
**Breviate of Meeting of Special Committee on Fire/Ambulance Services and
Emergency Management Held on 27th July, 2017, at 1.30pm
In Council Chamber, City Hall**

The Chairperson acknowledged the tragedy at Grenfell Towers London, the work of London Fire Brigade and offered sympathy to all the families concerned.

She also acknowledged the Chief Fire Officer's Annual General Conference which was held in Croke Park.

1. Minutes of the meeting held on the 20th April 2017.

Proposed: Cllr Burke

Seconded: Cllr Lyons

The minutes were agreed.

2. Matters Arising

Further requests sent to the Department of Health and the Department of Housing Planning Community and Local Government requesting meetings with regard to issues relating to Dublin Fire Brigade Services

The Chairperson made reference and acknowledged the Passing Out Parade of New Recruits which was held on the 24th May 2017.

3. Fire Risk Assessments

- a) **Current assessment process**
- b) **Assessment during building process**
- c) **Current capacity within DCC**

It was proposed to take Motion 7 and Motion 8 at this stage

7. Emergency Motion from Councillor Tina Mac Veigh from the Dublin City Council South Central Area Committee Meeting in June.

"That, following the tragic fire at Grenfell in London earlier this week, a fire safety review of multiple unit buildings constructed between 2000 and 2008 be carried out in the Dublin South Central area, that said review will entail an audit of all buildings in the area constructed at this time and that random checks of those buildings then be conducted to ascertain all potential risks including the use of cladding of all types and determine whether there is any cause for concern; and that this motion be forwarded for inclusion on the July agenda for Housing SPC, Planning, International Relations & Property Development, Environment SPC and the Special Committee for Fire and Ambulance Services so that a similar exercise be agreed for the city of Dublin".

Order: Agreed to refer to Special Committee for Fire and Ambulance Services.

8. Motion in the names of Councillor Nial Ring, Alison Gilliland, Christy Burke, Cieran Perry, Mannix Flynn, Vincent Jackson, Paul Hand, Damian Farrell, Teresa Keegan.

“That the members of this Council agree that the 2018 budgetary process will give priority to ensuring that Dublin Fire Brigade is fully resourced so that it can continue to provide an all-inclusive Fire Based Ambulance and EMS service and, in addition, be sufficiently staffed and funded to provide a comprehensive and ongoing building control inspection programme”.

The Chief Fire Officer’s presentation covered issues relating to:

- (a) Dublin Fire Brigade’s Response
- (b) National Response
- (c) Housing Department’s review to ensure statutory obligations
Legislation and Guidance

- (a) Although there are no apartment blocks in Ireland comparable to Grenfell Towers in the UK, in the immediate aftermath of the tragedy, Dublin Fire Brigade initiated the first phase of fire risk assessments of multi-storey residential buildings in the city. This data included all buildings constructed in the last 15 years and above 6 storeys high. The risk assessments comprise a visual inspection with particular emphasis on external cladding in use on such buildings and follow-up, if considered necessary, with the owner/controller of the building.

Following this and in line with Circulars FIRE 04/2017 and FIRE 05/2017 from the Department of Housing, Planning, Community and Local Government the limits of the risk assessment have been broadened to include for non residential buildings above 6 storeys and/or 18m in height.

In addition and in line with the circulars mentioned above Dublin City Council Housing Department is undertaking a review of multi-storey social housing units to ensure that they are meeting their statutory obligations.

The review will concentrate specifically on common areas with a primary focus on ensuring that all early warning systems, including fire alarm and detection systems, emergency lighting and means of escape including corridors, stairways and emergency exits are in place and fully functional. In situations where local authority accommodation is provided within a privately owned, multi-storey development, Dublin City Council are writing to the relevant management companies, reminding them of their obligations as the person having control of the building.

- (b) The Housing (Standards for Rented Houses Regulations) 2017 came into force on the 1st July 2017. They replace the previous 2008 & 2009 regulations.

