

Isle of Anglesey County Council

Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	15 October 2025
Subject:	North Wales Councils – Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report 2024/25
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Jeff Evans

1. Who will be the portfolio holder presenting/leading the report?

Portfolio Holder	Role
Councillor Gary Pritchard	Leader of the Council
Service Officer (Supporting)	Role
Helen Kilgannon	NWC-REPS Regional Manager
Susan Owen Jones	Executive Manager (Leadership Team)

2. Why the Scrutiny Committee is being asked to consider the matter

The North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service is required to report annually to this committee through an Annual Report.

3. Role of the Scrutiny Committee and recommendations

- ☒ For assurance
☐ For recommendation to the Executive
☐ For information

Recommendation(s):

The Committee is invited to scrutinise and comment on the North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report 2024/25.

4. How do the recommendation(s) contribute to the objectives of the Council's Plan?

4.1 The Council has responsibilities 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.

4.2 The Council is a principal responder and meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales Local Authorities through the North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS).

4.3 The North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service is required to report annually to this committee each year through an Annual Report.

5. Key scrutiny themes

Key themes the Scrutiny Committee should concentrate on:

1. Key responses during the period focussing on collaboration with multi agency partners
2. Current measures to ensure compliance with statutory duties
3. The service priorities for the current financial year

6. Key points/summary

6.1 The Council has emergency planning and response duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001, and the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996.

6.2 The Council is a principal responder and meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales Local Authorities through the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS), for which Flintshire County Council is the host authority.

6.3 Within the Council, responsibilities for emergency planning and response are shared across services and nominated service representatives are identified within the Emergency Management Response Team structure.

6.4 The key areas of focus during this reporting period include:

- 6.4.1 NWC-REPS Effective Incident Management: 24/7 Duty Officer service maintained, handling nearly 200 flood alerts, 21 flood warnings, and 352 Met Office weather warnings across the region.
- 6.4.2 Supported multi-agency responses to significant incidents including Storm Darragh, Storm Eowyn, the Synthite COMAH incident, and severe snow/ice events, representing the local authorities within the established silver room at police HQ.
- 6.4.3 NWC-REPS delivered a Voluntary Sector Capabilities Day with British Red Cross, REACT, 4x4 Wales, and others, enhancing responder–volunteer networking.
- 6.4.4 Storm Darragh was an extratropical cyclone which formed on 5 December 2024 and dissipated on 9 December 2024 with gusts of more than 90mph. The storm affected the Island during Saturday, 7 December 2024 & Sunday, 8 December 2024. The Council took the following precautions on Saturday, 7 December 2024:
- Closure of all leisure centres.
 - Closure of both the Penhesgyn and Gwalchmai Household Recycling Centres.
 - Closure of all libraries.
 - Closure of Oriel Ynys Môn and café.
 - Closure of all public toilets.
 - Closure of the Holyhead Breakwater Country Park and Dingle Local Nature Reserve, Llangefni.
 - Closure of both the Beaumaris Pier and St George's Pier, Menai Bridge.
 - Flood gates at Beaumaris, Trearddur Bay and Bull Bay were closed.
 - As the storm took place over the weekend, the main office building was already closed as were schools.

The storm had a significant impact: closing roads, closure of the Britannia Bridge, closure of Holyhead Port, the loss of power and caused damage to structures and properties.

During this period the council collaborated with partners, responded to issues and impacts, and ensured effective community and information with residents.

A significant number of homes across the island experienced prolonged power outages. The most significantly affected were Llangoed (Heulfre), Llangefni (Carelink) and Amlwch (Maes William Williams). In response, the council worked in close collaboration with key partners to prioritise the welfare of affected residents, coordinating the provision of essential resources (e.g. generators) where needed and ensuring support was delivered where most needed.

The following infographic summarises the council's information sharing activity between the 4-9 December 2025.

Engagement during Storm Darragh

6 - 9 of December 2024



2,400+

Total calls, messages
and e-mails received



22,594

Views on our web pages



1m+

Views on our social media
warning and informing
messages



www.ynysmon.llyw.cymru
www.anglesey.gov.wales



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A review and lessons learnt exercise took place to help gain views on what was done well and what could be improved in case of similar future events.

6.4.5 Following significant damage sustained during Storm Darragh, Holyhead Port experienced a total closure to ferry traffic from 7 December 2024 to 15 January 2025.

