

MERSEYSIDE FIRE & RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	SCRUTINY COMMITTEE		
DATE:	5TH MARCH 2020	REPORT NO:	CFO/011/20
PRESENTING OFFICER	ACFO MOTTRAM		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	AM BERRY TEL: 4711	REPORT AUTHOR:	GM HEAD
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	GM WATSON, BRIAN WELSH AND AM OAKFORD		
TITLE OF REPORT:	BUILDING SAFETY GROUP {FORMERLY JOINT COMPETENT AUTHORITY (JCA) WITH LIVERPOOL CITY COUNCIL (SECONDED PROTECTION OFFICER).}		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To inform Members in relation to the establishment of the Building Safety Group (BSG) with Liverpool City Council and key stakeholders/partners, previously referred to as the Joint Competent Authority (JCA). The creation of the BSG and the secondment of a Merseyside Fire & Rescue Authority (MFRA) Officer responds to the as recommendations as contained within the Dame Judith Hackitt Review in relation to the Grenfell Tower fire.

Recommendation

2. That Members scrutinise the content of this report and accompanying presentation.

Introduction and Background

3. Following the Grenfell Fire Tower Incident in June 2017, an early recommendation from the interim report of the Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety, undertaken by Dame Judith Hackitt; and published on 18th December 2017, was for the creation of Joint Competent Authorities (JCA).
4. The JCA has evolved into the BSG, this group has adopted the principles set out by Dame Judith Hackitt.
5. As a result of the above, a JCA (BSG) was created within Liverpool City Council to manage High Rise Residential Aluminium Composite Material (ACM) clad buildings.
6. The BSG comprises of a number of stakeholders including Liverpool City Council, MFRS, the Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Geodata and Building Control.

7. The BSG's purpose is to arrange joint inspections with key stakeholders with a number of key objectives which include:
- The approval of interim fire safety measures in buildings which ACM cladding was identified.
 - Monitor and review the remediation of ACM cladding.
 - To provide consistent information and reporting back to MHCLG, Home Office and NFCC.
 - The provision of an information sharing platform for all key partners.

Equality and Diversity Implications

8. A formal EIA was not completed for this bespoke programme, however MFRS as part of its Functional Delivery Planning does complete an EIA which can be found on the portal for all Protection activity.

Staff Implications

9. During 2018 and 2019, MFRA had a Station Manager B part seconded to the project team. Due to the continued success of the project we now have a dedicated Fire Safety Inspector embedded within the BSG.

Legal Implications

10. Any liabilities or obligations of MFRA under a secondment of an employee should be addressed between all relevant parties as and when appropriate.

Financial Implications & Value for Money

11. MFRA recovers 50% of gross salary in support of this project, however the importance (post Grenfell) should not be understated in terms of the longer term benefits to MFRA and any (potential) changes to the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

12. As part of the BSG we continue to make buildings safer for occupants and for responders in the event of an emergency. This work is in-line with the High Rise Task Force led by the NFCC helps support our inspection framework.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

13. This secondment to the BSG and benefits of collaborative working regarding High Rise Residential premises ensures that we are directly contributing to Our Mission.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

ARA Any Relevant Acronyms used in the report or technical terminology