For Immediate Release

14 June 2017

Council reassures high-rise block tenants over fire safety

SWANSEA Council has expressed its sympathies to the victims of the Grenfell Tower tragedy in London and has reassured its own tenants over fire safety in high-rise flats.

Cllr Andrea Lewis, the Council’s Cabinet Member for Housing and Energy, said: “The tragic events at Grenfell Tower are heart-breaking and our thoughts are with the residents and their loved ones.

“As a council, we have acted swiftly to reassure tenants in our tower blocks that fire safety is paramount. We have delivered letters to each flat, setting out the fire safety measures we have taken and the advice for tenants in the event of a fire.

“We will continue to work closely with the fire service to review safety, and will also consider any lessons from the Grenfell Tower tragedy.”

There are 11 blocks of high-rise flats in Swansea, with a total of 672 flats. The locations are two 14-storey blocks on Croft Street in Dyfatty, one eight-storey block at Jeffreys Court in Penlan, and eight 10-storey blocks at Matthew Street in Dyfatty, Griffith John Street in Dyfatty, Clyne Court in Sketty and Rheidol Court in Clase.

The Council has today (Thursday June 14) hand-delivered letters to all tenants in its blocks of high-rise flats. The letter states:

- All of the council’s high-rise blocks have a hard-wired smoke detector in each flat which is tested annually as part of the gas service inspection.
- All communal areas have a full annual risk assessment carried out by the council and the fire service to ensure all blocks are to the highest standard and that any issues identified are addressed immediately.
- Neighbourhood officers regularly inspect blocks to ensure any combustible materials and hazards are removed from communal areas.
- All residents have been provided with a leaflet on fire safety in high-rise flats which contains important advice on what to do in the event of a fire.
- Completed and on-going refurbishment projects at blocks of high-rise flats in Swansea have only used non-combustible cladding and fixing frames. These works were subject to detailed inspection and approval by the council’s building control department.

For further information please contact: Greg Jones on 01792 636226
greg.jones@swansea.gov.uk