The Council was part of a multi-agency emergency response, collaborating through formal Strategic and Tactical Coordination Group structures. This enabled effective and timely communication, information sharing, and decision making. The Council was not the decision-making body in relation to the Port of Holyhead but was part of the response arrangements to manage the impacts (i.e. HGVs not being able to travel across the Irish Sea). The Council engaged and collaborated with the Port Authority, Welsh Government and other partners throughout the closure period to manage the impacts and ensure information was shared with residents.

To understand the impact the closure had incurred upon Anglesey and Welsh businesses, the Council launched an online survey on the 8th of January. The Council provided evidence to the inquiry being conducted by the Senedd's Economy, Trade and Rural Affairs Committee on the Holyhead Port Storm Damage and Closure.

6.4.6 The Council has signed the Charter for Families Bereaved by Public Tragedy promoting compassionate public service. The Deputy Chief Executive attended the launch event on 18 March 2025.

6.4.7 A Task and Finish Group was formed in May 2024 to review the Menai Strait crossing contingencies. The group includes category 1 and 2 responders and a review of the framework, clarifying roles and expectations is underway. The document was exercised in November 2024 and March 2025. This work has strengthened multi-agency coordination, reduced potential response delays, and improved emergency readiness. More changes have been made to the framework document and will be reviewed at the LRF co-ordination group. In addition, the Welsh Government are developing a HGV stacking plan.

The recent emergency closure of the Menai Suspension Bridge has once again highlighted the lack of resilience in the Menai Strait crossings and the need for robust, fit for purpose emergency response arrangements in the event that both crossings have to close.

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Potential impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

None identified – all protected groups under the Equality Act 2010 will be treated equitably, with no differential.

7.2. Potential impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

There have been several events which have highlighted the need for a coordinated approach to how we identify vulnerable people in emergencies. NWC-REPS have established a task and finish group to advance this work to ensure we can collate information with partners identifying those who may need additional assistance in emergencies to address any disadvantage.

7.3. Potential effects on opportunities to use Welsh and not treat the language less favourably than English

No potential impact identified.

7.4. Potential impact on the Council's Net Zero Carbon target

No potential impact identified.

8. Financial implications

The Isle of Anglesey County Council's annual contribution to the service is £58,752 a further reduction of 5% on the previous year costs. The contribution is based on a proportion of 10.472% towards the annual budget for the service. Since its inception, the Service has reduced the contributions of the 6 local authorities by over £350k.

Local Authority	Annual Contribution %
Isle of Anglesey County Council	10.472%
Conwy County Borough Council	16.940%
Denbighshire County Council	14.865%
Flintshire County Council	19.348%
Gwynedd Council	17.979%
Wrexham County Borough Council	20.396%
Total	100%

9. Appendices

North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report 2024/2025

10. Report author and background papers

Helen Kilgannon – NWC-REPS Regional Manager



Annual Report 2024/25

This is the annual North Wales Councils - Regional Emergency Planning Service report for the year 2024-2025. It covers the work carried out by NWC-REPS across the six local authorities in the region, as well as multi-agency activities undertaken to support North Wales Local Resilience Forum.

North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service

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COUNTY COUNCIL



CONWY
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



Cyngor
sir ddinbych
denbighshire
County Council



wrexham
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
WREXHAM



CYNGOR
Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS)

Isle of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council work together in a partnering relationship through the establishment in 2014 of a Regional Emergency Planning Service for North Wales. This Service undertakes the functions of the Councils in respect of civil contingencies and is accountable to an Executive Board that comprises senior representatives of those Councils. NWC-REPS provides a service to ensure the Local Authorities are compliant with the following legislation: -

- Civil Contingencies Act, 2004
- Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations, 2015
- Pipeline Safety Regulations, 1996
- Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations, 2019

The Service works to:

- Reduce duplication and repetition of tasks
- Improve the harmonisation of the work and resilience of teams
- Improve the deployment of available resources by sharing specialist support and common tasks
- Improve consistency of response between authorities
- Improve communication channels between the North Wales Resilience Forum and Local Authorities



Byword from the Executive Board Chair

As Chair of the Executive Board, and on behalf of the six local authorities across North Wales, I am pleased to introduce this year's Annual Report. This report highlights the collective work and ongoing commitment of our councils in ensuring the safety, resilience, and preparedness of our communities in the face of a wide range of emergencies.

Over the past year, our Emergency Planning team have continued to work diligently to enhance our regional response capabilities. From co-ordinating multi-agency exercises and reviewing critical risk assessments, to supporting communities through severe weather events and other incidents, their work has remained both proactive and responsive.

