

# Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 9 November 2017

Date	Portfolio	Title	Action proposed	Action Taken	Progress Status
10/08/17	Housing and Adult Care	Tower Block Safety	1) That the timetable and milestones for the installation of sprinkler systems across the Council's 20 high rise buildings are circulated to the Committee.	Work is now well underway on installations at Shirley Towers, Albion Towers and Sturminster House and is programmed to be complete this calendar year. Work has also commenced at Millbrook, Redbridge and Canberra Towers and is programmed to be complete by March 2018. A programme for remaining blocks will not be finalised until we have confirmation of funding from DCLG.	Completed
			2) That, factoring in the fire risks identified, the Committee are provided with the priority order for the installation of sprinkler systems within the Council's high rise buildings.	The blocks known as 'Scissor blocks' have been prioritised first followed by the tallest blocks with single staircases. The remaining single staircase blocks will follow with the remainder prioritised by height.	Completed
			3) That the Committee are provided with information on the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) borrowing cap and the existing level of borrowing for the HRA.		
			4) That the Cabinet Member outlines to the Committee the funding options that the Administration are considering to enable the installation of sprinkler systems if no Government funding is forthcoming.	The Housing Minister has indicated that it is unlikely that direct funding will be provided by Government. He has indicated that additional borrowing above the current HRA Cap may be permitted but we have had no confirmation of this. If no government support is received then the Cabinet Member will consult tenants' representatives regarding if and how many capital projects should be delayed to accommodate the sprinklers programme. Tenants' representatives	In hand

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				have already been advised such talks may be required.	
			5) That the Cabinet Member writes to the Communities and Local Government Secretary / Housing Minister tomorrow requesting authorisation to extend the HRA borrowing cap to enable sprinkler systems to be installed in each of the Council's high rise buildings as soon as possible.	The Cabinet Member has written and a response has been received requesting further information. This has been responded to.	
			6) That the Administration adopts the policy position that it will go ahead with the installation of sprinkler systems in all Council owned high rise buildings regardless of the Government's funding decision.	The Administration (along with many other Councils) is continuing to press government for support for a programme of installations. It will not adopt a final position until a definitive response from Government is received.	Completed
			7) That details are provided to the Committee on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The number of flats within the Council's high rise buildings that still have a gas supply</li> <li>The timescales being worked to for the disconnection of the gas supply to these properties.</li> </ul>	<p>208 properties in Tower Blocks were identified (August 2017) as having a live gas supply. The majority of these use gas to supply cookers/hobs. An existing programme of grants to replace these with electric cookers in the ECO blocks has been extended to all tower blocks and a number of these have already been disconnected.</p> <p>Around 20% of the affected flats are Leasehold and around 20 of these flats are believed to rely on gas heating. The Council will therefore need to go through a consultation process to progress the disconnection of those flats. Legal advice is being finalised following which a programme for disconnection will be provided.</p>	In hand

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			8) That the Committee are provided with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A summary of the emergency planning scenarios and outcomes</li> <li>• Specific examples of emergency planning scenarios</li> </ul>		
			9) That the Service Lead, Council Housing and Neighbourhoods responds directly to the concerns of the tenants representative relating to the consultation with residents and the accessibility of the communications provided.	The Service Lead has responded directly to the residents.	Completed
10/08/17	Leader's	LATCo for Some Council Services	1) That the Leader circulates to the Committee the timescales and milestones for the establishment of the LATCo and when services will begin to trade commercially.		