

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 21 JANUARY 2015

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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

The 'Community Conversation' budget consultation document lists all the areas where the council spends money but fails to mention cabs, catering or consultants. Please could the leader tell me how much has been spent on these in each of the last three years?

RESPONSE

The Liberal Democrats and their Conservative masters have made brutal cuts across local government, targeting those with the most need like Southwark. It is shameful that rather than condemning government ministers like the MP for Bermondsey and Old Southwark, Southwark Liberal Democrats are still hanging on to the idea that there is money sloshing around in Southwark if only the administration was more prudent.

The Liberal Democrats have asked questions like this before, and I am surprised they keep going as the figures show huge waste under them and sensible spending under Labour. We will keep working hard to keep these costs low, but the Liberal Democrats really need to wake up and realise that the crisis in local government finance is one of profligate spending when they ran the council, and slashing essential services now they run the country. It is up to Labour to sort out their mess.

The table below shows the total spend figure for taxi transport (excluding VAT).

Financial year	Administration	Cost £000
2007/08	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	226
2008/09	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	222
2009/10	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	246
2010/11	Labour	195
2011/12	Labour	65
2012/13	Labour	52
2013/14	Labour	64
2014/15 (Estimate for year)	Labour	56

The table below shows the total spend on catering.

Financial year	Administration	Cost £000
2007/08	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	2,765
2008/09	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	1,765
2009/10	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	1,179
2010/11	Labour	913
2011/12	Labour	750
2012/13	Labour	586
2013/14	Labour	450
2014/15 (Estimate for Year)	Labour	425

The table below shows the total spend on consultants.

Financial year	Administration	Cost £000
2007/08	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	12,600
2008/09	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	11,900
2009/10	Liberal Democrat/Conservative	11,900
2010/11	Labour	7,200
2011/12	Labour	5,300
2012/13	Labour	3,100
2013/14	Labour	2,700
2014/15 (Estimate for year)	Labour	2,700

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Thank you Mr Mayor; maybe he will answer this question because I didn't get an answer just then to whether any of that money would be spent on the people around Chambers Wharf, and I think it is really important. I will pursue by email and maybe I will get a reply to my email because I did not get a reply; and I have started this meeting with an apology that he does not reply.

So my next supplemental Mr Mayor, is around the cost of cabs and catering; and I noticed that in the budget consultation with residents there was not even the courtesy to tell them how much the council spends on cabs and catering, which is why I have to keep answering the question. In his answer, he suggests that I should never dare ask because the Liberal Democrats spends money on these things, but actually I believe that any money spent on these things when we are cutting vital front line services, is a waste of money and just for members in the room who don't know, when I first became Leader of the Opposition and kept being told about these terrible government coalition cuts, I was invited with the leader of the council to go and lobby government ministers, and they asked us if we could get a taxi together; so let me tell you this council does not know about waste and saving money.

Last night there was an event at which there were sandwiches and I would like to know whether those sandwiches and refreshments at the event last night were sponsored, because if they weren't it seems to me it's a good way of the council saving money and if there were we ought to do it more so that we don't spend half a million quid a year on council sandwiches?

RESPONSE

You know I – it really does come to something, doesn't it? I think I've got to reflect on that first. I think Councillor Al-Samerai is talking about the Housing Heroes Awards, where we recognise those tenants who have really given to their estates and their communities and she is saying should not have a sandwich when they come to be congratulated. Shame on her, shame on her – is she really saying that? She is! But there we are.

Look, this is a persistent theme; she keeps asking questions about sandwiches and taxis. Let's just put that together, if we got rid of that that would be £480,000 ok, well, that's an amount of money. But that is nothing compared to the £33 million that we are having to find in savings in our budget this year. It is nothing to the £120 million we have had to find since 2010.

And what I would also draw her attention to, I would also point out that in terms of spend, if we go back to the last Liberal Democrat year we now spend 22.5% of what they spent on taxis and transport; we now spend 35% of what they spent on catering in their last year; 35% and if you compare it to their glory days of 2007-8, we spend 15% of what they were spending when they were in office, and we spend 22.5% on what they last spent on consultants.

We will take absolutely no lessons, and I will certainly take no lessons from Councillor Al-Samerai, on efficiency. We are an efficient council that's continuing to deliver for the people of this borough; if she wants our tenants to go without sandwiches we will put it on a leaflet and tell them. What a disgrace, what a disgrace! Shame on her; shame on her.

POINT OF PERSONAL EXPLANATION FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

A point of clarification please I did not say they should not have the sandwiches, I asked a question about whether they were sponsored, I was making a suggestion about sponsoring which would save the council money and that is the reaction to a sensible suggestion about saving money. It was about sponsoring a reception; it is a perfectly normal thing to do and it would actually save the council half a million quid which I do not think is nothing.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE LYONS

Could the leader provide an update on any communications he has sent or received and actions he has taken over the last six months regarding the future of the Dulwich Hospital Site?

RESPONSE

The council has made clear that it wishes to see a new secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site. In July 2014, cabinet noted the projected shortfall of secondary places and indicated their wish for a secondary school to open on the hospital site. In October 2014, cabinet also agreed that the use of the site for a new secondary school should be included in the new Southwark Plan.

We have supported both the Charter and Haberdasher Askes bids to open a secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site and we understand that the Education Funding Agency (EFA) will make a decision in March 2015. The acquisition of the site is the responsibility of the EFA but officers are monitoring progress and updates will be provided to cabinet later in the spring.

In the last six months, the council has had a range of meetings including with the EFA, Harris Federation, Haberdasher Askes, Charter School and the NHS.

In addition I have written to the EFA offering my support for Haberdashers Askes, and provided a quote of support for Charter to use in their application.

In June I wrote to the Education Secretary regarding the Dulwich Hospital site and confirmed my view that there should be a secondary school on that site.

Since then I have written to Lord Harris asking to meet with him about their role in education in the borough which includes standards in their current schools and their desire to build a Nunhead Primary school on the site.

I have met with and received letters from Dame Tessa Jowell MP about the work she is doing with ministers to secure a secondary school for this site. I have also been copied into letters from parents writing to the Department for Education in support of a secondary school on the site.

Councillor Mills, in her role as cabinet member for children and schools, has also had a range of meetings and correspondence on the hospital site including a meeting with the EFA just this Monday and a meeting with the Charter Educational Trust tomorrow.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Is the leader concerned about the increase in accident and emergency waiting times and cancelled operations in local hospitals and the affect this is having on Southwark residents?

RESPONSE

Yes.

The government's cuts and top-down reorganisation of the NHS is having an impact on local people and our healthcare. This is not only through their management of the NHS, but also the huge pressure they are putting on local authority budgets which means that Southwark has less money available to pay for things like adult care services.

The coalition government's disastrous management of the health service also means that people are waiting longer for treatment. At King's College Hospital for example, one in five patients wait more than 18 weeks from referral to treatment – despite the excellent staff who are working incredibly hard to serve the health of our community.

In the last year, over 1,500 operations in the King's College Hospital NHS Trust and 600 at Guys and St Thomas's have been cancelled at the last minute for non-clinical reasons. This is over 2,000 who have been left waiting for an operation only for it to be cancelled at the last minute. In the last year King's have failed to meet their A&E waiting time target every quarter of 95% of patients being seen within four hours.

