

<b>Item No.</b> 5.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 28 November 2012	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members' Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		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. 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.
3. A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2).

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI**

How many homes for social rent, as officially defined by government, will be included in phase one of the Heygate regeneration project? Following the report in Southwark News of 1 November in which the council stated its definition of social rented homes is based on "housing charity Shelter's guidelines", would the leader give a source for these guidelines? What communication has the council had with Shelter about these guidelines both prior to and after the article was published?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS**

In the Southwark News on 1 November 2012 Simon Hughes finally admitted that the government has cut the subsidy it pays for new affordable housing from £120,000 to £20,000 per unit. He then claims that this has had no impact on the deal at the Heygate. Do you agree?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Can the leader explain why the Cathedrals ward councillors are not invited to attend the Blackfriars Road Landowners Forum meetings? These meetings include a range of stakeholders from a wide spectrum and are for the purpose of discussing multimillion pound developments. Does the leader not recognise the ward councillors as important stakeholders who can make a valuable contribution on behalf of their community?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU**

Can the leader provide an update on the number of police lost from Southwark's streets since May 2010?

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GEOFFREY THORNTON**

Why has the council failed to meet the targeted increase for Bikeability level 1 cycle routes in 2011/12 (an increase of 2km)? Why is the target for 2012/13 only an additional increase of 1km? What is the targeted increase currently projected for 2013/14?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL**

When the heads of terms for the regeneration of the Heygate were approved by the previous Liberal Democrat administration, paragraph 57 of the report stated: "The level of affordable housing will be determined through the normal statutory planning processes in accordance with the emerging core strategy." Can the leader confirm how much affordable housing would have been delivered at the Heygate had this approach been followed?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK STANTON**

Following the recent inclusion of the Sky Lounge in the 1 Blackfriars development at a cost of £5.5 million, does the leader think that the construction of viewing lounges is an appropriate way for developers to provide public contributions? What plans does the council have to use the Sky Lounge for its own events and meetings? What steps will the leader take to ensure that the Sky Lounge will not be treated as a profit making exercise for its owners?

**8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD**

While we all appreciate the rough and tumble of local politics, how important is it for politicians of all parties to adhere to a minimum standard of decency when engaging in political debate?

**9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

Please could the leader give an update on the number of new primary and secondary school places needed by 2015, broken down by ward?

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED**

What impact have the government's new planning framework, coupled with the slashing of the affordable housing grant, had on the viability of regeneration projects like the Heygate including on rent charges?

**11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK**

How many reports of fly-tipping have been made in the last 12 months, broken down by ward? How many fines has the council issued in each of the last three years for a) fly-tipping, and b) littering?

**12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON**

How much has been spent on repairs and other works to the roof terrace in the Council's Tooley Street office in 2012/13 and in 2011/12?

**13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**

Will he give an update on the review of nurseries and children's centres launched in August and when the findings will be made public? Will he commit to keep all existing childcare services and nurseries in the borough open next year?

**14. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

Can he confirm how many schemes for new council homes were agreed between May 2002 and May 2010?

**15. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL**

In 2009 the Audit Commission found that: "In 2008/09, [the council] invested £73 million in works to achieve decent homes whereas double this figure was required to meet their targets. They aim to increase investment further by better contracting arrangements and the sale of buildings."

The report also acknowledged that "not enough has been done so far. There remains a significant funding gap to bridge, and over 18,000 homes are still likely to be non-decent in 2013. This is partly because Southwark has decided, in line with the wishes of residents, to improve homes to a higher standard. This will give more tenants new kitchens and bathrooms. However, it also means that more

tenants will continue to live in poor-quality housing for longer. The lack of an up-to-date picture of the condition of council housing means that it is uncertain how much more investment may be needed and therefore how soon the improvements can be made.”

Is this incontrovertible evidence not only that the previous administration planned to sell council homes to fund decent homes work, but also that their decent homes programme was nothing but an abject failure?

**16. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Can he provide a breakdown of which estates are due to benefit from improved CCTV coverage thanks to the council’s £1.4 million capital investment?

**17. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

What definition does the council use to define the various tenures of affordable housing (social rented, affordable and intermediate)? Does the council accept the official government definition outlined in Planning Policy Statement 3?

**18. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY**

Would the cabinet member list the developments where the council has accepted in-lieu payments instead of affordable housing since May 2010, and the value of each of the payments accepted? What proportion of these in-lieu payments has been spent on affordable housing?

**19. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

How many leaseholders were under or overcharged on their service charge account in 2011/12? What is the average time taken by the council to correct these errors? What action has been taken to improve leaseholder charging in 2012/13?

