

**COUNCIL MEETING**

**14<sup>th</sup> October 2019**

**QUESTIONS FROM MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC FOR WRITTEN REPLY**

**1. From Dermot McKibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

Which residential high rise blocks and care-homes have been served with notices by the London Fire Brigade and which have yet to be complied with? As details of the notices are freely available on the Fire Brigade website, how does the Council deal with the issue of fire safety in residential properties in the borough and which Committee is responsible for this area of policy? How many Council officers does the Council employ to approve the fire safety in new high rise blocks?

**Reply:**

With regards to the number of outstanding Notices served on high rise blocks and care-homes, and the issue of fire safety associated with them, this information is kept by the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and is not automatically shared with the Council, and the responsibility for these Notices and the enforcement of them lay with the LFB, and does not fall to the Council.

**2. From Dermot McKibbin to the Portfolio Holder for Renewal, Recreation and Housing**

What correspondence has the Council received from central government about the enforcement of the Tenant Fees Act 2019? In the light of the answers to my questions at the meeting of the Executive Committee on 6 December 2017 and at other Council meetings, when will a report be presented to a Council committee on this statute which came into force on 1 June 2019? Can a temporary officer be employed to deal exclusively with this work with the funding to come from an underspend in one of the Council's budget? How does the Council demonstrate its commitment to enforce legislation passed by a Conservative Government?

**Reply:**

The Council received general enforcement guidance from Central Government. A temporary Trading Standards Officer was engaged at the start of 2019 to carry out letting agent enforcement work, as part of this project the Officer provided guidance on the Tenant Fees Act 2019, and a report on this work was presented to the Public Protection and Enforcement Policy Development & Scrutiny Committee on 26 June 2019 7.00pm. As compliance in the area was high, there are no plans to carry out proactive work, however, if we receive complaints alleging letting agents are not

complying with the new requirement (which bans most letting fees and caps tenancy deposits paid by tenants in the private rented sector) then we will respond according to the associated risk, as encouraged by the Regulators Code 2014.

With regards to enforcing legislation, regulatory compliance and enforcement are common operational activities carried out by many service areas within the Council, and the approach adopted by Officers is in accordance with the Regulators Code 2014, which is a central part of the Government's better regulation agenda. Its aim is to embed a risk-based, proportionate, consistent and targeted approach to regulatory activity and enforcement among the regulators it applies to.