



# Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

<b>MEETING</b>	Fire Authority
<b>DATE OF MEETING</b>	17 February 2021
<b>OFFICER</b>	Area Commander Calum Bell
<b>LEAD MEMBER</b>	Councillor Lesley Clarke OBE, Chairman
<b>SUBJECT OF THE REPORT</b>	<b>Building Risk Review Programme</b>
<b>EXECUTIVE SUMMARY</b>	<p>Driving improvement in the protection function, tackling risk in the built environment and supporting the Building Risk Review work that is overseen by the Fire Protection Board are all national priorities for Fire and Rescue Services (FRSs).</p> <p>This report provides an overview and proposed approach to achieving the objectives of two significant Home Office Protection programmes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>1.</b> The Building Risk Review (BRR) Programme will deliver a review of all in scope buildings (high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres) by the end of December 2021.</li> <li><b>2.</b> The Protection Uplift Programme will support initial improvements in local protection capability.</li> </ul> <p><b>1.</b> As part of FRS ongoing national work to understand and help reduce the risk in high rise residential buildings, the BRR programme is aimed at meeting the ambition set out by the Secretary of State for Housing, Communities and Local Government in Parliament on 5 September 2019 to "significantly increase the pace of inspection activity across high rise residential and other high risk buildings" and is supported by the allocation of government funding to ensure all high rise buildings have been inspected or reviewed by the end of 2021.</p> <p>To support the BRR exercise, £6 million was made available, with a minimum of £60,000 being allocated to all but two FRSs.</p> <p>Buckinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service (BFRS) has received grant funding of £60,000 based on there being 32 in scope buildings, as identified by the Home Office. However, BFRS records have identified a total of 71 buildings, 57 of which are in scope.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>2.</b> To increase FRS protection capability and delivery, aligning with locally agreed integrated risk</li> </ul>

	<p>management plans and risk-based inspection programmes. A £10 million general protection grant fund has been made available and shared across all FRSs in England and Wales.</p> <p>BFRS has received grant funding of £123,549.85. This funding allocation was assessed and determined centrally, based on the identified building stock classification types within Buckinghamshire and Milton Keynes. 2,393 in scope premises have been identified by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG). A breakdown of these is set out in appendix E. It is however, permissible for FRSs to use the funding for their own protection priorities in line with local Integrated Risk Management Plans.</p> <p>Robust monitoring and auditing is being undertaken by the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC), via regular monthly and quarterly reporting against activity undertaken and expenditure of the grant funds.</p> <p>A third grant has been received by BFRS in the form of an infrastructure grant, totalling £46,253.86. This funding is in support of achieving the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 1 recommendations and will be reported on by the Response Policy Team.</p>
<b>ACTION</b>	For information and noting.
<b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b>	It is recommended that the Service's approach to the BRR, be noted.
<b>RISK MANAGEMENT</b>	<p>Although a comprehensive programme of building inspections is routinely scheduled through a risk-based inspection programme, the failure to ensure that the relevant authority/responsible person is adequately maintaining a high rise residential building could compromise the safety of the residents should a fire occur, and firefighters, when tackling a fire in one of the affected types of premises.</p> <p>Failure to positively demonstrate the value added by the Section 31 Grant will see diminished confidence in the sector by the Minister of State for Fire and possibly affect the allocation of future funding grants.</p> <p>Any new workloads introduced by these programmes should not negatively impact on the ongoing risk-based inspection programme and fulfilment of statutory duties.</p> <p>Any data captured through activities undertaken and shared through monitoring reports is commercial and reflected within the Protection team Records, Retention, and Disposal / Information Assets Register.</p> <p>No personally identifiable information is shared externally.</p> <p>All expenditure relating to these programmes is</p>

	accurately recorded, monitored by the finance team and verified by the Director of Finance and Assets prior to the submitting of any reports.
<b>FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	BFRS has received both allocations of grant funding and separate cost centres have been created to ensure robust monitoring of expenditure and accurate reporting back to the Home Office through the NFCC. Monitoring and reporting is undertaken by the Protection Group Commander and authorised by the Director of Finance and Assets.  Permissible expenditure is captured in Appendix A. Both of these funding grants are one-off allocations.
<b>LEGAL IMPLICATIONS</b>	The Authority has responsibilities under the Fire and Rescue Services Act 2004 to promote fire safety and to give advice about how to prevent fires, how to restrict their spread and about means of escape. However, it is also the enforcing authority for dealing with breaches by any 'Responsible Person' of fire safety requirements imposed by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 ('RRO'). The RRO does not apply to most domestic premises but it does apply to the 'common parts' of residential properties, such as high-rise residential buildings, where typically the 'Responsible Person' will be the owner of the freehold or leasehold.  The proposed approaches and the use of the grant funding will support BFRS in fulfilling its fire safety and its enforcement roles  Under the RRO it is the responsibility of the 'Responsible Person', not BFRS, to carry out an assessment of the risks from fire, to identify what general fire precautions are required for those particular premises, and to put in place appropriate fire safety arrangements.
<b>CONSISTENCY WITH THE PRINCIPLES OF THE DUTY TO COLLABORATE</b>	Whilst there is no specific requirement to collaborate on these two Home Office Protection programmes, we continue to work closely with the other Thames Valley FRSSs on a variety of protection activities.  Both of these Home Office Protection programmes are standing agenda items for the NFCC South East Protection and Business Safety Group.  Any areas of best practice and learning will continue to be shared and adopted, as appropriate, as they are identified.
<b>HEALTH AND SAFETY</b>	Any general Health & Safety issues are considered as part of business as usual activities.  COVID-19 specific risk assessments have been introduced to ensure staff safety and the continued

	<p>delivery of all Protection activities.</p> <p>Implementation of the programmes will lead to a reduction of risk for residents in our highest risk buildings and also improvements in firefighter safety due to more compliant premises.</p>
<b>EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY</b>	<p>Inspections of in scope high rise residential buildings and subsequent improvements/compliance will impact positively on residents, making them safer in these buildings.</p> <p>An increase in Protection activity and engagement will support life safety and assist businesses to comply with relevant legislation, supporting business continuity and the economy.</p> <p>This increased engagement will assist in understanding different community needs and deliver accessible local services, building safer places.</p> <p>Our diverse teams will feel better equipped to deliver high quality services, through greater training, development and accreditation.</p>
<b>USE OF RESOURCES</b>	<p>The use of existing resources will be enhanced through training and building/business engagement.</p> <p>Current team structures will continue to be reviewed, to ensure they meet the growing demands of The Service and the community.</p> <p>Response crews, once trained, will be utilised to deliver business engagement and fire safety activity to lower risk buildings.</p>
<b>PROVENANCE SECTION &amp; BACKGROUND PAPERS</b>	<p>The rationale and background to the programmes and associated grant funding are set out at Appendices C and E.</p> <p>Building a Safer Future Report (Independent Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety), May 2018</p> <p>Grenfell Tower Inquiry, Phase 1 Report, October 2019</p> <p>Minister for Building Safety, Fire and Communities letter, 29 April 2020</p> <p>Prime Minister letter to the Chair of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry, Sir Martin Moore-Bick, 2 June 2020</p>
<b>APPENDICES</b>	<p>Appendix A: BRR / Protection Uplift Programme Report</p> <p>Appendix B: Total distribution of funds by FRA</p> <p>Appendix C: Grant payments acceptance letter</p> <p>Appendix D: Infrastructure funding distribution</p> <p>Appendix E: Protection funding rationale</p>
<b>TIME REQUIRED</b>	10 Minutes

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