

A BRISTOL CITY COUNCIL DECISION



DECISION OF: SECTION 151 OFFICER
WITH ADVICE FROM: CEO/EXEC DIRECTOR G&R
DIRECTORATE: GROWTH AND REGENERATION
DECISION NO: 024
SUBJECT: ADDITIONAL FIRE SAFETY MEASURES
KEY DECISION: YES
REASON: URGENT PROVISION OF INTERIM FIRE SAFETY MEASURES

BACKGROUND

Following two major fire incidents in Council high-rise blocks (one caused by lithium batteries exploding and the other by arson) meetings have taken place with Avon and Somerset Chief Fire Officer and Service with the Mayor, Chief Executive, Service Director and Cabinet Member. Their advice was to review a number of our fire safety policies. In addition, the Council has received three PAS9980 inspection reports that have recommended precautionary measures of implementing waking watch on a number of other blocks where there may be a risk, while remedial works are carried out.

This decision authorises the procurement to carry out this Waking Watch service. The Council spends on average £2.5m per annum on safety measures and is developing a programme of works worth £48m to remove EPS cladding. This measure in the light of two major fires and separately commissioned inspection reports necessitates the introduction of Waking Watch as interim measures to ensure the safety of residents remains paramount and secure. The Council must commission this service as a precautionary measure to protect the health and welfare of residents of high-rise blocks where EPS is present.

This decision is undertaken as an emergency decision which, in line with the Council's constitution, will be reported to the next available cabinet and a full cabinet report will be presented to cabinet in December outlining the steps that need to be taken and the financial demands for the HRA in the short and medium term.

DECISION

Approval is sought for the Council to enter a contract for £2 million to secure the service of a company or companies to carry out a Waking Watch provision at the Council's high-rise blocks .

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The service will commence as soon as approval is granted, and a suitable contractor is procured.

In June 2022, Cabinet approved a drawdown of £1 million from HRA reserves to cover expenditure already made for Waking Watch at Barton Hill (4 blocks) and PAS9980 inspections. The additional expenditure in 2022-23 will also be funded from reserves or in-year underspends.

A further report will be submitted to Cabinet to seek further approval as may be required for the short to medium term

LEGAL POWERS AND IMPLICATIONS

Legal services will advise and assist officers with regard to the procurement process and the resulting contractual arrangements.

Husinara Jones, Solicitor 15 November 2022

CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION

Consulted with procurement, legal, directors, cabinet member, Chair of Communities Scrutiny, Monitoring Officer

RISK MANAGEMENT

This is a safeguarding issue and this approach is deemed to be risk mitigation whilst remedial works are carried out. These costs can only be borne by the Council and cannot be recharged to residents.

EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Have you undertaken an Equality Impact Assessment? No

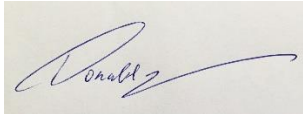
CORPORATE IMPLICATIONS

SIGNATORIES

DECISION MAKER

Title: Director, Housing & Landlord Services
Name: Donald Graham

Signed:



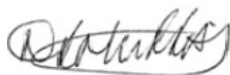
Date: 21 November 2022

Note: If electronic signature used email from Director confirming decision and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached

S151 Officer

Title: Director of Finance/s151 Officer
Name: Denise Murray

Signed:



Date: 21/11/2022

Title: Deputy Mayor and Cabinet Member for Finance, Governance and Performance
Name: Cllr Craig Cheney

Signed: 

Date: 22/11/2022

Consultees

Title: Mayor, Cabinet member for Housing Delivery and Homes, Chair of Scrutiny:
Communities and Monitoring officer

Signed: All approved via email

Date: 17 November 2022

Note: If electronic signature used email from the relevant certifier confirming consultation and allowing use of electronic signature must be attached. If consultation undertaken verbally Director must record date and time of the conversation and any agreement/concerns raised by consultee.