

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY**  
**(ORDINARY)**  
**WEDNESDAY 25 MARCH 2015**  
**MEMBERS' QUESTIONS**

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI**

Can the leader tell me what the next steps are for the council following the launch of the Childcare Commission report?

**RESPONSE**

We welcomed the Southwark and Lambeth Childcare Commission report at our cabinet meeting of 17 March 2015. On this very important issue for families, the commission identified ways in which government, the Mayor of London, employers and local authorities can support families better and increase access to high quality childcare for children – giving them the best start in life.

We will receive a report back to cabinet at our next meeting to agree our response and local action. We are committed to doing what we can locally to improve the childcare offer and to push the wider agenda in support of families.

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

What are the rates for patients presenting in accident and emergency at local hospitals with mental health issues since May 2010 and how does this compare to English averages?

**RESPONSE**

The council does not hold this information in the way that the councillor has asked. However, there is some publically available data on accident and emergency (A&E) attendances in people with a mental health problem which can be found here:

<http://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/severe-mental-illness/data#gid/8000031/pat/44/ati/19/page/0/par/E40000003/are/E38000171>

This is NHS data and not council data.

The latest data for this item is the FY 2012-13. Southwark had 799 presentations (272.2/100,000 of population) during this year. The rate is higher than the London clinical commissioning group (CCG) average of 215.8/100,000 but is within the 95% confidence intervals for the England benchmark (of 243.5/100,000) which means it is not significantly higher than the English rate. It should be noted that these figures are the number of attendances not number of people attending (some people may attend more than once).

The Mental Health Information Network which provides this data is a new resource which has been running for about a year and so there is no trend data for this item. The data for this item is designated as 'of concern' with regard to quality so should be treated with caution.

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR NEIL COYLE**

Is the leader concerned about recent figures which showed that Southwark renters are paying more than half their income on rent and the effect this could have on residents being able to afford to stay in the borough?

**RESPONSE**

Rental figures, as compiled by the House of Commons Library, show that in Southwark the median weekly income for full time employees was £622.60, and the median weekly private rent was £324.90. This puts rent as a percentage of income at 52%. In Southwark, as across London, private house prices and rents have risen considerably in recent years, and much faster than local incomes.

The Liberal Democrats and Conservatives in government are ignoring the cost of living crisis and continue their dogmatic approach to selling off council housing. In Southwark we are trying to tackle the issue head on. Our new long term housing strategy to 2043 is the first genuine attempt to develop a long-term housing plan in London for many years and our commitment to deliver 11,000 new council homes, including 1,500 by 2018 is the biggest council house building programme in the country.

We will use every tool at our disposal to lead the way in London providing quality homes for people on a mix of incomes, enabling existing communities to have a future in the borough. We will continue to work with housing associations and developers to build the homes of all tenures the borough desperately needs.

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

Can the leader state the final cost of all the Childcare Commission's work, including the production and launch of its recent report?

**RESPONSE**

The cost was £57,600 to the Institute of Public Policy and Research for the research and report and approximately £100 for miscellaneous costs. Southwark and Lambeth will each pay half of the cost (£28,800). This is considerably less than the initial £75,000 budget which was allocated.

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE**

What is the council doing to encourage responsible lending?

**RESPONSE**

As the cost of living crisis hits Southwark families hard, some of our residents are turning to pay day lenders and other irresponsible lenders as they are desperate to make ends meet. As a council we are doing what we can to make sure that our residents on the lowest incomes have alternatives.

This administration does not let council premises to payday lenders and will not do so. In addition we are working with the Credit Union which encourages responsible lending. Our policy of a £10 account for every 11 year old at the credit union will not only help young people to learn about responsible saving, it will also

be an opportunity for the credit union to speak with parents and help them access information about good finance.

We are also in discussions with the London Mutual Credit Union about opening a Walworth branch and hope to make an announcement on this in due course.

We are making it harder for pay day lenders to open with the introduction of Article 4 powers last year, and we are making it harder for them to advertise by reaching agreement with major billboard companies to not carry pay day lender adverts.

The Money Savvy Southwark Project through Southwark Citizens Advice Bureau (which is funded by the council among other funders) is working with the national Illegal Money Lending Team to raise awareness of illegal money lending and promote membership of the credit union. Features on affordable lending options including the services of the Credit Union are being scheduled for Southwark Housing News, Southwark Life and the Credit Union will have a presence at this year's Tenants Conference. The local advice agencies are also working with us to provide a range of advice on debt and money management and this can include referrals to the Credit Union.

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

Can the leader confirm what discussions and meetings the council has had with Development Securities or any other interested parties in regards to the Southwark tube station site with particular reference to Styles House and council-owned land?

**RESPONSE**

The Direct Housing Delivery report which came to cabinet in October 2013 noted that Development Securities have proposed a jointly delivered scheme with the council. This scheme could be viable if it optimised the quantity of new council homes and could be supported by Styles House residents. Officers have met with Development Securities to explore this option. However, to date, Development Securities have not presented a proposal that can be taken forward. The council has not indicated in any way that it would include council-owned land, either at Styles House or elsewhere in the joint venture which Development Securities have secured with Transport for London (TfL) to redevelop the Southwark tube station site.

**7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KARL EASTHAM**

What is the council doing to prevent the loss of affordable housing following the government's introduction of an exemption for housing developers from paying for affordable housing?

