

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee
DATE	28 th March 2024
EXEMPT	No
CONFIDENTIAL	No
REPORT TITLE	Resilience Annual Report
REPORT NUMBER	COM/24/063
DIRECTOR	Gale Beattie
CHIEF OFFICER	Vikki Cuthbert, Interim Chief Officer – Governance
REPORT AUTHOR	Fiona Mann Emergency Planning, Resilience and Civic Lead
TERMS OF REFERENCE	2.12 - 2.14

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

To provide the annual assurance report on the Council's resilience arrangements in fulfilment of its duties as a Category 1 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;
- 2.2 notes the updated Generic Emergency Plan which has received minor alterations under the relevant delegated powers; and
- 2.3 instructs the Interim Chief Officer – Education to submit a response to the Rule 8 request from the Scottish COVID-19 Inquiry, following consultation with the Convener of the Education and Children's Services Committee and the Interim Chief Officer - Governance.

3. CURRENT SITUATION

- 3.1 The Council has emergency planning responsibilities to fulfil as a Category 1 responder, as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

- 3.2 Officers last reported to the Communities, Housing and Public Protection Committee on 17th January 2023, summarising all resilience activity in the 12 months prior. The period since then has focused largely on our response to and recovery from the Storms and preparing for new, emerging and concurrent risks. 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.
- 3.3 An annual review 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 1 RESPONSIBILITIES

- 3.4 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

- 3.5 The Risk Board retained 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 (CMT). The City Resilience Group (CRG) has a role to identify a) risks which could cause an emergency in the city which threatens the safety of our residents and b) risks which could hamper an emergency response in the city. Collectively, these risks form a Place Risk Register, which allows the CRG to assess, monitor and manage the risk of emergencies occurring which would impact upon the place of Aberdeen.



3.6 The Council continues to monitor and manage risks and learnings from the ongoing COVID-19 inquiries. Both Covid and EU Exit risks are now embedded in the Corporate, Cluster and Operational risk registers as “business as usual” risk management activity. Corporate risks are monitored by the Risk Board and the Audit, Risk and Scrutiny Committee, whilst Chief Officers monitor Cluster and Operational risks regularly, including horizon scanning for new or escalated risks.

In March 2024 the Council received a request from the Scottish Covid – 19 Inquiry for a response to a Rule 8 (information requested from local authorities by way of voluntary request) for material relating to the provision of Early Learning and Childcare, Primary schools, Secondary Schools, Youth work and Additional Support Needs services during the response and recovery stages of the pandemic. This requires a detailed response which is currently in progress. The Committee will continue to be updated on requests received from both the Scottish Inquiry and the UK Inquiry and, in accordance with the Committee Terms of Reference, lessons learned reports from both Inquiries will be shared when available.

3.7 Key members of the CRG have met regularly during numerous debriefs, both internal and multi-agency. The following priority actions have been identified by the CRG members based on an assessment of risk to the city. These have been progressed throughout the year and further detail is included later in this report:

- Development of a City Persons at Risk Database (PARD)
- Volunteers, Community, Business and Individual Resilience
- Power Resilience planning and preparation

3.8 All emergencies and incidents that required oversight from CRG this year have held the same themes by way of actions/ learnings and priorities. There are clear actions that have been tasked and are on track.

3.9 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 (GLRP) Working Group. The most recent report was issued in February 2024.

3.10 The Emergency Response Team structure is very well embedded and 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 1 responder, in tandem with utilising the Generic Emergency Plan.

3.11 In 2023 we saw a number of existing officers take up roles in the emergency response wider team. Three new DERCs who are currently Interim Chief Officers have received training and been added to the DERC rota. 2024 will see the need to increase our Council Incident Officer (CIO), formally known as Tactical Leads, cadre from existing officers - there are already two or three people identified for CIO training in 2024. We continue to utilise existing resource and expertise thus spreading our resilience and capability across a wide group of officers.

