

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY)

WEDNESDAY 8 JULY 2015

MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS

What impact does the leader believe the recent decision by the government to slash £200 million of public health funding for local government will have in Southwark?

RESPONSE

It is very disappointing that at a time when the NHS is under increasing demand, the government has chosen to slash £200 million from local authority public health budgets, 95% of which is spent on preventative health services. In Southwark the estimated reduction in our public health budget is approximately £1.7 million, which will have a significant negative impact on the services we provide to our residents.

These short-sighted government cuts are completely counter-productive to the health of the population, as well as long-term efforts of local authorities to reduce cost pressures in the NHS. The likely impact of this cut will be reductions in funding to programmes which address priority areas such as sexual and reproductive health services, including HIV, which has a long-standing increasing trend. These are areas of major expenditure for Southwark, reflecting our provision of universal open access to service where there is high local need. In the context of major reductions in funding across the council's budget, making these particular savings will impact on our other commissioned services and limit the potential for investment in prevention and service development.

Preventative public health services are absolutely key to ensuring the NHS and social care is able to cope with the challenges of growing demand and limited resources. Local authorities are targeting some of the most significant public health challenges of our time, such as smoking, alcohol misuse and obesity, yet we are seeing more local resources being cut to fund national gaps. Instead of cutting funding the government should be enabling local authorities to fulfil their leadership role in public health, to protect and improve the lives of our residents, which is even more important in this current context of pressures on residents brought on by the government's austerity measures.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS

Thank you Madam Mayor and may I thank the leader for his answer. I do have a supplemental. The government today announced further budget proposals including cuts to welfare which are primarily directed at working families on low incomes and in particular disgracefully at families with children. What impact does the leader believe this will have on residents in Southwark? Thank you.

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Burgess for her supplemental question. I'm very concerned clearly about the impact that continued government changes will have across our borough, that is why we are doing as much as we can as a local authority to protect those who are most vulnerable in our community, those most of need and it is also why we are trying to create the right housing and employment conditions for people so that they can hopefully find work and get out of some of the poverty conditions that they might currently experience. It is clear this government does not understand the needs of boroughs like ours, it does not have regard for many of our residents, that's why I'm proud to be part of the Labour administration that is on the side of people right across our borough from every background, that is why we want to see them do well and that's why we want to see them get on, that is why we will continue to fight this Tory government and all it is doing to really damage local government and the ambitions of our borough.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

What progress has there been implementing the recommendations of the Childcare Commission so far?

RESPONSE

A report on progress will be received at the cabinet meeting on the 21 July.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS

Can the leader give an update on the progress being made to deliver the administration's ambitious pledges set out in the council plan?

RESPONSE

Following the election in May last year, we put together an ambitious council plan setting out how we would continue to deliver a fairer future for all in Southwark over the next four years.

I am delighted that one year into our four year plan a significant amount of work has been undertaken and we have already delivered on a number of our pledges.

We have families getting ready to move into our first new council homes at Willow Walk and a further 193 new council homes currently under construction. The commitment to build 1,500 new council homes by 2018 is well underway and I'm proud that our new local lettings policy is now in place, meaning new homes will be offered to local people first.

The pilot for free swim and gym use is now underway, with all those aged 18 and under, or over 60, being offered free swim and gym use. Nearly 3,500 people have registered with the scheme so far.

Our Ethical Care Charter means that care workers in Southwark are no longer subject to zero hours contracts and we have ensured that they are paid for travel time, meaning they can spend more time with residents.

We guaranteed that every child would be offered a local primary school place and we have delivered on that as well as our pledge to help open a Credit Union account for every 11 year old, with accounts being opened with a £10 starting deposit.

We are also helping support more people to foster and adopt in Southwark by paying their council tax for them.

I should also mention the hugely successful launch of the Women's Safety Charter, where in excess of 40 venues across Southwark have signed up to the key principles of the charter, seeking to make Southwark the safest place for women in London.

A report outlining the council's progress against all the pledges set out in the council plan was presented to cabinet in June. The report can be found online at: <http://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s54706/Report%20Fairer%20future%20annual%20performance%20report.pdf>

We will continue to update residents on the delivery of our pledges and our commitment to deliver a fairer future for all in Southwark.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS

I would like to thank the leader for his answer and just ask a short supplementary question. I wonder if you could just say a bit more about our success in getting young people to take up the credit union offer and what impact that has had for their wider families as well?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Williams. What I'm very pleased about is that we have delivered on this pledge that we made last May to the people of our borough, 230 young people have already opened a credit union account because of the incentives that we had given based on the first £10 deposit and we hope that will lead to many, many more young people. I do urge members from all sides to make young people aware of this as a policy and what follows from it hopefully is that more parents and guardians will open a credit union account so that we can have more responsible lending and borrowing right across our borough, other boroughs are also copying I'm told because its such a great idea, so that's the progress made to date.

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

Can the leader update councillors on what the council is doing to ensure co-ordinated action on education and training for jobs, and on proposals for the old Southwark College site on Drummond Road?

RESPONSE

The council remains committed to education, training and jobs in the borough.

The landscape that local authorities operate in and our priorities have changed in recent years – Southwark is a major player in creating the conditions to support economic growth and is involved heavily in partnerships with Job Centre Plus and

getting our residents into employment. Local authorities have a major role in developing a new skills system in London, working alongside the Greater London Authority (GLA), the London Enterprise Panel (LEP) and London Councils, and we believe we can use our Community Budget partnership on work and skills across Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham to best deliver the skills our residents and employers need to get into sustainable, long-term employment.

As part of the Community Budget initiative, I have agreed, with the Leaders of Lambeth and Lewisham, to put in place plans for the creation of a joint committee across the three boroughs. The joint committee will create a platform for the council to lobby and bid for further resources and responsibilities on employment and skills to be devolved to a more local level.

The council has announced plans to build a new construction skills centre based at the heart of our regeneration sites at the Elephant and Castle. This is about working at scale across Southwark, Lambeth and Lewisham, in partnership with the further education (FE) and training sector, to provide the right construction skills for our residents. The centre will complement those in Lambeth at Nine Elms and Lewisham at Deptford and mean together we will train hundreds of local people so they can take advantage of the development and construction related jobs in the borough.

Councillors will be aware that the former Southwark College as a wholly independent organisation sold the Drummond Road site some years ago and in doing so they deprived the borough of a key asset for education and training into employment. Any proposals for the site will be subject to planning process and we will work with partners to ensure the best outcome from the situation that the College created.

The cabinet member for children and schools and I are working with senior officers to secure the remaining FE assets in the borough (namely Waterloo and Camberwell) for the community. We have made clear our disappointment of Lewisham Southwark College for failing to deliver high quality education and training for our young people and adult learners. We are actively working with partners, the FE Commissioner and the Department for Education to address this directly and have put forward proposals which we believe would deliver excellent education and training from September 2016. We are meeting with the FE Commissioner later this month and can update councillors following that meeting.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR AL-SAMERAI

Thanks very much Madam Mayor. My question is about the old Southwark College site in Riverside ward which Councillor McCallum referred to but obviously events are quite urgent with the other Southwark College site in Camberwell and I understand that the governing board is going to make a decision on 14 July, so I would urge if possible for some engagement from the cabinet before their next cabinet meeting. The deputation notes, which they were basically told they couldn't come along tonight, their deputation paper said that there was someone on that governing board for the LESOCO who was there for the council and that nobody for the council, no Labour councillor had come along for a year, and it sounds odd. I just wondered if you could confirm if that's correct or if its another question he doesn't know the answer to?

