

For Publication

Bedfordshire Fire and Rescue Authority
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SUBJECT: GRENFELL ACTION PLAN UPDATE

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Background Papers: None

PURPOSE:

The purpose of this report is to present members of the Fire & Rescue Authority (FRA) with an update of the Service progress against the Grenfell recommendations action plan and the subsequent next stages for moving forward to assist with completion.

RECOMMENDATION:

That Members acknowledge the content of this paper and update.

1. Background

- 1.1 On 14th June 2017 London Fire Brigade (LFB) responded to calls of a fire in Grenfell Tower located in North Kensington, West London. The fire started as a result of a faulty freezer located on the fourth floor of the tower. The fire spread rapidly externally due to a combination of the buildings cladding and poor maintenance, as a result 72 people perished in the fire and more than 70 other individuals were injured. The fire was the deadliest structure fire since the Piper Alpha disaster in 1988 and burned for over 60 hours and required 250 firefighters and 70 appliances to resolve.

2. Inquiry

- 2.1 As a result of the incident a public inquiry commenced on 14th September 2017 led by *Rt Hon Sir Martin Moore-Bick* aimed at investigating the causes of the fire and other related issues. The first part of the inquiry was released in October 2019 and focused on the events of the night and affirmed that the building's exterior did not comply with the required regulations and was a key reason for the fire spreading so quickly. The second phase of the inquiry began in June 2020 and focused on the wider context, nature and application of building regulations and local and central government response to the fire.

There have been several other reviews/ reports / NFCC updates released in relation to the incident including – Her Majesty's Inspectorate for Constabulary and Fire & Rescue Services (HMICFRS) *Inspection of the London Fire Brigade progress to implement the recommendations from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry's Phase 1 report*.

3. Building & Fire Safety Legislation

- 3.1 Following the independent review and subsequent recommendations several changes within legislative law have been consulted on and are in the process of passing through Parliament and then coming into force.

The Fire Safety Act 2021 (FSA 21) received Royal Assent on 29th April 2021. The FSA 21 amends the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005 (FSO) to clarify that it applies to the structure of certain domestic buildings including the external walls and the doors between domestic premises and common parts

The passage of the Building Safety Bill is intended for Q1 2022 but is not planned to come into force until 2023. The resulting Building Safety Act apply to designated higher risk buildings and is intended to introduce; the new Building Safety

Regulator, staged gateways for design, construction and occupation, requirement for an Accountable Person responsible for fire and structural safety, Building Assurance Certificate requirements, a new Homes Ombudsman and stronger enforcement and sanctions.

4. Phase 1 Recommendations

- 4.1 Following the release of the Grenfell inquiry phase 1 report Rt Hon Sir Martin Moore – Bick concluded with a series of recommendations that Fire and Rescue Service's needed to address.

