

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

30 NOVEMBER 2016

RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

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?

RESPONSE

The reason for conducting the recent review of community councils was to make them more interesting and relevant for local people and to broaden their reach and improve the way in which the council engages with its residents. This was in direct response to feedback from residents, through the community council monitoring and evaluation 2014/15, which highlighted a number of issues about the style of meetings including: respondents wanting more focused agenda items with more meaningful discussion; more interactive and dynamic meetings, rather than the current formal format.

The primary focus for community councils is the involvement of local people and community engagement. Currently this role is constrained by community councils operating as formally constituted "area committees" and having to comply with a range of constitutional requirements such as statutory notice periods, agendas and a formal meeting style. Increasingly the most exciting and innovative work of community councils relates to the engagement activity and a whole host of ideas and initiatives have been used in different areas to make them as engaging as possible. This engagement role could be more creative and ambitious if the meetings did not have to comply with the formal constitutional requirements.

The current proposed changes to community councils provide a "referral" mechanism for local traffic management schemes that allows a community council to consider a scheme prior to statutory consultation and influence the final outcome by making its own representations to the decision maker. This is in addition to the existing right of ward councillors to make their own representations to an individual decision maker and the call-in process. The decision maker for local traffic management schemes would be the relevant cabinet member. This approach has a number of features: it will release officers resources to conduct more informal consultations, for example, for those schemes of greater complexity or public interest; give community councils more choice on whether to consider a particular scheme or not; reduce the average turnaround time of nine months for approving a scheme; allow local ward councillors to act as advocates for constituents without the constraints imposed by the decision making rules on bias/predetermination. Strategic traffic management reports will not

change and would continue to be subject to local consultation rather than decision making with community councils.

Information on the spend on community councils (including Neighbourhoods Funds grants over the last three years is as follows:

Neighbourhoods Team	Constitutional Team
2014 – 2015 = £915,873	2014 – 2015 = £110,577
2015 – 2016 = £1,012,936	2015 – 2016 = £107,790
2016 to date = £959,789	2016 to date = £51,003

Neighbourhoods Team Grants Budget (included in budget above)

Neighbourhoods Grants
2014 – 2015 = £519,883
2015 – 2016 = £598,529
2016 -- 2017 = £630,000

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR OCTAVIA LAMB

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

RESPONSE

The current employment rate in Southwark is 78.4%. This is higher than the London (73.2%) and national (73.8%) rates. This is an increase of 12 percent from 2010, when the rate was 66.4%.

Southwark council initiatives to support Southwark residents into employment have supported 3299 residents into jobs since April 2014. Delivery is well on track to deliver council plan targets to support 5000 residents into work by May 2018.

Southwark Works supports residents into jobs with barriers to employment. This includes young people, the over 50s, residents with physical or mental health issues or learning disabilities, and lone parents.

Additional employability support is available to young people at risk of becoming long term unemployed through the council's Youth Funded Getting Ready for Work programme. Part time employment support is available for those with caring responsibilities or who want to remain in education. Southwark Employment and Enterprise Development Scheme (SEEDS) supports employers to create living wage job opportunities and round two will launch in the new year.

The council works closely with developers to support residents into construction jobs created as a result of regeneration and s106 agreements. This work is now augmented by the Southwark Construction Skills Centre which ensures that residents have the skills needed by construction firms. 908 residents have now been supported into construction jobs since April 2014.

Cross borough partnership working with the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) also takes place through Better Placed and Central London Forward (CLF). Through Better Placed, Pathways to Employment supports residents into work who are most at risk of becoming long term unemployed. A CLF programme called Working Capital operates across the eight central London boroughs in a pilot to demonstrate how much better local authorities are at getting people into work than the DWP's Work Programme.

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?

RESPONSE

It is for a Neighbourhood Plan Examiner to decide what can go into a neighbourhood plan, not Southwark Council. The council will provide comment on policies for the Examiner to consider. We do not have any evidence that new build homes are not principal residences and the neighbourhood forum would need evidence to support their policy. It is also important to note that the sale of homes in private developments is funding to a significant extent the provision of new affordable homes in Southwark, and indeed across London.

Where there is a recognised problem with houses in multiple occupation (HMOs) we have been prepared, based on good evidence, to make Article 4 Directions in Henshaw Street and Bywater Place.

We have taken action against short term letting when it is drawn to our attention with a request for an enforcement investigation. We found a block of eight flats in Union Street was being short term let in its entirety and this ceased after an enforcement notice was served. We have investigated other incidents which tend to be located in new build flats in the north of the borough, although we suspect it is more widespread than that.

If it is proposed in a neighbourhood plan such as Bankside, and it stands up to scrutiny at the examination based on evidence of need, impact on viability and meeting our affordable housing and housing targets, we could support such a proposal.

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?