RESPONSE

She never misses a cheap trick or a cheap shot, Councillor Al-Samerai is consistent, she is consistent and for that I thank her. The issue is down to Councillor Livingstone, given his experience of further education prior to becoming a full time cabinet member, he has sat on the LESOCO governors for 18 months, one of his final acts - he tells me, he assures me - was to change the name back to Lewisham and Southwark College, which is a very good move indeed. But it was as a consequence of our concerns after the first OFSTED which demonstrated that the college was failing that Councillor Livingstone considered his position, whether he could best serve the college as remaining as a governor or whether the council as a whole would better support effectively from the outside and giving advice to the FE commissioner. I have been in two meetings, firstly with the FE commissioner about this college, Councillor Mills has been in more, it is something which is at the top of our agenda, its not something which suddenly occurs to us on the night of a council assembly or days before a council assembly, it is something we are working on and have been working on and will continue to work on because we want to ensure a good further education offer for all our students in our borough and there is nothing wrong with that at all and we will continue to support further education going forward. At the moment we do not think it is suitable or working for our borough or our residents or our students and we are not washing our hands, we are trying to provide a solution. We are working to provide a solution, I really do take offence at the suggestion we are not taking this seriously or washing our hands. If she only knew, even though we are telling her, she doesn't seem to listen, if she only knew how much work we are doing on this subject, she might appreciate, support what we're doing, get behind us, get behind the young people of our borough.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Can the leader give an update on the council's free swim and gyms pilot for older and young people in Southwark?

RESPONSE

The Southwark Free Swim and Gym scheme opened to the public on Saturday 21 March 2015 with the commencement of the registration process, which allowed Southwark residents whom were 18 and under or over 60 to sign up to the scheme ahead of its launch on Saturday 23 May 2015.

By 22 June 2015, 3,469 residents had completed the registration process, which equates to an average of nearly 37 registrations a day. In the most recent week alone the scheme has reached nearly 50 applications a day, and interest in the scheme has continued to increase significantly.

The breakdown for total number of registrations are:

- 18s and under = 2,587
- 60 and over = 882
- Total = 3,469

Registrations by black and minority ethnic (BME) communities has positively reflected the composition of the borough with over 36% in the 60+ age group

(BME borough-wide composition in 60+ is 28%) and over 75% in the 18s and under age group (BME borough-wide composition in 18s and under is 64%).

The pilot scheme was launched on Saturday 23 May 2015 and is free for the following groups:

- 18s and under free swim – all day Friday; afternoons from 2pm until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday
- 16 to 18 years free gym – all day Friday; afternoons from 2pm until 6pm on Saturday and Sunday
- 14 to 16 years free youth gym sessions – at selected times on Friday evenings, Saturday and Sunday afternoons
- Free 'Silver Sessions' – access to the 60+ sessions all week.

Since the scheme commenced, 2,088 Southwark residents had benefitted by attending a Southwark leisure centre activity.

The attendances across our leisure centres are as follows under the scheme:

- Camberwell Leisure Centre = 387
- Dulwich Leisure Centre = 706
- Peckham Pulse = 396
- Seven Islands Leisure Centre = 535
- Surrey Docks Watersports Centre = 64
- TOTAL = 2,088

Average attendances per day are also increasing; at the start the scheme was averaging 48 per day and in the most recent week this has risen to 95 per day. Free swim and gyms will be extended to all residents by summer 2016

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Yes I do, thank you Madam Mayor and I want to thank the leader for his answer, this is welcome news. I'm sure we can all agree that being physically active has huge benefits particularly for older adults and young people, who this pilot has targeted, however we have heard a high number of young people are not currently being active for about an hour a day which is the recommended amount for young people to be healthy. Does the leader think a free swim and gym would help more young people in the borough to be healthy and active?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Akoto for her thoughtful supplemental question. This is really important given what we were just talking about, given the cuts that we have seen to our public health budget, given the cuts to our own budget. It is important with our public health responsibilities that we are doing everything that we can to ensure that our population is not ending up as a statistic at a GP surgery or an A&E unit or a receiving care trust but we are doing as much as we can to prevent ill-health as early as possible; that is why we've introduced our free swims and gyms policy, that is why it will be rolled out to the entire population of the borough next year. This is a very positive step I believe in trying to change behaviours, trying to tackle some of the problems and inequalities quite frankly that exist in our society. We might already have very low charging rates for visits to our

leisure centres and swimming pools but very low rates are still too expensive if your income, household income is virtually zero after paying essential bills so this is to encourage people with really no resources or very limited resources into our leisure centres. We will continue to study and assess how successful it is. I am confident this is a very positive step forward for this local authority for our residents.

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the leader explain why the council's new policy to prohibit and restrict payday lenders and pawnbrokers does not also prohibit and restrict fast food takeaways close to schools?

RESPONSE

We are in the process of adopting the New Southwark Plan and we will include restrictions on fast food takeaways near schools, as well as restrictions on 'clusters' of takeaway shops, so that these restrictions will be enforced on a borough-wide basis. We will consult on the preferred option of the New Southwark Plan in autumn this year.

The council already has in place restrictions on fast food takeaways through the Peckham and Nunhead Area Action Plan, which prevents hot food takeaways from opening within 400 metres of secondary schools. The number of fast food takeaways is also restricted within Peckham town centre, Nunhead local centre and the Walworth Road to prevent clustering of takeaways. New fast food takeaways will not be permitted where more than 5% of retail units in the area are already takeaways, or where there is an existing takeaway within 10 premises to either side.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Thank you Madam Mayor and I thank the leader for his response. Many thanks for explaining how planning policies are going to be used generally in future to help solve this problem but my question is will the council use its landlord powers now to address this problem of fast foods near schools?

RESPONSE

Well clearly any change to planning policy requires going through the planning policy procedure but I think he's talking about our lettings policy of premises that we own as a local authority and certainly that is something we are actively looking at, at the moment. I know its a conversation that Councillor Colley is having with the property department and public health to ensure that we do not have lettings to fast food outlets in the way that it is suggested in his question. So it might be something that Councillor Colley can take up and explain more fully to him but I'm confident that its something we're actively looking at, but thank you for the question.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE

Can the leader explain what the council is doing to ensure that Southwark residents are able to make the most of employment opportunities arising from regeneration and construction schemes in the borough?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council continues to pave the way to create a borough with builders ready to work on a range of construction sites. Southwark has teamed up with Lewisham and Lambeth councils to create an innovative new centre that will train hundreds of local people to take advantage of the jobs being created on their doorstep.

The £1 million Southwark construction skills centre will complement centres in Lewisham and Lambeth that will focus on related skills. Developers Lend Lease have also agreed to house the centre on site at Elephant Park, which means classrooms will be based at the heart of the borough on one of the country's largest regeneration sites at the Elephant and Castle (subject to planning permission). The centre will offer training to unemployed Southwark residents and a classroom space to promote construction careers to school students.