Government cuts are now creating more expensive and longer term problems for people with health and care needs. The government is putting the NHS through a complex and costly reform, whilst at the same time starving local councils of cash. This is creating pressure and impacting on the health and wellbeing of our residents. As with many of the government's policies it will hit vulnerable people the hardest.

The only reason things are not worse is because of the hard work that doctors, nurses and all the NHS staff put in, putting patients first and working to make sure that people are protected as much as possible from this heartless government.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE

Thank you Mr Mayor, and can I thank the Leader for the detailed answer and yes, I do have a supplementary.

Can I ask the leader if he will commend the NHS workforce for dealing with the constant pressure that they have always had to deal with, but that has rocketed since 2010? Can I ask the leader if he agrees that our Liberal Democrat MP in Bermondsey and Old Southwark has failed to serve the people of Bermondsey and Old Southwark and has instead served his Conservative paymasters? Can I ask if he agrees the NHS is in a perilous state, not because of the decision taken ten years ago by Blair, which is a fixation of some councillors on the other side, but for specific decisions taken since 2010 including the scrapping of NHS Direct, the 20% shortfall in paramedics in the London Ambulance Service and the 2100 cancelled operations in the last year in local hospitals alone; things that weren't happening in 2010?

Can I ask if the Leader agrees that the Liberal Democrats appears to have learnt nothing from the local election results last May, which the Evening Standard describes as them being 'pulverised'; instead talking about sandwiches when we are trying to talk about the future of the NHS? And finally, Mr Mayor, can I ask if the leader agrees Labour must win in May if Bermondsey and Old Southwark is to get the £2.5 billion investment for more doctors and nursing care workers that our community desperately needs, and we hear people talking about, week in, week out, on the door step while you are busy shuffling sandwiches in other meetings?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Coyle for his brief supplemental question with sub parts; I have thought about it carefully. I agree with all of his questions but most of all I agree that he will make a much better MP and representative for Bermondsey and Old Southwark on 7 May.

But there is a vitally important point that he has highlighted and that is about the NHS in crisis at this time. You can talk all you want about decisions that were taken under the Labour government but we did not see A&E in crisis during the period of a Labour government; in fact we have only seen A&E in crisis under this Conservative/Liberal Democrat government, just as the way we saw A&E in crisis and our NHS in crisis up to 1997, and the only lesson that we can draw and the only lesson that our residents can draw is that the NHS is only safe with a Labour government.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

How many new homes at council rent currently have planning permission and, of these, how many have been built and how many are occupied?

RESPONSE

This administration's ambitious target to build 11,000 new council homes is, we believe, the biggest anywhere in the country. These will be council homes, at council rents, and are part of our contribution to tackling the housing pressure which London currently faces.

We are committed to building the first 1,500 by 2018. Of those homes:

33 have been built and are occupied. There are no homes which have been built and not occupied.

198 have got planning permission and are either under construction or awaiting construction to begin. This is phase 1 of our direct delivery programme and represents 60% of the total build in phase 1.

In addition phase 2 will deliver a large number of new council homes at council rents. In phase 2 we have identified approximately 500 sites. Feasibility studies have been commissioned and officers are reviewing the reports as they come in. The final number of units and the split of new council homes at council rents delivered will be subject to further development of these schemes and planning.

There are also additional sites (not included above) that also have the potential to deliver new council homes that could be developed through joint partnership arrangements.

Examples include:

- Albion Street Library and Civic Centre
- Albion Street Health Centre site
- Braganza Street Workshops
- Southampton Way/Sedgmoor Place site
- Copeland Road car park
- Manor Place Shops

In addition there are many new homes with housing associations which charge social rent – the equivalent to council rent. The table below shows the total completed each year which charge social rent this includes the new council homes built.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Completed	16	466	450	298	1,230

Planning permission has also been granted for new homes. The council does not keep a break down of planning permissions for different types of affordable home. The table below shows the total planning permissions per year for affordable housing social rent/affordable rent/intermediate. The numbers are gross and include any direct delivery council housing.

	2010/11	2011/12	2012/13	2013/14	Total
Planning	120	340	382 (plus 600 outline Planning Permission)	361 (plus 500 outline Planning Permission)	1,203 (plus 1,100 outline Planning Permission)

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Thank you Mr Mayor and I thank the Leader for his answer which is quite comprehensive, and I realise in a way that I asked a slightly misleading question as I asked about property at council rents, and you have included in your information the housing association properties which are also set at council rents.

I wondered if you could tell me the programme of building 11,000 new council homes is it going to be 11,000 new council homes at council rents, not including any affordable housing that we would otherwise, so could the leader guarantee that all 11,000 will be new council homes; it will not include the percentage of affordable homes that we would have got anyway with a new development, and it doesn't include any council homes that are being replacement for council homes that are being knocked down?

RESPONSE

It is 11,000 new council homes at council rent owned by the council and let at council rents and under council terms and I can also guarantee that it will be a Labour council delivering those 11,000 new council homes over the next 28 years. It might not be me as Leader seeing that 11,000 council homes, but I do hope, Mr Mayor, that whoever it is will invite me back together with colleagues here to see that 11,000th council home's door opened and new council tenants welcomed in.

It could not be a clearer commitment. The Liberal Democrats are always looking for something behind it; some secret plan; something that's not quite – you know, I think it's probably because, as a party, if you say something and then do something completely different you expect every other political party to behave in that way, whereas Labour in Southwark says exactly what we do. Could not be clearer.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON

Can the leader confirm how much Southwark's spending power will be reduced following the government's announcement of additional funding cuts in the 2015 financial settlement?

RESPONSE

As part of the governments provisional grant settlement announced before Christmas, the minister announced an 'average' reduction in spending power across the country of 1.8%. For London the average was 3.4%; and for inner London the average was 5%.

The minister's calculation fails to take into account the Better Care Fund (which is clearly not Local Government's money at this time). If this is excluded then the average would have shot up to 8.8%, again with the metropolitan unitaries and the most deprived parts especially being disproportionately affected.

In 2015/16 and using the Government's calculations again, Southwark will be the second most badly affected London borough with a stated spending power loss of £21.2m (5.9%) in cash terms. Only Hackney with real term loss of £21.5m (6.3%) in cash fares worse – and this is before we take the Better Care Fund out of the equation. This is before pay awards, inflation and demand pressures are taken into account. In contrast leafy Surrey received a 3.1% increase.

Cabinet will next week receive a report on budget proposals to deal with these reductions in 2015/16. In line with reports that we have received through the year, I am expecting a report that will have to deal with cash loss through the Settlement Funding Assessment (SFA) in cash terms of around £33m for next year.

In the chancellor's autumn statement we were advised that we face more of the same in the period to 2020, although we have no firm idea as to how this will be distributed.