**20. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK**

How can the registered nurse in the housing department effectively complete a medical and self care assessment of an individual’s needs without visiting them and observing their ability to self care and the effect a medical condition has on their quality of life?

**21. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

How many incorrect rent statements have been sent out to tenants in the last year? What is the cabinet member doing to ensure that this problem is resolved?

**22. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

How many care leavers have been evicted within three years of signing up to new tenancies in the last 12 months? What is the council doing to ensure care leavers are supported to find suitable housing?

**23. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

How many council homes have been a) sold, b) demolished and c) built since May 2010, broken down by ward?

**24. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND**

Can he provide a breakdown by a) postcode and b) age of under-occupying social housing tenants that will have their housing benefit cut by the government from next April?

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

Can she provide the latest information on the number of long-term young unemployed people in Southwark and what, if any, impact the government's work programme is having on long-term young unemployed in Southwark?

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROWENNA DAVIS**

How many apprentices has the council taken on this year and how many of last year's cohort have gone on to find long-term employment?

**27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

Please give the ethnic breakdown of a) people on the council housing waiting list, b) school exclusions, and c) registered business owners in the borough.

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

A campaign by residents in my ward has succeeded in getting the much loved Ivy House pub placed on the community asset register. Given that Southwark is the first council in the country to have something placed on its community asset register, will she join me in congratulating the campaigners?

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

How much has the council spent on plastic cups in each of the last three years? How many plastic cups were bought in each of the last three years? How much has the council spent on sugar and milk sachets in each of the last three years?

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

How much has been spent in each of the last three years on office chairs and desks? How many desks are available at Tooley Street and what is the current rate of usage?

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

Further to the ongoing discussions surrounding the East Dulwich police station closure and the upcoming Dulwich supplementary planning document, can the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety supply us with a list of all council owned, non-residential properties in East Dulwich, Village, College and Peckham Rye wards?

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

One year on from the closure of the Holmhurst Day Centre in Burbage Road, the part previously occupied by the council appears to stand empty. Is the apparent continued occupation of the rest of the building by the South London and Maudsley NHS Trust making things difficult for the council? What plans does the council have for this underused resource?

**33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE**

Southwark Primary Care Trust held section 106 funding for the provision of health services surrounding new developments. Can the cabinet member explain who now holds that funding and how the resource can be accessed to ensure local health needs are met?

**34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMMELL**

What is the number of care leavers aged 18-21 for which the council is a corporate parent? What specific steps does the council take to fulfil its corporate parenting role for these care leavers? What percentage of these care leavers is the council in contact with on a regular basis?

**35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

How many enforcement notices and/or penalty charge notices (PCNs) have been issued to residents and businesses for contaminating recycling or incorrectly recycling since June 2010?

**36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

How many potholes have been reported in each of the last three financial years, broken down by ward? What were the average time and the longest time to repair potholes in each of those years?

**37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMA BLANGO**

Why is the target increase in the number of adults receiving cycle training in 2012/13 lower than the target increase for 2011/12? How many adults have been provided with cycle training this year to date and what is the cost to the council per person trained?

**38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

What practical steps have been taken to promote the Bakerloo line being extended to Camberwell and beyond? The cabinet member recently talked publicly about the Cross River Tram (which was never placed in Ken Livingstone's funded projects and was canned by Boris Johnson when originally elected over four years ago). Where does he imagine the £1.5 billion required to fund this project would come from?

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

How many ash trees are there in public spaces in the borough? What is the council doing to assess the prevalence of the deadly fungus *Chalara fraxinea* (ash dieback) which has recently infected ash trees throughout Europe? How many infected trees has the council already identified?

**40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Will the cabinet member confirm that an application has been made to the Department for Transport for a "STOP" sign to be placed in Gallery Road near the junction with the Dulwich Village roundabout, and whether he has an indication of the timetable for the likely response?

**41. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR LEWIS ROBINSON**

Following an investigation into a serious failure in procedure in recording requests for planning enforcement by residents in relation to breaches of planning conditions in my ward, it has come to light that there are no details of enforcement investigations on the council website and the only way to establish whether an investigation is taking place is to view the register at the Walworth One Stop Shop. Neither have the reporting arrangements for enforcement and planning applications and appeals to community councils yet been agreed.

Given that a number of local authorities already have information on "live" enforcement investigations available on their websites, and if the chair is not aware of these shortcomings, can he undertake to ensuring arrangements for establishing an online register, reporting back and further improving transparency are put in place in the next six months at the latest?