

Report to: **Executive**
Date: **2 February 2017**
Title: **Emergency Response Plan**
Portfolio Area: **Customer First**

Wards Affected: **All**

Relevant Scrutiny Committee:

Urgent Decision: **N** Approval and clearance obtained: **Y**

Date next steps can be taken: Meeting of Full Council on 9 February 2017

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Recommendations:

1. That the Executive consider the Emergency Response Plan produced by the Devon Emergency Planning Service attached at Appendix 1 and,
2. That the Executive **RECOMMEND** to the next meeting of Full Council that the proposed emergency response arrangements are approved.

1. Executive summary

- 1.1. In January 2015, Devon Local Government Steering Group (DLGSG), agreed to explore better ways of preparing for and responding to emergencies.
- 1.2. Following this meeting 7 out of the 9 Councils in Devon formed the Devon Emergency Planning Service (DEPS), the purpose of which is to deliver the recommendation of DLGSG.
- 1.3. The DEPS Response and recovery plan is the first deliverable from the project and will ensure that response across the County is carried out to the same standards and enable mutual support for larger incidents.
- 1.4. This report asks the Executive to note the plan and more importantly, the emergency arrangements proposed to support the plan and any response that may be required, and that a recommendation of approval of those arrangements is made to full Council.

2. Background

- 2.1. At the January 2015 DLGSG a paper was tabled in regards to the Devon-wide response to emergencies and how we could work more efficiently. This led to an emergency planning task and finish group (EPTAG) being formed of managers from across Devon.
- 2.2. The EPTAG discussions determined that due to changes in structure in a number of authorities that there was an opportunity to move to a Devon Emergency Planning Service (DEPS) with the aims being to produce a set of plans generic across Devon, this would then allow for better cross boundary working at times of high impact incidents.
- 2.3. The Council along with 6 of the other Local Authorities in Devon came together to form DEPS which is made up of: -
 - Devon County Council
 - Exeter City Council
 - Mid Devon District Council
 - North Devon District Council
 - South Hams District Council
 - Teignbridge District Council
 - West Devon Borough CouncilCurrently Torbay are part of EPTAG but not part of DEPS but may reconsider their involvement at a later date.
- 2.4. The specialist knowledge that DEPS relies upon is provided by the original Emergency Planning team at Devon County Council, but the service has the aim of being truly integrated into all of the constituent authorities, with single points of contact being nominated by each authority to aid in the production and implementation of the plans.

3. Outcomes/outputs

- 3.1. The plan brought in front of you today consists of parts 1,2 and 5 of the Response and Recovery Plan, which details the response arrangements for the DEPS authorities, and the local arrangements for implementation of the plan (please see Appendix 1).
- 3.2. Whilst major incidents are rare in the South Hams area there have been a number of smaller incidents requiring a response including in relation to sever weather warnings. There are also three sites in our vicinity in respect of which the Council is required to have adequate response arrangements in place these being; Drakelands mine (response to a failure of the tailings dam), Calor Gas, Lee Mill (response to a fire associated with a release of LPG), and HMNB Devonport (response to an accidental release of radiation).
- 3.3. This report asks that you consider the arrangements proposed by the plans and recommend to Council that they accept these arrangements.

4. Options available and consideration of risk

- 4.1. Whilst we could consider producing our own emergency plans, we do not believe that this would be an efficient use of Public resources and may hamper any response to the event of an emergency arising.
- 4.2. In line with the recommendations of the recent internal audit reports there will be ongoing training arranged in regards to the Council's response and exercises prepared to test our arrangements. In the event of a major incident being declared the Council will participate in any Joint Organisational Learning opportunities (i.e. debriefings etc.) to help determine the efficacy of the plans and arrangements.

5. Proposed Way Forward

- 5.1. Executive consider the DEPS plan and associated local arrangements, note the contents of the plan and recommend to Council that they approve the proposed response arrangements.

6. Implications

Implications	Relevant to proposals Y/N	Details and proposed measures to address
Legal/Governance	Y	<p>Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the Council has several duties in regards to emergency planning these include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• To assess the risk of an emergency arising• To maintain plans to ensure that where an emergency occurs the Council can continue to function to deliver its services• To ensure that the Emergency Plans are available to the public (excluding any personal information)• Maintain arrangements for warning and informing the public about whether an emergency is likely to occur or has occurred. <p>It is believed that the plans in front of you help the Council to fulfil its duties under this act.</p>
Financial	Y	<p>There is no immediate expenditure incurred through the approval of the response arrangements. However members will wish to be aware that sections 111 and 138 of the Local Government Act 1978 allows Local Authorities to incur expenditure in emergency situations to alleviate the risk or eradicate the impact of a disaster, as such the approval of these arrangements may entail decisions being made that may incur expenditure at a later date.</p>

Risk	Y	Failing to have adequate emergency plans and emergency response arrangements may lead to unacceptable risks to the lives of our communities by delaying a response to an emergency or a speedy recovery from a disaster.
Comprehensive Impact Assessment Implications		
Equality and Diversity		None foreseen
Safeguarding		None foreseen
Community Safety, Crime and Disorder		None foreseen
Health, Safety and Wellbeing		The planning has taken into account the health, safety and welfare of staff involved in an emergency And provides suitable advice and guidance.
Other implications		None foreseen

Supporting Information

Appendices:

Appendix 1: Devon Emergency Planning Service Incident Response and Recovery Plan Parts 1,2 and 5.

Background Papers:

Minutes of the DLGSG meeting January 2015

Minutes of EPTAG

DEPS Terms of Reference