

Council
23 February 2022
Agenda Item 8 – Questions from Councillors

Procedure Rule 11 - Questions from Councillors

The following question has been submitted by Councillor Sharon Galliford under Procedure Rule 11:

To the Business & Transformation Portfolio Holder

"Following a Freedom of Information request to Surrey County Council by a Green colleague of mine, it has come to my attention that 10 buildings in Surrey Heath have recently been assessed for cladding risk. Whilst we are not on the list for requiring further work to be undertaken at this stage, can you assure me that the Council is aware of this situation and will be keeping it under consistent review? Thank you."

Response from the Portfolio Holder:

"Officers from within the Council's Home Solutions Team have been liaising with colleagues at Surrey County Council Fire & Rescue in relation to their assessment of 10 buildings you have referred to. Our Housing Officers are required to provide data to the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) through a dedicated national database which requires the Council to provide data on:

- The full postal address
- The Tenure
- The Owner
- The Developer
- The Managing Agent
- The Building height up to the floor of the top storey
- The number of storeys

Councillor Galliford is correct, these buildings do not require remedial work as they are not considered to pose a risk to the health, safety or welfare of the residents and none are over the required height to be classified as a high rise building (18 meters up to the floor of the top storey or over 7 storeys)

If there was any concern from Surrey Fire and Rescue, regarding unsafe cladding or any other safety risk at these buildings officers can conduct a Housing Health & Safety Rating System Assessment on the building in question, the outcome of which would determine the most appropriate course of action. If formal action is required officers can serve formal improvement notices. Failure to comply with such a notice would be a criminal offence and the Council could then prosecute for non-compliance and/or do the works in default and recharge costs as appropriate. Equally Surrey Fire and Rescue have a duty to take their own action should they find any deficiency in fire safety."