

Extract of Cabinet minutes – dated 13 October 2015

113 Integrated Emergency Management Plan

Key Councillor Keith Humphries presented the draft Integrated Emergency Management Plan for Cabinet's consideration and onward recommendation to Council.

The accompanying report outlined recent improvements and proposed future work to enhance the resilience of Wiltshire Council and the wider community.

Issues raised in the course of the presentation and discussion included: that the Council is a category one responder and is required to work with partners to put plans in place to respond to emergencies; the evolution of the emergency planning function and how it had been strengthened; how the emergency planning function has been linked to Public Health; how the new plan brings together three plans including business continuity, recovery and emergency plans; how the plan links to the Local Resilience Forum co-chaired by Maggie Rae in her capacity as Director for Public Health; how national civil risks are taken into account including flu, flooding and power outages; how voluntary groups can be worked with to improve community resilience; how potential problems can be anticipated including support to festivals; and how the Council has been recognised as an exemplar.

Cllr Humphries thanked, in particular, the work of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for its input. Furthermore, he expressed his wish to continue this relationship, and drew attention to their report and recommendations in the pack.

Cllr Simon Killane, Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, welcomed the opportunity to have had a robust and detailed discussion on the Plan; he also made reference to the recommendation and the focus on engagement of staff and volunteers with the plan. He looked forward to having the opportunity to continue to look at this as it is an evolving, living document.

Cllr Humphries, in response to issues raised by Cllr Sturgis and Cllr Fleur de Philippe, stated that officers are going out to Area Boards and Parishes, and that they would continue to work to promote engagement with the plan in the communities, recognising the benefit of gaining assistance and knowledge from local communities.

Resolved

- 1. To recommend the Integrated Emergency Management Plan for approval by Full Council**
- 2. To note the progress made by the Emergency Planning Team in increasing the resilience of Wiltshire Council and local communities.**

Reason for Decision

This proposal seeks to formalise and reinforce Wiltshire Council's commitment to continual improvement in response during emergencies, and to support communities

becoming stronger and more resilient. The Integrated Emergency Management Plan is a best-practice approach to preparing for emergencies, which will assure partners and communities that Wiltshire Council has planned and prepared for major incidents.

The new Plan replaces three previous documents, and will align the organisation to the highest national and international standards for Major Incident Response, Business Continuity and Recovery.