All of the above builds on our capacity and makes us more resilient as an organisation however due to the increase in incidents, climate-related and otherwise, we do need to be mindful of the resource required to maintain business as usual balanced against the number of unpredictable emergencies / responses.

3.12 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 CRG.

Incident / Event	Activity
Storms Otto and Babet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Incident Management Team (IMT) • Grampian Local Resilience Partnership (GLRP) • Contact made with Community Resilience Groups • ACC Debriefs • GLRP Debriefs
Various Weather events – flooding (Storm Isha, Jocelyn and Gerrit)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preparatory meetings with GLRP • Preparatory contact made with Community Resilience Groups • Incident Management Team (IMT) • ACC Debriefs • GLRP Debriefs <p>in the main these events were Business as Usual for ACC regarding impact and requirement for single service response.</p>

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

Incident	Improvements identified	Status
2023 Storms various	Review requirement for an out of hours weather update process for the DERCs	Proposed solution submitted to DERCs for their consideration.
2023 Storms various	Requirement for loggists (similar to a minute taker) as part of the ACC Emergency Response Team	Awaiting outcome of request for volunteers Training session in place for March 2024

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

Training topics	Completed	Agency/ staff involved
Lunch and Learn sessions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How to stand up the Local Resilience Partnership • Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP), METHANE a common emergency services mnemonic & Joint Decision Making Model (JDM) • ACC Support Centres - what, where and how to activate • Met office and SEPA alerts explained 	Yes	DERCs, SMOCs & CIOs
New SMOCs – How to guide	Yes	SMOCs
Gov.Notify	Yes	CIOs
Support Centre Managers – How to guide x 2 sessions in 2023	Yes	New and current Support Centre Managers
ACC Drug and Alcohol Service led a table top exercise to explore a civil contingencies approach to a new or emerging public health emergency relating to potential threat and mitigations of highly potent substances in Aberdeen i.e. high numbers of drug related deaths, harms and associated consequences.	Yes	ADP/ Aberdeen Health and Social Work Partnership (AHSCP)/Public Health Scotland/NHS Grampian
ACC Emergency Response Structure	Yes	ACC Aspiring Leaders

Winter preparedness – based on Storm Babet learnings	Yes	ACC Emergency Response Teams and SMOCs
Winter preparedness	Yes	ACC Elected Members
DERC inductions	Yes	New DERCs
Ex Mighty Oak – National power outage exercise run by UK and Scottish Governments	Yes	National Multi Agency
AHSCP lead – ‘System networking over Winter’ (SNOW) events	Yes	Multi Agency
“Page One” training – page one is the messaging platform to activate GLRP	Yes	SMOCs

3.14 Training and development continued throughout 2023 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.

3.15 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 year and its content is 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 e.g. emergency plans and activation packs.

- Monthly updates posted UK PROTECT Bulletin
- Sharing of partner rotas
- Weather updates, official warnings as well as operational updates
- DERC and SMOC channel to allow immediate information flow between NHS and AHSCP colleagues and senior manager on call and our DERC
- Templates for managing incidents and debriefs from incidents
- Creation of channel specifically for the Support Centre Managers, holding their reference material and giving them a place to post messages between their peers

- Media reports of interest
- Changes in legislation or guidance
- Training opportunities from other partners

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

3.17 The Community Safety Partnership undertakes the multi-agency Operation Fawkes each year in the lead up to and including Bonfire Night. This involves key local partners such as SFRS, Police Scotland and Aberdeen City Council. The Operation aims to tackle unauthorised bonfires, fireworks, fire hazards and the accumulation of waste or hazardous materials that represent potential fire risks.

3.18 **Arm's Length External Organisations** (ALEOs) support the Council to carry out our Category 1 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

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

3.20 The Council and the ACHSCP have been working very closely on 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 role of the IJB as a Category 1 responder is still evolving and work will continue in the coming year to develop and train their key response teams via the ACC EPRC team and review the activation process and overall understanding of their role within the GLRP. The **Care for People Plan** was reviewed and updated then approved by the Care for People Group in October 2023. In terms of governance, representatives from the Partnership are members of various Council groups and boards which helps to further enhance the working arrangements.

