

Appendix 1: Scrutiny Panel Review of Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks Report (2019) Update on Responses to Panel Recommendations

Overall comments on the report

This report provides an eight month update on progress implementing the responses to the recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel Review of Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks (2019), as agreed by Cabinet on 9 July 2019. The recommendations have helped guide the ongoing development of a comprehensive fire safety policy for the Council's housing stock; with its particular focus on the safety of residents living in the 54 high rise blocks. Many of the recommendations have already been acted on or are pending further guidance on the proposed changes to building safety regulations. This is following the government's 'Building a Safer Future' consultation, as well as the outcome of the full Public Inquiry into the Grenfell Tower fire. In the meantime, the Council will continue to ensure that it fulfils its statutory duties and requirements. Homes for Haringey has already started to put in place some of the measures included as recommendations from the Hackitt review.


Included in the Borough Plan is a commitment to ensure residents are kept safe in their homes and that the Council responds effectively to changes in fire safety and general building regulations. In recognition of current and likely increasing building safety requirements, the new HRA Business Plan (2020/21-2025), approved by Cabinet on 11 February 2020, includes provision for an additional £57m over the next 10 years, specifically to fund a number of fire safety measures. These include fire doors, composite door replacement, window infill panel replacements, automatic fire detection installations, compartmentation works, as well as the cost of any follow up works from the more intrusive Fire Risk Assessments (FRA)s currently being undertaken.

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
1. That, when proposals for the implementation of the recommendations of the Hackitt review are developed, a report be submitted to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on their implications for the Council and partners. (2.2)	Noted and agreed.	The Hackitt review's recommendations have been consulted on (i.e. Building a Safer Future – July 2019). A new Fire Safety Bill is planned, but it is not

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
		yet clear what exactly will be proposed.
<p>2. That a working group be set up to consider how to most effectively address the shortage of professional and technical staff within the Council through developing pathways to train and develop new staff as well as incentives to attract suitable individuals. (2.23)</p>	<p>Agreed. Working group to be established, which will comprise officers from the Council's Health & Safety team, Building Control, Learning and Development, and Homes for Haringey (HfH). When we look at training and developing staff for these roles, we will look to support care leavers.</p>	<p>The Council's Building Control team have further developed and upskilled their existing surveying staff who are all now qualified as Level 6 Fire Safety Surveyors. This is the highest competency that Building Control Surveyors can attain and potentially (if all the Hackitt recommendations are adopted) will be a requirement to carry out future works on 'in-scope' buildings.</p> <p>HfH's Recruitment Manager has been tasked with developing a recruitment contingency strategy in relation to all hard to recruit posts, including Health and Safety Advisers and Fire Safety Officers.</p>
<p>3. That Homes for Haringey (HfH) approach Local Authority Building Control (LABC) to explore the possibility of them providing fire risk assessors for Homes for Haringey as and when required. (2.30)</p>	<p>Agreed. HfH has approached Local Authority Building Control regarding the provision of Fire Risk Assessors for use, as and when, required. HfH will be using the framework in place with BC to ensure resources are available.</p>	<p>HfH approached LABC regarding the provision of Fire Risk Assessors. The response received is that LABC are no longer providing this service. HfH is training its own Fire Risk</p>

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
		Assessor and will explore expanding this approach, as well as increasing the salary offer and procuring a sub-contractor to support this work.
4. That additional information by HfH for residents on Fire Risk Assessments be included on the relevant web page by providing the date of the last inspection and when the next one is due. (2.31)	Agreed. Details of Fire Risk Assessment dates are now included on HfH's web site. https://www.homesforharingey.org/your-neighbourhood/fire-safety/fire-risk-assessments	The Fire Risk Assessments are ongoing. The date of the last and the next inspections are noted on the HfH website; the link for which is provided in the adjacent column.
5. That the Council's Communications Team be used to publicise London Fire Brigade (LFB) Fire Safety Days for HfH residents and that, in addition, consideration be given to using local schools to promote them. (3.17)	<p>Agreed. HfH is currently working with the LFB on a programme of visits for 2019/20, and once developed will work with the Council's communications team to publicise these widely.</p> <p>HfH is also developing a programme of school visits that will coincide with the stock investment programmes, to cover site safety and fire safety.</p>	<p>Two Fire Safety Days with the LFB have taken place at:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - 2-152 Birkbeck Road on 8/4/2019; and - Headcorn and Tenterden estate on 25/7/2019. <p>School visits are included as part of the engagement package being developed for residents. These run in parallel with the major works programme.</p>

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
<p>6. That a written communication strategy be developed by HfH and shared with the Committee outlining how residents will be engaged with on fire safety issues and involving the Council, LFB and schools. (3.22)</p>	<p>Agreed. HfH is currently developing a written communications strategy for fire safety, which will be in place from July 2019. Once finalised, this will be shared with the Committee.</p>	<p>HfH developed a written communications strategy for fire safety in 2019 and will be updating this for 2020/21. The latest version is attached.</p> <p>HfH have also initiated a project that is looking at ways to improve residents' understanding of fire safety issues, particularly for those where English is not their first language. This will incorporate fire safety displays and signage, as well as residents' and HfHs' respective roles and responsibilities.</p>
<p>7. That further consideration be given to how fire safety concerns could best be brought to the attention of HfH by residents in order to encourage timely reporting, with the setting up of a dedicated telephone number considered as an option. (3.26)</p>	<p>Agreed. HfH is currently reviewing the introduction of a dedicated phone line for fire safety issues and will feed back once it is understood how this may impact on the Council's customer services approach.</p>	<p>HfH have considered this. However they decided not to pursue this option on the basis that having several phone lines could have a negative impact by potentially causing confusing for residents making contact.</p>
<p>8. That HfH publishes how fire safety concerns and issues are managed and reported on through its governance structures. (3.26)</p>	<p>Agreed. HfH will be publicising its governance arrangements on fire safety in July 2019.</p>	<p>HfH governance arrangements on fire safety are set out within the attached Health and Safety policy. (Oct 2019)</p>

