

SOUTHWARK COUNCIL

COUNCIL ASSEMBLY

(ORDINARY MEETING)

WEDNESDAY 6 JULY 2011

URGENT QUESTION

1. URGENT QUESTION TO THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL FROM COUNCILLOR ANOOD AL-SAMERAI

Could the Leader please give an update on the serious fire at Lupin Point?

RESPONSE

Around 40 fire fighters attended Lupin Point on Thursday 28th June to tackle a significant fire on the seventeenth floor. The London Ambulance Service were also in attendance and treated one woman for smoke inhalation on the scene. There were no other casualties. The block has recently had substantial fire safety works carried out, including new front entrance doors, screens fitted to each landing and ventilation works. The building's fire safety measures appear to have worked as they should.

The immediate response to the fire included setting up a rest centre at the Beormund Centre, staffed by officers from the housing, children's services and community safety and the Tenant Management Organisation, Two Towers, who are responsible for the day to day management of the block. The Red Cross provided food for those residents who needed it. In the late afternoon, after the fire had been extinguished, residents of Lupin Point began to be allowed back into their homes. All but residents from two flats were allowed back into the block by the end of the day. The council found alternative accommodation for the residents from those two flats that evening.

The resident of the property affected by the fire remains in temporary accommodation whilst work is carried out to repair her property.

I would like to thank all of those who were involved in the emergency response to the fire for the professionalism and bravery that they displayed, and all of those who helped the residents through what must have been a deeply worrying experience, for their commitment and compassion.

While the cause of the fire was initially reported as a lightning strike, we now understand that this was not the case. It is thought that a Beko fridge freezer may have been the cause of the fire. Beko have since issued a national statement and pledged to replace the faulty part on all affected fridge freezers. The council is writing to all residents to inform them to get in touch with Beko directly if their fridge is one of the models affected, and a notice has been posted on the council's website.