RESPONSE

When the scale of the refugee crisis became clear, I immediately pledged the council's support to help, and the council continues to stand by that commitment.

The government is managing the process of resettling Syrian refugees in the UK and to date this has been mainly outside London, due to high private rents and the significant demand for affordable housing. However we are committed to playing our part to help these desperate families, so although Southwark has not been asked by the government to take any refugees, the cabinet will be considering a report on 13 December 2016 to approach central government with our plans to accommodate five families per year for the next five years.

As part of the government's National Transfer Scheme, local authorities enter into a voluntary arrangement to accept unaccompanied asylum seeking children. Local authorities are asked to take children as a proportion of the overall child population in the borough - in Southwark this figure is 44 young people in total. There are 32 children looked after currently, so we are ready to accept an additional 12 children under this arrangement.

With the closure of the Calais 'jungle', the government has begun to bring unaccompanied children to Britain if they have relatives in Britain (under the Dublin III Treaty). This is a complex process and councils are heavily involved in helping those children, carrying out checks to ensure they can settle here safely and setting up temporary foster placements if necessary. The situation is very fluid; we currently have five children accepted in Southwark from Calais and more coming. We will continue to do all that is asked of us, whilst balancing this with the ongoing needs of our existing residents at a time of huge financial pressure.

The council would be delighted to assess any suitable resident who wishes to be a foster carer for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This is part of the Council's Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy and the procedures that guide this are the same as for any other foster carer.

If residents have a whole property to offer to refugees then the council will consider this and the commitment set out above includes the offer of properties from the Salvation Army and from a private sector landlord. The current central government Syrian Resettlement Programme does not seek use of spare rooms to house Syrian refugees. There are a number of charities including the Refugee Council who will take applications from residents who have rooms available to support refugee families and the council would encourage residents to participate in one of these schemes.

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?

RESPONSE

I do. It makes no sense for government to cut social care in the central way that they have when it is part of the solution to managing demand in the NHS. We will continue to work with NHS colleagues locally and to lobby government for a fairer settlement to support social care.

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?

RESPONSE

The average build cost for each home within the first tranche of direct delivery schemes is £279,000 and the average cost per square metre is £2,500. Most of these schemes are either completed or nearing completion. These schemes were procured through the Improvement and Efficiency South East (iESE) contractor framework, which assist local authorities in the South East of England.

The current Building Cost Information Services (BCIS) produced by the Royal Institute of Chartered Surveyors (RCIS) give a range of £1,700 - £2,600 per square metre for similar developments within Southwark. Taking into account the nature of the Direct Delivery Sites, which are generally small constrained infill developments on existing estates, the high quality design standards to be achieved and a focus on ensuring the main building elements (e.g. lifts) have long term lifespans mean the costs of the scheme are likely to be at the higher end of the industry average.

For the next phase of Direct Delivery schemes, the majority of which have been submitted for planning, it is intended to procure each scheme individually. This alternative procurement route will aim to ensure a competitive process, allowing the inclusion of medium size companies, and will provide a comparative approach with the use of framework. The ongoing aim is to achieve best value for money for the council.

Value for money is a constant consideration throughout the development of a scheme. Scheme information is entered into the council's appraisal model at key development stages, to test the ongoing viability of the scheme. This model gives a lifecycle view of the financial performance of the scheme as well as providing important measures such as the cost to value ratio (the measure of what it is costing the council to build against the value of the built asset).

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?

RESPONSE

When the scale of the refugee crisis became clear, I immediately pledged the council's support to help, and the council continues to stand by that commitment. We are working with the community sector to explore ways to support the resettlement of Syrian refugee families within Southwark, while minimising the impact on already stretched council resources and significant demand for affordable housing. In December the cabinet will be considering a report to approach central government with our plans to accommodate five families per year for the next five years, which includes an offer of properties from the Salvation Army and from a private sector landlord.

We are also working closely with the government on the issue of unaccompanied asylum seeking children, who are being resettled in the UK following the closure of the Calais camp.

The council would be delighted to assess any suitable resident who wishes to be a foster carer for unaccompanied asylum seeking children. This is part of the council's Foster Carer Recruitment Strategy and the procedures that guide this are the same as for any other foster carer.

If residents have a whole property to offer to refugees then the council will consider this and the commitment set out above includes the offer of properties from the Salvation Army and from a private sector landlord. The current central government Syrian Resettlement Programme does not seek use of spare rooms to house Syrian refugees. There are a number of charities including the Refugee Council who will take applications from residents who have rooms available to support refugee families and the council would encourage residents to participate in one of these schemes.

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

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."

RESPONSE

It is usual practice when replying to a pre-action protocol letter to warn the claimant that a costs application will be made in the event that the claim is unsuccessful, therefore the council was not at all surprised to see such a claim in the government legal department's letter. We will continue to keep the budget estimate under review and will reassess this when the Secretary of State's defence to the detailed claim has been received.

