PERTH AND KINROSS COUNCIL

Community Safety Committee

31 August 2016

Community Resilience

Report by Director (Environment)

PURPOSE OF REPORT
The purpose of this report is to provide the Committee with an update on emergency planning and community resilience activity being undertaken by Perth & Kinross Council, partner agencies and community resilience volunteers.

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1. **BACKGROUND**

1.1 Emergency planning in Scotland is based on the principles of Integrated Emergency Management (IEM). The underlying aim of IEM is to develop flexible and adaptable arrangements that will enable effective joint response to any incident which requires a coordinated multi-agency response. This work is carried out locally both within, and across, agencies and communities through the Tayside Local Resilience Partnership (LRP).

1.2 IEM is also intended to support the building of resilience in communities. Within the LRP area, Perth & Kinross Council is the lead agency for the Community and Business Resilience portfolio.

2. **EMERGENCY PLANNING/COMMUNITY RESILIENCE UPDATE**

   Perth & Kinross Council

2.1 On 2 June 2016, the Council's Education and Children's Services (ECS) management team undertook a table top exercise to consider the response to and recovery from the loss of a secondary school for an extended period of time. The aim of the exercise was to provide participants with the opportunity to exercise and evaluate capabilities, processes and procedures to a major incident involving the loss of a secondary school.

2.2 The exercise provided assurance that in the event of such an incident, robust arrangements are in place to coordinate activities. However, a number of specific improvement actions were identified:

   - Form a short term working group to confirm plans for sourcing alternative accommodation in the event of a loss of a school property. This should include exploring the possibility of developing mutual aid arrangements with neighbouring authorities (Angus, Dundee, Fife, Stirling and Highland).

- Consider whether service continuity plans take into account other consequences and impacts discussed at the workshop such as the psychological impact of pupil's losing course work etc.
- Invite Edinburgh City Council's Business Continuity Officer to talk to the Service Management Team about their recent experience of the temporary loss of a significant part of their school estate.
- The exercise also identified the need for raising awareness to ensure staff are fully conversant with their service continuity plans.

2.3 Similar exercises will be undertaken within the Environment Service and Housing and Community Care Services to model the Council and Service responses to the loss of key assets.

2.4 The Civil Contingencies Steering Group, comprising officers from all Council Services, met on 23 May 2016. There were no major incidents reported in the last quarter. A summary of ongoing preparation is as follows:
- Ensure actions identified during flood debrief following storms Desmond and Frank are followed up and Flood Debrief Action logs are updated
- Review the Council's IT Emergency plan
- Complete the Emergency Transport plan
- Further develop social media guidance for staff in providing information to the public during emergency incidents
- Confirm emergency catering arrangements

Local Resilience Partnership

2.5 Tayside Local Resilience Partnership (LRP) members have agreed to act as lead agency for local multi agency work streams/portfolios as follows:

- Community Resilience   Perth & Kinross Council
- Risk/Rescue   Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
- Community Support   Dundee City Council
- Plans   Police Scotland
- Training & Exercising   Angus Council
- Infectious Diseases   NHS Tayside

2.6 In addition, areas of work that are common across the North of Scotland are being taken forward by the North of Scotland Regional Resilience Partnership (RRP) in the form of capability groups with lead agencies as follows:

- People - NHS Tayside
  - Mass Fatalities
  - Mass Casualties
  - Public Health
  - Animal Health
  - LRP Community Support Groups
  - LRP Community Resilience Groups

- Response - Police Scotland
  - Public Communications
  - Security/Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear (CBRN)
  - Critical Infrastructure/Utilities
  - Technical Communications

- Risk/Rescue - Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
  - LRP Risk groups

- Training & Exercising - Moray Council
  - LRP Training & Exercising groups

Community Resilience

2.7 Local authorities in Scotland are leading on the development of community resilience in their geographical areas. The aim is to develop and implement local community resilience strategies in as many communities as possible across Scotland. To ensure a degree of consistency and to facilitate the sharing of best practice, the Local Authority Resilience Group Scotland (LARGS) has formed a Community Resilience Special Interest Group chaired by Perth & Kinross Council.

2.8 The remit of this group is to:

- Develop and share best practice in community resilience planning in urban and rural settings.
- Share experiences and lessons learned from incidents, exercises and working with existing networks.
- Provide input to the 'Ready Scotland' website and associated emergency planning guidance and advice for communities through the Scottish Government Resilience Division.
- Meet at least twice a year, or as required on an ad hoc basis, depending on the business of the group.

2.9 The Perth & Kinross Community and Business Resilience Group met on 9 May 2016. The group is now supporting 27 communities to build and/or enhance their resilience in the event of an emergency. All of these groups are at different stages of development. An updated list including development status is attached at Appendix 1. In addition, Castle Huntly Open Prison is working on an internal plan that can dovetail with multi-agency plans.

