

Isle of Anglesey County Council Scrutiny Report

Committee:	Corporate Scrutiny Committee
Date:	14 October 2026
Subject:	North Wales Councils – Regional Emergency Planning Service Annual Report 2025/26
Scrutiny Chair:	Councillor Jeff M 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 2025/26.

4. How does 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. Significant incidents and multi-agency responses during 2025/26, including severe weather, infrastructure disruption and water supply incidents.
2. Current measures to ensure compliance with statutory emergency planning duties and maintain organisational resilience.
3. Preparedness activities undertaken during the year, including business continuity, training, exercising and plan development.
4. Emerging risks and service priorities for 2026/27, including climate adaptation, infrastructure resilience, cyber resilience and support for vulnerable people during emergencies.

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 Severe Weather and Infrastructure Disruption

During 2025/26, NWC-REPS supported the response to a range of severe weather and infrastructure-related incidents across North Wales. The Duty Officer Service monitored and assessed 213 Flood Alerts, 13 Flood Warnings and numerous Met Office Weather Warnings affecting the region. The Service coordinated situational awareness and information sharing during incidents including Storm Amy, Storm Claudia and Storm Goretti, coastal landslides affecting Anglesey, the Bryn Cowlyd water supply incident, Menai Strait crossing disruptions and Holyhead Port operational issues.

6.4.2 Isle of Anglesey Emergency Preparedness and Resilience

During the reporting period, the Council completed a review of its Business Continuity arrangements, adopting a function-based approach to identifying critical activities and strengthening organisational resilience. Individual services reviewed and updated their continuity plans and a new emergency contacts directory was introduced to improve the maintenance and accessibility of critical information during emergencies.

The Council also completed a review of Rest Centre arrangements, introducing updated procedures, inventories and contact arrangements. These arrangements were subsequently tested during a multi-agency exercise involving Council services and North Wales Police, providing assurance that the Council can effectively support displaced residents during emergencies.

6.4.3 Menai Strait and Maritime Preparedness

Work continued to strengthen contingency arrangements relating to both the Menai Strait crossings and maritime emergencies. The Council participated in a multi-agency Task and Finish Group reviewing contingency arrangements for disruption affecting the Menai Strait crossings. Revised arrangements have provided greater clarity regarding agency roles and responsibilities and have been tested through a programme of exercises.

In addition, maritime emergency response arrangements were enhanced through the development of a Local Authority Action Card and participation in multi-agency exercises testing the North Wales Local Resilience Forum Maritime Incident Response Framework. This work supports the Council's significant maritime responsibilities associated with Holyhead Port, coastal communities and maritime transport links.

6.4.4 Training, Exercising and Multi-Agency Collaboration

NWC-REPS continued to support a comprehensive programme of local, regional and national exercises designed to strengthen preparedness and validate emergency response arrangements. This included participation in pandemic response exercises, maritime incident exercises, water outage exercises and transport disruption exercises. The Service also

facilitated training and awareness activities across North Wales, strengthening interoperability between local authorities, emergency services, voluntary organisations and other resilience partners.

7. Impact assessments

7.1. Has an impact assessment (equality considerations, the socio-economic duty, Welsh language) been undertaken?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If not, please explain why:

This is an annual report and no separate impact assessment has been undertaken.

7.2. Potential impacts on opportunities to use Welsh and not treating the language less favourably than English

N/A

7.3. Possible impacts on groups protected under the Equality Act 2010

N/A

7.4. Possible impacts on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage (strategic decisions)

Several incidents during the reporting period have highlighted the importance of being able to rapidly identify and support vulnerable individuals during emergencies. These events reinforced the challenges faced by responding agencies in accessing and sharing information relating to those who may require additional assistance during prolonged infrastructure failures and other emergency situations.

To address this issue, NWC-REPS has continued to lead work at both a regional and national level. The Regional Manager currently chairs the Wales Resilience Partnership Data and Information Group, which is exploring options to improve the lawful sharing, accessibility and use of vulnerability data during emergencies. This work aims to support a more coordinated multi-agency approach across Wales, enabling responders to identify vulnerable people more effectively, prioritise support where it is most needed and reduce the potential impacts of emergencies on those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage or with additional care and support needs.

7.5. 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 remained at £58,752 for the last year. 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. However, a review of finance will be undertaken as the service is hosted by Flintshire who are undergoing pay modelling which may impact service costings. In addition, there has been an increase in funding of the Local Resilience Forum.

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 2025/2026

10. Report author and background papers

Helen Kilgannon – NWC-REPS Regional Manager
Susan Owen Jones – Executive Manager (Leadership Team)



Annual Report 2025/26

This report provides an overview of the work undertaken during the financial year 2025-2026 by NWC-REPS. It highlights key achievements, developments, and collaborative activities delivered in support of the six North Wales local authorities and the North Wales Resilience Forum.

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

Supporting Resilience Across North Wales

Working in partnership with the North Wales local authorities and multi-agency partners to enhance preparedness, response, and recovery.