I have met with the minister personally together with my Cabinet Member colleague and the council will continue to make representations.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON

Thank you Mr Mayor, and thank you to the Leader for your very detailed and, it has to be said, sobering answer to my question which was of course about the government announcement of additional funding cuts in 2015 financial settlement, and if we have learnt anything here this evening, it is that this Labour administration is delivering incredible, incredible things for the residents of Southwark despite an extremely challenging national political environment; so my question to you this evening is that the government cuts funding this year mean that the council will lose £160 for every household in this borough – how does this compare with other boroughs across the country?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Anderson for her supplementary question and it is a really sobering point. And you know later tonight and in February we will be looking at the budget, and it really is important to bear in mind the way in which Southwark and other Labour boroughs, in particular those boroughs representing some of the most deprived communities in our country, have been hit hardest by this government. You know, there is simply no fairness as I can see to the way in which this has been approached. You are right; we are losing £160 per household, on top of effectively £250 per person that we have lost up to now; £160 per household this year. Now, just two contrasts: in that hotbed of deprivation, Wokingham, they have seen this year a £49 increase in their spending power this year; and in Surrey as a whole, a £56 per household increase this year. Now, tell me how that is fair.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

What is the council doing to ensure that equal priority status and housing need points are awarded to people with mental health illnesses as to those with physical medical conditions? When was the last review of medical assessment procedures carried out, and what was the outcome?

RESPONSE

For the assessment of housing needs and associated medical needs the council is required to follow housing legislation and the case law that has subsequently developed. The case law test case is R v Camden Council LBC ex p Pereira 1998, which established that vulnerability and severe medical needs means an applicant being “less able to fend for himself than an ordinary homeless person so that injury or detriment to him will result, where a less vulnerable man/woman will be able to cope without harmful effects.” The starting position therefore is that the applicant has become, or will become, street homeless. It does not turn (as had been suggested in some earlier cases) on his/her ability to fend for him/herself while still housed. All councils across England are required to follow this case law. Southwark Council complies with this case law.

Part VI of the 1996 Housing Act section 167 (e) and the code of guidance for the allocation of affordable accommodation issued by central government in July 2012, also contains a strict framework for all councils across England to follow. The guidance is clear that the local authority must assist people who need to move on medical or welfare grounds (the criteria may apply to any member of the household) for example, a customer's mental illness or disorder, a physical or learning disability, chronic or progressive medical conditions (e.g. multiple sclerosis, HIV/AIDS), infirmity due to old age, the need to give or receive care, the

need to recover from the effects of violence or threats of violence, or physical, emotional or sexual abuse, the ability to fend for themselves, young people at risk, people with behavioural difficulties, the need for adapted housing and/or extra facilities (e.g. a bedroom or bathroom), the need for improved heating (on medical grounds), the need for sheltered housing (on medical grounds), the need for ground floor accommodation (on medical grounds), the need to be near friends/relatives or medical facilities, or the need to move following hospitalisation or long term care. Southwark's new housing allocations scheme complies with these criteria.

The council is therefore required to provide reasonable preference through the Housing Allocations scheme to customers who have a severe medical need, welfare award or disability (including learning disability) where the current accommodation is unsuitable or it is unreasonable to remain in occupation. This can include where an applicant's condition is terminal and re-housing is required to provide the basis for the provision of suitable care, or the applicant's condition is life threatening and their existing accommodation is a major contributory factor. It may also include applicants whose health is so severely affected by the accommodation that it is likely to become life threatening, for example, where an applicant has significant mental health problems which are exacerbated by their accommodation. Southwark's housing allocations scheme awards priority Band 2 status for these customers and therefore complies with the 1996 Housing Act.

Southwark's housing allocations scheme was reviewed throughout 2012 and 2013, and a new scheme was adopted in December 2013. The medical assessment criteria comply with legislative framework mentioned above. The scheme commenced on 4 September 2014 and a review of its impact is currently being considered as part of a six-month review. This will be concluded during the first half of 2015. The medical priority status has been considered as part of this review process.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Thank you to the Leader for your, again, quite comprehensive answer.

You go into quite a lot of detail how medical priority status works in the borough for housing allocations. The question is specifically about the difference between physical and mental health issues; and I just wondered whether the Leader will join me in welcoming the steps that the Liberal Democrats have taken in government to put mental health and physical health on an equal footing, to invest money in mental health facilities and services but also most crucially to ensure that service provision across the board is delivered on an equal footing to both mental health and physical health, including the housing allocations policy here in Southwark?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor McCallum for his supplemental question, which raises a really important issue.

I am not familiar with what the government's current pledge is, but I know that we in Southwark have committed to regarding mental health as equally serious as physical disabilities, mental health issues, and that absolutely remains a constant of this council and of this administration. So I think my answer deals with how we look at mental health, as one of those factors which is taken into account in assessing somebody's allocation needs, and I think we already affectively give it equal status to some of the other issues.

You will know from your own ward and your own case work that we do have people with mental health issues living in council housing, because they are those quite often in the greatest need. So we do support those in need and those with mental health issues in the community, and we will continue to do so.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Following the successful launch of the women's safety charter last month, can the leader tell me how many venues in Southwark have signed up to the charter?

RESPONSE

In December we delivered a key manifesto pledge by launching the successful Women's Safety Charter to help protect women against harassment in bars and clubs in the borough. This groundbreaking initiative, led by Southwark's deputy cabinet member for women's safety, Cllr Radha Burgess, demonstrates our commitment to the important issue of women's safety. We want to show that harassment of women and girls is not acceptable and this new charter is our commitment to promoting a culture where women's safety is taken seriously.

At present 30 licensed premises in Southwark have signed up to the council's Women's Safety Charter, pledging to take action against harassment of women in their venues, including some of the largest venues in the borough such as the Ministry of Sound and The Coronet. A further five venues have indicated their commitment and are expected to sign the Charter by the end of January.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Thank you Mr Mayor and I want to thank the Leader for this response. I want to also congratulate the council for a successful launch of the women's safety charter last month.

My question is what further work does the Leader think that the council would need to do to promote important issues of women's safety?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Akoto for her supplemental question and again I think it is useful of me to take this opportunity while I am standing here to commend Councillor Burgess and the work she has done leading the introduction of the women's safety charter. You know, it is pioneering work and I think all of us on all sides – I was very grateful to see members on opposite sides applauding at that.

That is really leading work and I think we should be proud of the stance that we are taking in our borough on this. We could do more of course in getting more venues to sign up to the women's safety charter, and of course Councillor Burgess, together with Councillor Situ, are working on the domestic violence strategy at this present time, in a bid to ensure that women do feel they can properly report domestic violence – well, all victims of domestic violence – but in terms of making women safer in our community. And I think again it underlines that we are on the side of sometimes those whose voices are not heard within our community, those who don't feel they can speak out. I can really say that I am really proud to work that we have all done to play that leading role in Southwark.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

How many long-term empty and second homes in Southwark have been charged full council tax or the Empty Home Premium since April 2013? What is the total number of second and empty homes in the borough broken down by tenure type?

RESPONSE

Since 1 April 2013, 979 second homes have been charged the full council tax (100%) and 536 long-term empty homes have been charged a council tax premium (150%).

It is not possible to break this down by tenure type.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

How does the council tax collection rate being set this for 2015/16 compare to the council's performance in previous years?

RESPONSE

The council tax base report being presented to council assembly tonight recommends a council tax collection rate of 96.75%.

Under this administration, council tax collection rates have been rising. In 2013/14 the introduction of the council tax support scheme impacted on our collection rates which went down slightly, although we still exceeded our target and continue to do so.

Since taking control of the council we have raised the collection rate to 96.25% in 2012/13 and to 96.5% in 2014/15 and are now proposing a further rise to 96.75% in the coming year. In each year our actual collection has exceeded this level.