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
		 <p>HS_HSP01 Health and Safety Policy_v.6</p> <p>Section 2.1. of the Health and Safety policy refers to the roles and responsibilities of each tier within the organisation, including the Health and Safety team.</p>
<p>9. That strategic engagement by HfH with residents be included within the work plan for the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel work plan. (3.28)</p>	<p>Agreed and noted.</p>	<p>This is ongoing. Update reports will be provided at future meetings and fire safety will be included in the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel Committee work plan.</p>
<p>10. That an update on outcome of the programme of more intrusive fire risk assessments that are currently taking place be submitted to the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Panel and, in particular, the soundness of compartmentation of where assessments have taken place. (4.4)</p>	<p>Agreed. HfH has commissioned a survey programme for more intrusive Type 3 and 4 fire risks assessments: starting with the high-rise blocks. Any defective compartmentation (either by walls or doors) will be reinstated and would require formal Building Regulation applications. Due to the complex nature of these intrusive surveys, and unknown extent of any reinstatement works required, it is difficult, at this stage, to predict when the overall programme will complete. An update on progress will be provided to the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny</p>	<p>Intrusive fire risk assessments have been undertaken to the high-rise blocks at Broadwater Farm.</p> <p>Further surveys are programmed for all remaining high - rise blocks within the next two years.</p> <p>An update on progress will be provided to a future meeting of the Housing and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee.</p>

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
	Panel.	
<p>11. That the issue of the retrofitting of sprinklers be considered further by the Committee when there is greater clarity on the implementation plans for the recommendations of the Hackitt review and/or the recommendations of the Grenfell Inquiry. (4.11)</p>	<p>Agreed and noted.</p>	<p>LFB is in favour of retrofitting sprinklers but there is currently no legal requirement, or recommendation in the Hackitt review, to do so. The guidance and advice on sprinklers is still emerging.</p> <p>As part of London Council’s Fire Safety Group, the Council works closely with/observes the approaches of other boroughs. Many are waiting for clarity from the legislation before committing to sprinklers.</p> <p>HfH’s Board has considered the recommendations from the Hackitt review and are in the process of implementing some of the measures as follows:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Recruiting a Building Safety Manager. - Trialling collation of building specific information

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
		<p>requirements such as the 'golden thread'. This is the documentation held electronically, about each building in scope. This includes structural surveys, a fire strategy, Fire Risk Assessments, an asset register and the periodic planned maintenance records. This information is then used to build a 'safety case' to show that the building is safe.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Considering the implications of more frequent testing of fire doors. <p>If fully implemented, the Hackitt recommendations will be costed. However, because such details are not currently known, they have not yet been accounted for within the Council's budgets. There is a 10-year budget provision of £57m for fire safety within the Housing Revenue Account. (See 'overall comments' section).</p> <p>The Grenfell Public Inquiry is not</p>

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
		expected to conclude until 2022. In the meantime, further regulatory changes are expected.
<p>12. That the Commissioning Service:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seeks to ensure that residential care homes are complying with relevant statutory guidance and making fire safety information available to residents and visitors; and • Encourages all residential care providers to publish FRAs on their websites, with any improvements indicated and the time frame for these to happen. 	<p>Partially agreed: As part of their inspection of care homes, the Care Quality Commission assesses whether providers are compliant with the relevant statutory guidance and making fire safety information available to residents and visitors.</p> <p>On quality assurance visits, the Commissioning Unit will identify any shortcomings in the fire safety information available to residents and visitors and confirm whether care homes are compliant.</p> <p>Agreed: the Commissioning Unit will share guidance on selecting competent Fire Risk Assessors and further guidance on how to carry out fire safety risk assessments in residential homes. The Commissioning Unit will encourage care providers to publish FRAs on their websites with improvements and timelines. However, it should be noted that the Commissioning Unit cannot legally or contractually enforce the</p>	<p>When carrying out quality assurance visits, the Commissioning Unit has been checking the fire safety information available to residents and visitors.</p> <p>The Commissioning Unit has also been encouraging care providers to publish FRAs on their website.</p> <p>The Commissioning Unit has raised this issue at the North Central London Social Care Group that has been working on quality assurance of the care market.</p>

Panel Recommendation	Cabinet July 2019 Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	March 2020 update
	publication of FRAs on care home websites.	
13. That commissioners require all care home providers to confirm that individuals undertaking FRAs on their behalf are appropriately accredited.	Agreed: the Commissioning Unit has already written to providers to confirm the same.	There is no further update.
14. That the Council's Commissioning Service consider the feasibility of relevant FRAs being reported to the Adults Safeguarding Board.	Agreed: the Commissioning Unit will consider how relevant FRAs may be reported to the Safeguarding Adults Board. Whilst the Unit is not qualified to audit FRAs, the Unit can use the CQC's monitoring of fire safety risk assessments in residential homes and information from London Fire Brigade visits to support the reporting of FRAs to SAB.	Haringey Safeguarding Adults Board has taken an active part in fire safety in its role as leading safeguarding for vulnerable adults. A quality assurance report is presented to each meeting of the Board and of its Quality Assurance Sub-Group and fire safety awareness has been reported through these channels.