

## Appendix 2 – Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 recommendations – the Council’s Response and Commitments

Inquiry Recommendation	Who for	RBKC’s Response/Commitment:
<p><b><u>Legislation and guidance</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that the statutory guidance generally, and Approved Document B in particular, be reviewed accordingly and a revised version published as soon as possible. (113.11)</p>	HM Gov’t	<i>The Council supports this recommendation and suggests that any transitional period before the new revision comes into force is short.</i>
<p>We recommend that a revised version of the guidance contain a clear warning in each section that the legal requirements are contained in the Building Regulations and that compliance with the guidance will not necessarily result in compliance with them. (113.12)</p>	HM Gov’t	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>In advance of any changes to the guidance, the Council will raise this finding with consultants working on Council construction projects.</i></p>
<p>We recommend that it <i>[Chapter 48, where the guidance proceeds on the assumption that effective compartmentation renders a stay put strategy an appropriate response to a fire in a flat in a high-rise residential building]</i> be reconsidered when Approved Document B is revised. (113.13)</p> <p>We recommend that the guidance <i>[in Approved Document B]</i> draw attention to the need to make a calculation of that kind <i>[in terms of calculating the likely rate of fire spread and the time required for evacuation, including the evacuation of those with physical or mental impairments]</i>. It is one that ought to form an essential part of any fire safety strategy. (113.13)</p>	HM Gov’t	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>When designing high rise buildings, or carrying out a major or structural refurbishment of them, the Council will engage a qualified Fire Engineer to carry out the recommended calculations. Where the Council considers changing an evacuation strategy, we will notify the LFB and work with them to agree any changes.</i></p>

Inquiry Recommendation	Who for	RBKC's Response/Commitment:
<p><b><u>Fire Safety Strategy</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that it be made a statutory requirement that a fire safety strategy produced by a registered fire engineer (see below) to be submitted with <u>building control applications</u> (at Gateway 2) for the construction or refurbishment of any higher-risk building and for it to be reviewed and re-submitted at the stage of completion (Gateway 3). Such a strategy must take into account the needs of vulnerable people, including the additional time they may require to leave the building or reach a place of safety within it and any additional facilities necessary to ensure their safety. (113.15)</p>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>In advance of this requirement being implemented, the Council is commissioning and/or reviewing fire strategies for 44 Higher Risk Buildings, including our Sheltered accommodation, taking a risk-based approach. The Council is also planning to create additional fire strategies for 11+m buildings over the next few years. All fire strategies will be carried out by qualified/registered fire engineers.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Certification of products and publication of test data</u></b></p> <p>We recommend:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. that copies of all test results supporting any certificate issued by the construction regulator be included in the certificate;</li> <li>b. that manufacturers be required to provide the construction regulator with the full testing history of the product or material to which the certificate relates and inform the regulator of any material circumstances that may affect its performance; and</li> <li>c. manufacturers be required by law to provide on request copies of all test results that support claims about fire performance made for their products. (113.23)</li> </ul>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>Where the Council submits building control applications for its own projects, steps will be taken to ensure that proposed products meet the latest standards.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Fire Engineers</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that the profession of fire engineer be recognised and protected by law and that an independent body be established to regulate the profession, define the standards required for membership, maintain a register of members and regulate their conduct. (113.25)</p> <p>In order to speed up the creation of a body of professional fire engineers we also recommend that the government take urgent steps to increase the number of places on high-quality masters level courses in fire engineering accredited by the professional regulator. (113.25)</p>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports these recommendations.</i></p>