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?

RESPONSE

To date the council has delivered 227 new council homes since 2010/11, with a further 179 onsite.

There are over 1,200 council homes that are in earlier stages of the development process (e.g. scheme design, submitted for planning) and consultation is continuing in line with the Charter of Principles.

Direct Delivery

- Six schemes have been submitted for planning, with a further four to be submitted shortly. Subject to planning being secured, these tranche schemes should start on site in spring/summer 2017.
- Initial consultation is underway on a further eleven schemes, with the aim to submit for planning in spring 2017, and start on site late 2017.

- Capacity studies are being carried out on a further seven schemes, following individual decision making (IDM) approval to add to the programme.

Hidden Homes

- 29 Hidden Homes have already been delivered and three are currently on site. Investigations on further potential Hidden Homes opportunities are ongoing.

Building on Top

Investigations are underway to assess whether it will be possible to build additional units on top of existing homes. Planning has been submitted for two blocks at Chiltern Grove.

S106 Purchases

The affordable element has been purchased for two schemes, Fisher Close, Salter Road and 128-150 Blackfriars Road. The Fisher Close homes have been completed and Blackfriars Road development is programmed to complete in spring 2017. The council is in talks with developers over further purchases.

Southwark Regeneration in Partnership.

The programme was initially split into two lots (A&B) and tendered using the Greater London Authority (GLA) London Development Panel (LDP) framework of 25 developers.

Lot B

Affinity Sutton will be awarded the contract to deliver Lot B, which consists of 10 sites. Construction costs are estimated to be in the region of £2,000 per square metre and should be good value for money for the council. Work on the sites will begin in 2017.

Lot A

No bids were received for this lot. As a consequence this lot is being repackaged to improve marketability and to lower development risks with the aim of retendering in spring 2017. Design feasibility and pre-application assessments have been undertaken by the council for all these sites, to speed up the development process. Recent soft market testing has shown a great deal of interest in this programme if procured on an individual site basis from competent and experienced developers, including those outside the LDP.

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?

RESPONSE

Officers in September 2016 were made aware by local councillors of increased levels of correspondence from Cathedrals ward residents about traffic management and traffic related issues and requested a meeting to raise these issues.

Officers have met ward councillors and are investigating the issues, which include:

- effects on surrounding traffic network from Transport for London (TfL) development works including Cycle Superhighway and changes to the Elephant and Castle junction
- increase in traffic volume
- increase in “rat running”
- inconsiderate parking resulting in “road rage” incidents
- Google maps directing traffic down residential streets
- phasing of traffic signals
- air and noise pollution
- increased bus journey times.

A number of the issues relate to either TfL roads or the knock on effect of TfL projects and there is an ongoing dialogue with TfL regarding the effects their recent highway improvements have had on the borough network. TfL have undertaken monitoring in some areas that is currently being analysed. It is acknowledged that some mitigation measures would be beneficial and discussions around funding and responsibility for these will continue with TfL. There were also a number of issues relating to roads on the Southwark/Lambeth boundary and some of these roads are managed and maintained by Lambeth Council. Contact has been made with them and further details will be passed on to them for their consideration and follow up discussions with Southwark officers.

Council officers believe some of the issues have been created by the increase in residential properties in the area as well as London-wide initiatives such as an increase in “Uber” style mini cabs where there are benefits for the individual mini cab drivers to “loiter” in areas of anticipated high call out areas close to main line stations, businesses, leisure facilities and residents.

Southwark Council officers are working proactively with colleagues within other Highway Authorities to see if any measures can be implemented to improve the current situation.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN DENNIS

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

RESPONSE

Registrations for free swim and gym across the whole borough opened on 1 July 2016 and the scheme went live on 29 July 2016. As of 31 October 2016, 44,733 residents have registered free swim and gym and almost 54,000 individual visits to council leisure centres have been made. In addition, almost 3,000 attendances were made by residents on health referral schemes.

The monthly attendance figures have seen a significant increase in October and are expected to continue to rise into the New Year. The most popular leisure centre is The Castle Centre with approximately 50% of the overall visits taking place there. Swimming is the more popular of the two activities across all sites.

The highest attendance and registration is by 25 – 34 year olds and there is excellent take up of the scheme by black and minority ethnic (BME) groups, older adults and residents with a disability.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

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

RESPONSE

See question 4.

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?

RESPONSE

The government has still failed to provide any detail on most areas of the Housing and Planning Act, which relies on secondary legislation to bring key elements into effect.

Following significant lobbying and campaigning by Southwark Labour councillors, I am delighted that this week the government has announced its decision to scrap the introduction of Pay to Stay. This policy would have had a disastrous impact on council tenants in our borough by forcing huge rent spikes for working families.