Other ways we support residents to access employment opportunities from regeneration and construction schemes is through ensuring developers appoint an onsite work place co-ordinator, who is responsible for identifying possible employment opportunities and assisting residents into the vacancies created.

We ensure that residents have access to the pre- and post-employment training that is relevant to the construction industry by placing obligations on developers working in the borough to deliver training through s.106 agreements. In 2014/15 alone, 324 unemployed Southwark residents were helped into jobs in construction.

We also offer employment support for targeted client groups through Southwark Works. This is a network of council commissioned employment support services. Southwark Works also offers a local recruitment service to employers moving into new commercial developments and engages with employers to meet their needs through the recruitment of a local workforce. In 2014/15 Southwark Works supported 241 residents into employment.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE

Thank you Madam Mayor I do have a short supplemental. I would like to thank the leader for his response and I look forward to referring interested constituents to the new Southwark Construction Skill Centre to be set up in Elephant Park, specifically in relation to construction firms, does the leader agree that the council should be doing everything it can to work with construction firms to properly recognise trade unions and have not and will not participate in illegal black-listing?

RESPONSE

Yes absolutely. We expect very high standards as an employer, a direct employer, we pay the London living wage, we have the ethical care charter with regard to our care workers, which might I say is having a massive impact in the way in which our care workers are treated and regard themselves as working in Southwark, and we will take exactly the same ethical approach to all employment issues relating to the construction building industry where we have direct control or influence over it.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

What action is the council taking to reduce the number of empty homes in the borough following the motion agreed by council assembly in January?

RESPONSE

We are continuing to review the ways that the council's planning powers can be used to ensure future new homes in Southwark do not stay empty for more than three months.

We are seeking to increase the number of existing empty homes in the borough that are charged council tax by reviewing the current council tax exemptions on empty homes. We are also supporting calls for the qualifying period for charging the empty home premium to be reduced from two years to one and for the amount to be increased from 150% to 200% council tax.

The council will continue to build more homes of every type in Southwark, including council homes at council rents. These will be included within the policy and resources strategy for 2016/17 – 2018/19 that will be reported to council assembly as part of the budget setting process in February 2016.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

Thank you Madam Mayor, first I would like to congratulate you on becoming Mayor of the London Borough of Southwark. I would like to thank the leader for his reply. When will we see the results of the review into planning powers and what discussions have there been with other London boroughs tackling issues like luxury apartments and what progress has there been assessing the actual number of these homes in Southwark?

RESPONSE

Thank you Councillor Mann for that supplementary question. It is something that we take very seriously, I think it is symptomatic of the housing supply shortage right across London. Southwark is leading the way in trying to solve that housing practice, both by what we are doing directly as a builder of council homes, 11,000 council homes by 2043 – 1,500 by 2018. It is why we are building more homes of every kind right across our borough because there is a need for homes of every kind and every tenure right across our borough but I continue to urge all boroughs to do as much as we are. I think its ironic sometimes that people complain about what we are doing Southwark in terms of house building, they don't go and complain in Bromley, they don't go and complain in Richmond, that's where the complaints need to be made because that's where they're not building any housing for anybody, keep out of our borough. So if somebody has got a spare evening, I suggest that they go to a borough that's not building rather than a borough that is building and has a proud record of delivering affordable housing right across our borough.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Southwark was recently officially recognised by the World Health Organisation as the only London community in its Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. What will this recognition mean for the council's Age Friendly work?

RESPONSE

I'm proud that Southwark has been officially recognised by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as part of its Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. We want everyone to get the best out of Southwark, whatever their age, which is why we made a manifesto commitment last year to become an Age Friendly Borough. Our commitment to becoming age friendly is embedded in everything we do as a council; including transport, housing, culture, sport and social care.

Our successful application to join the network is an acknowledgement of the work we have done to maintain and improve the health of our older population and to work in partnership with older people to create physical and social environments that are accessible and inclusive for everyone. We have been implementing a number of policies and programmes over the last couple of years aimed at making the borough more age friendly, including:

- Bringing an end to 15 minute care visits through our Ethical Care Charter for home care contracts
- Becoming a Dementia Friendly Borough and forming the new Southwark Dementia Action Alliance
- Providing free 'Silver Surfer' IT sessions at our libraries and delivering a home library service to over 300 residents a month
- Providing free swimming and gym use to all residents over 60
- Providing free assistive technology to everyone over 85 and those residents diagnosed with dementia.

Being part of the Age-friendly Cities and Communities Network means that Southwark has joined a wide range of international communities to share information, experience and best practices, which we will use to build on our age friendly work. By being part of this global network we can gain inspiration from projects and ideas across the world to help us continue our age friendly work, as well as sharing our own experience, achievements and lessons learnt with others.

Over the summer we will be running a community conversation, steered by older people's organisations, about how we can build on the achievements so far in making Southwark an age friendly borough and positively celebrate ageing.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

What is the leader's response to the recent article in Southwark News by the local Greater London Authority member which stated that the Bakerloo Line extension should only have one branch?

RESPONSE

In the Southwark News article referred to the GLA member categorically did not state that the Bakerloo Line extension should only have one branch.

We have campaigned for the Bakerloo extension for several years and we've been working with the Mayor of London for the last two years to turn our aspiration into a reality. We are clear about the need for a two-branch route, to serve Camberwell and Peckham, and the Old Kent Road, both of which are currently

under-served by public transport. Our position has been clear and consistent, and unlike the Liberal Democrats, we did not wait until the election to realise how important an issue this was for our borough.

The recent consultation on the Bakerloo line extension showed clearly that it is a key priority for our residents. The community have been fantastic in campaigning passionately for both routes and we will continue to push for a two-branch extension to serve existing residents, support new development and bring much-needed investment to both areas.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

I thank the leader for his response. Your response says the GLA member categorically did not state the Bakerloo extension should have just one branch. What the member said and I quote "realistically only one option will be taken forward and up to now I thought we were getting on very well with each other on this issue." Can you answer that please?

RESPONSE

I want to thank Councillor Damian O'Brien for his supplemental question. I think what's important ultimately this won't be a decision for London Assembly members, it maybe news to them but it's the reality of the position. This is a decision that's going to be taken probably by the Treasury because the Treasury doesn't trust London government to decide on infrastructure projects for itself, it's time it did, it's time that the Treasury adopted all the proposals of the Travis Commission, so that we have more of the decision powers in London but what I'm absolutely clear, this local authority, this council united position as far as I understand it is that we're campaigning and continue to campaign for a two line solution, through Camberwell and Peckham and down the Old Kent Road and that is what we will continue to do and we will do our best to make the best business case that we can for decision makers, for the Mayor to TfL and the Treasury in support of that case.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Will the leader of the council explore the allocation of council staff parking permits across the borough and whether it is being abused?

RESPONSE

We are aware that this issue has been raised at Bermondsey and Rotherhithe community council. The only staff in receipt of parking permits are those who have satisfied the criteria as essential users and who use the permits in the proper performance of their duties. This includes social workers, surveyors, building control and emergency vehicles.

