


<p>London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham</p> <p>CHILDREN AND EDUCATION POLICY AND ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE</p> <p>29 January 2018</p>	
<p>A DRAFT CONSULTATIVE REPORT ON H&F COUNCIL'S EMERGENCY RESPONSE TO MAJOR INCIDENTS IN JUNE AND SEPTEMBER 2017</p>	
<p>Report of the Chief Executive, Kim Dero</p>	
<p>Open Report</p>	
<p>Classification: For review and comment Key Decision: No</p>	
<p>Consultation: The author of the report has consulted extensively with H&F council officers from across departments who were involved in H&Fs immediate and ongoing responses to the Grenfell Tower fire and the Parsons Green terrorist incident.</p>	
<p>Wards Affected: All</p>	
<p>Accountable Director: Sarah Thomas, Director of Delivery and Value</p>	
<p>Report Author: Peter Smith, Head of Policy & Strategy</p>	<p>Contact Details: Tel: 020 8753 2206 peter.smith@lbhf.gov.uk</p>

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1. In 2017 there were two major incidents in and around Hammersmith & Fulham that required the authority to implement its emergency planning procedures. These were the fire at Grenfell Tower in North Kensington in June and an explosion on a tube train in Parsons Green tube station in September.
- 1.2. This report reviews the H&F response to those incidents through the experiences of H&F officers involved in the response to Grenfell and Parsons Green at both strategic and operational levels. The review has also considered the views of local businesses and community organisations that participated in a 'hackathon' event convened by the council to examine the views of partners.
- 1.3. The report identifies action taken to date to improve the council's readiness and response to major incidents and makes recommendations for additional

action to further improve this response. This report was submitted to Audit, Pensions and Standards Committee and Finance and Delivery PAC in December and to Economic Regeneration, Housing and the Arts PAC on 16 January and is being submitted to all remaining PACs before going to Cabinet in March.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1. The Committee is invited to discuss the findings and recommendations of the report and, should it see fit, make suggestions, including on implementing the recommendations, for the Council to consider in its response.

3. REASONS FOR DECISION

- 3.1. H&F Council has a duty of care to all of its residents and must ensure that it has appropriate plans and processes in place to deliver on that duty.

4. PROPOSAL AND ISSUES

- 4.1. The Committee is requested to consider and discuss the report's recommendations, and to refer its comments on to Cabinet.

5. OPTIONS AND ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 5.1. The research that has informed the recommendations within the report has involved interviews with a variety of different officers, during which various options for improving planning and procedures have been examined and analysed.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1. The author of the report has been engaged in consultation with council officers and has examined feedback and proposals from an event that gathered the views of businesses and community organisations.

7. EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1. The implementation of these recommendations will have no direct equality implications.

8. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1. The Civil Contingencies Act provides a framework for Civil Protection in the UK. The Council is classified as category one. The "report" at appendix one sets out at paragraph 1.9 the full set of civil protection duties the Council has. The "report" makes a number of recommendations for action in relation to the Local Authority's response to future emergencies. The legal team can be further consulted about the implementation of any of the recommendations, if the Council wishes to implement these.

8.2 *Implications completed by: Hazel Best, Principal Lawyer, tel. 020 7641 2955*

9. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1. The Government's Bellwin scheme provides emergency financial assistance to local authorities in England and is activated at the discretion of the Secretary of State. Bellwin funding is designed to cover uninsurable risk over a local threshold. It will recompense authorities for the costs of emergency measures undertaken to safeguard life or property, or to prevent further suffering and inconvenience locally, during exceptional circumstances. There are strict rules on the types of expenditure that are eligible for reimbursement. In relation to the Grenfell fire incident, RBKC will be making a claim under the Bellwin scheme which will include the additional costs incurred by Hammersmith and Fulham in providing mutual aid.
- 9.2. In response to the wider lessons learned from the Grenfell Tower fire and Parsons Green incidents, on 4 September 2017, Cabinet approved a drawdown of £111,000 from the Community Safety Reserve to increase the resilience of the Emergency Planning Team for 18 months.
- 9.3. On 18 October 2017, Full Council approved amendments to the Four-Year Capital Programme 2017-21 to include £20m for the Fire Safety Plus Programme. Whilst the Department for Communities and Local Government has requested details of fire safety works from councils, no additional funding has been made available to date. Until further clarity on funding has been received, the programme will be funded from a combination of the use of reserves and internal borrowing. The detailed financial implications of the Fire Safety Plus Programme are included in the Full Council report.
- 9.4. Taking forward the recommendations for further actions identified in this report, will be subject to further decisions, the financial implications of which will be confirmed at that time.
- 9.5. *Implications completed by: Emily Hill, Head of Corporate Finance, 020 8753 3145.*

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS USED IN PREPARING THIS REPORT

No.	Description of Background Papers	Name/Ext of holder of file/copy	Department/ Location
1.	Notes from the hackathon on emergency planning	Peter Smith (EXT: 2206)	Delivery and Value / HTH

LIST OF APPENDICES

Appendix 1: A Draft Report on H&F Council's Emergency Response to Major Incidents in June and September 2017