

Recommendations to the Cabinet (Resources) Panel	Timescale	Comments	Executive Response
1. That a very clear management structure be put in place in relation to the responsibility for fire safety within the City of Wolverhampton Council.	Immediate		
2. That there be one overarching and cohesive Fire Safety Strategy that ensures all operational and strategic areas are integrated and working; with greater Council oversight as detailed in recommendation 4.	Immediate	It is vital to have a clear fire safety policy. This will include the management structure referred to in recommendation 1. and all fire and health and safety protocols.	
3. That Strategic Executive Board receive regular reports from a suitably trained and experienced fire officer who is also someone managing the Council's duty of care as detailed in the management structure referred to in the first recommendation.	Immediate	Responsible Officer to sit within the Corporate Landlord.  Fire Safety engineering experience to be required along with an ability to manage the Fire Risk Assessment programme.	
4. That the Leader write to ministers at the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Home Office to request the changes in legislation included in these recommendations and to lobby for funding to retro fit sprinklers in all schools and high rise buildings in line with advice from the Association of Chief Fire Officers and the Fire Service.	Await Outcomes of Moore-Bick and Hackitt Inquiries, <b>To be agreed in Principle.</b>	As per the original remit of the Group, it will be more productive to await the recommendations from the inquiries and write to the Government at that time in support of recommendations	

made once we are aware of the situation regarding funding and any legislative changes at a national level.

**Hackitt Inquiry Interim Recommendation:**

**Consultation with the fire and rescue services is required on plans for buildings that are covered by the Fire Safety Order, but does not work as intended. Consultation by building control bodies and by those commissioning or designing buildings should take place early in the process and fire and rescue service advice should be fully taken into account. The aim should be to secure their input and support at the earliest stage possible so that fire safety can be fully designed in.**

<p>5.</p>	<p>That the Section 41 Member reports to Full Council at least twice a year and that the Leader addresses fire safety issues in the annual state of the City address.</p> <p>That the Section 41 Member is invited to meetings of the Council's Executive to discuss issues relating to fire safety as and when they arise.</p>	<p>Immediate Action – refer to Constitution Working Group for consideration as part of review of Code of Conduct for Members on Outside Bodies.</p>		
<p>6.</p>	<p>That in principle it be agreed that only the highest rated fire-retardant materials, including cladding systems are promoted for any future builds or refurbishments.</p> <p>Reasons must be provided as to why a specific material has been chosen if not the highest rated.</p>	<p>Await Outcomes of Moore-Bick and Hackitt Inquiries</p>	<p>As per the original remit of the Group, the Council should await the recommendations from the inquiries which may also seek to address this. Should a decision be made now it could be contrary to the final recommendations and require remedy.</p> <p><b>Hackitt Inquiry Interim Recommendation:</b></p> <p><b>The government should significantly restrict the use</b></p>	

<p style="writing-mode: vertical-rl; transform: rotate(180deg);">Page 162</p>			<p><b>of desktop studies to approve changes to cladding and other systems to ensure that they are only used where appropriate and with sufficient, relevant test evidence. Those undertaking desktop studies must be able to demonstrate suitable competence. The industry should ensure that their use of desktop studies is responsible and in line with this aim.</b></p>	
<p>7.</p>	<p>That the Council or any subsidiaries of the Council such as Wolverhampton Homes or wholly owned companies such as WV Living, agree in principle that in any buildings under major refurbishment or any new builds, strong consideration is given to fitting sprinklers and hard-wired smoke alarms/fire detectors.</p> <p>Reference to this consideration and the reasons for and against fitting sprinklers and hard-wired smoke alarms/fire detectors should be detailed and mitigating measures listed that will assure safety and negate the need for sprinklers and hard-wired smoke alarms/fire detectors to be fitted.</p>	<p>Await Outcomes of Moore-Bick and Hackitt Inquiries</p>	<p>As per the original remit of the Group, the Council should await the recommendations from the inquiries which may also seek to address this. Should a decision be made now it could be contrary to the final recommendations and require remedy.</p> <p>Feedback from Corporate Landlord is clear that a Policy to fit sprinklers and hard-wired smoke alarms/fire detectors in every building is not a viable</p>	

way forward as in many cases this may not be the best option for the protection of life.

