



Subject:	Development of Building Regulations in Northern Ireland
Date:	16 th February, 2018
Reporting Officer:	Stephen McCrory, Democratic Services Manager
Contact Officer:	Jim Hanna, Senior Democratic Services Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Sometime in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of Main Issues
1.1	To consider a response from the Chief Executive, Department of Finance, in relation to the development of Building Regulations in Northern Ireland.
2.0	Recommendation
2.1	The Committee is asked to note the response and to take such action as may be determined.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	<u>Key Issues</u> The Committee will recall that, at its meeting on 15 th December, in considering a report on the "Grenville Tower Fire – Update on actions of Belfast City Council, it had agreed that a letter be forwarded to the Department of Finance, Building Standards Branch, seeking an

	<p>update on the process of recruitment of the Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee and the outcome of their review of Technical Booklet E (Fire Safety). It was also agreed that the letter should also indicate that the Department should be more proactive in reviewing the Building Regulations rather than awaiting the outcome of the review in England.</p> <p>3.2 A response has been received from the Chief Executive of the Department of Finance. The Department's position on each of the issues you have raised is as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>'A progress update on the recruitment process for The Northern Ireland Building Regulations Advisory Committee (NIBRAC)'</i> - The Department is currently finalising the recruitment arrangements and expects to advertise for candidates during February or March 2018. 2. <i>'The outcome of the Department's review of Technical Booklet E, Fire Safety'</i> – An interim review looking at possible measures around high rise residential accommodation is ongoing, after which any policy proposals would be subject to Ministerial consideration and consultation. 3. <i>'The Strategic Policy and Resources Committee's view that the Department should take a more proactive approach to updating building regulations in NI and that this should commence now rather than awaiting the outcome of the review in England'</i> – The Department continues to work with officials in England and the other devolved administrations regarding building regulation amendments and Dame Judith Hackett's Review of Building Regulations and Fire Safety. The Department has no plans at this time to move from its policy of following England's general position, as recommended in the McConnell Report, or to bring forward significant changes in advance of the outcome of Dame Judith's review. <p>3.3 At that meeting, it was agreed also that officers should engage with the NI Fire and Rescue Service (NIFRS) with a view to them appearing before the Committee to discuss their capacity to enforce the Fire Services Order. The Building Control Manager had been in contact with the NIFRS and Director of Community Protection Alan Walmsley has confirmed that he will attend the Committee's meeting scheduled for 23rd March.</p>
3.2	<p><u>Financial and Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.3	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
4.0	<p>Appendices</p>
	<p>None</p>