

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 20 March 2024	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 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 JANE SALMON

I'm grateful that the Mayor has agreed to facilitate a meeting between the whips and group leaders to agree a way forward for better conduct in Council Assemblies. What further assurances can the leader give that our public meetings are conducted with the respect and tone that residents expect from us?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR YUCEF HASSAINE

How many other local authorities took part in the recent Southwark-led Future of Council Housing summit?

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

The repairs improvement plan published in September 2023 included a variety of commitments timetabled for 2023. Have those commitments been kept? In particular, are all calls and emails responded to within 5 minutes and 48 hours respectively?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BETHAN ROBERTS

What services are available for residents at the new Una Marson Library?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RACHEL BENTLEY

Occupational therapy is a vital part of supporting residents to live their life to the full and stay in their homes comfortably, but often face serious backlogs when applying for an assessment of their needs. Please could the Leader provide an update on the waiting list, including total number of people on the list and waiting times?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ESME HICKS

Given what we learned in the recent budget from the Conservative Chancellor, how is the council stepping in to provide the support that our residents need through the cost of living crisis and the current UK recession?

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

When does the Leader expect neighbours, community groups and members of the public to be able to access the Finches Grotto park on Sawyer Street, in line with the planning permission granted in November 2018?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JOHN BATTESON

How many different organisations will benefit from the Positive Futures Fund for Young People in the next two years?

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

Last year the council published its sustainable food strategy, with section 4b committing to promote plant-based diets as a sustainable way forward, including within its procurement. Will the Leader commit to working towards being a plant-based council?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JOSEPH VAMBE

How does the Residential Care Charter benefit our residents?

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

The last time we asked about local community infrastructure levy (CIL), we were told a review was due in spring. It is now by most definitions spring, and residents are still none the wiser about when they will see the benefit of the huge amount of development happening across the borough. Can we get a commitment that we will receive a timetable as soon as possible and before 31 May 2024, of when communities can expect to be able to see the benefit of the more than £15 million currently sat in the bank?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

How many automated external defibrillators (AED) have now been installed in our libraries and leisure centres?

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

Despite committing to improving damp and mould services last year, residents still are experiencing unacceptable damp and mould conditions, and poor service when they attempt to resolve with the council. Can the leader commit to ensuring that all residents receive swift and adequate action to resolve damp and mould issues in line with Awaab's Law?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MAGGIE BROWNING

How much money has been raised via the Southwark Green investment?

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

The external auditor has formally raised concerns with the state of the housing revenue account (HRA) in its audit of the 2021/22 accounts, including raising the fact that weaknesses could have been acted upon sooner to prevent the cliff-edge the council now faces. In addition to the HRA recovery plan, how will the council ensure that it never has to choose between building more homes and keeping existing homes safe again?

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

Could the Leader please provide an update on the council's support for tenants to mutually exchange their homes?

17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ADAM HOOD

Will the council consider bringing forward plans to reverse the flow of Cope Street and change parking restrictions in order to alleviate the congestion currently experienced on Lower Road, which persists even after the cycle way roadworks have been removed?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, SKILLS AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

Southwark's nightlife plan is welcome, but has numerous issues including lack of measurable impact and engagement with communities, especially with the LGBTQ+ community. With that in mind, how would the cabinet member assess the current state of the night time economy in Southwark, and is the night time plan sufficient?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, SKILLS AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR IRINA VON WIESE

Can the cabinet member please provide an update on the the glasshouse in Courage Yard, and when the council will be able to collect rent on this valuable commercial property?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, SKILLS AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR SUZANNE ABACHOR

How many Living Wage employers are now operating in Southwark?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, SKILLS AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR CASSANDRA BROWN

Since its launch how many local business have so far benefitted from the Thriving High Streets Fund?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, SKILLS AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL

How many apprenticeship opportunities have been created?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, SKILLS AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE

How many business have received a grant via the Southwark Pioneers Fund?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR JOBS, SKILLS AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Given the UK is in recession what additional support do you think is needed to protect London and Southwark's local economy?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY, CLEAN AIR AND STREETS FROM COUNCILLOR MARGY NEWENS

How many people have responded to the Streets for People engagement exercise?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY, CLEAN AIR AND STREETS FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

What is the expected time line for the implementation of the new controlled parking zone (CPZ) roll out?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR THE CLIMATE EMERGENCY, CLEAN AIR AND STREETS FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

How will the newly completed 'Cycle Super Highway 4' support cycling in Southwark?