

<b>Item No.</b> 5.1.	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 10 July 2013	<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 JEFF HOOK**

How many green spaces on council owned estates are currently being considered as building plots?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL**

Would the leader of the council confirm that the council in principle is not opposed to the opening of free schools in the borough?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

Will the leader join me in praising the work of the council's anti-fraud team after it won an award for its work tackling social housing fraud?

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

What estimates has the council made about the number of new properties built in Southwark being sold to foreign investors?

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES**

What action is the council taking to meet demand for school places in the borough?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

Can the leader provide an update on the council's progress against the four identified priorities of the Health and Wellbeing Board?

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

Southwark now has the highest demand for food banks in London. The director of Pecan food bank in Peckham attributes this increase in demand to the government's benefit changes. Does the leader agree?

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

How much has been spent across the council departments on a) catering b) alcohol in each of last three years and specifically, how much was the total cost of the new mayor's reception this year?

**9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON**

Is he surprised that it has taken Southwark Liberal Democrat councillors three years to publicly criticise Simon Hughes MP for a decision he has taken in parliament?

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL BUKOLA**

What number of private sector homes does the council estimate to have a category one hazard? How many complaints and requests for assistance with private accommodation issues have been received in each of the last three years?

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

What are the latest employment levels in the borough?

**12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JONATHAN MITCHELL**

How many council homes do the council plan to build in each year between now and 2020?

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

What does the leader think will be the impact of the Conservative/Liberal Democrat's latest spending review on Southwark?

**14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Please will the council support the campaign to improve the 343 bus route and lobby Transport for London to improve services on that route?

**15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety confirm that a substantial part of the recent £750,000 capital allocation to support policing and community safety will remain available to the Dulwich area, to ensure resources, in the event that the new policing model for the south-west cluster is shown by the autumn review to require additional premises expenditure?

**16. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGHCOMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

What actions are being taken by Southwark council to address the very considerable impacts on local residents that will arise from the proposed Northern Line extension, and the shaft which is being constructed in Kennington Park, and with specific regard to:

1. The impact on Kennington tube station
2. The structural, planning, and parking control issues arising from the construction process
3. The impact of the construction process on the very important green space of Kennington Park?

**17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND ECONOMIC WELLBEING FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

What is the council doing about general improvements in the Peckham town centre area including Rye Lane and Peckham High Street, in particular shop fronts, and what steps are being taken to attract different retailers in this area, due

to the number of empty retail shops? Please confirm whether there is a lottery grant available to carry out these improvements?

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

What priority is the cabinet member giving to ensure that Fisher FC can return to the Surrey Docks Stadium?

**19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

How many leisure centre visits for swimming and other water-based activities were made to council run facilities between September 2011 and February 2012? How many were made between September 2012 and February 2013?

**20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

What role has the cabinet member played in securing Section 106 money for leisure facilities at the Elephant and Castle?

**21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE BOWMAN**

What objects belonging jointly to the South London Gallery and to the council art collection were being housed at the Cuming museum and/or adjacent buildings at the time of the fire?

**22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR ALTHEA SMITH**

Can she outline plans for events in Southwark for summer 2013?

**23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

As we approach the one year anniversary of the London 2012 Olympics, what work has the council undertaken to ensure Southwark has a lasting Olympic legacy?

**24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES**

Given their great achievements in recent years, can the cabinet member provide an update on the performance of Southwark's young people at this year's London Youth Games?

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

How will the Cuming Museum continue to carry out its exhibition and educational work while Walworth Town Hall is closed for the foreseeable future?

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

What action has the council taken to deliver on its promise of cutting the cost of meals on wheels?

**27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY**

What is her reaction to the latest available data from Guy's and St Thomas' which shows that the number of people in accident and emergency being seen within four hours has fallen to 94.38%, below the previous Labour government's target of 98% and below even the Tory/Liberal Democrat government's downgraded target of 95%?