3.21 Preparation continues for the Council's National Power Outage Plan (NPO) 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. An in person session with key officers is being held in March 2024 to encourage input and set actions with a view to have a signed off plan and to carry out a table top exercise Q3 2024.

3.22 A separate workstream and scenario planning exercise had previously taken place for *planned* power outages which had emerged as a low likelihood risk for winter 2022/2023 and still remains. Known as Rota Load Disconnections (RLD) and Demand Control-OC6, these planned power outages may have short term 3-hour impacts in predefined small geographic areas aligned with postcodes (e.g., AB11) again spread across all of the UK at the same time.

The Business Continuity Group and officers updated existing BCP's to incorporate the actions and activities required in order to respond to planned and unplanned power outages with particular focus being placed on the Council's Critical Services.

3.23 The Council's **Regional Communications Centre** (RCC) 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.
- RCC has a BCP and has shared with Emergency Planning to ensure clarity on disaster recovery arrangements. Their plan already takes account of RLD & OC6 power resilience issues and strike action impact. An incident occurred late summer 2023 where large scale loss of 999 across Britain included a number of authorities serviced by RCC. From this debrief and lessons learned the RCC is reviewing its arrangements to ensure understanding internally and manage the obligations to our clients.
- Regular catch ups with EPRCL 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.

3.24 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 (GLRP) 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	This has not progressed

Plan	Status	Notes
TECA multi agency initial response guide (MAIRG)	Version 2 agreed in advance of Offshore Europe 2023 by all partners	<p>Compile and reviewed for v 2 by ACC as owner of the MAIRG. During 2024 a further review post Offshore Europe debrief</p> <p>Potential exercise of MAIRG early 2025</p>
Care for People Plan (AHSCP)		<p>Reviewed October 2023</p> <p>Annually review</p>
Cyber	<p>On-going</p> <p>Chief Officer - Digital and Technology sits as Chair of the Grampian Local Resilience Partnership Cyber working group</p>	<p>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</p>
Plans covering other events and ceremonial occasions	Scottish Government supplied new plan end of Feb 2024	<p>ACC officers are now reviewing earlier interim plans taking in the new plan details.</p> <p>ACC plan will be ready June 2024 with a table top exercise to be run before July 2024. This plan will be annually reviewed and exercised unless otherwise updated by Scottish Government.</p>
City Centre Lock Down plan (CONTEST)	Intention had been to complete Q3 of 2023 but with the development of Martyn's Law it is being reconsidered as a plan	We may move to having MAIRGs and individual public building security plans – need to revisit likelihood of a city centre lockdown being required versus a dynamic lockdown of small area or certain buildings
Move to Critical Plan (to be activated when UK moves to highest level of terror threat)	Benchmarking other local authorities with similar scale to Aberdeen to take place	ACT awareness online module made mandatory for ACC staff

Plan	Status	Notes
	2024 with view to introduce an action list / plan shortly after	Staff asked to download PROTECT UK app
Coastal Pollution Plan (Oil)	By way of assurance there is an LRP plan valid from 2019 Jan – 2024 that would be activated.	<p>Other mitigation in place - Briggs marine retainer through Operations and Protective Services</p> <p>ACC officers are taking 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>Draft plan Scheduled Q4 of 2024</p>
Scientific and Technical Advice Cell (STAC) activation and management plan	There is a GLRP plan and activation process, has been well exercised successfully during Covid – 19	It was reviewed in 2022 and agreed that the City does not require a standalone STAC plan – this would be part of the GLRP response to an emergency.
National Power Outage Plan formally known as National Electricity transmission system (NETS)	Currently in draft v 1 which is out to officers for input	Session with key officers being held in March 2024 to encourage input and set actions with a view to have draft to table top Q3 2024
RLD and OC6 Planned power outages	There are still a small number of Services to update their BCPs - this is being monitored by the Corporate Risk Lead	The Council's Winter Preparedness activities for 2023 included planning for the low risk of Rota Load Disconnection (RLD) and Demand Control OC-6. These are planned power outages

