



Buckinghamshire & Milton Keynes Fire Authority

Meeting and date: Fire Authority, 6 December 2023

Report title: Operational Learning and Assurance: Progress against Grenfell Tower and Manchester Arena Inquiry Recommendations

Lead Member: Councillor Simon Rouse

Report sponsor: Area Commander Doug Buchanan – Head of Protection, Assurance and Development

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Action: Noting

Recommendations: That Members note the report.

Executive summary:

This report outlines the Services' approach to Operational Learning and Assurance, accounting for local, sector and multi-agency events from which we can identify and implement improvement.

Whilst the content will provide members with some insight into the wider Operational Learning and Assurance process, the focus of this report is to update on progress against two significant inquiry recommendations, those being Grenfell Tower and Manchester Arena.

Financial implications:

BFRS make provision for resource to be allocated to delivering against the Operational Learning and Assurance programme. However, given the scale of the two inquiries, it is difficult to accurately account for the financial implications of addressing the necessary changes required.

Grenfell has impacted the fire sector significantly, not least in the identification of greater investment into the Protection functions within Services. BFRS have received specific allocations of grant funding in support of delivering against recommendations, which the Service monitors expenditure and reports to the Home Office.

Manchester Arena is also likely to have some easily identifiable, but also some less clear financial implications in respect of how we will implement changes to responding to terror related incidents.

Risk management:

Risks specific to the delivery of the two projects are recorded, managed and monitored in line with the Service Corporate Risk Management Procedure.

Legal implications:

Any legal implications have been / will be considered as the respective strands of the inquiry recommendations are addressed.

Privacy and security implications:

There are no identified privacy issues or security implications.

Duty to collaborate:

Whilst the Service deliver Operational Learning and Assurance locally, the team work closely with colleagues in the Thames Valley and wider South-East region. Both Grenfell and Manchester Arena recommendations have been co-ordinated with Thames Valley Fire colleagues and other partners as appropriate.

Health and safety implications:

Operational Learning and Assurance is a fundamental part of keeping our Firefighters safe.

Environmental implications:

None identified.

Equality, diversity, and inclusion implications:

Equality, Diversity, and Inclusion matters are considered routinely as part of Operational Learning and Assurance processes. Equality impact assessments are undertaken in line with the Services' procedure.

Consultation and communication:

Business Transformation Board

Strategic Management Board

Background papers:

[Grenfell Infrastructure Update \(16 March 2022\)](#)

[Grenfell Infrastructure Update \(10 November 2021\)](#)

[Grenfell Infrastructure Update \(17 March 2021\)](#)

[Grenfell Infrastructure Update \(September 2022\)](#)

[Phase 1 report | Grenfell Tower Inquiry](#)

[Manchester Arena Inquiry Volume 2: Emergency Response- Part One](#)

[Manchester Arena Inquiry Volume 2: Emergency Response – Part Two](#)

[Manchester Arena Inquiry - Volume 1: Security for the Arena\)](#)

[The Kerlake Report](#)

Appendix	Protective Marking	
1	Operational Learning and Assurance: Progress against Grenfell Tower and Manchester Arena Inquiry Recommendations	None