

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 4 July 2012	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Strategic Director of Communities, Law & Governance	

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. One councillor from each community council will be able to submit a question on behalf of their community council.

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 be taken in the order of receipt and portfolio. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the last cabinet member to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly.

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

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on yellow paper around the council chamber 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 FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN MORRISSEY

Is he disappointed by Thames Water's decision to keep Chambers Wharf as its proposed drive-in site for the Thames Tunnel?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Can the leader assure the people of Southwark that no one – especially vulnerable children and adults – are at risk as a result of the merger of the children's services and health & adult social care departments? What safeguards has the council put in place to ensure that Southwark's most vulnerable residents are not adversely affected?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Was he aware of a vote in parliament on 22 May 2012 that would have given the new Financial Conduct Authority the power to cap the charges made for credit and the cost of borrowing; thus curbing the excessive interest rates charged by many payday loan companies in Southwark?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Would the leader confirm, as of the end of June 2012, how many learning disabilities clients in residential housing are in receipt of their personal budgets?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES

What role can Southwark's new shadow health and wellbeing board play in tackling longstanding issues like childhood obesity?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

Will the leader agree to implement the cross-party recommendations from overview and scrutiny's recent investigation into the council's funding of tenant and resident associations?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN

Recent figures show the number of housing starts has fallen by 35% compared to the average achieved during Labour's 13 years in office. When the government has slashed the social housing budget by £4 billion, what can the council do to tackle the borough's critical housing shortage?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

What limits have Southwark placed on advertisers using sites owned or let by Southwark Council to support the fight against obesity?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND

What will be the impact of the government's welfare reforms and in particular its decision to pass on to local authorities a 10% cut in council tax benefit which supports Southwark's poorest residents?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Following the proposed transfer of its assets to Lewisham College, is the leader able to reassure us that the new facilities at Southwark College's Waterloo campus in The Cut – that were paid for by a sizeable S106 contribution from the Shard – will continue to be used as per the planning conditions to provide training opportunities for young people?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

Will the leader back a campaign by local residents to clean up the area outside Melville Court on Lower Road and consider a compulsory purchase order, as the council has done at St Olav's Square, to assist them in their efforts?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

Would the leader outline the council's plans for the day centres in the borough which support people with mental health issues, physical and learning disabilities and dementia?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

What arrangements have been put in place for flexible working for staff based at 160 Tooley Street during the Olympics? What effect does he believe the virtual closure of London Bridge during that period will have on the functioning of the council?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PODODY CLARK

Would the leader confirm that the council will ensure that the site at 10 Spurgeon Street and 58 Great Dover Street will not be used as a hotel unless or until planning permission has been granted?

15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

What representations has the leader made to police about safer neighbourhood teams being moved out of their wards to other duties in London, and what views have police officers expressed to the leader about this dangerous reduction in police numbers in our local neighbourhoods?

16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

How many complaints have been received by the council as a result of the extortionate increase in the cost of garages for disabled residents? And does the leader believe that the reason why there is a discount for tenants and leaseholders (and not for those who are disabled) is because tenants and leaseholders were the only people consulted? Is that fair to every resident of this borough?

17. Note: A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2). In view of the timing of the constitutional change in May 2012 and the date of the subsequent community council, for this council assembly only it has not been possible for questions to be considered by some community councils prior to the deadline for submission of questions. A question was submitted on behalf of Bermondsey and

Rotherhithe Community Council subject to the outcome of the community council. However following the deadline for questions, the date of the community council moved until after council assembly. The question therefore falls.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the cabinet member for communities and economic development give an update on what steps have been taken to address the ongoing late-night economy problems in Herne Hill?

