

<b>Committee(s):</b> Housing Committee	<b>Date:</b> 12 December 2022
<b>Subject:</b> Fire Management Policy	<b>Wards Affected:</b> All
<b>Report of:</b> Julian Higson, Interim Director of Housing	<b>Public</b>
<b>Report Author/s:</b> Name: Johanna Batchelor-Lamey, Compliance Manager Telephone: 01277 312 500 E-mail: <a href="mailto:johanna.batchelor-lamey@brentwood.gov.uk">johanna.batchelor-lamey@brentwood.gov.uk</a>	<b>For Decision</b>

### Summary

The current policy which was approved at Community, Health & Housing committee on 3 July 2018 (minute no.60) set out the proposals for a new Fire Safety Policy to be implemented within the Housing Department.

The Policy has been reviewed and updated to ensure the Council meets all of its statutory requirements including recent legislative changes which saw the creation of The Building Safety Bill and The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022.

Building Safety Bill has now received Royal Assent (28 April 2022). Following this, the various provisions are expected to come into force within two to 18 months after Royal Assent, dependent on the level of work involved.

The Fire Safety (England) Regulations 2022 legislation which is relevant only to multi-occupied residential buildings which are high rise buildings, buildings over 11 meters in height. This legislation will come into force on 23 January 2023.

### Recommendation(s)

**Members are asked to:**

**R1. Approve the Housing Fire Management Policy**

## **Main Report**

### **Introduction and Background**

1. Following the Grenfell Tower disaster in June 2017, the Council embarked on a review of its Fire Safety within residential blocks and introduced a Fire Management Policy.
2. The Housing department continued to engage the services of Rowan's Fire Consultancy who work closely with the Housing department to confirm that we have a clear action plan to ensure the safety of all our residential blocks.
3. As part of the ongoing work by Rowans Fire Consultancy, we have reviewed the existing policy and updated it to reflect the new legislative changes.
4. The Policy sets out the duties we must undertake as a landlord, defines our approach to fire evacuation in our buildings and the information we provide to our residents, how we manage the communal areas, training requirements and the frequency of Fire Risk Assessments on tower blocks and smaller blocks to ensure that the Council is compliant in storing and acting upon the findings.
5. The Policy states the roles and responsibilities of the responsible people and clearly states the point of contact should a fire occur.

### **Issue, Options and Analysis of Options**

6. As it is a Statutory requirement for the Council to have a Fire Management Policy, failure to have one does not exclude anyone from the responsibilities of their employed position.
7. Failure to have the Policy may result in a more in-depth investigation into the Council's fire management procedures to see if there are any other shortfalls should a fire occur.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

8. It is a statutory requirement for the Council to have a Fire Management Policy. Failure to have one will leave the Council in a vulnerable position should a fire occur.

### **Consultation**

9. Consultations have taken place with the Tenant Liaison Group (Tenant Talkback). All feedback from the consultation has been incorporated

into the draft policies.

## **References to Corporate Plan**

10. Drive continuous improvement of our housing services
11. Delivering an efficient and effective council

## **Implications**

### **Financial Implications**

**Name/Title: Phoebe Barnes, Director of Assets and Investments Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / phoebe.barnes@brentwood.gov.uk**

12. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. The HRA Business Plan continues to allocate funds to ensure the Council continues to manage and discharge its statutory duties.

### **Legal Implications**

**Name & Title: Steve Summers, Strategic Director and Monitoring Officer  
Tel & Email: 01277 312500 / steve.summers@brentwood.gov.uk**

13. The amendment to this policy will assist the Council in managing and discharging its statutory duties in the capacity of a landlord. The failure to comply with these duties could result in formal prosecution being brought against the Council, the adoption of this policy will ensure the risks can be mitigated. There are no other legal implications arising from the recommendation within this report.

### **Economic Implications**

**Name/Title: Phil Drane, Director of Planning and Economy  
Tel/Email: 01277 312610/philip.drane@brentwood.gov.uk**

14. There are no direct economic implications.

## **Appendices**

- Appendix A: Brentwood Borough Council Housing Fire Management Policy 2022 DRAFT