



**HAMPSHIRE
FIRE AND
RESCUE
AUTHORITY**

Purpose: Approval

Date: **9 December 2020**

Title: **GRENFELL TOWER PROGRESS REPORT**

Report of Chief Fire Officer

SUMMARY

1. The Grenfell Tower incident of June 2017, and the subsequent and ongoing inquiry, continue to have a significant impact on the fire and rescue sector, and are of high public interest. In response to this incident, and the Phase 1 Inquiry report findings and recommendations, both Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service have undertaken a wide range of activity. This includes, but is not limited to, the following, which is expanded upon later in this report:
 - (a) A High-Rise Risk Based Inspection Programme (HRRBIP) team has been set up and Phase 2 of the programme will involve inspections of all high-rise residential buildings.
 - (b) Development of a new high-rise procedure, which was communicated to, and discussed with, staff via an interactive webinar owing to the Covid-19 restrictions.
 - (c) New response plans have been introduced for both cladded and non-cladded high-rise buildings.
 - (d) All operational staff, FDS officers and Control staff have been trained to identify the dangers of external fire spread, evacuation strategies and when to cease 'stay put' policies.
 - (e) Our Premise Risk Information Procedure, which dictates the process for identification and gathering of relevant risk data, has been updated and refined.
 - (f) We undertake training and implementing utilisation of smoke curtains.
 - (g) Using the central Government Grenfell infrastructure grant, we have resourced a dedicated Station Manager role for six months to drive forward and assure our activity towards the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report. There will be reporting into central Government on how this grant funding has been used.

- (h) High rise buildings have been visited by station-based teams to conduct Safe and Well Visits to reassure residents. This provided an opportunity for residents to receive face to face home safety advice and enable them to ask questions on living in high rise residential buildings.
2. To provide assurance on our activity in this area we monitor progress closely, partly through a regular Operational Learning Meeting with senior leaders from multiple parts of the Services. More specifically, we have a dedicated team focusing on embedding operational learning and improvement, including from Grenfell and other significant incidents both nationally and locally.
 3. Learning is also shared and received via the Joint Operational Learning (JOL) and National Operational Learning (NOL) infrastructure that we and other Services utilise. The Service's Organisational Assurance Team also continues to provide a range of assurance activity and reporting on Grenfell and other areas to support organisational learning and improvement.

BACKGROUND

4. The Phase 1 report of the public inquiry into the fire at Grenfell Tower in June 2017 was published in October 2019. This report included a range of detailed findings and a series of recommendations across 12 thematic areas, with some aimed specifically at London Fire Brigade and others to the wider sector. Phase 2 of the Inquiry is ongoing and examines the causes of these events, including how Grenfell Tower came to be in a condition which allowed the fire to spread in the way identified by the Phase 1 report. The Phase 2 Inquiry is receiving significant media and public interest.
5. Furthermore, on 4 August 2020, the Home Secretary commissioned HMICFRS to undertake a light-touch review of the governance and progress of London Fire Brigade's action plan, to implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry report. HMICFRS will report the findings from their review to the Home Secretary by January 2021, with this inspection report potentially identifying further learning for the sector.
6. This report, the first in a series of reports into the Authority, provides an overview of the activity that the Service has been carrying out in response to the Grenfell Tower incident, the subsequent Inquiry findings, and any wider sector learning associated with Grenfell.

GRENFELL – HFRS AND IWFRS OVERVIEW

7. In the summer, an update of some of the above activity was provided to HMI Tom Winsor as part of our consultation response to feed into his annual *State of Fire and Rescue: The Annual Assessment of Fire and Rescue Services in England 2020*. In this submission we outlined the following:
 - New response plans have been introduced for both cladded and non-cladded high-rise buildings;

- All operational staff, FDS officers and Control staff have been trained to identify the dangers of external fire spread and evacuation strategies and when to cease 'stay put' policies;
- We are looking to effectively bridge the communications/command gap between Control and the fireground during operational incidents (eg, real-time streaming, remote command briefings and other tools);
- We have introduced evacuation sectors into the command structure with Evacuation Sector Commanders both on the fireground and in Fire Control;
- Officers sit on the national and regional High-Rise Working Groups and disseminate learning feedback and policy developments;
- A new high-rise procedure has been developed in-line with NOG and the national High-Rise and Built Environment Working Group, and this has been disseminated to all operational staff through a series of interactive webinars;
- We undertake training and implementing utilisation of smoke curtains.
- A new High-Rise Risk Based Inspection Programme team is in place, supporting the national Building Risk Review (BRR) Programme which was launched by the national Fire Protection Board as part of the Fire and Rescue Services' ongoing national work to understand and help reduce the fire risk in high-rise residential buildings.
- Following the first step in the national programme, which covered the inspection of ACM clad high-rise residential buildings in England, Phase 2 is now underway. Phase 2 of the programme will involve inspections of all high-rise residential buildings (18 metres and above in height) in England.

