

TITLE OF REPORT: Revised Strategic Resilience Management Framework

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Purpose of the Report

1. The purpose of this report is to seek Cabinet's endorsement of the revised Strategic Resilience Management Framework

Background

2. The Resilience Strategy was first approved by the Council in 2010. Subsequent reviews have taken place and the most recent iteration was endorsed by the Cabinet in December 2017. Progress since then has been monitored on a six-monthly basis by the Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee. The Strategic Resilience and Emergency Planning Framework was produced to continue the work undertaken from the previous Resilience Strategy and to provide the future focus and direction for the Council.
3. The purpose of this revised framework is to outline the focus for Gateshead Council to continue to work in collaboration with our partners and communities over the next two years for emergency planning, resilience, response and recovery. This will ensure that the Council continues to comply with statutory legislation and has the necessary capacity and capability to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergency or major incident situations and use the learning to inform contingency planning.

Recommendations

4. Cabinet is asked to endorse the revised Strategic Resilience Management Framework as set out in appendix 2 to the report.

For the following reasons:

- (i) To ensure compliance with our statutory duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004
- (ii) To ensure that the Council has robust arrangements in place to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from major incidents and emergency situations.

Policy Context

1. The revised framework will contribute to achieving three of the five pledges of the Council's Thrive agenda:
 - Put people and families at the heart of everything we do
 - Support our communities to support themselves and each other
 - Work together and fight for a better future for Gateshead

Background

2. As a reminder, resilience is the ability to anticipate risk, limit impact, respond and recover quickly and effectively from emergencies and disruptive events that affect organisations, businesses, individuals, families, neighbourhoods and communities, and is the joint responsibility of all officers within the Council.
3. The emphasis of this revised framework is to support the sustained development of a network of competent officers who are able to respond to emergencies and carry on embedding resilience into all aspects of service delivery.
4. The framework contains background information; Strategic Vision for Resilience and Emergency Planning; statutory legislative requirements and national context; the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum; Gateshead Council Emergency Response Arrangements; Training and Exercising; Council Liability; Local Governance Arrangements; Future Focus; Quality Assurance, Service Key Objectives and; Key Priorities.
5. The revised framework includes the following revisions:
 - Updated national context and Local Resilience Forum arrangements
 - Alignment to the Council's Thrive Agenda
 - Revision of the Local Governance Arrangements
 - Proposal for a future Local Government Association Peer Review
 - Updated service key objectives and priorities for 2019-2021
6. A copy of the revised framework is attached as appendix 2.

Statutory Requirements

7. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 places a statutory duty on local authorities and other agencies to work together to develop emergency and business continuity plans and arrangements to mitigate, prepare for, respond to and recover from emergencies.
8. All local authorities are classed as 'Category 1' Responders in the event of an emergency/major incident under the Civil Contingencies Act (2004). The Act requires all Category 1 Responders to undertake these wide ranging statutory duties to help to protect the population within their boundaries. The aim of the

framework is to support the Council to meet the duties as identified in the Civic Contingencies Act. These duties include:

- assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning
- put in place emergency plans
- put in place business continuity management arrangements – this is undertaken by the Council’s Internal Audit and Risk Team in Resources and Digital
- put in place arrangements to make information available to the public about civil protection matters and maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency
- share information with other local responders to enhance co-ordination
- co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency
- provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management (local authorities only)

Service Key Objectives and Key Priorities

9. Service Key Objectives have been developed to ensure there is compliance with the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) and help achieve the strategic vision with continuous review that will align to the Council’s Service Business Planning Process and individual Appraisal and Development Sessions.
10. In addition, key priorities have been developed that identifies our emerging issues and areas of work that we will focus on over the next two years.

Consultation

11. Relevant Cabinet members have been consulted and the revised framework was presented to Corporate Resources Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 9 September 2019 as part of the consultation. Additional consultation has also taken place with council officers from key groups and services and multi-agency partner organisations.

Implications of Recommended Options

12. Resources:

a) Financial Implications – The Strategic Director, Resources and Digital confirms that there are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

b) Human Resources Implications – There are no human resources implications from the recommended options.

c) Property Implications - There are no property implications arising directly from the recommended options

13. **Risk Management Implications** - The effective implementation of this framework will mitigate the risk to the achievement of the Council’s objectives and legal obligations in the event of an emergency.

Failure to implement this framework effectively could lead not only to a failure to meet statutory responsibilities and Council objectives but could result in deaths, serious or personal injuries, damage to local infrastructure and economy, and potential damage to the Council's reputation.

14. **Equality and Diversity Implications** - There are no equality and diversity implications directly arising from this report.
15. **Crime and Disorder Implications** – There are no crime and disorder implications from the recommended options.
16. **Health Implications** - This framework will ensure that everyone in Gateshead will have access to the necessary information to remain safe and healthy before, during and after an emergency.
17. **Sustainability Implications** - There are no sustainability implications from the recommended options
18. **Human Rights Implications** - The framework is compliant with article 8 within the Human Rights Act.
19. **Area and Ward Implications** - This report affects all wards.
20. **Background Information**
 - 'Making Gateshead a place where everyone thrives'
<https://www.gateshead.gov.uk/article/11956/Thrive-our-strategic-approach>
 - Civil Contingencies Act (2004)
<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/section/1>