

REPORT OF THE  
**Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**  
PART II

**1. Chairman's Report**

- 1.1 At its meeting of 25 July 2017, the Fire and Rescue Authority received an update on the response of the Hampshire Fire and Rescue Service to the Grenfell Tower Fire. The activity of HFRS officers with Hampshire residents was detailed. The definition of "high-rise" was clarified as being a residential property of 18 meters or more and it was confirmed that work was underway to ensure that any changes required to buildings are made consistently. In consideration of the powers of the Fire and Rescue Service to insist on the installation of fire rated front doors, it was confirmed that an important part of the safety message to the public was that fire safe areas must not be compromised as doing so put everyone at risk. The role of the local planning process and of building control in ensuring fire safety was discussed. It was noted that the Fire and Rescue Service is not currently a statutory consultee for planning applications and often became involved late in the process when it was difficult to make changes. The benefits of early involvement were recognised and it was agreed that options through which the Fire and Rescue Service could gain greater input to the planning process should be explored through the formation of a cross-Party working group. It is anticipated that as a result of the review by the working group the Fire Authority will agree and publish a position with regards to the engagement of the Service in the planning process in the coming months.
- 1.2 It had previously been reported that the Chief Fire Officer would retire on 31 December 2017. At its July meeting, the Authority considered and agreed proposals to form a Joint Appointments Committee with Isle of Wight Council, to take forward a recruitment process and appoint a new Chief Fire Officer. This process was completed throughout August and September and at the meeting of the Authority on 4 October 2017, it was confirmed that Neil Odin had been appointed and would formally take up the position on 1 January 2018. Recognising that this appointment would create a vacancy in Mr Odin's previous role of Deputy Chief Fire Officer and the importance of maintaining business continuity, the Authority agreed to delegate the appointment of an interim Deputy Chief Officer to Mr Odin, in consultation with the Chairman and Group Leaders.

Further details on these items can be found at the following links:

- [HFRA 25 July 2017](#)
- [HFRA 4 October 2017](#)

**Councillor Chris Carter**  
**Chairman of Hampshire Fire and Rescue Authority**