

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
IMPROVEMENT AND SCRUTINY – PLACES COMMITTEE**

REVIEW OF EMERGENCY PLANNING

SCOPING REPORT

14 SEPTEMBER 2017

1. Purpose of the Report

To inform Members of the scope of a proposed review of emergency planning.

2 Information

The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 created a framework for the way that public bodies at a national and local level respond to emergencies. Under the Act there is a requirement for Local Resilience Forums (LRF) to be established across geographical areas that align with police force areas. LRF's are multi-agency partnerships made up of representatives from local public services, including the emergency services, local authorities, the NHS, the Environment Agency and others. Their aim is to plan and prepare for localised incidents and emergencies. They work to identify potential risks and produce emergency plans to either prevent or mitigate the impact of any incident on their local communities.

The importance of effective emergency planning has been starkly highlighted in the aftermath of the catastrophic fire at Grenfell Tower. The information currently in the public domain suggests that the response provided by the local authority (Kensington and Chelsea Council) was poorly coordinated and survivors received insufficient support or information. Whilst all emergency situations are different and a crisis of this scale is never routine, the expectation is that the relevant LRF will have well understood response plans in place that can be swiftly implemented.

The proposed review will consider the emergency planning arrangements in Derbyshire and will seek assurance that in the event of an emergency, the response would be rapid, coordinated and effective. In particular the review will focus on the following areas:

- Local Resilience Forum Work Programme,
- How the duties under the Civil Contingencies Act are being met,
- Derbyshire's capability and capacity of response.

During the course of the review evidence will be gathered from numerous sources, including:

- Emergency Planning Manager
- Emergency Planning Officers
- Cabinet Member for Health and Communities
- District Councils
- Derbyshire Police
- Derbyshire Fire Service
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Derbyshire Emergency Volunteers

A working group will be appointed by this Committee to undertake the review. The working group will submit progress reports and a final report to the full Committee at the conclusion of the review. It is anticipated that the review will be completed by February 2018.

3. Considerations

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: financial, human relations, legal and human rights, prevention of crime and disorder, equality and diversity, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

4. Officer's Recommendations

The Committee is requested to note the scope of the review of emergency planning and appoint Members to the working group.

John McElvaney
Director of Legal Services