

## PART A

**Report to:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee  
**Date of meeting:** 28 September 2017  
**Report of:** Committee and Scrutiny Officer  
**Title:** Scrutiny proposal - Tall buildings and Watford Borough Council's emergency plans

### 1.0 **Summary**

- 1.1 At Council on 11 July, members agreed to the setting up of a task group in response to motions from the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups. The motions were in response to the fire at Grenfell Tower.
- 1.2 This report asks Overview and Scrutiny Committee to consider the proposal, attached at Appendix 1, and agree the task group membership.

### 2.0 **Recommendations**

- 2.1 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee considers the scrutiny proposal submitted by Councillor Jeffree, attached as Appendix 1 to this report. The scrutiny committee to agree a task group in line with the Council decision on 11 July 2017.
- 2.2 That Overview and Scrutiny Committee agrees the membership for the task group.

#### **Contact Officer:**

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**Report approved by:** Carol Chen, Head of Democracy and Governance

### 3.0 **Detailed proposal**

- 3.1 At Council on 11 July 2017 the Labour and Liberal Democrat groups each submitted a motion following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower in London. Following a debate, it was agreed that both motions would be forwarded to a new task group.
- 3.2 Following Council, the Committee and Scrutiny Officer forwarded the scrutiny proposal form to Councillors Bell and Jeffree, the proposers of the Labour and Liberal Democrat motions.
- 3.3 Councillor Jeffree submitted a draft proposal which was discussed with Councillor Bell, the Committee and Scrutiny Officer and Committee and Scrutiny Support Officer (AG). Some amendments were made as a result of the meeting and the revised form was then sent to relevant officers within the council.
- 3.4 On 23 August 2017 the Committee and Scrutiny Officer emailed all non-executive councillors informing them of the suggested task group and details of the proposed scope. Councillors were asked to contact the Committee and Scrutiny Officer if they were interested in participating in this review.
- 3.5 At the time of writing this report seven councillors have expressed an interest in taking part in the task group –
- Councillor Peter Jeffree
  - Councillor Nigel Bell
  - Councillor Robbie Laird
  - Councillor Rabi Martins
  - Councillor Tim Williams
  - Councillor Kareen Hastrick
  - Councillor Maggie Parker

The Committee and Scrutiny Officer will provide any further update at the meeting.

- 3.6 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is reminded that task groups are limited to a maximum of five members. In addition, they do not have to be politically balanced.
- 3.7 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to review the attached proposal and agree the establishment of a task group. The scrutiny committee will also need to approve the task group's membership.

## 4.0 **Implications**

### 4.1 **Financial**

4.1.1 The Head of Finance comments that any financial implications from recommendations by the task group would have to be agreed in compliance with the Council Constitution.

### 4.2 **Legal Issues** (Monitoring Officer)

4.2.1 The Head of Democracy and Governance comments that there are no legal implications in this report.

### 4.3 **Equalities/Human Rights**

4.3.1 None identified as part of this report.

### 4.4 **Potential Risks**

4.4.1 No potential risks have been identified. The task group will need to consider any potential risks when agreeing its recommendations.

## **Appendices**

Appendix 1 – Scrutiny proposal form from Councillor Peter Jeffree in consultation with Councillor Nigel Bell

## **Background Papers**

The following background papers were used in the preparation of this report. If you wish to inspect or take copies of the background papers, please contact the officer named on the front page of the report.

Motions to Council 11 July 2017  
Minutes of Council 11 July 2017

## **File Reference**

None