

## ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL Scrutiny Report Template

<b>Committee:</b>	Partnership and Regeneration Scrutiny Committee
<b>Date:</b>	15.10.2018
<b>Subject:</b>	Regional Emergency Planning Service and update on Emergency Planning issues in the Council
<b>Purpose of Report:</b>	To update Members on Emergency Planning issues
<b>Scrutiny Chair:</b>	Councillor Gwilym O Jones
<b>Portfolio Holder(s):</b>	Councillor Llinos Medi
<b>Head of Service:</b>	Lynn Ball
<b>Report Author:</b>	Neil Culff, Manager, North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service. (NWC-REPS) Huw Jones, Head of Democratic Services
<b>Local Members:</b>	n/a

### 1 - Recommendation/s

1. The Committee is requested to comment on the key issues outlined in this report as part of scrutinising partnership arrangements
2. The Committee receives future reports on the preparedness of the Council to plan for emergencies and specific follow-up reports to any major local or regional emergency events to which the Council has had to respond.

### 2 – Link to Council Plan / Other Corporate Priorities

The activities undertaken by NWC-REPS are not directly linked to the Corporate Plan. However, through having appropriate Business Continuity and emergency response and recovery plans in place, the Council is supporting the mitigation of the effects of emergencies on communities.

### 3 – Guiding Principles for Scrutiny Members

**To assist Members when scrutinising the topic:-**

- 3.1** Impact the matter has on individuals and communities [**focus on customer/citizen**]
- 3.2** A look at the efficiency & effectiveness of any proposed change – both financially and in terms of quality [**focus on value**]
- 3.3** A look at any risks [**focus on risk**]
- 3.4** Scrutiny taking a performance monitoring or quality assurance role [**focus on performance & quality**]
- 3.5** Looking at plans and proposals from a perspective of:
  - Long term
  - Prevention

- Integration
- Collaboration
- Involvement

**[focus on wellbeing]**

#### **4 - Key Scrutiny Questions**

- What are the priorities for future emergency planning work across North Wales?
- Is there scope for greater collaboration on specific aspects of the work?
- What is the scope for shared learning across the region and Member input?
- Are there any particular priorities which the Council should focus during the next 3 years?

#### **5 – Background / Context**

The purpose of this report is to provide an update regarding the regional arrangements for emergency planning and response, and those within the Council itself.

Isle of Anglesey County Council has duties for emergency planning and response under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001, and the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996.

The Council meets its obligations by collaborating with the other North Wales local authorities through the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS), for which Flintshire County Council is the lead authority. NWC-REPS reports to an Executive Board, comprising an officer representative of each of the Local Authorities that are partners to the service. Regional work programmes are reported to the Board and monitored.

This service has been in place since 2014 and North Wales is the first region in Wales to form a fully integrated service to support all Councils to fulfil their emergency planning, business continuity and response duties. One of the key objectives in establishing a regional service was to increase resilience and a specialist support for local authorities.

NWC-REPS provides the primary link between the Council and North Wales Local Resilience Forum (LRF - this includes key agencies) with contributions from service staff being fundamental to multi-agency groups, events, processes and plans. In addition to the NWC-REPS contributions, a representative from IoACC routinely attends the LRF Warning & Informing and Severe Weather groups. Other specialist input is gained from colleagues across the organisation as required.

Within the Council, responsibilities for emergency planning and response are shared across services and nominated service representatives. There are regular meetings of the Officer Emergency Planning Working Group. From a service perspective responsibility for emergency planning is managed within Council Business.

The Council benefits from access to a broad range of knowledge and support from the regional service, this includes the sharing of good practice across authority areas. However, for the service to be effective, it is imperative that Council services continue to engage with the activities that are being undertaken, to ensure that emergency planning, business continuity and response are appropriately embedded within the Council.

## **REGIONAL WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Transfer of Executive Functions**

Executive functions for Civil contingencies were transferred to Welsh Government on 24 May 2018.

### **Pandemic Flu**

NWC-REPS is working across the region with the LRF and partner agencies to review the preparedness arrangements for Pandemic Flu. Health colleagues are keen to ensure that arrangements are in place for the forthcoming 'flu season and Pandemic is still classed as 'Very High' on the National and Community Risk Registers. This work will link to Business Continuity arrangements and any necessary guidance will be communicated to the relevant agencies as appropriate.