enquiries@nwc-reps.org.uk 01352 702124



Prepared by:
North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service



Section 1

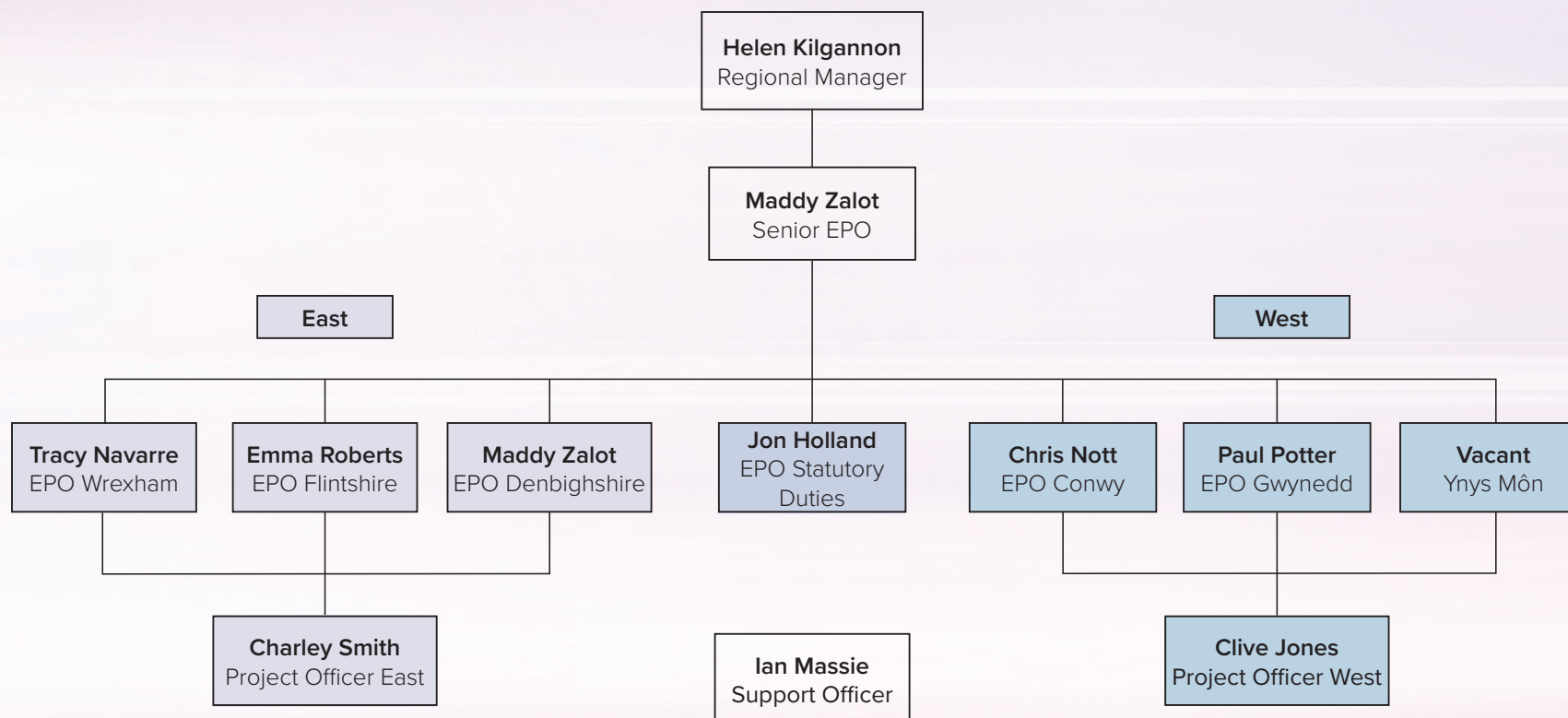
Introduction

The North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS) is a collaborative partnership established in 2014 between Isle of Anglesey County Council, Gwynedd Council, Conwy County Borough Council, Denbighshire County Council, Flintshire County Council and Wrexham County Borough Council.

The Service provides a coordinated, regional approach to civil contingencies by delivering statutory emergency planning functions on behalf of the six authorities. It operates under the governance of an Executive Board comprising senior representatives from each Council, ensuring strong strategic oversight and accountability.

NWC-REPS supports compliance with key legislation, including the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015, the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 and the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019.

The Service works to reduce duplication of effort, improve consistency and coordination across authorities, enhance organisational resilience, and maximise the effective use of resources through shared expertise and joint working. It also plays a key role in strengthening communication and collaboration between local authorities and the North Wales Local Resilience Forum, supporting a robust and integrated approach to emergency planning across the region.



National Context

The emergency planning and resilience work undertaken across North Wales during 2025-2026 has taken place against a backdrop of increasing national and international challenges. The UK Government's National Risk Register identifies severe weather, flooding, infrastructure disruption, cyber incidents, infectious disease outbreaks, supply chain disruption, and terrorism as among the most significant risks facing the United Kingdom.

Many of these risks have been reflected directly in incidents experienced across North Wales during the reporting period. Severe weather events, flooding, water supply disruptions, transport network incidents, wildfires, fuel supply concerns, and cyber resilience planning have all featured prominently within the work of NWC-REPS and partner organisations.

Climate change continues to increase the frequency and severity of extreme weather events across the UK, resulting in greater demands on local authorities and emergency responders. The growing impact of storms, flooding, heat-related events, coastal erosion, and wildfires reinforces the importance of robust preparedness, response, and recovery arrangements.

At a national level, increasing attention is also being given to the resilience of Critical National Infrastructure, including energy, telecommunications, transport, fuel, water, maritime trade routes, and digital services. The incidents managed across North Wales during the year, including transport disruption, water supply failures, pipeline-related incidents, port closures, and communications failures, demonstrate the relevance of these national risks at a local and regional level.

Cyber resilience remains a growing priority for government and local authorities alike. National resilience strategies continue to highlight the potential impacts of cyber-attacks on public services, infrastructure operators, and supply chains. The continued development of cyber resilience arrangements across all six North Wales local authorities reflects this evolving threat landscape.

In addition, the introduction of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, commonly known as Martyn's Law, is placing greater emphasis on protective security, preparedness, and public safety at publicly accessible locations and events. This has informed ongoing partnership work through Protective Security and CONTEST-related workstreams across the region.



Section 2

Incident Management Response

NWC-REPS maintains a 24-hour, 365-day Duty Officer function, providing a continuous single point of contact to support emergency response arrangements across North Wales. This ensures timely coordination, information sharing, and support to local authorities and partner agencies during incidents.

During the 2025-2026 financial year, the Duty Officer Service undertook a significant volume of monitoring, assessment, and response activity, reflecting the diverse range of risks affecting communities across North Wales.

Severe Weather

NWC-REPS received and assessed 213 Flood Alerts and 13 Flood Warnings issued by Natural Resources Wales. In addition, officers monitored a substantial number of Met Office Weather Warnings across the region.

Authority	Total Warnings	Amber	Yellow	Red
Anglesey	39	0	39	0
Gwynedd	73	2	71	0
Conwy	74	2	72	0
Denbighshire	71	2	69	0
Flintshire	55	1	54	0
Wrexham	63	2	61	0

No Red Weather Warnings were recorded within North Wales during the reporting period.

Several severe weather events required area-wide coordination, including Storm Amy, Storm Claudia and Storm Goretti. The Service also supported responses to flooding and landslide incidents, including the landslide at Nefyn, coastal landslides affecting Anglesey, and storm-related damage to property at Rhos-on-Sea.



Loss of Infrastructure

Infrastructure disruption remained a recurring theme throughout the year. NWC-REPS coordinated support and situational awareness for incidents including:

- Bryn Cowlyd water supply incident
- Burst water main affecting communities in Flintshire
- Repeated closures of Menai Bridge for urgent maintenance works
- Holyhead Port closures
- Conwy Tunnel fire
- Communications failure affecting Conwy Tunnel operations
- Fatal road traffic collision within Conwy Tunnel

These incidents highlighted the importance of resilient transport, water and communications infrastructure across the region.

Pipelines

NWC-REPS supported the response to a major gas main rupture at Glan Clwyd, working alongside utility providers and partner agencies to maintain situational awareness and coordinate communications.

