

Internal Scrutiny Committee

Meeting to be held on Friday, 16 March 2018

Electoral Division affected:
(All Divisions);

Health, Safety & Resilience Update on the Preparedness of the County Council

Contact for further information:

Alan Wilton, Head of Service, Health, Safety & Resilience

alan.wilton@lancashire.gov.uk

Executive Summary

Over recent years the Resilience Team within the Health, Safety & Resilience Service (HS&R) has, within the confines of delivering work to meet statutory responsibilities (Civil Contingencies Act) and satisfy external regulators and partnerships, continued to develop and improve the preparedness of the County Council.

The report summarises the current position of the County Council with respect to preparedness in these arenas and is broken down for ease into specific functional areas.

Recommendation

The Internal Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- i. Note that the Authority is currently meeting all its legal and contractual requirements in relation to resilience (emergency preparedness).
- ii. Discuss and comment on information provided.

Background and Advice

The work of the Resilience Team is mainly governed by statute and as such is regularly subject to scrutiny from governmental agencies such as Health and Safety Executive (HSE), Environmental Agency (EA), Department for Communities and Local Government (DCLG), Business, Energy and Industrial Strategy (BEIS), Office for Nuclear Regulation (ONR) and is subject to internal scrutiny through line management and the Internal Audit Service.

CoMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Regulations

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2015/483/contents/made>

Lancashire County Council (LCC) is the designated local authority for the delivery of Regulation 13 and 14 in Lancashire. These functions are delivered in line with a 3 year rolling programme to satisfy the legal requirements of the regulations.

In Lancashire there are 9 sites which are subject to the Upper Tier requirements of the regulations and as such require the support of off-site emergency planning arrangements by LCC. The work to deliver the planning, training, exercising, public information, consultation etc. as part of these requirements is subject to scrutiny and validation by the Competent Authority (joint HSE and EA as set out in the regulations) through inspection visits, regular dialogue and a formal annual review where the Competent Authority discusses the performance of LCC.

LCC, through the Resilience Team, are meeting all LCC's duties under COMAH 2015 and have some arrangements and procedures which are considered best practice.

REPIIR (Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations)

<http://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/2001/2975/contents/made>

LCC is the designated local authority for the delivery of Regulation 9 and 10 in Lancashire. These functions are delivered in line with a 3 year rolling programme to satisfy the legal requirements of the regulations.

Within Lancashire there are 2 sites which are subject to the requirements of the regulations and LCC is itself subject to the public information aspects of the regulations. The work to deliver the planning, training, exercising, public information, consultation etc. as part of these requirements is subject to scrutiny and validation by the ONR through inspection visits, validation exercises and regular dialogue.

All arrangements with regard to off-site procedures for the 2 sites (for which LCC are responsible) are up to date and meet with the regulatory requirements.

PSR (Pipeline Safety Regulations)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukxi/1996/825/contents/made>

LCC is the designated local authority for the delivery of Regulation 25 in Lancashire and, by agreement through SLA, for pipelines falling within the regulations in Blackburn with Darwen. These functions are delivered in line with a 3 year rolling programme to satisfy the legal requirements of the regulations.

Within Lancashire there are 757.3 kilometres of major hazard pipeline which are subject to the requirements of the regulations. The work to deliver the planning, training, consultation etc. as part of these requirements is subject to scrutiny and validation by the HSE through inspection visits and regular dialogue.

All arrangements with regard to off-site procedures for the designated pipelines (for which LCC are responsible) are up to date and meet with the regulatory requirements.

CCA (Civil Contingencies Act)

<https://www.legislation.gov.uk/ukpga/2004/36/contents>

The regulations within this act require LCC as a Category 1 responder to undertake risk assessment in order to conduct proportionate generic and specific emergency planning functions of behalf of the population as one of the 7 duties specified. Much of this work is carried out in partnership with other Category 1 and 2 responders that have come together to operate under the banner of the Lancashire Resilience Forum (LRF).

To enable LCC to support this co-operative footing, be part of the multi-agency arrangements and response, and satisfy its own needs under the regulations arrangements have been developed and are subject to constant review, addition/amendment, training and exercise.

