

**TO:** Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Fire Authority

**FROM:** Area Commander Ryan Stacey

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## **NATIONAL FIRE CHIEFS COUNCIL BUILDING RISK REVIEW GRANT AND PROTECTION UPLIFT - UPDATE**

### **1. Purpose**

1.1 The purpose of this report is to provide the Fire Authority with an update on the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) Building Risk Review and our planned use of the grant funding provided by central Government.

### **2. Recommendation**

2.1 The Authority is requested to note the content of this update.

### **3. Risk Assessment**

3.1 **Economic** – there is an impact in diverting resources away from our risk based audit programme to the building risk review programme.

3.2 **Social** – the objective of the building risk review programme is to provide public confidence in high risk building safety following the Grenfell Tower incident.

3.3 **Legal** – the Authority has a legal responsibility to act as the enforcement agency for the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. As a result, ensuring both compliance with (through the risk based audit programme) and support for business to achieve are core aspects of the fire and rescue service function to local communities.

### **4. Background**

4.1 Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower on 14 June 2017, the Government announced a public inquiry and a review of building safety regulations.

4.2 Dame Judith Hackitt led the inquiry 'Building a safer future: proposals for reform of the building safety regulatory system' which was published in May 2018 and made a number of recommendations for reform of the regulatory framework around building regulations and fire safety.

4.3 The Rt Hon Sir Martin Moore-Bick chaired the Public Inquiry which published its findings for phase one in October 2019. Phase two started in January 2020 but was paused due to COVID-19; work resumed on 21 September 2020.

4.4 The building risk review programme, supported by Government funding, aims to meet the ambition set out by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government to, 'significantly increase the pace of inspection activity across high rise residential and other high-risk buildings.'

4.5 Following the first step in the national building risk review programme, which covered the inspection of aluminium composite material (ACM) clad high-rise residential buildings in England, phase two is now underway.

4.6 Phase two of the programme involves inspections of all high-rise residential buildings (18 metres and above in height) in England which were not already covered as part of phase one of the building risk review exercise.

## **5. Building Risk Review Grant**

5.1 This grant of £60k is to support services to deliver a review of fire safety arrangements of all high rise buildings over 18 metres. These should be subject to an initial assessment and depending on outcome, visited or audited by the end of December 2021.

5.2 The protection team can achieve this at the expense of our existing risk based audit programme by December 2020. Even by extending this to the 2021 deadline, it will have some impact on day to day activity. We are seeing increases in the number of complex building consultations and our work with hospital sites means we are working creatively to ensure we maintain the high standards we have set.

5.3 One option considered was to use the funding to pay the wage of an additional fire protection inspecting officer. As this funding is limited to 12 months, we will lose that extra capacity when the funding runs out.

5.4 Our chosen approach is to continue to invest in Level 3 fire safety training for watch based staff, including two more that will be brought to the level of Fire Safety Advisor (the same level as our specialist fire protection team). This will allow watches to relieve pressure on the risk based audit programme and provide ongoing capacity after the grant is spent. Fire Safety Advisors within the protection team can pivot when required onto the building risk review work. We will also use the grant to provide specialist upskilling for these staff in cladding, compartmentation and fire stopping.

5.5 We currently provide returns to the NFCC Fire Protection Board who monitor progress quarterly. This return will be extended to include monitoring against this grant funding.

## **6. Protection Uplift Grant**

6.1 The uplift grant of circa £114k is provided to bolster (long term) fire protection capability to deliver the Integrated Risk Management Plan (IRMP).

6.2 Throughout the period of austerity we continued to invest in our protection teams whilst other organisations made cuts. This gives us a solid foundation to build further capacity with modest investment.

6.3 We will use the grant to strengthen career pathways into fire protection, develop existing data systems to work better, develop existing products to provide a stable digital platform to share information between prevention/protection and response.

6.4 As there is a large technological component to this, the Digital Strategy Board will have sight of this and it will be managed through our Programme Board.

**BIBLIOGRAPHY**

Source Documents	Location	Contact Officer
Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Executive Summary	<a href="#">Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 Executive Summary</a>	Area Commander Ryan Stacey
Building a safer future: proposals for reform of the building safety regulatory system	<a href="#">Building a safer future: proposals for reform of the building safety regulatory system</a>	