### **Kerslake Report**

This report was produced following a review of the multi-agency response to the Manchester Arena attack on 22nd May 2017. NWC-REPS have compiled a Gap Analysis on the recommendations that have implications for all Councils. The recommendations will be actioned through the Emergency Planning Working Group. Particularly relevant to local authorities is the focus in the report on civic leadership in the response to the attack and the ongoing recovery effort. The NWC-REPS Learning & Development programme includes training for elected members and will pick-up on this identified good practice.

### **Community Resilience strategy**

NWC-REPS and the Executive Board have agreed a 2017-20 Community Resilience Strategy. The aim of this Strategy through the provision of advice and support for individuals and communities, it is intended that they will become better prepared and resilient when facing emergencies, and their consequences. This includes the provision of advice to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management, which is a statutory requirement of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. To assist, NWC-REPS has developed a 'tool kit' comprised of a Home Emergency Plan, a Community Emergency Plan and a Business Continuity checklist for Small-Medium Enterprises. The Strategy is currently in a trial phase with a number of volunteer Town & Community Councils across North Wales in order to obtain feedback on the usability of the tool kit documents before revised versions are produced and rolled-out over the next twelve months. This will be reported to the Town and Community Council forum in due course.

## **ISLE OF ANGLESEY COUNTY COUNCIL WORK PROGRAMME**

### **Business Continuity Plans.**

The 2017 Internal Audit Report carried out on IoACC Business Continuity plans recommended that arrangements should be in place to ensure Services Business Continuity plans are updated on an annual basis. This normally occurs in Quarter 3.

Also as part of priorities for this quarter NWC-REPS plan to quality assure Business Continuity Plans from a risk perspective and also incorporate lessons learnt from the recent Llangefni flooding incident and severe winter weather. In addition NWC-REPS is supporting the Council with arrangement for a joint exercise with another North Wales authority in March 2019 to test business continuity arrangements - this will also provide an opportunity to review plans and shared learning.

**Threat Escalation planning**

Another workstream relates to the above and local authority preparedness for responding to National Security requirements. The Council's building security policy is currently under review.

**Llangefni Flooding Incident - November 2017**

NWC-REPS have also supported the Council in dealing with the above. Since the incident various actions identified have been addressed by Officers in terms of the Pencadlys building. In addition work is ongoing with Natural Resources Wales in terms of the river management relating to Cefni, Braint and Rhyd y Valley. Local Members have been updated on progress

**Exercise MônCefni**

This exercise took place in Plas Arthur leisure centre in September 2017 with the aim of giving Council staff an opportunity to practice setting up and running a rest centre and to test elements of the Council's 'Rest Centre Guidance' document. The Regional Service is currently preparing guidance for local authorities to encourage volunteers to assist at rest centres. This will be considered by the Council during Q4 2018/19.

**Severe Weather Warnings**

With support from NWC-REPS processes are in place to forward Amber Severe Weather warnings to relevant local authority staff. This enables staff to prepare relevant communications as appropriate in advance of severe weather.

**Vulnerable individuals in areas affected by emergencies**

An Information Sharing Agreement has been produced in collaboration between NWC-REPS, North Wales Police and the North Wales Information Governance Group - Project Exodus. NWC-REPS have been working with relevant Council staff to ensure that the relevant data on vulnerable individuals can be obtained and shared in a timely manner.

**Holyhead Marina damage – March 2018**

Members have already been briefed on the Council's involvement and action taken in response to storm damage in March 2018. Shared multi agency learning is being planned with the support of NWC-REPS.

**Wylfa Newydd**

NWC-REPS have been involved in various forums when emergency planning matters have been considered in the development of Wylfa Newydd. NWC-REPS will be providing input to the Wylfa Newydd Construction Sub-Group which has been established to co-ordinate emergency planning issues during construction phase. The sub group will be reporting to the Wylfa Emergency Planning Consultative Committee of relevant stakeholders.

**6 – Equality Impact Assessment [including impacts on the Welsh Language]**

No Assessment undertaken.

**7 – Financial Implications**

The regional service continues to provide a cost effective and resilient model. Since 2014, annual reductions in the IoACC financial contributions to the service of 2% have been achieved as a result of smaller budget levels and amendments to the service structure.

<b>IoACC Financial Contributions to NWC-REPS since service creation</b>		
2014/15	72,482	
2015/16	67,049	
2016/17	65,708	
2017/18	64,394	
2018/19	63,106	

**8 – Appendices:**

No appendices

**9 - Background papers (please contact the author of the Report for any further information):**

NWC-REPS Service Level Agreement and Inter Authority Agreement