

Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Dorset County Council



Date of Meeting	6 th July 2017
Officer	Simon Parker, County Emergency Planning Officer
Subject of Report	<p>Emergency Planning</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Emergency Planning (Multi Agency and Partnership Working) • Response to Terrorist Attacks, population based risks, weather
Executive Summary	<p>This brief report has been written to give assurance to the committee that the County Council undertakes the necessary planning and preparations to be able to respond as an organisation and support the community during times of crisis and emergencies. The County Council is a Category one organisation as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) and has statutory duties which require it to plan for a range of risks that could have an impact on people and the environment.</p> <p>To ensure these requirements are met, the County Council employs a small team of experienced Emergency Planning Officers who work within a multi-agency context with other Category One organisations in Dorset under a collective body called the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). This is a requirement in the CCA and is replicated throughout the UK, working within the boundaries of every police force area.</p> <p>The work of the collective LRF is to ensure planning is undertaken in a joined up approach and that a risk assessment process is followed to enable robust plans to be written to be able to respond to a range of scenarios within themed groups.</p>
Impact Assessment:	Equalities Impact Assessment: Wide ranging and not included in this report
	Use of Evidence: Not required

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	<p>Budget: Not subject of this report</p>
	<p>Risk Assessment:</p> <p>Having considered the risks associated with this decision using the County Council's approved risk management methodology, the level of risk has been identified as: Current Risk: HIGH/ This is due to the risk of the loss of the Emergency Planning Service Residual Risk /LOW (Delete as appropriate) Because of the existing emergency planning service</p>
	<p>Other Implications:</p>
Recommendation	<p>That the Committee note the report and have assurance over the position of the Council in its preparedness for resilience purposes.</p>
Reason for Recommendation	<p>As requested for scrutiny purposes by the Safeguarding Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>
Appendices	<p>None</p>
Background Papers	<p>None</p>
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Emergency Planning

Emergency Planning (Multi-Agency Partnership Working) and

Response re Terrorist Attack, population based risks, weather etc.

- 1.0 Since this report was requested at the previous Safeguarding committee, a number of highly significant events have happened that impact on the security of our nation and that of communities living in the country. The Westminster Bridge attack targeting innocent civilians and the death of a police officer, the Manchester bomb viciously targeting young people with multiple deaths, both events classed as Terrorist incidents and then the tragedy of the Grenfell Tower fire. This report endeavours to give an overview as how the county council prepares and responds to such incidents.

- 2.0 Emergency Planning is the term used to refer to the arrangements to respond to incidents and covers two aspects, the day to day business as usual work of 'emergency plans' writing, preparedness and the management and co-ordination of response to incidents:
 - 2.1 Emergency Planning, although delivered at a local level, is driven by legislation nationally by the Civil Contingencies Act 2003 (CCA) and is overseen by the Cabinet Office through the Civil Contingencies Secretariat's Resilience and Emergencies Division (RED's)
 - 2.2 An annual capability survey is undertaken by the Cabinet Office to assess compliance and the work that is carried out locally.
 - 2.3 The body responsible locally for the delivery of the associated work-plan to achieve the required emergency planning is known as the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). This being a formalised group compiled from the Category One and Category Two organisations consisting of the primary public service agencies and utilities companies.
 - 2.4 The County Council is a Category One organisation and is subject to the full range of duties as directed by the CCA
 - 2.5 The emergency planning aspect covers the national requirements to consider risk as part of the 'National Risk Assessment' process. These risks are listed in themed groups covering a diverse range of hazards from severe weather, health issues to industrial accidents. Threats such as Terrorism are included but these are considered as consequence management in terms of the response to any such incidents.
 - 2.6 The local planning is undertaken by emergency planners from the main Category One organisations who lead on particular aspects where specialisms are most appropriate. This is where the multi-agency partnership working is undertaken. Each agency undertaking specific work but sharing and collaborating amongst the other LRF partners.

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2.7 This provides a very robust means of ensuring all agencies are sighted on the work that is carried out within the local area and that all risks are covered.

2.8 The management of the Dorset LRF is achieved within a framework that incorporates both emergency planning professionals and senior officers and representatives from the Category One and Two organisations.

2.9 The work is overseen by the 'Executive Group', chaired by the Chief Constable and supported by the Chief Executives or equivalents from all the other partners. The work required is considered by the 'Business Management Group' which is formed from the senior emergency planning leads from the partner agencies and the delivery achieved by the establishment of workstream and task and finish groups lead by the most appropriate agency.

3.0 The work of the County Council in resilience:

3.1 Dorset County Council is one of the main contributors to the delivery of the work of the LRF and is achieved through the council's Emergency Planning Service who employ professional Emergency Planning Officers to undertake this work.

3.2 The council's emergency planning team not only undertake the work required through the LRF but undertake the internal planning needs to ensure Dorset County Council is fulfilling the requirements of the CCA and can respond to incidents affecting the organisation and the wider community and environment. The team also look after other operational responses for county council services.

3.3 Within the County Councils structure, Emergency Planning is overseen by a Corporate Group, the Corporate Risk and Resilience Group (CRRG).

3.4 The CRRG is chaired by the Service Director for Highways and Emergency Planning. This group is responsible for ensuring the council's preparedness and resilience is in place for such aspects as response, statutory compliance and business continuity.

4.0 Response to incidents:

4.1 The County Council has a duty to respond to incidents as part of the CCA requirements. The county council also has a responsibility to respond to other incidents that services undertake on a 24/7 basis.

4.2 The planning does not amount to anything if there is not a robust means of the organisation responding when required.

4.3 The Emergency Planning Service maintains an on-call Duty Emergency Planning Officer (DEPO) 24/7 to be able to respond to request for council services. This enables the council to be able to achieve a planned and co-ordinated response to support other agencies, primarily the emergency services, but also other partner agencies, communities and other services at any time.

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4.4 The county council also maintains a rota of Gold and Silver level officers comprised of directors and heads of service who are called upon from the DEPO when incidents become significant and require a more comprehensive response from across the council services.

4.5 The DEPO also supports other functions within the council for an out of hour's response where County Council service is required. The DEPO is on-call for a wide range of incidents and ensures that the council is able to respond when needed.

5.0 Audit process:

5.1 Emergency planning is audited from a number of perspectives. There is overview within the LRF structure with regular reporting on progress and delivery. The Cabinet Office undertake an annual review through the Resilience Capability Survey to consider not only the work of the LRF but the individual agencies preparedness as well.

5.2 The Council's emergency planning and resilience has also been audited on numerous occasions by the South West Audit Partnership and also under the new governance arrangements the CRRG will also provide scrutiny to the County Councils emergency planning arrangements. Recently the Business Continuity arrangements have been independently audited by Zurich Insurance to provide a review of the position of the council.

5.3 The County Council is in a very good position and has been complimented on the emergency planning that is undertaken and is considered to be well prepared within the context of the work it is required to do.

5.4 Incidents cannot be stopped from happening, but the way they are responded to can be managed and it is the responsibility of the County Council to ensure that the process for this is in place and is maintained in a fit and proper manner.

Director's name: Mike Harries
Director for: Environment and Economy
June 2017