Plan	Status	Notes
		<p>for a 3-hour period in predefined geographical areas across the UK that are aligned with postcodes.</p> <p>The Business Continuity Group and officers updated existing BCP's to incorporate the actions and activities required in order to respond to planned and unplanned power outages with particular focus being placed on the Council's Critical Services.</p>
Managing Recovery phase of incident plan	Due for review	Added to DERC activation pack and shared with SMOCs

Warning and Informing the Public

- 3.26 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.

- 3.27 2023 has seen the continued and successful use of easy-to-understand infographics and accompanying social media posts for on-going resilience incidents such as winter weather and flooding.

These include warnings to the public before such an event happens, what the Council is doing during these incidents including working with internal and external partners, and the recovery stages of an incident or an emergency.

- 3.28 A Winter Resilience 2023/24 campaign was utilised again this winter, including pdf flyers, printed leaflets and social media campaign as well as a web presence on ACC site.

Working with Local Responders

- 3.29 The Council has continued to work closely with all local Category 1 and 2 responders during the year, particularly to manage the response to Storms; Otto, Babet and other autumn/winter storms of 2023

- 3.30 Key learnings from 2023 storm debriefs included:
- Building and promotion of Community Resilience
 - City PARAD development - priority
 - Regional Communications Centre (RCC) critical service for response – look at how other services could support RCC in emergency response; prepare statements for users of RCC.
 - All responders to consider their own Business Continuity Plans
- 3.31 A number of multi-agency resilience workshops have taken place, with attendance by our key emergency planning and response staff. Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership participate in these sessions also. There is great value in this partnership particularly with Public Health being under ongoing and considerable pressure. 2023 saw a significant review of AHSCP emergency response plans and their resource to ensure the effectiveness of their emergency response while their new Category 1 responder continues to mature.

The effectiveness and suitability of the Senior Manager on call (SMOC) resource, continues to be reviewed to explore and ensure alignment with the Council's procedures and the DERC's role. This provides real assurance that in the North East we have strong communication links with our partners and common language and understanding in the response to an emergency.

Supporting Business and Voluntary Organisations

- 3.32 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
- 3.33 **Community Resilience** has been a priority since 2021 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.

- 3.34 **Key activities of the project:**
1. **Emergency grab boxes** - Free and delivered to a number of locations across the City. For example to some of the potential new Community Resilience Volunteer Groups, see point 2.
 2. **New Community Resilience Volunteer Group** after the success of Bridge of Don and Danestone starting up a new group in December 2022. There have been positive moves during 2023 with Rosehill &

Stockethill, Seaton and Linksfield, Fittie and Ferryhill. Initial presentations and meetings have been held, with next steps being to assist the groups in creating Terms of Reference and writing their area Resilience Plan, should the groups themselves wish to progress to full CRVG status.

3. **Media campaign** that originally launched in December 2022 continued to be used successfully in 2023. The community resilience brand that was created is now becoming recognisable – social media messaging, printed material as well as web presence on ACC site.
4. **Secured £125k grant from SSEN** for use in the City for community resilience. The funds will be used in the main to supply portable power packs to AHSCP for use with their high priority clients, for the provision of small grants for new or existing community resilience groups, production of emergency grab boxes, production of winter preparedness leaflets and funding for an annual community resilience conference.
5. **Presentations** given on the benefits of Community Resilience Volunteer Groups throughout 2023 and explaining what ACC can do to support the initiative.
 - Sustainable Cities Working Group
 - Community Councils; Seaton and Linksfield, Stockethill and Rosehill
 - Fittie Community Development Trust
 - City and Shire Annual Community Resilience Conference

- 3.35 **Business Resilience** promotion, advice and guidance is part of the Council's duties under the Civil Contingencies Act. During 2023 we attended some business group meetings e.g. Belmont Street area, and presented on business resilience. We can share information via Aberdeen Inspired and Aberdeen Grampian Chamber of Commerce member newsletter.