The Housing Minister has indicated that the introduction of forced sale of council homes will be subject to extensive consultation, suggesting it is unlikely to be introduced from April 2017, as was originally expected. The Department for Communities and Local Government has indicated that the extension of right-to-buy for housing associations, which is to be funded from the levy on council homes, is likely to be delayed due to the vote to leave the EU.

We will continue to lobby the government to completely rethink the damaging housing plans included in the Housing and Planning Act, including the forced sale of council homes and the end of lifetime tenancies for council tenants. Southwark is at the heart of the affordable housing crisis in London and we will continue to fight the government's assault on social housing.

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?

RESPONSE

The council recognises the important role for the NHS in identifying and supporting people who experience domestic abuse. In fact this is one of the priority areas identified in the council's Domestic Abuse Strategy 2015 to 2020. As a result the council is already working closely with the NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group to ensure that specialist GP-based domestic abuse interventions are rolled out to all GP surgeries in the borough. As a result we have seen a 261% increase (from 13 to 47) in the number of GP referrals into our locally commissioned Domestic Abuse specialist service over the last 12 months. A domestic abuse needs assessment, focusing on the health impacts of this type of abuse, as well as examining local referral

pathways, is currently being undertaken by officers working closely with CCG colleagues.

In addition, the council has been working very closely with the Mayor's Office for Policing and Crime (MOPAC) to ensure that some of Southwark's allocation from their pan-London Independent Domestic Violence Advisor (IDVA) service is located at Kings College Hospital, where there is already an IDVA in place.

The council will continue to work closely with clinical commissioning group (CCG) colleagues to offer advice and guidance into their domestic abuse services commissioning arrangements.

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?

RESPONSE

The Southwark Apprenticeship Standard was launched in March 2015 to underpin the council's commitment to create 2000 apprenticeships with a clear message on quality. The Standard is comprised of four quality criteria which outline the key elements of a quality apprenticeship:

- Minimum contract term of 12 months
- Payment of the London Living Wage
- Quality training provision (a further technical definition is provided)
- Proper mentoring and support.

There are currently 34 organisations signed up to the Standard as partners (meeting all the criteria), supporters (meeting at least 3 of the 4 criteria) and champions (organisations which do not directly employ apprentices but which work with employers to do so). See below.

Partners	Supporters	Champions
A J Morrisroe & Sons Ltd A&E Elkins Ltd Barclays Better Bankside Brigade and Beyond Food Capita GLA Harrow Green JCCS L&Q London South Bank University Lyndon Scaffolding Plc Mears Norton Rose Fulbright	Ardmore Construction Denbre Essentia Everyone Active F M Conway Keepmoat Mondrian London Notting Hill Housing Group Suzanne James	Blue Bermondsey Living Wage Foundation Pecan

Peabody
PwC
Tideway
Walworth Garden Farm

St Giles
Team London Bridge
Waterloo Quarter
Inspire

In addition to engaging employers through the Standard, the council is providing two target services to supplement existing business and employment support projects.

A free business support service is available to all Southwark small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to help them create quality apprenticeships. This service is supported by a sales contract which is ensuring as many SMEs as possible are made aware of the service. To date 74 employers have been engaged through this service.

A pre-apprenticeship service is available to all Southwark employers to help better connect them to the labour market. The service works with residents close to the labour market and has close ties with Southwark Apprenticeship Standard partners and supporters, connecting them to some of the best opportunities in the borough.

In November 2016, a campaign targeting young, unemployed and low paid residents was launched. This campaign aims to raise awareness of, and interest in, apprenticeships among all residents. It has been developed in partnership with eight local employers:

GLA	Brigade and Beyond Food	Tideway
PwC	Barclays	Essentia
Better Bankside	Better Bankside	

The Local Economy Team works closely with procurement colleagues to support the integration of apprenticeships in new contracts.

To date the council has delivered 803 apprenticeships through a combination of direct delivery, contracting, commissioning, and business support and engagement.

The council has also been awarded best borough by London Councils for supply chain and outperforms all London Boroughs in creating apprenticeships through working with business.

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?

RESPONSE

Southwark is committed to working with Transport for London (TfL) to re-open Camberwell Station. I met with the TfL commissioner on 11 August 2016 and following this, TfL have committed to preparing a business case for the reopening of the station.

An officer working group with representation from TfL, Network Rail and the council have been meeting monthly to progress this work. This business case will assist in informing future decision making.

Camberwell Station has been discussed with the deputy mayor for transport as well as Lambeth Council. In addition to the new station, the council have been lobbying improvements to the existing calling pattern of trains at Denmark Hill, in particular the Thameslink timetable consultation which is due to close on 8 December 2016.

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?