**RESPONSE**

Since December the government has exempted housing developers who turn empty buildings into private housing from paying for affordable housing. In Southwark, this policy means that former industrial sites that are currently vacant ahead of being developed could deliver only a fraction of the potential affordable housing, rather than the 35% affordable housing provision usually required.

The coalition government's policy will increase developers' profits at the expense

of affordable housing desperately needed in the borough. The policy could potentially cost the people of our borough thousands of affordable homes.

At a time when more homes of every kind are so badly needed, it is disgraceful that the government should introduce such a scheme. In response to this announcement, we have therefore been looking at what measures we can take to limit the impact that the government's policy will have on the borough.

Southwark is now the first council in London to officially introduce measures to prevent losing potential affordable homes through the government's Vacant Building Credit (VBC).

We are putting in place a raft of measures through local planning policy to mitigate the impact. This includes setting guidelines to define what makes a building vacant or in use. Applicants will also have to prove that the relevant building have been actively marketed for at least two years to prevent owners intentionally emptying homes and businesses to take advantage of the VBC. We will seek to amend our Development Plan to establish a local VBC exemption policy on the basis that the credit is not needed to kick start development and that it undermines the sustainability of future development in the borough.

#### **8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM**

Please list the planning consents since May 2010 (broken down by ward) where affordable housing has been provided on-site; off-site; or where in-lieu payments have been accepted?

#### **RESPONSE**

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Application number</b>	<b>Purpose Code</b>
Brunswick Park	09/AP/2332	Affordable housing off site payment
Brunswick Park	11/AP/0196	Affordable housing off site payment
Brunswick Park	13/AP/0422	Affordable housing on site by developer
Brunswick Park	14/AP/0764	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	12/AP/1308	Affordable housing off site payment
Camberwell Green	13/AP/2211	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	10/AP/2600	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	11/AP/0196	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	03/AP/2385	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	13/AP/0561	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	12/AP/2444	Affordable housing on site by developer
Camberwell Green	13/AP/2902 & 14/AP/0117	Affordable housing on site by developer
Cathedrals	10/AP/3372	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	11/AP/1071	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/1403	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	10/AP/3316	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	10/AP/2707	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	12/AP/1784	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/1123	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/2075	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	13/AP/3791	Affordable housing off site payment
Cathedrals	10/AP/3131	Affordable housing on site by developer
Cathedrals	12/AP/1066	Affordable housing on site by developer

<b>Ward</b>	<b>Application number</b>	<b>Purpose Code</b>
Cathedrals	12/AP/3558	Affordable housing on site by developer
Cathedrals	12/AP/0035	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	11/AP/0217	Affordable housing off site payment
Chaucer	11/AP/2577	Affordable housing off site payment
Chaucer	10/AP/2429	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	10/AP/2081	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	10/AP/2849	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	11/AP/0217	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	09/AP/1940	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	13/AP/3450	Affordable housing on site by developer
Chaucer	13/AP/0294	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Dulwich	11/AP/0024	Affordable housing commuted sum – viability based
East Walworth	14/AP/0833	Affordable housing off site payment
East Walworth	11/AP/0138	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	11/AP/1180	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	11/AP/2577	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	12/AP/1455	Affordable housing on site by developer
East Walworth	12/AP/2797	Affordable housing on site by developer
Faraday	12/AP/2332	Affordable housing on site by developer
Faraday	13/AP/1235	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/1860	Affordable Housing Bankside off site
Grange	10/AP/1935	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	12/AP/1423	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	12/AP/2942	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	12/AP/2942	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	13/AP/2971	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	13/AP/3059	Affordable housing off site payment
Grange	14/AP/1302	Affordable housing off site provision & payment
Grange	10/AP/1860	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/2725	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/2824	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/3010	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/3458	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	06/AP/1293	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	09/AP/1917	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/3074	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	10/AP/1935	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	11/AP/3251	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	12/AP/0164	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	11/AP/4364	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	12/AP/2702	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	12/AP/2942	Affordable housing on site by developer
Grange	14/AP/0117	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	10/AP/3239	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	13/AP/0876	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	13/AP/1738	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	11/AP/0139	Affordable housing on site by developer
Livesey	13/AP/2782	Affordable housing on site by developer
Newington	11/AP/0868	Affordable housing off site payment
Newington	11/AP/0868	Affordable housing off site payment

Ward	Application number	Purpose Code
Nunhead	10/AP/3173	Affordable housing on site by developer
Nunhead	11/AP/2851	Affordable housing on site by developer
Peckham	13/AP/2901	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	13/AP/2405	Affordable housing off site payment
Riverside	14/AP/3861	Affordable housing off site payment
Riverside	09/AP/0174	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	10/AP/3008	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	12/AP/3127	Affordable housing on site by developer
Riverside	07/AP/1262	Affordable housing on site by developer
Rotherhithe	09/AP/1999	Affordable housing off site payment
Rotherhithe	11/AP/1097 & 13/AP/3225	Affordable housing on site by developer
Rotherhithe	09/AP/1999	Affordable housing on site by developer
Rotherhithe	11/AP/0963	Affordable housing on site by developer
Rotherhithe	13/AP/1429	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	10/AP/0614	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/1485	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/3201	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/4049	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	12/AP/3860	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Bermondsey	13/AP/1864	Affordable housing on site by developer
South Camberwell	12/AP/1630	Affordable housing on site by developer
Surrey Docks	11/AP/2565	Affordable housing off site payment
Surrey Docks	11/AP/2565	Affordable housing on site by developer
Surrey Docks	13/AP/2426	Affordable housing on site by developer
Surrey Docks	11/AP/2242	Affordable housing on site by developer
The Lane	11/AP/0914	Affordable housing on site by developer
The Lane	13/AP/2311	Affordable housing on site by developer

## 9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR VIJAY LUTHRA

Can the leader confirm which housing estates will be included in the kitchens and bathrooms replacement programme from April this year?