ADDITIONAL PRIORITIES

Persons at Risk Database (PARD)

- 3.36 Considerable efforts continue to be directed at the development of our **Persons at Risk Database (PARD)**. 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 2023. Officers are ensuring Aberdeen City, Aberdeenshire and Moray Councils vulnerability categories align to make things more efficient for the responders. PARD has been discussed for many years but lessons learned from the Storms of late 2021 and early 2022 identified a PARD as a priority for all three local authorities. An interim PARD is in place for the City and is improved from what was available in 2021/22, a more complete and detailed City PARD is aiming to be in place winter 2024.

CONTEST

3.37 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.

3.38 As a Category 1 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.

3.39 **Prevent** – during 2024 there is to be an audit of this area of CONTEST This process is underway and outcomes will be reported to committee.

3.40 **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.

The draft bill was included in the King’s Speech on 7 November 2023 as part of the programme of legislation the UK Government intends to pursue in the forthcoming Parliamentary session. Following important feedback on the requirements of the Standard Tier as part of the pre-legislative scrutiny process, the UK Government has launched a public consultation, to which the Council intends to respond, on an updated approach to the Standard Tier. Once the consultation process has concluded, the Bill will be introduced as soon as parliamentary time allows.

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.

As there is not yet an enforcement agency in place and the Bill is still going through consultation, we understand that we have a year or two before this becomes an enforceable law. In advance of the Bill being passed and the duty becoming law, officers have an internal subgroup specific to Protect and Prepare as part of the already in place Contest working group. We also chair the North East multi-agency sub group which gives a strong network of partners across Grampian to discuss impact, guidance on delivery and training opportunities coming from the Bill.

Officers are putting in place 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 have also recommended that all Council staff download the free PROTECT UK app. The App accesses real-time information from Counter Terrorism (CT) Policing plus the latest protective security advice available at your fingertips 24/7 – wherever you are. It is available from Apple App Store and the Google Play Store on Android.

Awards and Achievements

- 3.41 **Star Awards – in 2023** the Emergency Response team was a finalist in the Collaboration category – ‘recognising excellent collaboration that spans boundaries between teams, clusters or partner organisations.’

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

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-19 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.

6. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

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

7. 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) <i>*taking into account controls/control actions</i>	*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 the Council's response to emergencies.	Legal duty to warn and inform the public and businesses. Comms plan in place during incidents to ensure	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?
		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

<u>COUNCIL DELIVERY PLAN 2023-2024</u>	
	Impact of Report
Aberdeen City Council Policy Statement Working in Partnership for Aberdeen	The report outlines work on community, personal and business resilience which links to the following in the Policy Statement: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Empowering Aberdeen's Communities • Caring for Each Other
<u>Local Outcome Improvement Plan</u>	
Prosperous Place Stretch Outcomes	The report outlines the work that has been done and will continue throughout 2024 and beyond on Community, Personal and Business Resilience. 13.3 To have Community led resilience plans in place for the most vulnerable areas (6) in the City by 2025 increase by 10% the % of people who know where to find information and resources to help prepare for severe weather events by 2025

9. IMPACT ASSESSMENTS

Assessment	Outcome
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Integrated Impact Assessment	No assessment required. I confirm this has been discussed and agreed with the Interim Chief Officer - Governance
Data Protection Impact Assessment	not required
Other	

10. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None

11. APPENDICES

Appendix A - Generic Emergency Plan

12. REPORT AUTHOR CONTACT DETAILS

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