Wildfires

Wildfires continued to present a significant and growing risk across North Wales, particularly during prolonged periods of dry weather. Multiple incidents occurred throughout 2025 and 2026, including fires at Rhyd Ddu,

Tanygrisiau, Cynwyd, Abererch, Llanfairfechan, Harlech, Llanefydd and near Denbigh.

The frequency and geographical spread of these incidents emphasise the continuing challenges posed by climate-related risks and the need for effective multi-agency coordination.

Other Significant Incidents

Additional incidents requiring Duty Officer support included:

- Clocaenog Forest unauthorised gathering
- Suspected package incident at FCC Alltami Depot
- Public order activity in Mold
- Fire at Great Bear Distribution Centre, Deeside Industrial Park
- Blaenau Ffestiniog train collision
- Escalating fuel supply concerns
- North Wales Exercise Shabina II

National Context

The incidents managed during 2025-2026 reflect many of the risks identified within the UK National Risk Register, including severe weather, flooding, infrastructure disruption, cyber threats, transport incidents and fuel supply challenges. These risks continue to place increasing demands on local authorities and emergency responders across the United Kingdom. The growing impacts of climate change, increasing dependence on critical infrastructure, and evolving societal and security threats reinforce the importance of maintaining robust emergency planning, resilience and recovery arrangements.

Significant Incident Responses

31 incidents supported during 2025

11 incidents supported during 2026

Overall, the range and volume of incidents managed during the year demonstrate the value of a coordinated regional approach. Through its Duty Officer function, NWC-REPS provided critical support to maintain situational awareness, facilitate communication, and coordinate response activity across North Wales, ensuring that local authorities and partner organisations were able to respond effectively to a diverse range of emergencies.

Working together

The effective management of incidents during 2025-2026 was underpinned by strong multi-agency partnership working across North Wales. NWC-REPS worked closely with local authorities, emergency services, Natural Resources Wales, utility providers, transport operators, health partners, Welsh Government and voluntary sector organisations to maintain shared situational awareness and coordinate response activity.

The year demonstrated the value of established resilience arrangements, with partners working collaboratively to manage a wide range of incidents including severe weather, flooding, infrastructure disruption, wildfires, transport incidents and public safety concerns. Through timely information sharing, joint decision-making and coordinated communications, agencies were able to minimise impacts on communities and support effective response and recovery efforts.

The continued commitment of partners to training, exercising and collaborative planning has strengthened regional resilience and ensured that North Wales remains well prepared to respond to both localised and large-scale emergencies.

Future priorities

Looking ahead, NWC-REPS will continue to work with partners to enhance preparedness and resilience across North Wales, with particular focus on:

- Strengthening regional preparedness for severe weather events and the increasing impacts of climate change, including flooding, coastal erosion, landslips and wildfires.
- Improving resilience and contingency planning for critical infrastructure, including transport networks, utilities, fuel supplies and communications systems.
- Enhancing situational awareness and information management capabilities to support timely decision-making during rapidly evolving incidents.
- Supporting the development, testing and review of multi-agency emergency and recovery plans through training and exercising programmes.

- Building organisational resilience to emerging risks, including cyber incidents, national infrastructure disruption and complex cross-sector emergencies.
- Continuing to promote effective partnership working through the North Wales Resilience Forum and associated resilience groups.
- Strengthening community resilience by supporting local authorities and partner organisations to improve public preparedness, communication and recovery arrangements.

As the risk landscape continues to evolve, NWC-REPS will remain committed to providing a robust 24/7 Duty Officer Service and supporting partners in protecting communities, infrastructure and the environment across North Wales.

Work carried out during financial year 2025 to 2026

During 2025-2026, the North Wales local authorities, supported by the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS), continued to strengthen their emergency planning, resilience, and business continuity arrangements. This work reflects ongoing learning from incidents, exercises, and regional collaboration, ensuring a coordinated and effective approach to emergency preparedness, response, and recovery across the region.



Isle of Anglesey County Council

During 2025-2026, Isle of Anglesey County Council undertook a significant revision of its Business Continuity Plan improving identification of critical functions and strengthening the Council's ability to maintain essential services during disruption.

Informed by feedback from a management-level exercise a key strategic development was the transition from a service-based framework to a focus on function-based critical activities, replacing broad service categories with clearly defined essential functions, such as the provision of critical care for vulnerable populations, children, and the elderly. This enhanced clarity has strengthened the Council's ability to identify priority activities, improved resource allocation during disruption, and reinforced overall organisational resilience. Individual services were supported to review and update their own continuity plans in line with this approach, and a new emergency directory template was introduced to improve usability and support more efficient ongoing maintenance.

Significant progress has also been achieved in strengthening contingency arrangements for the Menai Strait crossings. A multi-agency Task and Finish Group, established in May 2024, undertook a comprehensive revision of the crossing framework document in collaboration with Category 1 and Category 2 responders. This work has provided greater clarity regarding roles, responsibilities, and mutual expectations during periods of disruption. The revised framework was formally reviewed in November 2024 and March 2025, and a large-scale multi-agency exercise facilitated by NWC-REPS in March 2025 tested these arrangements through a scenario involving the closure of Britannia Bridge during planned maintenance works. This programme has strengthened coordination between partner organisations, reduced the potential for response delays, and enhanced overall preparedness across the region. Further amendments to the framework remain subject to approval by the Local Resilience Forum Coordination Group, while Welsh Government continues to develop a complementary traffic stacking plan.

A comprehensive review of rest centre provision across the Isle of Anglesey was also completed during the reporting period. This resulted in the implementation of consistent operational procedures, updated resource inventories, and refreshed



emergency contact directories for all designated facilities. A staff briefing session held in April 2025 provided an overview of statutory responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, alongside practical guidance on operational procedures and supporting individuals with diverse needs. These arrangements were subsequently tested through a multi-agency exercise held in September 2025 at Plas Arthur Leisure Centre. The exercise, based on a complex modern slavery scenario, saw strong participation from Social Services, Leisure, Education, and North Wales Police, further strengthening readiness and inter-agency coordination.

Maritime emergency preparedness has been enhanced through the development of a detailed Local Authority action card following recommendations from the Maritime Response Task and Finish Group. This reflects the Isle of Anglesey's strategic role within the North Wales Resilience Forum Maritime Emergency Response Plan. The action card establishes clear protocols for coordinating responses to maritime incidents, including ferry-related emergencies and coastal rescue operations, and sets out robust liaison arrangements with HM Coastguard. It reflects the Authority's significant maritime responsibilities, including oversight of Holyhead Port, commercial fishing harbours, and extensive coastal infrastructure. The Authority also participated in a Local Resilience Forum exercise to test the Major Mass Rescue Maritime Incident Response Framework, providing assurance that arrangements are robust, effective, and aligned with regional response expectations.