There are significant differences in residential and high-rise or complex buildings where a stay put policy is in place or people may be asleep compared to the majority of Council owned premises where an evacuation procedure is deemed to best safeguard those in the building.

Sprinklers and other such measures will be considered where there is concern following a Fire risk Assessment that the fire could spread due to the nature of the building.

It is acknowledged that in the case of schools the use of sprinklers may ease damage to the buildings or disruption to education but the focus of this review is on the protection of

			life and other mitigating measures can provide this assurance.	
Page 164	<p>8. That where necessary every tower block and every building owned by the Council with a cladding system needs to be independently tested as a matter of urgency (the whole system and not just the cladding) and a paper submitted to Full Council to confirm that this has been done including information on outcomes of the testing and any remedial actions required.</p> <p>Where it is deemed not necessary to test a building then reasons must be provided.</p>	To be addressed through a Fire Risk Assessment Programme	<p>Testing has been undertaken by Wolverhampton Homes.</p> <p>The Council has focused on buildings containing sleeping accommodation.</p> <p>Cladding on Council buildings is being assessed via an ongoing regime of Fire Risk Assessments, along with other potential risks and hazards</p> <p>A dedicated team would need to be brought together to carry out all of the actions details in the recommendation.</p> <p>The Fire Risk Assessment will be a visual non-intrusive inspection by an expert and decisions will be made following this inspection as to any further action required.</p>	

**Hackitt Inquiry Interim Recommendation:**

**Building developers need to ensure that there is a formal review and handover process ahead of occupation of any part of a new high-rise residential building. While there are legitimate reasons to allow occupation in a phased way, the practice of allowing occupancy of buildings without proper review and handover presents barriers to the implementation of any remedial measures identified as part of the completion process.**

**Hackitt Inquiry Interim Recommendation:**

**It is currently the case under the Fire Safety Order that fire risk assessments for high-rise residential buildings must be carried out 'regularly'. It is**

			<b>recommended that the responsible person ensures these are undertaken at least annually and when any significant alterations are made to the building. These risk assessments should be shared in an accessible way with the residents who live within that building and notified to the fire and rescue service.</b>	
9.	That the Local Authority concierge staff and their managers undertake additional fire safety training and if possible a shadowing or mentoring programme be agreed with Wolverhampton Homes.	Immediate		
10.	That fire safety training be made mandatory for all concierge staff and keepers as part of their induction programme and on an annual basis. This training should also include disability awareness training and the use of evac chairs where appropriate.	Immediate	The use of evac chairs is only relevant where an evacuation policy is in place (rather than a stay put policy in which case the Fire Service would carry out an evacuation).	
11.	That in due course, following the carrying out of Fire Risk Assessments; a list be made available of building materials and	To be addressed through a	Information is available for more modern buildings and a significant amount of information	

construction details in relation to all schools, academies and vulnerable persons' homes.  
That an action plan with timescales be produced in relation to this with

Fire Risk Assessment Programme

does exist for older buildings but there is and will not exist one list detailing everything.

There is a significant amount of data in relation to schools but this is spread across a multitude of systems.

Recommendations can be addressed by a Fire Risk Assessment which will look at the building holistically and will include an assessment of the risks associated with cladding.

**Hackitt Inquiry Interim Recommendation:**

**There is a need for building control bodies to do more to assure that fire safety information for a building is provided by the person completing the building work to the responsible person for the building in occupation. Given the importance of such information for ongoing**

			<b>maintenance and fire risk assessment, proof should be sought that it has been transferred</b>	
Page 168	<p><b>12.</b> That in relation to Planning and Building Regulations, the Council investigate the possibility of conditions being introduced for all new buildings and refurbishments to require that sprinklers, hard wired fire detection equipment and the highest rated fire-retardant materials are used.</p> <p>[Please see link to Hackitt Inquiry:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-terms-of-reference">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-terms-of-reference</a> ]</p>	Await Outcomes of Moore-Bick and Hackitt Inquiries	As per the original remit of the Group, the Council should await the recommendations from the inquiries which may also seek to address this. Should a decision be made now it could be contrary to the final recommendations and require remedy.	
	<p><b>13.</b> That the Council provide sufficient resources so that a qualified in house officer is available to go into all community schools to check compliance with fire safety regulations and fire risk assessments.</p> <p>That discussions are held with non-community schools to recommend that they also agree to the above officer visiting them to check compliance with fire safety regulations and fire risk assessments.</p>	Immediate	<p>An option under consideration is that this could be carried out by a member of the Health and Safety Team currently auditing schools.</p> <p>Legal implications must also be considered should a fire occur in a non-Local Authority School caused by something that was not identified in the Council led Fire Risk Assessment.</p>	