There are also liveried vehicles that get permits but these go with the car, not the member of staff. We have received complaints about the parking of liveried vehicles at Tooley Street on the nearby estates. There have been increased patrols in the area around Tooley Street by traffic wardens, but there has been very little evidence of inappropriate parking by staff except the pool cars. The

parking situation was reviewed and measures put in place, including marking out designated spaces for the pool cars.

It has been our experience that there is inappropriate parking in specific areas, rather than a general problem with staff parking. Reviewing the problem, like at Tooley Street, has meant we have been able to put in place directed measures that have resolved specific problems. There is no evidence at present to suggest there is a wider problem with parking, but we welcome feedback from residents and members and will look into each situation individually.

12. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR KIERON WILLIAMS (CAMBERWELL COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the council advise as to progress on the extension of the Bakerloo Line to Camberwell?

RESPONSE

Transport for London (TfL) on behalf of the Mayor undertook a public consultation on extending the Bakerloo Line south towards New Cross, Lewisham, Bromley and Hayes in late 2014. Having received over 15,000 responses, they found over 95% of responses expressed support for the principle of extending the Bakerloo Line. The council supports both branches of the Bakerloo Line extension – one down the Old Kent Road and one through Camberwell and Peckham.

This consultation also found that 31% of respondents strongly supported and 18% supported option 1a; the preferred route between Elephant & Castle and New Cross Gate (along the Old Kent Road). 48% of respondents strongly supported and 16% supported option 1b (via Camberwell and Peckham Rye).

TfL are currently considering the key issues raised within the consultation, with an aim to publish this report later in 2015. At the time of writing, no decision has been made on preferred route alignment within Southwark, or on the extent of the route to the south. Current forecasts suggest that an alignment via the Old Kent Road would have the strongest business case, but an alignment via Camberwell also shows a very strong case, well in excess of TfL's required threshold for investment. The Old Kent Road option will have a major impact on enabling the delivery of new homes. The Camberwell and Peckham option builds on the regeneration of the two town centres already underway and provides a much needed public transport link for local residents.

Officers are continuing to input into the technical assessment and business case development for both branches of the Bakerloo Line extension. These discussions have focused on the routes to secure the large amount of funding needed to implement the scheme, including the extent to which it can be funded by associated development of new homes and commercial space. It is understood that the next stage is for TfL to present a business case to the Treasury by the end of July for the next Spending Review.

In addition, as part of a wider review of rail services in south London, officers are also reviewing the potential to reopen the national rail station at Camberwell in order to bring better connectivity to the area.

13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What plans does the council have to improve planning, housing and regeneration policy to ensure easier access to information on progress, better access to opportunities for local people, and better standards by developers in employment?

RESPONSE

One of our fairer future promises is to revitalise our neighbourhoods to make them places in which we can all be proud to live and work. We are transforming the Elephant and Castle and the Aylesbury and starting regeneration of the Old Kent Road which will continue to pull the benefits of being in the centre of London southwards towards Elephant and Castle and beyond. This regeneration must work for local people and the benefits be felt right across the borough.

In support of these aims, we will open a Construction Skills Centre at the Elephant and Castle in early 2016 which will offer training to unemployed Southwark residents and a classroom space to promote construction careers to school students. The Skills Centre will respond to the growing need for construction workers and new trades, ensuring quality training that directly responds to employer needs in the sector.

Since 1 July 2013, 379 people have been employed on the Elephant Park site, 166 of whom were previously unemployed Southwark residents. Support for Elephant Park jobs comes through council commissioned employment support services such as Southwark Works as well as Lend Lease's own efforts to meet S106 obligations through its work place co-ordinator. Investment in the new Construction Skills Centre will make Elephant Park the focus for exciting new training opportunities that will help to boost and revive interest in the huge variety of jobs available in the construction sector.

During these periods of major change we encourage all of our partners to subscribe to the Considerate Constructor Scheme to protect the quality of life of residents.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

I would equally like to thank the cabinet member for a quite comprehensive answer but I do have a supplementary. I did want to first of all congratulate him on what is a very comprehensive answer and indeed I am really quite excited by the number of jobs that have been created as a result of regeneration in the borough of Bankside and the Walworth Community Council area, thank you very much but you cite that there are 379 people who have been employed, of which 166 were previously unemployed. Can you tell us are they in permanent employment or indeed temporary or is there a strategy to ensure that there was continuous employment for those individuals?

RESPONSE

I thank the councillor for his supplemental question, so of those jobs, 71 were for six months or more and we are trying to do all we can to make sure as many of the jobs as possible last for as long as possible because of the work that the

leader has already talked about with the construction and skills academy which will be based at Elephant Park. We are also now looking at what further work we can do to open up opportunities up for our residents and our young people to access to jobs in the non-construction element of the construction industry, that being designers, quantity surveyors, architects, development managers etc., there's a whole plethora of jobs there. We know we have got a very long pipeline of development in the borough and we need to open up as many opportunities as we can and simply continue to push on and push all the right development partners.

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR JOHNSON SITU (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the cabinet member for regeneration give the Peckham and Nunhead community council an update on the current progress of the Peckham square co-design?

RESPONSE

The Peckham co-design process has been taking forward proposals for two squares – Station Square (in front of Peckham Rye Station) and Library Square.

On Station Square, a planning application is scheduled to be submitted in September 2015 to create the new square and refurbish a building on Blenheim Grove. Detailed negotiations are taking place with the property interests and local traders. Subject to planning and acquisition of property interests, it is anticipated that a start on site will be made in summer 2016.

On Library Square, the council has consulted on options for improving 91-93 Peckham High Street and the Square. The next co-design meeting on 23 July 2015 will update on this work and set out a programme for taking the proposals forward.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Yes and I would also like to thank the cabinet member for his response and I'm sure the residents of Peckham and Nunhead will appreciate that at the next community council. I just wanted to ask a quick supplemental question in that moving forward can the cabinet member inform us how he plans to continue to update and inform and include residents for the plans for Peckham Square?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Situ for the supplemental question. We continue to talk to local residents in all forms and in all ways that we can with the regular Peckham Regeneration e-newsletter that goes out on a regular basis, the next one will be going out in a few days time and we will be inviting local residents to a meeting on the 23 July to hear a really exciting announcement for Peckham Library Square so watch this space, please do forward that on and all members in Peckham to forward it on to your contacts when that comes through next week. We are also currently planning work to start engagement with residents over the heritage lottery fund that we successfully bid for, £1.67 million, to improve the heritage shop fronts down Rye Lane and around Peckham High Street and that

process will be kicking off in late September/early October. We are just getting the final dates pinned down and that's going to give residents the opportunity to comment on and to feed into the process and improving those heritage buildings in Peckham which is a really good positive thing and really good that we secured that money from HLM thanks to Councillor Colley, my predecessor for putting that bid in, in the first place.

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Could the cabinet member for environment and the public realm please provide an update on the consultation and implementation of the one hour free parking at shopping parades in the borough?

RESPONSE

A number of shopping parades in the borough have been identified for the introduction of one hour free parking and a formal decision to progress these sites for implementation will be taken later this month. The proposed sites will be subject to statutory consultation, which we expect to take place in September. If there are no objections to these proposed sites, one hour free parking will be implemented on the shopping parades in late autumn.