Note: A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2). In view of the timing of the constitutional change in May 2012 and the date of the subsequent community council, for this council assembly only it has not been possible for this question to be considered by the community council prior to the deadline for submission of questions. Therefore this question is published subject to the outcome of the community council. In order to be considered by council assembly it will require a suspension of the relevant council assembly procedure rule.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

Would the cabinet member explain how she thought healthy school meals were being provided when school hygiene inspections were not happening at the required minimum frequency? When will all schools be inspected by environmental health officers and what will be the average calendar days from the last inspection?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

Does the new cabinet member for children's services welcome the coalition government's measures offering free early years education to 2 year olds from disadvantaged backgrounds, and will she endorse this provision which will benefit many families in Southwark and help close the gap between the most disadvantaged children and their peers?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

How much will the council spend providing free lunches in schools in Village Ward to pupils who are not eligible under government regulations, and how much does the council expect to spend on each pupil in 2013 and 2014?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON

Would the cabinet member update members about the new secondary school for the north of the borough?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

The Institute for Fiscal Studies has estimated that 400,000 children will fall into relative poverty between 2010 and 2015. What role can free, healthy, school meals have in tackling child poverty here in Southwark?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL

Long-term youth unemployment in the north of the borough has risen by 89% in the last 12 months. Given the complacency of the government, what can the council do to address this worrying trend?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROWENNA DAVIS

Can she provide an update on the youth aspect of the council's £1 million community restoration fund?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

Which primary schools are expanding intake in September 2012 and September 2013? Please give figures detailing their current intake and increased intake.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

What measures has the council taken to ensure Southwark's school kitchens are up to an acceptable level of hygiene?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

What has been the total amount of the street cleaning budget spent on the removal of chewing gum in each of the years 2009/10, 2010/11 and 2011/12?

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON

How many temporary green spaces have been created on vacant land since May 2010?

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK

Would the cabinet member tell me how many trees have been felled in Southwark every year for each of the last five years? How many more are due to be felled in the next two years? What consultation is taking place with residents about each one which is felled?

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU

Would the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling get me a definitive answer as to when the farmers market will come to the Blue and how it would work?

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

What does he believe will be the benefit to Southwark residents of the transformation of Burgess Park?

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

Can he provide the latest information on the borough's recycling rates compared to a) when the previous administration left office and b) the average for London boroughs?

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

What impact can Trixie mirrors have in improving cyclists' safety in Southwark?

35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Could the cabinet member for transport, environment and recycling state why, despite diligent enquiries by officers in response to resident and councillor enquiries, no explanation is yet forthcoming as to why traffic counters appeared across borough roads in numerous locations in Village ward in March and April 2012, and would he set out the circumstances, if any, in which it would be lawful for third parties to place such things across a road without informing the relevant highway authority?

36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON

What steps has the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management taken to put pressure on the Corporation of London Authority to fix broken entry phones on the Avondale Estate?

37. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Would the cabinet member provide statistics for the number of privately owned vacant properties and homes in Southwark, and can he outline his proposals for bringing those properties back into use, in an effort to tackle the housing shortage in Southwark?

38. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER

What are the council doing to help tenants get up to date meter readings, especially for those with meters in locked cupboards?

39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON

With reference to the undertaking by the strategic director of housing services in her e-mail of 18 June 2012 to all councillors about the Wates Major Works Contract, that all relevant residents will be consulted, would the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management please confirm that the consultation will extend to non-resident leaseholders? If not, could reasons be given, please?

40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER

How many applications were there for the business element of the community restoration fund and when will applicants be told of the outcome of their application?

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

How big is the current Bermondsey One Stop Shop and how big is the new space in the Blue? Is the cabinet member sure that all the services currently provided at the One Stop Shop will have enough space in the new planned premises?

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

Could the cabinet member please give a list of all sites owned by the council or other public sector bodies in Southwark, their current uses, and which ones have potential for development?

43. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, SPORT, THE OLYMPICS AND REGENERATION (SOUTH) FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

This is the last council assembly before the Olympic Games. Is Southwark ready for this once in a lifetime event?

44. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF THE PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY

In the light of the new regime for determination of planning applications would the chair of planning committee confirm that generally he will ensure that requests by any two councillors for determination at member level will be acceded to, and, if he is minded not to do so in some circumstances, would he please outline such circumstances?