

## PERSONAL EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS IN HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS CONSULTATION



### REPORT OF THE CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

**For Approval**

#### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 The purpose of this report is to:

- (i) provide an update on a recent Government consultation in relation to Emergency Evacuation Plans (“PEEPS”) in High Rise Residential Buildings; and
- (ii) Seek Elected Members views on the proposed consultation response.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Cleveland Fire Authority note the Government consultation in relation to Emergency Evacuation Plans (“PEEPS”) in High Rise Residential Buildings, set out as Appendix A and;
- 2.2 Subject to any comments, that the Cleveland Fire Authority submit the consultation response, as set out as Appendix A.

#### 3. EMERGENCY EVACUATION PLANS IN HIGH-RISE RESIDENTIAL BUILDINGS CONSULTATION

- 3.1 The Home Office has launched a new consultation on Personal Emergency Evacuation Plans (“PEEPS”) in high-rise residential buildings. The consultation is open for a period of six weeks, from 8th June 2021 to 19th July 2021.
- 3.2 Following the tragic Grenfell Tower fire in 2017, the Government committed to learning lessons and making improvements in building and fire safety to prevent such tragic events occurring in the future. This consultation is seeking the Authority’s views on implementing the Grenfell Inquiry’s recommendations in relation to PEEPs in high-rise residential buildings.
- 3.3 Members will recall that this is one of a series of measures to implement the Inquiry’s recommendations on which the Government has already consulted. The Government’s stated intention is to implement the Inquiry’s recommendations by way of regulations later this year once this consultation has taken place.

- 3.4 The consultation is open to the public and is targeted at individuals and groups likely to be impacted by, or representing the interests of those affected by the regulatory regime set out by the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order 2005. This includes residents of high-rise tower blocks and other persons lawfully on, or in the immediate vicinity of, said premises and who would be at risk from fire on the premises, 'Responsible Persons' including the building owners and managers, occupiers, or other persons in control of relevant premises; Fire safety professionals, and Enforcing Authorities.

#### **4. CONSULTATION RESPONSE**

- 4.1 The Authority's consultation response is set out as Appendix A. The consultation consists of 18 questions, which are based on four proposals as follows:

**Proposal 1:** We propose to require the Responsible Person to prepare a PEEP for every resident in a high-rise residential building who self-identifies to them as unable to self-evacuate (subject to the resident's voluntary self-identification) and to do so in consultation with them.

**Proposal 2:** We propose to provide a PEEP template (Annex A) to assist the Responsible Person and the residents in completing the PEEP, and to support consistency at a national level.

**Proposal 3:** We propose to require the Responsible Person to complete and keep up to date information about residents in their building who would have difficulty self-evacuating in the event of a fire (and who have voluntarily self-identified as such), and to place it in an information box on the premises to assist effective evacuation during a rescue by the Fire and Rescue Service.

**Proposal 4:** We propose, in order to assist the Responsible Person and support consistency at a national level, to provide a template to capture the key information to be provided in the information box.

- 4.2 For ease of reading, the Authority's response is set out in italics under each question.

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