

**COUNCIL ASSEMBLY
(ORDINARY MEETING)**

12 JULY 2017

RESPONSES TO MEMBERS' QUESTIONS

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH MCCALLUM

How many new council homes will be completed by 2018?

RESPONSE

We expect 375 council homes to be delivered, 96 council homes to be on site, and 478 council homes to be at the planning stage by 2018.

This year we identified ten more sites which will be used to deliver 283 new council homes, and we will continue to seek out opportunities to increase our council housing stock.

Council homes in Southwark must be built to a high standard, and with proper public consultation before building. This has taken more time in some instances that we would have liked, but it is important to get this right and ensure that our developments are built to a high standard and can stand the test of time.

We are committed to playing our part to address London's housing crisis and build homes for our residents. This is in stark contrast to the failure of the previous Lib Dem administration to deliver a single new council home between 2006 and 2010.

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR ANDY SIMMONS

What does the leader consider the impact of the General Election result will be for Southwark and its residents?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

While Southwark's residents overwhelmingly voted against the failed politics of the Lib Dems and the Conservatives, the national result was sadly a Tory government propped by the DUP.

After seven years of Tory and Lib Dem governments, local people were right to vote against deeper and more savage cuts. They voted against a failed economic plan that has led to growth stalling, and squeezing areas like Southwark. That is why they voted to elect three excellent Labour MPs in the borough, all with increased majorities.

The impact over the coming years of a weak and unstable Tory government is not yet fully known, as the Queen's Speech was sorely lacking in detail as the Prime Minister had to buy off the DUP in order to get her programme through Parliament. We expect further cuts to our budget and a continued drive to pull money out of areas like Southwark in housing, in education and in supporting the poorest and most vulnerable.

We are clear that our role is to ensure that whatever the government does, we must continue to deliver a fairer future for all. That means ensuring we enact policies that

give people a good start in life, support their health, ensure quality housing and investing in good quality local services.

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

The leader of Westminster Council has issued a strongly-worded warning to property developers that the authority will no longer tolerate developers only catering for well-heeled buyers, with a spokesperson from the council saying: "We don't want cheques any more, we want to see housing – we are going to get tough." Will the Leader of this council follow suit and ensure the council's policy of a minimum of 35% affordable housing is met, in-lieu payments are no longer accepted and affordable housing is built on site?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

Southwark is already tough with developers. We negotiate the best deals we can for local residents to get the most affordable and council housing that we can out of new developments. That is why we have the most ambitious council house building programme anywhere in the country, and why we are building more homes than almost anyone else. I am pleased to hear that Westminster is now proposing to follow Southwark's lead in getting a better deal for local people, and provide the homes that Londoners so desperately need.

We implement the London Plan policy which is that affordable housing should normally be provided on-site. In exceptional cases where it can be demonstrated robustly that this is not appropriate in terms of the policies in this Plan, it may be provided off-site. A cash in lieu contribution should only be accepted where this would have demonstrable benefits in furthering the affordable housing and other policies in this Plan, and should be ring-fenced and, if appropriate, pooled to secure additional affordable housing either on identified sites elsewhere, or as part of an agreed programme for provision of affordable housing.

As a result, off-site provision of affordable housing or accepting an in lieu payment is an unusual occurrence and far from routine. Across all 55 schemes triggering affordable housing requirements approved in the borough between 2014-15 and 2016-17, 41 are providing a policy compliant level of affordable housing on site and only 3 schemes do not provide any affordable housing on site. A total of £13.2 million in *in lieu* payments were agreed in this period.

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR HELEN DENNIS

Could the leader comment on the response of Southwark Council to the London Bridge terrorist attack?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

The London Bridge terrorist attack was a pointless and horrific incident, and although many of us have been able to return to our everyday lives, let us not forget that there are families who have lost loved ones and whose lives will never be the same again, and people who are still dealing with the physical and emotional trauma of the attack itself.

I would like to thank our emergency services, who as always dealt with the attack and its immediate aftermath in a professional and heroic way. They went into danger without any thought for their own personal safety and undeniably saved lives. I would

like to thank too council officers who in the aftermath of the attack have worked with the public and our partners to support those affected, and to assist with the recovery.

On the night of the attack, the council activated its emergency plan to manage such incidents.

- The police notified Southwark of the attack at 22:30 on 3 June. The Borough Emergency Command Centre was immediately established and was functional shortly after 11.00pm. The BECC immediately started to collate information to build a picture of the situation. This included liaison with the City of London Corporation (who have responsibility for London Bridge) and Lambeth (due to reports of a similar attack in Vauxhall).
- Contact with the Met Police confirmed that no immediate council assistance was required whilst the scene was still active, as the police completed searching for possible further perpetrators. At this time the extent of the attack was still unclear and no confirmation of numbers of casualties was available.
- As part of the council's response to an emergency, we considered the impact of the police cordon both in the short and longer term. This was especially the impact on vulnerable and displaced residents, businesses within the cordon, travel arrangements for the following days and the possible impact on the upcoming general election.
- The council established a rest centre at London Southbank University with the British Red Cross within an hour of the request coming from the police for displaced persons.
- The council started work to maintain a 'business as usual response' throughout the rest of the borough. Borough wardens were deployed from the following morning to assist police on the cordons and to give directions to those wishing to access the area or use the roads for access.

As the incident stabilised the council worked on a range of issues to help the area recover from the attack. This includes dealing with issues related to:

- traffic and transport disruption in and around the borough market area
- the effect of the suspension of all business within the cordons
- removal of the perishable items from the borough market area once the police lifted the crime scene cordon
- suspension of pedestrian access through the cordons and along the Thames Path
- provision of a rest centre during the second night following the incident for those still denied access to their homes
- managing communications with UK and international news outlets as many of those killed were foreign nationals
- the maintenance of the numerous floral tributes and memorabilia at various sites around the area, as well as the placement and maintenance of books of condolence
- the emotional and longer term effect on those either directly affected by the incident or who had witnessed the incident
- supporting individuals and groups wishing to visit the scene to lay tributes and pay respects to those killed
- street cleaning and rubbish removal from areas as the cordons lifted as the incident progressed
- repairs to the highway after damage from the attack, and the installation of additional bollards ahead of the market reopening
- attendance at the vigil at City Hall.

The council established a humanitarian assistance drop in centre at Southwark cathedral staffed by Red Cross, Victim Support, Cruise bereavement services and local authority officers, and coordinated humanitarian assistance through its Humanitarian Assistance Support Group. We have established a recovery group as well as groups to support business and the market recovery.

I am proud of the council's response which showed local government at its best. While we never wanted to be in this situation and hope to never face such atrocities again, we demonstrated how our planning and preparedness meant that when the worst happens, Southwark Council is ready to step in and support the community and our borough.

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

The Opposition Office submitted a Freedom of Information (FOI) request to the council on 1 March 2017, asking for more information about the decision-making process leading to the proposals to earmark the Riverside and Queen's Road Day Centres for development. The council has confirmed that it does hold records which are relevant to this request, and yet the 20 working day deadline has passed, as has the extended deadline, with no information provided. Can the Leader explain why Southwark Council is failing to meeting its obligations under the Freedom of Information Act? Can he also confirm that officers, members and contractors are aware of their obligations under the act and reassure council assembly that there has been no deliberate attempt to prevent decision-making processes from receiving appropriate public scrutiny?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

The council takes its responsibilities in respect of requests made for information under the Freedom of Information Act and other legislation very seriously.

