehensive set of fundamental changes we need to make as a council and

as a borough to achieve net zero. This is a crucial step change and comes with a significant cost to both the council, local businesses and residents.

The majority of our required estimated spend is based on the need to insulate homes and make our buildings efficient towards net zero, accounting for £2.6bn of capital investment.

A further £967m of capital investment is likely to be needed to green local transport, such as electric cars, buses and related transport infrastructure.

A further £238m would be needed to green our energy infrastructure, including solar panels, efficient lighting and appliances for homes and businesses.

The government's spending review does little to support us in these goals. In fact, with the risk of the 'managed decline' of TfL facing a £1.7bn funding gap, our capacity to encourage more and greener public transport is at risk of going backwards.

Southwark is not alone on this journey, and noting that the full cost of net zero in London could require tens of billions of additional investment, this spending review has been woefully inadequate.

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?

RESPONSE

The Service Level Agreement (SLA) for the Service Point in Peckham (our face to face service) is to see 98% of customers within 10 minutes. We have achieved or exceeded this target every year since 2016 except in 2017 and 2019 where the average was 97%.

The number of tenant's complaints regarding repairs are:

2015: 2,550
2016: 3,173
2017: 3,051
2018: 3,424
2019: 3,240
2020: 2,600

It is worth noting that last year alone the service processed almost 180,000 requests for repairs.

We do not hold data prior to 2015 due to our data retention policy. We do not have a total figure for 2021 yet.

The tables below show the Contact Centre telephone answering performance against SLA, for the last six years broken down by repairs and all other Contact Centre calls. The SLA is to answer 70% of calls within 2 minutes.

Repair Service Level

	Yearly Average
2016	60%
2017	49%
2018	57%
2019	60%
2020	72%

Contact Centre Service Level

	Yearly Average
2016	57%
2017	49%
2018	58%
2019	62%
2020	69%

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?

RESPONSE

It was hugely disappointing when we learnt that The Camden Society London (TCSL) changed their model of day care, which resulted in the closure of Riverside Day Care Centre. This was not welcomed by service users and family carers nor by the council.

However, we are delighted that we have been able to turn the situation around and agree a way forward with the families and charities to ensure a new day care service is offered.

The Riverside Carers and Parents Association have expressed a desire to set up a user led organisation to be directly involved in the running of the day service and the Council is fully supportive of this. We are currently providing resources and support to develop their offer and it will be established as soon as possible.

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?

RESPONSE

Following the Emergency Motion, a number of steps have been taken by the council along with further work planned to address and end male violence against women and girls (VAWG).

In relation to women's safety, in June 2021, a borough-wide consultation was launched, 'Let's Talk about Women's Safety' to better understand the experiences of women who live and work in Southwark. The survey received 568 responses. Key findings include:

- 52% of respondents feeling unsafe
- 92% of respondents feeling unsafe due to gender
- 61% feeling unsafe due to race
- 77% of women stated they had suffered from sexual harassment in the workplace and or public spaces
- 63% of women stated that they had suffered from Gender abuse / violence.
- 58% of women did not report incidents to the police.

A number of themes were identified for future focus in addressing the safety concerns of women who responded. These included enhanced policing, incident reporting, environmental, public transportation, better lighting, prevention measure within the night time economy, and cultural change along with creating safe spaces.

In response to these safety concerns and police data, the council has successfully secured funding totalling £350,000 from the Home Office under the Safer Streets 3 Programme. Delivery will support the following six areas:

1. Young people prevention, education and behaviour change activity
2. Enhanced 'safety' and public reassurance in hotspot areas
3. Communications and awareness raising activity
4. Engagement and education of commercial sector (businesses, retail, hospitality) on women's safety
5. Designing out crime evaluation and interventions
6. Deployment of CCTV and dedicated VAWG operative within CCTV control room

The work on improving women's safety has been developed with the Metropolitan Police Service's Lambeth and Southwark Borough Command Unit and they have received further funding to implement Operation Vigilant. This focuses on the deployment of both high visibility and plain clothes officers into the identified Night Time Economy, (NTE) areas of the borough to work together

to disrupt suspicious individuals before offending takes place and safeguard identified vulnerable individuals before they come to harm.

In response to repeated lockdowns during the pandemic, where access to face-to-face support services was limited, the Safe Spaces initiative has been launched. A Safe Space is where people who are experiencing domestic abuse can make a phone call to get help and is completely private and confidential. There are currently 32 Safe Spaces rooms around the borough and there will be more soon. The council's ambition is to have safe spaces close by in every community in Southwark.

Southwark is one of the highest funders of VAWG provision and it will through the recommissioning of services over the next 9 months continue to ensure that future services are responsive to the needs of women and girls including cultural competency to reflect the boroughs diversity. Part of this provision includes the additional Independent Domestic Violence Advocates resource commitment to respond to increased referrals due to lockdown. The Council continues to monitor this demand to ensure there are appropriate levels of support for survivors.