RESPONSE

I agree that the service passengers have had to put up with on Southern trains is unacceptable and urgent action needs to be taken to address this. Southern have demonstrated they are unable to resolve the ongoing problems with the service, which is why the council is lobbying government to allow Transport for London to take over rail services in south London. The council has recently written to the Secretary of State calling for wider devolution and recognising the impact the current dispute is having on passenger journeys as well as the wider economic impact on the borough.

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

Note: This question has been redirected to the cabinet member for environment and the public realm.

What measures does the council propose to instigate to change the situation where large heavy good vehicles (HGV) 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?

RESPONSE FROM CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

Transport for London (TfL) have undertaken initial post scheme traffic monitoring which includes the location, traffic volumes and vehicle classification following concerns raised regarding traffic levels and composition on Harper Road.

TfL officers attended the Borough, Bankside and Walworth Community Council on 5 October 2016 to engage with the community.

TfL officers recognise the scheme at Elephant and Castle and Cycle Superhighway North – South may have contributed to a change in the way that roads in the area are used and have committed to liaising with council officers to look at these local roads on the borough network including Harper Road.

Full monitoring of the Elephant and Castle and Cycle Superhighway North – South will be undertaken in spring 2017, following a 12 month implementation period.

If the council were to consider changing the classification of Harper Road, we would need to consult relevant authorities including TfL.

Before we consider any changes to the classification of Harper Road, the council would have to assess the likely impact of surrounding roads and the local network as a whole. This would require traffic surveys from across the area, computer modelling, and consultation with adjacent boroughs and TfL.

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?

RESPONSE

Southwark's council driven, council led regeneration is a massive programme which will affect how we live, work and socialise, from businesses to developers. At the heart of this ambitious programme is to create the opportunity for a good business tenure mix from local traders to larger businesses. Specifically, at Elephant and Castle we are ensuring that 10% of new retail floorspace in large developments is affordable and offered first to local small businesses.

In Peckham, we are developing Peckham Palms as a relocation opportunity for Afro Caribbean hairdressers to move to. Also, we are working with local property agents to identify relocation opportunities for local businesses and a phasing of the scheme to enable businesses such as the bank to move to a new retail unit on the scheme, without the need for a temporary relocation. Dedicated small business support is provided through Tree Shepherd. Peckham Levels will also provide affordable space for artists and small businesses for six years.

At Library Square, we are providing gallery and commercial space.

At Old Kent Road, we have carried out a business survey and one to one discussions with local businesses to discuss future options.

We have developed affordable rents policy for commercial space at Rich Industrial Estate which will serve as a model for future proposals.

We will also be bringing forward a strategy in January to deliver 500 affordable business units across the borough by 2018.

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?

RESPONSE

The council became an accredited London Living Wage employer in November 2012. This means that we pay all our directly employed staff the Living Wage and promote the Living Wage throughout our supply chain and in our work with local supply chains and regeneration schemes.

The council works with our supply chain to ensure that all contracted staff are paid the London Living Wage; particular successes have come from the council's Ethical Care Charter and ensuring that all sub-contracted staff providing domiciliary care are paid at least the London Living Wage.

We are continuing to build relationships to encourage others to pay the London Living Wage – the council convenes a Business Forum and works with larger regeneration developers to understand the business challenges to paying the London Living Wage and encourage the take up of London Living Wage accreditation.

We have started to commission Living Wage support and currently have three employment programmes with a London Living Wage focus; Southwark Employment and Enterprise Development Scheme (SEEDS), Construction Outreach Project and Southwark Apprenticeship Standard. SEEDS is a programme that helps small, local businesses to give young Southwark residents one-year job or apprenticeship opportunities that are paid the London Living Wage. The council gives the business a subsidy to help pay for the Living Wage rate as well as offering the business mentoring support to help them grow. The Construction Outreach Project supports residents to benefit from local regeneration. Be Onsite have been commissioned by the council to provide support for residents living in SE1, SE17 and SE11 and claiming benefits into quality construction jobs on their doorstep. All of these opportunities are paid at the London Living Wage and guaranteed for 6 months. The Southwark Apprenticeship Standard seeks to promote a better quality of employment and training for Southwark apprentices. One of the criteria to meet the Standard is paying all apprentices the London Living Wage; the mandatory Living Wage can be as little as £3.40 an hour.

The council played a part in national Living Wage Week celebrations by organising local Living Wage activity. Throughout the week we flew a Living Wage flag to celebrate and promote our Living Wage Commitments. Local accredited businesses were invited to a networking event at the council offices. We also secured a local press item in Southwark News to promote the living wage benefits to business and employees and utilised social media activity to promote the council's own commitment to the London Living Wage

We have also been cited by Living Wage Foundation as best practice, including with our work on promoting Southwark Apprenticeship Standard which has led to interests from other councils across the country, for example, Derby and Liverpool.

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?

