



CABINET

17:30 to 18:10

17 January 2018

Present: Councillors Waters (chair), Harris (vice chair), Davis, Herries, Kendrick, Maguire, Packer and Stonard

Also present: Councillor Schmierer

1. Declarations of interest

No declarations of interest were received.

2. Public questions/petitions

No public questions or petitions were received.

3. Minutes

RESOLVED to agree the accuracy of the minutes of the meeting held on 13 December 2017.

4. Fire safety in the council's hi-rise tower blocks

(The chair referred to the supplementary agenda which had been circulated to members and published on the website).

Councillor Harris, deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, presented the report.

The review of tower blocks had been commissioned in response to the Grenfell tragedy. She emphasised that the recommendations within the report were evidence based and a significant amount of resources had been dedicated to producing it. The report found that the blocks continued to perform with fire safety and that compartmentalisation overall was intact.

She highlighted that as a consequence of the surveys, programmes of work had been accelerated and the compartmentalisation of the blocks enhanced. These were going beyond what was required in terms of minimum fire safety levels. A programme to replace all front doors was already underway. Recommendation eight within the report concentrated on the need for ongoing education of residents.

Garry Collins head of fire prevention and protection at Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service thanked everyone for the approach taken to completing the report he said no stone was left unturned and a very detailed piece of work had been produced. He emphasised that the report incorporated maintenance, management and systems monitoring and provided ongoing sustainability.

In response to a question from Councillor Schmierer, Garry Collins from Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service explained the concept of the stay put policy advocated in recommendation nine. The compartmentalisation features in the design provided two hours fire protection which meant that no one in a flat no matter what floor they were on would be any more at risk than if they were in a bungalow.

The cabinet member for social housing emphasised that communication with tenants attempted to take account of any extra needs such as English as a second or other language. Leaflets in communal areas had illustrations, letters sent to tenants had photographs and all but eight tenants had been spoken with; therefore any issues had been identified.

The chair said that the council would advise government of the cost of the works. In the early days after Grenfell there had been a promise to support councils with the cost of remedial works. The chair thanked council officers, NPS, the Norfolk Fire and Rescue Service and Councillor Harris for their hard work.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) approve the proposed programme of works following a review of the council's eight hi-rise tower blocks; and
- (2) delegate to the director of neighbourhoods in consultation with the deputy leader and cabinet member for social housing, the award of contracts to deliver the works outlined in the report.

5. Equality information report

Councillor Davis, cabinet member for social inclusion, presented the report.

She said that the report demonstrated how the council had regard to the equality duties incumbent upon it. She referred to the government having adopted the International Holocaust Remembrance Alliance working definition of anti-Semitism and suggested an amendment to the Equality Information report to adopt this as the city council's definition of anti-Semitism.

Antisemitism is a certain perception of Jews, which may be expressed as hatred toward Jews. Rhetorical and physical manifestations of antisemitism are directed toward Jewish or non-Jewish individuals and/or their property, toward Jewish community institutions and religious facilities.

To guide IHRA in its work, the following examples may serve as illustrations:

Anti-Semitic acts are criminal when they are so defined by law (for example, denial of the Holocaust or distribution of anti-Semitic materials in some countries).

Criminal acts are anti-Semitic when the targets of attacks, whether they are people or property – such as buildings, schools, places of worship and cemeteries – are selected because they are, or are perceived to be, Jewish or linked to Jews.

Anti-Semitic discrimination is the denial to Jews of opportunities or services available to others and is illegal in many countries.

- Manifestations might include the targeting of the state of Israel, conceived as a Jewish collectively. However, criticism of Israel similar to that levelled against any other country cannot be regarded anti-Semitic. Anti-Semitism frequently charges Jews with conspiring to harm humanity, and it is often used to blame Jews for “why things go wrong.” It is expressed in speech, writing, visual forms and action, and employs sinister stereotypes and negative character traits.
- Contemporary examples of anti-Semitism in public life, the media, schools, the workplace, and in the religious sphere could, taking into account the overall context, include, but are not limited to:
 - Calling for, aiding, or justifying the killing or harming of Jews in the name of a radical ideology or an extremist view of religion.
 - Making mendacious, dehumanising, demonising, or stereotypical allegations about Jews as such or the power of Jews as collective — such as, especially but not exclusively, the myth about a world Jewish conspiracy or of Jews controlling the media, economy, government or other societal institutions.
 - Accusing Jews as a people of being responsible for real or imagined wrongdoing committed by a single Jewish person or group, or even for acts committed by non-Jews.
 - Denying the fact, scope, mechanisms (e.g. gas chambers) or intentionality of the genocide of the Jewish people at the hands of National Socialist Germany and its supporters and accomplices during World War II (the Holocaust).
 - Accusing the Jews as a people, or Israel as a state, of inventing or exaggerating the Holocaust.
 - Accusing Jewish citizens of being more loyal to Israel, or to the alleged priorities of Jews worldwide, than to the interests of their own nations.
 - Denying the Jewish people their right to self-determination, e.g., by claiming that the existence of a State of Israel is a racist endeavour.
 - Applying double standards by requiring of it behaviour not expected or demanded of any other democratic nation.
 - Using the symbols and images associated with classic antisemitism (e.g., claims of Jews killing Jesus or blood libel) to characterise Israel or Israelis.
 - Drawing comparisons of contemporary Israeli policy to that of the Nazis.

- Holding Jews collectively responsible for actions of the state of Israel.

The strategy manager said the report incorporated a new gender pay reporting duty.

RESOLVED to approve publication of the amended annual equality information report.

6. Corporate risk register and policy report

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report. He explained how risk was assessed and that any score above 15 on an item was brought to cabinet for approval.

In response to a question from Councillor Schmierer, the chief executive said that there were two scores, the first a raw score and the second the score after mitigation had been applied to the risk. A score remained high where there was a risk which could not be mitigated any further and this was why it would be highlighted for consideration at cabinet.

Councillor Davis, cabinet member for social inclusion commented that the highest risk scores related to items where there was uncertainty about public sector funding.

The chair said it was the organisational culture to be aware of risk and the strategy and that risk was everyone's responsibility including members.

RESOLVED to approve the proposed amendments to the corporate risk register and risk management policy.

7. Revenue and capital budget monitoring 2017/18 – Period 8

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report and noted the new improved format.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the financial position as at 30 November 2017 and the forecast outturn 2017/18;
- (2) note the HRA virement as detailed in paragraph 4; and
- (3) approve the addition of capital grant income to the non-housing capital programme as detailed in paragraph 10.

8. Treasury Management Strategy Statement and Annual Investment Strategy Mid-year Review Report 2017/18

Councillor Kendrick, cabinet member for resources, presented the report.

RESOLVED to:

- (1) note the report and the treasury activity.
- (2) recommend to council:
 - a) approval of the revised authorised limit and operational boundary prudential indicators for the current financial year 2017/18.
 - b) approval of the revised MRP policy to take effect this financial year onwards.

CHAIR