More details on the project are available online at:
www.southwark.gov.uk/onehourparking

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you Councillor Merrill for his response, in particular it is very welcome to see the one hour free parking will be receiving a formal decision in the very near future and that we may have these sites actually implemented in time for Christmas this year. Since it has been a little while since we spoke to local people about this issue, could the cabinet member undertake to keep local councillors informed when the decision has been made and to update the website as mentioned in the answer here.

RESPONSE

Thank you for that, there's a quick answer on that, yes.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

What discussions have there been between Notting Hill Housing Trust and the council about affordable housing levels in The Exchange development at Bermondsey Spa?

RESPONSE

Following concerns raised about the form of tenancy that the affordable homes were let at on The Exchange, a meeting has now taken place between Notting Hill

Housing Trust and the director of planning. It is anticipated that a resolution will be agreed by the end of July.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

Thank you Madam Mayor. I would like to thank the cabinet member for his response. I do have a supplementary question. I am really pleased that you and the director of planning are looking into rents at The Exchange following an email exchange between myself and Notting Hill Housing Trust. Can you just clarify, it says here, it is anticipated that a resolution will be agreed by the end of July. Can you confirm that your goal and the goal of the council is the same as my goal which is to change the rents from so-called affordable rents to council rents as agreed by the planning committee?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Johnson for his supplemental. Yes we are pushing Notting Hill as hard as we can to bring those rents down as much as possible. I think it is important to just mention the reason why there is any ambiguity over the rent levels at The Exchange in the first place and that's because between the scheme being consented and the scheme being built and let out, the government - of which the former member for Bermondsey and Southwark was a part of and voted for these changes actually - trashed the definition of affordable housing and pushed it up so it could be 80% of market rent and I hope now that their return to the wilderness of meagre opposition, very small opposition, that they'll hopefully lobby to have that changed now and hopefully won't switch back if they manage to get into the government again, thank you.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Given the increasing pressure to permit redevelopment in the borough by demolishing much-loved buildings, can the cabinet member confirm that it is still the council's intention to produce a schedule of locally-listed buildings where they are not listed nationally and, if so, when this will be adopted?

RESPONSE

The council values historic buildings and will be consulting on a Heritage supplementary planning document (SPD). The timescale for this will be linked to the New Southwark Plan scheduled for adoption in September 2017.

The consultation on the Heritage SPD will give local residents, community groups and businesses as well as building owners a chance to have their say on how we can protect our heritage buildings, whilst also building the new homes our communities desperately need.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Thank you Madam Mayor. May I thank the cabinet member for his reply. September 2017 is quite a long way off. Could I ask whether it is his intention that the consultation will start fairly soon, perhaps along the lines of the invitation they recently issued for suggestions for housing sites?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Hubber for his supplemental question. As I set out in my answer, any SPD that we take through the planning process submitted in the New Southwark Plan and hot food takeaways points raised by Councillor Barber earlier does take time, we've got to consult on it, its got to go to examination in public, etc, but that process for the Heritage SPD will be beginning in the next few months and we do envisage it being adopted at the same time as the New Southwark Plan in 2017.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY

Can the cabinet member tell me what the council is doing to protect local historic pubs for community use?

RESPONSE

The council welcomes nominations from the local community for any land or buildings that in our view meet the requirement to be listed as assets of community value.

The Localism Act requires local authorities to maintain a list of assets of community value which have been nominated by the local community. When listed assets come up for sale or change of ownership, the Act then gives community groups the time to develop a bid and raise the money to bid to buy the asset when it comes on the open market. This is used by the council to help local communities keep much-loved sites in public use and part of local life.

Southwark was the first authority in the country to list an asset of community value. This was the Ivy House, a much valued local public house in Nunhead, since bought by a community group and continuing its life as a thriving community pub run by and for the local community. Having been the first to list one, the council understands the need and the desire of the local community to protect our local pubs while robustly and fairly operating the requirements of the legislation and accompanying guidance.

The list of assets of community value in Southwark now includes:

The Old School Keepers House	Alpha Street, Peckham,
The Grange Public House	Grange Road, London SE1
The Huntsman and Hounds Public House	Elsted Street, London, SE17
Peckham Liberal Club	Elm Grove, Peckham, SE15
Former Library and Baths	Wells Way, SE5
Dulwich Park	College Road, SE21
Thomas A Becket Public House	Old Kent Road, SE1
Elephant and Castle Public House	Unit 1, 119 Newington Causeway, SE1

Two historic pubs were recently listed as assets of community value – Elephant & Castle pub and the Thomas A Beckett on the Old Kent Road – after successful community campaigns led by the Walworth Society to nominate them. We are delighted to be able to respond to and work with local community groups like the

Walworth Society where in our view their nominations meet the requirement for inclusion on the list.

For pubs, in addition to the rights that this gives the community should a building come up for sale, the listing means it requires a planning application for a change of use rather than this being “permitted development”. This provides local people more opportunity to comment and enables the planning authority to take the listing into account as a material consideration when determining any planning application.

In our consultation on the New Southwark Plan, we recognise that for many people pubs are important places for social contact and enjoyment, and we have sought residents’ views on more protection for pubs. Some pubs also have special architectural features and have a strong local heritage value. They can also provide local employment. Over recent years many pubs have closed, been demolished or changed use to other commercial uses or to provide new homes. We want to protect pubs by allowing a change of use or demolition only where there is evidence provided which meets certain criteria. Policy DM27 of the New Southwark Plan Options Paper sets out the proposed criteria which must be met in order to consider the loss of a pub.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY

Thank you Madam Mayor and thank you to the cabinet member for his response. I am delighted to see that there are now two East Walworth pubs on our list of listed community assets and I would like to join him in commending the work of the Walworth Society in putting forward those applications and I’m delighted now that we also have the Thomas A Becket and Elephant and Castle pub on that list. Can I just ask the cabinet member if he would welcome further opportunities to work with community groups such as the Walworth Society so that we can make sure that we are securing the future of the important assets that we’ve got throughout the borough?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Lury for that question. Yes is the short answer and I would just like to take this opportunity to thank the Walworth Society working throughout that weekend in getting those two applications in for the Elephant and Castle pub and the Thomas A Becket pub, and they do fantastic work for the local area and just to thank them for that and yes any and all applications that come in are very, very welcome.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

Can the cabinet member give an update on the progress of the council’s plans to build 1,500 new council homes by 2018?

RESPONSE

I welcome the opportunity to update council on progress of our ambitious programme to build 11,000 council houses, 1,500 of these by 2018.

Willow Walk

I am pleased to confirm that Willow Walk is due to be handed over this month. This is an important development for the council and will offer 75 new council homes, 21 for social rent (No 1, 1-21 O'Reilly Road) and 54 for temporary accommodation (Ross Stark House).

We have been working hard with the contractor to get the required quality of construction and the contractors are currently carrying out the final finishes to enable handover to housing management for letting. Residents have already carried out viewings to allow for occupation upon handover.

The following is the summary of the total programme. There are 47 homes that have been completed by the current administration.