Key arrangements for LCC have been (and are being) developed to provide generic and specific arrangements to assist in the management of internal incidents (e.g. business continuity) and external (multi-agency) incidents which can be represented as:

Box	Type	Description
Box 1	Corporate Generic Response Plan	Corporate Emergency Response Plan which contains standard information applicable to all incidents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Activation; • Roles and Responsibilities; • Contact arrangements; • Communications; • Situation Reports; • Emergency Operations Centre; • Reference to Box 2 and 3 plans;
Box 2	Corporate Specific Response Plans	Corporate level plans which are specific to a single hazard and that detail the actions to be taken by the authority should they occur.
Box 3	Service Specific and Functional Response Plans	Service Resilience Plans that will manage the consequences of an incident within each service. These plans will also include any specific response to emergencies delivered by a single service.

- A corporate response plan has been in place since 2007, reviewed on an annual basis. The Box 1, 2, 3 model as detailed above was introduced in August 2016 and the corporate plan is now referred to as the Corporate Emergency Response Plan (CERP) which combines the response to emergencies and internal incidents in a single document.
- All LCC Services have an SRP (Service Resilience Plan) which provides the individual service response and links with the CERP as part of the wider LCC response to internal and external incidents. SRPs are currently under annual review by each service and at the time of production of this report 40% have been reviewed and amended plans issued.
- As part of this corporate process (alongside the many multi-agency exercises and incidents LCC is involved in) the corporate arrangements are exercised annually. The last corporate wide exercise was held in November 2017 and the learnings from this are helping inform current reviews.

Training

In February 2017, the Health Safety and Resilience Service produced an Emergency Preparedness, Resilience and Response Training Strategy & Prospectus for 2017/18. This was launched in March 2017 with training starting in April. Since its implementation the following internal training has been delivered by the HS&R Service:

- 20 courses
- 135 participants

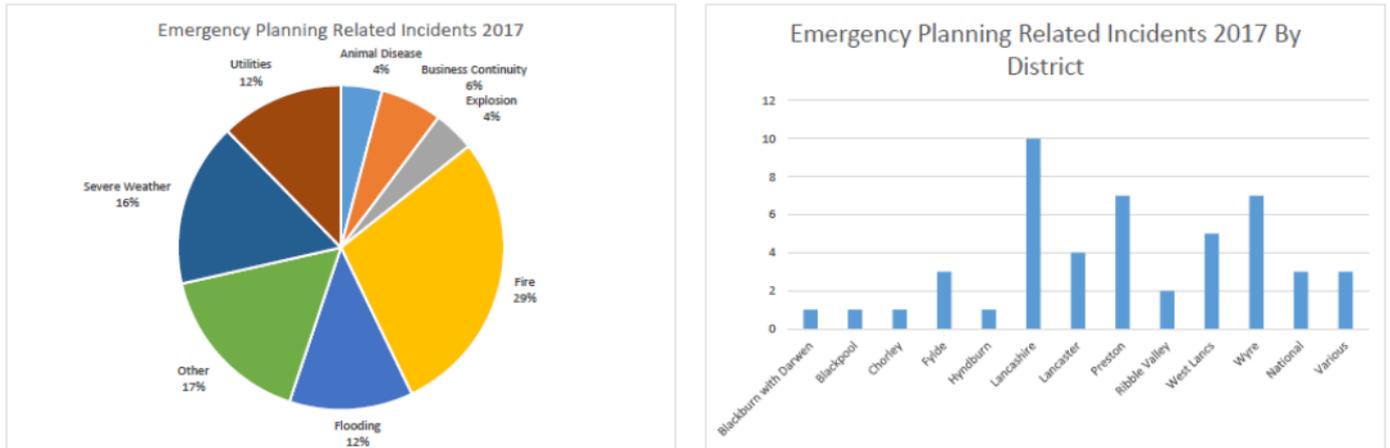
LCC Course	Number of courses delivered	Number of participants
A01: Introduction to Emergency Response and Recovery	8	75
A02: On-Call Duty Officer training	1	7
A06: Resilience Direct Familiarisation	2	6
A07: Resilience Direct Mapping	2	6
A08: Service Resilience Planning	2	5
A09: ERG – Introduction to Emergency Centres	4	25
A014: Introduction to Emergencies for Elected Members	1	11
Total	20	135

In addition, HS&R have also been involved in delivering a number of multi-agency training sessions to support the work of the LRF in ensuring that all responding organisations receive the appropriate training to enable them to respond to an emergency.

