

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 13 July 2022	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 NATASHA ENNIN

Does the Leader agree that the government is failing to take the action needed to support local people through the cost of living crisis? How many people does the Council expect will remain impacted by ever-growing inflation?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR EMILY TESTER

Construction on Antony and Roderick House has caused immense difficulties for residents who have suffered with resultant floods and damage to their properties. How will the council ensure that their rooftop developments on Thaxted Court and Damory House, in the nearby Abbeyfield Estate, do not cause similar issues?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Can the Leader provide an update on work to upgrade the Ledbury Estate and when work will commence on site to build much needed new council homes for residents?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID WATSON

Of the 2,500 council homes that Southwark pledged to start or build by May 2022, could you provide estimated completion dates, by project, of those not yet finished? How many council homes is the council scheduled to build in the 2022/23 financial year? Of the 1,000 more council homes pledged by 2026, how many will be built by 2026?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE

How many new care units will Camberwell Lodge deliver, and how many more are needed over the coming years to meet demand?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

With transphobia on the rise across the UK and in Southwark, it is more important than ever that Southwark council is a visible ally to the transgender community. Sadly members of the Cabinet refused to confirm trans rights are human rights during the recent local election campaign. Southwark's 'Transgender and Gender Identity Guidance' outlines that "where possible, the Council will aim to have gender neutral facilities in addition to existing single sex facilities." What plans does the council have to install accessible gender neutral facilities in Tooley Street and all other council facilities? Will the Council also commit to introducing the TUC best practice on "How to be a good trans ally at work"?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

Can the Leader explain what activities the council is planning for families to make this year's summer of play as successful as or more so than last year's?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

How much has the council paid in total in compensation to its residents, since 2010, for communal heating or hot water outages that last more than 24 hours? What was the percentage of district heating availability for each council estate site in 2019, 2020 and 2021? How many district heating and hot water outages complaints did the council receive, by year, since 2010?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

How is the Council facilitating partnership working in order to meet the requirements of becoming a Right to Food borough?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR IRINA VON WIESE

What measures will the council take to ensure that cultural heritage in the borough, notably the extensive Roman mosaics and other archaeological treasures found at the Landmark Square development, will be preserved and put on display in Southwark for residents and visitors to see?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR LAURA JOHNSON

What progress has the Council made in securing a permanent home for the LGBTQ+ centre, and what arrangements are being made in the mean time?

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

Southwark council tenants are hard pressed at the moment. How much of their rent money has been spent on the 'Great Estates Programme' in each ward? How much did the council spend on the great estates programme each financial year? How much of its budget did the council allocate to the great estate programme each financial year?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ELLIE CUMBO

Following refugee week in June, what is the Council doing to support Ukranian, Afghan, Syrian and other refugees trying to settle in the borough as part of its commitments as a Borough of Sanctuary?

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

In an amendment submitted to the Council Assembly in March of this year, Labour claimed to have allocated “£3m to fund improvement works to South Docks Marina”. Can the council provide a full breakdown of how this money has been allocated and/or spent? What improvement works have or will be funded and when were the funds allocated?

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

Please detail the costs incurred by Southwark Council in defending the High Court claim (Case No: CO/3370/2021) for judicial review brought by an individual in May 2022 (itemise both the council's own costs and any costs awarded against the council)? Has the council now placed the individual and their family from this case into suitable accommodation? How many other households have the council found to be statutorily overcrowded but assessed as being caused by a “deliberate act” since 2010?

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Councillors in Nunhead and Queen’s Road and surrounding wards are extremely concerned to hear of proposals recently made by Transport for London (TfL) to cut the 78 and 12 bus routes entirely. Both of these bus routes are vital transport links to an area which needs more public transport options, not less. The Save Southwark Buses petition against these cuts is receiving massive support from local people, incensed by the proposals. Can the Cabinet Member inform us as to what action is being taken by Southwark Council to insist to TfL that these proposals do not proceed, in any form?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

Does the Cabinet Member know what the next steps are for Transport for London’s (TfL) central London bus review consultation, and can she inform me of any next steps for the Cabinet Member’s campaign against these bus cuts?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN BATTESON

I understand that the Cabinet Member went to Oxford to explain how active travel measures have proven such a success in Southwark. Can the Cabinet Member explain the shared learning for the visit for both boroughs to create safe networks for active travel, including more walking, cycling, bus usage and public transport?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HOOD

As the cabinet member for parks, streets and clean air, it is your direct responsibility to "work with Transport for London (TfL) to reduce traffic on main roads and make bus journeys quicker and more reliable". The proposals of the Labour London Mayor, however, will ensure the exact opposite of this: reducing bus services and increasing traffic on our already polluted roads. In light of this, what will the cabinet member do to mitigate the negative effects of Labour's bus cuts? If these cuts proceed, how will the cabinet member meet their commitment to reducing traffic and making bus journeys quicker and more reliable?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY

In light of multiple instances of residents having to water trees that should be cared for by the council and its contractors, how many times have contractors failed to meet the watering plan? How many trees that were planted in the 2021/22 season have already died from lack of watering? How is the council monitoring the health of the trees that it plants and ensuring that the watering plan is adhered to going forwards?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

How many new parks will be created in Southwark over the next few years, what will they offer the whole community in terms of use, and how will this help the Council meet its net zero carbon targets?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK

Young people are the future, and many are engaged in the debate around air quality. How can we, as a Council, make sure that their voices are heard when considering what interventions to make?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PARKS, STREETS AND CLEAN AIR FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

The Surrey Docks Adventure Playground has been closed for many years and is in a generally poor state of repair. Lockdown has shown us the importance of outside space and of physical exercise and this is a sorely missed public amenity. Will the administration commit to investing the necessary funds to restoring the Playground to its former glory and getting it open again for local residents?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR SAM DALTON

Following the deputation made by residents from Aylwin Estate in my London Bridge and West Bermondsey ward to Council Assembly on 23 March 2022,

what steps have been taken to improve safety and tackle anti-social behaviour on the estate, what further plans does the council have to work alongside the estate's residents to create a safe environment, and how does this link to the council's broader work to improve community safety and reduce crime throughout Southwark?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ESME HICKS

Can the Cabinet Member advise me of when the new anti-social behaviour taskforce will be up and running, and how ward councillors can make the case for their tasking to be within their wards?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

As part of the consultation into how and where women feel unsafe, how many areas have been identified and what action is being undertaken to make sure that women feel safe in all corners of our borough?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

What changes would the Cabinet Member like to see in the private rented housing sector to ensure that every resident in Southwark has access to a safe, affordable place to call home?