

<b>Item No.</b> 4.1	<b>Classification:</b> Open	<b>Date:</b> 25 November 2020	<b>Meeting Name:</b> Council Assembly
<b>Report title:</b>		Members' Question Time	
<b>Ward(s) or groups affected:</b>		All	
<b>From:</b>		Proper Constitutional Officer	

## **BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

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

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

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

Responses to members' questions will be circulated on the evening of the meeting.

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

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

### **Notes:**

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 2.9 (12) & (13) (prioritisation and rotation by the political groups) the order in which questions to the leader appear in this report may not necessarily be the order in which they are considered at the meeting.

**1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM**

In 2014, Labour promised to build 11,000 council homes by 2043. However after 10 years we have just 682 built. Please could the Leader provide a table showing annually to 2043, the plan for how many new build council houses he intends to deliver by number of bedrooms by ward, and the projected annual cost?

**2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR BILL WILLIAMS**

Can the Leader confirm Southwark's allocation of the £170 million Covid 19 Winter Grant Scheme announced by the Government on 8 November 2020 following the campaign led by the footballer Marcus Rashford?

**3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN**

With the cancellation of the RV1 hydrogen bus, the cancellation of the Rotherhithe to Canary Wharf pedestrian and cycle bridge, the delay in funding of the Bakerloo Line Extension and cancellation of Crossrail2, what steps is the Council taking to mitigate the failure of the Mayor to take transport infrastructure and air pollution seriously? And although cycling and walking is a vital part of the strategy, how does he see the Council achieving reductions in road transport in Southwark as promised in the Movement Plan without these infrastructures?

**4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR GAVIN EDWARDS**

The publication of the Equality and Human Rights Commission (EHRC) Report on 29 October 2020 was a shameful day for the Labour Party. Can the Leader of the Council commit to doing everything he can to work with the Mayor of London, Southwark MPs and councillors to stamp out anti-Semitism in Southwark and ensure our borough is one where the Jewish community is always welcome and feels safe, secure and supported?

**5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON**

Following the continued rise in anti social behaviour in Bermondsey, Rotherhithe and Canada Water, climaxing in kids shooting fireworks at people every night around Canada Water station and the Metropolitan Police Service's decision to deploy the territorial Support Group to the area, does the council agree that as part of its 10 year old Fairer Future promise, it needs to do more to help these kids find other activities to get involved with? And will the leader provide the concrete steps, timescales and investment he intends to ensure the council are taking to achieve this?

**6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI**

The recent petition presented at October Cabinet from residents had nearly 2500 signatures asking for the road closure changes to be reversed. Does the Leader believe that adequate consultation has taken place with residents BEFORE implementing these changes and that the Strategic Director's response in the cabinet report to the residents' petition was adequate and respected the administration's Fairer Future value of "treating residents as if they were a valued member of our own family"? Can the Leader elaborate on how he intends to ensure the new values being added through the 'Southwark Stands Together' recommendations are equally followed by the council leadership team under his control?

**7. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN**

Making the case for low traffic neighbourhoods (LTNs) and other traffic-calming initiatives must be backed up by proof that such interventions improve the air quality for residents. What methods are in place, or will be put in place, to collect before-and-after data on CO<sub>2</sub>, NO<sub>x</sub> and particulates emissions so that objectors can be presented with evidence of the effectiveness of these interventions?

**8. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES**

In the Labour amendment to our Busking on Bankside motion in March 2018 the administration committed the cabinet "To look at the recommendations coming forward from the 'Bankside Busking Working Group' and the multi-agency Buskers group, which includes representatives from the council's noise team, Southwark anti social behaviour unit (SASBU), environmental protection team (EPT), street enforcement teams and the police, with a view to adopting a solution which protects the amenity of local residents and reduces problematic and nuisance busking."

