

11 July 2018

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## **Notes of from the Fire Services Management Committee meeting**

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**Title:** Hackett Review  
**Date:** Wednesday 11 July 2018  
**Venue:** Victoria Room, 8th Floor, 18 Smith Square, London, SW1P 3HZ

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### **1 Welcome**

Cllr Nick Chard welcomed those who could attend from the Fire Services Management Committee to the meeting. Cllr Nick Chard outlined the purpose of the meeting: to allow members time to discuss FSMC's response to the Hackitt review and thereby inform the LGA's future work.

### **2 Building Height**

Charles Loft introduced the discussion of the Hackitt Review's final recommendations, the LGA's initial response and then outlined some of the key issues where it would be useful to have Members' views to inform the LGA's response to the final report. The first area Charles highlighted was the definition of higher risk residential buildings (HRRBs) in the report of buildings over 10 storeys in height. Charles also noted that in Scotland they had suggested lowering the height for high-rise buildings to 11m.

Members made the following comments on building height:

- The issue of developers building to just below defined height definitions had to be considered, and the ability of the fire and rescue service to comment on proposals relating to them was important. Strict rules needed to be put in place to not allow buildings to sneak through safety requirements.
- Lowering the defined height of high rise buildings along the lines Scotland was proposing would help address that.
- All buildings need to be considered
- High risk building also needed to be identified
- All different categories of resident safety needs to be brought together
- Vulnerability needs to be brought into account of safety

Members agreed the LGA should propose that HRRBs are defined as those over 11 meters.

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### **3 Joint Competent Authority**

Charles Loft asked members for their comments on the Joint Competent Authority (JCA), as outlined in the Hackitt Review.

Members made the following comments on the JCA:

- It needs a physical presence, like an office with central government funding so it has an authority in fire safety. Case studies of how this would work in practice would be helpful.
- Should it be a central body with partnership of current bodies, or made up of local bodies?
- What would the level of activity be across the country? London would be busier than rural areas. A consultation with stakeholders from the fire sector would be informative.
- The JCA could be involved with planning policy to reflect building safety as part of a pre-planning discussion. Planning authorities could be the basis for the framework. Smaller JCA/Planning authorities could be supported by larger JCAs.
- Building regulation should be seen as separate from planning applications.
- The national part of the JCA could provide advice on regulation. The private sector needs to be considered in the scope of the JCA.
- The JCA needs to take into account the appeals process and local authority planning.
- Bad advice and poor manufacturing is letting down local authorities, inspections should be in scope of the JCA.

It was agreed to put forward a concept of framework for the Joint Competent Authority in the LGA response

### **4 Any other comments**

Cllr Nick Chard thanked everyone for attending at short notice

<b>Position/Role</b>	<b>Councillor</b>	<b>Authority</b>
Acting Chairman	Cllr Nick Chard	Kent and Medway Fire and Rescue
Chair	Cllr Ian Stephens	Isle of Wight Council
Vice-Chair	Fiona Twycross	Deputy Mayor for Fire and Resilience
Members	Cllr Les Byrom CBE Cllr John Edwards	Derbyshire Fire and Rescue Authority Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority