

NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE COUNCIL

CABINET

CORPORATE FLOODING PLAN

1. OBJECT AND KEY POINTS IN THIS REPORT

- 1.1 Make members aware of and seek approval for the council's Corporate Flooding Plan.
- 1.3 To seek approval for a test of the recovery section of the plan to further improve the council's emergency preparedness.
- 1.4 To seek approval for the protocols in the recovery section of the Flooding Plan to be used for other non-flooding major emergencies.

2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Following the floods of 2007, a multi-agency flood group, led by North Lincolnshire Council, was established. One of the outcomes from the group was to compile a multi-agency document to assist in the management of future flooding events in North Lincolnshire. The North Lincolnshire Multi-Agency Flood Compendium was written to fulfil that need.
- 2.2 Historically, the council's flooding plan was owned by Highways and Planning. Following a test of that plan and the subsequent 2007 floods the decision was taken to replace the existing plan with a Corporate Flooding Plan that linked into the new Multi-Agency Flood Compendium.
- 2.3 The council normally leads and co-ordinates the restoration and recovery of the community after a flood. The new Corporate Flooding Plan includes a section that documents community recover. It is based upon lessons learned from the 2007 floods and a 'Recovery Toolkit' developed by a multi-agency group chaired by North Lincolnshire Council.
- 2.4 The council is a signatory to the Humber Local Resilience Forum, Emergency Procedures Manual. That document may require the council to take the lead role in recovery from other types of emergencies.

3. OPTIONS FOR CONSIDERATION

- 3.1 Approving the Corporate Flooding Plan and recovery section.
- 3.2 Approving the use of the management structures and principles described in the recovery section for use in the recovery of the community following a major emergency, regardless of the cause.
- 3.3 Consider testing the recovery section to ensure it is fit for purpose.

4. ANALYSIS OF OPTIONS

- 4.1 The Government issued preliminary guidance for multi-agency flood plans. The Corporate Flooding Plan uses that guidance as a basis for its construction.
- 4.2 National guidance suggests that in most cases the recovery effort ‘...will be led by the local authority¹.’ That principal is embodied within the ‘Interim Humber Local Resilience Forum Emergency Procedures Manual’ to which the council is a signatory. It states that the council will lead the recovery from most major emergencies. Consequently it is important that the council agrees a protocol for managing the recovery process.
- 4.3 Approval of the recovery section provides an opportunity for using it as a template for managing community recovery and restoration following any emergency.
- 4.4 Normally, the testing of emergency plans is limited to the response phase. The recovery phase is frequently overlooked. Given the councils lead responsibility in recovery, it is important that the arrangements are tested.

5. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCIAL, STAFFING, PROPERTY, IT)

- 5.1 Recovery and restoration operations require a long term commitment. Tables 6, 7 and 8 in the recovery section of the Flooding Plan describe the resource implications. It is envisaged that the resources will be covered using existing staffing establishment.
- 5.2 The use of the seven Local Links as potential Humanitarian Assistance Centres may disrupt their normal business activities.

¹ Emergency Response and Recovery, paragraph 4.80 (HM Government)

6. OTHER IMPLICATIONS (STATUTORY, ENVIRONMENTAL, DIVERSITY, SECTION 17 - CRIME AND DISORDER, RISK AND OTHER)

6.1 The Civil Contingencies Act and Regulations require the council to ensure its emergency plans are tested and reviewed.

7. OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION

7.1 The Flooding Plan, minus the recovery section, was circulated to all service areas for comment via the Tactical Emergency Planning Working Group. Three responses were received and incorporated into the plan.

7.2 The recovery section was circulated to all service directors. One response was received. It was also circulated to the following external partners for comment: Anglian Water, Environment Agency, Government Office for Yorkshire and the Humber, Humberside Fire and Rescue Service and North Lincolnshire Primary Care Trust. No responses were received.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

8.1 To approve the North Lincolnshire Council Corporate Flooding Plan.

8.2 That the protocols in the recovery section are used as the basis for recovery from all emergencies that call upon the council to take the lead in community recovery and restoration.

8.3 To approve a future test of the recovery section.

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Background Papers used in the preparation of this report - Nil