

Report to People Panel

Agenda
Item:

Meeting Date: 6th October 2022

Portfolio: Cross-cutting

Key Decision: No

Within Policy and
Budget Framework Yes

Public / Private Public

Title: Emergency Planning – Winter readiness and LGR Preparation

Report of: Head of Policy & Communications

Report Number: PC 25/22

Purpose / Summary:

The purpose of the report is to update the Panel on Emergency Planning, winter readiness and the related work in the LGR Programme.

Recommendations:

That the Panel are asked to note and comment on the report.

Tracking

Executive:	N/A
Scrutiny:	People Panel
Council:	N/A

1. Emergency Planning

- 1.1. The Health & Wellbeing Panel received a final report on the Covid-19 Pandemic response, marking the change in national strategy set out in the 'Living with Covid-19 Plan', in April 2022.
- 1.2. The Health Protection Tactical Oversight Group (formally the Health Protection Board) continues to meet monthly. The group manages any local outbreaks and the partnership work around the vaccination programme. The group also covers more general public health and environmental health partnership work.

Recent incidents and events

- 1.3. The following incidents and responses have taken place since the last report to a Panel:
 - Homes for Ukraine scheme March 2022
 - Industrial Premises Fire, Hespin Wood (Carlisle) 16th June 2022
 - Commonwealth Games Queen's Baton Relay Event 16th July 2022
 - Major Heat Event - High Temperatures Expected 17th - 19th July 2022
 - Death of HM Queen Elizabeth II 8th September 2022

Winter Preparedness

- 1.4. A winter preparedness campaign is run as an annually, in November, timed to coincided with national media releases and countywide communications. The 2021 Winter Ready campaign include information and support on being 'Health Ready' and 'Financially Ready'. The details of the 2021 campaign can be viewed at:
[Winter Ready 2021 | Cumbria County Council](#)
- 1.5. The Met Office's next 3-month outlook for the weather will be released in early October and cover the first month (December 2022) of winter 2022/2023. The Outlook does not identify weather for a particular day or week, it is published once a month and is part of a suite of products designed for contingency planners.
- 1.6. The Outlook uses 3 categories for possible UK temperature and precipitation in the next 3 months: COOL, NEAR AVERAGE and WARM for temperature WET, NEAR AVERAGE and DRY for precipitation. The link to the 3-month outlook can be found at:
<https://www.metoffice.gov.uk/services/government/contingency-planners/index>
- 1.7. Planning, exercising and training are essential for preparedness. Over the last 12 months the following work has been completed through the Local Resilience Forum:
 - Cumbria Prepared Cumbria Website in place:

<https://www.cumbriaprepared.org.uk>

- Familiarisation visits for partners to the Civic Centre, Carlisle. The LRF back-up Strategic Control Centre for major incidents.
- Exercise Watershed completed. This exercise enabled agencies to work through a flooding scenario in order to identify areas of improvement in the Multi Agency Flood Plan.
- Multi Agency Flood Plan, Part 3 (local areas). These plans have been updated with new Flood Warning Areas, and Rapid Response Catchments expanded to all very high and high risk. They have also been adapted to cover both before and after Local Government Reorganisation, including renumbering into the two unitary areas.
- Site Clearance Plan. A small Task and Finish Group is up and running to look at Capability Gap Analysis for Debris and Rubble.
- The Water Distribution and Sanitation Plan has been combined with Dry Weather to address all aspects of disruption to water supply.
- Power Disruption Plan Following Storm Arwen Debrief, discussions are ongoing regarding a plan in line with Water Disruption for Power Disruption. The Power Outage Task and Finish Group will resume meeting, discussions are ongoing regarding a plan in line with the Managing Water Disruption.
- VIPER – Vulnerability Indicators for Properties in an Emergency. The VIPER project is nearing a close with a planned launch in mid-October 2022. VIPER has been developed by Cumbria County Council Digital Design Team and used the learning from the support offered during Covid 19.

1.8. The following events are planned for:

- Flood Training Days for Autumn 2022. These are full day training opportunities for Tactical and Operational Responders, including community groups and elected members. The morning will be presentations from a range of agencies including the Environment Agency and Met Office, and the afternoon will be a table top exercise.
- Cumbria Flood and Coast Forum, 20th October 2022. The event is designed to reconnect attendees around flood and coastal risk and resilience across the county, after such a long period of us not being able to easily meet and share progress and learning.

