

PRESENT

Lead Members

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell (Leader of the Council), Chairman
Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith (Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Grenfell Recovery, Housing and Property)
Cllr. Will Pascall (Deputy Leader and Lead Member for Borough Services)
Cllr. Mary Weale (Lead Member for Communities)
Cllr. Charles Williams (Lead Member for Adult Social Care and Health)

Others in attendance

The meeting was also attended by some 10-15 other Councillors, the Member of Parliament for Kensington, and around 25 members of the public including leaseholders affected by the proposals at report A5.

PART A (PUBLIC) MINUTES

CHAIRMAN'S INTRODUCTION

Cllr. Elizabeth Campbell opened proceedings by thanking those who had come to the meeting tonight.

She indicated she had called the meeting because the Council needed quickly to take decisions to support those affected by the Grenfell tragedy. She wanted such decisions to be taken collectively where possible, by the Council's Leadership Team, in front of those the Council represented - the residents of the Borough.

The focus of the meeting was on taking important decisions, but the Council recognised it was important too that it continued to provide opportunities for the community to have its say. So there would be an opportunity for people to make brief comments from the floor relevant to today's agenda - though there would be much greater opportunity for this at an additional full Council meeting which had now been arranged for 27 September, to which everyone was welcome.

Cllr. Campbell further mentioned that key Council officers were present and would be available after the meeting to speak to individual residents about personal issues they may wish to raise.

Cllr. Campbell then invited Barry Quirk, Chief Executive, to say a few words about the context for the meeting tonight.

Mr. Quirk indicated that the Authority was doing its best to meet the scale of the challenge before it. So far the Council had identified some 105 new properties for priority households and these reports before the meeting tonight recommended further action to make **more** property available (totalling £75m in spending), and the Council continued to work on improving this performance.

A1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

Apologies for absence were received from Cllrs. David Lindsay (Lead Member, Corporate Services) and Cllr. Emma Will (Lead Member, Family and Children's Services)

A2. MEMBERS' DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

No declarations of interest were made.

A3. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 29 JUNE 2017

The minutes of the meeting held on 29 June 2017 were confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

OPPORTUNITY FOR CONTRIBUTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC

Cllr. Campbell indicated that before considering the recommendations in the officer reports, it was important that those affected by these decisions had the chance to have their say. The Leadership Team's decisions tonight needed to be informed by the experiences of those who will be affected by them.

As such she proposed to begin by giving members of the public a chance to say a few words.

Five Grenfell leaseholders addressed the meeting making, in summary, the following points (all relating to report A5).

- The financial offer wasn't a fair one.
- Why could the Council not offer a new flat in a completely new building?
- The bidding process was very stressful - bidding and viewing without actually knowing if there was a likelihood of securing the property in question.
- Why should someone who had already paid off their mortgage find themselves now in a shared ownership position?
- Why were those affected by tonight's decisions not advised this meeting was taking place?

- How could properties be accurately valued when they no longer existed? What was being offered did not seem to be based on a fair valuation.
- Leaseholders had worked hard over many years to fulfil their dream of owning a property, only to have this and their community taken away from them. The offer was insulting, and the Tower should be rebuilt.
- The Council had to realise that residents' possessions, hopes and dreams had been destroyed in the Grenfell Fire.

Cllr. Campbell thanked those who had contributed and indicated that Cllr. Taylor-Smith and officers would seek to address these points in their introduction to report A5 and in face-to-face discussions after the meeting.

FORMAL AGENDA - ADDITIONAL PAPERS

Before moving on to the formal agenda, Cllr. Campbell drew the meeting's attention to the supplementary papers which Councillors would take into account in reaching their decisions (which had been circulated throughout the room), namely:

- a reference from yesterday's informal Scrutiny meeting, which included comments on all four of tonight's agenda items;
- a revised report A5 (with all amendments highlighted in yellow); and
- an addendum to report A7 containing supplementary information

A4. PROPOSALS TO SECURE PERMANENT ACCOMMODATION FROM REGISTERED PROVIDERS (Key Decision ref: KD05106)

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith and Tony Hutchinson (Housing Programme Director, Grenfell) introduced the report.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraph 3 and elsewhere within the report –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1 and 2.2 be adopted.

Action by: Tony Hutchinson (Housing Programme Director, Grenfell)

A5. HOUSING OPTIONS FOR RESIDENT AND NON-RESIDENT LEASEHOLDERS AFFECTED BY THE GRENFELL TOWER FIRE (Key Decision ref: KD05104)

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith and Tony Hutchinson (Housing Programme Director, Grenfell) introduced the report and responded directly to points raised by leaseholders earlier in the meeting.

- They undertook to meet leaseholders individually and collectively to discuss their concerns and the outcome of discussions would be reflected in a revised proposal.
- Properties would be valued to reflect the cost of acquiring a comparable property in the neighbourhood, based on the area of the flat and its amenity: all flats are assumed to be in excellent condition and would be valued on the basis of a 180 year lease.
- The Council acknowledges that space standards are exceptionally generous and difficult to replicate in private sector developments.
- The purpose of the interest free loan is to enable leaseholders to have the purchasing power to own a property in the neighbourhood. One of the points for further discussion and reflection is the way this offer might operate.
- The offer would enable leaseholders to obtain a new property as quickly as possible and set out a framework within which discussions could take place. Once Councillors had considered and approved the principle it could be discussed in detail with leaseholders

Members noted the contents of exempt¹ appendix B2.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out within the revised report A5 (as circulated) –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1-2.5 be adopted.

Action by: Tony Hutchinson (Housing Programme Director, Grenfell)

A6. ACQUISITION OF RESIDENTIAL PROPERTIES TO MEET URGENT HOUSING NEEDS FOLLOWING THE GRENFELL FIRE
(Key Decision ref: KD05105)

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith and Mark Grant (Head of Investment and Development) introduced the report.

Members noted the contents of exempt¹ appendix B3.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out within the report –

That the recommendations at paragraphs 2.1-2.5 be adopted.

Action by: Richard Egan (Director of Corporate Property)

¹ not published because it contains information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person, and having regard to the public interest in withholding this information.

A7. CONTRACT AWARD FOR GENERIC FLOATING RESETTLEMENT SUPPORT SERVICE FOR RESIDENTS AFFECTED BY GRENFELL
(Key Decision ref: KD05107)

Cllr. Kim Taylor-Smith and Claire Wise (Housing Projects Manager) introduced the report.

Members noted the contents of exempt¹ appendix B4 and the addendum sheet circulated.

RESOLVED, on the basis of the reasons set out at paragraphs 3.1-3.2 and elsewhere in the report –

That the recommendations at paragraph 2.1 be adopted.

Action by: Amanda Johnson, Head of Housing Commissioning

A8. ANY OTHER ORAL OR WRITTEN PUBLIC ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS URGENT

No business was considered under the public part of the agenda.

A9. EXCLUSION OF THE PRESS AND PUBLIC

No such resolution was required as no business was considered under the private part of the agenda.

CHAIRMAN'S CLOSING REMARKS

The Chairman expressed thanks to those members of the community who had taken the trouble to attend the meeting and provide their input and views. She reiterated that council officers would remain in the room for a while to talk to anyone who has particular issues that they would like to raise.

The meeting ended at 6.10pm

Chairman