Gwynedd Council

Throughout 2025-2026, Cyngor Gwynedd continued to strengthen its emergency planning, resilience, and business continuity arrangements, building on learning from recent incidents, exercises, and regional collaboration. Activity across the Council's governance sub-groups has focused on preparedness, recovery, humanitarian assistance, communications, and cyber resilience.

A key priority throughout the year has been the management of severe weather and flood risk, particularly in response to Storm Darragh and ongoing work associated with Fairbourne. Progress has been made in developing the Fairbourne Evacuation Plan through a programme of exercises, stakeholder engagement, and communications testing. Following Exercise Hermes, minor amendments are being implemented, and a formal debrief is being prepared. At a regional level, further work has progressed to strengthen severe weather response frameworks, including arrangements for staff mobilisation during extreme conditions.

Recovery and humanitarian workstreams have enhanced understanding of the wider impacts of emergencies on communities. A series of exercises has explored recovery scenarios, including support arrangements for residents, businesses, and staff. The Humanitarian Sub-Group has focused on improving access to data relating to vulnerable individuals, strengthening rest centre provision, and delivering targeted training. This work has been informed by operational experience from Storm Darragh and wider regional activity.

Training and exercising have remained a strong area of progress. The Council has delivered a programme of training covering Threat and Security, Rest Centre management, and operational logging. During the year, two Debriefers and ten Loggists were trained, with additional staff identified for further development. Gwynedd has maintained strong representation at JESIP and Wales Gold (GSB) training, as well as participation in regional and national exercises, supporting effective multi-agency coordination. The use of case studies and awareness sessions within sub-group meetings has further supported organisational learning and continuous improvement.

Significant progress has also been made in digital resilience through the enhancement and alignment of emergency planning systems, including the Emergency Tile (SharePoint) and Resilience Direct. Improved integration between

platforms has strengthened accessibility, information sharing, and operational coordination during incidents. User engagement across these systems has increased, supported by targeted training and improved usability. In addition, a live Strategic GIS emergency mapping capability has been developed for the Gold rota, providing real-time situational awareness to support strategic decision-making.

Business Continuity Planning has continued to progress, although at varying stages of completion across services. While some departmental plans are finalised, others are nearing completion. Initial reviews have identified IT dependency and staffing resilience as key risks. Further work is underway to define system recovery priorities and strengthen backup arrangements.

Cyber resilience has remained an increasing area of focus. Governance arrangements have been introduced to enhance both response and resilience capabilities, informed by recent cyber incidents and third-party risks. Work is ongoing to establish a dedicated Cyber Resilience Sub-Group, improve communication processes, and further strengthen organisational preparedness.



Conwy County Borough Council

Over the course of 2025-2026, Conwy County Borough Council introduced a revised emergency planning governance and response structure following approval by the Chief Executive and Senior Management Team. A Strategic Panel, chaired by the Chief Executive, now provides oversight of five sub-groups covering Operations; Business Continuity, Training and Communications; IT and Cyber; Humanitarian; and Recovery. This structure aligns with governance and response frameworks across other North Wales authorities. The sub-groups met for the first time in February to review the current emergency planning environment and agree Terms of Reference and membership, with quarterly meetings now established.

A transition in leadership took place during the year following the retirement of the Civil Contingencies Lead, Peter Brown, responsibility for emergency planning has since been assumed by the Head of People and Performance, Fran Lewis, ensuring continuity of strategic direction and delivery.

The NWC-REPS suite of Business Continuity templates and supporting documentation was introduced across the Council. The overarching Policy and Framework have been formally adopted, with ongoing work to finalise the Corporate Business Continuity Plan. Service Continuity Plans have been reviewed and uploaded to Resilience Direct, although they remain in the previous format during the transition period.

The Council continued to engage in regional cyber resilience activity, with NWC-REPS contributing to the Cyber Response Programme Group throughout 2025. This work has since transitioned into the EMRT IT and Cyber Sub-Group, where the associated action plan and work programme continue to be delivered.

An Audit Wales review of Conwy's cyber security and resilience arrangements was undertaken during the year, examining risk identification, protective controls, and response capability. This included document reviews and staff interviews, including NWC-REPS representatives, and considered the Council's response to previous cyber incidents and the lessons learned.

To support delivery of the Protect and Prepare Strategy for Wales and preparations for the introduction of Martyn's Law, the Protective Security Preparatory Group (PSPG) has continued to strengthen protective security arrangements for publicly accessible locations. The Chair of the PSPG represents the Council at the Regional CONTEST Board, providing updates on preparedness and emerging risks.



Conwy County Borough Council

The Safety Advisory Group (SAG), coordinated by the Conwy Event Management Team, has continued to meet fortnightly with event organisers. The group includes representatives from the Local Authority, Emergency Services, NWC-REPS, and partner organisations, providing a forum for planning, coordination, and the promotion of public safety at events.

Ongoing support has also been provided to Council planners in relation to the multi-agency emergency plan for major pipelines and planning considerations associated with the Wales & West Utilities network. Tactical Managers attended joint awareness sessions delivered by NWC-REPS and the UK Onshore Pipeline Operators Association, improving understanding of statutory responsibilities under the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996.

The Conwy Valley Flood Partnership Group has continued to meet quarterly, with discussions focused on identifying vulnerable locations, maintaining flood defences, and promoting flood warning services within local communities.

Training and exercising remained a key priority throughout the year. Staff participated in Wales Gold, JESIP Silver, and operational training programmes, with NWC-REPS facilitators contributing to the development and delivery of training aligned to local authority needs. The introduction of the EMRT structure has further enhanced engagement and supported identification of development opportunities. Conwy staff also continue to access a range of e-learning resources provided by NWC-REPS.

Community engagement has been maintained, including the delivery of an overview of emergency planning and the role of NWC-REPS to Town and Community Councillors in April 2025. This session also provided an opportunity to reflect on the impact of the significant water disruption experienced earlier in the year.

Following the Conwy Tunnel crane fire in June 2025, Council operational staff were recognised at the North Wales Fire and Rescue Service Community Awards in acknowledgement of their response to the incident.



Denbighshire County Council

During the reporting period 2025-2026, Denbighshire County Council continued to strengthen its organisational resilience through a proactive and structured programme of training, engagement, and multi-agency exercising. This work has ensured that the Council remains well-prepared to respond effectively to a wide range of incidents and emergencies.

A key focus throughout the year has been capturing learning from real-world incidents and enhancing regional collaboration. The Council has facilitated knowledge-sharing through engagement with neighbouring authorities, drawing on their operational experiences to inform local planning and strengthen resilience arrangements.

The development and rollout of a new Elected Members Handbook represents a significant improvement in governance and preparedness. The handbook provides clear and practical guidance on the roles and responsibilities of elected Members during emergencies, supporting effective communication, informed decision-making, and strong community leadership during incidents.

Engagement with the Council's emergency loggists has remained a priority. A programme of targeted training and engagement has been delivered to enhance confidence, consistency, and capability within this critical function. A call-out exercise conducted outside normal working hours provided assurance that loggists were contactable, equipped with the necessary materials, and able to respond. The exercise was well received and demonstrated a high level of readiness across the group.

A comprehensive exercise programme has been delivered to test plans, validate procedures, and identify areas for continuous improvement. Strategic-level capability was strengthened through a multi-scenario exercise involving the Gold Duty Officer rota, reinforcing clarity of roles, responsibilities, and escalation processes. The CSS PDA Service Continuity Plan was also exercised under complex scenarios, including loss of council buildings, data breaches, and IT system failure. This demonstrated strong operational understanding while identifying opportunities for further refinement.



In addition, the Corporate Emergency Information Team undertook a cyber-focused exercise based on a ransomware scenario. This exercise confirmed effective teamwork and communication under pressure and resulted in a detailed action plan to address identified gaps, particularly in relation to communication channels, data accessibility, and system resilience.



Flintshire County Council

In 2025-2026, Flintshire County Council delivered a comprehensive programme of exercises to test and strengthen operational, tactical, and strategic response capabilities. This included the delivery of Exercise Incendium and Exercise Snowfall for the Emergency Management Response Team, simulating a gas explosion and a red weather warning for snow respectively.

Housing services also undertook a gas explosion scenario, which identified a need to enhance logging capability and directly informed the development of a Critical Incident Care Team. Further exercises are planned for the Repairs Team, recognising their role as first responders to incidents.

The Council participated in Exercise Pegasus, which focused on pandemic response arrangements. As part of this exercise, Flintshire staff established a Tactical Cell to consider and coordinate the local authority response to a pandemic scenario. In addition, a cyber incident exercise is currently in development and will be delivered in collaboration with Business Continuity leads and IT services.

Business continuity arrangements have been strengthened through the development of a Cyber Incident Response and Recovery Plan and the identification of critical systems to support service prioritisation during disruption.

Emergency communications have also been enhanced, including the introduction of a Microsoft Teams chat function to support incident coordination and a dedicated WhatsApp group for Rest Centre Managers to enable efficient information sharing. NWC-REPS has supported the Emergency Information Team with the development of an Elected Members Handbook and the delivery of two Member-focused emergency planning events. These sessions outlined roles and responsibilities during incidents, provided guidance on engaging with officers, and highlighted ongoing resilience activity. The Emergency Information Team has also focused on preparing for the management of misinformation and strengthening internal briefing arrangements for staff.

The Recovery Team has been strengthened through the appointment of a new Chair, David Fitzsimon who is supporting ongoing development of recovery planning arrangements.



The Operations Team has progressed work on reservoir emergency planning, including site visits to Greenfield Reservoir in partnership with North Wales Fire and Rescue Service to develop evacuation plans. Exercises have supported teams in reviewing logging processes, validating contractor capability, updating existing plans, and strengthening procedures for managing critical incidents. Reviews of recent incidents, including severe weather events and a Welsh Water supply incident, have informed improvements to operational arrangements.

At a community level, the Sandycroft community has established a Community Flood Group and developed a local flood plan identifying risk areas, Flood Wardens, and out-of-hours contact arrangements. These meetings have been supported by both NWC-REPS and Flintshire County Council officers, strengthening local resilience and preparedness.

Wrexham County Borough Council

Throughout 2025-2026, Wrexham County Borough Council continued to strengthen its emergency planning arrangements through a programme of governance development, training, and operational improvement.

A presentation on the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) structure was delivered to the Social Services Department Leadership Team. This included a review of the updated Service Continuity Plan, which was refined following discussion and formally approved by the team. Ongoing support was also provided to the Public Space Protection Group and the Safety Advisory Group, contributing to effective multi-agency coordination and public safety planning.



A comprehensive suite of action cards has been developed and embedded across key operational teams, including the Emergency Management Response Team, Response Team, Recovery Team, Humanitarian Assistance Team, Information Team, and Service Continuity Team. These documents provide clear guidance and support consistent, coordinated responses during incidents.

Leadership capacity has been further strengthened through the appointment of new Chairs to the Emergency Management Response Team, Response Team, Recovery Team, and Humanitarian Assistance Team. Targeted support is being provided to enable them to effectively fulfil their roles. In response to these changes, a full review of the Terms of Reference for each team has been completed to ensure clarity of purpose and governance.

A programme of Service Continuity Plan exercises has been completed across a range of departments, including Social Services, Governance and Customer Services, Chief Executive's, Environment, and Education. Learning identified through these exercises has been incorporated into plan revisions, with finalised versions now uploaded to Resilience Direct.

Training and awareness activity has remained a key priority. Two Counter Terrorism awareness sessions were delivered in partnership with North Wales Police for Wrexham school headteachers in June 2025, with support from the Information Team and Humanitarian Assistance Team. Additionally, introductory Resilience Direct training sessions were provided to staff new to the system, supporting effective use of the platform.

Operational capability has been further strengthened through loggist training delivered to Housing staff and attendance at cyber resilience training courses organised through the Council's IT service.

The Emergency Contacts Directory continues to be reviewed on a quarterly basis to ensure accuracy and reliability. Additional updates are undertaken following Exercise Cooper and any live incidents, ensuring that critical information remains current and accessible to support effective emergency response.

Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH), Pipeline and Nuclear Planning

COMAH Planning and Exercising

Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) activity during the year has focused on maintaining compliance, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring that emergency planning arrangements remain current and effective. At a site-specific level, a review of Flintshire County Council's External Emergency Plan for the Synthite site in Mold was completed in October to ensure that the operator's chemical inventory and Public Information Zone remained up to date. At the Kronospan site in Chirk, Exercise CONTAIN modules were delivered in collaboration with the operator and wider North Wales Resilience Forum to support ongoing compliance with the COMAH Regulations 2015.

At a strategic level, the COMAH charging policy was reviewed and revised to ensure full statutory cost recovery for all chargeable activities undertaken. Engagement with regulatory bodies has continued through attendance at COMAH compliance meetings with the Health and Safety Executive (HSE) and Natural Resources Wales (NRW). In addition, participation in the Greater Manchester Fire and Rescue Service (GMFRS)-led National COMAH Good Practice Group has supported the sharing of knowledge and the adoption of best practice. NWC-REPS also participated as an observer in Exercise Ibex, led by Hartlepool Borough Council and Cleveland Local Resilience Forum partners, providing an opportunity to capture learning from a national multi-agency exercise.