2.10 The Scottish and Southern Energy Power Distribution (SSEPD) Resilient Communities Fund which is offering grants up to £20,000 opened for applications at the end of June 2016. The fund was established to support communities to prepare for future emergency weather events. The fund is particularly focussed on projects which help vulnerable or isolated people living in the SSEPD network area. The fund will support projects that:

- protect the welfare of vulnerable customers during a significant power outage or emergency weather event.
- enhance community facilities and services specifically to support the local response in the event of a significant power outage or emergency weather event.
- improve communication during an emergency situation, to keep communities informed or aid contact between local groups and response services.

2.11 All Community Resilience Groups in Perth & Kinross have been encouraged to apply for funding and have been offered assistance in doing so.

3. CONCLUSION AND RECOMMENDATION

3.1 In summary, Perth & Kinross Council, along with local resilience partners and Community Resilience volunteers, is continuing to develop and maintain an emergency response and recovery capability which will help to mitigate the effects of any emergency, while at the same time, build stronger more resilient communities.

3.2 It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes progress with emergency and community resilience planning across the Perth & Kinross area.

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Approved

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1. **IMPLICATIONS, ASSESSMENTS, CONSULTATION AND COMMUNICATION**

Strategic Implications	Yes / None
Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement	**Yes**
Corporate Plan	**Yes**
Resource Implications	
Financial	**None**
Workforce	**None**
Asset Management (land, property, IST)	**None**
Assessments	
Equality Impact Assessment	**Yes**
Strategic Environmental Assessment	**None**
Sustainability (community, economic, environmental)	**None**
Legal and Governance	**None**
Risk	**None**
Consultation	
Internal	**None**
External	**None**
Communication	
Communications Plan	**None**

1. **Strategic Implications**

   Community Plan / Single Outcome Agreement

1.1 The Perth and Kinross Community Planning Partnership (CPP) brings together organisations to plan and deliver services for the people of Perth and Kinross. Together the CPP has developed the Perth and Kinross Community Plan which outlines the key things we think are important for Perth and Kinross:-

   (i) Giving every child the best start in life
   (ii) Developing educated, responsible and informed citizens
   (iii) Promoting a prosperous, inclusive and sustainable economy
   (iv) Supporting people to lead independent, healthy and active lives
   (v) Creating a safe and sustainable place for the future

1.2 It is considered that the updates contained within this report contribute to all five objectives.

Corporate Plan

1.3 The Council's Corporate Plan 2013-2018 outlines the same five Objectives as those detailed above in the Community Plan. These objectives provide a clear strategic direction, inform decisions at a corporate and service level and shape resource allocation. It is considered that the updates contained in the report contribute to all five objectives outlined in paragraph 1.1 above.

2. Resource Implications

Financial

2.1 There are no financial implications arising from the contents of this report.

Workforce

2.2 There are no direct workforce implications arising from the updates contained within this report.

Asset Management (land, property, IT)

2.3 There are no land and property, or information technology implications arising from the contents of this report.

3. Assessments

Equality Impact Assessment

3.1 An Equality Impact Assessment needs to be carried out for functions, policies, procedures or strategies in relation to race, gender and disability and other relevant protected characteristics. This supports the Council's legal requirement to comply with the duty to assess and consult on relevant new and existing policies.

3.2 The function, policy, procedure or strategy presented in this report was considered under the Corporate Equalities Impact Assessment process (EqIA) with the following outcome:

(i) For the purpose of EqIA, the updates are assessed as equally applicable to all.

Strategic Environmental Assessment

3.3 Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA) is a legal requirement under the Environmental Assessment (Scotland) Act 2005 that applies to all qualifying plans, programmes and strategies, including policies (PPS). The updates have been considered under the Act and no further action is required as it does not qualify as a PPS as defined by the Act and is therefore exempt.

Sustainability

3.4   Under the provisions of the Local Government in Scotland Act 2003 the Council has to discharge its duties in a way which contributes to the achievement of sustainable development. In terms of the Climate Change Act, the Council has a general duty to demonstrate its commitment to sustainability and the community, environmental and economic impacts of its actions.

3.5   The updates contained within the report are assessed to have no sustainability related impacts.

Legal and Governance

3.6   There are no specific legal and governance issues associated with the updates outlined within the report.

Risk

3.7   There are no specific risks associated with the updates outlined within the report.

4.   Consultation

Internal

4.1   No internal services have been consulted.

External

4.2   No external agencies have been consulted.

5.   Communication

5.1   The contents of the report will be communicated to the Council Civil Contingencies Steering Group and the multi-agency Local resilience partnership Community and Business Resilience Development Group.

2.   BACKGROUND PAPERS

Not applicable.

3.   APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Community Resilience Support Strategy 2016/17 (updated June 2016).