LRF Course	Number of courses delivered
B01: Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) Training	3
B02: Offsite Nuclear Emergency Familiarisation	1
B04: Multi-Agency Incident Training	3
B05: Strategic Coordination Centre (SCC) Familiarisation	2
B07: Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Principles (JESIP)	3

Response

As part of the Authority's responsibilities and functions within the resilience work LCC staff respond to a range of incidents; following these incidents there is often a debrief and shared learning which is fed back into the planning and training processes described above. In 2017 LCC responded to around 50 such incidents:



The HS&R Service provide a single point of contact for Lancashire County Council in relation to emergencies and internal incidents. The Emergency On-call Duty Officer is available 365/24/7, normally to the emergency services who then, in liaison with an on-call Director, coordinates and manages the response from the County Council.

Community Resilience

One of the key goals of the Resilience Team (particularly since the events of 2015) has been to increase the resilience of communities to all types of incidents and has meant the team being involved with 35+ local groups in association with multi-agency partners.

The work on flooding resilience has been conducted in cooperation with the LCC Flood Risk Management Team and Environment Agency in particular; in other work links have been created with the Farming Community through the National Farmers Union and Blackburn Diocese Rural Focus Groups. This work is in the early stages but it is anticipated that an action plan will be developed to consider the specific needs of farmers during emergencies and how they can raise their own levels of personal & business resilience.

National

The development of a Vulnerable People's Cell during the Cryptosporidium Incident in 2015, and subsequently used in various incidents in Lancashire since, is being promoted as the way forward/best practice nationally by DCLG.

The same is also true of our development work with Resilience Direct (national multi-agency secure information sharing tool) and MAST (Multi-Agency Support Team). LCC through the Resilience Team are also a core member of the Community Preparedness National Group with Cabinet Office and the national Risk Assessment working group.

Communications

Communicating with the public is a duty under CCA, CoMAH and REPPiR; this has been developed in some specific areas such as flooding utilising the LCC website, through dissemination of risk information and self-help material through the "Preparing for Emergencies In Lancashire" publication promoted by all LRF partners, and also through the development and encouragement of members of the public to sign up to the "In The Know" (ITK) website.

<https://www.stayintheknow.co.uk/>

Signing up to ITK gives members of the public access to useful information for use in emergencies alongside neighbourhood watch and fire service information. People can also register to be alerted when there is an incident in their area which they need to be informed about e.g. evacuation, stay indoors notice etc.

ERG (Emergency Response Group)

LCC provide practical and emotional support to meet the needs of those affected by emergencies, this is normally at a designated rest centres but can also be within the affected community during incidents in Lancashire.

A full review of the ERG arrangements has been undertaken over recent months which resulted in revised policies, updated procedures, production of a new handbook for ERG members and a new training programme.

Over the past few years due to uncertainties around the provision of the team, natural wastage, lack of callouts etc. numbers within the team had begun to dwindle and the age profile of the existing members became skewed. To address this recruitment of new LCC ERG members commenced on 1 June 2017. The recruitment was supported by the Communications service who produced a staff notice to encourage sign up and two informal drop-in sessions were held at County Hall on 7 and 13 June for any interested colleagues. Following these and further interviews etc. the number of members of the group has now doubled.

Following the recruitment drive we have 34 new members which brings the response group up to 73 members. This new team has been involved in a number of incidents over the past few months with good reports received back from those affected by the incident and district colleagues who provide venues for rest centres.

Schools

Support materials for schools have been and are being developed, the School Emergency Plan Template has been reviewed and refreshed and was uploaded onto the Schools' Portal in June 2017, along with producing information and updates to share with the Diocesan/Church Authorities Liaison Group, School Governor Core Agenda and Lancashire Governor (newsletter).

Further discussions are underway around a training package teachers can use with primary school children about resilience again to help feed in to the resilient communities idea.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Financial implications

The work currently undertaken and detailed in the above report to meet LCCs statutory responsibilities is managed within the existing revenue budget provision for the resilience service (emergency preparedness).

Risk management

Key implications of service non delivery are financial, legal and reputational.

Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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N/A

Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A