Pipeline Safety Regulations Planning and Exercising (MAHP)

Pipeline Safety Regulations (PSR) activity during the year has focused on close engagement with infrastructure operators and strengthening awareness across partner organisations.

Operator-specific work has included participation in the North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRf) debrief following the Bodelwyddan high-pressure pipeline incident with Wales & West Utilities, supporting shared learning and improvement of response arrangements. Ongoing liaison has also taken place with National Gas



in relation to the construction and commissioning of a new high-pressure pipeline spur at Deeside Industrial Park in Flintshire. In addition, engagement has been established with Shotton Mill as a new pipeline operator, providing guidance on their statutory emergency planning and exercising responsibilities under the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 as they develop and commission their new facility.

At a regional level, NWC-REPS designed and delivered two online high-pressure pipeline awareness sessions in partnership with the UK Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association (UKOPA) and Linesearch Before U Dig (LSBUD). These sessions ensured North Wales local authorities and wider NWRf partners maintain awareness, competence, and compliance with their responsibilities under PSR 1996.

Nuclear Emergency Planning and Response Work

Nuclear emergency planning activity during the year included participation in national and regional working groups, attendance at stakeholder forums for former nuclear sites, and ongoing monitoring of emerging developments. This included specific engagement with developments relating to Great British Energy (Nuclear) on behalf of Isle of Anglesey County Council, supporting early understanding of future statutory emergency planning responsibilities under the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2019 (REPPPIR 2019).

NWC-REPS Regional Work

NWC-REPS, in collaboration with the North Wales Police Counter Terrorism Security Adviser, delivered workshops for education sector leads. This included a major incident exercise based on a school scenario in Colwyn Bay, enabling participants to apply existing emergency plans and procedures while assessing interoperability with emergency services.

A regional training database is currently in development to support the recording and management of training activity across all six local authorities. The system will allow NWC-REPS to upload and monitor training completed by officers, while also providing automated notifications to prompt staff when refresher training is due or approaching expiry. The database is currently undergoing testing prior to full implementation.

North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRF)

NWC-REPS has continued to play an active role in regional partnership working during the year. This includes providing Deputy Chair support to the North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRF) Voluntary Sector Group, following its separation from the former Humanitarian and Voluntary Group. This has supported clearer focus and strengthened engagement with voluntary sector partners.

Ongoing participation in the NWRF Health Group has also been maintained, alongside the review and development of associated emergency planning documents allocated to the group, ensuring alignment with current risks and response arrangements.

NWC-REPS officers facilitated a Local Resilience Forum Warning and Informing Group Media Cell exercise, Exercise Mercurius. This exercise enabled multi-agency partners to establish and operate a media cell within a simulated flooding scenario, strengthening coordination, communication processes, and joint working during incidents.

Several NWC-REPS and local authority emergency management officers participated in two multi-agency maritime incident response exercises held in November and March. These exercises were designed to validate the North Wales Local Resilience Forum Maritime Incident Response Framework. The November exercise focused on North Wales partners, while the March exercise extended to a cross-border, multi-Local Resilience Forum response, further enhancing interoperability and shared understanding across regions.

NWC-REPS team members play a leading role within the North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRF), serving as Chairs, Vice-Chairs, or active members across a range of multi-agency groups. Their involvement supports strategic planning, preparedness, resilience, and emergency response arrangements throughout North Wales. Representation is maintained across the following groups:

- **Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Strategic Group**
- **LRF Co-ordination, Training and Exercising Group**
- **LRF Risk Assessment Group**
- **LRF Warning and Informing Group**
- **LRF Infrastructure and Preparedness Group**
- **LRF Learning and Development / Interoperability Group**
- **LRF Mass Fatalities Group**
- **LRF Environment Group**
- **LRF Community Resilience and Humanitarian Assistance Centre (HAC) Group**
- **LRF Health Group**
- **LRF Digital Infrastructure Group**
- **LRF Severe Weather Group**

In October 2025, NWC-REPS played a key role in facilitating the Welsh Civil Contingencies Conference. The full-day event attracted more than 100 delegates and featured a diverse programme of high-profile speakers, providing an important forum for collaboration, knowledge sharing, and strengthening resilience across Wales.



Learning & Development

In addition to these groups NWC-REPS supports the North Wales Local Authorities at Wales Gold training and on the Diamond Panel for Wales Gold. The Wales Gold Programme is a nationally recognised, multi-agency development course that prepares senior strategic leaders, including senior representatives from local government, policing, health services, emergency services and the armed forces to effectively lead and coordinate responses to complex and major incidents. Through immersive exercises and collaborative learning, the programme strengthens strategic decision-making, interagency coordination, and resilience in the management of significant emergencies and national crises. The Diamond Panel forms the senior multi-agency governance and assessment group responsible for the design, delivery, facilitation, and evaluation of the Wales Gold Strategic Command Programme. Comprised of experienced leaders from key emergency response and resilience organisations, the panel provides strategic oversight and ensures that training reflects current best practice in civil contingencies and emergency management.

NWC-REPS and partner agencies have participated in a comprehensive programme of multi-agency exercises over the past twelve months, supporting the validation of response arrangements and strengthening operational capability across a range of incident types.

Participation included Exercise Solaris, a national multi-agency pandemic exercise held on 30 April 2025 and coordinated by Public Health Wales and the Department of Health and Social Care. This exercise tested Local Resilience Forum (LRF) pandemic response arrangements in preparation for the subsequent national Exercise Pegasus.

In August 2025, the North Wales Resilience Forum Water Outage Exercise, held in Colwyn Bay, provided an opportunity for partner agencies to operate within a Tactical Coordination Group and associated sub-groups. The exercise incorporated lessons identified from the Bryn Cowlyd water outage incident earlier in the year, supporting improved coordination and response.

Exercise Pegasus, delivered between September and November 2025 and led by the Department of Health and Social Care and the UK Health Security Agency, further tested national and local pandemic preparedness across multiple phases.

This exercise assessed the UK's ability to respond to a novel infectious disease and strengthened multi-agency coordination.

In January 2026, Exercise Annwn, focused on the Conwy Tunnel, tested multi-agency operational coordination between emergency services and partner organisations. The exercise included activation of rest centre arrangements, with Conwy staff managing the transport and welfare of displaced individuals at a designated rest centre, providing an opportunity to validate both plans and procedures in a mass casualty scenario.

Further validation of specialist response arrangements was achieved through Exercise Pendleton Spirit in March 2026, led by the Maritime and Coastguard Agency. This exercise tested tactical response to a large passenger vessel incident at sea, including the use of landing point plans and management of significant numbers of displaced people.