In this case, I am told the time needed to identify and extract the information is considerable. I am assured the work is under way, and will be completed as soon as is practicably possible.

Despite this, and a reduction in the resources available to deal with requests, the council continues to try and improve the timely processing of requests, with 84% being dealt within the statutory timescale in 2016-17 (this compares with 69% in 2013-14).

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES COLDWELL

Does the Leader believe that the outcome of the General Election will provide more clarity on the likely impacts of Brexit for Southwark residents?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

When the Prime Minister called a snap General Election in April, one of the reasons cited for her choosing to do so was that she needed a mandate for her Brexit negotiating position. If the Prime Minister had been returned with an increased majority, she could have claimed this mandate, and this might have given us clarity on the direction that Brexit is likely to take, and therefore what the impact on Southwark might be.

However, as I am sure we are all aware, instead of getting this mandate for a hard Brexit, the Prime Minister found her majority had been cut and we now have a hung Parliament. Although the Conservatives are being propped up by the Brexit-supporting

DUP, the result of the General Election has led to more, not less, uncertainty over what Brexit will mean for Southwark and our residents.

What we do know is that the UK's exit from the European Union will have a significant impact not only on Southwark but on local government as a whole, creating challenges that need to be addressed. EU directives impact on many council services that affect our day-to-day lives, including Environmental Health, Trading Standards and regulating how councils buy goods and services.

While central government has confirmed that European funding for local regeneration will be guaranteed up to the point the UK exits the European Union, it is crucial that central and local government work together to develop a UK replacement for EU 'regional aid'.

Discussions held by the council with local businesses and others have highlighted the following issues:

- The council draws on EU funding programmes to deliver additionally to services, or secure services that would have otherwise been reduced due to government funding cuts. Current EU funded projects are not affected by the EU referendum, but projects planned for 2018 onwards may be affected.
- London is a large beneficiary of EU funding, which is unlikely to reduce in the very near term, the implications on future funding are unknown. After the EU referendum, City Hall launched the '**London Is Open**' campaign to encourage trade and tourism in the city.
- If EU residents do leave the UK, many industries may seek to up-skill their remaining workforce – the Apprenticeship Levy could support this process, but a lack of clarity regarding the levy is preventing organisations from strategically planning their approach to workforce development.
- In light of the spike of incidents targeting particular communities, our Business Forum recognised the role that the wider business community has in championing diversity and reinforcing positive messages about inclusion. Businesses could also refocus their community projects around cohesion.
- The council plays a leading role in bringing communities together and has a role to play in tackling challenges such as the retention of skilled workers. Across the country for example 7% (12% in London) of the adult social care workforce are EU nationals.
- The referendum saw an increase in recorded incidents of hate crime. Southwark, through its communities and Prevent responsibilities, is helping to address community tensions.
- The Local Government Association (LGA) is analysing the impact that Brexit could have on local authorities, and we have appointed Southwark's Director of Communities to monitor the impacts that Brexit will have on our residents, meaning that whatever happens nationally, here in Southwark we will remain committed to protecting our residents and mitigating any negative impacts of Brexit to the best of our abilities.

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR BEN JOHNSON

Could the leader confirm how much Southwark Council expects to pay Clarion Housing Group for the ownership of the 284 homes described as council owned? In addition, can the Leader please confirm the definition for 'low cost ownership'?

RESPONSE

We are absolutely committed to delivering affordable homes for Southwark residents, so we work with a number of partners, including Clarion Housing Group, to deliver affordable homes at good value to the council.

The council expects to make a contribution of £11.5m to Clarion (and will forego £25m in capital receipts) but will retain the freehold of the land and achieve new council homes. This equates to £36.5m for 284 new council homes (i.e. approximately £129,000 per unit). It would likely cost the council in the region of £175,000 per unit to acquire them from developers (assuming the same quantum was available to buy), or £225,000 per unit to build them via direct delivery.

The term low cost ownership is used to describe a range of affordable housing for sale products such as shared ownership and shared equity (e.g. rent to buy, social home buy and others) provided to eligible households whose needs are not met by the market.

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Could the Leader provide an update on the London Mayor's commitment to have at least two neighbourhood police officers per ward?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

The London Mayor's commitment to introducing a second dedicated Police Constable in every ward in London by the end of 2017 was announced in July 2016.

Across the 21 wards in Southwark, 19 wards have two dedicated ward officers in place. Peckham Rye and Riverside have one officer recruited and the remaining 2 vacancies are currently being recruited; it is envisaged will be filled shortly.

Providing dedicated Police Constables in every ward is an important way to ensure that our communities have access to a dedicated Police service when they need it, and that the Police are aware of the particular issues in different wards.

I am really pleased that the Mayor introduced this important commitment - something the previous Tory mayor refused to do.

9. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR DAN WHITEHEAD

Can the Leader confirm whether the council will install more prominent warning signs along Greenland Dock, including details of the depth of the water and danger to life, in response to the tragic death of a young man there on 17 June 2017?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

This is an awful loss and our thoughts are with the family of the young man at this painful time. The council supported the police in their search, and has offered support to the family.

This tragedy is a stark reminder of why the waters around the marina are not suitable for swimming, and as this warm weather continues we would urge all residents to stay out of the water, tempting as it may be.

A number of safety measures are in place; the docks are surrounded by a pole and chain fence with poles 1 metre high joined by two rows of chains. Refuge chains are looped around the dock at water level that can be used by a person in the water to support themselves. Life buoy holders are provided at average intervals of 55 metres and on the back of each lifebuoy holder is a no swimming sign. Ladders are fixed to the walls at approximately 55 metre intervals to climb out of the dock and there are some existing stairs in various locations. Lifebuoys are checked daily.

However, as with any serious incident, the council instigates a serious incident panel with immediate effect to review what further measures, if any, could be implemented to reduce the likelihood of such tragic incidents happening in the future. As part of this review the panel will consider the benefit of installing more prominent warning signs along Greenland Dock.

10. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS

Could the Leader confirm the appointment of Deputy Cabinet Members for the coming year?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

I have appointed:

Councillor Octavia Lamb as the Deputy Cabinet Member for Air Quality.

Poor air quality is a really serious issue, not just for Southwark but for the whole of London, with estimates suggesting that around 9,500 people die early each year in London as a result of air pollution and poor air quality, so I'm pleased that Councillor Lamb will be looking at ways in which we can improve Southwark's air quality, especially around schools.

Councillor Jon Hartley as the Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Involvement (Digital).

Councillor Hartley will be working to address the change we have seen in the way that members of our communities want to engage with the council and with other bodies, and making sure that we are connecting with our residents in ways which suit them.

Councillor James Coldwell as Deputy Cabinet Member for Community Energy.

Community energy projects give power to local people to collectively work to reduce their energy bills and invest in green energy for their community, something which I know that Councillor Coldwell is already passionate about.

Councillor Catherine Rose as Deputy Cabinet Member for Childcare Costs.

The high cost of childcare is a real barrier stopping parents from being able to access employment, and it is a challenge compounded by the reduction in funding for early years education coming from central government. I know that Councillor Rose will be dedicated to finding new and innovative ways we can ensure affordable childcare for all of Southwark's residents.

11. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES OKOSUN

Can the Leader confirm when the site for the new Seven Islands Leisure Centre will be consulted on by the council and why the current site of the leisure centre was not included in a previous consultation?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

Providing high quality sports and leisure facilities is something that we take very seriously, and that is why we have been considering and consulting on a range of options for the new Seven Islands Leisure Centre, as we want to ensure that this new centre benefits the whole local community.

We have already carried out consultation on proposals for a new site for a leisure centre at Canada Water. This was undertaken in May as part of the British Land public consultation on a new masterplan for the town centre sites comprising the shopping centre, Printworks and Mast Leisure sites. Three sites were identified within the plan as having the potential to accommodate the new facility. We will carefully consider the feedback from the consultation before deciding how to proceed. A decision on which option to take forward is unlikely to be taken before the end of the year at the earliest. British Land also intends to undertake a further public exhibition prior to submitting a planning application for the town centre sites. It is intended that the council's preferred site will be included within this wider plan allowing residents a further opportunity to provide their views on the plans.

We have been clear that our preference is to identify a new site for the leisure centre within the emerging town centre. This option allows a new centre to be opened before the closure of the existing Seven Islands facility. This option will therefore ensure families with young children and our elderly residents continue to have convenient access to leisure facilities and benefit from the council's free swim and gym policy. Redeveloping Seven Islands rather than building a new centre on a different site would inevitably mean the loss of local leisure facilities for a period of up to three years which could negatively impact on young children who want to learn to swim and those of our residents who are less able to travel to alternative locations. While I have been advised that it technically would be feasible to accommodate a new facility at Seven Islands, we believe, for the reasons I have previously stated, that this would not result in the best outcome for all our residents and therefore this option was not included in the consultation exercise.

12. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR REBECCA LURY

Could the leader provide an update on Southwark Council's policy on the use of council housing for short term holiday lettings?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

I'm proud that visitors from across the world come to visit Southwark, and I am sure that you would all join me in welcoming tourists and other visitors to our wonderful borough. However, our residents must always come first, and as the level of housing need in Southwark is so great, it is unacceptable for council flats and houses to be used for any other purpose than as homes.

The council therefore does not allow any council home, either tenanted or leasehold, to be used as a short-term holiday let, and their use as 'hotels' for commercial purposes is not permitted. We will take legal action where such cases come to our attention.

Tenants are allowed to rent out a room in their home to a lodger as long as the arrangement is approved. Leaseholders are entitled to rent out their whole property, but a condition of all Southwark leases is that the property can only be used as private dwelling and not a holiday home.

In April this year, the council wrote to all tenants and leaseholders setting out this policy, and we will now enforce the policy to ensure that council flats and houses are being used as homes for our residents, not as hotels for commercial gain.

13. QUESTION TO THE LEADER FROM COUNCILLOR SUNIL CHOPRA (PECKHAM AND NUNHEAD COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

What more can the council do invest in and promote jobs and training opportunities for local people and particularly local young people? In addition how can new and affordable business space be made more genuinely affordable and prioritised for local people?

RESPONSE FROM THE LEADER

Increasing the number of jobs, high quality training and business opportunities for local young people are enshrined as priorities in Southwark's economic wellbeing strategy, which sets out the council's approach to delivering growth and improved economic wellbeing for local people under four themes:

- Employment and skills - A full employment borough with a job opportunity for every resident who wants to work
- Business - A growth borough, where business thrives and prospers
- Thriving town centres and high streets - Dynamic, diverse, digital centres that are great places to visit, spend time and enjoy
- Financial wellbeing - Helping people to grow their incomes and ensuring a fair day's pay for a fair day's work.

The strategy includes key commitments promoting jobs and training opportunities for local people. We pledged to:

- Support 5,000 local people into jobs
- Create 2,000 new apprenticeships
- Make sure local residents benefit from new jobs and investment.

Under these commitments we have so far supported 4208 local people into jobs, including over 1000 directly arising from development taking place in the borough. We have created 1184 apprenticeships, within the council and by supporting local employers through initiatives such as the Southwark Apprenticeship Standard and we are the only public sector body in the top 100 apprentices' employers.

Through the Southwark Works programme and investment under the council's Youth Fund, young people benefit from programmes to help them with the distinctive challenges they can face in getting into sustainable good quality work. Getting Ready for Work supports young people with complex lives to move towards successful careers. Our part-time employment project supports young people in education or with caring responsibilities to find flexible work. Our Southwark Employment and Enterprise Development Scheme (SEEDS) programme co-invests with employers to guarantee a London Living Wage job or apprenticeship to young people facing complex barriers to work. SEEDS is now entering its second round having already supported 48 young people into secure employment at the London Living Wage. SEEDS2 will also support

young people to start up their own businesses with investment and support with affordable premises.

The council plan also sets out commitments to:

- Invest in more affordable business space, street markets and encourage pop-up shops to help start up businesses
- Enhance and expand affordable studio and performance space.

The council is on track to meet its targets of securing 500 affordable business and creative spaces by 2018 through direct delivery, development partnerships and planning obligations, with 143 spaces delivered so far.

The Peckham Levels project is a key part of this, and is currently on site and due to complete in October. This will introduce 50 new affordable studios, 6 offices, 2 co-working spaces, 2 workshops, as well as gallery space, a ceramics and kiln room, 3D printers, laser cutters, printing press, dark room and photo studios, and rehearsal spaces. All of these spaces will be prioritised for local residents and businesses. This project is projected to create between 300 and 350 full time and between 100 and 200 part time jobs.

All tenants will be required to donate a proportion of their time through a Community Resource Scheme providing around 3,600 hours of training/volunteering annually, and 10% of scheme profits will be retained as a Community Investment Fund, ensuring that this project really does benefit the whole community.

Further affordable business spaces are under delivery at Peckham Station Square and Peckham Palms, Peckham Library Square, New Theatre Peckham, Bournemouth Close, St Thomas' Street, Rich Industrial Estate, Parkhouse Street, Braganza Street, Eagle Wharf Peckham, and at a number of redundant garages sites across the borough.

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS (BERMONDSEY AND ROTHERHITHE COMMUNITY COUNCIL)

Can the Cabinet Member explain the consultation process that has taken place, or is to take place, for the specification of the leisure centre for Canada Water, in particular for the proposed reduction the length of the swimming pool from 33m currently at seven Islands to 25m when a 50m pool was proposed in 2006?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR REGENERATION AND NEW HOMES

In 2005 the council entered into an agreement with British Land Canada Quay's (BLCQ) to redevelop various sites around Canada Water. The partner selection process included community consultation events. As part of this consultation, the idea of an aquatic centre with a 50m pool on the decathlon site was considered by BLCQ. This was just one idea, but is not one we endorse as a 50m pool is very expensive.

Since that time two, public consultation programmes have been conducted by British Land on the Canada Water master plan area, part of which involved consultation on the specification for the leisure centre. The first consultation was in Spring 2016 and the second one was in May of this year.

The current design process will deliver an 8-lane 25m pool as opposed to a 6-lane 33m pool. 33m pools are not recognised as official length by the Amateur Swimming Association, Sport England or FINA, the international swimming federation. Therefore, when swimming clubs are grading members or having competition galas, the times of competitors are not accepted. As a result no 33m pools have been built in the UK in the last 15 years and a number of older pools have been replaced with 25m pools.

