

# Reigate and Banstead Borough Council

Meeting of Council 10 December 2020

## Questions by Members

Number	Question by	To be answered by	Subject
1	Cllr Sinden	Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Cllr Biggs	Retrofitting of High-Rise Buildings
2	Cllr Essex	Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt	Surrey County Council Energy Reduction Funding <b>(to be answered in writing)</b>
3	Cllr McKenna	Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt	Council House Building
4	Cllr Essex	Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt	Surrey Fire and Rescue Service
5	Cllr Ritter	Executive Member for Investments and Companies, Cllr Archer	Proposed Crematorium
6	Cllr Kulka	Executive Member for Investment and Companies, Cllr Archer	Reigate Priory Building and Museum

**Councillor Sinden** will ask the **Executive Member for Planning Policy and Place Delivery, Councillor Biggs** the following question:

**Question 1: Retrofitting of High-Rise Buildings**

Please can you confirm whether there are any buildings over 11m high in the borough that need to be retrofitted to reduce their fire risk, including those that have aluminium composite material (ACM) cladding, as in the Grenfell Tower or High Pressure Laminate (HPL) cladding which was identified as having a similarly unacceptable fire risk in the Grenfell Tower phase 1 report. The reason for asking for over 11m is this is the reach height for a standard fire engine.

**Councillor Essex will receive a written answer from the Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt to the following question:**

**Question 2: Surrey County Council Energy Reduction Funding**

Surrey County Council have just been awarded around £6.2 million pounds from the government to help around 600 households reduce their energy bills. Please confirm how this will be targeted and promoted in Reigate and Banstead and how this forms part of our wider plan for 'energy makeovers' for all of the existing homes across the Reigate and Banstead Borough Council area.

**A written response will be provided.**

**Councillor McKenna** will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt** the following question:

### **Question 3: Council House Building**

We note and support this Council's robust submission against the Government White Paper "The Future of Planning" expressing opposition to the weakening of the planning system and the imposition of housing targets regardless of local need. Bearing in mind that the White Paper appears to be catering for the needs of the housebuilding lobby rather than addressing the real needs of our local communities more must be done to help families access decent quality low cost housing in this area.

At a time of particular pressures where jobs are disappearing and access to home loans are beyond the reach of many including key workers it is time to send a clear message that our Borough Council will stand up for communities by providing new council owned homes. We are failing to secure genuinely affordable council housing at present in the Borough and especially when there is a significant pot of money available to do a lot of good for example (several millions) in the Borough Council's Strategic Housing Delivery Fund and in addition New Homes Bonus monies not currently in the fund (possibly as much as £3 millions).

Therefore would the Executive agree that it makes sense to proactively and directly release funds into a substantial programme of council house building on brownfield land utilising funds in the Strategic Housing Delivery Fund, the New Homes Bonus and even using low interest monies borrowed from the Public Works Loans Board. Furthermore, where sites are not in public ownership will the Executive promote selective acquisition of brownfield land to carry out this programme? Finally, will the Executive agree that what is now needed is a dramatic and targeted intervention which will make a significant difference in achieving these outcomes?

**Councillor Essex** will ask the **Leader of the Council, Councillor Brunt** the following question:

**Question 4: Surrey Fire and Rescue Service**

Surrey Fire and Rescue Service (SFRS) is bringing in changes, including to the number of fire crews and fire engines at different fire stations. These changes started from April 2020 with further reductions including to the fire station in Banstead proposed for this month. This question is to formally request that the council request that SFRS share a report for each month from July 2020 to see how this is impacting our borough council area, based on information that the fire service collect:

- Firstly, for each month, how many fire and rescue incidents occurred in Reigate and Banstead, how many of these were attended by neighbouring fire services (e.g. London), and for each Critical Incident that occurred within the borough, please list the response times for the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> appliances that attended for incidents where the SFRS Critical Incident Response Standard was not achieved.
- Secondly, the Monthly Average Call Handling Time (from the 999 call to alerting the crew), Turn-out Time (from the crew being alerted to leaving the fire station) and Monthly Average Surrey Response Time (from alerting the crew to appliances arriving at the incident).
- Thirdly, the percentage of time during each month, that each of the frontline appliances in Reigate and Banstead's fire stations were for available to respond to emergency calls (compared to the required availability in the Making Surrey Safer Plan).
- Fourthly, please confirm the number of Competent On Call firefighters expressed as FTE (Full time Equivalent) employed to provide cover at Reigate and Banstead fire stations on the 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018, 2019, 2020.

**Councillor Ritter** will ask the **Executive Member for Investment and Companies**, **Councillor Archer** the following question:

**Question 5: Proposed Crematorium**

Following the announcement of the council's proposal to build a crematorium bordering Woodhatch and Earlswood Lakes and the considerable feeling from local residents, can the Executive member for Investment and Companies explain why building on the Green Belt is considered to have less impact here in terms of people and wildlife than in other parts of the borough?

**Councillor Kulka** will ask the **Executive Member for Investments and Companies, Councillor Archer** the following question:

**Question 6: Reigate Priory Building and Museum**

It is now common knowledge that Reigate Priory School will move to a new building on the Canon site.

Could the Executive member please explain what this Council plans to do with the listed Reigate Priory building including the museum, once this has happened?