

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee
DATE	11 th March 2025
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Resilience Annual Report
REPORT NUMBER	CORS/25/014
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer – Governance
REPORT AUTHOR	Fiona Mann
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.12

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the annual assurance report on the Council's resilience arrangements in fulfilment of its duties as a Category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

That the Committee -

- 2.1 notes the progress made in further embedding the Council's resilience arrangements during another busy year for emergency response; and
- 2.2 notes the updated Generic Emergency Plan which has received minor alterations under the relevant delegated powers.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Council has emergency planning responsibilities to fulfil as a Category one responder, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. The Committee has oversight of the following areas:

- to monitor compliance with the Council's duties relating to resilience and local emergencies;

- concerning relevant local, regional and national ‘lessons learnt’ reports and recommendations in respect of civil contingency matters and monitor their implementation;
- to monitor the Council’s preparedness in relation to the National CONTEST strategy and associated plans relating to Counter Terrorism;

3.2 Officers last reported to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 28th March 2024, summarising all resilience activity for the 12 months prior. The period since then has focused largely on our response to and recovery from a variety of emergencies and incidents and less weather related matters than previous years. We have continued to plan and prepare for new, emerging and concurrent risks as well as well as improving emergency response team capabilities for the Council.

3.3 This report provides the annual position statement on the Council’s response activity and preparedness, including details of further planned improvements to ensure that the Council is in as strong a position as possible to respond to emergencies and incidents affecting the public. We recognise the number of acronyms used in relation to emergency planning is extensive and for ease of reading of this report, this summary should be helpful:

DERC	Duty Emergency Response Coordinator
CIO	Council Incident Officer
EP&R	Emergency Planning and Resilience
GLRP	Grampian Local Resilience Partnership
SMOCS	Senior Manager On Call
CMT	Corporate Management Team
RCC	Regional Communication Centre
MAIRG	Multi Agency initial response guide
SFRS	Scottish Fire and Rescue Service
BAU	Business as Usual
ALEOs	Arm’s Length Organisation
PARD	Persons at Risk Database
NPO	National Power Outage - A National Power Outage is an unplanned prolonged power outage affecting the whole of the UK, or the whole of Scotland
GEP	Generic Emergency Plan

3.4 An annual review (September 2024) has been undertaken and minor alterations made to the Council’s Generic Emergency Plan – i.e. the plan which is activated upon an emergency as defined by the 2004 Act. A copy is appended for reference purposes.

CATEGORY ONE RESPONSIBILITIES

3.5 Local authorities have a number of specific duties under the 2004 Act, including supporting the emergency services during a response, and these are listed in full in our General Emergency Plan. Our responsibilities are as follows:

- To assess the risk of emergencies occurring and use this to inform contingency planning;
- To maintain emergency plans and business continuity plans;
- To inform the public about civil protection matters and to maintain arrangements to warn, inform and advise the public in the event of an emergency;
- To share information with other local responders to enhance coordination, and to co-operate with other local responders to enhance co-ordination and efficiency; and
- To promote business continuity by providing advice and assistance to businesses and voluntary organisations

Assessment of Risks

3.6 The Risk Board retains oversight of our preparedness and response to incidents and emergencies, including assessment of risk and management of mitigations. This provides an escalation route to the Corporate Management Team. The City Resilience Group which has been disbanded has been replaced with a process between the Corporate Risk Lead and Emergency Planning & Resilience officers whereby a monthly meeting is held to:

- Monitor the place-based (City) risks on the Corporate, Cluster and Operational Risk Registers, ensuring that these align with the risks managed by the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership. Monitoring will include the identification of any gaps in the risk register or assurance maps.
- Keep the incident / action log up to date
- Ensure all actions are delivered and will escalate to Risk Board any outstanding actions
- Report to the Risk Board twice a year providing assurance on the Council's resilience arrangements to protect the city and its citizens from harm.



3.7 The Council continues to monitor and manage risks and learnings from the ongoing UK and Scottish Government COVID-19 inquiries. This will ensure Community Housing and Public Protection committee abides by its remit of capturing relevant local, regional and national 'lessons learnt' reports and

recommendations in respect of civil contingency matters and monitor their implementation.