DEVELOPMENT STAGE	SCHEME NAME	RESIDENTIAL UNIT NUMBERS						
		Soc rent	Temp Acc	Int sale	Sale	Count to 1500	TOT	Other units / description
Delivered	14a-18 Firbank Rd	3				3	3	
	b. 125 Peckham Park Road	16				16	16	
	Hidden Homes Delivered	28				28	28	
		47	0	0	0	47	47	

All of Phase 1 except Sumner Road of the Direct Delivery Programme are on site meaning that there are 225 council homes on site.

DEVELOPMENT STAGE	SCHEME NAME	RESIDENTIAL UNIT NUMBERS						
		Soc rent	Temp Acc	Int sale	Sale	Count to 1500	TOT	Other units / description
On site	Willow Walk (GN) (No 1- 1-21 O'Reilly Road, SE1)	21				21	21	
	Willow Walk (SSA) (Ross Stark house)		54			54	54	
	Gatebeck House (1-9 Gatebeck House, Pytchley Road, SE22)	9				9	9	
	Southdown House (SO) (1-18 Southdown House, Pytchley Road, SE22)			8		0	8	
	Southdown House (GN) (1-18 Southdown House, Pytchley Road, SE22)	10				10	10	
	Clifton Estate Garages (1-8 Parish Apartments, 7 Clayton Road, London SE15)	8				8	8	

DEVELOPMENT STAGE	SCHEME NAME	RESIDENTIAL UNIT NUMBERS						
		Soc rent	Temp Acc	Int sale	Sale	Count to 1500	TOT	Other units / description
	Cator Street Extra Care (Prop - 1-42 Tayo Situ Hse, 73 Commercial Way, SE15)	42				42	42	
	Masterman House Garages (Rent) (Flats 1-25 Piper Court, 8 Lomond Grove, London SE5)	15				15	15	
	Masterman House Garages (Private) (Flats 1-25 Piper Court, 8 Lomond Grove, London SE5)	0			10	0	10	
	169 Long Lane (Flats 1-19 Villiers Court, 167 Long Lane, SE1. 165 Long Lane, SE1 (wc unit long lane), 115 Weston St, SE1 (wc unit Weston St block) 169 Long Lane, SE1 (Commercial Unit))	21				21	21	Commercial unit
	Nunhead Site B (Prop - 8-13 Candle Grove & 56 & 58 Nunhead Lane, SE15)	8				8	8	
	Good Neighbours House		37			37	37	
		134	91	8	10	225	243	

The following council homes have planning approved.

DEVELOPMENT STAGE	SCHEME NAME	RESIDENTIAL UNIT NUMBERS						
		Soc rent	Temp Acc	Int sale	Sale	Count to 1500	TOT	Other units / description
Planning Approved	Sumner Road (Rent)	50		20	42	50	112	
	Sumner Road (Community)					0	0	Community Centre
	Hidden Homes Planning approved	5				5	5	
	TOT	55	0	20	42	55	117	

Phase 2 is at the preplanning stage. 237 homes are at the pre-planning stage having been to the Delivery Programme Board.

DEVELOPMENT STAGE	SCHEME NAME	RESIDENTIAL UNIT NUMBERS						
		Soc rent	Temp Acc	Int sale	Sale	Count to 1500	TOT	Other units / description
Pre Planning	Daniels Road Car Park	14		0	0	14	14	
	Lugard Road Garages	2		0	0	2	2	
	Fenham Road Garages	5		0	0	5	5	
	Haddonfield garages	24				24	24	
	Commercial Way	56		20	40	56	116	
	Pelier Street	17		0	0	17	17	
	Welsford Street Garages	12		0	0	12	12	
	Meeting House Lane	19		0	13	19	32	
	Goschen Estate ex T&RA Hall	16		14	14	16	44	
	Canada Estate	35		0	21	35	56	
	Tenda Road Car park	11		0	0	11	11	
	35-41 Nunhead Lane	10		0	0	10	10	
	Kinglake Street Garages	16		0	0	16	16	
	TOT	237	0	34	88	237	359	

Phase 3 is due to go to cabinet in September and currently consists of 13 sites plus various potential sites in the Faraday Ward. This is currently estimated to deliver in excess of 200 homes in total. Resident consultation in partnership with the community engagement team has begun on these sites in line with the Charter of Principles agreed by cabinet.

Council homes are also being delivered as part of works on the Abbeyfield Estate (Maydew) and Sceaux Gardens (Lakanal House). The hidden homes programme continues to build new homes, with recently completed homes alongside Warm Dry Safe works on the Dickens Estate.

The delivery of other council homes

As well as further direct delivery sites being identified the council is in negotiation with a number of developers to purchase council homes developed through s106 requirements.

Council homes are also being delivered as part of wider regeneration projects. A report on the council's Southwark Regeneration in Partnership Programme is expected to be submitted to cabinet in September 2015 and will have the potential to deliver more than 500 new council homes. A number of sites are progressing through the development and appraisal stage. Ward members are being briefed and consultation meetings are being arranged for July and September 2015.

Identification of sites for the delivery of new homes

Work on the identification of potential sites and the realisation of those sites into the pipeline as potential new council homes continues.

The council is continuing to investigate potential sites identified and welcomes any feedback on potential sites. Further information on how people can help can be found on the council's website which includes our interactive map of the borough (<https://southwark.communitymaps.org.uk/#/welcome>). Using the map it is possible to mark where you think we should build new homes. You can also see suggestions made by other residents.

http://www.southwark.gov.uk/info/200538/new_homes_delivery

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's campaign for the Bakerloo line extension?

RESPONSE

See question 12.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING

Thank you Madam Mayor and thanks to the cabinet member for his response. As I'm sure everyone remembers we were joined by a really impressive delegation of Camberwell residents earlier in the year, who made a convincing case for the Camberwell and Peckham route, and also showed how much they were doing to motivate residents to join in that consultation. I think it has been absolutely clear from the earlier response that the council is campaigning for both groups but I just wanted to see if the cabinet member had any recommendations on what we could all be doing to support that campaign?

RESPONSE

Thank you very much Councillor King, yes we're absolutely committed to both routes and completely echo what the leader just said. From our point of view, as the leader said, we are working on the business cases for both routes so they can be as robust as possible and win that argument with the GLA and the Mayor. As the leader said, the Treasury really do hold the purse strings on this and we absolutely do need that devolution. We have been in touch with the campaigners from Camberwell and we're going to be talking to them in much more detail about how we can take the campaign on to the next level as it were and indeed for the Old Kent Road as well and there are many suggestions on how we can do that and work on that as Camberwell councillors and we've got to keep on making the case. It's very, very clear from the public consultation that over 95% of our residents support the tube extension, the same for Lewisham, the same for Bromley, it's now about getting a technical case and making a financial case to the GLA, TfL and the Treasury to get these extensions through that we so desperately need.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

How much does the council currently have in pooled affordable housing contributions and how much does it expect to receive in the next five years from developments with planning consent?

RESPONSE

In the last 3 years the council has been able to support the building of 3,808 net new homes including 1,488 affordable homes of which 998 are for social rent.