Under the previous Liberal Democrat/Conservative administration we had the third worst council tax collection rate in the country. This administration has turned this around and our aspiration is to continue improving.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the leader provide a breakdown of spend so far of the council's £2 million capital funding for cycling improvements?

RESPONSE

The £2 million cycle infrastructure fund is budgeted for expenditure over 4 years. Current spend is £13,000. The funding is expected to mainly be directed to the proposed Southwark Spine cycle route, which is currently under consultation as part of the borough's new Cycle Strategy, which accounts for the limited expenditure so far.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANNE KIRBY

Can the leader give an update on the council's plans to build 1,500 new council homes by 2018?

RESPONSE

The council has ambitious plans to build 1,500 council homes by 2018.

837 homes have been already been scheduled as part of Phase 1 and Phase 2 of the wider direct delivery programme. Phase 1 includes 332 homes of which 198 (60%) were council homes for council rents. Phase 1 has planning permission and the majority are now on site. Feasibility studies have been carried out on Phase 2 and are being reviewed prior to further scheme development and resident consultation. We are working to ensure that Phase 2 also delivers a substantial number of new council homes at council rents, which will also go towards the total 1,500 new council homes and expect to make an announcement about this in due course.

In addition a number of sites have been identified that also have the potential to deliver new council homes that could be developed through joint partnership arrangements. Examples include:

- Albion Street Library and Civic Centre
- Albion Street Health Centre site
- Braganza Street Workshops
- Southampton Way/Sedgmoor Place site
- Copeland Road car park
- Manor Place Shops.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

Can the leader explain how the additional funding recently awarded to Southwark Council through the government's transformation challenge programme will be used to help more residents back into work?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council, in partnership with Lambeth and Lewisham councils, has secured £1.1 million from the government's Transformation Challenge Award to deliver our Pathways to Employment programme in 2015/16. This is in addition to the £150,000 that was secured to launch the pilot in 2014/15.

Pathways to Employment supports Southwark residents with the greatest needs into employment.

The funding will be used to support key target groups from welfare into work and so helps deliver our commitment to support 5,000 local people into jobs.

Residents supported will include:

- Young people (18-24)
- Older people (over 50s)
- Lone parents
- People with physical health issues and learning disabilities
- People with mental health issues.

Support includes the provision of key workers who will work with clients to deliver support specific to their individual needs. Support will continue beyond the point at which work is secured to ensure that clients adjust to the world of work and sustain employment.

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

What support is the council providing to carers in the light of recent government cuts?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council commissions a Carers Hub that provides carers with information, advice and support. The Carers Hub offers carers assessments and provides carers' budgets for those eligible. They also run groups with peer support and counselling.

From April 2015 in line with the Carers Strategy and Care Act 2104, Southwark Council will be investing further in carers' services and will be commissioning:

1. An information and advice service
2. An outreach service
3. A health and wellbeing service
4. In-house carer team to carry out carers' assessments, support plans and reviews.

This administration is taking every step to try and protect those most in need and most vulnerable from the savage cuts of this heartless Liberal Democrat/Conservative government. We have therefore not cut back on carers' services and going forward we are committed to significant additional investment in order to reach out to many more carers, to support them in the critical role they undertake.

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

I am going to thank the Leader for his answer to my question, clearly in lights of the cuts and you have outlined how we support those carers in the borough, can I ask you to explain to us why it is important to continue to support carers in Southwark?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Seaton for his supplementary question on behalf of Borough, Bankside and Walworth community council. Well I think we have heard some of it already earlier this evening and indeed with Councillor Situ's speech.

Carers are our ultimate volunteers in a way. They are the ones who are saving our health service and our community and our council untold millions of pounds each year in terms of the support that they are giving to friends or relatives and that is why we should not take carers for granted because they are such an important part of our community. They enable our community to keep operating quite frankly, as I say I think we have kind of touched on it in the debate earlier on in the sense of the role of volunteering the key role that continues to play and I am very proud again of the work that we do, some of the pioneering work that we do as a council to support our carers within our community and I only hope that we will be able to continue to have the resources that we need as a council to carry on providing that really important job.

14. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What is the council doing to address the stereotyping of young people by businesses?

RESPONSE

We are acutely aware of how the needs of young people have been abandoned by central government, that is why I am proud of how this administration have been proactive in our efforts to deal with this issue.

The Youth Fund is a £1 million a year council programme created specifically to assist young residents to remain in education, training or find employment.

The SEEDS project, delivered as part of the Youth Fund programme, provides a wage incentive to employers to create a job or apprenticeship opportunity for Southwark's young people at London Living Wage. The job or apprenticeship must be guaranteed for 12 months coupled with the employer committing to supporting the young person to find alternative employment if the job cannot be guaranteed after a year.

This new innovative offers support and guidance to young people from disadvantaged backgrounds including NEETS and care leavers. SEEDS also form an integral link between employers and young people, encouraging incentives for businesses to employ young people from disadvantaged backgrounds with secure, well paid employment.

The Getting Ready for Work (GRW) project, also part of the Youth Fund, provides tailored programmes to improve the core skills for young people in the modern world of work. GRW works in tandem with SEEDS to provide a pathway of support for Southwark's young people.

Both projects link closely with Southwark Works, which offers a range of support services for young people, including interview preparation and CV writing skills. Southwark Works has an employer engagement service that works with employers to understand their recruitment needs and prepares candidates to fill these vacancies.

The EBA (Education Business Alliance) works with a range of businesses across a diverse range of industries delivering high quality work related learning programmes and activities to Southwark Schools. Through these activities we aim to increase young people's skill sets, and alter the employers' perception of Southwark young people through positive engagement.

<http://www.southwarkeba.org.uk/>

EBA has worked with over 1,950 employers over the past year (mainly work experience), 3,548 work-related activities for secondary pupils and 424 primary school pupils are currently being mentored.

Mind Your Own Business encourages young people to apply for a £5,000 business bursary enabling them to kick start the setting up of their own business.

The project began over three years ago and to date 27 businesses have been established in the borough by young people aged 16 to 25 years of age.

Each young person also receives three years business support from London Youth Support Trust who specialise in helping young people establish their own business.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES, EMPLOYMENT AND BUSINESS FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thank you Mr Mayor and many thanks to the Deputy Leader for answering my question.

I do have a supplementary. What further work can we do as a council to ensure that young people are both consulted and included in the development of future provision of council services across our borough?

RESPONSE

Thank you Mr Mayor, I would like to thank Councillor Williams for that supplemental question, it is one which obviously I could not have written better myself. I do think that we saw an absolute display this evening, a perfect display, a perfect example from those two young women that addressed this assembly earlier this evening of the talent we have amongst our young people in our community.

This is a young borough, this is a young borough in terms of its population, obviously I am an exception as is Councillor Smith and others in the Chamber as he reminded me in the Labour group earlier on, but the fact is if our services don't reflect the needs and concerns of young people then we are not delivering the right services for this borough. It is as simple as that and that's why I am very proud that as the Leader, I was at the fore front sponsoring the child care commission because we have to start at the earliest ages and work that through and from the debate we have had this evening in terms of health and care, then that all links up together.

