

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 27 MARCH 2013

PUBLIC QUESTION TIME

1. QUESTION FROM LES ALDEN TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING

Following the recent decision to reduce the number of fire stations serving Southwark will the cabinet member agree to review the use of traffic calming measures on strategic routes in the borough, bearing in mind it is claimed that each road hump causes 10 second delay to emergency services?"

RESPONSE

The only research relating to delays to vehicles caused by road humps that officers are aware of is from the US. It is not felt this research is relevant to Southwark's road environment. Officers are unaware of any relevant research on this matter at this time.

There is sound research however that shows that for every 1mph speed reduction, there is a 5-6% reduction in personal injury accidents.

Southwark has not formally designated a strategic network for emergency services.

We rarely (if ever) implement 'road humps' on main roads. On main road, we use speed cushions which are less disruptive to emergency vehicles and buses.

However, whenever we propose implementation of a traffic calming scheme on any road in the borough, the emergency services are all consulted. They are not known to have objected to any traffic calming scheme in recent times. If the emergency services were to raise with me concerns as a result of the proposed reduced number of fire stations in the borough and its impact on response times, specifically in the context of traffic calming measures, I would welcome any opportunity to meet them to discuss these and consider measures to assist.