14.	That Information on the Council website in relation to fire safety be updated regularly.	Immediate		
15.	That in relation to Emergency Planning, the Group support the idea of regional coordination of emergency planning however, care must be taken to ensure that capacity and expertise remains within the Council to enable it to liaise effectively with the relevant authorities regarding fire safety and emergency planning.	Immediate	Steps must be put in place now to ensure this.	
16.	That an audit be carried out of access roads and parking areas next to and all the way around flats, key corporate buildings and high risk schools (those that have sleeping accommodation) to ensure that emergency vehicles, turntable ladders and hydraulic platforms are able to gain access.	Immediate	This has been completed in relation to tower-blocks and changes are to be made on the Graiseley Estate to improve access.	
17.	<p>That training be provided to all employees and councillors with responsibility for fire safety or who sit on Boards with responsibility for fire safety in relation to their legal obligations and responsibilities.</p> <p>This training to include information regarding corporate manslaughter and health and safety issues.</p>	Immediate	<p>Cllr Milkinder Jaspal (Cabinet Member for Governance which includes Health and Safety) is due to attend IoSH leading safety training course to include corporate manslaughter.</p> <p>This training is also to be undertaken by members of the Strategic Executive Board and Wider Management Team.</p>	

18.	<p>That a working group be set up through the Scrutiny Board. This working group will draw up an action plan with targets covering areas such as emergency egress, reasonable adjustments and equality and diversity.</p> <p>The working group will report back to the Scrutiny Board on a regular basis.</p>	Immediate		
19.	<p>That the current list of rest centres to be used in an emergency be revised and updated and where possible</p>	Immediate		
<b>Recommendations to Wolverhampton Homes</b>				
20.	<p>That Information on the Wolverhampton Homes website be updated more regularly (last update on Wolverhampton Homes website was 1 August 2017).</p>	Immediate		
21.	<p>That the City of Wolverhampton Council and Wolverhampton Homes consider bringing all the existing leases under one lease with fire safety at the heart of it.</p>	immediate	<p>Will require significant legal input and there are considered to be adequate legal powers already in existence, However, the Council and Wolverhampton Homes could begin to investigate the possibilities of this.</p>	
<b>Recommendations to the Fire Service</b>				
22.	<p>That in relation to the Fire Service Safe and Well visits there needs to be improved communicating and advertising. There is</p>	Immediate		

	a perception by the public that these may just be for older people. Consider a region wide system like that used in the Aston area of Birmingham where there the visits are opt out rather than opt in.			
<b>Recommendations to the Government</b>				
	23. That the Government look at current legislation that states that private companies are not required to disclose the outcomes of fire risk assessments.	Await Outcomes of Moore-Bick and Hackitt Inquiries		
	24. That the Government consider a change to legislation to allow landlords greater powers of entry to check areas such as gas and electrical safety, dampening systems, fire doors and alarms etc.	Ongoing	Being considered as part of the next stage of the Hackitt Inquiry,	
Page 171	25. That the Government carry out a review of the current Building Regulations (Approved Document B).  [Please see link to Hackitt Inquiry:  <a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-terms-of-reference">https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/independent-review-of-building-regulations-and-fire-safety-terms-of-reference</a> ]	Underway	<b>Hackitt Inquiry Interim Recommendation:</b>  The government should consider how the suite of Approved Documents could be structured and ordered to provide a more streamlined, holistic view while retaining the right level of relevant technical detail, with input from the Building Regulations Advisory Committee. Given that reframing the suite of guidance may take some time, in the meantime I would ask	

			the government to consider any presentational changes that will improve the clarity of Approved Document B as an interim measure.	
<b>Recommendation to the Secretary of State for Education</b>				
Page 172	26. That in relation to schools that are no longer in Local Authority control or are free schools there be enhanced monitoring and enforcement rights for the Local Authority in relation to fire safety and fire risk assessments.	Immediate		