RESPONSE

Investment in our town centres and high streets is a key priority for the council. The council understands the need to diversify the offer of town centres and high streets to attract more people throughout the day and meet changing demands, to transform spaces to attract new customers to the high street and engage people for longer and to improve connections between businesses, residents and community groups in ways that build local capacity to help high streets and town centres to thrive.

To achieve this, we have carried out a number of pioneering projects with the aim of achieving this. Our regeneration will reconnect Walworth Road with the Elephant and Castle to create a high street with local and national retailers and complementary town

centre uses. We are also working with the local community to bring forward a green lanes network to provide more attractive pedestrian routes from adjoining residential neighbourhoods to the high street.

The council is carrying out public realm improvements at Peckham and Camberwell.

The council has identified and brought forward sites for new residential development including new council homes.

We are developing new community assets such as Camberwell Library. We have managed to attract major cultural organisations such as Mountview to Peckham.

The council is working with landowners and developers to provide a balance of land uses in the town centre on key sites such as the Aylesham Centre.

Through the High Street Challenge, we have supported 35 locally-led projects with a total of £610,972 including town centre events such as the Camberwell Fair, Animating Lordship Lane and Plaza Latina, new markets like Druid Street, street art in Tower Bridge Road and supported local groups such as Blue Bermondsey BID, SE5 Forum and Latin Elephant to develop ideas about how businesses can put more in and get more from the regeneration of our town centres. Additional funds have been secured from the Greater London Authority (GLA) enabling support for more projects and continuing the programme into 2017/18.

The council is supporting Herne Hill businesses to invest business recovery funds from Thames Water in high quality public realm improvements.

We have also managed to attract funds from the Mayor of London to invest in improvements to retail environments at Lower Road, Tower Bridge Road and East Street.

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?

RESPONSE

The refurbishment of the library marking its 120th anniversary is going very well. The works are on schedule for the library to re-open on Monday 5 December 2016.

The works include, redecoration, and re-carpeting, new windows, new shelving and furnishings, the installation of self service and improved ICT facilities. In addition new stock to the value of £10,000 has been purchased.

The anniversary and refurbishment will be celebrated throughout the week following its reopening. A number of events will take place for children and adults. These include poetry reading, author's events, stories and music and a Mad Hatter's Tea Party.

Full details will be available shortly on the council website.

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?

RESPONSE

See question 15.

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?

RESPONSE

During the 12 months (ending 31/10/2016), 402 employees in total have taken redundancy. The council does not categorise staff as 'frontline' or 'not frontline' so it is not possible to provide a breakdown in this way.

Department and Division	Total
Chief Executive's Department	9
Chief Executive's Office	1
Planning Division	2
Regeneration	6
Children's and Adults' Services	126
Adult Social Care	45
Children's Social Care	7
Community Safety Partnership Service	2
Education	48
Public Health	16
Strategy and Commissioning	8
Environment & Leisure	100
Environment	19
Leisure	80
Service Development	1
Finance & Governance	74
Communities Division	1
Exchequer Services	48
Legal Services	3
Pensions	3
Professional Finance Services Division	19
Housing and Modernisation	93
Asset Management	31
Communities Division	9
Customer Experience	13
Modernise	24
Resident Services	16
Grand Total	402

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?

RESPONSE

The new website design, which will make transacting with the council much easier, particularly on mobile devices, has been live in beta (a test version) since March 2016. During this time a review of all content, with a clear focus on the customers' needs, has been ongoing, with new sections being released in the new design as they have been completed.

The purpose of website redesign is to make it much easier for residents and businesses to access council services and information online.

We have been gradually introducing and testing the new format, running in tandem with the current website. With hits on the new site now overtaking the old design, it is time to make the switch to the new and launch it as the main website, which is planned for 1 December 2016.

We will continue to review the content of the website to make sure it's up to date and easy for people to navigate, find the information and access the services they want. This will involve cutting down the number of pages on the website and re-writing content, with a complete focus on making it easy for customers to find what they want.

The new website has been designed to work as well on a smartphone or tablet as on a desktop computer, automatically resizing and aligning to fit the screen and device, making it much easier to use.

The new-look website uses simple icons to guide users quickly to the most frequently used tasks and sections on the website, driven by information we have collected about why most residents contact us.

All content is being re-written in line with GOV.UK standards, making language easy to understand and focussed on meeting the needs of the user.

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?

RESPONSE

The new benefit cap (£23,000 per year in London) is being implemented in Southwark during November and December 2016 and is expected to eventually affect about six hundred Southwark households who are claiming housing benefit.

The new cap is also expected to affect about sixty Southwark households who are claiming Universal Credit, but the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have not, and do not plan to, share information with the council, or with any other local authorities, about who those households are.

