

ESSEX POLICE, FIRE AND CRIME COMMISSIONER
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY
Essex County Fire & Rescue Service



Meeting	Performance and Resources Board	Agenda Item	18
Meeting Date			
Report Author:	AM James Palmer		
Presented By	ACFO Moira Bruin, Director of Operations		
Subject	Grenfell Phase 1 High Level Action Plan - Update		
Type of Report:	Information		

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Board is asked to note the attached Gap Analysis of the Report Recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry (**APPENDIX**). The update is due to be received at the P&R Board in December.

BACKGROUND

Following the Grenfell fire on 14 June 2017, ECFRS took immediate action including (*Paper 18-295, SLT agenda item 6a: 16/10/2018*):

- Critical Incident Team (CIT) stood up to prioritise and oversee an immediate response
- NFCC sit-reps and guidance were received and actioned which resulted in an immediate assessment of risk in Essex high rise buildings
- Immediate implementation of a targeted inspection programme for high rise residential buildings, including identification of cladding and substandard fire doors. Where issues were identified – arrangements for the building were reviewed, control measures were agreed with the duty-holder and information shared with operational crews
- Review and risk assessment of 'stay-put' policy in line with NFCC guidance
- An immediate and extensive campaign; including face to face engagement aimed at reassuring high rise residents in Essex

Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1

The Grenfell Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations were released on 31 October 2019. The proposed Service approach to the recommendations was approved by SLT on 12 November 2019 (*Paper 19-266, SLT agenda item 5c*).

NFCC – Grenfell Tower Inquiry

On 16 December 2019 a briefing pack was received from the NFCC Chair, Roy Wilsher detailing the NFCC response to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations. The NFCC Central Programme Office co-ordinated the fire national response to the recommendations made by the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, and sought response to their survey. The ECFRS responded by the deadline of 10 January.

Gap Analysis – Phase 1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry Report Recommendations

The attached Gap Analysis is a working document being reviewed by Officers detailing the ECFRS interpretation to the recommendations as well as aligning the actions to the national guidelines to ensure that the recommendations of the Inquiry report are being met. The responsible officers are linking the actions from the Grenfell Phase 1 report and the HMICFRS Protection improvement plan. The actions within the plan have responsible persons across the whole service. The next steps are to move the plan onto Microsoft Planner and align to the NFCC strategic Grenfell action plan, this will facilitate allocation of responsibility, the ability to report and greater transparency on deliverables.

To support the delivery of the Grenfell Plan the service has implemented a new Risk Based Inspection Programme. The highest risk property type within that plan are high rise >10 floors. This demonstrates the importance of allocating additional resources to this specific high-risk area.

The service has committed resource to the Building Risk Review to ensure we can continue on the trajectory outlined in the return sent to NFCC and previously agreed with SLT.

Latest progress (as of 19th March 2021) from the last report on the action plan has been:

- Continuation of the Building Risk Review (BRR) Activity. Further update on progress is supplied in the specific paper for the BRR.
- Joint visits commencing for the BRR between protection officers and operational crews.
- Aerial appliances added to the offer for a confirmed fire in a high rise building that either has flammable cladding or the nature of the cladding is unknown. This will only be reviewed once a protection officer has visited and confirmed the cladding is not flammable or the SSRI has been updated and confirmed that there is not sufficient access for an ALP to be viable.
- SSRIs being updated on all High-Rise buildings.
- Greater controls over sharing of information between Protection officers and Response officers. Link is significantly enhanced and continued work with CFRMIS will strengthen this.
- Protection activity aligned to RBIP
- Reporting on Protection activity to measure performance against the RBIP
- Action plan produced following the peer review of the Protection Improvement Plan.
- Analysis carried out to ascertain where the Grenfell Surge funding can be allocated in line with Govt guidelines and activity within our plan.
- Increased enforcement activity on high rise buildings following the BRR audit.
- The plan has been reviewed and some of the actions have been reaffirmed following latest updates and progress. The action plan is far clearer in terms of expectations and deliverables.
- Surge funding submissions being sent to NFCC and monies are being allocated and spent. More detail on this is provided in the specific paper/update.

- Additional staff recruited into the protection department. 7.6 new inspecting officers and a new part time engineering and enforcement officer.

BENEFITS AND RISK IMPLICATION

SRR150010: 'There is a risk that the Service fails to, or is unable to, implement appropriately the learning from local/national incidents, audit reports, case studies, changes/interpretation to law/regulations in an effective and timely way.'

Other strategic risks which are relevant are SRR150014, SRR150015, SRR150020, and SRR150017.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Anticipated financial impact post Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2, due to increased resourcing, training and Protection activity. It is yet unclear, however, the Local Government Association (LGA) and National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) anticipate new burdens around this area of Fire and Rescue Service delivery, although it is as yet unclear if this will affect FRS funding, post Grenfell Inquiry.

Some Financial Mitigation has been provided by the release of £317k of Central Government funding to ECFRS. This funding has been allocated and has resulted in additional members of staff and increased training for existing staff.

EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

None directly associated with this paper.

WORKFORCE ENGAGEMENT

Ongoing workforce communications and engagement are taking place with our workforce around the Grenfell Inquiry.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

Changes to Fire Safety legislation are anticipated following Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 which is likely to drive changes inspection regimes and statutory responsibilities in high rise residential buildings. This has driven changes to ECFRS Protection Strategy which has been reviewed to take this into account. The strategy and the accompanying Risk Based Inspection Programme have been approved.

HEALTH AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Under the Health and Safety at Work Act etc 1974 we have a duty to protect the Health, Safety and Welfare at work of all employees as well as others who may be affected by our work including the general public.

The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999 also identifies our obligation to continually assess risks. The proposed piece of work seeks to identify any gaps in the approach to the management of operational risk in relation to high rise residential fire procedures and ultimately to contribute to the Health and Safety of responders and residents of High Rise residential buildings.