

<b>Mayor &amp; Cabinet</b>		
<b>Report Title</b>	Mayor and Cabinet Response to the Housing Select Committee on the Emergency Service Review	
<b>Key Decision</b>	No	Item No
<b>Ward</b>	All	
<b>Contributors</b>	Executive Director for Customer Services	
<b>Class</b>	Part 1	Date: 23 October 2013

## 1. Purpose of the report

- 1.1. To report to members the Executive Director for Customer Service's response on the Housing Select Committee's recommendations presented to Mayor and Cabinet on 10 July 2013.

## 2. Recommendation

### **The Mayor is recommended to:**

- 2.1. agree that the response contained in this report can be presented to Housing Select Committee.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The Mayor considered the report entitled '*Comments of the Housing Select Committee on the Emergency Services Review*' at the Mayor & Cabinet meeting held on 10 July 2013 with the following recommendations:

- 3.1.1. The Mayor is recommended to note the views of the Housing Select Committee as set out in section three of this referral and ask the Executive Director for Customer Services to respond.

- 3.1.2. On 19 June 2013, the Housing Select Committee considered a report entitled *Emergency Services Review*, which included a report from Lewisham Homes about a pilot fire safety project. This project led to the installation of a sprinkler system in a sheltered housing block.

- 3.1.3. The Committee will be making recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee as part of its emergency services review, nevertheless, the Committee wishes to take this opportunity to emphasise the importance of sprinkler systems in containing fires and preventing loss of life. The Committee believes that this is particularly important because of the changes being proposed in the draft fifth London Safety Plan, which could result in the closure of two of Lewisham's fire stations.

3.1.4. The Committee supports the work undertaken by Lewisham Homes and recommends that the Council urges other housing providers to adopt a similar risk based approach.

3.2. The Mayor and Cabinet decision was that the Executive Director for Customer Services be asked to prepare a response on the Housing Select Committee's recommendations.

#### **4. Response by the Executive Director for Customer Services**

4.1. Officers are taking forward the recommendations of the Housing Select Committee. Progress to date is outlined below.

4.2. A number of officer meetings have been held with Registered Provider partners and the Commander of the Lewisham Fire Brigade to discuss the feasibility and fire safety benefits of the installation of sprinkler systems in housing developments going forward and the retro fitting potential for installation in existing buildings. Partners have been enthusiastic in their engagement and have undertaken to take back to their organisations a positive recommendation for the installation of sprinklers. The Borough Commander maintains a regular dialogue with officers within Strategic Housing.

4.3. Agreement has been reached on the installation of sprinkler systems within the first tranche of the proposed new local authority housing development. Officers will seek to ensure that sprinkler systems are incorporated wherever possible within the designs of new developments especially developments for older persons and flatted accommodation.

4.4. Initial discussions with a Registered Provider developing Older Persons accommodation are promising in relation to the inclusion of a sprinkler system.

4.5. Officers have facilitated Lewisham Fire Brigade discussions with Barratts regarding the feasibility of sprinklers being incorporated within the Catford Stadium development.

4.6. The Council is currently investigating the possibility of purchasing portable sprinkler systems, which can be moved between locations to assist independent living for vulnerable residents.

#### **5. Report Author and Background Papers**

5.1 The background paper to this report is the M&C Referral Report on Fire Safety: <http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s23597/HSC%20referral%20fire%20safety.pdf>

5.2 If you have any queries on this report, please contact Louise Spires, Strategy, Policy and Development Manager on 0208 3146649.