But I also see this from a political angle as well. We had a classic display of engaging young people last year through the Scottish referendum and we talked about lowering the age of voting to sixteen and I have always supported that and we saw the display in Scotland where young people in schools were debating actively the issues around that referendum process and I think Scotland as a whole and the United Kingdom as a whole has benefited from that and as soon as it comes to Westminster elections the better, and that's why our youth council needs to be empowered more and we need to get them more engaged in the scrutiny process, through determining what services this council provides for young people. So yes we have started, it is work in progress, there is more to do, but this council as it does with other policies and services we have heard about this evening, is at the fore front and we will be at the fore front to engaging young people more. Thank you.

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PARKS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Could the cabinet member please provide an update on progress with Greendale and securing the future of Dulwich Hamlet Football Club?

RESPONSE

We are committed to making better use of Greendale Fields and have been exploring options to bring forward plans that enable residents and the public to make good use of the open space there.

Further to the public consultation where we invited views on usage and people's aspirations for the open space, we are now in on-going discussions with Hadley Homes regarding the lease held by the club / Hadley Homes on Greendale. Although we believe that there is common ground that Greendale, other than the astroturf, should remain a green space but be properly maintained, it is important to make sure that this progresses.

We will therefore continue to proceed to secure control of Greendale and continue to work with the club owners and its supporters to deliver a sustainable financially sound future for Dulwich Hamlet FC.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

How does the council plan to ensure that future regenerations within Peckham and Nunhead are sustainable?

RESPONSE

At last October's cabinet we agreed the New Southwark Plan where we have set out how we will deliver further regeneration and wider improvements in Southwark in the years to come. The main purpose of the planning system, reflected through the New Southwark Plan is to achieve sustainable development.

We will work with our partners to improve the economic, social and environmental conditions of Peckham and Nunhead, including through ensuring that there is sufficient land of the right type available to support growth and innovation; creating high quality built environments with accessible local services that support community needs; and, by protecting and enhancing the natural, built and historic environment.

We will also encourage sustainable transport choices for local people by prioritising walking, cycling and usage of public transport networks. We are committed to reducing congestion and pollution in the borough by reducing the need for trips by motorised vehicles, and are working to make cycling more accessible for all with our borough Cycling Strategy.

We appreciate that there is not a one size fits all approach to sustaining and enhancing town centres and this is why we are engaging the community on proposals for Peckham Rye Station and Peckham Square, to ensure that changes in this area receive local support and realise our commitment to sustainable regeneration.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thank you Mr Mayor and I would also like to thank the Cabinet Member for Regeneration for such a comprehensive answer. I do have a supplemental

question and on behalf of residents I would like to ask how the council plans to involve local residents in future on the sustainability of future regeneration.

RESPONSE

Thank you Mr Mayor and thank you Councillor Situ for your supplemental. I think with delivering regeneration projects across the borough but particularly in Peckham and Nunhead we have obviously adopted the Peckham Nunhead area action plan at the last council assembly meeting to make those developments sustainable in each degree, from an energy efficient point of view, we need to have active travel, walking and cycling at the heart of that, also more public transport, also high quality public spaces that people are proud of and can use on a regular basis and also making sure that they are maintained on a regular basis. I am working closely with Councillor Merrill on that to make sure that continues long into the future.

It is also really important I think and a view point on community engagement, is making sure that we get it right, because many of the regeneration programmes and projects in this borough are putting right mistakes that were made forty or fifty years ago and at the end of the day if we get it right now if we think you know when we rebuild for a one hundred years then we can get it right now, then our successors on the council won't have to in twenty eight years time when 11,000 council homes have been opened, they will not be tearing down the ones we are building at the moment because we will be getting it right now and at the highest possible quality, so I think it is absolutely crucial that people are consulted. We had the successful co-design programme down at Peckham Rye station. The co-design process has now moved down to the future of Peckham Square, so anything we can do to engage with people. Picking up another of Councillor Williams' point, is making sure that young people and a broad cross section of people are involved as much as possible to work to make sure that happens.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS GONDE

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's plans to make Southwark a dementia friendly borough?

RESPONSE

In March 2014 the council approached a number of organisations who would share its commitment to establish a Dementia Action Alliance (DAA) to act as one of the catalysts to making Southwark a dementia friendly community. There was a determination from the start that the DAA should seek membership beyond the traditional health and social care sector. Shakespeare's Globe hosted this first meeting where a great level of interest was expressed for a DAA and it was agreed to reconvene again.

A number of agencies have indicated a commitment to join the DAA (Age UK Southwark and Lewisham, Alzheimer's Society, Choice Support and Milwall Football Club to name a few). Further organisations have been approached and we are awaiting confirmation. Organisations as diverse as Morrison's, Albins Undertakers, Guys and St Thomas' Acute Trust, Southwark News and Peabody Trust have indicated interest and we are awaiting final confirmation that they will join the DAA. The council and Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have agreed to support the DAA.

The council and CCG also fund further dementia support services (support workers and a dementia café) and 'community navigators' as a pilot project through the Better Care Fund. The support worker gives 1:1 support to individuals providing emotional support, information, referral / advice and facilitates a monthly Carers Group. The dementia community navigator post is a new proactive role to ensure that services and resources are effectively co-ordinated at a neighbourhood/GP level for the needs of the service user and their family. The pilot will provide valuable learning in relation to how this role can compliment the move toward more locality based services, the evolving service model for the centre of excellence and the council's goal of ensuring that Southwark becomes a dementia friendly community.

We can all play our part and I am very pleased to note that many officers and members have undertaken the dementia friend training.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CHRIS GONDE

Thank you very much Mr Mayor, I want to thank the Member the Cabinet Member for her response and which was very comprehensive indeed. I do have a supplemental Mr Mayor.

Dementia, as you know, is one of the most significant public health challenges that we face in Southwark due to the boroughs ageing population and it is likely to continue as a problem in the coming years. What impact does the cabinet member think, becoming a dementia friendly borough, will have on our residents and those who suffer from dementia and those who care for them? Thank you.

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Gonde for this supplemental question. Mr Mayor, as part of our pledge to make Southwark an age friendly borough, we quickly came to the conclusion that we needed to lend our support to addressing issues of dementia. It is a growing issue, it is a very important issue in the borough, as it is indeed world wide. As you can see from my written answer, some of the work we have done so far in establishing Southwark Dementia Action Alliance has been quite immense and I am very proud to say that we have had a lot of buy in from many different groups and organisations right across the piece which is important because people living with dementia live in our community. They go in to Morrisons, they live in our housing associations properties and council properties etc., so they are part of our community so it is really important that we acknowledge the amount of work we have to do to make this borough a dementia friendly borough.

I think the impact will be of enormous positive benefit especially the research we have been doing in this work shows me that I believe that the figures with people who are living with dementia could be really under estimated and particularly amongst those in ethnic minority communities as well, so it is really important that all of us as a society, as a group, actually get to understand and learn just what dementia is. I would like to say that it is very good that we are actually working with the Alzheimers Society and those member who have taken up the opportunity we are running information and training sessions and I know that Councillor Bill Williams has undergone that training and I know that other members as well, I know that Councillor Maria Linforth-Hall has gone one step further and has become a Dementia Champion so that training and information shared is available from the council. I would really encourage all members and staff to take up that training. We have had the training done by senior managers in the council.

I would just like to encourage more people to take up the training that this council is offering in order to ensure that people living with dementia, that we raise awareness about it, that we encourage the take up the training and information and that we can make Southwark a better place and that has got to be a good thing, I believe. You maybe don't, but I do.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

What are the current usage rates in our Southwark libraries?

