

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham Fire and Rescue Authority

GRENFELL TOWER INQUIRY PHASE 2 REPORT

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Date: 20 September 2024

Purpose of Report:

To update Members in relation to the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report.

Recommendations:

It is recommended that Members:

- Note the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report.
- Agree to receive updates in relation to further actions, associated with the Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 report.

CONTACT OFFICER

Name: Michael Sharman

Assistant Chief Fire Officer

Tel: 0115 8388100

Email: michael.sharman@notts-fire.gov.uk

Media Enquiries Corporate Communications Team

Contact: 0115 8388100 corporatecomms@notts-fire.gov.uk

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 On 14 June 2017, a fire occurred at Grenfell Tower, London, which destroyed the 24-storey block of 129 residential flats. 72 people lost their lives at the incident.
- 1.2 The Right Honourable Sir Martin Moore-Bick was appointed as Chair of the public inquiry; set up to examine the circumstances leading up to, and surrounding, the fire at Grenfell Tower.
- 1.3 The Phase 1 Inquiry report was published on 30 October 2019, and an overview of the Service's actions and the recommendations from the inquiry was presented to the Fire Authority in December 2019.
- 1.4 On 21 January 2020, the Government published its response to the Phase 1 Inquiry recommendations, including the actions to be taken by Government to address the recommendations and these were reported to the Fire Authority in February 2020.
- 1.5 In 2022, the Service reported to Members that all 47 recommendations from the Phase 1 report were completed.
- 1.6 Phase 2 of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry started in March 2020 and was focussed on the circumstances leading up to the fire, including the Tower's design, construction, composition, modifications and fire safety measures within the building.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 The <u>Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report</u> was published on 4 September 2024. The report is inevitably lengthy and detailed, containing a significant number of recommendations that span a wide number of industries, organisations and professions.
- 2.2 The full report is published across seven volumes and is further split into the following parts and areas of broad focus.
 - 1. Introduction.
 - 2. The path to disaster.
 - 3. The testing and marketing of products.
 - 4. Tenant management organisation.
 - 5. The management of the fire safety at Grenfell Tower.
 - 6. The refurbishment of Grenfell Tower.
 - 7. Replacement of the gas riser.
 - 8. The London Fire Brigade.
 - 9. The deceased.
 - 10. Response and recovery.
 - 11. Matters outstanding from Phase 1.

- 12. The fire testing regime.
- 13. The response of other countries.
- 14. Recommendations.
- 2.3 In order to effectively respond to the Grenfell Tower Phase 2 Inquiry recommendations, the Service will undertake a detailed analysis of the report and its recommendations, working alongside the National Fire Chief Council (NFCC) and other stakeholders to fully understand any requirements and implications. A future report will be presented to Fire Authority detailing the Service's approach to meeting the recommendations.
- 2.4 Whilst on first review, only a minority of the recommendations directly relate to fire and rescue services direct activities and responsibilities, a number of the recommendations will require a multi-disciplinary approach to resolve. Complex interdependencies exist both between internal departments and with regional fire and rescue partners. An example being the continued collaboration with Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Service in the provision of a joint control room and its required and continued effectiveness.
- 2.5 Whilst the Government is yet to respond to the recommendations, it is expected that the routine reporting of progress against the recommendations will be required to the Home Office and NFCC. The Service needs to be able to respond in an assured and constructive manner to these consultations.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

Financial implications will be identified and considered as part of any future reports

4. HUMAN RESOURCES AND LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT IMPLICATIONS

There are a range of recommendations which may have training implications for both fire control and incident commanders. Any identified implications will be brought back to the Fire Authority for consideration and scrutiny.

5. EQUALITIES AND ETHICAL IMPLICATIONS

As the report was only received on 4 September 2024 and has yet to be considered in detail, no equality and ethical implications have been identified at this stage.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL AND SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

There are no known environmental and sustainable implications arising from this report.

7. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Service has a duty under the Health and Safety at Work Act to ensure the safety of employees and others affected by its activities. Implementing the recommendations will ensure the Service complies with these requirements.
- 7.2 The Fire Services Act requires the Service to resource to community risks, including those associated with tall buildings, and that adequate arrangements are in place to provide an effective operational response.
- 7.3 The Civil Contingencies Act requires that the Service has necessary plans in place to respond to a major incident which may include a fire in a tall building.
- 7.4 The Local Government Act 1999 places a statutory duty on Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service to 'secure continuous improvement in the way in which its functions are exercised'. The reporting of progress against these matters ensures that the Service is focusing on key objectives, as set by the Fire Authority, and continuous improvement. This ensures that Members can apply effective scrutiny to be satisfied that statutory obligations are being met.
- 7.5 The Fire Authority has a statutory duty to discharge the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order, 2005.

8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Effectively implementing the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 recommendations will ensure the Service is well placed to ensure an effective operational response to a fire in a tall building. It will also go some way to ensuring an effective operational response to any type of major incident.
- 8.2 The Grenfell Tower Phase 2 recommendations will potentially be a focus for HMICFRS during its next round of inspections. Effective organisational response to the Phase 2 report will mitigate the risk of a negative inspection result and the subsequent reputational risks that this poses to the Service.
- 8.3 Close media scrutiny of both the Grenfell Tower Inquiry and subsequent fires that have occurred in tall buildings and clad buildings elsewhere in the country, poses a significant reputational risk for the organisation were such an event to occur in Nottinghamshire.

9. COLLABORATION IMPLICATIONS

There are significant collaboration implications related to the actions required for Joint Fire Control relating to policy, procedure and training for Control Operators given the current and future joint fire control arrangements.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

It is recommended that Members:

- 10.1 Note the publication of the Grenfell Tower Inquiry Phase 2 report.
- 10.2 Agree to receive updates in relation to further actions, associated with the Grenfell Inquiry Phase 2 report.
- 11. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Craig Parkin
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER