

## **Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats Project Update**

### **Purpose**

To note

### **Summary**

The Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats project is funded by DCLG (with a contribution from the Electrical Safety Council), project managed by LG Group and CS Todd and Associates Ltd were commissioned to draft the guidance working to a stakeholder Reference Group.

### **Recommendation**

Members are asked to note the contents of the report.

### **Action**

As directed by Members

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## **Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats Project Update**

### **Background**

1. The Fire Safety Guidance for Purpose Built Blocks of Flats project is funded by DCLG (with a contribution from the Electrical Safety Council), project managed by LG Group and CS Todd and Associates Ltd were commissioned to draft the guidance working to a stakeholder Reference Group.
2. The key principles behind the guidance are:
  - 2.1 It is sector developed guidance
  - 2.2 It compliments existing DCLG guidance and the LACoRS guide
  - 2.3 It addresses the gap in guidance for purpose built blocks of flats specifically
  - 2.4 It is one document aimed at Responsible Persons, enforcing authorities and fire risk assessors
  - 2.5 It does not introduce any new standards or regulations but seeks to clarify complex issues around risk assessment and fire safety management
  - 2.6 It is non-prescriptive and provides alternatives
  - 2.7 It gives practical and proportionate advice on ensuring adequate fire safety thereby supporting compliance
3. The consultation phase of the project included three regional events in London, Manchester and Birmingham chaired by Cllr. Dorothy Thornhill of LG Group, the Chief Fire Officer's Association and the Private Sector Housing Forum. The project group also supported consultation events for the South East ALMO Group and the London HMO and Regulatory Group hosted by the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health. These events reached over 200 stakeholders. In addition the draft guidance was published on the LG website and individuals and groups encouraged to respond on-line. Detailed written comments on the document were received from over 60 organisations including local authorities, fire and rescue services, ALMOs and other public sector housing providers, private sector housing trade associations, professional bodies, private consultancies and the fire industry.
4. Stakeholder interest in the project is high and guidance will be promoted in a number of national conferences including; Chartered Institute of Housing, National Federation of ALMOs and Fire Protection Association Housing Sector National Forum.
5. The final guidance will be published at the end of July 2011 on the LG Group website. The project will be evaluated both in terms of short term outputs and longer term outcomes to influence the behaviour of those responsible for fire safety in purpose built blocks of flats and improved fire safety for those living there. It is proposed that an on-line survey will be undertaken a year after publication of the

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guidance with a sample of stakeholders that engaged with the consultation process. Other ongoing qualitative feedback will be obtained through on-line communities of practice.

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