

Safer Select Committee – Matters Arising

20th September 2010

Installation of Fire Sprinklers Review		
<p>Sean Tye would investigate how a decision was reached regarding the installation of sprinklers in the new Thatcham residential care home.</p> <p>(From July 5th 2010)</p>	<p>Sean Tye</p>	<p>Automatic fire suppression systems were not fitted in this building for the following reasons.</p> <p>There is no regulatory requirement to fit sprinklers, so we do not fit them in Extra Care. The flats are Independent Living and not a Registered Care Home where one would expect a sprinkler system.</p> <p>We fully comply with all Building Regulations and the Regulatory Reform (Fire Safety) Order.</p> <p>A fire risk assessment is carried out by a professional fire consultant at handover to ensure the building is compliant and we use the same assessor to comment on the layouts at design stage to ensure that we meet all Regulatory requirements.</p> <p>We have stringent policies in place for the fire management plan on all our buildings with any tenants that will be particularly vulnerable being noted in the fire plan and PEEPS (personal emergency egress plans) can be used if necessary.</p> <p>The scheme is designed with one hour fire resisting structure on all escape routes and dry risers are fitted for the Fire Brigade to attach their appliance to for distributing water across the scheme.</p> <p>We use an L2 enhanced addressable fire detection / alarm system. This provides a hard wired detection system to all communal rooms, cupboards etc and hallway of apartments to a fire panel. We also then provide hard wired smoke and heat detectors in the apartments linked to the warden call system which is also linked to the fire panel.</p> <p>The cost of sprinkler systems at installation stage and the ongoing maintenance, are unfortunately prohibitive for inclusion in a scheme that needed grant funding and a financial contribution from the Local Authority for it to be viable.</p> <p>Complete.</p>
<p>A visit to a school where an automatic fire suppression system has been installed be arranged.</p>	<p>EW</p>	<p>Communications with St Bart's. Visit can only be accommodated on 1st December. Visit arranged.</p>

		Complete
The Committee would make the following recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission for endorsement: That the installation of automatic fire suppression systems in any newly built Council owned or contracted properties should be presumed, and request that a policy to this effect be drafted for approval. The policy should reflect the views of the Committee as noted above.	EW	Report drafted and sent to Committee members prior to submission to OSMC. Complete.
The Committee would make the following recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Management Commission for endorsement: That further discussion be held with the Council's property insurers with the aim of achieving further savings in premiums.	EW	Incorporated into above report. Complete
Crime Statistics Review		
A review would be undertaken into the possibility of making available activities to empower local communities facing perceived hostile situations.		All proposed work programme items have been submitted to the OSMC for approval before officially being added to the work programme. Complete.
The Committee would undertake a review in support of the integrated offender management programme.		
The Committee would undertake a review in support of designing out crime from the planning stage of a proposed development.		
The Committee would undertake a review of gating orders in December 2010	EW	Item added to agenda for December meeting. Complete.