

<b>Item No.</b> 5.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 26 March 2014	<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 ALTHEA SMITH**

By gender, ethnicity and pay-grade, will the leader of Southwark Council detail how many council posts and/or jobs have been added or lost since 2003 and of those posts and jobs how many individuals have been redeployed/made redundant?

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

What advice would the Leader give to residents with ongoing and regular noise complaints which the council's noise team are unable to monitor as they occur outside the team's operational hours?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY**

How many council homes have been sold or demolished in Southwark since 2010 and how does this compare with the number sold or demolished under the previous administration from 2002 to 2010?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHEN GOVIER**

Following statements by members of his cabinet to the council assembly (council tax setting meeting) on Wednesday 26 February 2014 - will the leader, for each year since 2003 and until 2043 list:

- a) The number of actual and proposed council homes (the council rented stock as local authority rented landlord)
- b) The number of affordable homes (homes deemed affordable to those with a median household income which in Southwark in 2008 was £16,800)
- c) The number of other social rented homes?

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

How many council homes were built in Southwark between 2002 and 2010?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS BROWN**

During the last administration the Taxpayers Alliance criticised the council for having a £5.05 million publicity bill – the highest borough in London. Can the leader confirm if this bill has gone down and by how much?

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

How does the leader think existing residents will benefit from the approval of the Blackfriars Road supplemental planning document (SPD)?

**8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

Following on from the success of National Apprenticeship Week, what are the leader's plans for expanding apprenticeships in Southwark and ensuring young people in the borough have access to education, training and employment opportunities?

**9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL NOBLET**

What action has the leader taken to help alleviate the issue of overseas buyers who buy up properties in Southwark and then leave them empty?

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

What effect have cuts in government support for childcare had on parents in Southwark?

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

Does the Leader agree with his Labour colleague, Councillor Gavin Edwards, that performance-related pay does not boost staff performance?

**12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS**

Can the leader provide the latest figures on the number of people the council has supported into work?

**13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL**

When is the council going to deliver the free childcare hours it voted to offer parents at January's council assembly?

**14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KEVIN AHERN**

Liberal Democrat councillors have accused the council of 'wasting money' on catering and taxi bills – can the leader confirm whether the council's bills for catering and taxis are higher or lower than under the previous administration?

**15. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Can the leader confirm whether there has been any realistic offer to take over the South Dock and Greenland Dock Marina from the council? If not, how does he see the future of this valuable asset?

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

Could the cabinet member list what measures are being taken to increase resident satisfaction with the quality of void properties and the numbers the council has turned around over the last four years?

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

Does he believe it is right that affordable housing payments negotiated as part of new developments in Bermondsey, such as the old town hall on Spa Road, should be taken out of the area and spent in communities over three miles away?

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

In the next 10 years, how many residents are you expecting to live in Rotherhithe and where will they go to school? What percentage of students of Bacon's College live in Rotherhithe?

**19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

In view of the up-coming "soft market testing" of the uses to which Dulwich Hospital site could be put, would the cabinet member for regeneration and corporate strategy outline the council's likely input to this process?

**20. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Given the recent closure of fire stations in the borough by the Mayor of London, will the council continue to pressure and lobby to regain more fire safety in the borough?

**21. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR SOANES (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Do leaseholders have any discretion when alterations are required to their property such as installing new windows and doors? Do leaseholders have to agree to works arranged by the council when they have not been consulted on options and cost implications?

**22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR TRANSPORT, ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING FROM COUNCILLOR MARK WILLIAMS (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

What steps are the council taking to make sure that drains and sewage works are maintained properly within the borough including those owned and operated by Thames Water?

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

What plans does he have to implement the Liberal Democrat Decent Homes Plus programme?

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

What proportion of repeat calls to the customer call centre are housing related?

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

How many empty homes are there in the borough? How many of these have been empty for more than a) six months and b) 18 months?

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

What was the total council housing stock in May 2010? What is it now?

**27. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

How many properties and, specifically, acquired street properties have been made 'warm, dry and safe' in each ward since 2010? What plans does the council have to complete these programmes?

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

What were the estimated and actual leaseholder service charges at the Four Squares Estate in each of the past three years available? What were the estimates for major works charges for each of the past three years?

**29. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR WILMA NELSON**

What is the council doing to tackle moss and slippery underfoot conditions in Gomm Road and other estates in Rotherhithe which are causing concern for residents? Will the cabinet member look at what can be done to improve this situation for residents?