The challenges we face - whether environmental, technological, or societal - require not only robust planning, but also effective collaboration. Our shared service model is a testament to the strength of partnership working across North Wales. Through shared expertise, resources, and a unified strategy, we continue to build a more resilient region.

This report outlines key achievements, developments in risk management, training and exercising, and the strengthening of links with emergency services, the NHS, voluntary organisations, and other partners. It also demonstrates how we are embedding continuous improvement into everything we do, ensuring that the lessons of today inform the planning of tomorrow.

We remain committed to supporting our Emergency Planning team and partners, and to safeguarding the wellbeing of all who live and work in North Wales.

Thank you to all staff, volunteers, and partners who contribute to this vital work.



Incident Management

NWC-REPS provides two 24/7 year round Duty Officers to act as the initial point of contact for emergency response.

During the financial year 2024-2025, NWC-REPS assisted in this role in the following ways:

Receiving and assessing Natural Resources Wales warnings and alerts:

- 199 Flood Alerts
- 21 Flood Warnings

Receiving and assessing Met Office Weather warnings:

- Gwynedd = 69 (64 Yellow / 4 Amber / 1 Red)
- Conwy = 66 (61 Yellow / 4 Amber / 1 Red)
- Anglesey = 41 (38 Yellow / 2 Amber / 1 Red)
- Denbighshire = 60 (56 Yellow / 4 Amber)
- Flintshire = 58 (54 Yellow / 4 Amber)
- Wrexham = 58 (55 Yellow / 3 Amber)

Receiving and responding to incident reports that included:

- Synthite COMAH Incident April 2024
- Amber Rain Warning May 2024
- Storm Darragh December 2024
- Amber Snow and Ice Warning January 2025
- Storm Eowyn January 2025
- Bryn Cowlyd Water Incident January 2025



Working together

Humanitarian Assistance Voluntary Group (HAVG) Capabilities Day 3rd of September 2024

Wrexham County Borough Council Emergency Planning Officer and East Emergency Planning Project Officer, with the guidance of the Regional Manager, arranged a Voluntary Sector Capabilities Event on behalf of LRF HAVG. A Task & Finish Group of four key HAVG members from 4x4 Wales, British Red Cross, REACT and North Wales Police was established. Three Task and Finish meetings took place prior to the event along with a site visit.

The day saw 10 key presenters along with the show casing of vehicles and equipment outside the venue. This allowed attendees to view vehicles and equipment during their breaks.

The day was successful and allowed Category 1 and 2 responders to network with the Voluntary Sector and see how they can support before, during and after an incident.

Future priorities

Recovery Plan

The LRF Recovery Plan has been drafted and shared with partners for comments, this will be ratified at the next LRF Executive meeting.

Inphase (performance system)

A small Task and Finish Group was set up to review Inphase. Inphase is a performance system which will be used in order to track progress of Emergency Planning Officers. Workplans are currently being uploaded, with system testing underway.

Training database

The training database is currently under development. The training database will hold all internal details of training Local Authority staff have completed to aid identification of training needs. System design team are attending team meetings in August to look at roll out of the system.

Kronospan Exercise Cycle

The three yearly cycle of exercising for the off-site COMAH Plans will be undertaken prior to the end of the financial year.



Isle of Anglesey County Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Since October 2023, considerable progress has been made on the Menai Strait crossing contingencies. A Task and Finish Group formed in May 2024 has completely rewritten the framework document with input from category 1 and 2 responders, clarifying roles and expectations. The document was assessed in November 2024 and March 2025. This work has strengthened multi-agency coordination, reduced potential response delays, and improved emergency readiness. More changes have been made to the framework document which it is awaiting agreement in the LRF co-ordination group. The Welsh Government is developing a stacking plan.

The Local Authorities Business Continuity Plan has been revised following the management teams exercise feedback. Critical functions now focus on actual services (e.g., “critical care for vulnerable populations” rather than “social services”). This clarifies essential emergency services, improves resource prioritisation, and enhances resilience during disruptions. Individual services have received support to update their specific plans. A new emergency directory template has been developed to make the document more user-friendly regarding its use and future updating.

A loggist procedure document was created and shared. The document ensures accurate and consistent record-keeping during incidents, provides staff with clear guidance on roles and responsibilities and strengthens audit trails and accountability during emergency response. Loggist training was delivered to 13 members of staff across all services and a loggist meeting will be convened towards the end of the year.



Gwynedd Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

The Business Continuity plan template has been successfully rolled out, NWC-REPS are currently supporting each department with the completion of their Business Impact Assessments (BIAs) and accompanying documentation.

