
ITEM 2.1: POLICY AND RESOURCES STRATEGY - 2012/13-2014/15 - REVENUE BUDGET

QUESTIONS ON THE REPORT**1. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

How much is this budget spending on free lunches for children who live outside of Southwark or for those parents that earn more than £25,000?

2. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

Given that bringing the call centre in house would save the council £4.5 million, will he join me in calling for officers to pursue this as a matter of urgency following Vangent's failure to deliver £1.3 million of savings and being taken over by an American arms dealer?

3. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

Given the budget cuts made to the noise team, how many visits have the noise team made, in response to calls, on Saturday nights, after 1.00am, since March 2011? Please provide a monthly breakdown?

4. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

What has been the total cost of the democracy commission? What has been the total cost of council assembly for 2011/12 and how does this compare to the savings made to community councils for 2012/13? Please include the cost of hall hire, officer time, and any other miscellaneous expenditure.

5. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

The leader announced an additional £4 million for improving cycling facilities, please can you provide a breakdown of what the £4 million is being spent on? How much of this £4 million has been newly assigned to creating segregated cycle lanes?

6. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON

Why has Southwark Council cut its bike to work scheme but retained an officer to arrange leased cars for staff? How much does the council spend on the provision of leased cars?

7. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIAKOU

Please can the cabinet member provide a break down by current community council areas, of how many hanging baskets were there on Southwark's streets in 2010/11 and 2011/12 and what is the projected number for 2012/13?

8. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

In preparation for the council assembly meeting on 6 July 2011, the cabinet member for culture, leisure, sports and the Olympics wrote to all members asking for suggestions on how to improve sporting opportunities for young people in which the Liberal Democrat group tabled a number of suggestions. Please can the cabinet member outline what has been included in this year's (2012/13) revenue budget that was not included in the previous year's budget as a result of that meeting?

9. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

Following the 'Colour Thief' debacle, have you yet learnt the lesson that events budgets should be devolved to community councils in order to get the right event wanted by the local community?

10. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK

Is it fair that councillors are receiving increases of inflation in their allowances while council staff face pay freezes?

11. WITHDRAWN

12. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

Will he support the Liberal Democrat proposal to fund the Southwark mediation centre? If not, will he ensure that the Southwark mediation centre will be named in contracts to be used in all future disputes for every new external contract the council makes?

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

How many people attended day care centres for each month in 2009/10 and 2010/11 and for each month since your 100% cut to their funding?

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

The cabinet have taken the decision for SASBU to only deal with 'critical cases'. Please can the cabinet member list a) the types of cases it will now deal with, b) the types of cases it will no longer deal with, and c) how much do you anticipate to save?

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

After the meeting of Bermondsey community council which you attended, will you now listen to the democratic views expressed, retain the current boundaries and allow each community council to manage its own budget?

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

When will you present any concrete evidence to council assembly that spending £8 million on free lunches has resulted in a reduction in obesity levels in Southwark? Have you received any evidence from the universal programme in Islington that there has been a reduction in obesity?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Given the budget cuts made to cash limit the fostering rates, how many adoptions were made in 2011/12? How does this compare to the number of adoptions made in 2009/10 and 2010/11?

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

Are you telling the people of Dulwich that the only way they can have safe roads for their children is for the community council to spend its devolved revenue budget for lollipop patrol officers rather than using the money to introduce new services as community councils in other areas will be able to do?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

Given the budget cuts made to after school clubs, what are the projected attendance figures for 2011/12? How many children attended Southwark Council run after-school clubs in 2009/10 and 2010/11?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Given that you now support giving additional revenue money to community councils, will you now go one step further and support the Liberal Democrat's community chest proposal?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

In 2010 Southwark had the 3rd cleanest streets in London. How is this currently being measured? Where does Southwark currently stand in the league tables and will you reverse the cuts to the night cleaning and street cleaning teams?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

What will the grades be of the new 21 director posts that the leader is currently proposing? How will this impact on the budget?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the cabinet member for resources confirm that "merge management and redesign two council run day centres for older people" is not code for closing one or more of the remaining 2 council run day centres for older people?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

Will the cabinet member spend £8,000 on a lollipop person instead of deputy cabinet members?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

How much revenue funding for community councils has been provided for community councils for 2012/13? How much was allocated in 2009/10 and 2010/11? Please include the community fund as part of your answer

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

In the light of the proposal to use £4.4 million of balances to support the 2012/13 revenue budget (up from £3.4 million in 2011/12 and up from £2.8 million in the indicative 2012/13 budget approved by council assembly on 22 February 2011) would the cabinet member for resources and community safety explain why the cabinet has not followed the advice of the finance director set out in paragraphs 39 ("the finance director recommends the retention of contingency and maintenance of balances,,") and 194 of the report to cabinet, and what assurances can he provide to council assembly that the cabinet's budget proposal is prudent and robust?

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

With reference to the proposed saving of £50,000 on school crossing patrols (p60, council assembly agenda) would the cabinet member for resources and community safety refer to:

- (a) the letter dated 13 January 2012 from the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling to Councillor Lewis Robinson in which:
 - (1) it is stated: "The £50,000 reduction in the school crossing patrol service budget at light controlled crossings in 2012/13 will be confirmed and the crossings affected are set out in the attached schedule"; and
 - (2) the attached schedule includes "Dulwich Hamlet: Dulwich Village/Turney Rd"; and
- (b) the letter dated 27 February 2012 from the head of community engagement to Councillor Lewis Robinson in which it is stated: "The crossing patrol at Dulwich Village/Turney Rd will continue and Councillor Hargrove has also confirmed that this was his understanding";

and would he therefore explain why, and under what powers, there was between 13 January and 27 February a decision to depart from the policy on light-controlled crossings in respect of Dulwich Village/Turney Rd, and not in respect of the two other Dulwich crossings mentioned in the schedule to the 13 January letter, namely "Alleyns/JAGS: East Dulwich Grove/Townley Rd" and "Dulwich Village: Dulwich Village/Village Way"?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

With reference to the proposed growth (p52, council assembly agenda) of £210,000 for a Cleaner Greener Safer (CGS) revenue fund and to the proposed saving of £50,000 on school crossing patrols (p60, council assembly agenda) would the cabinet member for resources and community safety refer to:

1. The letter dated 5 December 2011 from the leader of the council, in which it is stated: "There is no reason why the patrols should be subject to an annual bidding process - Dulwich councillors would be entitled to make a spending commitment through to 2014 if they so desire";
2. the leader's e-mail dated 27 January 2012 which has had wide public circulation and which refers to a "guarantee" of CGS revenue funding until "at least 2014"; and
3. the letter dated 27 February 2012 from the head of community engagement to Councillor Lewis Robinson in which it is stated: "It is therefore the intention that the funding carries on for more than one year. This is of course subject to the annual decision-making process on CGS revenue that each community council will carry out....";

and would he therefore explain why the wordings of (1) and (2) above have not been reflected in the definitive guidance on CGS revenue procedures?