

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 23 January 2013	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. 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 GAVIN EDWARDS

Did Simon Hughes vote for the third reading of the government's Growth and Infrastructure Bill? Did he support any amendments to that bill?

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

What is the Leader's vision for the long-term future of the four council-run childrens' centres? Can he demonstrate how the views of parents have been included in this vision? Does he believe that parental involvement and engagement has been done well in the last year?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

The first clause of the government's Growth and Infrastructure Bill gives unprecedented powers to the Secretary of State to strip any local authority deemed to be 'failing' of its planning powers. This would enable developers in these areas to ask to have their applications decided by the Secretary of State without ever being reviewed by the local authority. The Secretary of State's decision would be final with no right of appeal. What does he believe the impact of this proposal will be and has the council made any representations to the government?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN

Can the leader give an update on the major works at Draper House following the recent gas leak and when these works are now likely to be completed? What action is being taken to ensure that contractors on other sites adhere to the highest standards of health and safety?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

60% of the people affected by the government's latest cuts to welfare are in work. What impact will cuts to working age benefits and tax credits have on the incomes of families in Southwark?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

What does the leader believe is a reasonable time for his cabinet members to take in responding to letters?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA MILLS

What will the two year local government financial settlement from government announced on 20 December mean for Southwark?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

What minimum standards do schools need to reach to be considered for temporary or permanent expansions? Does he believe schools that have been rated poorly by Ofsted should still be considered for expansion?

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TIM MCNALLY

How many empty homes are there in Southwark? How much has the council paid to secure empty homes in each of the last three years? How many council officers are employed to deal with bringing empty homes back into use?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA

How many disrepair cases is the council facing with tenants and leaseholders? Would the cabinet member support Liberal Democrat calls for a system of caretakers to be returned to estates to deal with tenant-leaseholder issues and help avoid cases of disrepair?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO

Following workers being unable to complete resurfacing in Grove Park, Camberwell, due to an expired works permit earlier this month, what was the total cost of this error to the council? Was the specialised tarmac for this work reused and if so at what site?

12. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the council please provide an update on the regeneration plans for Camberwell?

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Please could Veolia Environmental Services improve the pedestrian access for residents at the new recycling waste facility in order for them to dispose/recycle small items made from wood and metals etc. Currently members of the public are prohibited from walking on the ramp which is for cars only?

14. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF PLANNING COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

In view of the concern in Dulwich about the effectiveness of the new arrangements for determining planning applications, would the chair of planning committee advise whether the current system will be reviewed, and whether consideration will be given to holding planning sub-committee meetings at the new council offices at Queens Road Peckham, or at other venues in the south of the borough?

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the council consider developing a consistent process for all public consultation it carries out?

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

How will Labour's community restoration fund benefit businesses in Rotherhithe?

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN AHERN

In the absence of government action, what can the council do to increase employment in Southwark?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND

On 19 December 2012, Southwark was one of two local authorities praised by the New Local Government Network in The Guardian as having a good strategy when it comes to economic development. How is the council planning to build on its work in this in 2013?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR DAN GARFIELD

Ongoing and meaningful community engagement is essential if the council is to remain responsive to the needs of local people. What is she doing to ensure the council maintains a positive and reciprocal dialogue with local residents?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES

What impact has the merging of community councils had on attendance at those meetings?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET

What is the council doing to ensure it complies with the Public Services (Social Value) Act which comes into force from January 2013 requiring public bodies to take social value and community benefits offered by contractors into consideration when awarding contracts?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON

Will the cabinet member support the introduction of protected shopping frontages for the length of Bermondsey Street so as to better protect existing class uses in the conservation area? Will she set out a process for this to be achieved in the near future?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL

What steps has the cabinet member taken to promote the principles and practice of Fairtrade to the businesses and the people of Southwark? What evidence is there that Southwark's status as a Fairtrade borough has been strengthened or improved under this administration? What action plan or other set of strategic objectives has been put in place to ensure that Southwark retains this hard won status for the future?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

What are the criteria for an organisation to be added to the council's approved voluntary and community list? How often will this list be updated? Will organisations not on the list still be considered for local service delivery projects awarded by the council?

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

How much money has each school in Southwark received through the pupil premium? How many children are eligible for the pupil premium? How many council staff are employed to deal with processing pupil premium issues?

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

Why has the number of alcohol confiscations dropped throughout the borough despite a significant rise in the number of ambulance call outs for binge drinking? What action has been taken to prevent street drinking in Southwark, and also specifically in South Bermondsey?

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

What is the council doing to control foxes in the borough, including discouraging people from feeding them and keeping them away from parks and wildlife? How many enquiries have been made to the council about controlling foxes?

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

Can the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety provide details of all a) lost and b) stolen items of council property since 1 January 2011, including the value of each?

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

How many visits to the council's website have been made in each of the last three years from a) internal council sources and b) external sources? What have been the top 10 most visited pages on the council website this year?

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

How much has been spent on supplies for the hot drink vending machines in council premises in each of the last three years? How much has been spent on buying new machines and servicing existing machines in each of the last three years?

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

What are the 50 most frequently visited websites from council computers in each of the last three years, and the number of visits to each?

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

If the Liberal Democrat three-year budget proposed in February 2011 had been agreed, would the council have needed to make more or less savings next month?

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

What is the view of the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety regarding the proposed police and fire station closures and cutbacks in the borough?

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ABDUL MOHAMED

How do current violent crime statistics in the borough compare to those before Labour took control and introduced its violent crime strategy?

35. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND OLYMPIC LEGACY FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the cabinet member provide an update on plans for moving Grove Vale library? Will the council commit to an end date for this process?

36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON

What is the target time for dealing with Blue Badge renewals in each of the last three years? What is the current waiting time for Blue Badge renewals? What was the estimated waiting time for customers applying to renew a Blue Badge in each of the past six months?

37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH & ADULT SOCIAL CARE FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK

How many adults in receipt of social care services will be transferred to personal budgets? How many of these transfers have been completed to date (broken down by month)? How many people have indicated a wish to keep council managed personal budgets?

38. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Which roads in Southwark have had their yellow lines replaced with restricted parking zones? How many fines have been issued in Clink Street, Winchester Square and Cathedral Street before and since it was designated as a restricted parking zone rather than a yellow line area?

39. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Given that the borough has in the past couple of years been suffering an unprecedented amount of road works carried out by a variety of organisations and contractors, would the cabinet member agree there is an issue with many of our streets looking more like patchwork quilts than well surfaced roads? Is he satisfied with the standards of reinstatement after works? What powers does the council have in respect of poor reinstatement, in conjunction with Transport for London when appropriate?

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

How many parking fines were issued in each of the last three financial years? How many of these fines were appealed? How many of these appeals were successful?

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

What is the average waiting time for households on each of the of the council's housing waiting list bands 1-4? Which waiting list band would a young person on probation be most likely to be included in? What is the average waiting time for young people on probation?