

MIDLOTHIAN COUNCIL 27 JULY 2017

Item 6.1 Response from Council Leader

At a pre-arranged meeting with the Chief Executive on 14 June, the day of the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, I asked if the Council would be taking appropriate action to check buildings in Midlothian and the Chief Executive confirmed that we would.

Midlothian Council has reacted in the same manner as all Councils throughout Scotland by establishing whether we have any similarly clad high rise buildings.

Midlothian does not have any high rise domestic properties however the low rise housing has been checked for fire rating compliance. The external wall insulation cladding being installed throughout Midlothian does not use a composite aluminium system such as used at Grenfell Tower. The insulating boarding is clad in wet dash/roughcast finish with its own fire resistant qualities and does not act as a cavity to allow fire to spread vertically.

Schools have also been checked to confirm the specification of cladding used in our schools has not been the same as Grenfell Tower. All the cladding systems used are fire rated zero as defined by Building Regulations and therefore considered low risk.

There is no evidence of the same Aluminium Composition Material (ACM) installed at Grenfell Tower being used on any of Midlothian Council's buildings.

At present, due to the lack of evidence of ACM installations, I am advised that no further action is required at this time but have asked officers to continue to monitor the situation.