In the few instances in recent years where affordable housing has not been achievable on site we have been able to collect £55.7m in payments in lieu of affordable housing provision and this fund is supporting the council's programme of building 11,000 council homes with 1,500 delivered by 2018.

If all developments with planning permission come forward for construction in the next 5 years, there could be at least £130m for the affordable housing fund. In addition for those which are phased developments with review mechanisms, this figure could be revised upwards.

We cannot predict contributions from future applications as for each of these we will need to undertake the sequential test and we cannot pre-determine the outcome of this process.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Thank you Madam Mayor and I thank the cabinet member for his answer. I just wondered if you could clarify this for me, so my question was, how much have you got now and how much do you expect to get in the next five years - and the answer has slightly conflated the two - so could you tell me, we've got £55.7 million now, is it another £130 million that we're expecting or is that the total that we'll be expecting and could you tell me how many homes at social rent you anticipate that would build?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Morris for that supplemental. Yes I can confirm that the £55.7 million is payments in-lieu that we've been able to collect to date and it is an additional £130 million that we will collect should those schemes that have got consent be built out and collected at certain points. We can't predict what schemes will come forward in the future and there's obviously the sequential test that has to be undergone for any in-lieu payments so we can't give any figures for that, our preference is always for on-site affordable housing. For the total amount of money of £180 odd million that's in the affordable housing fund, all of that money will be used to build new council houses and will be council rents, rented out to council tenants so they will be genuinely affordable so there's a programme of 1500 council homes.

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR LISA RAJAN

What is the latest spend on the security fence and security staffing/policing for the Aylesbury estate regeneration scheme?

RESPONSE

At the request of the remaining residents on the first development site on the Aylesbury Estate, the council erected a security fence at a cost of £140,000. Following damage during the occupation of the site before Easter, an additional £10,000 was spent repairing the fence. This expenditure was necessary to address community safety concerns as the blocks are largely empty.

At the request of the remaining residents on the first development site the council increased the level of security patrols. During the occupation of these blocks before Easter the council needed to increase this security presence. The cost of this security to the end of May 2015 is £465,000. This expenditure was necessary due to the nature and extent of occupation as well as the scale of securing this large site.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON

Can the cabinet member confirm how the council is supporting local people into employment through the Elephant Park regeneration?

RESPONSE

Since 1 July 2013, 379 people have been employed on the Elephant Park site, 166 of whom were previously unemployed Southwark residents. To date, 71 out of those 166 have stayed in their jobs for at least 6 months.

Support for Elephant Park jobs comes through council commissioned employment support services such as Southwark Works as well as Lend Lease's own efforts to meet S106 obligations through its work place co-ordinator.

Investment on the new Construction Skills Centre will make Elephant Park the focus for exciting new training opportunities that will help to boost and revive interest in the huge variety of jobs available in the construction sector.

The map below shows the location of people employed on the site by ward:



SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR MAISIE ANDERSON

Thank you very much Madam Mayor, I would like to thank the cabinet member for his very comprehensive answer and in fact I'd refer all members to the map in the answer which shows the number of residents in each different ward that has been thus far been employed on the Elephant Park site, thank you for that. There's been a lot of talk about aspirations for young people in the borough this evening through education, beyond education we're talking about employment training and skills so my supplemental to the cabinet member is can you outline how the new construction skills centre will improve employment opportunities for local young people in Southwark?

RESPONSE

Thanks very much and indeed the map shows for her own ward Newington, 33 of her residents have got work at the Elephant Park scheme. So the construction skills academy that's been mentioned a couple of times this evening in addition to training our residents in a variety of skills that are out there, electricians, plumbers, working on high rise buildings, etc., we envisage it working as a jobs brokerage centre for construction jobs right across Southwark and its central location at the Elephant and Castle for that is absolutely key. We're going to be using it for schemes in the Old Kent Road, Canada Water, Camberwell, Peckham, absolutely everywhere across the borough and use it as a central hub because it can be quite challenging for developers to discharge their Section 106 duties to get local people into work and we want to do what we can to make that process as easy as possible for our residents so that they can get and take advantage of the opportunities the regeneration of our borough is creating, particularly at a time when welfare is being hacked back by this government when our own budgets are under severe strain. Everything that we can do to use the regeneration of our borough to get people into work to put money in their pockets is absolutely key and again what the leader said earlier, every other London borough should be doing what we're doing and if they did we would have 55,000 new homes a year in London we would be a lot closer to solving the housing crisis.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Can the cabinet member give an update on the council's online planning portal and whether it is improving public access to the planning process?

RESPONSE

The Planning Division launched a new planning register, IDOX Public Access, on 11 February 2015. This launch was promoted and publicised widely to residents. Residents can search for a specific application by case number, or for sets of applications by week received, ward, development type, decided date etc. Residents can then submit comments directly from the application web page using an on-line form. The system also allows residents to save searches, and track specific applications. The system sends email alerts to residents when there are status changes on applications they are tracking. The key benefits for the planning division are:

- When comments are submitted they are transferred directly to the Acolaid system. This simplifies the handling of the received comments because they can be allocated directly to the corresponding planning applications without the need for manual searching and data redaction thereby improving on transparency and accountability;
- The system uses 'back-office' data directly, so updates to application data or documents are available on line as soon as they occur. By contrast, the previous system provided a snapshot view of data and documents which was updated every 24 hours.

Analytics to date shows that (i) IDOX PA has resulted in an increased number of visitors/traffic to the planning register and a higher number of searches on the register. A total of 2458 comments were received on planning application over the period 11 February 2015 to 29 June 2015. Of these responses, 1487 or 61% were

received via the new system. The rates for May and June are now around 85%, demonstrating increased usage of the new system. There are plans to integrate the Public Access database with the over 100,000 service users registered on MySouthwark. Officers continue to provide support to service users to register onto Public Access to receive planning information.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

Thank you very much. Would the cabinet members join with me in thanking the Southwark News for helping with putting this pilot through and are there any other comments you would like to make about residents satisfaction and using the new scheme in place?

RESPONSE

I would like to thank Councillor Dolezal for that supplemental. Yes the partnering arrangement we've got with Southwark News is absolutely key and it has been a great example of the council working with the local newspaper to increase transparency and access to the planning system for our residents. We are now looking at linking it in much more closely with "My Southwark" so that residents can get really quick and easy access to planning decisions in their area, instant email alerts that they can register for in their area so yes it's something we're going to continue to build on to make the planning system as easy to understand as it is possible to make and is as transparent as possible.

25. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Can the cabinet member give an update on the progress of the Southwark Business Forum?

RESPONSE

The first meeting of the Southwark Business Forum took place in June 2015. The forum brings together Southwark's major business partners to promote stronger and more coordinated relationships between key businesses in Southwark and the council, educational institutions and community organisations. It will particularly focus on corporate sustainability and social responsibility activities – helping businesses to channel their energies and resources into initiatives that will benefit Southwark's residents and small and medium-sized enterprises.

Key strategic businesses from across Southwark took part including British Land, Ernst & Young, News UK, Norton Rose Fulbright, Notting Hill Housing Trust and others. The forum is 'business-led' and the first meeting was chaired by a representative from PwC.