It would be a mistake to build a brand new swimming pool which cannot be used for swimming competitions, as this might lead swimming clubs and other competitive organisations to choose to use different pools which are an appropriate size for competitions.

The leisure centre specification includes an 8-lane 25m pool, a learner pool, 3 studios, a 150 station gym, crèche and a four court sports hall.

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR JASMINE ALI

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the outcome of the recent Ofsted inspection of children's services in Southwark?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

I am pleased to be able to announce that the Ofsted inspection of Southwark children's services which took place between 6 March 2017 and 30 March 2017 has been published, and that Southwark Council was judged as 'good' overall, which puts Southwark in the top 28% of the 146 local authorities inspected so far.

The inspection covered services for children in need of help and protection, children looked after and care leavers, leadership and governance, and a review of the effectiveness of the Local Safeguarding Children Board.

Areas of strength identified by the inspection included:

- Leaders and managers understand strengths and areas for development in their services well
- Well established social work matters model which attracts high quality social workers
- Innovative services are informed by children's participation and involvement
- Particular strengths identified in the areas of female genital mutilation (FGM), honour based violence, bullying or sexual exploitation through gang association, and the PAUSE programme
- Creative and adaptable multi agency working in response to child sexual exploitation, and other risk to adolescents such as knife crime, and close tracking of children going missing
- Many care leavers live in safe, suitable housing and achieve good outcomes
- Well established culture of early work on children who might be adopted, that is carefully tracked
- Adopters highly appreciate the assessment, training and support they receive.

There were 11 recommendations that we will take forward to further improve our service, including the innovation we already planned for care leavers.

I'm really pleased that Ofsted's report praised the council for strong, passionate and committed political leadership and for its ambition for vulnerable children. It's really

important to me that the efforts of our social workers, foster carers, adopters, and everyone else who works so hard to protect our most vulnerable young people has been recognised by this comprehensive inspection.

We will continue to work hard to keep improving our services, ensuring that children and young people are at the heart of everything we do.

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR KARL EASTHAM

Can the Cabinet Member explain what the likely impact will be of the government's current funding proposals for schools in Southwark?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

Cutting funding for Southwark schools is a huge backwards step, erasing the fantastic progress Southwark schools have made in recent years, and putting the attainment of our children at risk.

The current understood impact on the funding to our schools is as follows:

- In the 2016-17 academic year, Southwark's schools will receive a Dedicated Schools Grant Schools Block baseline figure of £179.953m
- In the 2018-19 academic year, which is expected to be a transition year, Southwark's schools will receive £177.512m, which represents a £2.441m reduction or -1.4%
- In the 2019-20 academic year, which will be the first year when funding is based entirely on the National Funding Formula, Southwark's schools will receive £175.082m. This represents a cumulative £4.871m reduction or -2.7% against the baseline).

However, this does not take account of significant increasing unfunded cost pressures over time.

In most Southwark schools staffing costs make up around three quarters of the overall budget. This means to make savings, schools will have to look to cut teachers and valuable support staff.

Additionally likely impact for schools in Southwark could include:

- Fewer interventions and less specialised support affecting those most vulnerable learners
- Bigger class sizes and less capacity to meet the needs of individual learners
- Reduced parental choice of schools as smaller settings become less sustainable
- Reduced subject choice/curriculum offer
- Accommodation and resources that adversely impact on maintaining a quality learning environment
- Less teaching and support staff - this would be as a last resort but one that is fast becoming a reality for some schools
- A number of authorities are reported as cutting back on teaching hours and shortening the school day or week.

Over time these could lead to reduced attainment, poorer outcomes and poorer life chances.

The new Government has yet to publish the outcomes of the funding consultation and to formally announce its intended approach. I will continue to lobby the Government to think again about these changes, and put the future of our children first.

17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the current number of children taking up their free early education places at a) age 2, and b) age 3 - 4?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

We know that the quality of childcare that children have in their first few years of life has a significant impact on their development, so I'm pleased that Southwark has had a significant take up of free early years places for both 2 year olds and 3 - 4 year olds.

In January 2017 (last published figures) the position was as follows:

- 1140 two year old children were taking up their free early education place in Southwark, 71% of those eligible. This compares with a take up rate of 55% for inner London as a whole.
- 7040 three and four year old children were taking up their free early education place in Southwark, 83% of those eligible. This compares with a take up rate of 81% for inner London as a whole.

Southwark is leading the way on the take up of early years places, and I hope that we can share the stories of our successes with other inner London boroughs.

18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR ROSIE SHIMELL

In answer to a question by my colleague Councillor James Okosun at Council Assembly on 30 November 2016, the Cabinet Member stated that "...Southwark is actively planning for the introduction of the national 30 hours free childcare for three and four year old children from September 2017." Please can she outline these plans and indicate when they will be made available for formal scrutiny?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

I am committed to making 30 free hours of childcare work for the residents of Southwark. However, I am concerned about the low level of funding that we receive from this Conservative Government, as the paucity of funding makes it increasingly difficult to make 30 hours of free childcare a sustainable programme.

The way funding is allocated through the Department for Education's new early years national funding formula is disadvantaging Southwark and some other boroughs. Southwark's allocation through the Early Years Block of Dedicated Schools Grant for 3 and 4 year old children is reducing by £2m over two years as follows:

2016-17	2017-18	2018-19
£20,642,000	£19,615,368	£18,634,600

All children are entitled to 15 hours of free early education, 38 weeks per year, from the start of the term after they turn three years old. From September 2017 some children will be entitled to additional hours – up to 30 hours per week, provided that

their parents are working and meet nationally defined eligibility criteria. Regulations and operational guidance on implementing this initiative were published by the Department for Education in April 2017.

Southwark's implementation of the 30 hours offer is being led by the Free Early Learning Team within the Education Access, 0 - 25 division of Children's and Adults' Services. Considerable progress has been made in planning, including the following:

1. Southwark has reviewed its Early Years Single Funding Formula which determines the hourly funding rate paid to early years settings for delivering free hours. With the agreement of Southwark Schools Forum, this has resulted in a significant increase in the funding rate to primary schools, childminders and private and voluntary sector nurseries to £5.95 an hour.
2. Briefing meetings have been held with schools, childminders and private, voluntary and independent (PVI) nurseries to explain about the 30 hours offer and encourage them to participate.
3. Support was given to nurseries applying to the Department for Education (DfE) for Early Years Capital Funding to increase the number of places, resulting in funding being secured to expand Elephant and Castle Day and Victory House nurseries (two local independent sector day nurseries).
4. A new web based system for providers to check children's eligibility and claim funding has been purchased that meets new DfE requirements.
5. A Parents Demand Survey has been undertaken and information about the 30 hours offer has been updated on the Southwark website, with further publicity for parents planned. The national system for parents to check their eligibility was launched by the Government in April 2017. Parents are given an eligibility code, which they then take to their preferred childcare provider when enquiring about a free place. Southwark has put in place a system for providers to verify these codes.

An update on progress with implementing 30 hours childcare will be included in a report on Early Years and Childcare provision due to be considered by Cabinet in November 2017.

19. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR CATHERINE ROSE

Will the Cabinet Member tell us how many schools in the schools expansion programme have completed works or are due to complete work on new buildings in the next three months?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

I am pleased to say we have made good progress on our schools expansion programme. The primary expansion programme currently consists of 11 primary schools throughout the borough. This is probably one the largest expansion and improvement programmes in the country and the council is investing to provide good quality buildings for teaching and learning that will provide a lasting legacy for pupils attending Southwark schools.

Of those, four schools have now been completed:

Crawford	• Full scheme completed October 2016
Phoenix	• Refurbishment completed December 2016
Ivydale	• Full scheme completed June 2017

Keyworth	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full scheme completed June 2017
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Within the next three months the following two schools are also scheduled to be completed:

Grange	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Build to complete September 2017
Charles Dickens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall and Kitchen to complete September 2017 • Full scheme to complete December 2017

There are five remaining schools currently scheduled for completion either by the end of 2017 or early 2018:

Robert Browning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hall and Kitchen to complete November 2017 • External landscape to complete February 2018
Belham	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full scheme to complete December 2017
Albion	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 to complete December 2017 • Phase 2 to complete May 2018
Bellenden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full scheme to complete February 2018
Cherry Gardens	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Full scheme to complete July 2018

In addition to these schemes that have completed or are due to complete shortly, the council is working on the future expansion of Rotherhithe and Redriff Primary Schools and project managing and part-funding the delivery of the new Charter School East Dulwich, and the new SPA Special which will open in September 2019. It also has ambitious plans to develop a new special school for Beormund School in Peckham on the former Bellenden School, and investment and new build on the Angel Oak Academy site as part of the Southwark Regeneration in Partnership programme.

20. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS FROM COUNCILLOR RENATA HAMVAS

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the percentage of children who a) got their first preference primary school, b) got their first preference secondary school, c) got their first, second or third preference primary school, and d) got their first, second or third preference secondary school this year, and how do these percentages compare to 2010?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CHILDREN AND SCHOOLS

I'm pleased to be able to tell you that this year, 88.3% of children were offered their first preference of primary school, which is up almost 6% from 2010 when 82.8% of children got their first preference primary school. This year 97.5% of applicants received a place at a primary school of their first to third preference.

We have also seen an increase in the percentage of children who got their first preference of secondary school. Last year 64.1% of children got their first preference of secondary school, an increase of almost 10% from when Labour took over the running of the council from the Liberal Democrats in 2010, when only 54.7% of children were offered their first preference of secondary school.

Similarly, a higher percentage of children get offered one of their first three preferences of secondary school now than they did in 2010. 87.9% of children this year were offered one of their first three preferences, up from 82.9% in 2010.

These increases mean that more children are able to go to a school which they have chosen, and which they and their parents believe is best for them – unlike under the

previous Lib Dem administration, where almost half were not able to go to the secondary school they wanted to attend.

21. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR NICK DOLEZAL

What proportion of Southwark's waste went into landfill last year, and a) how does that compare to the previous municipal year and b) what are the projections for the amount of waste going into landfill in 2017-18?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

Southwark is committed to reducing landfill. However, the amount of waste landfilled in 2016-17 increased slightly because alternative incinerators were not available during planned maintenance of the South East London Combined Heat and Power (SELCHP) facility which normally disposes of Southwark's waste. This has been addressed during 2017-18, and is not expected to recur.

3.27% of waste was sent to landfill in 2016-17 (Provisional Data)
0.56% of waste was sent to landfill in 2015-16

We estimate that less than 2% of all waste is likely to be landfilled in 2017-18 based on current performance.

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

Can the Cabinet Member please confirm that it is still Southwark policy to allocate 25% of community infrastructure levy (CIL) contributions to improving the environment and public realm in the area local to development? Can he also explain who is responsible for ensuring that CIL monies are allocated according to the Community Infrastructure Project List and how this is monitored?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

I can confirm that it is still Southwark policy to allocate 25% of community infrastructure levy (CIL) contributions to capital projects locally and not just environmental and public realm projects. This funding will be spent on projects contained on a Community Infrastructure Project List which are lists of project ideas proposed by the local community and approved by the relevant community council. Regarding the responsibility for ensuring the allocation and monitoring of the funding, this is currently being determined and the process will be agreed by cabinet.

It should be noted however that while currently the council is committed to spending at least 25% locally, irrespective of whether there is a neighbourhood plan, this proportion may need to be reconsidered in the future due to the continuing pressure on council budgets and the need to deliver the infrastructure required (schools, social care, health facilities etc.) to support local communities.

23. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID HUBBER

Could the Cabinet Member please give details of the number of road traffic collisions occurring in the borough during the two years preceding and the two years following the

introduction of a Southwark-wide 20 miles per hour speed limit? Could he also confirm the number of penalty tickets for exceeding the 20mph limit which have been issued since the policy commenced?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

The borough-wide 20mph was introduced in March 2015. The most up to date collision data available is to October 2016.

Collisions

From March 2013 to March 2015 (25 months) - **2008** (on average 80 per month)
 From April 2015 to October 2016 (19 months) - **1445** (on average 76 per month).

Excluding TLRN (Red route network):

From March 2013 to March 2015 (25 months) - **1029** (41 per month)
 From April 2015 to October 2016 (19 months) - **771** (41 per month).

Casualty data (all borough, not available without TLRN):

From March 2013 to March 2015 (25 months) - **2223** (on average 89 per month) – 15 fatal (0.6 per month), 162 serious (6.5 per month), 2046 slight (82 per month)

From April 2015 to October 2016 (19 months) - **1648** (on average 87 per month) - 7 fatal (0.4 per month), 114 serious (6 per month), 1527 slight (80 per month).

Penalty ticket information provided by Metropolitan Police is only available broken down by calendar year. This information is shown below:

Traffic Offence Reports (Officer Issued)		Southwark			
		Year			
OFFENCE		2015	2016	2017	Grand Total
Excess speed (20 mph)		41	32	20	93

Notice of Intended Prosecutions (Camera Offences)		Southwark		
		Year		
Camera Speed Limit		2016	2017	Grand Total
20mph		220	393	613

There were no 20mph cameras in Southwark pre-2016.

24. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR JON HARTLEY

What percentage of Southwark's waste is recycled, and how does this compare to other inner London boroughs?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

Southwark recycled 35% of all household waste in 2015-16, giving Southwark the highest household waste recycling rate in Inner London. Data has not yet been finalised and published for 2016-17 as the reporting process has only just closed for the final quarter.

In 2009-10 Southwark was the 35th placed recycler in London (out of 37 organisations reporting, which includes Joint Waste Disposal Authorities) with 22% recycled. In 2015-16 Southwark has moved 16 places higher, into 19th place – and achieved best Inner London council for recycling performance.

25. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER

Could the cabinet member inform us what the current public satisfaction levels are with Southwark's parks and open spaces?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

The council commissions InfoCore to carry out a resident survey each quarter with satisfaction of the parks and open spaces surveyed every six months. Southwark residents are asked, via a telephone survey, how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with parks and open spaces.

The satisfaction rate has varied from the high 80% to low 90's over the past few years. For the January 2017 resident survey, 436 residents (who have used parks and open spaces) were asked how satisfied or dissatisfied they are with parks and open spaces. 88% of respondents stated they were satisfied with the parks and open spaces.

26. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR PAUL FLEMING

Could the Cabinet Member comment on the performance of the grounds maintenance contractor since the new contract started in October 2016?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

We continue to have a strong partnership with Quadron Idverde, the council's grounds maintenance contractor who has achieved an average of 96% performance exceeding the target set.

