

**SUBJECT: BUILDING SAFETY - RESIDENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY 2021**

**DIRECTORATE: HOUSING AND INVESTMENT**

**REPORT AUTHOR: ANDREW MCNEIL, ASSISTANT DIRECTOR, HOUSING STRATEGY**

## **1. Purpose of Report**

- 1.1 To present the Draft Building Safety - Resident Engagement Strategy 2021 to Executive for feedback.
- 1.2 The Draft Building Safety - Resident Engagement Strategy received the support of Policy Scrutiny Committee at its meeting held on 23 November and Housing Scrutiny Sub Committee on 24<sup>th</sup> January.

## **2. Background**

- 2.1 Following the Grenfell tragedy in 2017 the government launched a review to improve building safety in Higher Risk Residential Buildings (HRRB's). Following the review, the Building Safety Bill was developed, which has currently passed the committee stage in the House of Commons.
- 2.2 The bill contains a requirement to have a specific building safety resident engagement strategy, that sets out how we will involve residents building safety and communicate key messages. This is to address one of the key findings, which stated there was a lack of involvement and communication with residents at Grenfell in the years leading up to the tragedy.
- 2.3 The strategy should cover high risk buildings these are properties such as multi-storey blocks over 18 metres and potentially secondary legislation expected to cover sheltered housing. The regulator has advised that significant efforts should be made to engage all residents living in these properties and should not be limited to residents who are already involved in resident engagement. A reaction to building safety by residents requires tangible results, so KPI's will be developed to show how residents are engaging, following suggestions from the committee.
- 2.4 In response to the requirement, we have developed a strategy for Lincoln in consultation with elected members, staff and the Lincoln Tenants' Panel. It has also been developed in line with best practice from the housing sector.
- 2.5 The strategy that we have developed sets out our approach to engaging with residents and has three main strands. These are:
  - Information and understanding

- Resident and landlords' responsibilities
- Action to take in the event of a fire

The draft strategy can be found at Appendix 1

- 2.6 Once the strategy has been approved by Executive the council will begin the process of implementing and develop an action plan.

### **3. The Strategy**

- 3.1 This strategy has considered both the legal responsibility but tried to look for innovate and engaging ways, to tackle the issues around communication with residents and getting 'buy in'. The traditional push approach for informing works but more importantly this aims to create the pull approach from residents. Its wider implications around ensuring fire safety management and emergency plans are enacted, will result in a clear approach to meet the requirements.

### **4. Strategic Priorities**

#### **4.1 Let's deliver quality housing**

The strategy is a key part of delivering quality housing in Lincoln, making sure buildings are safe and residents are involved with us as their landlord.

### **5. Organisational Impacts**

#### **5.1 Finance (including whole life costs where applicable)**

There are no direct financial costs as a result of the strategy.

#### **5.2 Legal Implications including Procurement Rules**

The strategy will meet the requirement in the Building Safety Bill to have an engagement strategy.

#### **5.3 Equality, Diversity and Human Rights**

The strategy will allow for us to engage with residents from a range of backgrounds.

The Public Sector Equality Duty means that the Council must consider all individuals when carrying out their day-to-day work, in shaping policy, delivering services and in relation to their own employees.

It requires that public bodies have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination
- Advance equality of opportunity
- Foster good relations between different people when carrying out their activities

**6. Recommendation**

6.1 Executive are requested to approve this draft strategy and action plan.

**Is this a key decision?** No

**Do the exempt information categories apply?** No

**Does Rule 15 of the Scrutiny Procedure Rules (call-in and urgency) apply?** No

**How many appendices does the report contain?** 1

**List of Background Papers:** None

**Lead Officer:** Andrew McNeil, Assistant Director, Housing Strategy  
Telephone (01522) 873214  
Email address: [andrew.mcneil@lincoln.gov.uk](mailto:andrew.mcneil@lincoln.gov.uk)