



update on the demolition of Goscote House and the installation of sprinklers in the tower blocks

For consideration by: Housing Scrutiny Commission

Date: 28 February 2022

Lead Director: Chris Burgin

Useful information

- Ward(s) affected: Wycliffe
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- Report version number: v.1

1. Summary

A report was brought to the Housing Scrutiny commission on the 12th. April 2021, this report will update members on progress made in the ten months since.

The demolition of Goscote House and the installation of sprinkler systems in our tower blocks are both significant projects that the division are currently delivering, both challenging but both will deliver significant and positive outcomes for the existing tenants and those that follow.

2. Recommended actions/decision

That members of the Housing Scrutiny commission note the contents of this report.

3. Scrutiny / stakeholder engagement

Report prepared to update Housing Scrutiny members on the progress of the demolition of Goscote House and the Sprinkler Installation Project.

4. Background and options with supporting evidence

n/a, for information only.

5. Detailed report

The demolition of Goscote House.

A report was brought to the Housing Scrutiny commission on the 12th. April 2021, this report is to update members on progress in the last ten months.

Background/context.

The St Peters tower block refurbishment project was started primarily because the heating and hot water risers were in poor condition causing leaks and outages and they needed to be renewed. To do this meant that the residents would need to be moved out of their flats, this gave an opportunity to carry out a comprehensive refurbishment of the entire block, including the upgrading of the fire compartmentation and passive fire protection measures.

The project started with Framland House, followed by Clipstone, Gordon and then Maxfield. The project was logistically complicated having to relocate 85 tenants from each block for the duration of the works, but the project was fully delivered, and the blocks have been fully occupied since and remain popular. Flats in Goscote House were used as

temporary accommodation for tenants returning to their original flat after the refurbishment had taken place. Decisions about Goscote House had been deferred until the refurbishment of the first four blocks had been completed.

Goscote House, the 5th. Block on St. Peters was constructed differently to the others, is taller and consisted of a large number of bedsits and cluster flats. For some time Goscote House had been unpopular and difficult to let unlike the other 4 blocks which were popular with tenants. It was clear that any refurbishment had to do more at Goscote House and would require the layout to be looked at to try and reduce the numbers of bedsit accommodation. Before we committed to refurbishing and reconfiguring the block, we decided to engage consultants to tell us if what we wanted to do was actually possible and if there were any other considerations we needed to take into account. We were very aware that this block was constructed in the same way as the infamous block, Rowan Point, which, many years ago, suffered a partial collapse after a gas explosion. There is no gas in Goscote House.

The report concluded that we could make the structural alterations required to reconfigure the block from bedsits to flats but it was cautious on the expected life expectancy of the block. It was felt that the expenditure required to refurbish and reconfigure the block would require a guaranteed life expectancy in excess of 30 years and the report concluded that this would have to be reviewed every five years with no guarantees. The decision was taken that the block should be demolished, and a decision over future use being made in the future.

The estimated cost to refurbish Goscote House is £21,353,275.

At this time the block was still occupied because it had been used to temporarily house tenants from Maxfield House whilst it was being refurbished as well as having several established tenants still living there. The local neighbourhood Housing Office worked with the tenants to find them housing solutions elsewhere and the block was finally emptied.

The demolition of Goscote was never going to be easy due to the close proximity of the neighbouring buildings, so it could not be blown up. Consultants were bought in to help with the procurement of a demolition contractor and it was agreed that we would follow a similar process that was used successfully for the demolition of New Walk Centre.

The project team was established, and the process was started.

As part of this process additional specialist surveys were required so it could be established how the external structure would actually be deconstructed, it was during this time that it became clear the original budgets of £3.2m may not be enough to complete the project and it was paused so that the decision could be reviewed to confirm that demolition was still the best option.

A thorough review of what had happened previously, the new estimated costs, alternative housing options and looking into whether Goscote House had a future with an alternative housing supplier were all considered, however the review confirmed that the original decision to demolish Goscote House, even at greater cost, was still the correct course of action. The City Mayor signed a revise decision notice on the 11th. March and the work continues.

Timeline for the demolition of Goscote House and key stages

Task	Completion Dates
<p>Detailed Design</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mechanical, electrical & plumbing surveys • Intrusive structural investigations • Land acquisition activities for of site compound • Develop communications & stakeholder engagement plan • Initial stakeholder engagement • Planning consultation • Highways consultation • Party wall appointment and notifications 	Nov 2019 - May 2020
<p>Stage One Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop and Agree Procurement Strategy with LCC Procurement and Housing Client • Preparation Stage 1 Tender Documents • Issue Open Tender Stage 1 • tender Evaluation 	Mar -July 2020
<p>Stage Two Procurement</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Production of MEP, Struct & Civils Demolition Spec/Requirements • Amalgamation of specialist demolition requirements • Preparation of Stage 2 Tender Docs • Issue Tender Stage 2 • Tender evaluations and interviews • Prepare Draft Contract • Contract Awarded • Contract Signed 	Sept 2020 - June 2021
<p>Demolition Contractor - Enabling Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Site establishment • Neighbouring stakeholder temporary works • Erect scaffolding • Erect hoist • Erect tower crane • Soft Strip • Asbestos removal • Services isolation/disconnection 	July - Dec 2021
<p>Demolition Contractor - Deconstructions Works</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Top down deconstruction • Foundation removal and back fill • Project completion 	Jan 2022 – Nov 2022

Photograph of Goscote House



February 22 update:

The demolition is currently on programme, the scaffolding has been erected and the mesh coating fitted.

The Health & Safety Executive HSE has visited site and agreed the method of deconstruction.

We have agreed to take additional measures, as recommended by the HSE, to reduce the risk of damage should debris fall when the panels are being removed. This has necessitated the complete closure of the Sure Start Centre for a period of 16 weeks. Sure Start have been very accommodating and helpful and have moved their services to the Afro Caribbean Centre for the required period of time.

The safety of the site and the impact on its neighbours is a priority for us and the following measures have been agreed to reduce the impact on the neighbouring areas

- To reduce the impact of dust the block has been clocked in mess. During the removal of the panels the dust will be suppressed with water and localised hoarding and roofing is being fitted to adjacent buildings and car parks.
- The site will operate a one way system to reduce the impact of increased traffic going into and out of the site and the number of traffic movements will be limited to 10 per day and will only happen during the week and in standard office hours.
- All of the panels removed will only be traveling locally, up to 40 miles, and then recycled, this will have a positive impact of the climate credentials of the deconstruction.
- We have communicated with all stakeholders throughout the process and we will continue to do so until the block is gone, the NHS, Afro Caribbean Centre, Sure Start , Moat College and the neighbouring residents have all been kept up to date and have all responded positively. Officers are also sending regular updates, at key stages, to ward councillors and senior management and will continue to do so.

Sprinkler installations:

In response to the tragedy at Grenfell Tower the City Mayor made the decision that we would retro fit sprinklers in all our 4 remaining tower blocks at St Peters Estate and at St Leonards Court.

At the time of the fire at Grenfell the refurbishment of Maxfield House was nearing completion and the decision was taken that we would delay the reoccupation and install sprinklers whilst the block was still empty. The sprinklers were fitted, and the block reoccupied. To date we have not had an activation, which is good news.

The fitting of sprinklers in occupied buildings poses greater challenges and officers have had to think of how we can achieve this safely and without causing too much inconvenience to the tenants, this has now been agreed. In effect all the components will be fabricated off site and fitted to each flat in one day, they will not be connected until they have all been installed and at the same time the risers in the communal landings will be installed, and then they will be commissioned all at the same time. It is worth noting that the drilling through the concrete walls will be a messy job and we will be working with the tenants to try and reduce the impact of this activity on them.

At the start of the pandemic the Strategic Director of CDN made the pragmatic decision to review the procurement timetable of all of our projects and as a result this exercise was paused. If we had continued to procure this contract it was very likely that we would not be able to engage with suppliers fully and risked it being a fruitless exercise, and if we had been successful it would be unlikely that tenants would be happy to let us into their homes to carry out this type of work, or the contractors prepared to.

It should also be noted that the installation of sprinklers is in addition to the passive fire protection measures already in the blocks, the tower blocks already conform to the