<b>Inquiry Recommendation</b>	<b>Who for</b>	<b>RBKC's Response/Commitment:</b>
<p>We also recommend that the government, working in collaboration with industry and professional bodies, encourage the development of courses in the principles of fire engineering for construction professionals and members of the fire and rescue services as part of their continuing professional development. (113.28)</p>	<p>HM Gov't/ Industry bodies</p>	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation and suggests that the relevant bodies also make these courses open to local authority Building Control professionals.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Architects</u></b></p> <p>We also recommend that it be made a statutory requirement that an application for <u>building control approval</u> in relation to the construction or refurbishment of a higher-risk building (Gateway 2) be supported by a statement from a senior manager of the principal designer under the Building Safety Act 2022 that all reasonable steps have been taken to ensure that on completion the building as designed will be as safe as is required by the Building Regulations. (113.31)</p>	<p>HM Gov't</p>	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation and will seek to adopt this recommendation on Council-owned Higher Risk Buildings and consider applying this to 11m+ buildings.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Contractors</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that a licensing scheme operated by the construction regulator be introduced for principal contractors wishing to undertake the construction or refurbishment of higher-risk buildings and that it be a legal requirement that any application for <u>building control approval</u> for the construction or refurbishment of a higher-risk building (Gateway 2) be supported by a personal undertaking from a director or senior manager of the principal contractor to take all reasonable care to ensure that on completion and handover the building is as safe as is required by the Building Regulations. (113.33)</p>	<p>HM Gov't</p>	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation and will seek to adopt this recommendation on Council-owned Higher Risk Buildings and consider applying this to 11m+ buildings.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Building control</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that the government appoint an independent panel to consider whether it is in the public interest for building control functions to be performed by those who have a commercial interest in the process. (113.37)</p>	<p>HM Gov't</p>	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p>

<b>Inquiry Recommendation</b>	<b>Who for</b>	<b>RBKC's Response/Commitment:</b>
<p>We recommend that the same panel consider whether all building control functions should be performed by a national authority. (113.38)</p>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports a review by an independent panel into the options for performance of building control functions.</i></p> <p><i>The Council believes that Registered Building Control Approvers should no longer be permitted to undertake restricted activities and that a locally based service, utilising local knowledge, would best serve local residents.</i></p>
<p><b><u>A construction library</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that the construction regulator sponsor the development of a similar library, perhaps as part of a joint project with the University of Queensland, to provide a continuing resource for designers. (113.39)</p>	HM Gov't/ Industry bodies	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation and suggests that the library should be made available to local authority building control professionals.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Response to recommendations</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that it be made a legal requirement for the government to maintain a publicly accessible record of recommendations made by select committees, coroners and public inquiries together with a description of the steps taken in response. If the government decides not to accept a recommendation, it should record its reasons for doing so. Scrutiny of its actions should be a matter for Parliament, to which it should be required to report annually. (113.40)</p>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will publish an annual report on its progress against the Inquiry's recommendations.</i></p>
<p><b><u>Fire risk assessors</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that the government establish a system of mandatory accreditation to certify the competence of fire risk assessors by setting standards for qualification and continuing professional development and such other measures as may be considered necessary or desirable. We think it necessary for an accreditation system to be mandatory in order to ensure the competence of all those who offer their services as fire risk assessors. (113.41)</p>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>A programme of independent reviews of Fire Risk Assessments for Higher Risk Buildings is due to commence shortly through a BAFE SP:205 accredited contractor.</i></p>