NWC-REPS and Local Authority representatives also contributed to the North Wales Resilience Forum Capabilities Day in March 2026, supporting assurance against Recommendation R51 from the Manchester Arena Inquiry. This included delivery of a presentation outlining local authority responsibilities, specifically the establishment of temporary mortuary facilities and the provision of humanitarian assistance during major incidents involving multiple fatalities.

Workforce development has remained a key priority. Loggist training has been delivered in partnership with NWC-REPS, supported by the development and dissemination of a standardised loggist procedure document. E-learning programmes continue to achieve high levels of engagement across the Authority, supporting staff knowledge and preparedness.

Across the region, humanitarian assistance arrangements have also been strengthened. Familiarisation sessions have been held at designated rest centres for managers and key holders, supported by a no-notice exercise held at the Jade Jones Pavilion in Flint. This exercise, conducted alongside a North Wales Fire and Rescue Service scenario, provided valuable learning, with a post-exercise debrief identifying opportunities to strengthen staffing resilience.

Shared Learning

Isle of Anglesey County Council contributed to a Business Continuity Team meeting, reflecting on its response to a recent cyber incident. This provided valuable insights into incident management, recovery challenges, and organisational resilience, which Denbighshire County Council has considered and begun to incorporate into its own arrangements.

Conwy County Borough Council also attended an Information Team session, sharing lessons learned from managing communications during a significant water outage. This highlighted the importance of clear, consistent public messaging and the need for adaptable communication channels during periods of service disruption.

Looking Ahead: National and Regional Challenges

As North Wales enters 2026-2027, several emerging and evolving challenges are expected to influence emergency planning and resilience activity.

Climate Change and Severe Weather

Extreme weather remains one of the most significant risks facing the region. Increased frequency of storms, flooding, coastal erosion, landslides, heatwaves, and wildfire incidents are likely to place greater demands on local authority response and recovery arrangements. Particular attention will continue to be given to vulnerable coastal communities and areas at increased flood risk.

Cyber Security and Digital Resilience

As organisations become increasingly dependent on digital systems and cloud-based services, the potential impact of cyber incidents continues to grow. Local authorities will need to maintain a strong focus on cyber preparedness, business continuity, recovery planning, and staff awareness to ensure the continuity of critical public services.

Critical Infrastructure Resilience

The resilience of transport networks, energy supplies, telecommunications systems, ports, water infrastructure, and fuel distribution systems will remain an important area of focus. Recent incidents across North Wales have demonstrated the wider societal impacts that infrastructure disruption can have on communities, businesses, and public services.

Community and Societal Resilience

There is increasing recognition nationally that resilience is a shared responsibility between government, emergency responders, businesses, voluntary organisations, and communities. Strengthening community resilience, supporting vulnerable people, enhancing volunteer capability, and improving public preparedness will remain key priorities.

Protective Security and Public Safety

Implementation of Martyn's Law will require organisations responsible for publicly accessible locations and events to strengthen protective security and preparedness arrangements. This will have implications for local authorities through their roles in event safety, public protection, emergency planning, and partnership working.

Multi-Agency Preparedness

The complexity of modern emergencies continues to increase, requiring greater interoperability and collaboration across agencies. NWC-REPS will continue to support the North Wales Resilience Forum and local authorities through training, exercising, shared learning, and the development of coordinated regional response and recovery arrangements.

Section 3

NWC-REPS Planned Work for Financial Year 2026-2027

Regional Work

A programme of regional exercises and training will further strengthen local authority preparedness and capability. This will include participation in a North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRf) Recovery Exercise, alongside a Mass Fatalities Recovery Exercise designed specifically for local authorities to test arrangements and responsibilities in complex incident scenarios.

Senior management from local authorities will take part in specialist Mass Fatality training delivered by Kenyon International. This training will enhance strategic understanding and preparedness for managing large-scale incidents involving fatalities, including coordination, governance, and humanitarian considerations.

In addition, a programme of informative workshops has been established, incorporating guest speakers with direct experience of managing recovery from major incidents. Future sessions will include input from a senior officer involved in the Manchester Arena response, providing valuable insights into recovery processes and lessons learned.



Isle of Anglesey County Council

Over the coming months, Isle of Anglesey County Council will focus on further strengthening its emergency preparedness and response capabilities through a number of key priority areas.

A primary objective will be to progress the recruitment and development of volunteers to undertake the staffing of Rest Centres during emergencies. Increasing the number of trained personnel will enhance the Council's resilience and provide additional capacity to support emergency response activities.

To support continuous improvement, Anglesey intends to benchmark its emergency planning structures and governance arrangements against those of other Local Authorities across North Wales. This work will help identify opportunities to strengthen existing arrangements, adopt good practice, and enhance organisational preparedness.

The Council will contribute to the development of multi-agency wildfire arrangements for Newborough Forest, drawing on lessons from significant wildfire incidents experienced across the world. This work will strengthen local preparedness, response and recovery arrangements.



The Council will continue to strengthen its cyber resilience by reviewing emergency response and business continuity arrangements for cyber incidents and incorporating lessons learned from recent events into local planning.

Continued engagement with Site Stakeholder Groups associated with Wylfa will remain a priority, ensuring the Council maintains awareness of developments, fosters effective partnership working, and supports ongoing preparedness activities relating to the site.

Collectively, these priorities will support the Council's commitment to improving resilience, strengthening partnerships, and ensuring it remains well prepared to respond effectively to emergencies and support local communities when required.

Gwynedd County Council

Looking ahead, a programme of continued development and improvement will be delivered to further strengthen emergency planning, business continuity, and organisational resilience.

All Business Continuity Plans will be finalised and exercised to ensure they remain robust, effective, and aligned to current risks. Refresher training for Rest Centre staff will be delivered to maintain operational readiness, alongside a review of Rest Centre resource box locations to support effective and timely deployment during incidents.

The Major Emergency Arrangements Plan will be updated to reflect current governance structures and operational requirements. In addition, a new Critical Incident and Safeguarding Plan will be developed to strengthen the Council's capability to manage complex and sensitive incidents.

Workforce capability will continue to be enhanced through further loggist training, with an additional cohort of staff to be trained, and increased debriefing activity to support organisational learning. Loggists will also be integrated into sub-group meetings to build confidence, improve awareness, and strengthen their role within incident response structures.

The Fairbourne Plan will be finalised and embedded through an ongoing programme of exercises, including smaller-scale exercises across sub-groups. The Cyber Resilience Sub-Group will be formally established and embedded, supporting improvements in organisational culture and preparedness in response to cyber risk.

