

Date: 4 July 2019

## **Andrew Dismore AM**

Chair of the Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee

Dear Chair,

### **Fire Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee Meeting – 23 May 2019**

Following the London Assembly's Fire, Resilience and Emergency Planning Committee meeting on the London Safety Plan on 23 May 2019, you requested some further information (in your letter dated 6 June 2019) as follows:

#### **The timescales associated with the installation and operation of the hardware and software in the new Incident Command Units**

Following the Command Unit replacement Project Board on the 19<sup>th</sup> June, it was decided that the vehicle procurement will be undertaken with the support of Babcock Critical Services BCS and LFB will procure the Incident Command Operating Software. These procurements will run in parallel. LFB will start the procurement of the software in July 2019 and contract award in May 2020. BCS will start the procurement of the vehicle in August 2019, with orders placed with suppliers in April 2020.

#### **The number of care homes that have been issued with enforcement action or prosecution following inspections from the LFB**

In the three years 1<sup>st</sup> April 2016 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2019 LFB audited 1048 care homes resulting in 245 notices of deficiencies (NODs) and 33 enforcement notices (ENs). Enforcement rates were highest in the last year 2018/19 when 329 audits were conducted leading to 130 NODs and 22 ENs. This increase is due in the main to a more rigorous audit process and building on the lessons learned from work looking particularly at issues in care homes. Since the 1<sup>st</sup> April this year, there have been 84 audits in care homes leading to 16 NODs and 10 ENs.

#### **Details about the health programme that tackles childhood obesity, including the intended outcomes**

Whilst there isn't a dedicated health programme that targets childhood obesity, the Community Health Strategy highlighted LFB's aim to utilise our youth engagement programmes (particularly LIFE - Local Intervention Fire Education, Fire Cadets and Crossfire) to educate on lifestyle behaviours (alongside reducing fire risk) that directly impact on the health and wellbeing of young people. All these programmes have a range of inputs on promoting healthy lifestyles. These include understanding diet, nutrition, exercise, fitness and understanding different food groups. Dedicated speakers provide inputs on substance misuse, drink and drugs and consequences.

## **To report back on the LFB review of strategic resources**

A full review of Strategic Resource (SR) commenced on 6<sup>th</sup> March 2019 by Strategy and Risk SR review team. Full recommendations will be presented in September 2019.

SR is the facility whereby everyday, 21 Brigade appliances are placed on second line availability with additional capacity for an extra 4 appliances. With these appliances on SR, the modelled impacts on 1<sup>st</sup> appliance attendance time is +8sec, and the second appliance impact at +25sec. However the brigade still achieves our 6min and 8min average response times.

The review is to cover all aspects of SR which includes how we brand SR and what we call SR. Also to demonstrate to our workforce the importance of a facility that allows both quality and productive training, 7(2)d familiarisation visits and community safety work that does not impact on response times or pan London resilience.

Since the start of review a number of meetings have been scheduled with various stakeholders. Officers have also held meeting with operational Brigade managers along with a number of watches across the Brigade at stations with varying attributes and operational responsibilities. Visits to stations are continuing throughout the review.

Early findings were presented at the senior operational briefing in March 2019. The SR review team are continuing to work on these findings in order to present recommendations in September.

## **To provide information with regard to the Pre-Determined Attendance Policy of neighbouring Fire and Rescue Services**

LFB has a mobilising policy (Policy Note 412) which sets out our pre determined attendance for incidents. Neighbouring FRSs mobilise their resources to incidents within LFB boundaries on the request from LFB control. LFB appliances are notified of the specific initial attendance by neighbouring FRSs via the incident call slip.

LFB mitigates risk when jointly attending incidents within the boundaries of London by mobilising a second London appliance to building fires. This is to ensure a co-ordinated response that adds further resilience to the incident to ensure that cross border safety procedures are working effectively.

When attending incidents into neighbouring FRSs, risk information is obtained by LFB appliances by contacting the relevant FRS control over the main scheme radio (as stated within our policy). This policy has been shared with our neighbouring FRS's who follow this same procedure when attending incidents within London.

## **Whether the LFB have observed occasions where residents are undertaking the waking watches, rather than paying for the interim measures**

LFB have had one occasion where residents proposed providing their own waking watch. The initial proposal was not sufficient to meet the guidance provided by the National Fire Chiefs Council for the provision of a waking watch. LFB officers are continuing to work with the Responsible Person for the premises to ensure they meet their obligations.

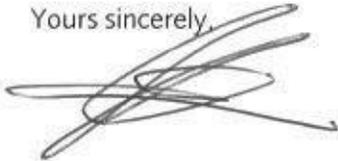
## **Clarification on the type of testing being conducted on non-Aluminium Composite Material cladding by the government; and**

There are currently 27 building façade materials, incorporating a variety of non- ACM products, that are being tested. They are initially being subjected to a small scale test, following which if the results of the small scale test suggest the material does not meet the combustibility criteria within the Building Regulations Guidance (ADB) they are then subjected to further large scale testing (BS8414).

**To provide further information on when it is likely that the taskforce for supervising the removal of dangerous cladding will be set up.**

The Joint Inspection Taskforce (JIT) has now been set up under the governance of the Local Government Association. The role of the team is to enforce compliance with the Government guidance on the removal of ACM cladding, using if necessary powers available under the Housing Act. The JIT consists of a Local Authority Housing Officer and is supported by a Fire Engineer, currently sourced through NFCC. The first inspections of the JIT are due to commence within the next couple of weeks. These initial inspections will focus on ACM buildings that have no remediation plan in place.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Dany Cotton', written over a light blue horizontal line.

**Dany Cotton**  
London Fire Commissioner  
London Fire Brigade

CC: Janette Roker, FREP Scrutiny Manager: [janette.roker@gla.gov.uk](mailto:janette.roker@gla.gov.uk)

