

## **Fire Safety Report for East Area Panel Meeting, 4 September 2017**

There are 43 council high rise blocks in Brighton & Hove and 20 of these have full cladding. None of the cladding on the council's high rise blocks is made from the same material, or supplied by the same company, as the cladding on Grenfell Tower.

All our high rise blocks are inspected every year to make sure they meet current safety standards. Following the Grenfell Tower fire, we are carrying out additional precautionary fire safety assessments on our high rise buildings. We have conducted joint inspections with East Sussex Fire & Rescue Services (ESFRS) of all our high rise blocks. These will be followed up with detailed and independent surveys – prioritising blocks with cladding first. We will then decide if specific actions need to be taken. The first blocks in the East Area will be the 5 blocks in North Whitehawk. We will be writing to the blocks so that they are aware when access equipment will be going up and explaining what works will be carried out.

Items within the common areas have been found while carrying out the inspection. We've reviewed our approach to keeping all common ways clear and we will be removing items to storage without notice when visiting our flats. Residents currently storing mobility scooters in our blocks without notice are asked to contact us urgently to find a suitable storage solution.

If there's a fire in your flat, you should get out, stay out and call 999. However, if there's a fire elsewhere in the building, you are usually safe in your own flat with the doors and windows closed, unless heat or smoke is affecting you. If the Fire Service consider it safer for you to evacuate the building, they will tell you to leave.

If you or anyone who lives with you would have difficulty leaving the building in the event of a fire, please contact Housing Customer Services on 01273 293030 to discuss your needs. If you are concerned about fire safety in your home and would like to arrange a visit from an officer from East Sussex Fire & Rescue Service, contact Housing Customer Services on 01273 293030 to arrange.

