

## Grenfell Inquiry – Recommendations and Funding

### Summary

This report provides a summary of the actions taken by North Yorkshire Fire and Rescue Service (NYFRS) post the Grenfell Tower tragedy in 2017 and details the central funding provided to all fire and rescue authorities in England, to increase the pace and scale of inspection activity across high-rise residential and other high risk buildings.

NYFRS responded quickly to implement learnings from the Grenfell Tower tragedy. The Commissioner was pleased to see NYFRS swiftly implement a programme of focussed fire safety work extended to premises over four stories (lower in height than the 18m criterion), with all 121 sites subject to an audit/inspection during 2018. Local changes have strengthened incident command, firefighting in high-rise incidents and fire safety training. An action plan is in place to respond to the recommendations detailed in the Phase 1 Grenfell Inquiry published in October 2019. This is being scrutinised through the Commissioner's Public Accountability Meetings.

In April 2020 via the Building Risk Review Programme, £20m of Home Office funding was issued to support protection work across fire and rescue authorities in England. Of this, £4m was provided to the National Fire Chiefs Council (NFCC) and £16m was provided directly to fire and rescue authorities, to drive building safety improvements in fire and rescue services across the country in 2020/21. NYFRS received £316k. Funding proposals are being developed to meet the grant criteria and ensure investment enables long-term capability within NYFRS's fire safety function. These proposals will be considered at the Commissioner's Executive Board.

### Grenfell Tower learning

NYFRS responded quickly to implement learnings from the Grenfell Tower tragedy. An update was provided to the Commissioner's Public Accountability Meeting in July 2019. Local changes were made in advance of the Phase 1 Grenfell Enquiry and have strengthened incident command, firefighting in high-rise incidents and fire safety training.

**Incident Command:** the Analytical Risk Assessment form has been revised to record an auditable trail of key decisions and rationale, consistent command support packs for the Yorkshire and Humber fire and rescue services have been developed to help in recording handover between incident commanders, practical exercises have taken place to test information gathering and recording, fire survival guidance issued by the Control Room has been reviewed and fire ground communications refresher training is now routinely provided to incident commanders.

**Firefighting in high-rise buildings:** crews continue to visit high-rise buildings to familiarise and train and to inform the Site Specific Risk Information held, a dedicated module on managing high-rise incidents has been introduced and includes material to allow staff to discuss operational tactics and improve knowledge of how to deal with key hazards. The adoption of National

Operational Guidance (NOG) means that any new operational learning around high-rise incidents will be updated in local e-learning packages.

**Fire Safety:** a programme of focussed fire safety work was extended to premises over four stories, and all were subject to an audit/inspection during 2018, fire safety staff have received additional training on fire safety in purpose-built flats, a thematic approach to auditing was launched in April 2019 for operational crews to focus on Houses of Multiple Occupation. Fire safety competence has been raised amongst Crew and Watch Managers, in accordance with the NFCC Competency Framework for fire safety. Operational staff are now qualified to level 3 certificate in fire safety whilst the specialist team is trained to level 4 certificate (auditor) and diploma (Inspector).

The fire and rescue sector response to recommendations contained in the Phase 1 Grenfell Enquiry published in October 2019 is co-ordinated centrally by the NFCC with any learnings reflected in a local NYFRS Action Plan, overseen by the Service's Assurance Directorate.

## Central funding

North Yorkshire Police, Fire and Crime Commissioner Fire and Rescue Authority has received £316k of central, one-off funding from the Government's Building Risk Review Programme, split between the Building Risk Review Grant and the Protection Uplift Grant.

**Building Risk Review Grant (£60k):** The aim of this grant is to achieve a review of the fire safety arrangements in all high-rise residential buildings over 18 metres by December 2021. Each fire and rescue authority received a minimum of £60,000 which is roughly equivalent to the costs associated with one inspection officer. In North Yorkshire and the City of York, 33 buildings meet the criteria of the review and are all scheduled to be audited by February 2021.

The building owner and/or Responsible Person/s has ultimate accountability for managing fire safety measures for buildings. The objective of the Building Risk Review is to ensure fire and rescue services are aware of the various elements impacting fire safety in high-rise residential buildings and will help identify actions which need to be taken by the Responsible Person/s to rectify any issues.

NYFRS has identified an opportunity to collect data in addition to that forming part of the Home Office return, to inform their risk-based inspection programme and Site Specific Risk Information records.

**Protection Uplift Grant (£256k):** This funding is to be used to bolster the fire safety capability and delivery in line with locally agreed integrated risk management plans and risk-based inspection programmes. The aim of the grant is to build long-term capability within fire safety functions, so there's an expectation that funding would be used to make improvement in workforce or technological capability.

NYFRS is developing proposals on how to spend the funding to meet the grant criteria and ensure investment enables long-term capability within its fire safety function. Proposals will be considered at the Commissioner's Executive Board in due course and an update could be provided to Panel in 2021.