Part of the contract includes employing and five apprenticeships as well as continuing to provide work experience placements and opportunities to volunteer. For example Quadron Idverde has arranged site tours and practical work experience to Bankside Open Space Trust Future Gardeners students to provide practical experience of their

learning. Between October 2016 and December 2016 the contract enabled 3300 volunteer hours to be worked in our parks and open spaces.

Quadron Idverde continues to develop strong community initiatives in the parks, working with the Friends of Parks groups to benefit maintenance, horticultural and conservation standards. They have also developed strong working relationships with various other groups across the borough, for example supporting the Southwark Biodiversity partnership by attending their regular meetings and providing feedback on how volunteer and core contract works support key deliverables of the Biodiversity Action Plan.

27. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS

Can the Cabinet Member give details of the council's strategy for managing the noise impact on local residents from buskers on the Bankside river walk?

Can he also explain what is being done to co-ordinate activities between different responsible authorities, and outline what advice he would offer to residents who are disturbed by repetitive and amplified music into the early hours of the morning?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR ENVIRONMENT AND THE PUBLIC REALM

The re-organisation of Regulatory Services has brought together those teams and units that deal with noise and anti social behaviour including nuisance buskers.

The Noise and Nuisance Team, SASBU, wardens and other street enforcement teams work closely together at an operational level to reduce the disturbance and impact of buskers. All case work notes are kept on the same case management system. The council analysts interrogate databases and provide intelligence to the partnership tasking group which meets monthly and tasks teams on future operations. As part of this process the activity of buskers is tracked and teams asked to use their resources to tackle those causing nuisance and difficulties.

Where buskers are causing disturbance late at night then residents should contact Southwark's Noise and Nuisance to make a complaint at the time they are being disturbed via the call centre on 0207 525 5777. This will allow officers to give formal warnings and, if necessary, prosecute severe or repeat offenders.

At other times of the day residents may contact the noise and nuisance team, however street wardens who will be patrolling nearer the main sites of busker activity will be able to provide a response. They also have a broader remit which means they can tackle buskers who are causing nuisance other than noise, such as blocking the pavement or being generally anti-social. Officers will engage with the busker and ask them to desist with the nuisance. If the busker fails to comply with the request or if officers receive a further complaint, then the busker is asked to move on.

Officers' ability to tackle nuisance buskers is hampered by a legislative framework that is weak with respect to this issue; hence our enforcement teams rely on using legislation that was never intended to tackle nuisances resulting from this type of street entertainment. It should also be noted that officers often encounter resistance and impromptu filming by members of the public who often support the busker.

Despite the above officers will be convening a multi-disciplinary team to respond to the problems caused by nuisance buskers over the summer months.

28. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM

Could the Cabinet Member provide us with an update on the refurbishment of Seven Islands Leisure Centre and the Peckham Pulse Healthy Living Centre?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

Providing our residents with high quality sports and leisure facilities is extremely important to me, so I'm very proud of the progress that we have made in refurbishing both the Seven Islands Leisure Centre and the Peckham Pulse Healthy Living centre.

The most recent phase of the refurbishment of the Peckham Pulse was completed at the end of May. The £1.8m project was a jointly funded initiative between the council and the leisure contractor Everyone Active. The works completed include:

- Expansion of the gym from 1 floor to 2 floors
- Installation of new state of the art gym equipment
- Full refurbishment of the wet and dry changing rooms
- Relocation of the new reception area
- Relocation of the new soft play area
- Refurbishment of all the studios.

The works that remain to be completed are the refurbishment of the pool hall window and some roof works. These will be completed over the summer.

The final part of the latest phase of the Seven Islands Leisure Centre redevelopment was completed in early May. The purpose of the project was to address some key maintenance issues and also refresh the centre in order to provide good quality leisure services whilst the new leisure centre at Canada Water is being developed. The investment funded from a Southwark's Capital allocation of £1.7m included:

- Refurbishment of the pool hall
- Refurbishment of the pool changing facilities
- Installation of a lift to make the gym accessible
- Introduction of a new spin cycle studio
- Refurbished reception area
- Replacement of pool pipework
- General redecoration works.

The next steps will be to improve the gym changing rooms.

On both projects the feedback from customers has been very positive and officers are working with Everyone Active to increase attendances and in particular take up of Free Swim and Gym at these centres. I look forward to seeing the finished refurbishment works when they are complete, and I hope that local residents will enjoy using the fantastic facilities we have.

29. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

Could the Cabinet Member update us on how Team Southwark did in the recent London Youth Games?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

The London Youth Games is Europe's largest annual youth sports event, so it's really exciting that so many young people from our borough have been given the opportunity to compete.

Our borough performed really well, finishing in 11th position overall. Approximately 1250 children and young people from Southwark participated in this year's London Youth Games.

There have been strong performances across all of the teams. Southwark won gold in Paragames football and BMX, finished 2nd in Mens Hockey and Cycling (Road) and have been placed in the top 10 in 12 sports.

Southwark young people won 5 individual gold medals, 4 individual silver medals and 5 individual bronze medals.

I'm very proud of all of our young people who have taken part in the London Youth Games - they have showed themselves to be a real credit to Southwark, and I hope that they have enjoyed the experience of competing.

30. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON

Could the Cabinet Member update us on the progress of Southwark Council in resettling five families of Syrian refugees in Southwark?

RESPONSE FROM CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

A multi agency working group has been established with discussions held with representatives from Salvation Army, Citizens UK, partners involved with the Southwark Refugee Response Campaign, NHS Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group, the Heath Inclusion Services Team, the Department for Work and Pensions, and colleagues from Education, Special Education Needs and Housing Solutions.

An outline plan has been agreed with our partners around the coordination of the support programme (greeting families, assessing each family, detailed support package and support by community organisations/volunteers).

The Salvation Army will use its student accommodation at the William Booth College to accommodate four Syrian refugee families in 2017-18. The first families are expected to arrive within the next few months.

The council is now discussing a "nominations agreement" with the Salvation Army whereby it would agree to house families nominated by the council.

Discussions are being held with other landlords who have expressed an interest in being involved in the council's scheme.

31. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR TOM FLYNN

What actions have Southwark's Prevent team taken in response to the recent terror attacks in the UK, and in particular, the attack which took place on London Bridge and in Borough market?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

In response to the tragic recent terrorist attacks at London Bridge and Borough Market, as well as those seen in Westminster, Manchester, and Finsbury Park, the borough's Prevent Coordinator has worked closely in partnership with colleagues from across the council to provide reassurance and support to our statutory partners and to local communities. Examples of specific actions undertaken in response to these incidents have included:

- Guidance was provided to all Southwark schools and alternative providers; including signposting of support options for young people and relevant resources for teachers, as well as an offer of free Prevent training.
- Development of regular community information email bulletins, to the council's networks of community bulletins included reassurance messaging, practical information (re: cordons, floral tributes etc.), and the highlighting of reporting channels for hate-crime and counter terrorism-related concerns.
- Work with the Southwark Multi-Faith Forum to agree local statements on behalf of faith communities as well as to provide direct link for faith communities to report incidents or concerns in the aftermath of attacks.
- Briefing material provided to managers of frontline council teams covering counter terrorism awareness advice, and separately the process for reporting of potential hate-crime incidents such as vandalism if encountered.
- Joint work with MPS Southwark colleagues to ensure the increased visibility of neighbourhood policing patrols in the days following attacks.
- Proactive daily monitoring of local information from policing and community partners re: any hate-crime and cohesion issues seen in aftermath of attacks, and twice-daily reporting into pan-London community impact monitoring coordinated by the London Prevent Network.
- Case-by-case advice provided to partners in education, the NHS, and social services around risk-assessment, compliance with the Prevent duty, and support for cases of concern that have been referred in the aftermath of recent attacks.