Inquiry Recommendation	Who for	RBKC's Response/Commitment:
<p><b><u>Response and recovery</u></b></p> <p><b>The Civil Contingencies Act 2004</b></p> <p>We recommend that the Act be reviewed and consideration be given to granting a designated Secretary of State the power to carry out the functions of a Category 1 responder in its place for a limited period of time. (113.67)</p>	HM Gov't	<i>The Council supports this recommendation</i>
<p>We recommend that the regulation <i>[Regulation 23 of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (Contingency Planning) Regulations 2005]</i> be amended to require Category 1 responders to establish and maintain partnerships with the voluntary, community and faith organisations in the areas in which they are responsible for preparing for and responding to emergencies. (113.68)</p>	HM Gov't/ Councils	<i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i>
<p><b><u>Guidance</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that the guidance be revised, reduced in length and consolidated in one document which lays greater emphasis on the need for those leading the response to consider the requirements for recovery, the need to identify vulnerable people, the importance of identifying and ensuring co-operation with voluntary, community and faith groups and is consistent with the Equality Act 2010. (113.69)</p> <p>We also recommend that regard for humanitarian considerations be expressly recognised by making it the ninth principle of effective response and recovery. (113.69)</p>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports these recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will participate in any review of London Resilience frameworks and guidance and will adopt any changes made.</i></p>
<p><b>London Local Authority Gold Arrangements</b></p> <p>We recommend that the guidance on the operation of those <i>[London Local Authority Gold]</i> arrangements be revised and that existing and newly appointed chief executives be given regular training to ensure they are familiar with its principles. (113.70)</p>	London Resilience / Councils	<i>The Council supports this recommendation</i>
<p><b><u>Local resilience forums</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that local resilience forums adopt national standards to ensure effective training, preparation and planning for emergencies and adopt independent auditing schemes to identify deficiencies and secure compliance. (113.71)</p> <p>We also recommend that a mechanism be introduced for independently verifying the frequency and quality of training provided by local authorities and other Category 1 responders. (113.71)</p>	London Resilience / Councils	<p><i>The Council supports these recommendations.</i></p> <p><i>The Council has commissioned an independent Resilience expert to review our Resilience functions and processes, which will be completed in early 2025.</i></p>

Inquiry Recommendation	Who for	RBKC's Response/Commitment:
<p><b><u>Local authorities</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that local authorities train all their employees, including chief executives, to regard resilience as an integral part of their responsibilities. (113.73)</p>	All Councils	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will add emergency response and preparedness to the job descriptions of senior managers and provide training so to enable staff to participate in an emergency response.</i></p>
<p>We recommend that all local authorities devise methods of obtaining and recording information of that kind, if possible in electronic form, and practise putting them into operation under a variety of different circumstances. (113.74)</p>	All Councils	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p>
<p>We recommend that all local authorities make such arrangements as are reasonably practicable for enabling them to place people in temporary accommodation at short notice and in ways that meet their personal, religious and cultural requirements. Such arrangements should, as far as possible, involve local providers of social housing. (113.75)</p>	All Councils	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p>
<p>We recommend that all local authorities include in their contingency plans arrangements for providing immediate financial assistance to people affected by an emergency. (113.76)</p> <p>We also recommend that as part of their planning for emergencies local authorities give detailed consideration to the availability of key workers and the role they are expected to play so that suitable contingency arrangements can be made to ensure, as far as possible, continuity of support. (113.76)</p>	All Councils	<p><i>The Council supports these recommendations.</i></p>
<p>We recommend that as part of their emergency planning local authorities make effective arrangements for continuing communication with those who need assistance using the most suitable technology and a range of languages appropriate to the area. (113.77)</p>	All Councils	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p>

Inquiry Recommendation	Who for	RBKC's Response/Commitment:
<p>We recommend that all local authorities include in their plans for responding to emergencies arrangements for providing information to the public by whatever combination of modern methods of communication are likely to be most effective for the areas for which they are responsible. In future, to avoid confusion, wasted effort and frustration (113.78)</p> <p>We also recommend that what in the past has been called by the police a “casualty bureau” be described in a way that makes it clear that it does not provide information to the public about people affected by the emergency. (113.78)</p>	All Councils	<i>The Council supports these recommendations.</i>
<p><b><u>Vulnerable people</u></b></p> <p>We recommend that further consideration be given to the recommendations made in the Phase 1 report in the light of our findings in this report. (113.82)</p>	HM Gov't/ Councils/ LFB/MPS/ LAS	<i>The Council supports this recommendation and a further update on the Council's progress against the Phase 1 report recommendations is included with the final response report for Phase 2.</i>
<p>We also recommend that the advice contained in paragraph 79.11 of the LGA Guide be reconsidered. (113.83)</p>	HM Gov't	<p><i>The Council supports this recommendation.</i></p> <p><i>The Council will adopt any changes to the LGA Guide into its policies and practice.</i></p>