

NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL

Regeneration and Sustainable Development Cabinet Board

22 September, 2017

Report of the Head of Human Resources – Sheenagh Rees

Matter for Decision

Wards Affected:

All wards

Community Resilience and Engagement Strategy

Purpose of the Report

This purpose of this report is to seek Member approval for the Community Resilience and Engagement Strategy, to assist the Emergency Planning Team with developing community resilience to local emergencies.

Executive Summary

The report outlines the need for a Council strategy for developing community resilience and awareness of local emergencies.

The use of a strategy would assist in outlining how the Emergency Planning Team plans to develop community resilience, and why community resilience is beneficial to all involved.

Background

The Emergency Planning Team is a front line service that is responsible for ensuring, on behalf of NPTCBC, that the impact of major emergencies on communities is reduced.

The team plays a vital role in facilitating and supporting the preparation of plans to help assist the local authority and its partner agencies in the effective co-ordination and response to an emergency.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act of 2004, the local authority has a duty carry out the following duties:

1. Assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning;
2. Put in place emergency plans;
3. Put in place business continuity management arrangements;
4. Make information available to the public about arrangements to warn, inform and advise them in the event of an emergency;
5. Share information with other local responders to enhance control and coordination;
6. Cooperate with other local responders to enhance coordination and efficiency, and
7. Provide advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations about business continuity management (local authorities only).

This report seeks to introduce a strategy for developing community resilience to local emergencies. Community resilience is now seen as best practise within emergency planning, as it can improve how a community reacts to an incident.

Community resilience is highly beneficial to duties 4, 5, 6 and 7 of the Civil Contingencies Act, as it can improve communication of information to the public; and ensures the public take the correct actions. It can also ensure important information from within the communities affected is shared effectively with responding agencies, which in turn allows for efficient co-ordination.

A strategy for community resilience for use by the Emergency Planning Team would help to set out the aims of the team for developing community resilience, and assist with explaining the need for community resilience and its benefits, should the team be queried on the matter.

Financial Impact

There is no financial impact associated with this report.

Equality Impact Assessment

There is no requirement to carry out an equality impact assessment on this proposal.

Workforce Impacts

This proposal will have a positive impact on the service as it will provide opportunities for developing new skills within the team, and improve service delivery and efficiency during an incident.

Legal Impacts

There are no legal impacts associated with this report.

Risk Management

Not applicable

Consultation

There is no requirement under the Constitution for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation

It is RECOMMENDED that Members APPROVE the introduction of a strategy document to assist in developing community resilience to local emergencies.

FOR DECISION

Reasons for Proposed Decision

To improve service delivery and efficiency

Implementation of Decision

The decision is proposed for immediate implementation.

Appendices

1 - Draft Community Resilience and Engagement Strategy

List of Background Papers

None

Officer Contact

Sheenagh Rees, Head of Human Resources, email:
s.rees5@npt.gov.uk, telephone 01639 763315

Shaun Burgess, Corporate Occupational Health & Safety and
Emergency Planning Manager, email: s.burgess@npt.gov.uk, telephone:
01639 763955