

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission (GTMC) Meeting 12 December 2024

Attendees

Memorial Commission

Lord Paul Boateng (Chair)

Community representatives

(Bereaved representatives)	(Survivor representatives)	(Lancaster West representatives)
Hanan Wahabi	Mohammed Rasoul	Susan Al Safadi
Hassan Hassan		
Sandra Ruiz		
Adel Chaoui		

Apologies:

Nabil Choucair
Andrea Newton
Hanan Cherbika
Abraham Abebe
Thelma Stober

Secretariat

Grenfell Tower Memorial Commission Secretariat: 4 individuals

Other

Stephanie Edwards, Independent Landscape Design Adviser
Peter Neal, Independent Landscape Design Adviser
Jane Duncan, Independent Architectural Adviser
Camilla Sheldon, Director, Grenfell Site and Programme, MHCLG

Meeting purpose

The sixty third meeting of the Memorial Commission, to discuss the design team selection process and the future of the Memorial Commission.

Opening

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

Agenda item 1: Update from MHCLG

- Camilla Sheldon gave an update from the Department, noting the Deputy Prime Minister (DPM) and Minister Norris's recent town hall meetings with bereaved, survivors and immediate community. The DPM understands it is her responsibility to make a decision on the future of the Tower and has communicated to the Grenfell community that she is minded to make that decision in February 2025. Camilla also gave an update on the DPM's engagement plans over January to hear the views from bereaved, survivors and immediate community.
- Camilla noted that the first ownership steering group meeting took place today (12 December), where senior officials from MHCLG met with their counterparts in the Department of Culture, Media and Sport and relevant independent organisations to discuss and share advice on the future ownership of the memorial. Further meetings on this will be taking place over the next six months and Camilla will update the Commission frequently, to gain their thoughts and input into this important process. The Commission stated it would be helpful if this steering group could also discuss sustainable management of the memorial. The community reps also reiterated the importance of ensuring the community are involved in this journey to agree an ownership lead for the memorial.
- Camilla updated the Commission on the retirement of Peter Taylor (MHCLG Deputy Director for Grenfell). Lord Boateng wished to formally record the Commission's thanks to Peter Taylor, for his efforts and respect for the Grenfell community, and hoped that this care would continue in other officials.

Item 2: Design team selection process update

- The design advisers and community reps discussed the ending of phase 1 and the evaluation which has now concluded. MHCLG will now be completing due diligence checks on the five shortlisted teams. This will then be shared with the Commission, who will announce the shortlisted teams to the Grenfell community in the new year, also including planned engagement over the next year.
- The independent design advisers outlined the plans for phase 2, which will begin next year. This phase will include bespoke engagement sessions with the Grenfell community, to enable the teams to hear the views of the bereaved, survivors and immediate community. It will also be an opportunity for the Grenfell community to hear more about the shortlisted teams, how they deliver community engagement, how the team is structured and examples of how the team have worked on a community led design. All agreed that the community needed to play an increasing role in this next stage.
- A community rep noted the need to manage the community's expectations for the engagement sessions, and messaging needs to be clear that the community will be meeting the prospective teams rather than viewing memorial designs.

ACTION: The secretariat and design advisers to progress plans and preparations for the shortlisted teams' engagement with the Grenfell community.

Item 3: GTMC refreshed mandate discussion

- The Commission discussed plans for expanded membership for the Commission.
- MHCLG confirmed that the DPM will be writing to groups soon. The community reps asked if this could be done as soon as possible to allow adequate time to induct new members to GTMC.
- The Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was discussed, the community reps and co-chairs asked if the department can re-draft the MOU to include further details on what is required from MHCLG to support GTMC and the Grenfell community to design a future memorial.

ACTION: MHCLG to redraft the MOU and share with the Commission in January.

AOB

- The secretariat updated the Commission of a confirmed date to meet with the DPM in January 2025.