

## **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

6th March 2018

### **CIVIL CONTINGENCIES SHORT SHARP REVIEW – COVERING REPORT**

Relevant Portfolio Holder	Councillor Joe Baker, Portfolio Holder for Community Safety and Regulatory Services
Portfolio Holder Consulted	No
Relevant Head of Service	Ruth Bamford, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Ward(s) Affected	No specific ward relevance.
Non-Key Decision	

#### **1. SUMMARY OF PROPOSALS**

This report provides an overview of the findings of the Civil Contingencies Short Sharp Review. More detailed information about the evidence basis for the group's recommendations can be found in the group's final report attached at Appendix 1.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATIONS**

**The Committee is asked to RESOLVE that**

- 1) the content of the Council's emergency plan should be reviewed on an annual basis; and**
- 2) the group's proposal for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive an annual update in respect of the Council's emergency planning arrangements be noted.**

#### **3. KEY ISSUES**

##### **Background**

- 3.1 In July 2017 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee received a proposal from Councillor Tom Baker-Price to undertake a review of the Council's emergency planning arrangements. The Committee agreed to launch this review once the Homelessness Short Sharp Review had been completed in September 2017.
- 3.2 Councillor Gareth Prosser was appointed to Chair the review, with Councillors Matthew Dormer and Yvonne Smith also being appointed to this group.
- 3.3 Over the course of five months the group gathered evidence from a variety of sources including Council officers, external partner organisations and national publications. The recommendations detailed in the group's final report are based on the evidence that was gathered.

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- 3.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee will receive the group's report at a meeting on 1st March 2018. At the time of writing the Committee's response to the group's findings remained to be confirmed.
- 3.5 The Executive Committee is not required to make a decision in respect of the group's second recommendation, which calls for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive an annual update on emergency planning arrangements at the Council. This is because the Overview and Scrutiny Committee can determine the content of its own work programme.

**Financial Implications**

- 3.6 All the financial implications arising from the group's recommendations are detailed in the final report.

**Legal Implications**

- 3.7 All the legal implications arising from the group's proposals are detailed in the final report.

**Service / Operational Implications**

- 3.8 The group concluded that the launch of the review should have been delayed until the North Worcestershire Civil Contingencies and Resilience Manager had returned from maternity leave. This is because her significant knowledge about the subject and the information she provided about the Council's emergency planning arrangements reassured the group that appropriate arrangements are in place and no further investigation was necessary.
- 3.9 The group understands that prior to the launch of the review senior officers had formally requested that the exercise should be postponed until the North Worcestershire Civil Contingencies and Resilience Manager had returned from maternity leave, but this request was declined. In light of the Grenfell Tower fire scrutiny Members had felt that this review was too important to delay and the exercise had therefore been launched.
- 3.10 Members are urging the Overview and Scrutiny Committee to learn lessons from this review and to consider in future postponing the launch of a review until key expert witness are available if necessary.

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**Customer / Equalities and Diversity Implications**

- 3.11 The group has proposed a couple of actions that are designed to enhance emergency planning arrangements as well as the Overview and Scrutiny process at the Council.

**4. RISK MANAGEMENT**

No specific risks have been identified.

**5. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1 – Civil Contingencies Short Sharp Review group's final report and appendices.

**AUTHOR OF REPORT**

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