Between July and August 2018 the Council's Regulatory Service carried out a project to monitor and respond to the issues of busking on Bankside. A report on the Busking Project was finally produced and circulated in June 2019. The Better Bankside Busking Working Group met in September 2019 to consider the recommendations in the report and fed back our views. When is the Cabinet going to consider the recommendations submitted by the Bankside Busking Working Group last year? When will they adopt and implement a solution that protects the amenity of local residents and reduces problematic and nuisance busking?

**9. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR VICTORIA OLISA**

Low Traffic Southwark is a new strategy which is currently in development; how does it differ from conventional approaches to tackling traffic?

**10. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR VIKKI MILLS**

Young people have suffered in a range of different ways during the Covid pandemic including the loss of fun, competition and comradeship of team sports, and OFSTED's Autumn Visits Reports (published 10 November 2020) have confirmed the huge loss of physical fitness of young people. With this in mind the £3m capital commitment made in April 2020 to create a 'Southwark Community Sports Legacy Fund' seems even more vital and timely.

Can the Cabinet Member confirm that planning is taking place to set up an advisory board to oversee the fund and make awards, and that preparations are being made for £2m of the funding to be made available to local clubs and residents to invest in sports facilities in the borough? Can the Cabinet Member confirm when the first round of applications will open so that grants can be made by Summer 2021 and young people and local clubs are able to make the most of a summer of sport if Covid and other circumstances allow?

**11. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR LEISURE, ENVIRONMENT AND ROADS FROM COUNCILLOR SARAH KING**

Adventurous play is a vital part of childhood development and our Adventure Playgrounds provide brilliant opportunities for Southwark's young people. Can the Cabinet Member confirm what planning has already taken place to spend the £3 million capital investment in our Adventure Playgrounds which was announced in February 2019 (£500,000) and April 2020 (a further £2.5 million) with the commitment this would deliver new and improved facilities at Dog Kennel Hill, Fredericks, Ellen Brown and Bethwin adventure playgrounds? Can the Cabinet Member also confirm what planning has taken place to ensure our adventure playgrounds can reopen in a Covid-safe way as we emerge from lockdown and infection levels hopefully reduce?

**12. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE**

On 28 March 2018, the then Cabinet Member for Housing quoted in Southwark News article - "...we cannot tolerate the use of our properties as short term lets..." (ref <https://www.southwark.gov.uk/news/2017/mar/southwark-cracks-down-on-short-term-holiday-lets-with-warnings-to-local-leaseholders>) –

Regarding the Labour administration's success in closing down short-term letting on our housing estates in the three and a half years since this statement: Please could I have a ward by ward breakdown by year including and since 2017, of the number of cases and complaints the council has received? And what legal action the council has taken (apart from sending generic leaflets) to ensure these homes are used for housing, not businesses?

**13. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM HOUNGBO**

Residents have raised concerns about the constant Section 20 notices for Devon Mansions and the cost and impact this is having on their lives. Work scheduled for a few years ago now costs 13% more to deliver and there are concerns raised over the quality of the work already performed – especially the roof. Will the Cabinet Member commit to intervening, to cover the cost differential as well as hold suppliers to account on their works; and to what timescales will he commit to putting this right?

**14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR LORRAINE LAUDER**

What progress is the council making on building new council homes against the target of 2500 new council homes delivered or on site by 2022?

**15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR HOUSING FROM COUNCILLOR MARTIN SEATON**

What is the council doing to promote diversity in the architecture profession?

**16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR ADELE MORRIS**

Could the cabinet member please confirm how many fast charge and slow charge electric vehicle charging points have been installed by ward by year since 2010 in Southwark against the planned target for that year, specifying how many are for cars and how many are for motorbikes? Also how many of these are sited on our housing estates?

**17. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR PETER BABUDU**

Can the cabinet member tell us where we are with development of Peckham Town Centre? Can you reassure us that the community will have a say in line with the development consultation charter?

**18. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR KATH WHITTAM**

What action is the council taking around anti-social behaviour and the misuse of fireworks?