Report to:	**Place Scrutiny Committee**
Date of meeting:	**15 November 2018**
By:	**Director of Communities, Economy and Transport**
Title:	**Emergency Planning Update Report**
Purpose:	**To inform Scrutiny Committee on progress with Emergency Planning**

RECOMMENDATION:

(1) Scrutiny is recommended to consider the progress being made in Emergency Planning across East Sussex.

1. Background Information

1.1 The East Sussex Resilience and Emergencies Partnership Board (ESREP) continues to meet quarterly, and includes East Sussex County Council (ESCC), East Sussex Fire & Rescue (ESF&R), Hastings Borough Council, Eastbourne Borough Council, Lewes District Council and Wealden District Council.

1.2 The team continues to contribute to several Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) work streams. ESCC co-chair the Risk, Emergency Welfare, and Weather and Environment groups, and contribute to the Response, Community Resilience, Training and Exercising, and Warning and Informing work streams.

1.3 In order to address some of the identified emergency planning training needs in ESREP, a comprehensive package of training will be delivered by the Cabinet Office Emergency Planning College and will include;

- Strategic Emergency and Crisis Management
- Tactical Emergency Management
- Principles of Recovery Planning
- Local Authority Chief Officers - Delivering Civil Protection
- Cabinet members - Your Role in Disaster Management

1.4 Further information on a Member's role in an emergency can be found at Appendix 1.

2 National Occupational Standards (NOS)

2.1 The Civil Contingencies National Occupational Standards (NOS) are a nationally recognised framework of standards that category 1 and 2 responders under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) use to demonstrate competence and performance of its activities. The NOS provide a benchmark for basic skills for individuals and organisations to aspire to in developing their professionalism and practice.

2.2 By recording this information and activity against this framework it provides ESCC with a clear auditable programme of evidence, and enables the Authority to demonstrate it is meeting legislative requirements and statutory obligations.

3 Resilience Standards

3.1 There has been an ongoing programme of work undertaken by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat in the Cabinet Office, in conjunction with the Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government Resilience and Emergencies Division (MHCLG RED), to create a set of Resilience Standards for Category 1 and 2 responders, the voluntary sector and colleagues in the devolved administrations. These standards will produce a coherent set of expectations and codified good practice doctrine for those colleagues working in the resilience field.

3.2 The standards effectively underpin our statutory obligations and when embedded they will provide ample opportunity to provide auditable evidence of how we actively meet our obligations. The first 6 Resilience Standards have been published for consultation and further standards will be circulated shortly.

4 Operational Update

4.1 A potentially large data protection issue and discovery of Picric Acid (class 1.1 explosive) at the Aquascience site in Uckfield resulted in a multi-agency response which was led by ESCC.

4.2 Over the Christmas period 2 pollution/salvage incidents occurred at sea which had the potential to affect East Sussex; although neither came ashore within our jurisdiction, significant planning activity was undertaken. The incidents were;

- MEKHANIK YARSEV - oil spill whilst bunkering.
- EPIC BURANO – partial loss of load (wood).

4.3 Parts One (Severe Cold) and Two (Snow Linking) of ESCC's Severe Weather Plans/ESCC's Business Continuity (BC) Management System were put to the test during the adverse weather (snow) incidents. ESCC's Business Continuity Management System as a whole was tested in real-time during this incident, under the direction of ESCC's Corporate BC Lead.

4.4 Following the cold spell in April a number of water mains burst in the north of the County, affecting in excess of 100,000 households for over 48 hours, although many had their supplies restored within this time period. Whilst responsibility for repairing bursts and for the supply of water while mains water supply is disrupted rests with the relevant water companies, there were a series of multi-agency meetings chaired by Sussex Police, and the vulnerable persons plan was initiated through the SRF. A debrief took place with a number of recommendations for all agencies and the ESCC Emergency Planning Team fed in to the resulting OFWAT 'Out in the Cold' review. Following this report, each of the companies were required to publish how they are responding to the issues raised and develop an action plan on their websites. OFWAT had significant concerns about Southern Water and South East Water's responses overall and they are required to provide external assurance on this action plan. Learning from this incident was captured in the multi-agency SRF Operation Kirkwall debrief.

4.5 Learning from the adverse weather in the summer months (heatwave) will be incorporated in the review of the SRF and ESCC framework triggers that is currently being undertaken. The Adverse Weather Framework will incorporate key changes in standing up Tactical Advisory Groups and weather warnings processes and will be included in the ESCC Heatwave Plan.

4.6 Learning from the Manchester Arena bombing has resulted in a number of recommendations, the relevant ones being incorporated into appropriate work streams. The report can be found at https://www.kerslakearenareview.co.uk/media/1022/kerslake_arena_review_printed_final.pdf

4.7 With the last draft revision dating from March 2013, the ESCC Coastal Pollution plan has been thoroughly reviewed and in many places rewritten, to bring it up-to-date and in line with National structures for emergency response. Many links to useful resources have been added, including the process for activating the clean-up contract with Adler and Allan.

4.8 The Severe Cold Plan has been extensively reworked to include the latest statistics and research on winter mortality, and aligning and cross-referencing with SRF processes and the Cold Weather Plan for England.

4.9 Work has started on understanding the implications of the multi-agency flood planning recommendations from the recent national review (https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/multi-agency-flood-plan-mafp-review). The Weather and Environment Group (WEG) will be publishing guidance in due course regarding Part 2 Flood Plans.

4.10 The Animal Diseases Plan review is underway as there have been significant changes to how the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) will set up a response to an incident. The

SRF plan will be amended accordingly and work will then commence with Trading Standards to update the ESCC plan.

4.11 Work continues within the SRF working group on the Volunteer Management Plan which will enable the efficient and safe use of volunteers during an incident, thereby increasing our ability to respond and recover across the SRF. As part of this work sites that could serve as Volunteers Reception Centres across the County have been identified. This will aid incident response and recovery, and protect against reputational damage if volunteers present during an incident. In addition, the EP Team have been working with insurance officers to understand the cover required for volunteers who deploy on behalf of the Authority to provide a model process for SRF partners.

4.12 The SRF recovery Plan has been reviewed and is awaiting sign off by the Delivery Group.

4.13 The Emergency Planning (EP) team have supported Safety Advisory Group activity for the Lewes bonfire event and provided the Chair of the Eastbourne Tennis and Airbourne Safety Advisory Groups.

4.14 A very successful Town and Parish Emergency Group Conference was held in November. Approximately 60 people attended, with Mark Andrews, ESF&RS delivering the opening address and Cllr Bentley, ESCC Lead Member for Communities and Safety, giving the closing address. In addition, a SRF Emergency Planning Symposium was held in March.

4.15 The following exercises have taken place;

- Ex SNAIL – test and exercise of the Cuilfail Tunnel Plan
- Ex REFINE - test and exercise of the Tradebe COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) site
- Ex GALILEO –Brighton & Sussex University Hospital Live exercise
- Ex BENWICK, Wealden DC's Rest Centre exercise
- Tabletop exercise to test Eastbourne Air Show Plans
- Tabletop exercise to test Eastbourne Tennis Plans

4.16 A large-scale multi-agency SRF exercise is due to take place in February/March 2019 and this will be centred around recovery from an adverse weather incident.

5 Conclusion and reasons for recommendation

5.1 Scrutiny is therefore asked to note the progress being made in Emergency Planning across East Sussex.

RUPERT CLUBB
Director of Communities, Economy and Transport, ESCC

Contact Officer: Victoria Eaton
Tel No: 07795 401892
Email: Victoria.eaton@eastsussex.gov.uk

LOCAL MEMBERS
All

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
None