



On item 9 in which a member alleges that the Benefits Fraud Team is targeting African claimants, Murziline attempted to persuade the councillor to agree to a "discreet internal investigation". This was a sensible line to take. However she then suggested that there may be a need for a public independent inquiry. She did not appear to have thought the implications of this through.

On item 10 which concerns a negative press campaign Murziline attempted to secure a correction and suggested using other local media to get the Council's side of the story across. Whereas these actions were reasonable they did not fully address the issues. She did not say how she would manage the member unrest or keep the project on track and she appeared to have little understanding of how the press operates.

The remaining responses were particularly weak. On item 4 which is about managing relationships with the other Olympic Boroughs she suggested a meeting with the other borough chief executives to assess whether they were "getting their fair share" and to prepare a paper to be shared with the Leaders. This was an administrative response to a scenario which is about managing partner relationships. There was no recognition of the complexity of the arrangements or the position of Newham and she did not even appear to know who the 'fifth borough' was. It was a very functional response.

On item 5 which is about providing support to the Opposition Murziline was clear that the Opposition could have access to information "in accordance with the rules" although she did not say what the rules were. This was a confused response. She thought that the item was about the scrutiny process rather than the Opposition putting together its budget and although she was willing to intervene she did not appear to have understood the context. She said nothing about the Opposition's proposal to employ its own accountant. She did not really know how to deal with this situation.

On item 6, which deals with the performance of jointly managed services, Murziline's response was very brief and empty. Her only action was to arrange a meeting with the PCT. She said nothing about the substantive issues that the scenario raised at all.