It is expected that about one in four of those affected by the new cap will be households already affected by the previous, higher, benefit cap introduced in 2013 (£26,000 per year in London) and who face being “double capped”.

The overall numbers of Southwark households capped is expected to be about three times greater than the number affected by the earlier benefit cap introduced in 2013.

The average loss of housing benefit among all those affected will be just over £50 per week – though in some cases the loss will be up to £400 per week. The cumulative, annualised loss of housing benefit among those affected is expected to be well in excess of £1 million.

More than three quarters of those expected to be affected are social housing tenants, or are living in temporary accommodation provided by the council to homeless households. The remainder live in private rented accommodation.

More than three quarters of those expected to be affected are households with at least two dependant children.

Council officers will be inviting all those known to be affected by the cap to meetings/events to discuss their housing options or other, feasible, ameliorative action. Council officers will also talk to affected households who are closer to the labour market about their employment options – those moving into full time work are treated as exempt from the benefit cap.

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?

RESPONSE

Southwark Council is very disappointed that in this year's Autumn Statement the Chancellor failed to address a number of key concerns for local government. In particular, the government is targeting our most vulnerable residents in failing to tackle the financial crisis in adult social care. I am dismayed that the Treasury continues to suggest that a 2% precept on Council Tax, equivalent to £1.7m in Southwark, is sufficient to address this crisis when we face a £9m overspend in our Adult Social Care budget in this year alone and a further £13.5m reduction in our settlement funding assessment next year.

This funding crisis is hitting local authorities up and down the country and criticism of the government's inaction has come from across the political spectrum. The Conservative chair of the Local Government Association, Lord Gary Porter, has commented that “It is unacceptable that this has not been addressed in the autumn statement. Services supporting our elderly and vulnerable are at breaking point now.”

In October the council reluctantly agreed to accept the certainty offered by a four year finance settlement in line with the Local Government Finance Final Settlement in February 2016 for 2016-17 and for the next three years. We particularly noted that the government had stated that those councils that chose not to accept the offer will be subject to the existing yearly process for determining the local government finance settlement and that allocations could be subject to additional reductions dependant on

the fiscal climate and the need for the government to make further savings to reduce the deficit.

On 16 November 2016, the council received confirmation from the Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG) that the council is now formally on the multi-year settlement. DCLG state that the council can expect to receive the allocations published as part of the 2016-17 local government finance settlement in 2017-18, 2018-19 and 2019-20.

There is a note in the letter that the government will need to take account of future events such as the transfer of functions to local government, transfers of responsibility for functions between local authorities, mergers between authorities and any other unforeseen events. However, barring exceptional circumstances and subject to the normal statutory consultation process for the local government finance settlement, the government expects these to be the amounts presented to Parliament each year.

	2016-17 £	2017-18 £	2018-19 £	2019-20 £
Settlement Funding Assessment	179,521,254	165,916,899	158,300,081	150,738,445
<i>of which:</i>				
Revenue Support Grant	73,479,779	57,789,764	46,983,114	35,863,588
Baseline Funding Level	106,041,475	108,127,135	111,316,967	114,874,857
<i>of which:</i>				
Tariff/Top-Up adjustment	45,339,358	46,231,108	47,594,961	49,116,181

We still await announcements on funding levels for 2017/18 on a number of significant government grants including New Homes Bonus and Housing Benefit Administration Grant.

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?

RESPONSE

Several factors may be expected to influence universal credit (UC) claimant numbers in any given period – including the state of the labour market locally and nationally. It is expected, based on current trends, that more than ten thousand Southwark residents will claim UC in the next year – though many of those claiming UC are expected to do so only for a short period. There is already considerable churn within the working age benefit caseload, as individuals and households move on and off benefits as their circumstances change. This pattern is expected to continue under UC.

It is expected, based on current trends, that as many as four thousand council tenants will claim UC in the next year – though many will do so only for a short time. It is also

expected that, by this time next year, the great majority of council tenants receiving support to meet their housing costs though the benefit system will still be receiving that support in the form of housing benefit. The transition to UC nationally will be a lengthy one and is not expected to be complete until 2022.

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?

RESPONSE

Careful consideration was given to the naming of the new park in Rotherhithe and it was agreed Mayflower was an ideal name for what is likely to be the only new park in the north east of the borough to be opened in the run up to the Mayflower anniversary. In 2020, Southwark celebrates a significant historical anniversary; it will be 400 years since the Mayflower left for Plymouth, captained and part owned by Christopher Jones who, along with many of the sailors, lived and worked in this part of London.

I welcomed the opportunity to discuss this matter in some detail with Councillor Hubber two weeks ago, where I updated him on the work we have been doing to find a fitting memorial for the late Barry Albin-Dyer. I met with the Albin-Dyer family to discuss appropriate memorials in the Rotherhithe area, and we agreed with the family to name a stand at the Fisher ground in his honour. I appreciated that Councillor Hubber shared my concern about the risk of this sensitive issue being politicised and hope that his group will welcome the memorial to Barry Albin-Dyer at St Paul's Sports Ground, as well as the council's investment into a brand new park in Rotherhithe.