### RESPONSE

Cabinet has announced the first phase of homes which will benefit from our commitment to kitchens and bathrooms. This builds on the work we have been doing to ensure that every council home is warm, dry and safe.

#### Area 1: Borough & Bankside / Walworth

Ayres House  
 Borough Road Estate  
 Braganza Street  
 Browning Estate  
 Cooks Road  
 Dodson Estate  
 Falcon Point (Banks Edgar Development)  
 Gateway Estate  
 Haddonhall Estate  
 Hayles Buildings  
 Kennedy Walk

Kennington Park House  
Kennington Park Road  
Kingston Estate  
Lant Estate  
Manor Place  
Marshalsea Estate  
Minnow Street Estate  
New church Road  
Nursery Row  
Pasley Estate  
Pelier Estate  
Portland Estate  
Pullens Estate  
Sharsted Street  
Stopford Road

**Area 2: Bermondsey / Rotherhithe**

Ainsty Estate (Larch House, Beech House)  
Astely Estate (Clare House, Fitzroy House, Brodie House, Mandeville House)  
Canada Estate  
Charles McKenzie House  
Cranbourne House  
Downtown Estate (Estate Houses Globe Pond Road)  
Eldridge Court  
Longfield Estate (Cragie House, Ash House, Fairby House, Stansfeld House, Hartley House, Dartford House, Alfred Salter House)  
Mawby Estate (Lanark House, Mawbey House)  
Millpond Estate  
Pedworth Sheltered  
Plough Estate (Yeoman St, Chilton Grove, Plough Way)  
Setchell Estate (Hazel Way, Setchell Way, Alscot Way, Curtis Way)  
Slippers Place Estate (Moreton House, Cornick House, Gataker House, Arica House)  
Wessex House  
West Lane

**Area 3: Camberwell / Peckham**

Bromar Road  
Camberwell Grove  
Caroline Gardens  
Gilesmead Estate  
Ledbury Estate  
North Peckham Estate

**Area 4: Nunhead / Dulwich**

Arnold Dobson House  
Brimmington Estate  
Clifton Crescent  
Daniels Estate  
East Dulwich Road  
Fenwick Road  
Gautrey Road  
Hanover Park  
Hanover Park  
Hollydale Road

Honor Oak Rise  
Jack Jones House  
Kirkwood Road  
Limes Walk  
Linden Grove Estate  
Lytcott Grove Estate  
Moncrieff Estate  
New James Street Estate  
Oliver Goldsmith Estate (Purdon House, Flamborough House)  
Princess Court (College Road Estate)  
Queens Rd Estate  
Raul Road  
Rye Hill Estate  
Rye Hill Park Estate  
Sasson House  
Solomans Passage  
St Marys Road  
Stanbury Road  
Tappesfield Estate

**10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL**

What steps is the council taking to address lower take-up rates of talking therapies among black and minority ethnic (BME) residents with mental health issues?

**RESPONSE**

Therapeutic services such as the one referred to in the question are commissioned by the NHS, not the council. The Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) is preparing to re-tender the Talking Therapies service in April 2015. The Talking Therapies service specification considers findings from the equalities impact assessment and engagement done and includes requirements to improve access for BME groups, for example improving self-referral options and targeted work in faith communities. The CCG currently commissions multi-ethnic counselling services that deliver therapy in several languages and this is included in the new specification for the procurement of a Talking Therapies service.

This is an important issue and I am pleased that the CCG share our concerns and are actively doing something about it.

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

Can the leader give an update on plans for internal and external decoration of properties in phase 4 on the Aylesbury estate?

**RESPONSE**

The buildings in the area covered by phase 4 of the Aylesbury regeneration programme are not scheduled to be demolished for about ten years. The buildings occupy a central part of the estate adjacent to Michael Faraday School and are in close proximity to the first development site of the regeneration programme.

Warm, dry and safe works and fire safety works are already programmed for the site. The council has had discussions with resident representatives and has agreed that a programme of external decorations would significantly improve the



appearance of these buildings. These improvements would enhance the physical environment that the residents of these blocks and the rest of the neighbourhood live in. As these works would have no direct benefit to leaseholders in the blocks, the council has agreed that these additional works will be exempt from any Section 20 leaseholder billing.

We plan to start work on site in June this year, to be completed by June 2016.

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

What actions has the council taken to try and help ensure (an element of) the existing Southwark fire station building is retained so there is potential for it to be returned to use as a fire station at a later stage and used for community use in the interim?

**RESPONSE**

The council opposed the Mayor's decision to close Southwark Fire Station. We do not believe this decision was in the best interests of people in Southwark. However, now that the station is closed, decisions need to be made about the future of the site. The council is not lobbying to retain the fire station building. Instead, we have been arguing that the site should be the location of a new school in the north of the borough. Our officers have been in discussion with the Deputy Mayor for Education and Culture and investigating the possibility for a school on this site.

**13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

The community council would like a general update about increasing the provision of school places in Peckham and Nunhead for both primary and secondary and specifically, what plans are there for Highshore School and have other alternatives been considered rather than demolishing the building?

