Present: Cllr Phil Waker (Chair), Cllr Irma Freeborn, Cllr Syed Ghani, Cllr Giasuddin Miah, Cllr Dave Miles, Cllr James Ogungbose and Cllr Lee Waker

Apologies: Cllr Mick McCarthy

6. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

7. Minutes (27 June 2017)

The minutes of the meeting held on 27 June 2017 were confirmed as correct.

8. Update from LWSC Working Group

The Lead Member advised that the Working Group had not met and therefore there was no update from the Working Group.

The Lead Member noted that at the meeting held on 27 June 2017 the Select Committee requested, in the interim between meetings, information on the actions the council was undertaking following the recent tragic events at Grenfell Tower. The information had not been received and therefore the Working Group had not met.

9. Scrutiny Review: Delivery of Internal Works by Contractors

As part of the Select Committee’s review of the delivery of internal works by contractors, the Commercial and Contracts Manager presented a report to the Select Committee detailing a summary of contractor performance for voids and decent homes internal works delivered by external contractors.

The report focussed on the following elements:

- List of Contractors used;
- Summary of overall performance;
- Value of work completed / number of jobs;
- Speed and Quality of work completed; and
- Performance against Council standards and contracts.

Following presentation of the report, the Select Committee enquired as to the level of works given to contractors that could have been carried out by the in-house Home Services team. In response, the Commercial and Contracts Manager advised that works were given to the in-house team and that in future, with upskilling of the workforce, in-house works would improve, increase and make the council more competitive. It was expected through the business case prepared for Home Services, more services would be coming back in-house.
In response to a question regarding the quality of works, the Commercial and Contracts Manager advised the current process ensured that 100% of works undertaken by contractors was inspected by internal and external clerk of works. If any remedial works were required, they would be dealt before the properties were released to new tenants.

The Lead Member raised concerns that the report before the Select Committee suggested that concerns had not been raised regarding the quality of works undertaken by some contractors. In response to the Lead Members comments, the Democratic Services Officer advised that the work programme, agreed by the Select Committee in June 2017, included an item on resident's feedback on the performance of contractors which was due to be presented to the Select Committee on 30 October 2017.

10. **Fire Safety Update**

The Director of My Place presented a report to the Select Committee on fire safety, which was requested at the last meeting of the LWSC in June 2017 following the tragic events at Grenfell Tower.

The report specifically covered the following areas which were of concern to the Select Committee:

1. Residential fire sprinklers,
2. Fire doors,
3. Cladding,
4. Roofs,
5. Parking issues (i.e. stopping fire engine access),
6. Role and responsibilities of Estate Officers; and escape routes.

The Director of My Place also provided an overview of the Council’s approach, as landlord, to Fire Safety arrangements to ensure full compliance with the statutory duties set within the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005.

Concerns were raised by the Select Committee regarding the retrofitting of sprinklers within residential blocks in the Borough. The Director of My Place explained whilst there was currently no requirement for the retrofitting of sprinklers, the Council’s policy was currently under review and a report on the policy would be discussed at Cabinet in October 2017.

The Select Committee welcomed the report and thanked officers for their hard work in ensuring the safety of residents in the Borough.

The Select Committee requested that a further report on fire safety be added to the work programme for the next meeting of the LWSC and that the senior council officer responsible for fire safety be invited to attend the meeting.

11. **Work Programme**

The Select Committee noted the work programme.
The Lead Member requested that an item be included at a future meeting to discuss Gender Balance at the Council, subject to consultation with the Director of Law and Governance.