

Appendix 2: Scrutiny Panel Review of Fire Safety in High Rise Blocks Report – Responses to Recommendations

Overall comments on the report

This report provides a useful set of recommendations to help 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. While it does not set out a detailed list of explicit objectives to be delivered to a given timescale, many of the recommendations are already being incorporated into the Council's approach, or will be considered when there is greater clarity on the implementation plans for the recommendations of the Hackitt review and/or the recommendations of the Grenfell Inquiry.

Panel Recommendation	Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	Lead Officer
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.	Head of Housing Strategy and Commissioning, LBH
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)	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.	Head of Building Control, LBH, Executive Director of Property, HfH,
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)	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.	Executive Director of Property, HfH

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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	Executive Director of Property, HfH
5. That the Council's Communications Team be used to publicise LFB Fire Safety Days for HfH residents and that, in addition, consideration be given to using local schools to promote them. (3.17)	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. HfH is also developing a programme of school visits that will coincide with the stock investment programmes, to cover site safety and fire safety.	Executive Director of Property, HfH
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)	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.	Executive Director of Property, HfH
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)	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.	Executive Director of Property, HfH
8. That HfH publishes how fire safety concerns and issues are managed and reported on through its governance structures. (3.26)	Agreed. HfH will be publicising its governance arrangements on fire safety in July 2019.	Executive Director of Property, HfH
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)	Agreed and noted.	Executive Director of Property/HfH

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<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 Panel.</p>	<p>Executive Director of Property, HfH</p>
<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>Executive Director of Property/HfH</p>

Panel Recommendation	Response (Agreed/Not agreed/Partially agreed)	Lead Officer
<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. 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 publication of FRAs on care home websites.</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Commissioning, LBH</p>
<p>13. That commissioners require all care home providers to confirm that individuals undertaking FRAs on their behalf are appropriately accredited.</p>	<p>Agreed: the Commissioning Unit has already written to providers to confirm the same.</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Commissioning, LBH</p>
<p>14. That the Council's Commissioning Service consider the feasibility of relevant FRAs being reported to the Adults Safeguarding Board.</p>	<p>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.</p>	<p>Assistant Director of Commissioning, LBH</p>