

PROPOSED CHANGE TO COUNCIL ASSEMBLY PROCEDURE RULE 2.8 – LATE QUESTIONS BY GROUP LEADERS

2.8 URGENT LATE QUESTIONS BY GROUP LEADERS

Which meetings consider ~~urgent~~ late questions?

1. ~~Urgent~~ Late questions shall be taken at all ordinary council assembly meetings but not at the annual, extraordinary or council tax setting meetings.

Who can ask ~~urgent~~ late questions?

2. The leader of each group, or in his or her absence the deputy leader, may ask an ~~urgent~~ a late question of:
 - the Mayor
 - a member of the cabinet
 - the chair of any committee, sub-committee or community council.
3. Group leaders are limited to one ~~urgent~~ late question at each meeting.

Scope

4. ~~An urgent~~ A late question may be asked on any matter in relation to which the council has powers or duties or which affects Southwark.
5. ~~An urgent question is one that deals with a matter that has arisen since the deadline for members' questions has elapsed and which cannot wait until the next council assembly.~~
6. No question shall be asked on a matter relating to an investigation by (whether completed or not), or ruling of, the standards committee or sub-committee insofar as the question relates to the behaviour or conduct of an individual member or members.
7. No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Deadline for submission of questions

8. ~~Urgent~~ Late questions must be received by the proper constitutional officer no later than 10.00am on the morning of an ordinary council assembly meeting. If a meeting is scheduled to commence before 7.00pm or is to be held at the weekend this deadline shall be no later than 10.00am on the working day prior to the meeting.
9. Questions shall be addressed to the Mayor, relevant cabinet member or committee chair who shall be responsible for the content of the answer. Cabinet members and committee chairs shall have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member or committee chair, if this is appropriate.

Circulation of written answers

10. Copies of all questions and their written answers shall be circulated to all councillors at the beginning of the meeting. Copies shall also be made available to the press and public present at the meeting.

Supplementary question

11. The leader of the opposition will be allowed two supplemental questions without notice. Other group leaders asking a question may ask one supplementary question without notice to the member who was asked the first question. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply.