

# Independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce

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Rt. Hon. Sajid Javid MP  
Secretary of State for Communities and Local Government  
2 Marsham Street  
London  
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31 October 2017

Dear Secretary of State

## **Non-statutory intervention into the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea: first report of the Independent Grenfell Recovery Taskforce**

On the 26 July this Taskforce came into operation with the remit to support and challenge the Royal Borough of Kensington and Chelsea, RBKC in their work to develop and deliver a recovery plan for survivors and residents from the Grenfell Tower Fire. You asked that we report to you on a regular basis setting out our views on the council's plans and their capacity and capability to deliver it.

Attached to this letter is the first report from the Taskforce. In the nine weeks since being set up we have been:

- **Listening:** especially to survivors and the local community to hear first-hand what their needs are, what they think about the council and the support they are currently receiving.
- **Fact finding and information gathering:** about how the different public bodies are working together, what services they are providing to everyone in need, current and future plans.
- **Assessing and triangulating** information and plans from RBKC against each other, asking how they compare against what we know is best practice and works on the ground.
- **Supporting and challenging:** providing feedback to both Officers and Members of RBKC and checking what has been delivered.

This report gives our initial views on RBKC. These will change in time as we drill down into the detail of RBKC plans and delivery.

In many respects the council is not the same organisation it was on the night of the Grenfell Tower Tragedy. Not only have there been changes in key personnel, including the Leader, and Chief Executive amongst others, but the council has already made a number of changes in how it serves its community.

This was necessary, but we think more can be done by RBKC including:

- greater pace on delivery for survivors and the wider community affected by the fire
- making sure that empathy and emotional intelligence are at the heart of policy making and service delivery
- making sure that Members and Officers have the right skills and training to work with a community that has suffered a major trauma
- being bolder and more innovative in developing a response to this exceptionally difficult situation.

More detailed recommendations are included in the report.

We know that there have been calls for RBKC to be subject to a statutory intervention. At this stage our view is that this is not required, but we will keep this opinion under review.

We will continue to work with and challenge RBKC over the next period and expect to go deeper into the detail of their plans and the reality of service delivery on the ground.

We are happy to discuss any aspect of this report with you.

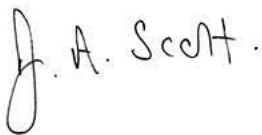
Yours sincerely



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