**RESPONSE**

I am happy to update Peckham and Nunhead Community Council on the planned increases to the provision of primary and secondary school places in Peckham and Nunhead.

Proposals to expand Bellenden Primary School (an increase from 1 form of entry (FE) to 2) and Ivydale Primary School (an increase of 2FE to 4FE) will add 150 reception places to the Peckham and Nunhead area from September 2016 onwards. This will bring the total number of primary reception places on offer on that date in the area to 900, above the projected figures for the area. If the Harris Nunhead proposal goes ahead, this will provide an additional 60 reception places to the provision, although capacity exists within the area to cope with demand without it.

Belham Primary Free School is opening in September 2015 and will offer an additional 60 reception places. It is not within the borders of the Peckham and

Nunhead Community Council but very close to them and recruiting from an area covered by the Community Council.

In respect of secondary expansions, the Department for Education have announced earlier this week their approval for the Southwark-based Charter School to open a free school on the Dulwich Hospital site. This will add up to 8 forms of entry (1350 places) with a sixth form to the secondary provision in Southwark with good transport links throughout the borough. Approval was also given earlier this year for St Thomas the Apostle College to open a Sixth Form, which will add to the post 16 offer in the locality.

Cherry Garden School is a primary special school located in South Bermondsey ward for pupils aged 2-11 with severe learning difficulties, complex needs and autism. The existing accommodation, constructed in the 1960s, is not fit for purpose and not suitable for the increasing numbers of referrals. New accommodation for Cherry Garden School has been a long standing commitment for the council and the borough has seen a considerable increase in diagnoses of children with autism. The existing Highshore building is not suitable for conversion for a modern special school. We have considered converting the existing buildings but because of its quiriness and poor construction (particularly the hall) it is not possible (or economic) to refurbish the building. Cherry Garden pupils have a range of needs which mean that they need larger spaces than a mainstream school and specialist equipment. However, the site is suitable for the development of a new building which would be built to a high quality design in keeping with the locality.

**14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

How will the council improve consultation on traffic and transport schemes in the Dulwich area?

**RESPONSE**

We recently consulted on the first draft of the New Southwark Plan (NSP) for an extended four month period. The plan sets out updated and new draft planning policies that will be used to decide planning applications across the borough once the plan is adopted in 2017. It also includes draft visions for neighbourhoods and areas including an updated vision for Dulwich that builds on the contents of the adopted Dulwich Supplementary Planning Document (SPD). Undertaking a consultation for the New Southwark Plan is a statutory requirement. It is also important to involve local residents at this early stage in the preparation of such an important planning document and provide the opportunity for views to be put forward. The consultation included a series of meetings, events and mailings throughout the borough.

The Southwark Cycling Strategy was also consulted on during the NSP consultation period. Planning and transport officers coordinated marketing materials and meetings to ensure both documents were promoted and discussed together, ensuring effective use of resources and consistency in approach. While the council received overwhelming support in favour of stronger cycling policies and programmes, officers were made aware of concerns that some residents, particularly in Dulwich, have in regard to what impact a cycle route, such as a Quietway route, may have on their street.

The council is committed to working with and involving local residents, as part of the Cycling Strategy delivery programme there will be a Dulwich wide consultation on possible improvements to the road network for pedestrians and cyclists. This will ensure all issues are considered together and local residents will be able to share their views before formal consultation takes place.

The next stage of consultation on the New Southwark Plan takes place in the autumn when the 'Preferred Option' of the plan will be consulted on.

**15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)**

Can the cabinet member for regeneration, planning and transport set out what steps the council is taking to improve traffic flow at the Rotherhithe tunnel on Lower Road and to ensure the C10 and 381 bus routes better serve the Rotherhithe peninsula? Can he also explain what steps he is taking to lobby Transport for London (TfL) on these issues?

**RESPONSE**

Officers are working with TfL to develop plans for Lower Road in order to deliver the measures identified in the Area Action Plan as well as the proposed Cycle Superhighway (CS4). Proposals to remove the Lower Road gyratory will be brought to public consultation later this year. TfL are also due to re-start design work on CS4 in the autumn and this will include proposals to address congestion at the tunnel roundabout. The council also expects TfL to conduct a comprehensive review of the local bus network as a result of proposed development at Canada Water, which together with the removal of the gyratory will result in significant alterations to bus routing through the area. As part of this work we are calling on TfL to increase the number of bus services in the area. Finally, the council has requested that TfL develop mitigating measures in response to the proposed tolling of the Blackwall Tunnel and the proposed Silvertown Tunnel. We are concerned that TfL's proposals at Blackwall and Silvertown will worsen traffic levels and air pollution in Rotherhithe, and we will continue to press TfL on this issue.

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE**

How much has the council saved by increasing the amount of waste diverted from landfill since 2010 and how has this improved the council's environmental impact?

**RESPONSE**

In 2009/10, over 53,000 tonnes of Southwark waste was sent to land fill sites representing 45% of the waste collected.

The Labour administration has made a concerted effort to drive down the amount of waste buried in the ground and has published a target of 95% diversion from land fill by 2018. This will both save money and help the environment.

Our current diversion from land fill rate for 2014/15 matches the target set with just 6,000 tonnes of waste sent to land fill this year. This represents a net saving to the Council of £945,000.

Our environmental impact has also been reduced significantly. Disposing of waste to landfill produces methane and leachate.