RESPONSE

We are extremely proud of our record on libraries and we continue to invest in and promote our library services at a time when many boroughs are choosing to reduce services in direct response to the severe budget cuts made by the government.

During 2013/14, the library service loaned a total of 1,565,255 items and received 2,030,656 visits. Whilst borrowing books and other items remains popular, people also use our libraries for many other reasons. Examples of this include the annual summer reading challenge for children. Last summer, 5,321 local children participated - an increase of 2% on the previous year. Of these, 2,329 completed the scheme which requires them to read six books over the course of the summer. This represents an increase of 7% on the previous year.

Many of our services are accessible online and all libraries have free internet access. All libraries provide a range of basic IT training including an introduction to using a computer, job search skills and producing CVs. During 2013/14, 5,063 people attended these sessions and by December 2014 a further 4,184 had participated. Our libraries also offer online access to the UK Citizenship Test and the Driving Theory test. 1,321 people originating from 122 countries have used the Life in Britain Citizenship test since it was introduced in 2008 and 1,739 have registered for the driving theory test since 2010.

Other people use Southwark's libraries for the extensive programme of events and activities including author visits, the cultural programme at Canada Water, activities for under-fives and their families, after school homework help clubs, conversation cafes and groups for older people.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

Just a supplemental for Councillor Dora Dixon-Fyle. I just wanted to commend you on keeping all the libraries open. I mean it is too often an easy target and a lot of our local authorities up north have done that. I don't know if people go to Sheffield regularly but they have closed nearly all of their libraries, and you can actually feel that it has had an impact on the community, because where would you go if you wanted to access social media. Any way, well done for that because they are important community hubs. What I wanted to know is how our local communities in the borough have benefited from the council with all of our Southwark libraries open. Well done and thank you for your answer.

RESPONSE

Thank you very much Councillor Ali, I just want to take us back to just a few years ago to the summer of 2010 when the coalition government came into office and began inflicting cuts right across public services and especially across local government and many of our fellow councils in London have taken really, really tough decisions, one of them being closing the libraries and we saw protests, sit-ins, demonstrations, but we did not see any of that in this Labour controlled Southwark Council because we took the decision to keep all our libraries open because we listened to our community, they told us how much they valued the libraries and how much the community wanted to use the libraries. We listened and we responded and we not only kept all of the libraries open, Councillor Ali, as you know, we actually invested in the libraries, in the fabric of the libraries for example, The Blue Anchor, in Bermondsey, lovely new building, latest IT, WIFI, computers. The use of the libraries have changed, when I was going to school in Southwark and using the libraries, we now have reading groups, baby and toddler groups, we have talks by leading authors. During Black History month, I attended many events at Canada Water Library, my colleague Councillor Hargrove, you were there when author, Andrea Stuart, who wrote Sugar in the Blood, came across specially to give a talk to the members there and it was absolutely packed out. We were at Peckham Library when Sandra Agard, who works for the council gave a talk about Maya Angelou and again it was absolutely packed out. I am just saying this, to show you how well used our libraries are and that's why we took that decision. And also can I just say one more thing, seriously, no, no, seriously it goes to show the libraries are the hub of our communities irrespective of age, religion, gender. They have been used by everybody right across the community and that again has got to be a good thing for this council.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR SANDRA RHULE

What was the turnout for the Southwark fireworks display this year?

RESPONSE

Southwark Fireworks in 2014 had the largest turn out ever, with over 33,000 visitors attending the event.

This was an increase of 65% on 2013 attendance and a huge 175% on 2012. We had over 150 security staff, volunteer stewards and police officers in attendance on the night to help everything run smoothly and whilst there was some inevitable congestion due to the numbers, the event itself was completely crime free which is just a fantastic achievement. We also received some really great feedback with over 92% of people rating the event 4 or 5 out of 5.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Will the cabinet member provide an update on the council's plans for day centre provision in the borough?

RESPONSE

The personalisation agenda, giving people more choice and control over their care and support arrangements, has seen a significant shift from traditional service models, such as day centres, to personal budgets with the majority of Adult Social

Care clients now choosing personal budgets. The trend over several years has been a decrease in the number of people attending day centres.

1. **Day Centres for people with learning disabilities** – there are two day centres, Riverside in the north of the borough and Queens Road day centre in Peckham which supports people with more complex, profound and multiple learning disabilities. Personal budget holders with learning disabilities are supported in many ways to access the community, including social, leisure, cultural, and employment opportunities outside of building based day centres and this is increasingly the pattern reflecting the choice of new and younger clients. The day centre provider has indicated that given changes in activity, demand resulting from personalisation policy, they would like to relocate from the Queens Road day centre. Council officers are due to meet with the provider (The Camden Society) to explore this with them and with clients and carers to ensure sufficient choice and capacity in the borough.
2. **Day Centres for people with physical disabilities** – the council provides day services for adults with physical disabilities and sensory impairments at Southwark Resource Centre in Walworth, where council staff are co-located with voluntary sector colleagues from Southwark Disablement Association and Southwark Carers. The building hosts a range of activities with input from local community organisations and health colleagues. In response to the choices being made by clients and carers for personal budgets rather than directly provided services, there are emerging options for transforming this service via delivery by the voluntary sector or a User Led Organisation (ULO), both of which would allow more choice and options for personal budget holders and self funders. After further development by clients and carers, options will be considered in 2015/16. Meanwhile the service continues to provide high quality support for local residents.
3. **Day Centres for older people** - Fred Francis and Southwark Park day centres are directly provided by the council supporting older people. There are plans for a centre of excellence to be established in the borough to strengthen the quality and range of support offered to older people with dementia and complex needs and their family carers. Work on the pathway for adults with dementia and the service model are in development, with consideration of how future service delivery will reflect integration of health, social care and the voluntary sector.
4. **Day Centres for people with mental health needs** – a review of the needs of BAME and marginalised groups is being carried out to inform proposals for developing mental health day services in Southwark for clients with mental health needs, most of whom are personal budget holders. This will inform the future of the Maroon's day centre as well as the provision currently offered by voluntary sector providers.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Thank you very much to the Cabinet member for her answer, I do have a supplemental question. How will the council ensure that people with dementia can access the new Cator Street and other planned centres of excellence given that 70% of the people with dementia are trapped in their own homes and a third live on their own?

RESPONSE

I have such a new good story about this. Our new centre of excellence being built specifically for people with dementia, the fact that we are actually training staff to actually go to homes doing out reach work for people with dementia, the fact that we are doing training in the council, we are doing a lot of things for people with dementia. You are absolutely right Councillor Hall it is a very important part of the work we do and please on a serious point, you know this is a very serious point, is that we actually take this very seriously.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the cabinet member update councillors on plans to expand the work of lay inspectors?

RESPONSE

The council currently funds and supports a number of 'lay inspection' schemes including the Care Homes 'Lay Inspection' scheme, the Innovation Grant funded Community Quality Champions programme and the Young Inspectors scheme supported by the Children's Rights Officers.

Alongside this Community Action Southwark (CAS) hosts Health Watch who play a key role in looking at users' experience of services. Officers are currently reviewing these arrangements to look at how we can strengthen the approach. I expect to consider the recommendations of this review in the spring so that I can ensure the council has a consistent and well co-ordinated approach that will promote an expanded and inclusive network of champions who can assess and influence the quality of our local services and the experience of users.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR TOM FLYNN

Can the cabinet member give an update on the progress of Camberwell library?

