

**Report of Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support**

**Report to Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities)**

**Date: 11<sup>th</sup> September 2017**

**Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry into Leeds' response to Grenfell – draft terms of reference**

Are specific electoral Wards affected? If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information? If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number: Appendix number:	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No

**1. Introduction**

- 1.1 The horrific events of the 14 June in west London have resulted in continued public and media interest in the safety of high-rise blocks across the UK. The immediate priority for Leeds City Council following the events of Grenfell Tower has been the assurance of Leeds citizens regarding their personal safety. Initially this was focussed particularly on the Council's 116 high rise blocks.
- 1.2 However, other actions have also been taken as part of a strategic action plan to assess and respond to the impact of the Grenfell Tower fire in Leeds. This has included assessing other public buildings such as schools and hospitals, controlling procedures in case of the need to evacuate properties and keeping local stakeholders up to date on all developments. A strategic task group has also been established to oversee this work which includes all relevant council service leads and representatives of the West Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service.
- 1.3 At its meeting on 17<sup>th</sup> July 2017, the Executive Board received a report detailing the work undertaken to-date by Leeds City Council and partners since the events of the Grenfell fire. Alongside the work of the strategic task group, the Executive Board also acknowledged the role of Scrutiny and agreed the following recommendation:

*That in relation to the role of Scrutiny Boards, the following Scrutiny Boards be requested to pick up scrutiny of the relevant actions / emerging issues:-*

- (i) Scrutiny Board (Strategy and Resources) – emergency planning;*
- (ii) Scrutiny Board (Infrastructure and investment) – private sector properties and building control;*

*(iii) Scrutiny Board (Environment, Housing and Communities) – Council housing stock safety, resident engagement and investment decisions.*

- 1.4 In responding to this recommendation, the Environment, Housing and Communities Scrutiny Board agreed to undertake an inquiry and establish formal terms of reference surrounding its particular areas of responsibility.
- 1.5 Draft terms of reference relating to the Board's forthcoming inquiry into Leeds' response to Grenfell will therefore be tabled at today's meeting for the Board's consideration and agreement.

## **2. Recommendation**

- 2.1. Members are requested to consider and agree the terms of reference for its forthcoming inquiry into Leeds' response to Grenfell.

## **3. Background documents<sup>1</sup>**

- 3.1 None

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<sup>1</sup> The background documents listed in this section are available to download from the Council's website, unless they contain confidential or exempt information. The list of background documents does not include published works.