

Item No. 4.1	Classification: Open	Date: 15 July 2020	Meeting Name: Council Assembly
Report title:		Members' Question Time	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
From:		Proper Constitutional Officer	

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

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

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

Questions to the leader will be taken first, followed by question from community council councillors followed by questions to other cabinet members. The order in which the different political groups ask questions of the leader will be rotated. Questions to cabinet members will also be rotated. The order of portfolios will be rotated at each meeting such that the cabinet member answering questions immediately after the leader will be the 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 in April 2015.

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

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

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

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

Notes:

1. The procedures on members' questions are set out in council assembly procedure rule 2.9 in the Southwark Constitution.
2. In accordance with council assembly procedure rule 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.
3. A question from a community council must have been previously considered and noted by the relevant community council (CAPR 2.9.2).

1. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR JASON OCHERE

On 30 June 2020, Boris Johnson announced a 'new deal' to help the country recover from the impact of coronavirus. Can the Leader tell us what the likely impact of this will be for the council?

2. QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR NICK JOHNSON

As cabinet noted in their 16 June 2020 cabinet report "Policy and Resources Strategy: revenue monitoring outturn, including treasury management 2020-21", the council faces significant extra financial pressures, resulting in an estimated shortfall of £45 million, as a result of COVID-19. If this should mean cabinet considering any cuts in council services or additional charges to residents, will the Leader of the Council commit to properly consulting through meaningful and wide-ranging engagement with residents in order to:

- a) Give residents the opportunity to share any ideas they may have on where money is best raised or saved, and
- b) Give residents the opportunity to feedback on specific proposals for cuts or charges before any final decisions are made?