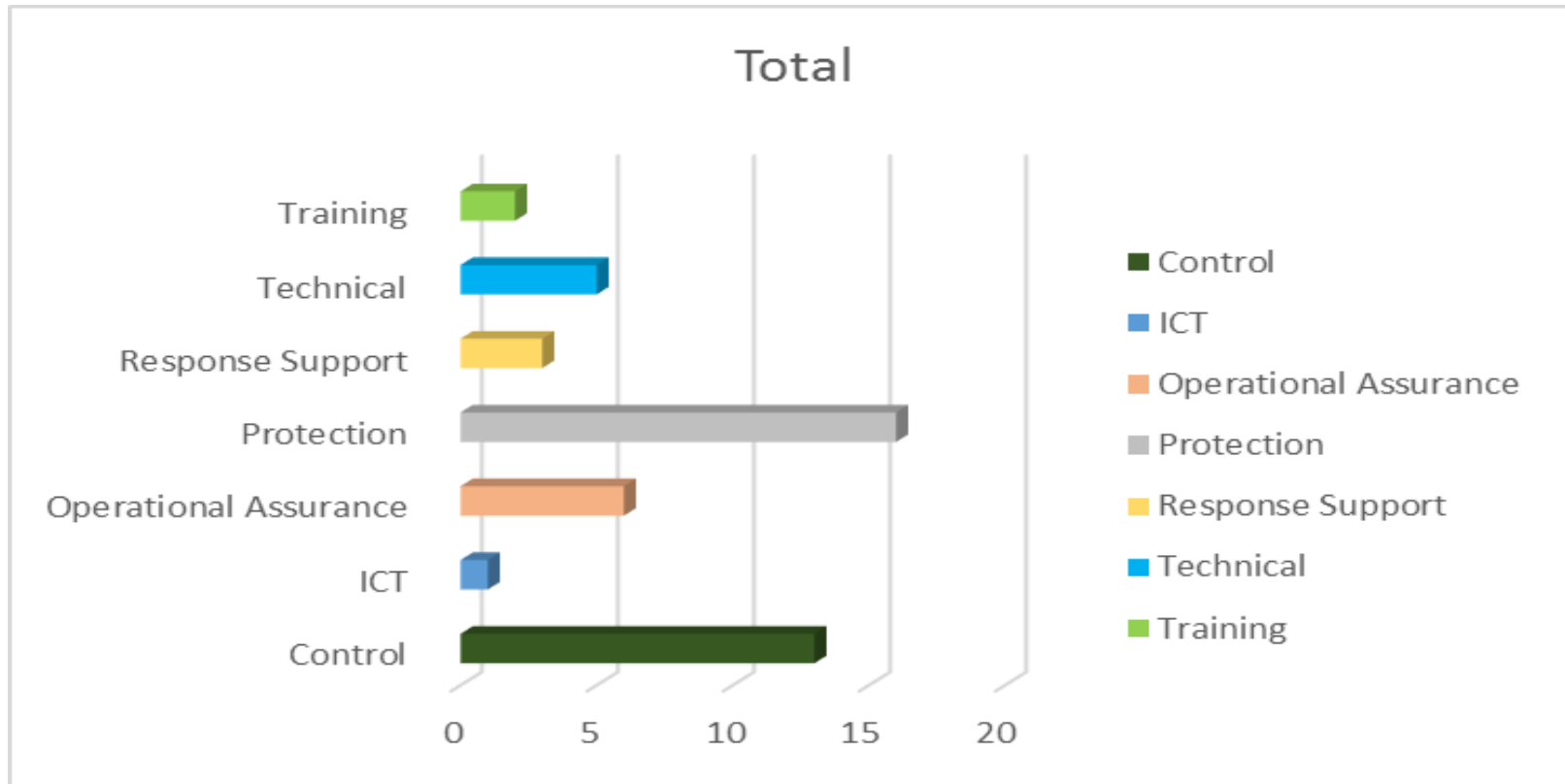
In summary the report had

- 17 key areas of the investigation that resulted in a total **46** recommendations.
- 14 of the recommendations were directed at LFB
- 13 of the recommendations were aimed at other FRS and emergency services
- 19 were aimed primarily at Government / owners and managers of residential buildings.
- 11 of the recommendations focused on a change in the law (see above)

5. Service Action Plan

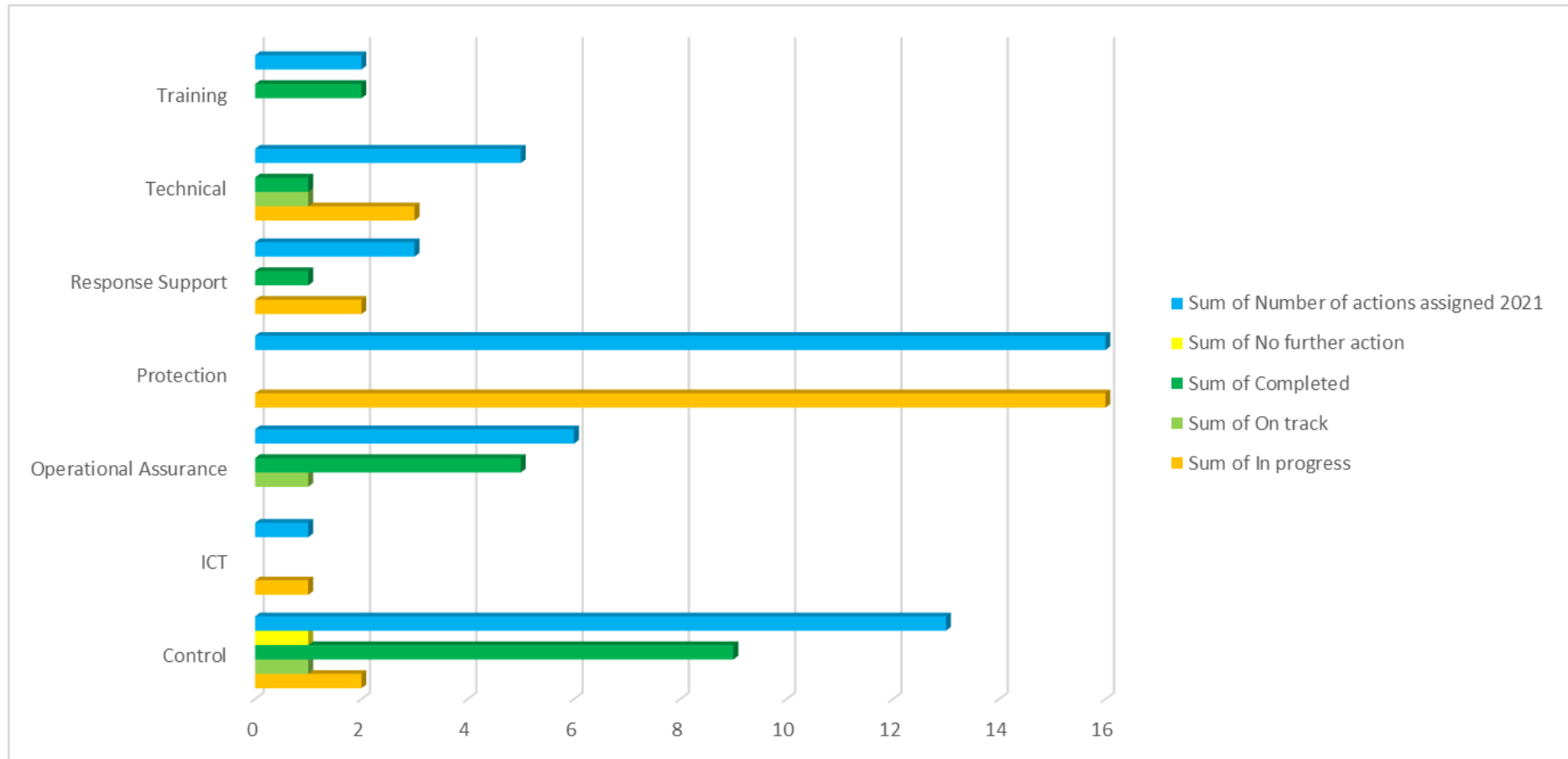
- 5.1 Bedfordshire Fire & Rescue Service (BFRS) included all the 46 recommendations within our action plan, including the 14 that were directed solely towards LFB to ensure that there were no potential gaps. The action plan is fully audited and records the progress of each area identified with a timeline of progress and completion. The action plan is managed internally by the Head of Training and Asset Management.