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?

RESPONSE

The council's adult social care workforce includes both qualified social workers and unqualified workers (entitled Assistant Practitioners) with qualified social workers forming the significant majority. Both roles are key to enabling the council to achieve statutory wellbeing outcomes for adults with care and support needs, and carers. As the council must be responsive to the differing needs of the diverse population of individuals, families, and communities within Southwark, this mix of experience and skills helps ensure this is done in a way that is proportionate to people's circumstances.

Key differences between the roles are that the professional title 'social worker' is protected in law. Anyone using this title must be a qualified social worker and registered with the professional regulator, the Health and Care Professions Council. Social workers typically use their knowledge, skills, and experience to work in situations that are characterised by complexity, uncertainty, risk, and conflict within a complex legal framework, for example:

- intervening to safeguard an adult with care and support needs at risk of harm or abuse;
- leading a best interests decision-making process on behalf of a mentally incapacitated adult;
- ensuring that people with serious mental disorders are not inappropriately detained or treated.

Social workers make professional judgements when balancing needs, risks, and resources. They work with greater autonomy and less supervision than an unqualified worker and possess the professional authority and resilience that is needed to achieve and sustain effective practice in challenging situations.

Assistant practitioners make their key contribution by working more proportionately with individuals whose circumstances are more predictable and less characterised by complexity and risk. They will typically carry out their duties with a greater degree of direction, support and supervision. This role enables the council to offer a responsiveness to people in circumstances where the professional expertise of a social worker is not needed at that time.

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?

RESPONSE

The average annual costs of full-time childcare (at least 50 hours per week) for a Southwark family with two children, aged 1 and 3, would be £24,386.

The average annual fee for a one year old is £14,352 and for a three year old is £10,034, the latter including a reduction to reflect the fact that three year old children are entitled to 15 hours of free childcare.

Depending on individual circumstances, families can receive some support with childcare costs through tax credits and childcare vouchers. For a family with two children of this age, this support could amount to a maximum of £11,700 through working tax credits. However, a family with an income of £39,500 is unlikely to receive support through tax credits. The parents are more likely to be eligible for childcare vouchers to a maximum of £2,860 per year, which would reduce total costs to £21,526.

Southwark Council recognises that high childcare costs are a major issue for families, although the level of support with childcare costs is a matter for national rather than local government.

Nursery fees are set for the most part by private, voluntary and independent nurseries over which the council has no control, and we also recognise that nursery providers too are under pressure with rising costs and the need to invest in good quality nursery staff.

Southwark is reviewing its Early Years Funding Formula, and will be consulting with Schools Forum on proposals to increase the hourly rate paid to nurseries for the provision of free places for three and four year old children.

Southwark is actively planning for the introduction of the national 30 hours free childcare for three and four year old children from September 2017, which will reduce the costs to families where both parents are working.

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?

RESPONSE

The London Bridge Transport Forum is coordinated by Transport for London (TfL) and attendees include representatives from TfL, Network Rail, Team London Bridge, Better Bankside and Southwark Council officers.

Local residents are represented on the forum by their local councillors. As a member of the forum, the councillor can make the case to the forum if he feels that this representation is inadequate.

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?

RESPONSE

Transport for London (TfL) are undertaking a strategic review of how the bus network could change in response to development in and around the Rotherhithe Peninsula, taking into account the key sites at Canada Water, Surrey Canal Road and Convoys Wharf. Officers met with TfL to discuss the review in early October and have recently met with officers from Lewisham Council. TfL are currently finalising the document and expect this to be published before the end of 2016.

I understand that the implementation has been delayed, mainly due to operational issues at TfL. However, I look forward to the publication of the review in the next few weeks and working with TfL to bring about much needed transport improvements on the peninsula.

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?

RESPONSE

The council first started installing hangers as a pilot in 2014. In the period since then there has been ever increasing demands for this style of cycle parking, both on and off the road, with 99 installed to date across the borough. This demand was far higher than anticipated and a review is underway into the way enquiries are dealt with and the installations are managed.

We currently have approximately 100 requests to process for this financial year and are reviewing options for contracting this work out to an external provider to manage both the installation and on-going administration of the storage units. Due to this, the requests we have currently will be processed in the last quarter of this financial year.

The way the process is currently managed means it is not possible to give a definitive time line for installation of individual hangers as they are packaged up throughout the year for collective consultation and installation in batches, though we aim to complete installation from up to 12 months from initial notification. Officers are currently reviewing the process to give more certainty to the timescales and streamline the process based on the experience to date.