- 3.8 Key members of the councils emergency response team meet regularly for debriefs, both internal and multi-agency. The following priority actions have been identified based on an assessment of risk to the city. These have been progressed throughout the year and remain as ongoing for 2025/26. Further detail is included later in this report:
- Development of a City Persons at Risk Database
 - Volunteers, Community, Business and Individual Resilience
 - Power Resilience planning and preparation
- 3.9 All emergencies and incidents this year have captured lessons learned and resulting actions which will be monitored to conclusion, however this past year did see fewer incidents which allowed for greater emphasis on training, exercising and developing and reviewing processes.
- 3.10 The Council's Corporate Risk Register, monitored by the Risk Board, ensures that the risk of non-compliance with our civil contingencies responsibilities is effectively managed. This is reported to the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee along with the relevant assurance map. This provides assurance that the required controls are in place and will complement the scrutiny of risks at the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership Working Group. The most recent report was issued in February 2024.
- 3.11 The Emergency Response Team structure is very well embedded and tested. The three-tier approach of Strategic (Duty Emergency Response Coordinator – DERC), Tactical (Council Incident Officer) and Operational has continued to prove extremely effective throughout the year in enabling us to discharge our role as a Category One responder, in tandem with utilising the Generic Emergency Plan. In addition over the past twelve months we have developed a pool of trained ACC Loggists (*a Loggist is someone dedicated to accurately recording salient points, decisions and keeping an action log from any Incident Management team meetings during a response*). We have also engaged with the ACCs wider Volunteer pool and deployed them at rest centres during emergencies.
- 3.12 During 2024 we saw some changes to our Emergency Response trained officers. We have one new DERC giving us 14, one new Council Incident Officer taking us to 12, Support Centre Managers we have 14 which keeps us as per last year. As mentioned above the ACC Loggists pool has been established to enhance our compliance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. A pool of 10 trained staff receive two training sessions per year and have been utilised in some recent emergencies in the city receiving positive feedback from the DERC.
- 3.13 The established ACC Volunteer pool previously used for delivering events such as Operation Unicorn has been developed further and extended to supporting the Emergency Response Team in particular resourcing rest centres in an

emergency. This role provides support for the Support Centre Manager and resources enabling the registration of evacuees and providing any welfare support as required. In addition to the ACC volunteers we have re-engaged with the British Red Cross who have provided additional resources at recent rest centres.

- 3.14 It should be noted that the CIO's, Support Centre Managers, Loggists and ACC Volunteer pool are all voluntary roles for council employees who have day jobs and other responsibilities meaning that their availability is not guaranteed and they receive little or no financial compensation or payment. These roles rely on goodwill, availability and support from their immediate line management. 2024/25 did see fewer incidents as mentioned however we need to be mindful of the increase in incidents, climate-related and otherwise and of the resource required to maintain "business as usual" balanced against the number of unpredictable emergencies / responses.
- 3.15 Emergency Planning officers have spent time this past year ensuring the Council's Emergency Response teams are prepared and have the equipment to be ready to manage a response. Kittybrewster depot has become the Logistics base and holds stock for Support Centre Managers to use if a rest centre is required. Also if we find ourselves in an National Power Outage (Kittybrewster is the meeting point for key staff and there is additional equipment held for this eventuality.





- 3.16 As well as ensuring that equipment is available a full assessment of venues for use in an emergency response has taken place. We have selected 6 centres across the city rather than having numerous options so we can ensure their suitability and readiness. Transportation partners are on board for moving our citizens to these centres if required.

Support Centres

- Aberdeen Sports Village, Linksfield Road, Aberdeen, AB24 5RU
- Get Active @ Jesmond, Jesmond Drive, Bridge of Don, Aberdeen, AB22 8UR
- Get Active @Sheddocksley, Springhill Road, Aberdeen, AB16 6QJ
- Get Active@ Peterculter, Coronation Road, Peterculter, Aberdeen, AB14 0RQ
- Get Active @ Kincorth, Corthan Crescent, Aberdeen, AB12 5BB
- Get Active @ Beacon, Kepplehills Road, Bucksburn, Aberdeen, AB21 9DG

- 3.17 The Council has responded to a number of incidents / events and effectively managed these through the Council's emergency response structures, including subsequent de-briefs. Improvement actions are identified and overseen by the Emergency Planning and Resilience team and council Risk lead.