Overall, the Council will continue to build on a strong and positive emergency planning culture, further enhancing coordination, capability, and preparedness through improved systems, targeted training, and clear governance structures.

Conwy County Borough Council

Over the next reporting period, several key actions will be undertaken to further strengthen emergency planning, governance, and organisational resilience.

The Major Emergency Arrangements Plan is currently under review and will be updated to reflect the revised emergency planning structure. Work will continue to strengthen and embed the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) framework, ensuring clarity of roles, responsibilities, and coordinated response across the organisation.

A Civil Contingencies workshop will be facilitated for EMRT members to enhance awareness of statutory responsibilities and to identify further training and development opportunities. In parallel, both Corporate and Service Continuity Plans are under review. An exercise incorporating a cyber incident and its potential impact on service delivery will be delivered to assess the effectiveness of current business continuity arrangements.

The use of Resilience Direct within Conwy is also being reviewed. Administrators and users have been confirmed and registered, and NWC-REPS will continue to work closely with the Council to develop pages that reflect the new emergency planning structure and supporting documentation.

In addition, the Rest Centre Plan will be reviewed, with a particular focus on activation procedures and clarifying the roles and responsibilities of staff and volunteers to ensure an effective and coordinated response.



Denbighshire County Council

Building on progress achieved during the year, the Council has established an ambitious forward programme to further strengthen resilience, preparedness, and operational capability.

A series of tabletop exercises will be delivered for both the Humanitarian Assistance Team and the Operations Team, providing opportunities to test response arrangements and reinforce multi-agency coordination. Workforce capability will continue to be enhanced through the ongoing development of training and exercising programmes for loggists, ensuring that skills remain current, consistent, and effective.

Capacity within rest centre provision will be strengthened through the recruitment of additional volunteers, supported by the introduction of bi-annual engagement workshops. These sessions will aim to improve readiness, build confidence, and support retention across the volunteer cohort.

Further Service Continuity Plan testing will be undertaken to validate arrangements and identify opportunities for improvement, alongside the completion of the Corporate Business Continuity Plan. Work will also progress to embed the Local Resilience Forum Recovery Plan within the Council's arrangements, ensuring effective transition from response to recovery during incidents.

In addition, regular micro-exercises will be incorporated into Strategic Emergency Management Team meetings, supporting continuous learning, maintaining awareness, and reinforcing preparedness at a strategic level.



Flintshire County Council

In the year ahead, several key priorities have been identified to further strengthen organisational resilience and operational capability.

Loggist capacity will be finalised, with training completed to ensure all staff are fully prepared to support incident management effectively. Resilience Direct training and overview sessions will also be delivered to new officers, supporting confidence in the use of the platform and ensuring consistent access to critical information during incidents.

A cyber incident exercise will be completed for the Business Continuity Team to test current arrangements and identify areas for improvement. Further operational capability will be strengthened through the delivery of an exercise for the Housing Repairs Team, recognising their role as early responders during incidents.

Work will continue to consolidate Business Continuity Plans into a standardised template, followed by a programme of exercises to validate their effectiveness. In parallel, the Local Resilience Forum Recovery Plan will be embedded within both the Recovery Team and the Chief Officer Team, ensuring clarity of roles and a coordinated transition from response to recovery.

A targeted recruitment campaign will be undertaken to strengthen rest centre provision, including both staff and Rest Centre Managers, ensuring sufficient capacity to support communities during incidents.

Finally, a Protective Security Preparedness Group will be implemented to enhance the Council's approach to security planning and preparedness, aligning local arrangements with national policy and emerging risk considerations.

Wrexham County Borough Council

Planned activity for 2026-2027 includes a comprehensive programme of training and development which will be delivered to further strengthen preparedness and organisational capability.

Recovery arrangements will be enhanced through the delivery of dedicated recovery training and a multi-agency recovery exercise, ensuring that staff are equipped to manage the transition from response to recovery effectively. A loggist pool will be established, supported by training to ensure sufficient capacity and resilience within this critical function.

A Gold rota familiarisation session will be delivered to strengthen strategic-level understanding of roles and responsibilities during major incidents. Engagement with elected members will continue through targeted presentations and training sessions for new members, ensuring clarity of roles and effective leadership during emergencies.

Cyber resilience awareness will be further strengthened through the delivery of a cyber overview session for Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) members, alongside a dedicated EMRT exercise to test response arrangements.

Resilience Direct training sessions will also be delivered to improve confidence and capability in using the platform. In addition, a recruitment campaign will be undertaken to increase the pool of Rest Centre volunteers, ensuring sufficient capacity to support communities during incidents.

COMAH, PIPELINE and NUCLEAR WORK

COMAH Planning and Exercising

Work will be undertaken to support compliance with the Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Regulations 2015 through targeted site-specific planning and exercising activity.

At Great Bear Distribution (Deeside) and FMC Agro Ltd (Pentre), statutory emergency exercise modules will be designed and delivered in collaboration with site operators and wider North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRF) partners. This work will test multi-agency response arrangements and ensure continued compliance with regulatory requirements.

The programme will also include the review and reissue of updated External Emergency Plans for both sites, ensuring that arrangements remain current, accurate, and effective.

Pipeline Safety Regulations Planning and Exercising (MAHP)

Work will be undertaken to support compliance with the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 through both operator-specific engagement and broader awareness activity across the region.

At an operator-specific level, NWC-REPS will work with National Gas, Uniper UK, and Shotton Mill (Eren) to design and deliver a statutory multi-operator emergency exercise in collaboration with North Wales Resilience Forum (NWRF) partners. This programme will test multi-agency response arrangements and ensure ongoing compliance with regulatory requirements. It will also involve the reissue of updated Flintshire County Council Major Accident Hazard Pipeline (MAHP) plans for National Gas and Uniper, alongside the validation of the MAHP plan for Shotton Mill's new high-pressure pipeline infrastructure.

At a regional level, an additional high-pressure pipeline emergency planning awareness session will be delivered in partnership with the UK Onshore Pipeline Operators' Association (UKOPA) and Linesearch Before U Dig (LSBUD). This will ensure that pipeline operators, the six North Wales local authorities, and wider NWRF partners continue to maintain awareness competence, and compliance with their responsibilities under PSR 1996.

Nuclear / REPIR Planning and Exercising

NWC-REPS will continue to contribute to the North Wales Resilience Forum's (NWRF) nuclear emergency preparedness arrangements. This will include supporting the review and implementation of updated guidance when the UK Government reissues the National Nuclear Emergency Planning and Response Guidance (NNEPRG).

This work will ensure that regional plans, procedures, and capabilities remain aligned with current national policy and best practice, maintaining a high level of preparedness across partner organisations.





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denbighshire
County Council



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Flintshire
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