

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks - Scope and Terms of Reference (2017/18)

Rationale	<p>Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower of 13/14 June 2017, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee are looking to ensure that residents of high rise blocks in Haringey can be confident their homes are safe from fire.</p> <p>While the full lessons from Grenfell tower will not be known until the conclusion of the announced Public Inquiry, some of the early emerging issues can be explored with the Council and Homes for Haringey in relation to existing arrangements and action taken post-Grenfell.</p>
Scrutiny Membership	<p>The Overview and Scrutiny Committee – Councillors Wright (Chair), Connor (Vice Chair), Gallagher, Hearn and Ibrahim.</p>
Terms of Reference (Purpose of the Review/ Objectives)	<p>Focussing on the 54 high rise blocks (over six storeys) owned by Haringey, housing association housing and privately owned homes where the Council has responsibility for building control, the review will consider the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Building Safety:<ul style="list-style-type: none">○ how has the Council satisfied itself that its buildings and high-rise buildings in the Borough are safe from fire, including construction materials, containment, ventilation, evacuation routes, safety systems (eg, sprinklers and alarms)?○ What action has been identified and taken to date in response to Grenfell?○ How is building safety monitored, including housing management policies and procedures?○ How is fire safety for high rise blocks featured in the Council’s planning policy and building control responsibilities?○ What is the Council and ALMO’s assessment of the effectiveness and application of current building regulations? Are there sufficient resources for enforcement?• Engagement – How are residents engaged with in relation to fire safety, including awareness of procedures in the event of a fire and responding to concerns about fire safety?• Access – Are the needs of residents with disabilities known and how are they reflected in fire safety arrangements and evacuation procedures?• Procurement – what weight is attached to safety against other considerations in considering tenders for building works?• Emergency Planning – how prepared is the Borough to coordinate the response to a major incident?

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Governance – are the current decision-making and accountability arrangements for the ALMO adequately considering issues of fire safety?
Links to the Corporate Plan	Priority 3 – Clean and Safe: <i>A clean, well maintained and safe borough where people are proud to live and work</i>
Evidence Sources	<p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Evidence from witness sessions • Submissions from housing providers to CLG
Witnesses	<p>The following witnesses will be invited to take part in the review/submit evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assistant Director for Planning • Cabinet Member for Housing, Regeneration and Planning • Homes for Haringey interim Chief Executive and Executive Director for Operations • Housing Associations that are Preferred Partners (ie, L&Q, Sanctuary, Family Mosaic/Peabody, Newlon, Clarion) • Borough Fire Commander
Methodology/Approach	A combination of evidence sessions and information from the Council/ALMO/providers
Equalities Implications	To be considered as a core aspect of the work, in particular people with disabilities, young children, and difficult to reach groups (eg, lower levels of English)
Timescale	Early work to be concluded by July, report to be considered September.
Reporting arrangements	Report to Cabinet
Publicity	To accompany report
Constraints / Barriers / Risks	<p>Constraint – potential to cut across Government-driven reviews</p> <p>Risks:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - focus on potentially marginal causes based on press coverage of Grenfell Tower, with more significant or relevant information to follow, particularly from the public inquiry. - Create uncertainty or concern for residents
Officer Support	<p>Lead Officer: Michael Kay</p> <p>Service Contact: Alan Benson (Haringey), Chris Liffen (Homes for Haringey)</p>