Date	Incident	Activity
June 2024	Storms Isha & Jocelyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAU response • Incident Management Team stood up
June 2024	Kemp Street Suspected unexploded WW2 grenade	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Management Team • Multi agency meetings with Police, Fire, Ambulance and Ministry of Defence
June 2024	Bruce House electrical fault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAU response • Incident Management Team stood up

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ACC Operational response and repair
July 2024	Climate Camp at St Fitticks Park	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pre-planning with multi agency partners • BAU response
July 2024	Seamount Court electrical/alarm fault	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAU response • ACC Operation response and repair
July 2024	Bressay Brae unexploded ordnance	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DERC activated • Support Centre Manager activated • Multi agency meetings with Police, Fire, Ambulance and Ministry of Defence • Rest Centre at Sport Aberdeen Sheddocksley opened
November 2024	Lemon Place Suspicious device/package	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DERC activated • Incident Management Team stood up • Support Centre Manager activated • Multi agency meetings with Police, Fire, Ambulance and Ministry of Defence • Rest Centre at Aberdeen Sports Village opened • Support provided at Rest Centre by British Red Cross
December 2024	Aulton Court damage/vandalism to alarm system	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAU response • Incident Management Team stood up • ACC Operation response and repair
January 2025	Merkland Road East fire	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DERC activated • Incident Management Team stood up • Support Centre Manager activated

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Multi agency meetings with Police, Fire, Ambulance • Rest Centre at Aberdeen Sports Village opened • Support provided at Rest Centre by British Red Cross
January 2025	Storm Eowyn	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • BAU response • Incident Management Team stood up • ACC Services suspended • All city schools closed due to high winds and danger to life from flying debris forecast

3.18 A summary of the incidents that have resulted in improvements being identified is below:

Incident	Improvements identified	Status
Lemon Place Suspicious device /package	IMT structure refresher training for all DERCs in structure of meeting and process to follow while utilising the new Loggists	Retraining session will be held as a lunch and learn before end of March 2024
Bressy Brae Unexploded Ordnance	Review of ACC Volunteer pool and process for Out of Hours call outs	Ongoing work, full review complete, survey of staff complete, availability of staff clarified and call out processes to be amended by end March 2025.
Merkland Road East fire	Refresh emergency credit card arrangements for DERCs	EP&R and Finance to make arrangements – before end March 2024
Merkland Road East fire	Refresh Police and SFRS on ACCs Emergency Response Capabilities and the notification process	EP&R attending presentation at both organisations in the next few months.
Storm Eowyn	Training required for Education & Lifelong Learning in understanding of Met Office	Met Office free online training prospectus shared with Education & Lifelong

Incident	Improvements identified	Status
	Severe Weather Warnings and forecast weather impacts when considering school closures.	<p>Learning to allow CO's and Head Teachers to attend - February 2025.</p> <p>Open offer to Education from EP&R to provide a guidance session and review their current planning assumptions for weather events – February 2025</p>
Storm Eowyn	Internal ACC staff messaging for Severe Weather guidance requires refresh to reflect Met Office Severe Weather Warnings and forecast weather impacts.	EP & R to work with People & OD Services ensuring pre prepared messages giving clarity on closures i.e. are they public only or staff and public – March 2025
Storm Eowyn	ACC has a duty of care under the Health and Safety at Work etc. Act 1974 – the decision to close/ stop or partially close/ stop council services due to weather impacts should be part of a standard task risk assessment. The EP&R team will review and instruct amendments if required to take account how the weather impacts on tasks. Therefore allowing for swifter action and decision making during weather events and forgoing dubiety or individual interpretation.	EP&R to meet with Waste and Environmental Services- by end of March 2025

- 3.19 Exercising and training continues to be a priority for the organisation, with full support from Extended Corporate Management Team which is critical in ensuring engagement from all relevant teams. The following have been completed this year:

Training topics	Completed	Agency/ staff involved
NPO presentation	Yes – March 2024	ECMT, DERCs, SMOCs & CIOs and other key services such as Education and Corporate Landlord
Emergency Services Presentation regarding ACC emergency response structure	Yes – May 2024	Police, Fire and Ambulance Service
Operation Unicorn table Top	Yes – June 2024	CIOs, ACC Media, DERCs, Police Scotland, Civic, City Events and Aberdeenshire Council.
Bon Accord Care - Emergency Planning, Resilience and Business Continuity information session / presentation	Yes – August 2024	Strategic and Tactical staff from Bon Accord Care
DERC SMOC and CIO Winter refresher session	Yes – October 2024	DERCs, SMOCs and CIOs
Community Resilience Conference	Yes – October	Existing community groups and potential community groups – Aberdeenshire council and other Category One responders.
ALEOs refresher Emergency Planning and Resilience	Yes – July	All ALEOs
Elected Members Winter Presentation	Yes – November	Elected Members
Support Centre Manager training	Yes- April 2024 on line and October 2024 in person at a rest centre venue Peterculter	Support Centre Managers, Red Cross volunteers and Aberdeenshire Council

Loggist training	Yes - April and October 2024 on line	Loggists
New DERCs, CIOs and SCM individual training	Yes – throughout year	
RCC - Presentation regarding ACC emergency response structure – How RCC is integral to this	Yes – Feb 2025	RCC staff
Lunch and Learn for DERCs and SMOCS – refresher regarding changes in Scot Gov process – how to activate GLRP – IMT process and intro to Loggists	Yes – Feb 2025	DERCs SMOCS Loggists

3.20 EP&R officers attendance at training:

1. In Peterhead a 'live play' Harbour Pollution incident sponsored by China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC)
2. Port of Aberdeen live play incident to test their update Harbour emergency plan;
3. Scottish Health Protection Network EPR delivered training on severe weather and flood response from a local authority perspective as part of a larger event;
4. Unicorn Strategic leads Edinburgh – Scottish partners planning assumptions

3.21 Training and development continued throughout 2024 and into 2025 to ensure that the Council's emergency response teams, ALEOs and community groups were clear on their roles and how to execute these in the event of risks manifesting, individually or concurrently. This was done through a combination of:

1. **Page turn** exercises on emergency plans
2. **Presentations**/discussions to check assumptions and shared understanding e.g. winter preparedness;
3. **Table top** exercises which facilitate role play including concurrency of factors as part of a single emergency as well as concurrent incidents e.g. mass evacuation;
4. **Live play** exercises which are as close as safely possible to an actual incident e.g. power resilience failure; and
5. **Drills** which are coordinated and supervised closely and test existing protocols and plans.

3.22 The continued use of the internal Resilience Hub, a SharePoint site which provides a toolkit for the Council's emergency response teams, has continued with a strong focus over the past year with its content steadily growing. This assists with situational awareness, sharing of historical data and lessons learned, partnership contacts, relevant legislation and regulation reference documents. The Resilience Hub is also a central place to share information and

updates on incidents and acts as the single point of contact for current information.

- Emergency plans and activation packs
- Sharing of partner organisation rotas i.e. AHSCP, NHS etc.
- Weather updates, official warnings as well as operational updates
- DERC and SMOC files to allow the sharing of information between the council and partnership colleagues and the SMOC
- Also files are in place for all Support Centre Manager processes and documentation and similar for the Loggists function
- Templates for managing incidents and debriefs from incidents
- Media reports of interest
- Changes in legislation or guidance
- Library of training materials
- Training opportunities from other partners

3.23 Risks are also assessed and monitored regularly through the GLRP which manages a risk register and resulting workplan. The Emergency Planning, & Resilience team represents the Council on the GLRP Working Group which meets every six weeks. The EPR works closely as Civil Contingency advisors with Chief Officers when in their role as DERC to assist them in their participation to emergency response.

3.24 **Arm's Length External Organisations** support the Council to carry out our Category One responder duties in a number of ways, for example agreed use of premises, staff and equipment as a rest centre in an emergency. ALEOs emergency powers, public liability insurance and business continuity plans are reviewed annually by the ALEO Assurance Hub. These relationships allow additional resilience for the emergency response plans.

Any debriefing lessons identified resulting from incidents in the city that could relate to one or all of our ALEOs will be shared and where appropriate sessions held to discuss in more detail – e.g. the Protect Duty (Martyn's Law). ALEOs are regularly updated on the Council's responsibilities under civil contingencies legislation and how they support us in meeting these.

