Building Regulations, Planning and Legislation

Document number (AP003/PS004)

Next Review Due 31/03/2029

1. Purpose

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (HIWFRA) is committed to ensuring that Hampshire and the Isle of Wight have an efficient and effective fire and rescue service which makes life safer for everyone.

This is HIWFRA's Position Statement for Building Regulations, Planning and Legislation and forms part of the HIWFRA's Protection Policy.

2. Authority's Position

Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Authority (HIWFRA) play a key leadership role in promoting a better understanding amongst those involved in the construction process, of the benefits of early consultation with the Fire and Rescue Service, with respect to fire safety and fire engineered solutions.

Accordingly, HIWFRA works to encourage local authorities, building control bodies, building owners and developers to consult with Hampshire and Isle of Wight Fire and Rescue Service (HIWFRS) at an early stage. This has been proven to improve the efficiency of the consultation process, which is to the benefit of all parties concerned: it reduces the likelihood of costly delays in the project; improves the public and firefighter safety; minimises environmental impact and can reduce the economic cost of fire.

Sprinkler Strategy

We will proactively endorse the installation of sprinkler systems as detailed within HIWFRA's Position Statement for Sprinklers.

Statutory Planning Consultee

We will advocate, and aspire to influence, at all Government levels, for the Fire and Rescue Service to be a statutory consultee at the planning stage, for the below buildings most likely to present a risk to people:

- High rise housing, schools, hotels, high rise office blocks, large development sites and National Health buildings including other buildings providing care.
- Change in use/conversions of any building to residential accommodation, where the fire safety order will apply.
- Major refurbishments of residential accommodation, where the fire safety order will apply.
- All structures housing battery energy storage systems (BESS), due to the risks detailed within HIWFRA's Position Statement for Battery Energy Storage Systems.

To influence a change in Fire and Rescue Service's involvement (and the inclusion of fire safety) as a statutory planning consultee, this will require an amendment of the National Planning Policy Framework.

Local Authorities' Consultation

We will strongly recommend that all Local Authorities consult with HIWFRS on a voluntary basis, whilst HIWFRA continue to influence, at Government level, for the Fire and Rescue Service to be a statutory planning consultee.