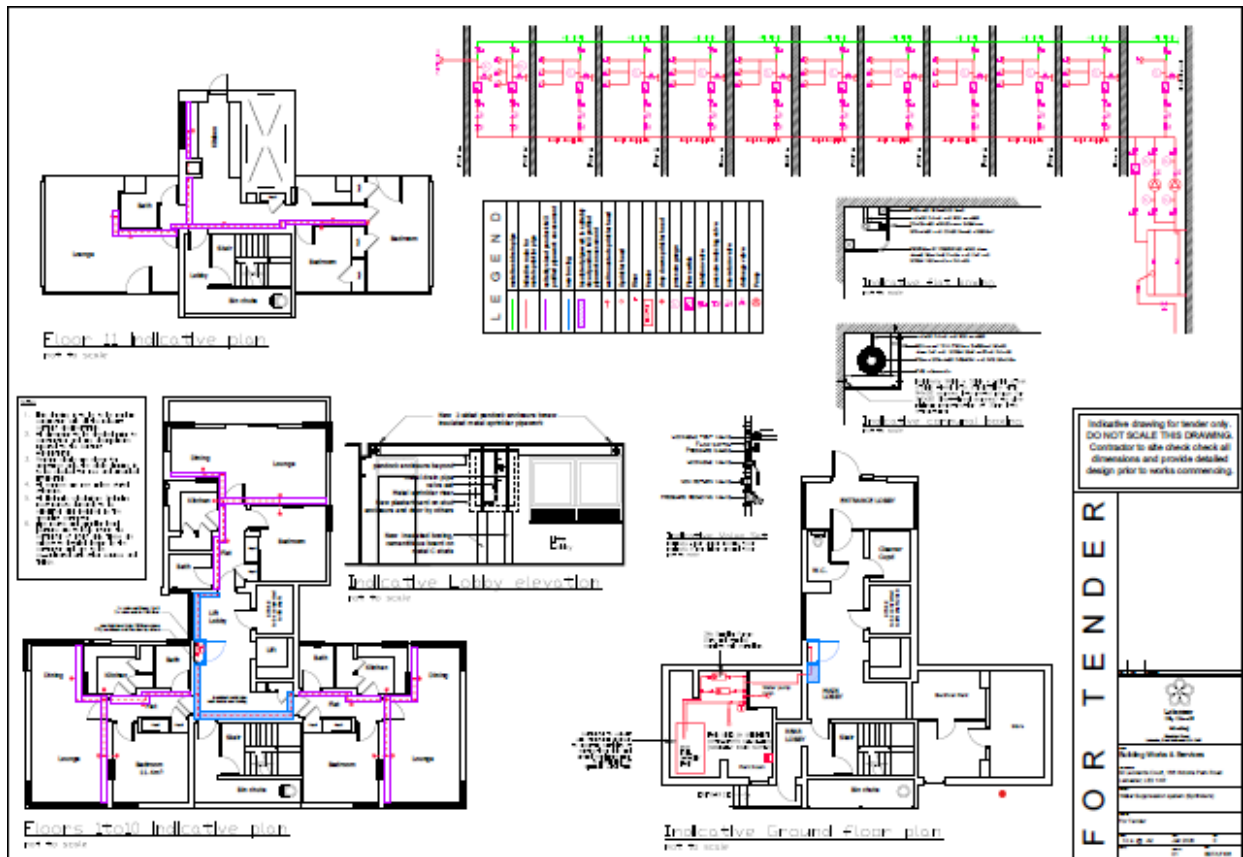
required standards without them so at no time have the tenants been at risk due to the pause.

February 2022 update:

The contract after a robust procurement exercise has been awarded to a company called Harmony Fire.

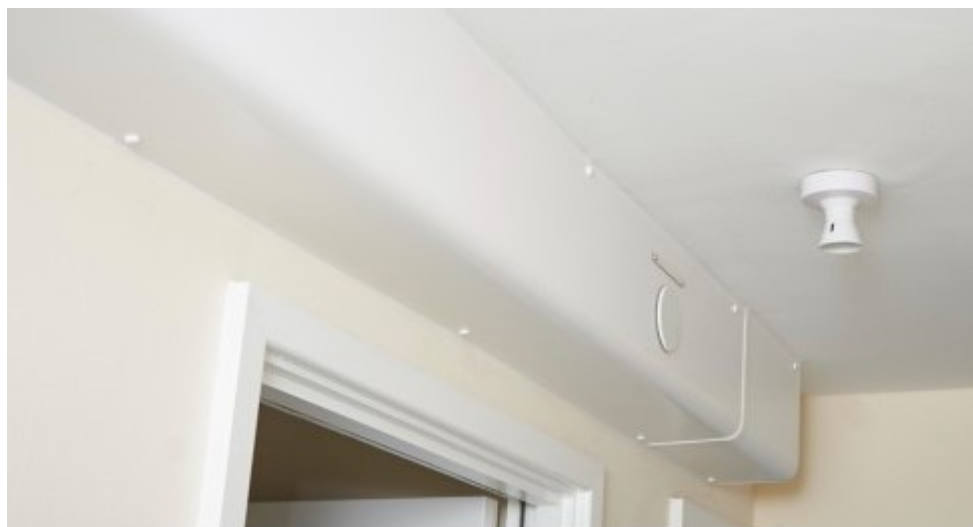
A 12-month programme of works has been agreed for completion of sprinklers in each of the remaining Tower blocks.

Actions	Start date	Completion date
Agree design brief	4 th . January 2022	28 th . February
Framland House	28 th . February	10 th . June
Clipstone House	9 th . May	2 nd . September
St. Leonards Court	25 th . July	11 th . October
Gordon House	5 th . September	23 rd . December 2022



The above picture shows the vertical and horizontal pipe runs for the installation at St Leonards Court.

Below is a picture of what the installation will look like in a tenants home, this is a flat in Maxfield House.



6. Financial, legal, equalities, climate emergency and other implications

6.1 Financial implications

None sought

6.2 Legal implications

None sought this is for information only

6.3 Equalities implications

None sought this is for information only

6.4 Climate Emergency implications

None sought this is for information only