



**NEATH PORT TALBOT COUNTY BOROUGH COUNCIL
CABINET (POLICY AND RESOURCES) SUB-COMMITTEE**

20th February 2024

**Report of the Head of People and Organisation Development –
Sheenagh Rees**

Matter for Information

Wards Affected: All Wards

Neath Port Talbot Council Emergency Preparedness Update

Purpose of the Report:

To provide Members with an update in relation to the Council's Emergency Preparedness. This report is for noting.

Executive Summary:

The following report highlights the nature of the work to support the Council's emergency preparedness, undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team over the last 12 months, and provides an outlook on planned activities for the next 12 months.

Background:

The Emergency Planning Team is a small team within Neath Port Talbot Council which covers Emergency Planning and Preparedness, Business Continuity and Protective Security.

Much of the work carried out by the service (on behalf of Neath Port Talbot Council) is led by legislative duties under the:

- Civil Contingencies Act 2004

- Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015
- Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996
- Radiation (Emergency Preparedness & Public Information) Regulations 2001
- Counter Terrorism Strategy 2023
- Health and Safety at Work Act 1974
- Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill 2023

Neath Port Talbot Council must comply with the legal duties set out under these acts of parliament.

Whilst individual members of the team have responsibility for specific risk areas, as a whole the team is responsible for a number of work streams that enable the Council to meet its legislative requirements and ensure Council employees are prepared for a major emergency.

2023 / 2024 Programme of Work

Activities that have been undertaken by the Emergency Planning Team in the last 12 months include, but not limited to:

- a) Annual review of existing plans
- b) Development of new emergency response plans e.g. spoil tip response plans, land movement response plan, site specific malicious incident response plans etc.)
- c) Development of site specific Terrorism Evaluation Plans based on the venues and public spaces guidance (formerly Publicly Accessible Locations)
- d) Development of site specific security action plans and hostile vehicle mitigation action plans, based on the venues and public spaces guidance (formerly Publicly Accessible Locations)
- e) Creation of a new incident notification process with CCTV to improve the efficiency of incident response within the Council to major multi-agency emergencies
- f) Planning and delivery of Exercise Athena - Emergency response exercise at Tata Steel with partner agencies

- g) Planning and delivery of Exercise NPT Connect - internal monthly emergency response exercise to test the notification of incidents process between CCTV, the Emergency Planning Duty Officers and the Strategic Duty Officers
- h) Planning and delivery of Exercise Soteria - internal emergency response exercise to test the Council's evacuation and rest centre procedures.
- i) Planning and delivery of Protect Awareness training - internal training to prepare Council services for the delivery of the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Draft Bill 2023 (Martyn's Law) for events based staff
- j) Planning and delivery of Search Awareness training - internal suspect packages search and response training for events based staff
- k) Planning and delivery of the Search Awareness Exercise - internal suspect packages search and response exercise for events based staff
- l) Development of a Civil Contingencies Exercising, Learning and Development Programme for all levels of the Council to improve incident response and ensure all levels of Council's officers are competent and confident in their ability to respond to a major incident
- m) Provision of support and guidance to ELLL Directorate and Schools regarding school lockdown procedures (Operation Tinwald)
- n) Development of Resilient Schools Scheme – designed to encourage schools to undertake emergency preparedness activities and teach children and young people about emergency preparedness to enhance resilience and safety
- o) Development of NPT Prepared Scheme – designed to encourage our communities to undertake emergency preparedness activities to enhance resilience and safety at the community level and supports the most vulnerable, in a holistic approach that compliments the activities of emergency responders

- p) Provision of support and guidance to all Directorates on business continuity management.
- q) Participation at South Wales Local Resilience Forum at planning groups, exercise and training facilitation etc.
- r) Chairing and coordination of the Neath Port Talbot Council Resilience Coordinators Group
- s) Chairing and coordination of the Neath Port Talbot Risk Management Partnership Group
- t) Coordination of the Neath Port Talbot Council Protective Security and Preparedness Group
- u) Attendance and participation at the Swansea Bay Regional CONTEST Board
- v) Attendance and participation at the CONTEST Cymru Protect & Prepare Board
- w) Review of the Guide to Emergency Preparedness for Elected Member
- x) Delivery of an Elected Members Seminar on Emergency Preparedness for Elected Members
- y) Attendance at the Elected Members Market Place event
- z) Development of new public facing webpages on emergency preparedness
- aa) Review of incident management within Neath Port Talbot Council, factoring in recommendations from previous local incidents, regional reviews and national reviews following major incidents such as the Manchester Arena Inquiry, Covid-19 Inquiry etc.
- bb) Coordination of the Council's response to the following emergencies:
 - Kenfig Illegal Rave (April 2023)
 - Baglan Power Station (August to September 2023)
 - Mill Race Road Traffic Incident (December 2023)

2024 / 2025 Programme of Work

Over the next 12 months, the Emergency Planning Team will aim to undertake the following activities:

- a) Launch of new public facing webpages on emergency preparedness
- b) Development of a report and recommendations as part of the incident management review of Neath Port Talbot Council, with the view of improving incident response amongst all levels of the Council
- c) Launch and delivery of the Resilient Schools Scheme
- d) Launch and delivery of the NPT Prepared Scheme
- e) Launch and delivery of the Civil Contingencies Exercising, Learning and Development Programme, including:
 - Calor Gas Exercise
 - NPT Connect 2
 - Exercise Soteria 2
- f) Development and launch of a new Neath Port Talbot Council Emergency Preparedness Policy
- g) Development and launch of a new Neath Port Talbot Council Emergency Preparedness and Resilience Strategy
- h) Development and launch of a new Neath Port Talbot Council Business Continuity Strategy
- i) Development and launch of a new Neath Port Talbot Council Protective Security Strategy
- j) Full review of the local risk register, ensuring it is aligned with the South Wales Local Resilience Forum Community Risk Register, and the UK Government National Security Risk Assessment
- k) Development of a reporting dashboard for the Neath Port Talbot Council Protective Security and Preparedness Group

- l) Review of the Neath Port Talbot Council Protective Security and Preparedness Group
- m) Review of the Neath Port Talbot Council Resilience Coordinators Group
- n) Review of the Neath Port Talbot Risk Management Partnership Group

Financial Impacts:

There are no financial impacts associated with this report.

Integrated Impact Assessment:

There is no requirement to undertake an Integrated Impact Assessment.

Valleys Communities Impact:

Emergency preparedness supports the resilience and well-being of all our communities, including valleys communities.

Workforce Impacts:

The planned programme of work includes provision of appropriate training for the council's workforce to support emergency preparedness.

Legal Impacts:

Neath Port Talbot Council must comply with the legal duties associated with emergency preparedness and as set out in this report.

Risk Management Impacts:

Emergency preparedness mitigates against the risks associated with major incidents.

Consultation:

There is no requirement for external consultation on this item.

Recommendation:

That the update in relation to emergency preparedness be noted.

Appendices:

None

List of background papers:

None

Officer contact:

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