

Council: 25 July 2017

Agenda Item 14.1 – Opposition amendment in the name of Cllr Ross Houston

Administration Motion in the name of Cllr Richard Cornelius – Ensuring the safety of Barnet's tower block residents

Delete all and replace with (additions in bold):

Council expresses shock and sadness at the tremendous loss of life at Grenfell Tower, North Kensington, on 14 June 2017. Members extend their condolences to all those who lost their homes, family, and friends in the fire, and recognise this was a catastrophe made all the more tragic for being avoidable.

Council notes the decision of the Housing Committee on 26 June 2017 to instruct Barnet Homes to carry out a review of fire safety measures in the Council's 28 high rise blocks and give consideration to the installation of sprinkler systems, improved fire and smoke alarm systems, and any other measures which may be required to meet best practice.

Council also welcomes the assurance given by Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government Sajid Javid to the chairman of the Local Government Association that 'funding will be made available to those councils that need to conduct work'. The £10 million set aside by the Housing Committee from the Housing Revenue Account was taken as an emergency measure, and concerns funds otherwise earmarked for capital projects and maintenance.

In light of the tragic events at Grenfell Tower, and the ongoing misery they have caused, Council calls on officers of the Council and Barnet Homes to complete their fire safety review with due care and attention at the earliest possible opportunity to provide reassurance to, and ensure the safety of, Barnet residents and to seek funding from Government.

Council requests that the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Opposition write to the Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government asking for confirmation that fire safety works in council properties will be fully funded by the Government, and calling for the HRA borrowing cap to be lifted to enable councils to invest in any subsequent works that are required to ensure the safety of their housing stock.