

Communities Committee

Item No.

Report title:	Resilience and emergency planning
Date of meeting:	21 May 2018
Responsible Chief Officer:	Dr Louise Smith, Director of Public Health
Strategic impact NCC provides and works in collaboration with a range of partners to ensure Norfolk has in place a robust resilience strategy and plans to enable responding to emergencies and recovery. The breadth of planning includes responding to national, regional, local and at a community level to known and emerging risks and how to respond to protect and support Norfolk residents before, during and after an event. This update on the work of the Resilience Team will inform the review of resilience and emergency planning which was highlighted as a priority in the review of the Public Health Strategy approved by members in November 2017.	

Executive summary

The Resilience Team, within Public Health, provides the emergency planning, business continuity management and community resilience function within the Council. The Team collaborates with a wide range of partners within the Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF) to ensure Norfolk is well prepared to manage emergencies and disruptions to essential services. Recent events have demonstrated a good level of preparedness and response within Norfolk. However, Norfolk remains exposed to natural and human-made hazards that require active anticipation of future risks and maintenance of the existing level of planning and engaging more effectively with communities, businesses and the voluntary sector.

Recommendations:

- 1. Members to note the range of emergency planning and preparedness work lead by NCC Resilience Team.**
- 2. Agree to and support the review of the NRF Community Resilience Strategy to seek a greater involvement of elected members at parish, district and county levels and greater engagement with local communities and volunteers in emergency preparedness, response and recovery.**

1. Proposal

- 1.1. The Resilience Team's purpose is to strengthen the resilience of the Norfolk community and NCC's services to prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies and business disruptions.

Key activities are prioritised to achieve the following outcomes:

- Effective collaboration with our partners in the Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF)
- Plans are in place, exercised and staff trained to respond to and recover from emergencies
- More resilient residents and businesses demonstrated through effective community engagement and responses to emergencies and business

disruptions

- Voluntary organisations contribute to emergency preparedness, response and recovery
- The Norfolk health economy demonstrates its resilience to demands on its services through its management of emergencies
- Income is generated to support community resilience activities

The work can be further enhanced by Members and volunteers who are regularly engaged with their communities.

2. Evidence

2.1. The following indicators provide an understanding of our resilience planning and preparedness:

- At least 85% of NRF plans where NCC is the lead agency are up to date
- A Training and Exercising register is maintained by the NRF to monitor the completion of planned training and exercising
- Communities engage with the community resilience strategy through local activities
- Businesses seek and receive BC support
- The health sector in Norfolk maintains compliance with the Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response (EPRR) assurance framework reflecting NHS Core Standards
- Income generated through our resilience training and consultancy services achieve annual targets

Indicators and plans are monitored and targets for emergency and business continuity planning are achieved.

3. Financial Implications

3.1. There are no specific budget implications although noting that there is a small income from providing resilience support and planning for a District council.

4. Issues, risks and innovation

4.1. Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, together with our partners in the NRF, NCC is required to maintain, regularly review and publish the Norfolk Community Risk Register. See <http://www.norfolkprepared.gov.uk/local-risks/> .

Very high risks for Norfolk:

- Human Health – Pandemic Flu
- Flooding (Tidal) -Major coastal and tidal flooding
- Fires involving scrap / recycling site

High risk:

- Severe/extreme weather conditions – Storms and Gales

The above need to be seen in the context of the potential for increasing risks due to a combination of factors including:

- Climate disruption – less predictable weather patterns affecting water storage, crops and fauna; more frequent, intense summer storms leading to more regular surface water flooding; extremes of temperature leading to summer heatwave and short, sharp winter cold snaps.
 - Heightened reliance on technology for living, business and the delivery of services requiring more sophisticated contingency planning for when technology does not work.
 - Reduced staffing levels to “just able to cope” removes any resilience in the workforce in the event of staff shortages due to infectious disease (e.g. flu) or severe weather.
- 4.2. Innovation in the workforce to enable multi-skilling and cross-training to avoid the “single points of failure” and provide more flexibility and adaptability when needed should be part of contingency planning and is promoted through the business continuity work within NCC and externally through business continuity promotion
- 4.3. Similarly, mutual aid agreements between services and between businesses is illustrated by the work Public Health and the Resilience Team together with Adult Social Services are embarking on to strengthen the resilience of care homes to market failure and everyday disruptions, such as power cuts.
- 4.4. The NRF Voluntary and Faith Group is a starting point for greater involvement of voluntary organisations in providing services to prepare, respond and recover from emergencies. The approach is to work with existing groups and encourage a greater involvement in resilience matters even for those agencies that would not necessarily consider themselves “emergency responders”.
- 4.5. Greater involvement of elected members and the mobilisation of local volunteers can be promoted through a revised and updated NRF Community Resilience Strategy to encourage “good neighbourliness” and contribute to the wider resilience of communities as a whole across Norfolk.

5. Background

- 5.1. The Resilience Team focusses on those priorities that will make the biggest difference to the people of Norfolk through preparing communities and supporting the long term sustainability of businesses to withstand and recover from emergencies. Our work is driven by our statutory responsibilities together with priorities identified in the Norfolk Community Risk Register in collaboration with our partners in the Norfolk Resilience Forum (NRF).
- 5.2. Our statutory responsibilities as a Local Authority classed as a Category 1 responder under the **Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) 2004**:
- assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning;
 - put in place emergency plans and business continuity management arrangements;
 - provide information to the public on civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in an emergency;
 - share information and 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
- 5.3. Under the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) 2015 Regulations and Major Accident Control Regulations (MACR): A Local Authority must prepare external emergency plans for upper tier COMAH and MACR sites

- 5.4. Under the Health and Social Care Act 2012: plan for, and respond to, emergencies that present a risk to health. Through a joint post we work closely with NHS partners.

Officer Contact

If you have any questions about matters contained in this paper or want to see copies of any assessments, eg equality impact assessment, please get in touch with:

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