- Methane is 21 times more potent as a greenhouse gas than carbon dioxide.
- Landfill leachate has the potential to pollute groundwater and requires treatment.

By diverting waste away from landfill, typically at Rainham in Kent, to sites such as SELCHP in Deptford for energy recovery, the council is also minimising emissions from fuel used for haulage vehicles.

**19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS**

Can the cabinet member explain how the plans for the Camberwell Old and New Cemeteries will enhance the ecology and biodiversity of the site?

**RESPONSE**

Accessible green space in the borough is hugely important, as is good quality biodiversity within those green spaces. The plans the council has for the cemeteries is to improve a small area of currently closed off contaminated land by opening it up to the public whilst also helping in the council's plan to have cemetery space for those whose religious or cultural beliefs demand that they give their loved ones their last request in the area they lived in.

The areas of land will be opened up and will be designed in such a way that greatly enhances the bio diversity of the area.

Specifically the plans would:

- Ensure woodland management for currently unmanaged areas in line with recommended best practice
- Create large areas of coppice habitat (currently a rarity in the borough)
- Create a continuous boundary of native hedging/other planting providing a buffer and wildlife corridor – this would be an important habitat
- Allow for the clearance of scrub and self seeded trees that bring forward opportunities for woodland ground flora to flourish; this would be an important habitat
- Create new meadows that are a Biodiversity Action Plan target habitat and would create important new habitat
- Seek to retain as many existing trees as possible on the site
- Deliver overall the diversity of habitats (a mosaic of habitats) would mean that the sites would be more ecologically valuable than at present.

The site is currently a site of importance for nature conservation and this status will be maintained.

Following the community engagement exercise we are reviewing our plans with partners such as London Wildlife Trust. This is to ensure that the plans for new burial space are ecologically sound as they can be and that we retain as much of the current habitat as possible that local people value.

**20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (ENVIRONMENT AND RECYCLING) FROM COUNCILLOR LEO POLLAK**

What is the council doing to promote renewable energy options?

**RESPONSE**

We are committed to leading by example in our expansion of renewable energy technologies to reduce our carbon footprint and our spending on fossil fuels.

Some of the major renewable projects already installed or committed to are noted below:

- Since early 2014, thanks to a new district heating network, 2,600 homes in the borough have been receiving heat and hot water directly from the SELCHP energy from waste facility.

This innovative scheme, the first of its kind in London, removes the long standing reliance on gas boilers, producing very significant carbon savings and other environmental benefits as a result.

Projections are that the network will reduce carbon emissions in the borough by 7,700 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> a year.

We will be actively seeking future opportunities to expand this district heating network, with potential sites including the proposed major developments at Canada Water.

- We are currently constructing a large scale photovoltaic array on the roof of the Integrated Waste Management Facility off the Old Kent Road.

This array is scheduled to become operational in the next couple of months, and we understand it is the largest of its type in London. The array will generate a projected 660,000 kWh of electricity every year (the equivalent of powering 130 average sized homes), and save 340 tonnes CO<sub>2</sub> a year as well.

- Within our housing stock, our teams are about to initiate a pilot scheme for the installation of solar panels on suitable roofs of estate blocks, starting at Four Squares and Hawkstone Low-Rise. If these pilots are successful, the intention is to significantly expand this scheme where feasible amongst our housing stock.
- Along with a raft of other energy efficiency measures, solar panels are also being installed as part of the new Castle Leisure Centre at Elephant and Castle, and are planned as part of the refit of the Peckham Pulse leisure centre.

We will of course continue to assess all areas of our operational estate, including schools, for suitability for the future installation of renewable energy measures.

**21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER**

Whilst acknowledging that crime overall in Southwark has fallen quite significantly, there remains a serious problem with the use of knives in offences. What is the council doing to help improve the detection and sanction of offenders?

**RESPONSE**

I am pleased to state that recorded knife crime in Southwark has almost halved from 324 recorded crimes in 2009/10 to 166 in 2014/15.

Recorded incidents of knife crime with injury have also reduced significantly. From March 2012 – December 2014 the figures have reduced from 73 offences to 31. This is supported by similar reductions in knife crime with injury recorded through the London Ambulance Service.

The council has continued to invest in a number of innovative programmes to improve the sanction detection rates for recorded knife crime incidents this includes:

- Warden Service weapon sweeps – the service carried out weapon sweeps on a weekly basis, and found 30 weapons, including knives, in the financial year 2014-5 to date.
- A youth worker in Kings A&E department – the council has continued to fund a youth worker through Redthread, who provide support for young people who are victims of knife or gun shot injuries. Redthread worked with 50 young people who had assault related injuries. This is not all knife related.
- Southwark Anti Violence Unit- Southwark has an integrated gangs intervention team who have worked with over 140 clients since 2012 and helped 71 into education training or employment. A number of these clients have been victims of knife crime. 56% have not been convicted, arrested or have any cases pending.
- The Youth Offending Service runs anti knife crime group sessions as part of their interventions, focusing on addressing the attitudes and perceptions of carrying a knife.
- Our continuing investment in CCTV network is now bearing fruit with over 10% more offenders brought to justice with the aid of our investment in CCTV.

**22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS**

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's Domestic Abuse Strategy?

## **RESPONSE**

I am pleased and proud that the Domestic Abuse Strategy was approved by cabinet last week. The strategy has been a product of community conversations and partnership discussions since last year September.