All Local Authority sub-groups are meeting regularly. The Humanitarian, Recovery, and Response groups have actively taken part in case studies and have delivered presentations as part of a series of mini-exercises.

Gwynedd was significantly impacted by severe weather events during the winter of 2024, with Storms Eowyn and Darragh causing notable disruption. Additionally, in December, a derelict building in Caernarfon partially collapsed. From January 2025 to March 2025, Gwynedd saw a rise in wildfire incidents, with 8 incidents recorded.

Gwynedd's internal training matrix continues to be maintained, with increased staff attendance at JESIP training sessions across various departments and sub-groups. Further work is required to identify operational managers for JESIP Operational / Bronze-level training.

Terms of Reference have been drafted in collaboration with sub-group Chairs and are currently awaiting translation prior to final review.

Rest Centre resource boxes and contact information have been updated, with additional centres identified in Bangor and Fairbourne evacuation plan (to support the Fairbourne evacuation plan).

A delegation from the Welsh Government Infrastructure Group visited Fairbourne to review the partnerships approach, recognising it as a model of best practice in community engagement and resilience. This framework may be adapted for use in other communities across Wales.



Conwy County Borough Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Following the adoption of the NWC-REPS template, Senior Managers attended a presentation in March to embed the Plan and structure. It was also used as an opportunity to raise awareness of the work of NWC-REPS and the responsibilities of Local Authorities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. This was complimented by engagement on the 2024 Wales Gold and JESIP training programme.

The NWC-REPS suite of Business Continuity documents were introduced to Conwy for consultation. Workshops were arranged with Senior Managers to review the Corporate and Service Continuity Plans. The Policy and Framework has been adopted and The Corporate Plan is in final stages of draft awaiting approval of amendments.

A proposal to change the Emergency Planning Governance and response structure to better align with internal and external Civil Contingencies workstreams, was approved by the Chief Executive. The proposed structure is akin to the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team) frameworks utilised in other North Wales Local Authorities and was presented to Conwy senior leaders and managers during the first quarter of 2025. A suite of TORs for the relevant sub groups has been drafted to assist in the introduction of the new structure over the next few months. The TORs have been circulated to the members of the Civil Contingencies Strategic and Operations Groups (CCSG and CCOG) for consideration and comment.

NWC-REPS and Welsh Water/Dŵr Cymru liaised with Environment, Roads and Facilities to develop water distribution arrangements to mitigate a significant disruption to supply. This was put in place to prevent a second incident, similar to the Bryn Cowlyd incident occurring. Partners, including Conwy Council were briefed and resources were placed on standby to ensure there wouldn't be any negative impact to Conwy communities.

The Conwy Valley Flood Partnership Group convenes quarterly and provides an opportunity for members, Councillors and partners to discuss planning, maintenance and emergency response arrangements for the area. NWC-REPS chaired a Task and Finish Group to develop the Conwy Valley Multi Agency Flood Response Plan.

The Morfa Rhuddlan Community Partnership's main area of focus has been consultation regarding proposed flood defences in the Kinmel Bay area.

NWC-REPS attend and contribute to the work of the Cyber Response Programme Group. TOR, work programmes, CIRT membership, staff workshops and training programmes have been agreed and continue to be implemented.

NWC-REPS assisted Conwy County Borough Council planners with regards to the multi-agency emergency plan for Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP).

A presentation outlining Civil Contingency arrangements and the work of NWC-REPS was delivered to Elected Members at the Members Development and Information Forum on 14th February.



Denbighshire County Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Following last years live Rest Centre exercise, all recommendations have been embedded in Denbighshire. The Rest Centre Plan was reviewed in February 2025. An information session for new volunteers has taken place and led to a further 7 Rest Centre volunteers signing up. Bi-annual meetings / information sessions have been introduced to all Rest Centre volunteers to ensure they stay engaged.

Denbighshire's Corporate Emergency Information Team handbook has been revised and embedded in the group. There are now 10 loggists fully trained and operational. Two loggists have been allocated to each SEMT sub-group and will be attending the quarterly meetings to practice and build relationships with staff.

The new Chair of the Operations Team is now fully trained and has taken over as Chair. Following discussions within the Operations Team meetings, the Operations Team Handbook has now been reviewed and updated.

All services have now completed their new Service Continuity Plan, the IT disaster recovery plan has also been updated for 2025.

The Recovery team within Denbighshire is now established and has a Deputy in place.



Flintshire County Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

Quarterly meetings of the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team) and its sub-groups were held to maintain strategic oversight, ensure coordination across the Local Authority, and review preparedness activities. These meetings provided a platform for discussing emerging risks, sharing best practices, and progressing ongoing resilience initiatives.

In addition to routine meetings, the EMRT was also activated in response to incidents as required. These activations facilitated a coordinated response.

The Business Continuity Team received a comprehensive overview from the Isle of Anglesey County Council's IT Management of the cyber incident that occurred affecting Anglesey, including the impact and the response measures. There has also been a comprehensive review of Business Continuity Plans and the Cyber Resilience Plan.

The Business Continuity Team were also preparing and planning for Flintshire County Council's (FCC) official move to the Tŷ Dewi Sant offices in Ewloe.

Two new Rest Centre locations have been identified in Mold, addressing a key vulnerability, as one of the previously designated centres in Mold Leisure Centre had a known risk of flooding. Checks for their suitability are ongoing. The East Project Officer is in the process of checking and replenishing the Rest Centre Boxes in Flintshire. Paperwork has also been collated and organised. Rest centre annexes have been completed and familiarisation meetings have been held with identified Rest Centres.

In April 2024, there was a fire and multiple explosions at Synthite, in Mold, one of the four upper tier COMAH sites within North Wales. At the onset of the fire, it was unclear if stored chemicals, predominantly formaldehyde, were at risk as the fire was in an adjacent building to the storage area. North Wales

Police requested support from Streetscene, to assist with road closures, and requested a Rest Centre was opened, which was subsequently closed. Testing from Natural Resources Wales identified a formaldehyde release into the water course. The TCG escalated this to SCG. Once the levels decreased in the watercourse the SCG was stood down. The HSE investigation into the incident is ongoing.

Several Resilience Direct familiarisation sessions were delivered during 2024 by the Emergency Planning Officer Statutory Projects. The sessions were well attended and positively received by participants.

A Weather Warning Escalation Policy was established within the Operations Team, this is used during periods of severe weather for the team to decide at what point it needs escalating to EMRT.

The Mass Fatalities Plan has been successfully embedded into the Operations Team Handbook. This is now a standing agenda item to ensure ongoing awareness and preparedness.

The Transport Plan and the Operations Team Handbook has been reviewed and will be shared during the next Operations sub-group Team meeting.

Support and assistance provided to the Community Flood Group, when creating the Sandycroft and Broughton and Bretton Community Flood Plan.

A register of loggists for FCC has been finalised, following a recruitment drive. The loggist training is currently under development, and will be delivered in 2025.

Wrexham County Borough Council

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

The Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) and its sub-groups participated in an exercise centered around a simulated train derailment incident. This scenario-based training enhanced interdepartmental coordination, tested response protocols, and reinforced preparedness for related emergencies.

A focused presentation was delivered to the Housing Department outlining the role and capabilities of the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team). As part of this engagement, a scenario involving a terraced house explosion was used to test multi-agency coordination, response planning, and the potential impact on residential communities. The session highlighted the importance of preparedness and collaboration across departments within the Local Authority.

A presentation was delivered to the Recovery Team on the subject of recovery within the Local Authority and the role of the EMRT (Emergency Management Response Team).

As part of ongoing risk mitigation efforts, NWC-REPS developed Coal Tip plans for three sites within Wrexham County Council. This work followed consultation with relevant partners including emergency services, and environmental agencies. The planning process involved identifying potential impact zones, and establishing clear roles and responsibilities within the plan for incident response. These plans significantly enhance Local Authority preparedness and ensure a coordinated multi-agency approach to managing the risks associated with coal infrastructure.

Service Continuity Plans have been reviewed and are now using the revised template.

Service Continuity exercises were held throughout the year for Finance and ICT, with a separate exercise for ICT, Housing, Economy and Planning departments within Wrexham County Borough Council. These exercises tested the departmental Service Continuity Plans and provided teams with the opportunity to evaluate the effectiveness and resilience of their plans.

Rest Centre visits were conducted by the Wrexham Emergency Planning Officer, and East Project Officer to evaluate their suitability and ensure the accuracy and relevance of associated appendices for each site.

An overview of the Gold (Strategic) response was presented in accordance with a request from Chief Officers.

The Emergency Contacts Directory (ECD) was updated every 3 months by the East Project Officer, this consisted of the Project Officer requesting any updates from the Departments within WCBC, and updating the ECD accordingly. This was then uploaded to RD.

A Resilience Direct Overview Session was held for WCBC staff by the Statutory Projects Emergency Planning Officer. This was well received by staff, and gave a full overview of the use of the site.



