

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 23 JANUARY 2013

URGENT QUESTION

1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

In light of the publication of the Mayor's draft Police and Crime Plan for London on 9 January and the leader of the council's subsequent statement that the council is "working with the Met and MOPAC" to find alternative police front counter facilities to replace those affected in the plan, what is the leader doing to work creatively with the Metropolitan Police in identifying alternative premises?

RESPONSE

Southwark has been actively working with the Metropolitan Police to find alternative counter facilities. Most recently, Councillor Livingstone and I have met with Stephen Greenhalgh, the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime on 21 December 2012. In that meeting we made clear our commitment to work with the Mayor to find alternative premises in Southwark including suggesting a range of premises. The discussion included some ideas from Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) about sharing facilities with the council. We have asked officers to look at the practicalities of those suggestions.

To pay for premises, particularly ones not shared with the council, the Borough Commander will need to receive adequate funding from the Metropolitan Police. At the 9 January consultation meeting at City Hall, the Borough Commander stated that he would not be receiving a budget to do so.

This is the funding which has been slashed by this Tory/Liberal Democrat government and which local MP, Simon Hughes failed to vote against. While Simon Hughes and the Liberal Democrats believe that it's "wrong to say that more police equals less crime", Labour is getting on with finding solutions with the Metropolitan Police to keep people in Southwark safe.