It is important to emphasise that the above response work has relied upon the considerable support and efforts of colleagues from across the council – most notably those in the Emergency Planning, Communities, and External Affairs teams.

It is also worth noting that Southwark's Prevent local delivery plan is due to be formally approved at the forthcoming meeting of the Joint Safeguarding Boards on Tuesday 18 July. This wide-ranging partnership plan signifies our ongoing commitment to safeguarding our communities and residents from the threats of terrorism, violent extremism, and radicalisation.

I would like to formally thank our Prevent team, and all council staff who have worked with them for their hard work and for the way in which they have reached out to support our communities at such a difficult time.

32. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR DORA DIXON-FYLE

Could the Cabinet Member provide an update on the progress on the voluntary and community sector strategy as agreed by cabinet on 1 November 2016?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

We are committed to a voluntary and community sector strategy which works with our voluntary and community sector and Southwark Clinical Commissioning Group, with the aim of creating a sustainable, confident and resourceful voluntary and community sector that can work alongside the public and private sector to deliver the best outcomes for residents.

Since the strategy was agreed in November, four cross sector working groups looked in detail at these areas:

- Digital integration
- Information and intelligence
- Grants and commissioning
- Community assets.

The groups have been working on four key outcomes, which are:

- Create better partnership working
- Improve grant-making and commissioning
- Make better use of community assets
- Enable and support more resilient communities.

At an event on the 24 May attended by over 50 people, the work of the four groups was presented and tested. In response to feedback, an action plan is being put together which is due to be taken to today's Voluntary and Community Sector Liaison meeting, before plans to share it more broadly. This will include short term actions and longer term ambitions. The new strategic voluntary and community sector (VCS) commissioning board has started to meet to co-ordinate council commissioning of the VCS, a VCS commissioning forward plan has been produced and a common outcomes framework is nearly finalised.

33. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR SAMANTHA JURY-DADA

What is Southwark Council doing to address the very worrying rise in knife crime incidents and knife carrying?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

Following a downward trend knife crime is sadly now increasing across London, and for the last five years Southwark has one of the highest levels of knife crime in London. The offences of knife crime with injury and knife possession have also been one of the highest in the capital. Statistics and anecdotal evidence suggest that knife carrying by young people (10 to 24 years) is now more prevalent. We recognise that this is a serious and growing problem with many causes, and we are committed to working with the Police and other key partners to reduce knife carrying and knife crime.

Our current understanding of the local profile outlines that young people carry knives mainly for the following reasons: (1) Protection/safety (2) Attention (3) Criminality – such as involvement in gangs/robbery or drug activity (4) Peer pressure.

It is recognised that the council has to work in partnerships to tackle knife crime with other statutory agencies, the Police, schools, young people, parents and carers and the wider community. Knife crime is a key joint priority for the Southwark Safeguarding

Adults' Board (SSAB) and Southwark Children's Board (SSCB) and the council is a key statutory partner in these boards.

Both safeguarding boards will be signing off a local Knife Crime Action Plan in July 2017 which reflects both the Southwark and London wide prioritisation of knife crime. The plan is underpinned by 6 key areas:

- **Consultation and engagement** – with stakeholders, the wider community and young people is essential in understanding the causes and impacts of knife crime and knife carrying and how to deal with it.
- **Information sharing and intelligence development** – between partners and with the community is essential to ensure the multi-agency response to knife crime and knife carrying is effective.
- **Communication of key messages and awareness raising** – including clear signposting of where to go for help.
- **Building resilience** – young people, parents and carers developing the resilience and skills to avoid knife crime as victim and/or perpetrator including work with schools across Southwark.
- **Prevention and early intervention** – working to increase the feeling of safety of young people, divert people from becoming involved in knife crime and knife carrying and targeted support to those at risk.
- **Enforcement against perpetrators** – using a wide range of enforcement options across the partnership to disrupt and prosecute knife carrying criminals.

This two year action plan will take forward and shape existing responses to knife crime in Southwark using the themes above and through existing provision. It will also include, acknowledge and build on the work done in schools, alternative educational provision, colleges, businesses and the community.

34. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR RADHA BURGESS

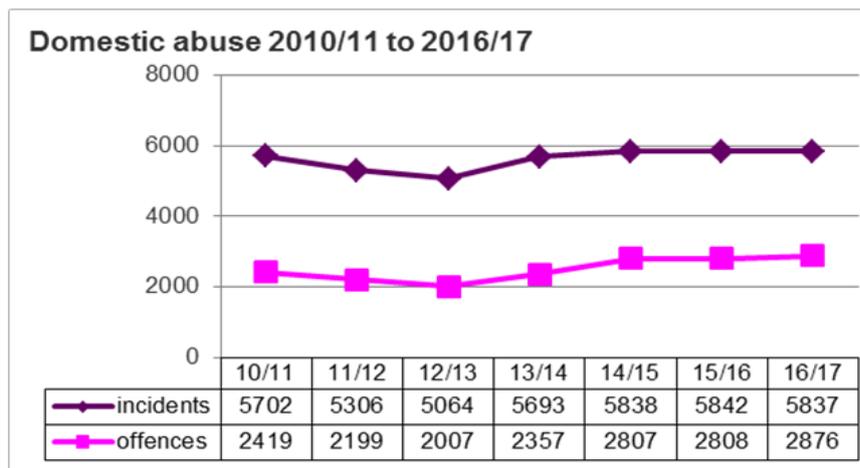
Across London there has been a marked increase in reported domestic offences (including domestic abuse offences, domestic violence with injury, rape offences and other sexual offences). There were 5,837 reported in Southwark last year. Can the Cabinet Member tell me what Southwark is doing to ensure this increased reporting has translated into action against perpetrators?

Can he tell me the number of reported incidents that resulted in criminal convictions?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

Domestic abuse is a very serious problem, and one which we are committed to addressing through prevention, early tackling of perpetrators and working with the Police and other agencies to provide a comprehensive and multifaceted approach.

In terms of the numbers of reported domestic abuse incidents you mention in your question, domestic abuse (DA) is recorded under two categories: Domestic Abuse Incidents and Domestic Abuse Offences. Domestic incidents are all incidents of domestic abuse reported to the Police. Domestic Offences consist of those domestic incidents which involve a criminal offence. The figure of 5,837 that is referred to in this question is recorded Domestic Abuse Incidents. In relation to offences, 2,876 Domestic Abuse Offences were recorded in Southwark for the 2016-17 financial year. The graph below shows the pattern of recorded domestic abuse incidents and offences since 2010-11.



Of the 2,876 offences recorded during 2016-17, the sanction detection rate was 24.9%. Sanction detection is whereby an offence results in a charge, caution, or a ticket issued.

Unfortunately criminal justice data is not held locally by Police. I am therefore unable to provide information in relation to the number of convictions.

In relation to the councils approach on prevention and early tackling of perpetrators of domestic abuse, this is set out in the councils Domestic Abuse Strategy, (DAS) 2015-2020. Particular progress has been made in creating awareness raising and early identification of DA Victims.

One of the key principles of the strategy is to take tough action on those who perpetrate abuse. The following programmes currently work with perpetrators:

- Safe Healthy Equal Relationships (SHER) Programme
- YUVA Young People Service
- Perpetrator Programme
- Operation Dauntless.

The council has a number of priorities for tackling domestic violence in 2017-18. We recognised that to increase the effectiveness of work with perpetrators we need to review the way the 'whole' system deals with perpetrators. We have just been awarded funding for three years from the Home Office to work with both Lambeth and Lewisham on a Perpetrator System Change Programme.

In addition, we have just been awarded further monies from the Home Office to develop a bespoke approach for hard to reach clients of DA who have complex needs and have children on Child Protection Plans, and who are not engaging with current universal and targeted provision.

35. QUESTION TO THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR ELIZA MANN

At a recent meeting of the Dickens Estate Tenants and Residents Association, residents expressed a number of concerns about fire safety given the number of blocks in Riverside Ward which have been clad. Can the cabinet member please reassure residents by outlining the process by which the material used for cladding these blocks was chosen and agreed, and who, if anyone, was responsible for checking the combustibility of this material?

Can she also confirm whether, in the case of a fire, the insurance arrangements will cover these blocks for damages and loss of life?

RESPONSE FROM THE DEPUTY LEADER AND CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING

The cladding works to Dickens Estate were carried out by British Gas with works carried out by their own contractors. The works were funded entirely by British Gas as part of a commitment to increase energy efficiency for residents. The specification they used has been provided to Southwark and there are no concerns about the product which bears no relation to the cladding system used at Grenfell. The product for the cladding is called Alsecco Basic 1. The insulation is applied to the external wall, fire stopped horizontally and vertically and render applied over the top. This is a solid insulation to the façade with no air gaps as at Grenfell. This does not change any insurance cover the council has.

The buildings insurance will cover for fire damage to the building, including alternative accommodation and restoration of the property. It won't cover for loss of life, harm to any individual or contents of the property. Residents would be responsible for providing their own life and contents insurance. Details of the cover can be found here: <http://www.southwark.gov.uk/housing/home-owners-services/buildings-insurance>.

36. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL REGENERATION FROM COUNCILLOR MARIA LINFORTH-HALL

In a question to the Cabinet Member for Business, Employment and Culture in November 2016, it was confirmed that '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'; can the Cabinet Member confirm that this is still to be the case at the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre and define what affordable means?

In addition, is it the intention to keep the Latin businesses within the new development, to retain the nature of the Elephant and Castle as the Latin quarter of South London?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR BUSINESS, CULTURE AND SOCIAL REGENERATION

As Cabinet Member for Business, Culture and Social Regeneration, I am proud to say that the council provides a home for the vibrant Latin American community which forms a distinctive part of a very diverse and multicultural community at the Elephant and Castle. In 2015-16, the charity Latin Elephant successfully applied to the council's High Street Challenge programme to part-fund a report researching further creative projects to support the Latin Community.

This year, the council has awarded additional High Street Challenge funding to Latin Elephant to support migrant ethnic businesses, including Latin businesses, with specialist advice, mentoring and workshops to help them to remain and thrive at the Elephant and Castle.

In addition, since 2008, the council has supported Latin arts charity *Carnaval Del Pueblo* to develop a series of successful events programmes which celebrate Latin culture. The Plaza Latina community event in Nursery Row Park is now in its 4th year with performers from 11 different Latin American countries.

In accordance with local planning policy, the council has secured agreement with developers to provide a number of new affordable retail units in the Elephant and Castle opportunity area.

- At the Strata development an affordable unit was provided which was occupied by a new branch of a money exchange and travel business based in the shopping centre.
- At 120 - 138 Walworth Road one affordable unit is now occupied by a new café operated by an existing restaurant based in the shopping centre.
- At 50 New Kent Road seven affordable retail units have been constructed and are being reserved for shopping centre traders. These will be released when the developer implements the centre regeneration.
- At Elephant Park, 10% of the retail floorspace within the development has been secured as affordable retail space with an obligation on the developer (Lendlease) to first of all market the units to local operators from the shopping centre. Most of the affordable retail floorspace is expected to be provided in early phases completing in March 2019, with marketing of units starting towards the end of 2018.

The planning application for the Elephant and Castle Shopping Centre is currently being considered. The council will seek to secure affordable retail for local small businesses through the planning agreement in line with local planning policy, which requires a discount equivalent to a 40% reduction on market rent over five years.

As the provision of affordable retail on site will not be in time to be of benefit for existing traders, the council is also looking to bring forward alternative affordable retail locations at the Elephant and Castle in the short term, supported by funding from developer contributions.

Small independent businesses in the shopping centre will be supported by Tree Shepherd, independent business advisors that can help independent traders plan for their future. Support will be provided in two phases. An initial phase of practical support whilst the shopping centre is still trading and, when the decision is taken to close the centre, a second stage in which the advisor will coordinate a range of specialist advice for traders seeking to relocate, facilitating access to independent surveyors, solicitors, accountants and other specialists as appropriate. This advisor role will build on and learn from the recent appointment for an independent business advisor to assist with the Peckham Rye Station Square project.

37. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE FROM COUNCILLOR JAMES BARBER

Can the Cabinet Member describe what proactive work the council is doing with mobile operators and when will the whole borough be 5G ready?

RESPONSE FROM THE CABINET MEMBER FOR FINANCE, MODERNISATION AND PERFORMANCE

Over the next few years the 5G network will become the default medium for accessing digital and online services. This means we have to ensure that all appropriate services can be delivered in this way and consumed by residents on their smartphones. In addition, our work force will be far more mobile and require the right technology to enable and support the new ways of working.

We are in the initial stages of gearing up for the roll out of 5G but, as detailed in the Digital Strategy 2016, we have a compelling vision and have made good progress towards achieving that vision.

We are engaging with a number of interested providers as part of the pre-market engagement to bring universal broadband to Rotherhithe and we will listen to providers regarding how 5G can help with that.

We have restructured the Information Data Services Division (IDSD) into IT and Digital Services and are busy recruiting to that structure. This will provide us with both the skills and capacity to form small collaborative, multi-disciplinary teams that create and deliver innovative services appropriate for delivery of a 5G network.

We have begun research on Internet of Things, machine learning and natural language processing. Through 5G, the predictable pathways of information will change. The physical world itself will become a type of information system. Sensors and actuators embedded in physical objects - from roadways to streetlights to pacemakers to sunglasses - linked through 5G networks churning out huge volumes of data. This means that they become tools for understanding complexity and responding to it swiftly. This will directly inform service delivery as the service users will be a key data source. Southwark is exploring how to capture, store, secure, analyse and respond to this data. The customer service model will have to be more granular and more personalised and the CRM solution more sophisticated.

At the Local Government Association Annual Conference, I chaired a London Council's fringe session on Predictive Analytics, exploring the opportunities and challenges for local authorities and other public bodies in making full use of our data to improve outcomes and efficiency. We will continue to explore the potential of data to modernise our services.