

# ***London Borough of Bexley***

## ***News Release***

**For Immediate Release**

**07 July 2017 / PR 9518**

### **Update on issues arising from the Grenfell Tower fire**

Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, Bexley's Fire Safety Task Force is working hard to oversee and coordinate the local response to the issues it has raised.

London Borough of Bexley has brought in extra specialist resources to deal with this work. We are giving the highest priority to ensuring the safety of people in high-rise buildings and other buildings that may have cladding similar to that used at Grenfell Tower.

We are also contributing to the London-wide council response to the fire. Sixteen of our trained emergency staff have provided 22 shifts in the rest centres, community assistance centre or control rooms connected to the Grenfell Tower fire and Camden evacuations. Eight further shifts are scheduled in the next week.

The Bexley Fire Safety Task Force was convened by the Council and its members include the London Fire Brigade and the borough's three major social housing providers: Peabody, Orbit and London & Quadrant.

The Task Force is working to get an accurate and up-to-date picture of all high-rise buildings in the borough, so that it can prioritise those that may need further surveys, inspection or testing. This is being done with the full co-operation of Peabody, Orbit and London & Quadrant. They all have programmes in place to check on all their properties and give reassurance to their tenants.

There are 36 high-rise buildings in Bexley managed by Peabody and Orbit, and they have confirmed that none of these have the aluminium type cladding associated with Grenfell Tower. The associations have been carrying out extra fire safety inspections and have confirmed that all of these high rise buildings have current fire risk inspection assessments. London and Quadrant does not have any high rise accommodation in Bexley.

The Fire Safety Task Force is also working to gather information on other types of

property, including privately-owned residential properties, schools, residential and other care facilities, plus commercial buildings.

All the borough's community schools have been contacted and checks made that they have fire risk assessments and have made the required returns to government. They have also been given support on the management of fire risks. Similar contact has been made with local care establishments.

All Council buildings have been reviewed and no major issues have emerged.

The London Borough of Bexley does not own significant housing stock and has no tower blocks or other housing with cladding similar to that used at Grenfell Tower.

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