

**Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore,
Executive Director of Finance and Public Protection**

Report to:	Environmental Scrutiny Committee
Date:	13 January 2017
Subject:	Community Resilience & Emergency Preparedness in Lincolnshire

Summary:

Community resilience and emergency preparedness has changed much in the last 9 years since the summer floods of 2007. Following this event, the Government commissioned a report into what went wrong and how it could be improved upon (Pitt Review 2008) listing a number of recommendations for both responding agencies and the community.

This report outlines the work undertaken to develop Community Resilience & Emergency Preparedness in Lincolnshire.

Actions Required:

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the report and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

1. Background

One recommendation from the Pitt Review (2008) that specifically relates to the work Lincolnshire County Council carry's out is that communities should take charge of their own actions during flooding events until emergency responders can attend and, that emergency responders should provide the tools and training required by the community to be able to cope in this interim between the emergency happening and help arriving.

How this was to be achieved was not specified nor funded, so many councils and LRF's (Local Resilience Forums) have for a long time seen community resilience as idealism rather than a serious change of direction from doing everything for the community, to being in partnership with them. In Lincolnshire however, it is different. Lincolnshire County Council took the information presented from the Pitt Review and adapted one word "Flood" changing it to "Emergency" which in turn gave us the following brief and specific outcome:

“People should know the enduring risks in Lincolnshire, and know what to do when they happen. Communities are resilient and have local community based and owned emergency plans. Young people are resilient through education and, that we unlock the potential of the voluntary sector which includes spontaneous volunteers.”

At the start of 2008 five community based emergency plans existed in Lincolnshire loosely based around a telephone contact sheet which at the time was suitable but not cutting edge. Since then much work has been achieved to:

- Identify communities most at risk (based around flood risk issues)
- Refine community emergency plan templates
- Training programmes
- Buy in from partners and the community

Of the 500 or so parish councils 151 were identified as being most at risk from all forms of flooding (rivers, sea, surface and ground), scored accordingly as to where these met then overlaid with flood warning area maps and then given a priority based on these findings. Trigger points were assigned to each community based around water to a depth of 0.6 to 0.9 metres.

It is important to remember that these findings do not mean that any one community is at greater risk of flooding than the other, this system was only used as a crude identifier but as it turns out as more sophisticated mapping tools are developed our risk maps are proving accurate.

Working with Lincolnshire Association of Local Councils (LALC), engagement sessions were arranged on the back of the Prevent agenda and Community Cohesion Initiative to deliver community resilience awareness training to targeted community groups based around the parish council system.

To date 122 parish/ town councils have undergone community emergency planning training within the county with 103 plans being started or developed. Of these a number of community groups have actively participated in both local and national exercises such as Exercise Barnes Wallis and Exercise Grey Seal which looked at dealing with an unexploded bomb and the later, the recovery from a major oil pollution event on the Lincolnshire Coastline. A further live exercise will be taking place in February 2017 in the Lutton area of the county looking at door knocking and evacuation. A few have also self-activated in real time during last year's severe weather events and to assist police in an incident involving migrants.

Other areas community resilience has had an influence in recent years is that of the Voluntary Coordination Group (VCG), which sits alongside the LRF enabling the rapid call out of organised voluntary sector groups in times of crisis. Member organisations are also included in all LRF training and exercises further strengthening ties between emergency responders, volunteers and the community resulting in clear and unambiguous communication channels between all stakeholders.

All this has been achieved through the hard work and dedication of officers in Lincolnshire County Council and the buy in from the community and partners in the development of templates and training resources.

For information the 5 stage training programme is detailed below:

Stage 1 – The Concept; what is community emergency planning and why is it becoming increasingly more important? – open to all community groups/town/parish councils.

Duration 20 minutes

Stage 2 – The Plan; once a group has formed this session will look at your community emergency plan in more detail so that by the time it concludes groups will have the basis of its very own community emergency plan.

Duration 2 to 3 hours depending on audience

Stage 3 & 4 – these sessions are combined as they deal with **Response** and **Recovery** – what will be expected from the community group should an emergency happen and where will the group fit into the wider emergency response in Lincolnshire? This session will answer these questions as well as giving some practical experience.

Duration 2 to 3 hours depending on audience.

Stage 5 – Test the Plan, is it fit for purpose? Does it need further development? In this session community groups will be given the opportunity to test the activation of their community emergency plan in the safety of a table top styled exercise in order to answer these two questions – does it work? Is there anything missing? Once this has been established it can then be taken a stage further by involving the community through a live exercise experience. Assistance and support is provided throughout this process by LCC Emergency Planning & BC Service. Duration varies depending on exercise but can range from 2 hours to 1 day.

2. Conclusion

Members of the Environmental Scrutiny Committee are invited to consider and comment on the report and highlight any recommendations or further actions for consideration.

3. Consultation

a) Have Risks and Impact Analysis been carried out??

No

b) Risks and Impact Analysis

N/A

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Appendix A - Community Emergency Plan Template
Appendix B	Appendix B - Sample Resource Directory Template

5. Background Papers

No background papers within Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972 were used in the preparation of this report.

This report was written by Steve Eason-Harris, Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Officer who can be contacted on 01522 580322 or steve.harris@Lincoln.fire-uk.org