



CORPORATE HEALTH AND SAFETY COMMITTEE - 18TH FEBRUARY 2019

SUBJECT: FIRE SAFETY UPDATE

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR – EDUCATION & CORPORATE SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to update Health and Safety Committee Members with regards to the work of the Fire Safety Team and of progress with regards to Fire Risk Assessments across the Authority's non domestic building portfolio during the period April 2017 to December 2018.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Health and Safety Division is responsible for completing and reviewing Fire Risk Assessments for the Authority's non domestic premises. The team also supports managers with advice and guidance to ensure they progress any recommendations and are effectively managing fire risks.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 That the contents of this report be noted.

4. REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 To update the Committee with regards to the work of the Fire Safety Team.

5. THE REPORT

- 5.1 The Fire Safety Team currently consist of one Team Manager (who also has responsibility for Asbestos Management) and two part time Fire Officers with responsibility for undertaking and reviewing Fire Risk Assessments. The team also provide professional advice and support on all aspects of fire safety in the Council's portfolio, which can include domestic dwellings.
- 5.2 The frequency of Fire Risk Assessments varies across the property portfolio between annual to four yearly. The frequency of risk assessments is dependent on the risk

profile of the premises and takes in to account building construction, occupancy, use and management. Higher risk premises, for example, those with a sleeping risk are reviewed annually, where as a sports pavilion is only subject a formal re-assessment every 4 years.

- 5.3 The table below provides the Committee with the number of Fire Risk Assessments undertaken by the team during the period April 2017 to March 2018 and April 2018 to Dec 2018 for comparison:

	April 17 to March 18	April 18 to Dec 18
Number of Fire Risk Assessments completed	62	52

- 5.4 Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Towers in June 2017, fire safety has gained a much higher profile and is subject to greater scrutiny. National Fire Safety guidance is currently under review and local Fire Services responsible for enforcement are applying much more stringent standards to compliance than was previously the case

- 5.5 Some of the other work undertaken by the team and support provided is detailed below:

- Review of Fire Risk Assessments following the change to layout or use of a site
- Dealing with day to day queries as they arise from Building Managers, Health and Safety SLA Officers and Technical Divisions
- Liaising with Technical Divisions to establish lowest cost and legally compliant solutions
- Reviewing and updating the Council's Fire Safety Policy and associated documents
- Supporting with the review and development of fire safety training
- Liaison with South Wales Fire and Rescue Service on key 'grey' issues to establish parameters for CCBC moving forward.

- 5.6 As fire safety has become more topical, this has resulted in a knock-on effect for the work of the Fire Safety Team, with an increase in requests for advice and support. This is positive in that Managers are seeking to engage and to implement strategies to manage the fire risk in the premises for which they have responsibility. This has, however, resulted in the team having less capacity to complete and / or review assessments at a time when this is a key priority. Consideration is currently being given to ways of working to support the Fire Officers and to minimise the impact of queries on their day to day workload e.g. setting up a Fire inbox for queries.

- 5.7 Due to the time and resource needed to complete a detailed fire risk assessment on large premises and the priority to review higher risk premises e.g. system built / CLASP schools, an external contractor has been engaged to complete assessments at 15 sites. This work is being completed by Risk Monitor, a Specialist Fire Safety Consultancy, and started in October 2018. A number of meetings have been held between the Council, Risk Monitor and South Wales Fire and Rescue Service to establish principles around key areas such as compartmentalisation of voids. This work will allow us to have a clear set of principles to work toward around fire safety in this type of constructed site moving forward.

- 5.7 **Conclusion**

Fire Safety is currently a key organisational risk. The Authority is committing considerable time and resource to reviewing existing assessments and to addressing the issues highlighted following the Grenfell Towers Fire. The work of the team builds on the assessments carried out previously and reflects the changing position following the Grenfell Towers Fire and any lessons learned. Fire Safety is likely to be remain a key priority for the foreseeable future.

6. ASSUMPTIONS

- 6.1 No assumptions have been made regarding the information contained in this report.

7. LINKS TO RELEVANT COUNCIL POLICIES

- 7.1 This report links to the Corporate Health and Safety Policy, Fire Safety Policy and other CCBC Health and Safety Policies e.g. Accident/Incident Reporting and Investigation and Lone Working.

7.2 Corporate Plan 2018-2023.

The report content contributes towards or impacts the Corporate Well-being Objectives as detailed below:

Objective 1 - Improve education opportunities for all.

Objective 2 - Enabling employment. Through ensuring that CCBC employees and others affected by our work activities are kept safe and healthy whilst at work and able to remain in employment. It also supports continuity of employment through protecting work place.

Objective 3 - Address the availability, condition and sustainability of flats throughout the county borough and providing safer environment also providing advice to support to help improve people's well-being. Through ensuring that CCBC housing stock is maintained in safe manner with due consideration to fire safety. This ensures that CCBC premises are safer place to live and work for residents or staff.

Objective 5 - Creating a county borough that supports a healthy lifestyle in accordance with the sustainable Development Principle within the Wellbeing of Future Generations (Wales) Act 2015.

Objective 6 - Support citizens to remain independent and improve their well-being.

8. WELL-BEING OF FUTURE GENERATIONS

- 8.1 This report contributes to the Well-being Goals which are:-

- A prosperous Wales
- A resilient Wales
- A healthier Wales
- A more equal Wales

- A globally responsible Wales

It is also consistent with the five ways of working as defined within the sustainable development principle in the Act in that we will seek to consider the long-term impact of Health and Safety and Fire Safety policies, practices and training, we will seek to prevent any ongoing issues and ensure that training and procedures are integrated into good management. We will also ensure there is effective collaboration and involvement as required in order to meet our legal Health and Safety objectives in line with the act. This will assist in safeguarding the Health and Safety of our employees, residents, service users and visitors and ensure that the Council as a public body and social landlord meets its regulatory duties and corporate objectives.

9. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

9.1 There are no equalities implications within this report.

10. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10.1 There are no financial implications within this report.

11. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

11.1 There are no personnel implications within this report.

12. CONSULTATIONS

12.1 All comments from consultees have been included in the report.

13. STATUTORY POWER

13.1 The Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
The Management of Health and Safety at Work Regulations 1999
The Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005
The Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sports Act 1987

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