

Item No. 4.1	Classification: Open	Date: 24 March 2021	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

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 MARGY NEWENS

This has been a difficult year for employment support – both in terms of the vast number of people who became unemployed in Southwark, and the impact of Covid-19 and social distancing on the council's face to face employment services. In light of this, how many unemployed residents have been helped into good quality work since the local elections in 2018?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR HUMAIRA ALI

Residents of Rouel Road estate, Perronet House plus several other estates have experienced loss of heating and hot water over one of the most brutally cold winters in recent times. Not only was the council response slow with poor communication, many families saw dramatic increases in heating bills. The final insult is the council has still not paid out any compensation or even made the compensation package available. Can the Leader confirm that not only will all residents be compensated for the inconvenience but all direct and indirect additional costs incurred by residents will be recompensed? Can the Leader also provide the timescale in which this will happen for each development?

3. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR MICHAEL SITU

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how much COVID Support Grants have been paid out to Southwark Businesses and what proportion of the amount went to SMEs?

4. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR WILLIAM HOUNGBO

Can the Leader provide insight as to why residents of Devon Mansions are being charged for heat alarms given a significant number of factors which mean that residents should not be charged? These include but are not limited to:

1. London Borough of Southwark's public statements in response to the Coroner's recommendations post Lakanal regarding installation of free heat alarms to be rolled out across all Southwark dwellings;
2. London Borough of Southwark's own legal advice states that leaseholders cannot be expected to pay for this;
3. Installation starting without expert advice and then no consultation with residents regarding installation or maintenance. No section 20 notices being issued for this work in spite 10 years of escalations and complaints since 2010 since the last one was decommissioned;
4. Subsequently the expert advice suggests heat alarms inappropriate for inside flats and London Fire Brigade (LFB) advice that they are not suitable for hallways;
5. Furthermore the installations were in the incorrect locations and fitted into 20 year old cracks and a broader state of disrepair.

5. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR RICHARD LEEMING

Southwark's town centres have been under increasing pressure in recent times as a result of the continued move to internet shopping and increases in rent and business rates. What support is the council offering to help keep our shopping centres vibrant?

6. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAMIAN O'BRIEN

In regards to the cladding and snagging scandal in Southwark and the council's planned response via the Housing Safety Board and budget 21-22 commitments, please could the Leader detail how many Private and Housing Associations Residents Associations are now gaining support from the council? Also, how many such associations he plans to contact to provide support and by when?

7. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR VICTOR CHAMBERLAIN

Please could the Leader detail by council owned estate over the past 5 years the number of incidents and total hours per year of district heating outages and the maximum outage time per estate? Please could the Leader also indicate the age of these district heating systems for each estate and where they are using temporary systems?

8. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR DAVID NOAKES

Please could the Leader list by year since and including 2016 how many EU citizens living in Southwark are registered to vote? Please could the Leader further confirm how many of the circa 47,000 EU citizens living in Southwark are eligible to vote and how many are now actually registered to do so?

9. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR LEANNE WERNER

Can the Cabinet Member confirm how much the council has reduced its emissions since 2010, and whether it is on track to reach its target of halving emissions by 2022?

10. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR CLEO SOANES

A key commitment from Southwark Stands Together is supporting our diverse communities through regeneration processes. Can the Cabinet Member tell us how the council has increased representation of Black, Asian and minority ethnic architects and planners, in order to reflect the demographics of areas being regenerated?

11. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR GRAHAM NEALE

What percentage of the 17% estimated total emissions in Southwark by the council are a result of its fossil fuel usage? Can the Cabinet Member confirm that 100% of its circa £10million per annum gas fuels consumed on all council buildings including all council estates will be green energy by the end of this year? And is the circa £5million a year in electricity usage now already 100% green energy? If not, when will it be?

12. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR CLIMATE EMERGENCY, PLANNING AND TRANSPORT FROM COUNCILLOR HAMISH McCALLUM

Please could the Cabinet Member advise whether the Bakerloo Line Extension will be built by 2030? If not by when? And how does this impact the council's plan to build 5000 council homes in the Old Kent Road area? Does he agree the Council's Movement Plan is flawed without the building of the extension?

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

As the Council has declared a Climate Emergency 2 years ago, what steps is the planning department taking to ensure that new developments – including the council's own developments – are meeting the highest environmental standards of carbon neutral or better? At what point can we expect developments not to need to make payments into a carbon offset fund, noting these may be spent miles away from the polluting development?

14. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR SUNNY LAMBE

The pandemic has had a profound impact on people receiving social care in Southwark, particularly those in care homes. What work has the council done to support these residents?

15. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR SOCIAL SUPPORT AND HOMELESSNESS FROM COUNCILLOR CHARLIE SMITH

Sadly the national housing crisis means that there is a quarter of a million households in temporary accommodation across the UK. Southwark has an existing commitment not to use Bed & Breakfast accommodation for families - what other steps is the council taking to improve the quality of temporary accommodation for these residents?

16. QUESTION TO THE CABINET MEMBER FOR PUBLIC HEALTH AND COMMUNITY SAFETY FROM COUNCILLOR VIKKI MILLS

Family Early Help staff and Health Visitors have obviously been working around the clock during the pandemic and we should recognise the amazing work they have done. However, services and support for children under 5 were under pressure prior to the Covid-19 pandemic and this pressure has grown. More

families have been tipped into vulnerability and there have been increases in domestic abuse and perinatal mental illness. At the same time, there has been a big decrease in face-to-face contact, with only 1 in 10 parents of a child under 2 saying they had seen a Health Visitor face-to-face during lockdown (nationally). What planning is taking place to ensure Health Visitors caseloads are manageable as we emerge from lockdown so that no child or mother can fall through a gap and what is the current timetable for the urgent reopening of Children's Centres with full programmes of face-to-face support once government guidelines permit?