**30. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR ROBIN CROOKSHANK HILTON**

Will the cabinet member please give an update on the current status of the warm, dry and safe works to the Lytcott Grove Estate. Why has this work been delayed?

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

Four years after promising to make every council home 'warm, dry and safe', why are there still ongoing damp and condensation problems in Southwark's housing blocks? What is it specifically doing to tackle the long-standing problems at the Arnold Estate?

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

Given the current housing shortage and increase in residents sub-letting council flats from council tenants, does the council have any plan to raise awareness amongst our residents of the dangers and implications of renting a council flat without the council's knowledge?

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

Could the cabinet member identify the checks that are in place to make sure that the council disposes of its empty properties wisely in accordance with its public duty?

**34. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR THE RIGHT REVEREND EMMANUEL OYEWOLE**

Will the cabinet member describe what help is put in place by the council to enable those residents who are impacted by welfare reform measures to downsize their accommodation?

**35. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE**

Could the cabinet member comment on the success of the current annual tenancy checks in relation to identifying the amount of illegal occupancy uncovered to date, and on the cross-council departmental working to tackle internal fraud as identified by the Bundu case?

**36. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING MANAGEMENT FROM COUNCILLOR NORMA GIBBES**

Could the cabinet member detail what are the plans for the council's implementation of fixed service charges to offer leaseholders cost certainty year on year?

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

Following complaints I have received about the redacting of information on service charge breakdowns does the deputy leader and cabinet member for housing management agree with me that at least where elected members raise works orders which are chargeable back and result in additional charges to leaseholders, they should be named as a matter of course for transparency in service charge breakdowns?

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

How much has been deducted by the council from payments to the major works contractors at Whitworth House and Bramwell House for failing to complete works to specification and schedule? What has been the result of the discussions regarding compensation for residents? Can the council assure leaseholders that there will be no further costs to them for major works on this project?

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

How many incidents of theft of electrical and fire safety equipment have there been from council housing in each of the last three years?

**40. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR MARK GLOVER**

How many new council homes are currently on site or have planning permission?

**41. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR PATRICK DIAMOND**

Can the cabinet member provide an update on funding allocated to open spaces around the Elephant and Castle regeneration area?

**42. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN HAYES**

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the number of new homes that have been given planning permission in Southwark since 2010?

**43. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA**

Is the cabinet sufficiently prepared to deal with flooding in Southwark in light of government cuts to funding for local flood authorities?

**44. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the council's use of Article 4 planning directions to curb the growth of betting shops and payday lenders?

**45. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES**

Can the cabinet member provide an update on the regeneration in Peckham, including the Gateway to Peckham project and town centre improvements?

**46. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE HICKSON**

How many empty homes has the council helped bring back into use since 2010?

**47. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND CORPORATE STRATEGY FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL**

How many affordable homes have been built in Southwark since 2010?

**48. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR ROWENNA DAVIS**

Can the cabinet member provide an update on what the council is doing to combat domestic violence in the borough?

**49. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, RESOURCES AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DENISE CAPSTICK**

What is the cabinet member's view about investing the staff pension fund into new homes for market rent or sale, similar to the scheme already undertaken by Manchester City Council?

**50. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CULTURE, LEISURE, SPORT AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR JEFF HOOK**

What has the council done to ensure work at Southwark Park athletics track gets underway, other than putting out a press release? When will the track be brought back into use?

**51. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL KYRIACOU**

What is the future of the Blue Anchor Playroom premises? What plans does the council have to sell the site to private nursery providers or other buyers?

**52. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN'S SERVICES FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

The council predicts that some 18 forms of entry for secondary school pupils are needed by September 2019. While recognising that secondary pupil place planning is carried out on a borough-wide basis, what evidence has the council collected on supply and demand in each of the five community council areas - especially those facing major regeneration projects - as a basis for ensuring that children do not have to travel long distances to schools in other parts of the borough or outside the borough?

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

How many complaints have there been about the conduct of vehicles operated by the council and its contractors since 1 January 2011? Please list details of each complaint, including the date and the action taken by the council.

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

How many new cycle stands does the council intend to install across the borough this year?

**55. QUESTION TO THE CHAIR OF OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FROM COUNCILLOR TOBY ECKERSLEY**

Would the chair of overview and scrutiny committee (OSC) outline progress on considering, and helping implementation of, measures to reduce the unfairness faced by leaseholders to be displaced by the regeneration of the Aylesbury Estate, notably as exemplified by their representations to OSC on 10 March 2014?