

Item No. 5.1	Classification: Open	Date: 30 November 2016	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

Members' question time shall not exceed 30 minutes. During this time, members may not question any one cabinet member or committee chair for longer than fifteen minutes.

Members are limited to one question at each meeting. One councillor from each community council will be able to submit a question on behalf of their community council.

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question from community council councillors followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will also be rotated. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the two cabinet members answering questions immediately after the leader will be the last cabinet members to answer any questions at the next meeting of council assembly. The rotation is in line with decisions of council assembly in July 2014 and rotations circulated by the proper constitutional officer in April 2015.

Cabinet members and committee chairs have discretion to refer a question to another cabinet member.

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on yellow paper around the council chamber on the evening of the meeting.

The Mayor will ask the member asking the question if they wish to ask one supplemental question to the member to whom the question was asked. The supplemental question must arise directly out of the original question or the reply. Therefore, supplemental questions to the leader or other cabinet members are not free ranging.

No question shall be asked on a matter concerning a planning or licensing application.

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule (CAPR) 2.9.12 and 13 (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.
3. A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2).

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JANE LYONS

Southwark says that community councils are there to take decision-making out of the town hall and put it back into the community.

Though the reverse now seems to be happening ... with decision making meetings being reduced from five to two per year, taking powers and local decision making away from community councils and making any querying of Southwark Council decisions or proposals more complex and challenging.

We have been told that the reason for this change is to save money on officer time though when last queried no budgets had been prepared to support this view.

Are these budgets now available and could they now be shared?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR OCTAVIA LAMB

Can the leader give an update on the latest employment figures for Southwark?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

In light of the recent High Court ruling that St. Ives Council can require that new-build homes in the authority area are occupied as principal residences, would the leader of the council be willing to allow existing Neighbourhood Plans in Southwark to be amended to allow this provision?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL MITCHELL

Can the leader of the council report how many Syrian refugees have been settled in Southwark and of those how many are unaccompanied children?

What plans and procedures does the council have in place to help facilitate Southwark residents who wish to open their homes to Syrian refugees?

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL FLEMING

Does the leader agree that it is disgraceful that the government has slashed social care funding for local authorities for the last six years, leaving council services in England with a funding gap of £1.9bn and putting even greater pressure on already struggling A&E units?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

What is the average cost of building a new council home in Southwark, how does this compare to industry standards and what value-for-money analysis has been completed for these construction costs?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

I welcomed the leader's statement last year that Southwark is a refugee friendly borough. Is the leader able to reaffirm this statement and provide an update on how the council is working with the community sector to achieve this?

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

Can the leader of the council state whether the £50,000 budget for a judicial review of the Secretary of State's decision to reject compulsory purchase orders for the First Development Site on the Aylesbury will be sufficient in light of the recent release of the government's Legal Department letter stating that:

"...there is no merit to any of these proposed grounds. They are all unarguable. If you proceed to commence judicial review proceedings, the Secretary of State will robustly defend the same and seek his costs of doing so."

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR TOM FLYNN

Can the leader give an update on the progress of new council homes being delivered in the borough?

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Can the leader of the council detail what monitoring and measures the council has taken to protect residents in Cathedrals ward from increased levels of rat-running and traffic volumes in borough-maintained residential roads, which are worsening residential amenity and road safety , as well as increasing noise and air pollution?

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN DENNIS

How many Southwark residents have taken up the council's free swim and gym offer?

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

How many Syrian refugees or unaccompanied children has Southwark accepted in the past twelve months?

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SAMANTHA JURY-DADA

Can the leader confirm whether the government has provided any further details to local authorities on the implementation of the Housing and Planning Act?

14. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY

Has the leader of the council read the recent report from SafeLives called A Cry for Health and what does he think of the central call to action for teams of Independent Domestic Violence Advisors (IDVAs) to be located in each of our hospital sites?

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What further action could the council take to monitor, as well as boost the range and quality of apprenticeships on offer to young people in the borough?

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

Will the cabinet member for regeneration and new homes give an update on the re-opening of Camberwell Station?

17. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY (DULWICH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What can the council do to help solve the ongoing industrial dispute at Southern Rail and to help alleviate residents' suffering as a result of serious disruption?

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR ELEANOR KERSLAKE (BOROUGH, BANKSIDE AND WALWORTH COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What measures does the council propose to instigate to change the situation where large heavy goods vehicles (HGVs) are using residential streets including John Ruskin Street, Webber Street and Harper Road to avoid Elephant and Castle, and will the council now state that Harper Road is recognised as a simple residential street and shall be deregulated from its B and traffic sensitive status, and further that it will pressure Transport for London (TfL) to accept responsibility for elevated traffic levels in Harper Road?

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

What steps are being taken to ensure that the council's regeneration projects allow existing local businesses to continue trading in the same neighbourhood?

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES COLDWELL

Can the cabinet member explain how the council is encouraging businesses to adopt the London Living Wage?

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Can the cabinet member explain what the council is doing to invest in town centres?

22. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA

Can the cabinet member give an update on the refurbishment works at Nunhead library?

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, EMPLOYMENT AND CULTURE FROM COUNCILLOR EVELYN AKOTO

Can the cabinet member explain how the council is working with businesses to create new apprenticeships?

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

Can the cabinet member confirm how many council staff have taken voluntary redundancy in the last twelve months and what percentage of frontline staff this represents broken down by department and business unit?

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE ROSE

Could the cabinet member give an update on the launch of the new Southwark council website?

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR DARREN MERRILL

What does the cabinet member anticipate the implications of the benefit cap will be on Southwark residents?

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE DALE

What is the impact of the Chancellor's Autumn Statement likely to be on Southwark's finances?

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

How many residents will be affected by the roll-out of universal credit in the borough and how many council tenants does the cabinet member expect will be moved to universal credit in the next year?

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH, PARKS AND LEISURE FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Can the cabinet member explain why the community's wish for a new park in Rotherhithe to be named after the late Barry Albin-Dyer has been ignored in favour of the 'Mayflower Park' name?

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ADULT CARE AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

Can the cabinet member explain the different roles of social workers and social work assistants in Southwark?

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

Can the cabinet member confirm the current average annual cost of full-time childcare in Southwark for a family with two children, aged 1 and 3, whose household income is the Southwark average of £39,500 per annum?

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

What will the cabinet member do to ensure that there is resident representation on the London Bridge Transport Forum?

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

Can the cabinet member state the reasons for the ongoing delay to the review of bus services in the Rotherhithe area when it was supposed to be completed by summer 2016?

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the cabinet member confirm how long the process takes to install bike hangars in the borough from a location being proposed to construction?