

EDUCATION, YOUTH & CULTURE OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Thursday 21 st March 2024
Report Subject	Emergency Planning Arrangements
Cabinet Member	Cabinet Member for Governance and Corporate Services including Health and Safety and Human Resources
Report Author	Chief Executive
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

This report considers a particular incident relating to a burst water main affecting a large area of Flintshire in September 2023.

The report also details the Emergency Planning function within the Council and how this statutory duty is discharged.

The report looks at the regional service and how it works on a collaborative basis detailing the benefits for Flintshire.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the report is noted together with the response from Welsh Water and that the wider work of the regional service and any feedback is provided for consideration by the service and its partners.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	WATER MAIN BURST & THE NORTH WALES REGIONAL EMERGENCY PLANNING SERVICE (NWC-REPS)
1.01	<p>On 11th September 2023 there was a burst water main on Liverpool Road. This affected 3,417 properties in the area. Welsh Water isolated the issue and rezoned water supplies. This action restored water supplied to 2,498 households leaving 919 properties who were intermittently left without water. The re-zoning led to other smaller burst in the following three days but these were addressed as they arose.</p>
1.02	<p>As part of the review of the event we have investigated the contact made by Welsh Water to Flintshire County Council. From review it is noted that the contact made was specifically regarding the road closures required to repair the burst, no other department was informed of the incident.</p>
1.03	<p>Following this event, and on the basis of lessons learned, we have subsequently raised the response with Welsh Water who have now created an escalation plan to inform Emergency Planning when incidents of this nature occur for us to be able to inform key staff and members in affected areas. As part of the roll out of this plan a test exercise will be planned to embed this into practice.</p>
1.04	<p><u>The wider role of Emergency Planning</u> The Council has statutory responsibilities for emergency planning and response under the following legislation:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The Civil Contingencies Acts 2004,• The Control of Major Accident Hazards 2018 (COMAH)• the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001• The Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996
1.05	<p>The Council is also a principal responder and meets its obligations by collaborating with the North Wales Local Authorities through the North Wales Council's Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS).</p>
1.06	<p>Following consultation and ratification through the political process in each Local Authority, Emergency Planning functions for all six local authorities in North Wales were amalgamated into one service under an inter-authority agreement hosted by Flintshire in 2014. The Service is monitored via a Management Board comprising of representatives from the six commissioning local authorities. The Executive Board representative for Flintshire is the Chief Executive.</p>
1.07	<p>NWC-REPS provide the primary link between the Council and the North Wales Local Resilience Forum (LRF), with contributions from service staff being fundamental to multi-agency groups, events, processes, and plans. Continuity is strengthened as relationships are built with key partners. NWC-REPS provides out-of-hours support to the local authority and blue light services in response to queries and incidents 24 hours a day, 365 days a year.</p>

1.08	The service works with multi-agency partners to identify and mitigate the risks identified in HM Government National Risk Register 2023 (refer to section 6.00).
1.09	Within the Council, responsibilities for emergency planning and response are shared across services and nominated service representatives are identified within the Emergency Management Response Team (EMRT) structure. The EMRT structure within the Council facilitates the coordination of incidents with Business Continuity implications for the authority. EMRT will coordinate the response on behalf of the Council to any multi-agency incidents.
1.10	The EMRT provides a robust mechanism for the delivery of emergency planning and response functions. Teams meet regularly to review arrangements in place and identify future activities. Oversight is provided via the Councils Chief Officer team.
1.11	NWC-REPS supports the EMRT by representing Local Authorities at the Local Resilience Forum and their sub-groups. In addition, NWC-REPS assists the authority by writing, exercising, and testing emergency plans.

2.00	RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS																
2.01	<p>The Flintshire County Council's annual contribution to the service is £103,615. The contribution is based on a proportion of 19.348% towards the annual budget for the service. Since its inception, the Service has reduced the contributions of the six local authorities by over £300k.</p> <table border="1"> <thead> <tr> <th>Local Authority</th> <th>Annual Contribution %</th> </tr> </thead> <tbody> <tr> <td>Isle of Anglesey County Council</td> <td>10.472%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Conwy County Borough Council</td> <td>16.940%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Denbighshire County Council</td> <td>14.865%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Flintshire County Council</td> <td>19.348%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Gwynedd Council</td> <td>17.979%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Wrexham County Borough Council</td> <td>20.396%</td> </tr> <tr> <td>Total</td> <td>100%</td> </tr> </tbody> </table> <p>There are no revenue/capital implications for this financial year.</p> <p>The service is currently undergoing a review of the structure to identify savings and improve the resilience of the team. Work is progressing with HR colleagues to finalise the service review and implement the changes.</p>	Local Authority	Annual Contribution %	Isle of Anglesey County Council	10.472%	Conwy County Borough Council	16.940%	Denbighshire County Council	14.865%	Flintshire County Council	19.348%	Gwynedd Council	17.979%	Wrexham County Borough Council	20.396%	Total	100%
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3.00	IMPACT ASSESSMENT AND RISK MANAGEMENT
3.01	Impact assessment is not required as this is a report is for information only.

4.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED/CARRIED OUT
4.01	Consultation on the service is undertaken via the Executive Management Board.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix A - NWC-REPS Annual Report.

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	National Risk Register https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/64ca1dfe19f5622669f3c1b1/2023_NATIONAL_RISK_REGISTER_NRR.pdf

7.00	CONTACT OFFICER DETAILS
7.01	Contact Officer: Helen Kilgannon Regional Manager Telephone: 01352 702125 E-mail: helen.kilgannon@nwc-reps.org.uk

8.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
8.01	N/A