



**Hampshire  
& Isle of Wight**  
FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY

## **HIWFRA Full Authority**

Purpose: Noted

Date: **14 DECEMBER 2021**

Title: **GRENFELL TOWER PROGRESS REPORT DECEMBER 2021**

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 remain of high public interest. In response to this significant fire and tragic widespread loss of life as well as the Phase 1 Inquiry report findings and recommendations, Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) has undertaken a programme of work to actively improve building fire safety across Hampshire and the Isle of Wight.
2. This report provides the Fire and Rescue Authority (the Authority) with an extensive update since the previous report June 2021. It gives assurance on the wide range of activity and positive improvements in public safety that have been made. Our work has focussed on taking learning from the Grenfell Tower incident and associated Inquiry findings to impact tangibly on public safety at a local level as well as bringing our influence to bear in within the national context, through the various National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) programmes and the evolution of newly issued Fire Standards.
3. All detailed of the work programmes are contained within Appendix A.

4. As an overview the table below illustrates HIWFRS current steady and sustained performance towards the 29 fire and rescue service (FRS) sector specific Grenfell Tower recommendations. We are currently on track for completion of all recommendations though one is dependent on delivery from the Networked Fire Services Partnership (NFSP) and one of their contractors.

| Complete | Complete Spring 2022 | Complete after Spring 2022 |
|----------|----------------------|----------------------------|
| 26       | 2                    | 1                          |

## BACKGROUND

5. 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 LFB 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.
6. HIWFRS has been working on improvement activities against these detailed findings and 12 thematic areas for some time, using both the Central Government Grenfell infrastructure grant and prioritisation of existing resources to channel our efforts at this important work. Using the Government grant funding we dedicated subject matter expertise to drive forward and assure our activity towards the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report.

## 2020/21 GOVERNMENT GRANT FUNDING

7. As referenced in the June Grenfell Tower Progress report, the uplift grants that HIWFRS is in receipt of, are paid to fire and rescue authorities to improve the protection function to tackle risk in the built environment, and to support the work of the (national) Fire Protection Board with specific work programmes. Locally we have received £152,000 for the Building Risk Review Exercise (which is the work of the High-Risk Residential Buildings Inspection Programme Team (HRRBIP)– as detailed in Appendix A) and £271,000 for the Protection Uplift Programme which relates to competency and resourcing.

8. A further grant of £364,000 was received by HIWFRS to maintain these improvements for the year 2021-22. This money is specifically allocated to Protection Uplift and we report on this through the NFCC to the Home Office.
9. There is a final element of funding from central government which is designed to ensure Services have sufficient resources to respond to the findings of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report, totalling around £150,000, to support HIWFRS in making sustained progress in implementing the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 report and improve resilience to major incidents. (Full details of how we have achieved against this funding stipulation is contained within Appendix A). This funding was ring-fenced to be used for the purposes of:
  - (a) Provision of smoke hoods.
  - (b) Other locally determined activity in response to the Grenfell Tower recommendations and improved resilience to major incidents and infrastructure. For example, upgrades to Control Room systems to allow the ability for emergency services to share electronic incident records.
  - (c) Supporting local Grenfell recommendations co-ordination to track and evidence progress being made against the Inquiry recommendations.

#### COLLABORATION ACROSS AND LEARNING WITHIN THE SECTOR

10. As stated within the Authority report of June 2021, HIWFRS continues to actively contribute resource and experience to national and regional High-Rise Working Groups and Business Fire Safety Groups to influence the direction of policy development and ensure that the services we deliver to our local communities benefit from alignment with current policy.
11. Internally, the Service's Operational Assurance Team also continues to provide a range of assurance activity and reporting on Grenfell and other areas to support operational learning and improvement.
12. 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.
13. Furthermore, HIWFRS also receive and disseminate learning from within our partnership with Devon and Somerset, and Dorset and Wiltshire Fire and Rescue Services.

## SUPPORTING OUR SAFETY PLAN AND PRIORITIES

14. 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 of keeping our communities and our people safe, and to ensure we are continuing to learn and improve.

## RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

15. The cost associated with the content of this report is within existing resource plans and the Government grant funding.

## IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

16. Change activities such as new guidance and the use of smoke hoods have resulted in second stage impact assessments being completed by task owners.

## LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

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

## RISK ANALYSIS

18. Failure to implement and monitor progress on Inquiry findings could result in insufficient action being taken to address any issues, which may affect the safety outcomes for our communities and our people. By transparently reporting on the Service's progress against the Inquiry findings, we are able to demonstrate that we are taking all action within our control and influence to positively impact on safety outcomes and reduce any reputational, legal or financial risks to the Service.
19. Grenfell Tower and the impacts of new legislation on HiWFRS resourcing and delivery is held as a risk within the Organisational Risk Register and reported to Standards and Governance Committee on a standing basis.

## EVALUATION

20. Our improvement activities in this important area are included within our ongoing annual assurance and evaluation programme 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. We also use various internal reporting tools to monitor progress on an ongoing basis. This will support our response to HMICFRS's cycle two inspection which will have a focus on Service's response to the Phase 1 Grenfell Tower Inquiry report.

## CONCLUSION

21. The Service has made consistent progress in delivering the required improvements that were identified within the Phase 1 Inquiry findings, which is making our communities safer and meeting national objectives. Each of the activities contained within the programme of improvement have been prioritised by the Service to ensure that we can actively improve the current public safety risks in existing buildings and work locally with partners to prevent future fire safety risks in new or emerging building works materialising. We seek to work across the region and national fire and rescue service mechanisms to positively influence policy development in order that our communities can benefit from current and relevant services.
22. Furthermore, as identified in Appendix A, as part of our High-Rise Residential Building Inspection Programme, we have completed the required activity of inspecting the 283 identified buildings in scope by the National Fire Chief's Council (NFCC) and made significant progress in inspecting a further 88 buildings identified through locally driven risk analysis. Only 25 of these are left to inspect, which will be done so by 31 December. This critical activity is making our communities safer and can provide residents with assurances that HIWFRS has been extensive and proactive in this area.

## RECOMMENDATION

23. That this report be noted by the HIWFRA Full Authority.

## APPENDICES

24. [Details of improvement activities - Appendix A](#)

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