

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee - 25 March 2019

Title: Scrutiny Review on Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks

Report authorised by: Cllr das Neves, Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Lead Officer: Robert Mack, 020 8489 2921 rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:**

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Under the agreed terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues and can make recommendations for service development or improvement. The Committee may:
- (a) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - (b) Conduct research to assist in specific investigations. This may involve surveys, focus groups, public meetings and/or site visits;
 - (c) Make reports and recommendations, on issues affecting the authority's area, or its inhabitants, to Full Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.
- 1.2 In this context, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 17 July 2017 agreed to set up a review project to look at Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Committee approve the report and its recommendations and that it be submitted to Cabinet for response.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to approve the report and the recommendations within it so that it may be submitted to Cabinet for response.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 The Committee could decide not to agree the report and its recommendations, which would mean that it could not be referred to Cabinet for response.

6. Background information

6.1 The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.7 of the report.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 This review relates to Corporate Plan Priority 3 – Clean and Safe: A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work in”

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

8.1 Some of the recommendations in this report are around publicity and communications and if agreed can be contained within the existing resources. However, a number of recommendations if agreed would subsequently require a much more in-depth financial analysis to ascertain the financial impact and these will have to be presented in separate reports for cabinet consideration and approval. Some of these recommendations relate to attraction and retention of professional and technical staff; retrofitting of sprinklers.

Legal

8.2 Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 (“The Act”), Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. Overview and Scrutiny Committee also have the powers to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters which affect the authority’s area or the inhabitants of its area.

8.3 Pursuant to the above provision, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has conducted a review of Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks and made a number of recommendations to Cabinet. Overview and Scrutiny Committee must by notice in writing require Cabinet to consider the report and recommendations. Once approved, the report and recommendations should be presented to the next available Cabinet meeting together with an officer report where appropriate.

8.4 Under Section 9FE of the LGA, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the Report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.

Equality

- 8.5 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 8.6 The Panel has aimed to consider these duties within this review and, in particular;
- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
 - Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
 - Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
 - Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Draft report of Scrutiny Review on Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985