Control Of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH), Pipeline and Nuclear Work

Work carried out during financial year 2024 to 2025

COMAH Planning and Exercising:

Site Specific:

- **Synthite** - completed the delivery of Exercise WAVE modules with the operator and NWLRF partners to ensure COMAH 2015 compliance. Ensure there is ongoing liaison with NRW & HSE as the COMAH competent authority, to review the compliance and intervention measures being undertaken with the site as part of the post-accident work.
- **Great Bear Distribution** - worked with the operator and partners to implement Exercise STAR debrief recommendations, including improvements to the companies warning and informing capability and future improvements to the Flintshire County Council (FCC) External Emergency Plan.
- **FMC Agro** - worked with the operator and partners to develop a range of Exercise WYVERN debrief recommendations, including improvements to FCC External Emergency Plan template.
- **Kronospan** - provision of support and advice to Kronospan's site Health and Safety team regarding restriction of access to one of their primary emergency exits by a local business potentially compromising any required COMAH major accident response to the site by WAST & NWFRS.

Generic:

- Participation in the National COMAH Good Practice Group working group.
- Attendance at the COMAH regulatory compliance meetings with HSE and NRW in their regulatory capacity.

Pipeline Safety Regulations Planning and Exercising (MAHP):

Operator specific:

- **Uniper** - completed two Exercise VENT modules with the operator and NWLRF partners to ensure PSR 1996 compliance.



Generic:

- Reissue of all nine major accident hazard pipeline (MAHP) plans for the six North Wales local authorities, thus ensuring regulatory compliance with the PSR 1996 - these plans involve four high pressure pipeline network operators (Uniper/ENI/National Gas/Wales & West Utilities).

NWC-REPS Regional Work

Rest Centre provisions were reviewed and all six Local Authorities activation procedures were agreed and added as a supplementary document to the Regional Plan.

Several members of NWC-REPS staff have been working on creating layers for DataMap Wales, which is a mapping system ran by the Welsh Government. A map has been created with six separate layers for each Local Authority in North Wales, showing each Rest Centre and the Rest Centres key information.

NWC-REPS have collaborated with the NWP Counter Terrorism Security Advisor and Local Authority education leads to develop and deliver major incident workshops to education leads in the North Wales Local Authorities. Several sessions have been held throughout all six Local Authorities.

The six Local Authorities emergency procedures were used during Storm Darragh in December 2024 and Storm Eowyn in January 2025. Storm Darragh brought a red weather warnings across the majority of all six Local Authorities. A multi-agency silver control room was established in the North Wales Police headquarters, NWC-REPS staff were based there as a link between the local authorities and multi-agency partners. This assisted with road closure incidents and homes affected by power loss. This was considered good practice from the Local Authority perspective.

All Local Authorities have signed the Charter for Bereaved Families, and workstreams are underway to embed its principles across the organisations.

NWC-REPS attend the PSPG and SAGs for all Local Authorities. A particular area of focus has been the impacts on the Local Authority regarding the introduction of Martyn's Law.



NWLRF work streams

NWC-REPS are now representing the Local Authorities in the Lessons Management Group, which has been set up to manage the embedding and implementation of recommendations from debriefs, inquiries and learning and Development. This will be Regional and National recommendations.

The Emergency Planning Officer Statutory Projects is assisting in the review and revision of the Local Authority action card in the NWLRF Chemical, Biological, Radioactive & Nuclear response plan.

There is also attendance at the Wildfire group, and NWC-REPS have assisted with the completion of an action card with the Clwydian Range & Dee Valley National Landscape officers, to support the ongoing development of the NWLRF Wildfire plan. There has also been the development of a call out procedure with the NWFRS control room, to ensure that NWC-REPS duty officers are notified of the severity of emerging wildfires when they occur.

NWC-REPS is also participating in the Battery Technology Risk Working Group which is focusing on the societal impact and regional response implications of incidents involving lithium ion based battery technology.

An action which came from the Maritime Response Task and Finish Group was to create a Local Authority action card for the NWLRF Maritime Emergency Response Plan. This has since been completed by NWC-REPS.

Within the Emergency Water Distribution Task and Finish Group, work is ongoing to identify suitable Local Authority-owned sites in Conwy and Gwynedd, in collaboration with Local Authority Highways and Streetscene leads, for use in emergency water distribution during a mass outage. In addition, Dŵr Cymru's emergency water distribution plan is being reviewed following the Bryn Cowlyd incident.

NWC-REPS NWLRF in the planning of a multi-agency tunnel incident exercise (Exercise Viper) that was held on Sunday 1st December. A further exercise was facilitated by the North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRF) and attended by NWC-REPS and Conwy staff. It provided the opportunity for delegates to take part in a tactical coordination group and media cell in response to a multi-vehicle road traffic collision within the Conwy Tunnel.

