

<b>TENANTS' FORUM</b>	Agenda Item
Thursday 13 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	<b>7(i)</b>

## **Fire Safety in Council Housing**

This report provides a briefing on our actions relating to fire safety, in the light of the Grenfell Tower disaster.

### **INTRODUCTION**

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In the light of the terrible disaster at Grenfell Tower in Kensington, we have reviewed all our fire safety precautions and arrangements in Kettering Borough Council owned accommodation blocks.

### **OUR RESPONSE**

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As you will know, the Council has no blocks of flats higher than three stories.

In recent years, we have used External Wall Insulation to improve thermal insulation in some of our older properties. The external cladding system identified in the London fire has not been installed on any Council owned property in the Borough.

We have communicated with Alumasc, who make the cladding we have used, and they have provided written assurance that the materials they have supplied to us will not propagate the spread of flames, because they are made of rendered or brick faced finishes that are classed as non-combustible, have an inert fire break at each level above the first floor, and are fixed in such a way to ensure that will not suffer disproportionate collapse during a fire.

The Fire Service are also carrying out a risk assessment throughout the County and ensuring that they are aware of all those buildings which might have either the materials or the building construction techniques which so obviously failed at Grenfell Tower.

The current advice from the Fire Service is that the “stay put” message we give to anyone not directly affected by a fire in their own flat, is still valid in our blocks of flats. In the case of fire in a block of flats, including our Sheltered Accommodation

Schemes, we will continue to operate a stay-put policy, as approved by the Fire Service.

We work with the Fire Service to carry out Fire Risk Assessments on all blocks of flats and have improved fire safety where identified. This includes physical work to eliminate risk, installing separate bin storage facilities, tenant education and our more recent Sterile Communal Areas Implementation.

If you have any queries, please contact me. We will keep elected members and members of the tenants' forum in the loop as understanding grows about the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the lessons from it.

John Conway  
**Head of Housing**  
4<sup>th</sup> July 2017