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU**

What progress has the cabinet member made towards her commitment to create a new dedicated telephone line for people needing social care advice?

**29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN**

The cabinet member has recently taken on responsibility for public health. Can she comment on the level of public health funding for Southwark?

**30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH, ADULT SOCIAL CARE AND EQUALITIES FROM COUNCILLOR LINDA MANCHESTER**

How many adapted council properties are currently inhabited by persons without disabilities? What measures is the council taking to ensure that when adapted properties become available that persons with disabilities are given priority? How many adapted council properties have been authorised to be made 'un-adapted' in each of the last three years?

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

The report on a strategy for primary expansion was due to come to cabinet several months ago according to the forward plan. The latest plan moves the decision again until July. What is the reason for the delay?

**32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

How much has the council received from the government in each of the last three years for permanent expansion places in primary schools? How much has the council spent in each of the last three years and how much has the council carried over from year to year?

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

How many children have been excluded from each secondary school in Southwark in each of the last three years? What has been the reason recorded for their exclusion? How many students were sent home for disciplinary reasons in each month of the last three years?

**34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GETTLESON**

What is the number of children in care housed in private-run children's homes? What is the total cost to the council? What is the highest fee per child paid by the council to a private-run home?

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

What is the cabinet member doing to make the junction of George Row and Bermondsey Wall West safer?

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

What consideration has the council given to give relief from parking permit charges to vehicles with very low emissions, further to the existing relief for hybrid or electric vehicles? Will the council consider coming into line with Transport for London (for Congestion Charges) and HMRC (for vehicle excise duty) by giving a permit discount to vehicles emitting 100g/km or less of CO<sub>2</sub>?

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

How many parking penalty charge notices (PCNs) have been issued in the borough in each of the past three years? How many of these PCNs have been written off because of failure to collect the fine, and what are the primary reasons for fines not being collected on PCNs?

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

Will the cabinet member confirm that future paving repairs in Surrey Docks and Rotherhithe wards in areas with the brown-brick paving will, wherever possible, be replaced 'like with like', as agreed with the strategic director for environment and leisure in a site meeting on 7 May 2013 and in subsequent emails; thereby avoiding the use of tarmac that is eroding the character of the area?

**39. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL**

Can the cabinet member confirm the numbers of properties lost from and added to the housing stock in 2012-13, and set out how that compares with previous years?

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

Why were Tupman House, Bardell House, Macawber House and Wade House on the Dickens Estate not prioritised for door entry systems even though they had more reports of crime and anti-social behaviour than other blocks which were put forward, particularly given that the issues had already been raised by ward councillors and the police? Will the cabinet member review the situation in these blocks given that residents are suffering break-ins, rough sleepers and vandalism and provide door entry systems?

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

How many council tenants in Chaucer ward are currently in a state of overcrowding listed by bands 1-3 and what number of council tenants are currently under-occupying?

**42. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR PODDY CLARK**

How many council housing tenants have rejected offers to move to alternate council housing in each month in each of the last three years? What are the top three reasons given for refusal?

**43. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR COLUMBA BLANGO**

Why does the cabinet member believe only 35% of respondents in a recent satisfaction survey were satisfied with the council's housing complaint handling performance? What is he doing to make sure this performance improves over the next year?

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

Would the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management outline the steps taken by the council to promote the advantages to tenants arising from recent changes to the right to buy legislation?

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

What is the total amount of compensation paid out by the council in each of the past three years for personal injury, loss or damage? Please list the 10 largest payments and the reasons for these payments in each of the last three years.

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

Will the cabinet member provide a full list of every police constable, sergeant, inspector, chief inspector listed by ward and cluster, including their public contact details and their police base?

**47. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Would the cabinet member for finance, resources and community safety outline the steps the council is taking to reduce any need for a council tax increase in the near future, and to learn from good practice shown by low-tax London boroughs, with particular reference to shared services and the tri-borough initiative of Westminster, Kensington & Chelsea, and Hammersmith & Fulham?