2020/21 GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING

8. To build capacity and to deliver the BRR, the Government provided a grant of £396k that is overseen by the Fire Protection Board. The grant conditions cover two separate programmes:
 - The Building Risk Review Programme – which will deliver a review of all high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres by the end of December 2021.
 - The Protection Uplift Programme – which will support initial improvements in local protection capability.
9. This has resulted in the establishment of a dedicated team of inspecting officers for HFRS and IWFRS. This is a one-year funding arrangement intended to make a significant impact in driving improvement in the protection function within fire and rescue services, tackling risk in the built environment and supporting the Building Risk.

10. To ensure Services have sufficient resources to respond to the findings of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, the Government has provided grant funding, totalling around £150,000, to support Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service in making sustained progress in implementing the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report and improve resilience to major incidents. This funding will be used for the purposes of:
 - Provision of smoke hoods.
 - Other locally determined activity in response to the Grenfell Tower recommendations and improve resilience to major incidents and infrastructure. For example, upgrades to Control Room systems to allow the ability to connect to Multi-Agency Incident Transfer (MAIT) system which allows emergency services to share electronic incident records.
 - Supporting local Grenfell recommendations co-ordination to track and evidence progress being made against the Inquiry recommendations.
11. Within Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service, we are utilising some of the funding by resourcing a dedicated Station Manager for six months, in direct response to the last bullet point in paragraph 8, to drive forward and assure our activity towards the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report.

NFCC – LEARNING FROM THE SECTOR

12. In August 2020, the NFCC wrote to Chief Fire Officers seeking feedback on how far fire and rescue services had gone in implementing the recommendations of the Phase 1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry report, to help the NFCC to understand how to best support Services.
13. Services were asked to prioritise 11 themes to inform how the NFCC should manage its work. The main message was that competence was the most important area. There is a wide range of activity taking place at a national level in this area, including the creation of new Fire Standards complementing work on enhancing National Operational Guidance (NOG), training specifications and learning materials. HFRS and IWFRS are represented on the NFCC Protection Standards Group
14. NFCC are now able to inform the NOG team about how they can provide further help to Services, particularly regarding Breathing Apparatus procedures, introduction of smoke hoods and to inform the development of the NOG project on Control Room guidance.
15. The NFCC also requested information relating to competence and capacity and these responses are currently being analysed by the NFCC.

SUPPORTING OUR SAFETY PLAN AND PRIORITIES

16. Responding effectively to the requirements and learning from the Grenfell Tower incident, ongoing inquiry and associated national, regional and local activity is an important part of our priorities to keep Our Communities and Our People safe, and to ensure we are learning and improving. Furthermore, we have associated Safety Plan deliverables, including reviewing our operational learning arrangements to ensure we are benefitting from our own and other Services' experiences, forming a part of the year 2 safety plan objectives.
17. Activity in response to the recommendations is an important part of our operational assurance activity and will be discussed further in both subsequent Grenfell Tower progress reports and the next Annual Assurance Statements (for 2020/21) that will go to the Authority for approval in 2021. The Annual Assurance Statement considers our activity and performance against the *Fire and Rescue National Framework for England*.

COLLABORATION

18. Sector learning is shared and received via the Joint Operational Learning (JOL) and National Operational Learning (NOL) infrastructure that we and other Services utilise. Learning is also shared through other local, regional and national forums and groups.
19. HFRS and IWFRS are members of the South East Protection and Business Fire Safety Group, which feeds into the NFCC Protection Co-ordination Committee, to help deliver on their business plan.
20. Furthermore, in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight we also receive and disseminate learning from within the Network Fire Service Partnership (NFSP) with Devon and Somerset, and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services.

RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

21. The cost associated with the content of this report is within existing resource plans and the grant funding from the Government. How it is being utilised in Hampshire and the Isle of Wight is covered in paragraphs 8 and 9 above.

IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

22. This report does not lead to any change activity, so no impact assessments are required.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

23. There are no legal implications resulting from this report.

OPTIONS

24. The two options for this report are to:

- (a) Note this Grenfell Tower progress report.
- (b) Agree on Grenfell progress reports coming to the Authority every 6 months.

RISK ANALYSIS

25. Failure to implement, monitor progress and report on, in response to the Grenfell Tower incident, could result in insufficient action being taken to address any issues, which may affect the outcomes for our communities and our people.

EVALUATION

26. It is crucial that the Service's activities in this important area are evaluated to identify how effective our response to the Grenfell Tower incident, the ongoing inquiry and associated local, regional national activity and learning has been in supporting our communities and our people. This will support our response to HMICFRS's cycle two inspection which will have a focus on Services response to the Phase 1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry report.

27. Internal assurance reporting is also carried out regularly, with additional national progress reporting – both as part of the national Building Risk Review (BRR) Programme, and the new Government grant funding outlined above.

CONCLUSION

28. Both Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service have undertaken a range of activity following the Grenfell Tower incident in 2017 – with operational and organisational learning being an important part of the Services' (and the sector's) response to major incidents. Further activity is also being undertaken with regular internal progress reporting. It is important to note the progress outlined in this report and acknowledge the further reporting that will be presented to the Fire Authority in subsequent months.

RECOMMENDATION

29. That this progress report be noted by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

30. That the proposal for subsequent iterations of this progress report being scrutinised by the Authority every six months be approved by Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority.

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