Learning & Development

- NWC-REPS attendance at the Cyber Breach Workshop.
- NWC-REPS attendance at the Packsaddle Exercise - LRF Reservoir exercise in Wrexham.
- Recovery training sessions are being held in Wrexham to support the development of subgroups and their deputies.
- NWC-REPS attendance at River Dee Exercise at Cheshire West and Chester Council.
- Training for EMRT membership following review.
- NWC-REPS participated in the LRF Loggist Training to enable them to deliver the training internally to Local Authorities. Since then, the training has been adapted to better meet the needs of Local Authorities through a Task and Finish Group. The training will be delivered throughout 2025 in all 6 Local Authorities.



NWLRF work streams

- In addition to Wales Gold, Local Authority staff have attended JESIP Silver, Operational and logistics training programme. NWC-REPS facilitators are part of the JESIP planning team and contribute to the development of presentations and exercises that reflect the training needs of Local Authority participants as well as the blue light services and other partners.
- Local Authority staff have access to civil contingency e-learning packages developed by NWC-REPS. The complete list of the Emergency Planning courses available are:
 - What is a Rest Centre?
 - Rest Centre Staff and Volunteers
 - Rest Centre Manager
 - Humanitarian Response Coordinator
 - Operation Officer
 - Statutory Emergency Planning Legislation
 - Tactical Officer
 - Risks Relevant to Local Authorities
 - Debrief
 - Local Authority Partnership Working in Emergency Planning
 - Structures
 - Strategic Officer
 - Recovery
 - Log Keeping
- NWC-REPS facilitates Exercise Cooper every quarter throughout the year. This is an exercise which tests our Emergency Contacts Directory, and helps us keep the numbers up-to-date. The exercise is done during office hours, and out of hours too.



NWC-REPS Planned Work for Financial Year 2025-2026

Regional Work

- Mop up Counter Terrorism Sessions will be held during 2025-2026 for all six Local Authorities.
- Introduction and roll out of the NWRF Recovery Plan and associated embedding activities

Isle of Anglesey County Council

- A modern slavery rest centre exercise is being planned for September 2025 and is to be held in Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. Rest centre exercises are essential for Local Authorities as they ensure preparedness for emergencies. A modern slavery exercise will test the specific requirements of such an event that could be exclusive to the Isle of Anglesey due to the Holyhead Port. These exercises allow staff and volunteers to practice their roles, test equipment and logistics, and improve coordination with emergency services and partner organisations.

They help identify gaps in existing plans, ensuring services are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all, including vulnerable individuals. By running these exercises, Local Authorities build public confidence and meet legal responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act.

- An IT-based business continuity exercise will be held in May 2025. This will test the services' ability to respond to I.T and system loss to ensure plans and processes are adequate.
- Further revisions to the simultaneous Menai Strait bridge closure framework, the service will also support work undertaken by the Welsh Government regarding stacking arrangements.
- Corporate volunteers and a Gold rota are being considered following lessons learnt from Storm Darragh and Eowyn.
- The Menai Strait Crossing Contingencies document was tested in March 2025, with further revisions identified in April 2025. This is awaiting LRF coordination group ratification.

- The Rest Centre briefing session is scheduled for April 2025. It outlined the structure and responsibilities of local emergency planning under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the purpose and types of emergency Rest Centres, the roles within these centres, and practical considerations such as catering, communication, and managing diverse needs during a crisis. The presentation aimed to prepare staff to effectively support the community in emergency evacuation situations.

Gwynedd County Council

- Terms of Reference have been drafted in collaboration with sub-group Chairs and are currently awaiting translation prior to final review.
- A Multi Agency Operational and a separate Communications exercise for the Fairbourne evacuation plan is being arranged for September and October.
- Representation is being arranged for Exercise Pegasus.
- Major Emergency Arrangements (MEA) are being updated June/July.
- The Threat and security plan being developed July/August.
- A Business Continuity exercise is being prepared for the Strategic Panel.
- The Recovery Group has expressed interest in running a mini exercise based on the LRF Recovery plan.
- Operational handbook being developed in June/July.
- Emergency Contact Directory will be updated in June.
- We aim to conduct a test exercise and begin embedding the plans into operational practice by early summer.
- The Fairbourne evacuation plan is currently awaiting final sign-off. A tabletop exercise has been drafted and is under review, with an aim to deliver the exercise in early summer. Work is ongoing to model weather patterns and assess potential impacts to strengthen the response strategy. All additional Rest Centre locations have been approved and invited to take part in the relevant training.