It reflects this administration's strong commitments to creating a safer and Fairer Future for our residents. The strategy represents a bold and holistic new approach to tackling domestic abuse which has had a devastating effect on victims, their families and our wider community. It also reflects the input of our key partners the Safer Southwark Partnership, Southwark Health and Wellbeing Board, Southwark Safeguarding Adults Board and Southwark Safeguarding Children's Board who have made it a shared priority. Working in a multi-agency partnership remains the most effective way to reduce domestic abuse at both an operational and strategic level and this theme is the fulcrum to the strategy.

Significantly, this strategy reflects the views of local communities in the borough: survivors; support workers and voluntary and community groups' representatives, as well as youth organisations. For at its core, the strategy builds communities' capacity for early prevention by working closer with community leaders, advances greater intervention by health care practitioners, and challenges relevant agencies to take a sterner approach to enforcement. Above all, this strategy makes it unequivocal that this council and its partners will not tolerate any form of domestic abuse.

A detailed delivery plan has been developed alongside the strategy, allowing officers to work on reflecting the strategy's recommendations in our specialist Domestic Abuse services. The re-commissioning of a new service in the summer offers us the ideal opportunity to embed our new approach in the way we support some of the most vulnerable in our community.

The new strategy and the delivery plan will be available on the council's website for both our residents' and partners to hold us to account on how we are progressing and to provide a better support for those affected by Domestic Abuse.

### **23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING) FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS**

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's plans to improve the noise service?

## **RESPONSE**

This administration is committed to a zero tolerance approach to noise nuisance. The council handles on average 8,500 calls per annum. Around three quarters of these are rapid response calls where officers aim to attend all ongoing calls within an hour.

As part of the budget planning for 2015/16 the council is increasing investment in the noise service to increase the number of teams who can respond to service requests which require a rapid response.

I have asked officers to look at ways we can make the service to be more effective than present, and whether there is a new approach that we need to adopt to respond to complaints from residents and continue to enhance engagement.

**24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT, RECYCLING, COMMUNITY SAFETY AND VOLUNTEERING FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN**

Can the cabinet member state whether any Southwark residents with mental health issues have been held in a police cell while awaiting assessment/treatment and, if so, how many in each of the past five years?

**RESPONSE**

We recognise the importance of ensuring that residents with mental health are assessed and treated in an appropriate place of safety and preferably a mental health provision.

However, we have been unable to obtain the information as to the number of residents held in a police cell while awaiting assessment from the police. We will provide this as soon as it is available, whilst seeking assurances that residents with a diagnosed mental health condition are only assessed in a police cell as a last resort.

**25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM**

Given that the borough now receives record numbers of homeless applications, what steps is the council taking to meet this exceptional demand?

**RESPONSE**

In 2014 Southwark Council intervened to prevent 1,900 households becoming homeless. However, we are having large numbers of people approaching the council as homeless: 1,511 over the year ending in January 2015 – a 63% increase on the previous year. By January, we had 910 households in temporary accommodation, 36% more than two years ago.

This situation is not only one of misery for those families and individuals, it is also a big drain on the council's budget: whilst we have to date ensured that no family remains in bed and breakfast accommodation for more than 6 weeks, the council's expenditure on temporary accommodation for 2014/15 exceeds the budget by £2.2m.

To address this shortfall, the council is taking several measures:

- New temporary accommodation is being built: a total of 133 units will be ready by July through the Willow Walk, Good Neighbours House (on D'Eynsford Estate) and Northcott House (Waterloo Road) developments.
- A further 50 homes are proposed through a joint procurement vehicle.



- We are now able to use homes as temporary on phase 2 of the Aylesbury Estate rehousing programme as tenants move out of those blocks.
- Longer term, we are developing an underused hostel site to triple the number of units and we are exploring whether to use modular housing options on other sites. These are not “sea containers” as described in the press but high specification modern demountable units that can be installed. Merton, Lewisham and Waltham Forest are already taking similar ideas forward.
- In addition, to ensure that cases are not left pending in temporary accommodation prior to joining the council housing list, we are now ensuring that 100% of homelessness applications are dealt with within 33 working days – this is the first time the council has ever achieved this.

**26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU**

Can the cabinet member give an update on the work being undertaken to resolve the unacceptable failures of heating and hot water supply on Gloucester Grove and North Peckham estates?

**RESPONSE**

The unfortunate issues that households encountered on the Gloucester Grove and North Peckham estates over the winter, through the failures of the district heating and hot water system was not good enough.

These failures led to an intermittent supply of heating and hot water over a twelve week period, with residents experiencing no heating or hot water or low temperatures over this time.

The council apologised to residents and agreed to compensate them for the inconvenience and any additional costs incurred. Because of our concerns at the performance of T Brown Group in addressing the faults, we transferred the repair work for this system to OCO in early February. OCO currently have the best performance indicators of any of the council’s main repairs contractors.

The council also commissioned an independent consultants’ report from Phoenix Compliancy Management to investigate the reasons behind the failures and review the longer term issues with the system and they have made a number of recommendations for the council to implement in the short and medium term. The report identified some issues with the planned preventative maintenance of the boilers and plant, but concluded that the main cause of the outages was bursts to the underground distribution pipework, and that the replacement of the remaining old sections of the pipework should be undertaken as soon as possible.

The report and recommendations were shared with residents of both estates so that they can give their views on how we could make improvements. Having taken on board residents’ feedback, officers are preparing options that include main pipework replacement, secondary pipework and radiator replacement and the decommissioning of the existing district system and replacement with individual systems. Options and timescales for this major work will be presented to both tenants and residents associations over the coming weeks.