RESPONSE

The development of the new library is well underway with the construction work due to complete in March 2015. The council will then complete its internal ICT and stock fit out before relocating from the current premises. We are aiming to open the new library by mid May.

The new library will maintain the council presence in the centre of Camberwell and as well as the usual library services, will provide access to a range of council services in the heart of the borough. This building will provide a welcoming, accessible and more pleasant environment set in a new Plaza.

Visitors will be able to borrow books, films and music, read and relax, print and scan, browse the web, spend some time studying, participate in a reading club, attend parent and toddler groups. It has been designed to be a well used council resource, offering an integrated customer access point for the primary housing area management, in which tenants can meet their tenancy officers and enquire about housing services and for customers who are seeking the convenience of pre-booked appointments to see a council officer. There is space available for hire to external organisations.

The library service will include the following:

- Full programme of activities including – lifelong learning, health training, film clubs, cultural events, authors reading sessions
- Reading club and book groups – all ages including toddlers and book start
- Spaces available for private hire – e.g. for community group meetings, training, social meetings. The flexible meeting room can accommodate up to 50 people.
- Dedicated library areas for young people and children. The children's library has a wet play area.
- 18 Study spaces for use
- Free Wi-Fi
- The provision of a plasma screen
- Items for loan including books, and DVDs
- Magazines and newspapers – areas to sit and read
- Computers and printing facilities to use; 22 in total of which 4 are dedicated to My Southwark services.

Housing and customer services will include:

- Rooms to meet a housing officer e.g. for new tenancy sign ups, to discuss tenancy issues, rents etc. These will be pre booked appointments
- Ability to make payment.
- Ability to use the internet at computers and access the councils services online
- Private rooms to meet Customer Services representatives e.g. to discuss benefit claims
- Ability to drop in and meet with a Housing Officer
- Space available for staff to work in the office.

The new library is fully accessible with level access from the new plaza and plenty of circulation space for wheelchair users and a platform lift to the mezzanine level.

There are also 4 public toilets including one for children and accessible WC with baby change facilities. There is also space for 10 buggies.

We envisage the building being open 7 days a week. The proposed opening hours for the library are

Monday – Friday 9-8
Saturday 9-5
Sunday 12-4

Later opening times may be available for the bookable rooms.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE DALE

Can the cabinet member give an update on the introduction of the council's ethical care charter?

RESPONSE

I am delighted to say that the council has implemented the Southwark Ethical Care Charter for our main home care contracts. Cabinet colleagues and I will consider in March a procurement strategy report on the options for implementing the

Southwark Ethical Care Charter for all home care services by also bringing the currently spot purchased home care into scope. Financial provision has been identified to ensure this commitment is delivered across all home care.

This is a very important approach to restoring dignity and respect for home care workers and to ensuring our vulnerable adults are afforded high quality care and support at a time when the Liberal Democrat/Conservative government is imposing harsh and unfair cuts to the most vulnerable, those most in need and those who care for them.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

What steps is the council taking to ensure good interventions at an early stage for residents with mental health issues to avoid presentations at local accident and emergency units?

RESPONSE

The Local Authority and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (SCCG) jointly commission services for people with mental health needs. The CCG being the lead commissioner, commission a range of community based services and interventions that support people with early signs of mental ill health or escalation of need, to reduce the need for urgent and unplanned care. This includes:

Community Based Support

- Universal access to a range of talking therapies is offered through the local Improving Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) provision. IAPT sessions are delivered at GP practices across the borough and provide early intervention when patients first experience signs and symptoms of ill mental health.
- A community based Enhanced Assessment and Liaison Service has been implemented from 2014/15 to provide a single point of access to specialist mental health assessment and brief intervention followed by an appropriate care and support package in the community reducing escalation of need and ensuring appropriate support is accessed in a timely way.
- The local social care reablement team provide an innovative community based programme to support people who have had or are at risk of mental health crisis to maintain and regain their independence. The team accept referrals from assessment teams, crisis teams, and wards to ensure that people do not need to attend A&E services. They also work with A&E departments to ensure a timely discharge where reablement is an appropriate intervention.

Community Based Crisis Response

- A 24/7 peer support crisis line 'Solidarity in crisis' with outreach provision is delivered by Certitude to redirect people with non-urgent clinical requirements to an alternative type of provision in the community.
- The local Home Treatment provision provides hospital level care in the community and people's own homes for people in or at risk of mental health crisis, reducing the demand on hospital based services.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE, ARTS AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

Has the council calculated how many books have not been returned to Southwark libraries and how much money has been lost from fines that should have been paid for overdue books?

RESPONSE

Southwark has a thriving and vibrant library service, with 7,643,705 items (books, CDs, DVDs and other items) loaned in the last five years.

Our computer system does not record the fine information in the way the question asks, but on our last check in December 2014, we had 67,898 books reported overdue. This represents less than 1% of total borrowing in the last five years.

Many of these items are returned shortly after their due date and the fines paid. Overdue reminders are sent to customers to encourage them to return items. The council is making it easier for library members to renew books and other items online or by telephone which is not only more convenient but also makes it easier for people to avoid fines. Customers who do fail to return items are not able to borrow further until overdue items are returned.

A far greater threat to our libraries than overdue books are the continuing government cuts to local services, which have resulted in many local authorities closing libraries. In Southwark, we have committed to keeping all our libraries open and we will continue to invest in this important service for our local residents.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR CLAIRE MAUGHAM

Can the cabinet member explain what the council is doing to increase primary school places to meet demand in the north of the borough?

RESPONSE

The council is undertaking a range of expansions in the north of the borough to meet anticipated need, some already agreed by cabinet, some in the process of being brought forward for cabinet approval.

In September 2015 the following schools will be offering additional reception places:

- Rotherhithe Primary School 1 form of entry
- Phoenix Primary 2 forms of entry
- Grange Primary School 0.5 forms of entry
- Keyworth Primary School 0.5 forms of entry

In September 2016 the following schools will be offering additional reception places:

- Phoenix Primary School will be expanding from 2FE to 4FE
- Albion Primary School will be expanding by 1FE
- Charles Dickens Primary School is expanding from 1.5 to 2 forms of entry (FE) an additional 0.5FE.
- Keyworth Primary School is expanding from 1.5FE to 3FE an additional 1.5FE.

- Grange Primary School will be expanding from 1.5FE to 2FE
- Robert Browning Primary School, will be expanding from 1.5 to 2 forms of entry (FE)
- Redriff Primary Academy has plans to expand from 2FE to 3FE in September 2016. As this is an academy, they do not require council approval to expand.
- A new school, City of London Primary Academy Southwark will open on the site of the old Galleywall school, offering 2 forms of entry.

This will deliver 120 (4FE) additional reception places in September 2015 and potentially up to 270 (9FE) additional reception places in September 2016, in the north of the borough.

We are constantly reviewing 2015 and 2016 figures and developing plans for 2017 onwards.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JAMILLE MOHAMMED

Can the cabinet member explain what the council is doing to drive up standards in Southwark schools?

RESPONSE

We are proud of standards in our schools, which are above the national average in all external examination areas. 89% of our schools are judged good or outstanding by Ofsted, and by the end of the spring term, this will increase to 90%. There are no schools deemed inadequate or requiring Special Measures.

