

Questions in response to the Grenfell Tower Fire

These questions have been put together by the BVOAG reps, some of which may not be answered at this point in time. However, we continue to ask the questions because they are a reflection of what is being communicated by members of the community and within the voluntary sector.

1. THE FIRE

Given concerns over how fire safety procedures were implemented during the fire, what has the council been doing in relation to reviewing its fire safety protocol for housing blocks following the Grenfell tower fire?

Regulations state that tower block stairwells should be ventilated. This was not the case in Grenfell Tower's original build. Was this ever considered as part of the refurbishment? Are you able to provide any further answers on the cladding used on the Grenfell Tower and why this particular cladding was chosen given that there are differences in cladding used on towers across Kensington and Chelsea, Hammersmith and Fulham and Westminster? Why was the gas installation central system changed from the bottom of the Grenfell Tower to the top?

2. RBKC EMERGENCY PLAN

We would like to know if the army forms part of the emergency planning procedures? If so at what stage would or should the army have been called in to assist with the fire and the aftermath.

Within emergency planning has the council included the voluntary and community sector? If not, should there now be an opportunity to look at the role of the voluntary and community sector and its inclusion in emergency planning for the future both considering the advantages and the risks?

3. HOUSING

Has the council considered its position on housing disabled people with mobility issues in high rise buildings where it may be difficult for them to escape in an emergency? In the case of the Grenfell Tower why were disabled people with mobility issues housed on floors of blocks that made it difficult for them to get out (as the lifts shut down in emergency)?


Are potential disabled residents told of this situation before they move in?

Has any consideration been given to the support that will be required to help integrate re-housed families in new parts of the borough?

What longer terms plans will be in place to provide support to the re-housed families?

How are the language and cultural needs of the survivors being met alongside the full utilisation of voluntary and community organisations that can help to meet these needs? Is this being delivered in a systematic way to ensure survivors get the right support?

- Social housing issues



4. RAISED FUNDS FOR THE VICTIMS AND LONG TERM PLANNING

What role will the council play in ensuring the distribution of all funds raised can fully reach and meet the needs of those affected by the fire? This relates to understanding short and long term needs that should be met?

In relation to this the sum of £10,000 is the same for a single person household and for a family and there needs to be a proportional increase for larger households has this been considered?

Will the council be taking a more upfront role in the future on how funding distributed will be made transparent for the community?

5. UNDOCUMENTED RESIDENTS

Whilst there is a one year amnesty for those that may have been undocumented that lived in the Tower we feel that this will hinder reaching those who may be afraid to come forward for help. Has or will the council lobby Central Government to overturn this decision to encourage as much as possible for those that need the help to get to it?

6. FUTURE VISION

At the local level can the council share any concrete plans on a more positive future vision for the borough based on community investment and engagement?

What thought has the council given to the medium and longer-term needs of the Grenfell community and what new engagement approaches will be developed in partnership with the communities?

Paper by Angela Spence on behalf of Voluntary Sector representatives