Apart from some localised problems the district system had been in full working order since 29 January. However, there was a disruption to the whole estate on 13 March which was due to another burst on the underground distribution pipework that was traced and remedied on the day by OCO.

**27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LUCAS GREEN**

Can the cabinet member for housing tell me when tenants of Setchell Estate can expect to have new kitchens and bathrooms fitted?

**RESPONSE**

I am delighted to be able to report that last month cabinet agreed that the Warm, Dry and Safe programme work for Alscot Way, Curtis Way, Hazel Way and Setchell Way on the Setchell Estate that starts later this year will now include the provision of new kitchens and bathrooms.

**28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON**

Is the cabinet member satisfied with the outcome of the recent review of the council's evictions policy?

**RESPONSE**

The recent review, initiated after the outcome of the Mr AA case, looked at 66 evictions since April 2013, covering 20% of evictions in that period. All councillors were invited to submit cases that they thought warranted further investigation as part of this review: one was received, which was included in this work. Of the 66 cases, 65 were found to have been carried out in full compliance with council procedure. In the remaining case (an eviction due to illegal occupation) insufficient records were input into the iWorld system but further investigation demonstrated that the eviction had been carried out correctly and that there had been no items left requiring storage.

Since the events that led to the destruction of Mr AA's property, a number of steps have been taken and measuring their effectiveness formed part of the review. These included:

- Updating the Rent income and Arrears procedure to clarify roles
- Adding the requirement that the Resident Services Officer records whether or not storage was required for each eviction
- Also adding a procedural step so that the Income Officer attending the eviction must call the Income Team Leader to confirm their presence on site
- Improved training of staff on eviction and goods storage procedures.

Whilst the review concluded that in 65 of the 66 cases procedures had been fully complied with (including the case referred by a councillor), it also made further recommendations:

- Amendments to our information systems to record confirmation of attendance at evictions
- Amendments to the recording on information systems where a case is with Legal Services

- On-going quarterly reviews of evictions to ensure legal and procedural requirements have been complied with
- Regular reviews and updates of Rent Income and Arrears procedures
- On-going training of all officers on procedures and information system requirements.

All of these are now being implemented.

Given the scope of the review, the ability of members to put forward cases for consideration as part of this review, the fact that the review demonstrated that there has been a considerable improvement in our evictions procedures and processes since the Mr AA case and the helpful recommendations that have come forward as part of the review, I am satisfied with its outcome.

**29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO**

Can the cabinet member for housing give an update on when Warm, Dry and Safe works will start at Caroline Gardens? Can he confirm that this work will now include fitting new kitchens and bathrooms?

**RESPONSE**

Caroline Gardens estate is a Grade 2 listed building. As a consequence, conservation protocols have delayed the start of the Warm, Dry and Safe programme scheduled for the estate.

These protocols require a conservation report to be written to support the work that is planned and to demonstrate to conservation officers that the work will not compromise the listed status of these homes. This report is now complete and is now being discussed with planners.

Subject to negotiations with Planning Conservation, we expect to be on site by this August.

I can confirm that the cabinet's February decision to include new kitchens and bathrooms as part of Warm, Dry and Safe work starting from this April onwards specifically included Caroline Gardens and so this work will now be included within the scope of the works on the estate.

The key criteria for the upgrade are the renewal of kitchens over 20 years old and of bathrooms over 30 years old. In addition, any kitchens failing our Housing Health & Safety Rating System test will be renewed.

I know residents of Caroline Gardens will welcome this news and I hope this is some compensation for the delay in starting the much needed improvements to their homes.

**30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER**

Why is the council not implementing its Warm, Dry and Safe policy of ensuring "windows in good condition or double glazed with secure locks" for acquired street properties and instead leaving tenants with cold, wet, dangerous ancient sash

windows, well over 40 years old, which consist of more putty, filler and rot than wood and are often without window locks?

## **RESPONSE**

The Warm, Dry and Safe standard ensures that all residents' windows will be wind and water tight.

The current Warm, Dry and Safe brief for street properties is to repair the existing windows and decorate as and where required to ensure that this standard is achieved and are in a secure state. The council will also renew sections of any such windows that are beyond reasonable repair on a like for like basis.

### **31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS**

How is the council working with schools to improve safety on roads around schools?

## **RESPONSE**

We want to ensure that schools, children and families are able to cycle safely in the borough and that there are many opportunities to encourage and support young people and schools that welcome sustainable transport options.

All schools and their wider communities are offered a comprehensive road safety education, training and publicity programme (please see figure 1 below which shows take up in 2014/15). This is complemented by the work officers do in assisting schools in developing their school travel plans which encourage staff and pupils to walk and cycle to and from school safely.

There are currently 43 schools in the borough which have an accredited travel plan and officers are working with approximately 20 more schools to achieve accredited status. School Travel Plans enable schools to raise any safety issues around schools which they may have such as illegal/inconsiderate parking, lack of signs, lines, guard-railing etc. In 2014/15 officers are progressing 12 such issues for individual schools with more planned for 15/16.

In addition, we run a school crossing patrol service, providing 47 school crossing patrols across the borough.

We are actively working with the Dulwich and Herne Hill Safe Routes to School group and have funded the provision of a 'Bike It' officer to work with this group for 2 years.

I am pleased that we have been successful in attracting over £200,000 of TfL capital funding under the Cycle to School partnership programme to make significant improvements to the East Dulwich Grove/Townley Road junction which is heavily used by school children on foot and by bike due to the close proximity of 8 schools.

Complementing the wider offer and commitment to enhancing sustainable transport options within the borough, we are developing a new Cycle Strategy which is scheduled to be agreed by cabinet in June 2015. A central principle of this

strategy is 'cycling for everyone' and it will prioritise improving cycle access to schools.

We have recently fully implemented the borough-wide 20mph limit and police enforcement of it has commenced although we continue to press the police to do more.

We will continue to actively enforce 'school keep clear' markings outside schools, including by CCTV, to reduce the danger to schoolchildren of illegal parking.

A number of other highway improvement schemes include significant benefits for schools – for example the road safety and access improvements project in Grove Hill Road, approved for implementation in summer 2015, will deliver substantial road safety improvements around Dog Kennel Hill School in Camberwell.

**Figure 1 Snapshot**

<b>Road Safety Education</b>	<b>Pupils</b>	<b>Schools</b>
Pedestrian Training	2878	34 schools
Independent Travel Training Bus	300	N/A
Theatre in Education	5766	40 schools
Road Safety Talks	1570	10 schools
Junior Travel Ambassadors (JTA)	36	9 schools
Road Safety Quiz	24	12 schools
Scooter Training	120	3 schools
Junior Citizen Scheme	1111	27 schools
Cyclist Training	1800	N/A

**32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN**

Can the cabinet member explain why car parking is being permitted for some larger, high value developments when we are supposed to be a borough that is promoting walking and cycling?

**RESPONSE**

Many larger developments are required to provide disabled parking spaces within the site. Any additional parking is considered on a case by case basis. Current policy does not prohibit such parking provision, but instead specifies maximum allowable levels of provision, with the ratio allowed dependent on location in the borough. On occasion discussion around parking is part of a wider analysis around viability which may be linked to key objectives such as securing affordable homes in the borough.

We currently have a 'car free' policy, but this relates to the non-provision of on-street parking permits rather than parking within the development. Consultation on options for the New Southwark Plan has been carried out recently, with further consultation planned in the current year. The council is proposing new parking standards as part of this process which would further restrict parking within new developments. The proposed standards are consistent with changes to the London Plan and in some cases more restrictive. In effect, the proposed standards would

severely limit non-disabled parking in new developments in areas of very good public transport provision.

I am committed to facilitating a significant increase in levels of cycling in the borough. A new Cycling Strategy will be considered for adoption by cabinet in June. The Strategy sets out a range of measures to promote cycling to the whole community and complements existing policies such as overall traffic reduction, as well as the new standards proposed in the New Southwark Plan. The Cycling Strategy and the New Southwark Plan are closely linked with new developments required to deliver the objectives of the Strategy.

**33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Now that the consultation on the New Southwark Plan has ended, what weight will be given to the comments made by local residents?

**RESPONSE**

We will listen to and consider all responses to the New Southwark Plan consultation.

The approach to the Issues and Options for the New Southwark Plan was to set out a clear vision with regeneration and protection strategies for the all areas within Southwark. A clear strategy and set of policies for areas and issues such as housing, offices, protected shopping frontages, the environment, conservation and community facilities provides information on how the policies will be framed. Other policy subjects such as preferred industrial locations and town centre boundaries have more open questions. This approach has enabled us to consult on all of the issues so that we can listen to responses in the preparation of the Preferred Option whilst focusing resources on the areas of significant change. We have received around 320 responses on the plan. These are being logged and put on the web.

This highlighting of specific areas where we need people to respond to the key questions such as building 11,000 council homes, building affordable and shared ownership homes and how to provide local jobs for local people will enable us to focus resources on listening and responding to where decisions need to be made.

We carried out community conversations, went to meetings and we have set up conversations about the major changes. A new Old Kent Road forum is now meeting where people are keen for community involvement in an ambitious plan for change.

The responses will be summarised in the consultation plan for the Preferred Option. This will also set out how policies and strategies have been changed to make changes based on the comments. This will be taken to cabinet in the autumn as part of agreeing the Preferred Option for consultation.

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

Can the cabinet member provide a list of secondary school offers made this year by order of preference broken down by community council area?

## **RESPONSE**

To follow.

### **17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN**

Can the cabinet member update us on the council's work so far to ensure vocational education is provided for local young people at the former Southwark College site in Drummond Road and whether the s106 funding allocated from The Shard development has been used to support it?

## **RESPONSE**

The former Southwark College site at Drummond Road was sold by the Lewisham and Southwark College Corporation to the developers Grosvenor about three years ago. Included in the sale was the requirement to provide a new school on the site. The Compass Secondary school opened on the site in September 2013.

The sale of the site has been used to fund the development of the college site at Waterloo. Phase one of this development is nearly complete and the second phase is well under way. When complete, Southwark residents will have access to some of the best vocational facilities in London. £0.5m of Section 106 funding from The Shard has also been invested in work-related learning facilities at the Waterloo site.

Whilst no Section 106 funding is being used to directly support learning at Drummond Road, it is specifically linked to a number of projects that support the Council's aim of building a strong local economy and providing the best start in life. Funding from The Shard s106 supports a range of projects geared towards getting local residents into training and employment across the borough. For example, through the innovative partnership project with Good People, we are on track to get 300 unemployed residents and school/college leavers into work by January 2016.