1.9. The new flood defences for Carlisle are summarised in the slide pack included as Appendix A in this report, this is to provide the context on the built defences (Place Panel remit). Of particular interest to the Panel (And Health & Wellbeing Panel

previously) are the points made on climate change and community resilience. The key slide is presented below:

Climate change, resilience, adaptation and wider catchment

- Work in the city has sustained one of the highest Standards of Protection (SoPs) in England
- Work post Desmond has helped in the short to medium term
- Can't raise defences further and SoP will erode over time
- Infrastructure resilience (for example NR are looking at resilience of their infrastructure along the River Caldew)
- Wider catchment may be where opportunities to keep pace with climate change exist
- Adaptation of the city – do we need to move certain forms of development in the medium term?
- We will be developing the flood resilience service and would highlight the need for community emergency response groups (not something we have in Carlisle city at present)
- Our own flood warning system and associated response plans, individual community flood plans and wider resilience flood plans will need to be revisited in the light of changes brought about as new capital schemes are completed
- Climate change projections (increased projected peak flows for 2080 for the Eden catchment, an increase even relative to the previous set of projections for the 'central' estimates we used in our scheme appraisal)
- <https://eip.ceh.ac.uk/hydrology/cc-impacts/>



Community and Local Partnerships

1.10. Carlisle Community Resilience Group (CaCRG) stepped down into recovery in Autumn 2021, and a Carlisle Community Recovery Group meeting was held with representation from the four CaCRG subgroups, but hasn't since had a requirement to meet, as recovery work has continued (where needed) via the subgroups and other partnerships (Carlisle Welfare Reform Board, Communities Group, Children and Families Partnership and World Health Organisation (WHO) Carlisle Health Forum).

"Can I thank the group for their ongoing work and resilience during the pandemic and look forward to working more closely with strategic health and care partners across the city in coming months." (Carlisle Healthcare Primary Care Network).

"Thank you for your hard work during this strange year, Carlisle has been the best informed district during the pandemic thanks to you enabling organisation and individuals to take decisions quickly based on the best data available." (Pirelli)

The CaCRG group, during a workshop were asked "What are the things we want to keep moving forward into recovery". Consistent messages included "The highly efficient comms" "Communications" "Partnership working" "Regular information sharing" "Collaborative working, shared information / newsletters, etc"

As a result, regular Partnership E-bulletin communications have been shared with all partners and continue to receive good feedback.

"I think sometimes collating newsletters is a thankless job, so just wanted to say a big Thanks as I find them really useful!" [June 2022]

"Feedback regarding the Partnership E-newsletter. These are really well received by JCP managers, our employer engagement team (Jobs & Vacancies), Disability Employment Advisor and Work Coaches. Throughout Covid they were the perfect update on locality support for vulnerable clients and very much enabled us to signpost to local help. As a BAU product they remain a great summary of what's happening in our patch. The "Cost of Living" support available to shared clients is at the top of our list of priorities particularly as 50% plus of our clients are in work while in receipt of help from JCP. It's a great snap shot of what is happening in the community and how the change agenda will impact on our clients and services.

The Jobcentre remains a target destination for so many clients and employers and the insight the update provides allows us to sign post and link in to local support offers and it is very much appreciated. We are delighted you have managed to retain the update as BAU so thanks again for this."

- 1.11. The Carlisle Community Resilience worker (a temporary post funded through Contain Outbreak Management Funding via Cumbria County Council's Public Health team) and hosted by Cumbria CVS (Council for Voluntary Service), has worked with a range of community groups to develop a proposal to consolidate and strengthen community resilience activity in Carlisle.
- 1.12. Reflecting identified gaps, needs and recommendations the initial proposal is to establish a Carlisle Resilience Network, covering the urban area of Carlisle. This will bring together local community groups with an interest in emergency preparedness, supports them with resources and training, and help them connect to local statutory sector partners.
- 1.13. The Network would be supported by a part time coordinator role hosted within a local community organisation. The post or organisation will meet the needs identified in the proposal including working on the mobilisation of the other groups as required. The proposal is still being finalised and further details will be provided when completed.

1.14. A Community Celebration and Resilience Network event took place at Tullie House on 21st September. The event included the showing of 'My Story' which documents the community response during the first few weeks of the lockdown in 2020.

2. LGR related work and decisions

2.1. The baselining information for the Resilience and Emergency Planning Work Package was published in May 2022. The service option proposal for future service delivery was (to be) 'Delivered by a hosted service with an embedded intelligent client function, managed by a Service Level Agreement.' The baseline and option are available to view at:

<https://www.cumbria.gov.uk/elibrary/Content/Internet/536/6181/38360/38369/38371/38379/44748144241.pdf>

2.2. The Cumberland Council Shadow Executive will consider a paper on Hosted Services at its September meeting. In the case of Resilience and Emergency Planning the recommendation to Cumberland Council Shadow Executive is:

'Agree that in principle and subject to the negotiation of detailed individual Service specific agreements that Westmorland & Furness Council will be the host authority for:

- Emergency Planning and Resilience Service on a permanent basis (with periodic reviews)'

2.3. The detailed preparations for Day 1 are now captured in a risk register and action plan within the LGR Programme.

Contact Officers: **Steven O'Keeffe**
 Emma Dixon
 Abigail Roberts

Ext: 7258

Appendices The new flood defences for Carlisle slide pack.
attached to report:

Note: in compliance with section 100d of the Local Government Act 1972 the report has been prepared in part from the following papers:

- None