Along with fellow female politicians across London, I formally wrote to the MPS Commissioner requesting that she commits to ten specific measures, which underpin VAWG as an absolute priority for Southwark. These include, prioritising the investigating of crimes against women and girls and ensuring that women are treated with the required sensitivity along with strengthening the role of Safer Neighbourhood Panels in addressing VAWG and Hate Crime. We have also campaigned for years to make misogyny a hate crime – this includes writing to the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime to advocate for this change in London.

The Council is championing the rights and entitlements of women and girls and to tackle violence against them through a programme of activity taking place to mark the United Nation's International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women on 25 November 2021 and the 16 days of action that follow. A key part of this programme will include an Empowering Communities Conference: Tackling Male Violence against Women and Girls on 6 December 2021, which will bring together both practitioners and the community to create awareness, share findings, explore further the work on women safety and VAWG, and to share, collaborate ideas to inspire change.

Work to eliminate male violence against women including the areas set out in the motion will continue to be a key focus for the council.

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?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council will be running the Christmas of Food and Fun holiday programme from Monday 20 December until Friday 31 December.

The Public Health department have recommended that 31 holiday club providers are awarded grant funding to deliver 46 different holiday club programmes, with an additional £40,000 to support holiday clubs to provide places accessible for children with Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND). We anticipate that over 2000 individual children will access the offer over the winter holiday period.

Alongside the food provided by the holiday clubs, all children attending will receive a bag of fruit from a local East Street Market trader and a 'Take and Make' recipe box to take home and cook with their families. Each family will also be offered a voucher to get one shop free at PECAN Pantry in Peckham. We are also continuing our partnership with the Southwark Culture Health and Wellbeing Partnership (SCHWeP) and Tickets for Good to provide a programme of creative, cultural activities that children can access through the holiday clubs.

Southwark's Food and Fun holiday programme is funded by the Department for Education (DfE) through their Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) programme. In August 2021, a DfE representative visited two of our local holiday clubs involved in the Summer of Food and Fun programme. DfE were highly impressive with our comprehensive programme, noting the scale of our programme across the borough and the passion of our holiday club leaders.

Southwark Council are delighted to be able to continue the Food and Fun holiday programme during Easter, Summer and Winter holidays until the end of 2024.

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?

RESPONSE

Our Public Health response in Southwark began in February 2020 and we acknowledge that the pandemic will continue to present challenges for Southwark, London and the country as we head into another winter season.

Across all of our workstreams, community engagement and communication is critical: we will continue to produce and implement an engagement and communications plan with the dual aims of preventing disease, and mitigating the impact of the pandemic.

Our operational response will continue to involve our three strands of work: PREVENT, IDENTIFY and CONTROL.

PREVENT

Our prevention efforts have focused on engagement approaches taking an asset-based approach to understanding and anticipating community needs in the borough. Southwark Council continues to work closely with NHS partners delivering the local implementation of the COVID-19 vaccination programme. As national policy has evolved to ease constraints, our local approach will seek to continuously improve wide-spread health literacy while at the same time focusing our resource on high-consequence settings including among vulnerable groups (such as care homes) and high-transmission settings (such as in the education sector and mass events). We continue to work closely with health service partners and the newly established UK Health Security Agency (UKSHA) to coordinate health protection advice.

We will deliver a safe, effective and sustained response for as long as the virus remains

IDENTIFY

Over the last 18 months we have delivered highly-visible testing facilities and locally-focused testing programmes on top of a locally-led surveillance function that interrogates the results of such testing on a daily basis. Working closely with the Department of Health and Social Care and NHS Test and Trace, we also operate our local tracing partnership, Test and Trace Southwark (TTS). The TTS programme provides enhanced follow-up to local residents with a risk-based approach that connects to home-visiting services. Test and Trace Southwark integrates with welfare and support payment systems so that financially vulnerable residents are enabled to make the safe choice when isolating. We will maintain capability for surge testing for new variants as required.

CONTROL

The Public Health team in Southwark Council continues to operate an acute response function, receiving notifications from a wide variety of local settings including for education and business. Where incidents and outbreaks arise, the Acute Response Team (ART) works closely with the UKHSA health protection team (LCRC), NHS and other partners to implement control measures and manage communications with the public. We will continue to build health protection and infection prevention and control capability within settings, with a focus on care and residential settings, schools and workplaces.

Conclusion

We will continue to take an iterative, agile and sustainable approach to meet the needs and challenges that Southwark's population and communities will face as we move towards living with COVID-19 in the medium-term. We will continue to work with and support partners from across Southwark and London to ensure they are operating with effective, proportionate and practicable measures in place to move forward.

We will ensure our health protection response continues to be evidence-based, pragmatic, proportionate and sustainable.