

WELWYN HATFIELD BOROUGH COUNCIL
ENVIRONMENT OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE – 29 JANUARY 2019
REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR (PUBLIC PROTECTION, PLANNING AND
GOVERNANCE)

RESILIENCE UPDATE

1 Executive Summary

- 1.1 This report provides an update on the principal resilience activities that have been carried out by the Risk and Resilience Team over the period since the previous report in January 2018.

2 Recommendation(s)

- 2.1 That the contents of the report is noted.

3 Explanation

- 3.1 Local authorities are deemed 'Category 1 responders' under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This legislation confers seven duties on responders, these being:

- Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning
- Put in place emergency plans
- Put in place business continuity management arrangements
- Put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency
- Share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency
- Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management (local authorities only)

- 3.2 During 2018/19 to date, the Risk and Resilience Team have undertaken, or been involved in, the following areas of work in fulfilment of these statutory duties:

- A full review of the WHBC Emergency Plan has been undertaken to incorporate new practices, procedures and doctrine. This version has incorporated some planning around spontaneous volunteers and donations, which is a critical area of emerging practice, highlighted in particular by the Grenfell Tower tragedy.
- Service level business continuity plans have been reviewed to address structural changes and various plan administration matters.

- The WHBC Incident Control Centre Plan has been reviewed and now incorporates arrangements for a secondary location in case Campus East is unavailable.
- Our emerging partnership working with St Albans District Council to deliver training and exercising is ongoing and there have been some pilot joint training sessions. We are planning a joint reception centre exercise in early 2019.
- We have run trauma training for our responders delivered by a recognised expert in the field, Dr Anne Eyre.
- As the lead service for 'Prevent' (the government programme around countering radicalisation and extremism) the Risk and Resilience team continues to deliver 'WRAP' (Workshop to Raise Awareness of Prevent) sessions. So far, around 500 people have received training and have also delivered it to all Welwyn Hatfield Police Community Support Officers.
- In December we held a session delivered by external speakers on the underpinning ideologies for radicalisation, together with a counter narrative. This session has been run before and was extremely well received due to the in depth knowledge of the speakers, who are both government approved intervention providers under the 'Prevent' scheme, with extensive experience of working with Islamist and far right extremists.
- We are at the early stages of integrating our WRAP workshops with those for Child Sexual Exploitation and Modern Slavery and hope to have a new package ready for April 2019.
- We have co-operated fully with the Police on Prevent cases during the year and the Risk and Resilience Manager sits on the county Prevent Board.
- Training has been delivered to the Corporate Management Team on their roles as Strategic or Tactical Commanders during an incident.
- The Risk and Resilience Team, once again delivered sessions to year six pupils as part of the Crucial Crew programme. The theme of the session was one of home preparedness, where pupils were asked to pick the items they would have in a home grab bag in case of evacuation. This ties in with the county wide 'Ready for Anything' campaign.
- In terms of incidents there have been no callouts during the year.
- The council continues to play a full role in the affairs of the Local Resilience Forum, Hertfordshire Resilience, both in its standing groups and also any ad-hoc projects and consultations that are carried out under the LRF banner.
- The Risk and Resilience team have been fully involved in the Safety Advisory Team through the year, and the Risk and Resilience Manager chairs this for particular events.
- The Risk and Resilience Team appointed an Apprentice in May 2018. The post holder is making a very positive impact in terms of the team's work.

- The team promoted business continuity to local companies at a business breakfast meeting organised through the council's Economic Development Manager.

Implications

4 Legal Implication(s)

- 4.1 The duties conferred by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 are detailed in paragraph 3.1 above.

5 Financial Implication(s)

6 Financial Implication(s)

- 6.1 None directly arising from this report, though of course emergencies occurring within the borough are likely to have significant financial impacts.

7 Risk Management Implications

- 7.1 Corporate resilience is listed as one of the council's strategic risks and this includes a failure to have robust systems in place to meet the duties under the Civil Contingencies Act.

8 Security & Terrorism Implication(s)

- 8.1 The Prevent duty has been imposed under the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Project 'Griffin' is not a statutory requirement upon local authorities.
- 8.2 The work around both Prevent and Project 'Griffin' fulfil different strands in terms of counter terrorism, aiming to both prevent radicalisation and extremism, and to raise awareness of the key issues in terms of organisational and personal preparedness and resilience.

9 Procurement Implication(s)

- 9.1 None.

10 Climate Change Implication(s)

- 10.1 The changing climate is likely to lead to increasing severe weather events (such as flooding and snowfall) that can have resilience implications.

11 Human Resources Implication(s)

- 11.1 None.

12 Health and Wellbeing Implication(s)

- 12.1 None.

13 Communication and Engagement Implication(s)

- 13.1 Work such as Crucial Crew are important ways of engaging with particular groups.

14 Link to Corporate Priorities

- 14.1 The subject of this report is linked to the corporate priority 'maintain a safe and healthy community' and also to statutory requirements under the Civil Contingencies Act and the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

15 Equality and Diversity

- 15.1 An EqIA was not completed because this report does not propose changes to existing service-related policies or the development of new service-related policies.

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