NWC-REPS Planned Work for Financial Year 2025-2026

Conwy County Borough Council

- Establish and support EMRT structure. Agree Terms of Reference (ToR) and membership of sub groups. Introduce response action cards for EMRT subgroups.
- Review of Conwy Council workstreams and risks in Conwy.
- Review of Conwy Response Plans and prioritise any remedial actions accordingly.
- Align Business Continuity arrangements to the Framework. Support implementation and the development and testing of individual service plans.
- Continue to assist in the development of cyber resilience and maintain momentum of the cyber resilience response programme.
- Identify loggists, develop training package and confirm training arrangements.
- A presentation is to be delivered to Town and Community Councillors in April 2025, with an opportunity to focus on the impact of the significant water disruption experienced in January.

Denbighshire County Council

- School Emergency Plan template to be rolled out.
- A Loggist Training Session to be held, ensuring all Loggists within DCC have been trained.
- Informal Gold Exercise session
- Micro Business Continuity sessions for each service.
- All services to have completed their business impact analysis to inform the corporate plan.
- Operations Team desktop exercise
- New elected Members guidance booklet



NWC-REPS Planned Work for Financial Year 2025-2026

Flintshire County Council

- Ongoing attendance at SAGs
- Business Continuity Workshops to be held in 2025, to support the Local Authority portfolios with testing their Business Continuity plans.
- Ongoing meetings and information sharing around the Flint high-rise flats.
- Planning an 'Emergency Management Members Event' to inform members of their role during an emergency, and to inform them what the Council response and structure looks like.
- Rest Centre Manager training to be delivered in late 2025. The training is currently under development.

Wrexham County Borough Council

- A Recovery exercise will be conducted, following the LRF plan roll out.
 - Final Service Continuity Plan exercises for:
 - Chief Executive's Services
 - Environment and Technical
 - Governance and Customer Service
 - Social Service
- Loggist pool meetings to be established following the training.
- A follow up Resilience Direct Overview Session to be held in June 2025.
- Review of actions that came out of the Cyber workshop.
- Introduce action cards for EMRT subgroups.
- Review of TOR for EMRT and subgroups.



COMAH, PIPELINE and NUCLEAR WORK

COMAH Planning and Exercising:

Site Specific:

Synthite:

- revision and reissue of the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) for the site
- ongoing liaison with Natural Resources Wales (NRW) and HSE as the COMAH competent authority, to review the compliance and intervention measures being undertaken with the site and the outcomes of the accident investigation
- **Great Bear Distribution** - revision and reissue of the FCC External Emergency Plans for these sites
- **Kronospan** - development and delivery of four emergency exercise modules with the operator and NWLRF partners to ensure COMAH 2015 compliance

Generic:

- Overhaul of the COMAH recharge system, and cost recovery with the four COMAH operators
- Participation in the National COMAH Good Practice Group working group
- Attendance at the COMAH regulatory compliance meetings with HSE and NRW in their regulatory capacity

Pipeline Safety Regulations Planning and Exercising (MAHP):

Operator specific:

- **Uniper** - negotiation with the operator regarding scheduling in the delivery of the remaining Exercise VENT modules during the 2026-27 financial year.
- **Wales & West Utilities** - review, revision and reissue of the MAHP plans for this operator.
- **ENI** - negotiation with the operator regarding decommissioning the current MAHP plan for their high pressure gas pipeline network

- **National Gas** - review, revision and reissue of the MAHP plan for this operator to include the proposed pipeline extension to their high pressure network at Deeside Industrial Park
- **Shotton Mill/Eren** - liaison with the operator regarding the potential need to develop a MAHP plan for their on-site pipeline infrastructure, which is likely to fall under the pipeline safety regulations

Generic:

- Delivery of a series of online MAHP / PSR emergency planning awareness sessions for local authorities, with the support of UKOPA

Nuclear/REPPiR Planning and Exercising:

- Attendance at the national LANWG and NULEAF nuclear emergency planning and response working groups, on behalf of all six local authorities.
- Attendance at the Anglesey & Gwynedd nuclear decommissioning site stakeholder groups, for the former Wylfa and Trawsfynydd nuclear power stations.
- Ongoing development of a nuclear response framework guidance document for all six local authorities, to ensure compliance with the REPPiR 2019 regulations.





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ISLE OF ANGLESEY
COUNTY COUNCIL



CONWY
COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL



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