Emergency and Business Continuity Plans

3.25 The **Generic Emergency Plan** has had its annual review and been updated with minimal amendments and signed off by the Interim Chief Officer - Governance under delegated powers.

3.26 The Council and the ACHSCP continue to work closely on all civil contingency matters. The Chief Officer of the ACHSCP (and staff) have been involved in meetings of the GLRP and have also participated in the response to a number of incidents in the past year. The **Care for People Plan** was reviewed and updated then approved by the Care for People Group in October 2024. In terms of governance, representatives from the Partnership are members of various Council groups and boards which helps to further enhance the working arrangements.

- 3.27 Preparation continues for the Council's National Power Outage Plan formerly known as National Electricity Transmission System. A National Power Outage is an unplanned prolonged power outage affecting the whole of the UK, or the whole of Scotland. This is a significant piece of work being progressed through a GLRP Task and Finish Group, a separate Resilient Telecommunications Group, and internally at the Council by the NPO Preparedness Group. The NPO PG aims to have an updated draft plan by the end of 2025, however this is a complex piece of work involving many services and external partners such as Scottish Government and timelines are difficult to guarantee.
- 3.28 There have been some positive moves forward in the NPO planning during 2024, such as preparation of NPO grab boxes for use at information hubs (like rest centres) during an outage, setting up of a logistic base at Kittybrewster and most recently confirmation of a generator being fitted to Kittybrewster to allow for ACC to have one building with power and light that can operate during an NPO incident with some space for AHSCP responders alongside key ACC response staff.
- 3.29 It has also been confirmed that 'Starlink' (Starlink is a compact, portable kit that can easily fit in a backpack, designed to provide high-speed, low-latency internet on the go. It includes a built-in WiFi router, lower power consumption, DC power input, and max download speeds over 100 Mbps.) is the product that the Scottish Government are agreeing that Cat one responders should procure for an NPO therefore allowing communication between us in the event of NPO, funding opportunities are being explored but there are no funds from government.
- 3.30 The Council's **Regional Communications Centre** is critical to the smooth working of the DERCs and wider emergency response team. A number of actions have been taken to ensure that this resource is fully aligned to emergency response teams, including:
- Creation of generic numbers for all emergency teams thus reducing risk of wrong person being called or time delay in response. Facilities, Resettlement, Housing, Communications, DERC, Council Incident Officers, Support Centre Managers, and Flooding all have 24 hour emergency on-call rotas in place.
 - Regular catch ups with EP&R and RCC managers / supervisors and invitation to incident debriefs where the RCC has taken the call and passed to DERC or if the RCC has been the team in an incident.
 - At the end of 2024 the EP&R officers made an in person visit to the RCC to see how they work and how the process for activation of the DERC is embedded. This visit which was most useful led to agreement for EP&R to create a short training video explaining the importance of RCC in the wider council emergency response structure.
- 3.31 The Council has in place a schedule of other emergency plans which are developed and reviewed in conjunction with partners on the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership and with peer review from colleagues in other local authorities. These include:

Plan	Status	Notes
Fuel Plan (GLRP Plan)	Due for review by Police Scotland as plan owner	Review underway Q1 2025
TECA multi agency initial response guide (MAIRG)	Version 2 agreed in advance of Offshore Europe 2023 by all partners	Compile and reviewed for v 2 by ACC as owner of the MAIRG Q1 2025
Aberdeen Football Club multi agency initial response guide (MAIRG)	New version agreed and issued December 2024 by all AFC & GLRP partners	Update version was led by ACC - encouraging reengagement of AFC with GLRP
Care for People Plan (AHSCP)		Reviewed October 2024 Annually review
Cyber	On-going	Robust BCPs are in place. A specific Cyber plan for ACC is not held by Emergency Planning and Resilience but by Digital and Technology – the Generic Emergency Plan would activate if a significant Cyber incident took place
Plans covering other events and ceremonial occasions (Operation Unicorn)	Scottish Government supplied new plan end of Feb 2024	ACC plans are in place with some non-essential information required from partners (NHS and Scottish Government) – if this plan was to activate ACC can deliver. Annual exercise of the plan will take place in June 2024 Awaiting Scottish Government feedback to a number of questions raised by ACC regarding their

Plan	Status	Notes
		concept of operation plan.
<p>City Centre Lock Down plan (CONTEST)</p> <p>Title of plan to change going forward to name of building lockdown plan</p> <p>i.e. Aberdeen Art Gallery lockdown plan, Town House lockdown plan etc.</p>	<p>Intention had been to complete this work in 2024 but with the slow progress of Martyn's Law through UK parliament progress has been slow</p> <p>Intention is that 2025 will see the legislation become law and with that guidance will be available allowing ACC to move forward the plans in this area</p>	<p>We at ACC will move to using MAIRGs and individual public building security plans.</p> <p>A full city centre lockdown plan is unlikely to be required. It is not reasonably practicable to lock down an entire city centre. Therefore ACC will develop a suite of dynamic lockdown for certain buildings, schools, event spaces or crowded places using incoming legislation Martyn's Law to give parameters.</p>
Coastal Pollution Plan (Oil)	By way of assurance there is an GLRP plan valid from 2019 Jan – 2024 that would be activated. And the new updated plan is due for publication.	<p>Other mitigation in place - Briggs marine retainer through Operations and Protective Services</p> <p>ACC officers took part with other Grampian Local Resilient Partnership members in an exercise being hosted by CNOOC Petroleum Europe in April 2024</p>
Pipeline Activation Pack	<p>This is not a priority plan as there is an overarching Forties pipeline GLRP plan.</p> <p>Sections of AWPR and Dyce roads have small section of pipeline running beneath – arrangements to be reviewed.</p>	<p>ACC are part of the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership which has a Pipelines Group which ACC are part of and meets quarterly</p> <p>Up to date plan (approved Aug 2024) is available to us on Resilience Direct</p>

Plan	Status	Notes
		Exercise due Q1 of 2025
National Power Outage Plan formally known as National Electricity transmission system	Draft Plan to be available Q3 2025	See 3.21, 3.22 above
Managing Recovery phase of incident plan	Due for review October 2025	Accessible in Resilience hub for DERCs in their activation pack

Warning and Informing the Public

- 3.32 The Council's External Communications team operates a 24/7 – 365 days on-call rota as part of which they will inform the public and media of an emergency situation. There is an agreed Emergency Incident Response Protocol which sets out a clear pathway for how the public are informed. Our External Communications team are members of the GLRP Public Communications Group – this group plays a crucial role in coordinating of public communications.
- 3.33 A Winter Resilience 2024/25 campaign was utilised again, including pdf flyers, printed leaflets and social media campaign as well as a web presence on ACC site.

Working with Local Responders

- 3.34 The Council has continued to work closely with all local Category One and Two responders during the year, although significant incidents/ emergencies have been less compared to previous years.

Supporting Business and Voluntary Organisations

- 3.35 The Council's Event Guidance platform includes guidance for business and voluntary event organisers around event planning, risk assessments, adverse weather, budgeting and contingency planning – www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/eventguide
- 3.36 **Community Resilience** has been a priority since 2021 headed up and led by Emergency Planning and Resilience to help discharge our duty to provide advice and assistance to the public in connection with the making of arrangements and integrating arrangements into the local authority emergency planning process for the City.

Promoting and supporting community, business and individual resilience has been a priority activity for Aberdeen City Council and will continue to be. The Community Resilience project is raising awareness, identifying and developing community champions and supporting the development of resilience plans across Aberdeen.

3.36 Key activities of the project:

1. **New Community Resilience Volunteer Groups** – Currently we have three active Resilience groups in the city. We have been talking with a number of groups and potential group members and listening to their concerns. Finding out what stops them setting up a community resilience group. They have explained that they don't feel they can manage all that a full resilience group entails but would be willing to set up a single task groups, for example; Footdee may focus on flooding / overtopping and Stockethill, Tillydrone or Torry would look to focus on winter work clearing and gritting pavements. It has been agreed we will look at progressing this format of resilience groups and by the end of 2025 it is hoped that we will see an increase in community resilience groups and plans across the city.
2. **Media campaign** that originally launched in December 2022 continues to be used successfully. The community resilience brand that was created is now recognisable and used on our social media platforms, printed material as well as web presence on ACC site.
3. **The previously secured £125k grant from SSEN** for use in the City for community resilience purposes continues to be carefully spent:
 - Portable power packs x 40 gifted to AHSCP for use with their high priority clients who are dependent on powered medical equipment these were delivered end of January 2025
 - The three established Community Resilience groups; Cults, Peterculter, Bridge of Don & Danestone will each receive Portable power packs to ensure their rest centres can be powered in an emergency. Delivery will be before end of March 2025.
 - Three community groups currently applying to receive small grant (from the ACC Emergency Planning team who utilise the SSEN grant held by EP&R) funding to set up their own community 'Ice Crews' (pavement gritting teams for next winter); Torry, Kincorth and Tillydrone. To be finalised in advance of October 2025. These areas have been identified as having a high number of slips and falls leading to visits to ARI so numerous benefits of these groups for the city and NHS.
 - Funded 50 % of the second (Oct 2024) community resilience conference and will fund the third in (Oct 2025) it's free to all and we delivery it in partnership with Aberdeenshire Council
 - 2025 will see a balance from the grant still available. The current thinking is to purchase Starlink (as mentioned above in 3.23) for