The Housing (Standards for Rented Houses Regulations) 2017, as amended, apply to all rented properties. Matters covered by these regulations include, Structural Condition, Sanitary Facilities, Heating Facilities, Food Preparation & Storage & Laundry, Ventilation, Lighting, **Fire Safety**, Refuse Facilities, Gas, Oil & Electricity and Tenant Information. The regulations do not apply to owner occupied properties. These regulations are enforced by the Environmental Health Section, Housing & Community Services.

Dublin Fire Brigade carries out inspections under the Fire Services Act 1981 and 2003. Section 18 (2) of the Act states that “it shall be the duty of every person having control over premises to which this Section applies, to:

- a) take all reasonable measures to guard against the outbreak of fire on such premises
- b) provide reasonable fire safety measures for such premises and prepare and provide appropriate fire safety procedures for ensuring the safety of persons on such premises
- c) ensure that the fire safety measures and procedures referred to in paragraph (b) are applied at all times and
- d) ensure, as far as is reasonably practicable, the safety of persons on the premises in the event of an outbreak of fire whether such outbreak has occurred or not.”

The Department’s “Guide to Fire Safety in Flats, Bedsits and Apartments” addresses the protection of life from fire in existing flats and buildings containing flats and provides guidance for a person having control of a building across a number of areas, including:

- Management of Fire Safety;
- Means of Escape, including Fire Detection and Alarm; and
- Structural Fire Precautions.

- (c) During construction inspections for compliance with building standards are carried out by the Building Control section. The staffing requirements and process for the inspection of buildings during construction with respect to fire safety is under review.

**Motion 7 was proposed by Cllr Lyons and Seconded by Cllr Hand and agreed.
Motion 8 was proposed by Cllr Ring and Seconded by Cllr Brabazon and agreed.**

4. Section 26 Plan

The Chief Fire Officer gave an update. The expectation is that the Plan will be completed by Quarter 1 of 2018.

5. Fire Safety and Traveller Sites

The Chief Fire Officer reported that 10 Training Sessions had taken place which catered for 100 people approximately. Documents have been developed which are relevant and easy to understand. The documents highlight the various dangers relating to fire and how best to deal with them. The Chief Fire Officer welcomed an inter agency forum to address fire safety issues on a particular site.

6. Any other business/correspondence

None

9. Motion in the names of Councillors Alison Gilliland and Nial Ring

“Dublin Fire Brigade and Ambulance Services and Dublin City Council and its members recognise the invaluable role the Dublin Fire Brigade Museum has in preserving and showcasing DFB’s history and heritage and in supporting education and awareness raising about DFB’s current role and work. The Special Committee recognises that the current location of the Museum is spacially curtailed and

somewhat difficult to access. Therefore, this committee calls on DCC to work with DFB and other state bodies (in particular the OPW) to identify and present plans for a larger more accessible space to house the DFB Museum and that this space would enable the DFB Museum to grow and develop into a modern multi-media education and heritage museum”.

Proposed by Cllr Gilliland and Seconded by Cllr Lyons and agreed

10. Emergency motion in the name of Cllr John Lyons

“The members of Dublin City Council’s Special Committee on Fire/Ambulance Services & Emergency Management recognises the world class fire and paramedic/advanced paramedic services provided by the fire fighters of Dublin Fire Brigade and fully support the fire fighters’ demands that their overtime rates to be fully restored to 1.5 times their normal salary, the rate enjoyed by all other members of Dublin City Council’s staff and all fire fighters based outside of Dublin; furthermore, we call on Dublin City Council management and trade unions to convene immediately an emergency meeting to resolve this most serious issue.”

The motion was agreed

Next meeting will be held on the 26th October 2017.

Councillor Alison Gilliland
Chairperson,
27th July 2017

Attendance:

SPC Members:

Cllr Alison Gilliland (Chair)
Cllr Nial Ring
Cllr Christy Burke
Cllr Tom Brabazon
Cllr Paul Hand
Cllr John Lyons
Cllr Patrick Costello
Cllr Eilis Ryan
Cllr Noeleen Reilly
Dr Caroline McMullan

Apologies:

Cllr Ray McHugh,
Cllr Criona Ni Dhalaigh

Dublin City Council Staff:

Brendan Kenny, Assistant CEO
Patrick Fleming, Chief Fire Officer
Brendan Hayden, SEO
Carmel Walsh, ASO