

**Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting
24 April 2025**

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Thelma Stober
Lord Paul Boateng (Chair)

Community Representatives

| | | |
|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|---|
| (Bereaved representatives) | (Survivor representatives) | (Lancaster West Estate and community representatives) |
| Sandra Ruiz | Abraham Abebe | Susan Al Safadi |
| Paulos Tekle | Hanan Cherbika | Andrea Newton |
| Hanan Wahabi | Mohammed Rasoul | Samia Badani |
| Hassan Hassan | | Abbas Dadou |

Apologies:

Nabil Choucair
Adel Chaoui

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat: 4 individuals

Other

Stephanie Edwards, Independent Design Adviser
Peter Neal, Independent Landscape Design Adviser
Jane Ducan, RIBA Architect Adviser
David Bailey, CNWL
Camilla Sheldon, Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government (MHCLG)
Helen Town, MHCLG

Meeting purpose

The sixty-sixth meeting of the Memorial Commission, to discuss the design team selection process, next steps for the Commission, and an update from MHCLG.

Opening

- A one-minute silence was held at the start of the meeting.
- It was confirmed that the meeting was quorate.
- Lord Paul Boateng opened the meeting, welcoming all in attendance.
- No conflicts of interests were declared.
- The secretariat presented the minutes from the February meeting for approval, along with an update on the risk register and action log.

- A community representative reflected on the impact of the government's Tower decision on the community and on the community's ability to engage with this. They added that an effective and sensitive communication of the memorial decision will be very important. A member of the secretariat confirmed the inclusion, on the risk register, that Tower-related engagement might affect Memorial Commission engagement on the design team selection process, and – later – on the memorial design.
- Another community representative described how the impact on the community of such change on the Tower site, and of the need for thoughtfulness regarding how much is being asked of the community during the design team selection engagement process. There are considerations and care is needed, given that MHCLG will also be conducting engagement about the Tower deconstruction at a similar time. A representative raised that engagement meetings can be upsetting for some.
- A discussion was held about ensuring the Grenfell community feels safe at events and meetings. Several representatives raised difficulties caused when bereaved, survivors or residents feel unable to speak due to others dominating the discussion.
- Several reps agreed that there should be a review of how community meetings are moderated, and this might require additional resource, and people who are adequately qualified.

ACTION: Secretariat to explore with MHCLG safeguarding at community engagement meetings and look at how community engagement can be delivered in a way that ensures the Grenfell community feel safe to attend and to contribute.

Agenda item 1: Co-chair update

- The co-chairs updated on their first meeting with Minister Norris, where the chairs outlined their expectations of MHCLG and its role in delivering the Commission's November 2023 recommendations.
- Thelma updated on the very recent meeting held by the co-chairs with MHCLG's Director General and other members of the senior team. The chairs explained that they had highlighted the appetite for a constructive and information meeting with the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) on Tuesday 6 May, and where the Commission would hopefully gain a clearer understanding of how the DPM intends to provide further clarity to the Grenfell community

about her recent decision about Grenfell Tower.

- The chairs updated on their recent meeting with RBKC leaders, where they discussed the Memorial Commission's ongoing design team selection process; the ways that the council can support the corresponding engagement of bereaved, survivors and residents; and reiterated the importance of transparency, and of keeping the community informed and involved, in the status of Grenfell Walk. The co-chairs also reiterated how such matters can be very impactful on survivors' wellbeing.
- One of the representatives said that former Grenfell Walk residents should be spoken to first and foremost before any action is taken regarding Grenfell Walk and that there has not been any communication from the council about this yet. However, it is understood that a letter will be sent to former residents soon. The representative also explained the impact of Grenfell Walk being inhabited in the future, and how those visiting the future memorial could feel overlooked and impacted by this. Other representatives commented on the need for urgent communication from the council about Grenfell Walk. A representative asked if MHCLG might be able to get involved in this.

ACTION: MHCLG to find out further details on the future of Grenfell Walk with RBKC, and come back to the Commission at a future date with a response.

Agenda item 2: Design team selection process update

- The design advisers gave the Commission an update on the progress made so far, and reiterated that those representatives taking part in the evaluation process can choose to complete one, two or three of the evaluated components based on their availability. The dates and times of upcoming evaluation sessions for evaluators was confirmed.
- The advisers and several representatives reflected on how powerful the April listening sessions were, and the importance of hearing the voices of bereaved, survivors and immediate community, as well young people.

ACTION: The secretariat to arrange for listening sessions feedback to be shared with the reps including the number of attendees at each session.

Agenda item 3: MHCLG update

- A discussion was held about the updated Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) that was recently provided by MHCLG to the Commission. The Commission agreed to provide feedback at the May Commission meeting. However, initial comments included that a clear distinction must be made between the role of the Commission and MHCLG, as well as presenting the MOU sections alongside the Commission's November 2023 recommendations. It was agreed that the MOU will need to evolve over time to support the ongoing journey to a memorial.
- An update was provided by MHCLG on the geographical locations being considered for the second site (one of the Commission's November 2023 recommendations). One representative expressed how important a space the second site will be; it must feel right and also have good accessibility for visiting family members. The representative also asked about the timeline for securing these potential sites and the possibility of the representatives visiting them. MHCLG explained that visits can be organised, and that the timeline includes thorough and technical due diligence.
- Another community representative asked about the budget for the second site. MHCLG confirmed that the second site cost will be covered by MHCLG's separate budget, and not from the budget that has been committed for the creation of the memorial. Lord Paul Boateng emphasised that MHCLG must communicate clearly and proactively, about the deconstruction of Grenfell Tower, 'where it is going?' A community representative emphasised how important it is to lay the Tower to rest.

ACTION: MHCLG to bring back an updated position on the second site to the Commission at the next GTMC meeting.

- Lord Paul Boateng asked MHCLG about the DPM's letter for the community representatives' employers. Camilla Sheldon advised that, for speed, she can provide a letter, signed by herself, to community representatives. Camilla advised a DPM letter will take longer.
- A community representative provided an update about upcoming plans by a local youth group for the anniversary and agreed to shared further details with the Commission.
- A community representative asked a question about the status of the expansion of the Commission. It was agreed that this will be returned to, and concluded, in the May meeting.

Agenda item 4: Secretariat update

- A community representative raised a question about the standing attendees for the Commission meetings, and the Commission discussed and clarified that non-Commission attendees will be invited to attend for relevant agenda items.