The action plan tasks identified from the report were allocated to the following departments



5.2 Each department lead, provides regular updates of progress against the listed actions, and this is fully audited on the SharePoint site. Progress against the plan is monitored via the Operational Assurance Team (OAT) and is an agenda item at the Assurance Working Group (AWG); a quarterly update is also provided at the Service Delivery Leadership Team (SDLT).

The progress of the actions from the plan can be summarised as follows for each of the departments. The chart provides progress in the form of a RAG rating with amber being used to show the number of actions that are still in progress and require completing.



5.3 Chart Summary – Completed actions.

The Service has completed a total of **18** actions and identified **1** that required no further action as this was not applicable for BFRS. The actions that have been completed are focused primarily around communications between the Control Room and

the Incident Commander, Fire Survival Guidance procedures (FSG), equipment and exercising and inspections of high rise buildings.

The Service has provided training on FSG to all Service Control personnel and learn pro modules have been amended to reflect this. Secondary communications in the form of mobile phones for appliances are now standard at all high-rise incidents and appropriate cases were purchased using grant funding.

Smoke hoods/Smoke curtains and floor below branches have been procured and placed on appliances utilising grant funding.

All Supervisory Officers have received input relating directly to Grenfell as part of the Breathing Apparatus Incident Command Refresher (BAICR).

Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) now the Department for Levelling up, Housing and Communities provided all FRS's with a list of potential high-rise residential buildings (HRRB), that were thought to be over 18 metres in height or consisting of 7 or more floors. This list identified 72 potential premises within Bedfordshire that required a Building Risk Review (BRR) inspection by a Fire Safety Inspector within the Protection Team. Further premises in addition to those on the list were identified by the Protection Team as requiring a review during the inspection process. The action of completing a BRR inspection at all premises identified on the list from MHCLG was due to be completed by December 2021, however these were all completed in June 2021 and the additional premises identified were completed July/Aug 2021 with a total of 90 premises reviewed. This list has now been reduced to 65 premises following clarification as some were multiple buildings with common staircases on the same site.

5.4 Chart Summary – In progress

The action plans show that there is a total of **23** actions that are in progress and **3** actions that are on track to be completed within the set time frame.

Most of the actions in progress relate to recommendations that require changes in building and Fire Safety Legislation. The Service has been unable to fully implement the recommendations having received guidance from the NFCC highlighting the need to consider the impact that changes initiated may have on the responsible persons.

6. Next Stages

- 6.1 Arrangements for monitoring the progress of the action plan, are constantly reviewed and responsible leads update the plan with new information as and when required.
- 6.2 Closure - Due to the nature of the description of actions, some of the recommendations may remain open indefinitely and are difficult to close completely as they will be continually applicable. To assist with this the OAT are in the process of reviewing all actions and where it is deemed that an action has been implemented but is ongoing this will be updated to being closed and business as usual.
- 6.3 Benchmarking - The OAT has requested via the Regional Assurance Group a copy of the actions plans from our regional colleagues in order to conduct a benchmarking exercise and to seek a regional approach to closure of recommendations.
- 6.4 The OAT is also in the process of arranging a peer to peer review from one of our regional partners in order to gain a critical friend and feedback on the action plans and progress from both services. Initial investigation has led to contact being made with Essex FRS who appear based on their action plan available on their website to have completed the majority of these.

7. Recommendations

- 7.1 Members acknowledge the contents of this report.

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