MINUTES OF
LIVING AND WORKING SELECT COMMITTEE

Monday, 30 October 2017
(7:06 - 8:59 pm)

Present: Cllr Phil Waker (Chair), Cllr Mick McCarthy (Deputy Chair), Cllr Syed Ghani, Cllr Giasuddin Miah, Cllr Dave Miles, Cllr James Ogungbose and Cllr Lee Waker

Apologies: Cllr Irma Freeborn

12. Declaration of Members' Interests

There were no declarations of interest.

13. Minutes (27 September 2017)

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

The Lead Member requested it be noted that under minute 9 (Scrutiny Review: Delivery of Internal Works by Contractors) that the Select Committee sought further clarification on whether the works listed were voids or internal works.

14. Update from LWSC Working Group

The Lead Member advised that the Working Group had not met, however he intended to arrange a meeting before the end of the year.

15. Scrutiny Review: Delivery of Internal Works by Contractors

The item was deferred until the December meeting of the Select Committee to enable relevant officers to attend.

16. Fire Safety Policy Proposals

The Operational Director for Enforcement introduced a report setting out a series of fire safety policy proposals that had been developed by the Council, in consultation with the London Fire Brigade and other key partners, specifically those involved in the construction industry. The Cabinet received the draft policy on 17 October 2017 (minute 50 refers) and resolved to approve the policy recommendations.

The Operational Director advised that there were 11 specific recommendations which had been developed that reflected the Government's direction, the early findings from the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the recommendations of the 2013 Lakanal fire inquiry. There were three main principles of ‘Improving fire safety in buildings’, ‘Using regulation to improve fire safety’, and ‘Protecting people from the risk of fire and reducing the impact of fire if it occurs’, which covered aspects such as building materials, sprinkler systems, fire detection and alarm systems, Building Control requirements and the stringent enforcement of powers relating to Houses
in Multiple Occupation (HMO) in residential tower block of more than five storeys.

Following presentation of the report, Select Committee members spoke in detail on:

- The ‘Stay Put’ fire advice, previously issued by the Fire Brigade which, following the tragedy at Grenfell Tower, the Select Committee felt residents needed to be re-educated on so they would know when to stay and when to evacuate a building;
- Concerns that there were still unregistered HMO’s in the Borough, which the Council was addressing through the Private Rented Property Licensing scheme;
- A suggestion that the Council undertook Portable Appliance Testing (PAT) of all second-hand electrical goods within Council owned properties and HMO’s; and
- The retrofitting of sprinklers in Council owned residential buildings, which the Operational Director advised an update report detailing progress of the issue would come before the Select Committee in 2018.

The report was noted.

17. **Work Programme**

The Select Committee noted the work programme and asked that the following items be added, either as an addition to the work programme or as an item for the working group to consider:

- Fire Safety Recommendations and update report;
- HRA Recharges;
- Leasehold Issues;
- Estate Renewal; and
- Types of Tenure.