The forum agreed key strategic priorities and common areas of interests to be discussed at future meetings, to include but not be exclusive to: employment, skills, schools engagement, business support and employee wellbeing. The forum will be held 6 times a year with a rotating venue and chair.

26. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

Can the cabinet member give an update on the work of the Southwark Employment Enterprise Development Scheme in supporting business growth and reducing youth unemployment in Southwark?

RESPONSE

There has been a significant level of interest from Southwark businesses in engaging with the Southwark Employment & Enterprise Development Scheme (SEEDS) to provide employment opportunities paying the London Living Wage for young people from Southwark who are finding it hardest to find good quality employment.

To date, SEEDS has supported 12 young people into employment (including 3 apprenticeships) and 20 employers have signed up to the initiative. A further 21 jobs are currently in the pipeline.

Officers have secured external funding to increase the SEEDS programme from the Greater London Authority and Department for Work and Pensions to increase the number of job opportunities available for young Southwark residents.

SUPPLEMENTAL QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

I would like to thank the deputy leader for his answer and I just thought I would take the opportunity now to ask him a little bit about the quality assurance around this excellent work? Thank you.

RESPONSE

Thank you Madam Mayor, congratulations on your election and may I take the opportunity of congratulating Councillor Noakes on his election to the Liberal establishment. Can I thank the member for her question; I think it's absolutely key that when we set up a scheme, we don't just set it up as politicians because it's a trendy thing to do, it's a good thing to do, we get the publicity and then we don't go in and look to see how it's working in practice. This scheme is monitored on a monthly basis, we've already got over 30 employers signed up to this scheme and everywhere I go, another employer says to me they want to take advantage of the scheme. So this is a scheme that we will monitor every step of the way to ensure that it is successful, we want to build on it, it's not just a one-off for the next 12 months.

27. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

What has the public reaction been to the new sculpture in Dulwich Park?

RESPONSE

The public response to the Conrad Shawcross sculpture “Three Perpetual Chords” in Dulwich Park has been very positive. The launch event on 18 April was attended by approximately 300 people, and received good press coverage from Time Out and Channel Four News.

The sculpture is very tactile, playful and interactive and has drawn a lot of attention, particularly from local families with children of all ages. Positive comments have been received by the parks team and on the local social media site ‘netmums’ from local residents.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

How many times has the council failed to provide an answer to freedom of information requests within the legal timeframe in each year since May 2010?

RESPONSE

The table below shows the number of freedom of information requests responded to within 20 working days since 1 April 2011. Information relating to years prior to this date has been deleted in line with the council’s retention policy.

Financial Year	Completed	Completed in 20 working days	Not completed in 20 working days	% completed in 20 working days	% not completed in 20 working days
2011-12	1374	936	438	68%	32%
2012-13	1556	1071	485	69%	31%
2013-14	1772	1181	591	67%	33%
2014-15	1772	1255	517	71%	29%
2015-16 YTD	274	213	61	78%	22%

It should be noted that where agreement is reached with a requester to extend the response timescales – for instance as a result of difficulties in accessing information – such cases are still included in the ‘Not completed in 20 working days’ column.

It can be seen that although the completion rate has not changed significantly, the number of requests completed over the four year period from 2011/12 to 2014/15 has increased by 28%. Notwithstanding the upward trend in volume of requests received and the continuing budgetary pressures, work continues to try and improve the response rate.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the cabinet member tell us about progress on improving the pedestrian crossings along Borough High Street at the junctions with St. Thomas Street/ Newcomen Street/Marshalsea Road/Great Suffolk Street?

RESPONSE

Last year the council backed the community campaign for new pedestrian crossings on Borough High Street, in response to concerns over safety in the area. We have been pressing Transport for London (TfL) to deliver their scheme for improving pedestrian safety at the junctions of St Thomas Street and Borough High Street and these proposals are now in hand. TfL plans to start works to upgrade the junction in November/December 2015, with the majority of the works being carried out from January to April 2016. After significant lobbying from my predecessor to TfL, the Marshalsea Road junction is now on TfL's Regional Improvements Programme to start feasibility design this financial year.

The junction at Newcomen Street already has a pedestrian crossing. This junction will be remodelled as part of the proposed cycling Quietway works in mid to late 2016 and any implementation will retain the pedestrian crossing at this junction.

The junction with Great Suffolk Street will be upgraded as part of the council's cycle quietway works and is due for implementation in autumn 2015. This upgrade will introduce a pedestrian crossing.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Can the cabinet member update us on discussions with Transport for London on expanding the London Cycle Hire Scheme further into Southwark?

RESPONSE

The council has long supported an extension of the cycle hire scheme to Bermondsey, Rotherhithe, Camberwell and Peckham. The original footprint of the scheme has been extended significantly to east, west and south west London. This leaves a clear gap in coverage – south east London, specifically Southwark.

The council wrote to the Mayor of London in March 2015 reiterating the council's ambition and recognising the work undertaken to date to pursue an extension including:

- Identified locations for an extended network of docking stations
- Identified the capital costs involved
- Secured contributions from developers for docking stations
- Pledged council funds towards the capital cost of the expansion
- Undertaken research to demonstrate how the scheme can appeal to a wider user group.

In the response received on 21 May 2015, the Mayor supported in principle an expansion to bring the benefits of cycle hire to as many people as possible. Over the coming months, Southwark and TfL officers will be working to try and assemble a suitable funding proposal for consideration by the council and the Mayor of London.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

What steps is the council taking to reduce the record number of Southwark homeless applicants being placed outside London?

RESPONSE

This question is factually incorrect – no Southwark homeless applicants have been placed outside London and indeed our policies currently ensure that all applicants where we have a duty are housed within the capital.

There are 289 applicants that are currently housed outside of Southwark, overwhelmingly in neighbouring boroughs. These are intended to be short term placements in nightly paid accommodation and the household will be brought back within the borough as soon as a suitable in-borough vacancy is available. This is because Southwark currently has a record number of homeless people to whom we either have a duty or for whom we are assessing that duty, and a shortage of available housing for them within our borough. The council has seen an increase of 91% in homeless decisions in the last 12 months. The coalition government's welfare reforms and housing policies drove up homelessness, with young people and families hit the hardest. Sadly, the number of homeless applications is likely to only increase further if the government pushes through its proposals for a further £12 billion cuts to welfare and reductions in the levels of affordable housing by forcing councils to sell much-needed council homes.

The council is taking a number of steps to address the shortfall in available homes for homeless applicants:

- All homeless decisions are made within the statutory timescales and we have reduced the average time it takes for a homeless claim to 35 calendar days – the best performance on record.
- We are now using homes on Wendover on the Aylesbury Estate as temporary housing as tenants move out in preparation for future phases of the regeneration taking place there.
- 54 new temporary accommodation units are due to be opened at Willow Walk on 13 July.
- 37 new units are being opened at Good Neighbours House on the D'Eynsford Estate on 24 July.
- We also anticipate that the provision of specialist housing at Northcott House in Cathedrals ward will help provide capacity, with 46 places.
- In the medium term, we are considering the potential to use modular housing solutions to provide more capacity within the borough.
- Longer term, the construction of 11,000 new council homes, together with other forms of affordable housing in the borough, will also assist in providing the homes needed.