We are narrowing the attainment gap for Early Years and Reception children with 66% of Southwark school children achieving a Good Level of Development at Foundation Stage (up from 60% in 2013). This is higher than the national (60%), London (62%) and statistical neighbour averages (63%).

The Key Stage 2 SATs results for 2014 have been validated and the percentage of Southwark school children achieving Level 4 (the expected level at the end of Year 6) is in the top quartile for reading, writing and maths combined.

GCSE results will not be validated until the end of January, but preliminary results suggest that the majority of local authorities in England have seen a decline in performance at GCSE, following two major reforms of Key Stage 4 performance measures. Southwark's preliminary results suggest that 61.7% of Southwark children achieved 5+ A*-C grades at GCSE or equivalent including English and Maths GCSE, compared to 65.2% in 2013. Southwark's results are substantially better than national (56.1%), London (60.6%) results and statistical neighbour average (57.3%). Compared to the rest of England, Southwark was ranked 22nd and remained in the top quartile for this measure (an improvement of 11 places from 33rd last year).

At A-Level, results will not be validated until the end of January, but preliminary results show that the percentage of Southwark pupils who achieved passes equivalent to at least 2 A levels remained fairly constant at 96.3% (96.7% in 2013). Southwark's performance continued to be better than national (87.8%) and London (88.5%) levels and also our statistical neighbour average of 85.8%.

Southwark was ranked 8th out of 150 LAs, moving up from joint 18th last year. 8.4% of Southwark pupils achieved 3 or more A* or A grades, up from 7.1% in 2013.

Our ambition is to continue to improve standards in our schools and discussions are underway with secondary schools as to how we can, in partnership, support every Southwark school to reach the ambitious target of 70% of pupils attaining 5+ GCSEs at grades A*-C (or equivalent with new assessment and reporting procedures from 2016) over the next two to three years.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR STEPHANIE CRYAN

Can the cabinet member confirm whether there are any further plans for new secondary schools to open in Southwark?

RESPONSE

We are working with a number of partners both to expand existing schools and to procure new schools to meet anticipated demand for secondary places. This includes working with neighbouring boroughs through the Associations of Directors of Children's Services.

We have closely supported both the Charter and Haberdasher Askes bids to open a secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site and continue to work closely with the EFA and NHS to do all we can to secure the site for the school.

We would be delighted to work with the provider not selected by the EFA to see if we can work together to identify an alternative site elsewhere in the borough.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

When will the council carry out an assessment of the impact of its free school meals programme on primary school children's obesity levels in the borough?

RESPONSE

The council will formally assess the impact of the Free Healthy School Meal (FHSM) programme on primary school childhood obesity as measured through the National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP).

The NCMP measures children at Reception and Year 6, so the soonest available national weighing point will be when the Reception pupils benefiting from the FHSM introduced in 2011 reach Year 6 in 2017 and annually thereafter.

The FHSM programme is only part of the solution to the high obesity levels and evaluations of the wider strategy will seek opportunities to identify the role that FHSM has played in us tackling this important issue for our children and young people

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

Will the cabinet member commit to no new schools being built in pollution hot spots in Southwark and installing air filtration systems in existing schools in these areas?

RESPONSE

The council has produced an Air Quality Strategy and Air Quality Improvement Plan which are published on the council's website. The Strategy shows that the greatest impact of air pollution falls in the north west of the borough and along some stretches of major routes.

All the schools that are expanding have had Air Quality Assessments undertaken. To date, air quality has not been raised as a significant issue in any of these schools.

As part of the planning and design process, consideration is given to the need for assisted ventilation where this would be recommended in respect of insulation from noise and this can also be beneficial in respect of air quality.

With regards to existing schools, it would normally be the responsibility of the individual governing body to consider the need to provide air quality mitigation, should it be required. However, a Cleaner Air for Schools project has been in progress for the past year which has included outcomes such as parents using 'park and stride' to prevent vehicle emissions peaking at the school gates, green barriers, anti idling campaigns and has also assisted schools with improving the numbers of students who use active transport (walking and cycling) to get to school. Following this project, officers continue to test air quality at several primary schools in the borough. The outcome of this monitoring will be considered when giving future advice to schools.

Along with the declared Air Quality Management Area, the GLA, and TfL have identified seven Air Quality Focus Areas in Southwark; currently no new schools are planned within these areas.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

Please list all the potential free school sites in the borough and for each one state what progress is being made?

RESPONSE

The council's policy is to support the opening of new schools where there is a need for school places and we are working in partnership with the Education Funding Agency (EFA) and the DfE to achieve this objective. We are also working with neighbouring boroughs through the Associations of Directors of Children's Services.

Under the current scheme, there are three new free school applications for Southwark which have progressed to interview stage. These interviews are taking place in the next couple of weeks with decisions made at the end of the spring term.

The council is working in partnership with City of London Corporation to open a new primary school on the Galleywall site, which is shortly to be vacated by Southwark Park Primary School when they move to their new site. Discussions regarding the refurbishment are underway and if approved by the EFA, this school is planned to open in September 2016.

We have closely supported both the Charter and Haberdasher Askes bids to open a secondary school on the Dulwich Hospital site and continue to work closely with the EFA and NHS to do all we can to secure the site for the school. This will continue regardless of which school is successful.

We would be delighted to work with the provider who the EFA does not buy the site for to see if we can work together to identify an alternative site elsewhere in the borough.

In addition, we have most recently sought to secure the Southwark Fire Station site for a school and await a decision by the Fire Authority.

Plans have already been approved for the new Belham School which will open in September 2015 in temporary accommodation, pending the move to their remodelled and new accommodation in September 2016. Designs for this scheme are well advanced and a planning application is being submitted in January.

We are also continuing discussions with the EFA and representatives of Harris Nunhead in their aspirations for further free school provision.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Please can the cabinet member provide an update on the implementation of the borough-wide 20mph zone? What has been the cost of introducing the measure? What steps are to be carried out for the post implementation review of the impact of the policy on traffic flows, with particular emphasis on the impact in the south of the borough?

RESPONSE

The borough-wide signage only 20mph scheme is due to be completed by the end of January 2015.

The total cost of the scheme on completion is expected to be in the region of £450,000 for implementation. £860,000 remains for post-implementation monitoring and any required physical measures.

A breakdown is included below:

Implementation	£347,000
Publicity Campaign	£58,000
Pre-monitoring	£30,000
Review of existing	£15,000
Total	£450,000
Post-monitoring	£50,000 (estimate)
Improvements to existing	£20,000 (estimate)
Physical measures post monitoring	£792,000

As part of the monitoring process 156 'before' Traffic/Speed counts have been carried out of which 44 (28%) were in the Dulwich Community Council Area.

All those roads will be monitored again within 12 months of implementation to understand the impact the scheme has had, following which a targeted programme of physical intervention will be introduced after consultation in locations of genuine need because of poor compliance etc.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, STRATEGY AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Can the cabinet member set out how many times Capita have incurred penalties for their performance since they became the council's IT contractor, the reasons why and how much they have been fined on each occasion?

RESPONSE

Under contract, Capita are obliged to pay penalties when services fail to meet minimum service levels.

Penalties have been paid consistently since the early months of the contract which started in February 2013. Penalties continue to be imposed in line with contractual terms as appropriate.