our established community resilience groups (3) as well as ensuring ACC has one as a solution for the NPO plan allowing communications across category ones, community resilience groups and our public information hubs.

- Reprint of leaflets 'Preparing for Winter'

4. **Presentations** given on the benefits of Community Resilience Volunteer Groups throughout 2024/25 and explaining what ACC can do to support the initiative.

- Sustainable Cities Working Group
- Locality Empowerment Group – North, South and Central
- City and Shire Annual Community Resilience Conference

3.37 **Business Resilience** promotion, advice and guidance is part of the Council's duties under the Civil Contingencies Act. During 2024 we shared information via Aberdeen Inspired and Aberdeen Grampian Chamber of Commerce member newsletter.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

Persons at Risk Database (PARD)

3.38 Considerable efforts continue to be directed at the development of our Persons at Risk Database. This will allow responders to easily and accurately access and assess the vulnerability of persons affected by an emergency. Officers continue to work on an Aberdeen City PARD. As well as being part of the GLRP PARD working group activities in 2024. Officers are ensuring Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils vulnerability categories align to make things more efficient for the responders.

CONTEST

3.39 This is the UK national strategy which aims to reduce the risk of terrorism through "the four Ps" –

- **Prevent:** stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
- **Protect:** improve our protective security to stop a terrorist attack.
- **Prepare:** work to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover as quickly as possible
- **Pursue:** investigate and disrupt terrorist attacks.

3.40 As a Category one responder, the Council has a role to play in delivering on each strand and this is shared across multiple services and led by the Chief Officer – Governance as lead point of contact. Council officers participate in monthly "Bridge" calls which are chaired by Police Scotland Counter Terrorism Unit and have added some of our ALEOs and owned and managed venues to this meeting. This provides an overview of the current threat level and also any intelligence locally. It allows shared situational awareness across the North East of Scotland.

- 3.41 **Prevent** – Refreshed duty guidance has been issued this year by the Scottish Government, no major impacts have been identified and work has been undertaken to ensure existing operational practice and guidance internally has been updated to reflect the recent changes.
- 3.42 **Protect** – The draft Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill sets out the requirements that, under Martyn's Law, venues and other organisations will have to meet to ensure public safety. 'Martyn's Law' is a tribute to Martyn Hett who was killed alongside 21 others in the Manchester Arena terrorist attack in 2017.
- 3.43 As a council we will have a legal duty to comply and this will impact on our schools, public venues; such as Art Gallery, Beach Ballroom. Our ALEOs will also need to give assurance they are compliant as will any operators running council venues, e.g. P&J Live. Venues hosting more than 200 people will have to have plans for an attack on their premises, with those housing over 800 having an enhanced duty. The bill puts the onus on those responsible for certain publicly accessible premises and events, organisations rather than individuals, to take 'reasonably practicable' steps to reduce the threat to the public from terrorist attacks.
- 3.44 We have added a corporate level risk that relates to Civil Contingencies legislation where ACC as a category one responder must ensure we are compliant to our responsibilities under this law. One of the mitigations on our risk register entry is to appraise the councils HVM equipment requirements in order to adopt a corporate consolidated approach to the councils HVM requirements. Whilst some HVM measures have been purchased, the current stock is insufficient for many of our larger events and certainly as we expand the councils event space opportunities within the redevelopment of our city we would not be able to cost effectively and safely deliver some events or concurrent events. Officers have a task and finish group set up to look at the financing of more HVM fixed and mobile using existing funding streams.
- 3.45 The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill also known as Martyn's Law has passed through Parliament and awaits Lords scrutiny. Currently hoped that Martyn's Law will receive Royal Assent in spring 2025. The enforcement authority has now been announced and is the Security Industry Authority (SIA).
- 3.46 Officers have an internal subgroup specific to Protect and Prepare as part of the already in place Contest working group. We (ACC) also chair the North East multi-agency Protect and Prepare sub group which gives a strong network of partners across Grampian to discuss impact, guidance on delivery and training opportunities coming from the Bill.
- 3.47 Emergency Planning officers are talking to PO&D about adding ACT awareness training as part of the mandatory training for all Council staff. It takes one hour and is an entry level, interactive, online product designed to provide CT guidance to help mitigate against current terrorist methodology. We are also promoting the PRTOECT UK website to all. www.protectuk.police.uk

3.48 Priorities over the coming year will also include; and these will be reported to the relevant committee

- Actions arising from the Regional Scottish and Local Resilience Partnerships in relation to both Covid inquiries.
- Actions arising from the Grenfell Tower Inquiry phase one and phase two report. The phase two report issued in September investigates the causes and response to the 2017 Grenfell Tower fire, detailing the actions of various organisation and individuals involved, and providing comprehensive recommendations for all parties involved to prevent similar future tragedies. The EP&R officers will highlight via the Grenfell in-house working group and back to this committee the key recommendations for phase two report and ensure that council meets the standards as set out in the report.
- 'Recovery' from an emergency – officers will work to align with the national work ongoing regarding recovery standards.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report. The establishment of response structures in accordance with the Generic Emergency Plan has helped to ensure compliance with legislation and guidance.

5.2 As the UK Government and Scottish Government COVID Inquiries progress over the course of the coming year, officers will engage fully with the process and update the committee as and when required.

5.3 As the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Bill (known as Martyn's Law) progresses through Parliament and becomes law, officers will update the committee.

5.4 As the UK Government and Scottish Government Grenfell Inquiries progress over the course of the coming year, officers will engage fully with the process and update the committee as and when required.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

7. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

7.1 The Council's resilience arrangements rely on a constant cycle of risk management, and this is reflected in the Generic Emergency Plan and its supplementary procedures.

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
Strategic Risk	None		L	Yes
Compliance	Compliance with statutory guidance and legislation is necessary to ensure the Council is not exposed to legal challenge.	Corporate level risk register in place with control actions to ensure compliance with our legal responsibilities. The continued use of the Generic Emergency Plan and strategic tactical and operational structure supports the Council to meet its civil contingencies duties and to identify and respond to concurrent risks.	L	Yes
Operational	Operational services are not adequately resourced to respond to emergencies.	Duty Emergency Response Coordinator (DERC) and other key emergency response staff rotas in place 24/7, 365 days a year.	L	Yes
Financial	None		L	Yes
Reputational	Risk of negative publicity in media/social media around	Legal duty to warn and inform the public and businesses.	L	Yes

Category	Risks	Primary Controls/Control Actions to achieve Target Risk Level	*Target Risk Level (L, M or H) *taking into account controls/control actions	*Does Target Risk Level Match Appetite Set?
	the Council's response to emergencies.	Comms plan in place during incidents to ensure appropriate sharing of information.		
Environment / Climate	Risk to the city's external spaces.	Managed through the Place Risk Register overseen by the City Resilience Group. Reviewed by the working groups (IMT) from each incident via the debrief process.	L	Yes

8. OUTCOMES

8.1 The proposals in the report have no impact on the Council Delivery Plan.

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
Integrated Impact Assessment	A Full IIA not required I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer Governance (Assurance)
Data Protection Impact Assessment	Not required

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

[UK Covid-19 Inquiry - Module 1 report: Scottish Government response - gov.scot](#)

www.protectuk.police.uk

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/quarterly-thematic-update-on-progress-against-the-grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-1-recommendations/progress-against-the-grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-1-recommendations-february-2024-accessible>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/publication-of-the-grenfell-tower-inquiry-phase-2-report>

10. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Generic Emergency Plan

11. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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