

Annex 1 – Building Safety recommendations

	<b>Recommendation (report paragraph)</b>	<b>Implications for the Council</b>	<b>Government response</b>
1	That the government draw together under a single regulator all the functions relating to the construction industry to which we have referred. (113.6)	Streamlining of regulatory processes is always useful for ensuring compliance. Given that there is already a significant amount of change in Building Control, the time that this will take to implement may be useful to ensure that the Council has fully responded to current requirements.	Accepted in principle, albeit with some split in functions. Consultation papers have been released to consider how this would be implemented.
2	That the definition of a higher-risk building for the purposes of the Building Safety Act be reviewed urgently. (113.7)		Accepted. Ongoing review and regulation approach being implemented.
5	That the statutory guidance generally, and Approved Document B in particular, be reviewed accordingly and a revised version published as soon as possible. (113.11)	Updated guidance will need to be fully reviewed by the Building Control team and specific implications considered. Any relevant consultation responses will be discussed with relevant Cabinet Members and presented to Members more widely if the impacts on the Council's functions are significant.	Accepted, interim findings to be published and consulted on as needed in 2025

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6	That a revised version of the guidance contains a clear warning in each section that the legal requirements are contained in the Building Regulations and that compliance with the guidance will not necessarily result in compliance with them. (113.12)	As per 5	Accepted as per 5
10	That it be made a statutory requirement that a fire safety strategy produced by a registered fire engineer to be submitted with building control applications (at Gateway 2) for the construction or refurbishment of any higher-risk building and for it to be reviewed and re-submitted at the stage of completion (Gateway 3). Such a strategy must take into account the needs of vulnerable people, including the additional time they may require to leave the building or reach a place of safety within it and any additional facilities necessary to ensure their safety. (113.15)	Strengthened guidance is welcomed.	Accepted  Guidance will be updated to ensure that it is clear to applicants what they should be providing to meet the existing requirement

	<b>Recommendation (report paragraph)</b>	<b>Implications for the Council</b>	<b>Government response</b>
18	That the government, working in collaboration with industry and professional bodies, encourage the development of courses in the principles of fire engineering for construction professionals and members of the fire and rescue services as part of their continuing professional development. (113.28)	Additional CPD is always welcomed, particularly given that the requirements on Building Control Surveyors have increased so significantly recently.	Accepted
22	That the government appoint an independent panel to consider whether it is in the public interest for building control functions to be performed by those who have a commercial interest in the process. (113.37)	This is welcomed to ensure that there is consistency in delivery and standards across all building control activity.	Accepted. Independent panel to be established.
23	We recommend that the same panel consider whether all building control functions should be performed by a national authority. (113.38)	As above, with the caveat that the local relationships that our Building Control team can build given the geography in which they work can be really useful in guiding and supporting delivery of compliant schemes.	Accepted.