

Meeting of:	Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee
Date of Meeting:	Wednesday, 18 September 2019
Relevant Scrutiny Committee:	Homes and Safe Communities
Report Title:	Update report for the Civil Protection Unit
Purpose of Report:	To update on the Homes & Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee on the operational work plan for the Civil Protection Unit
Report Owner:	Miles Punter - Director of Environment and Housing
Responsible Officer:	Debbie Spargo, Principal Civil Protection Officer
Elected Member and Officer Consultation:	Accountant – Neighbourhood Services and Building Legal - Committee Reports
Policy Framework:	This report is for information
<p>Executive Summary:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This report brings to the attention of Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee the work of the Civil Protection Unit ensuring that Committee Members are aware of this work and the legislation. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004(CCA), places a statutory duty on category 1 and category 2 responders, Local authorities are category 1 responders under these provisions and have a set duties that are specified in the CCA (2004). The Civil Protection Unit (CPU) ensures that Councils fulfil the above duties. • The CPU is co-ordinating the Council’s Brexit response and is the conduit into the regional reporting structure, this is via the South Wales Local Resilience Forum (SWLRF) structure ensuring that we are working with multi-agency partners. • South Wales Local Resilience Forum (SWLRF) Co-ordinator is hosted by Vale of Glamorgan Council; this post is funded from all category 1 responders of SWLRF. The Principal Civil Protection Officer is responsible for line management of this role. • The CPU operates a duty officer on-call 24/7 out of hours that responds to emergency and incidents across the Vale. The CPU co-ordinate the Council’s response to major incidents and emergencies ensuring that the priority services can continue to operate in an emergency situation. 	

Recommendation

1. That the work of the Civil Protection Unit is noted by the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee

Reason for Recommendation

1. To ensure that Members of the Homes and Safe Communities Scrutiny Committee are aware of this work

1. Background

- 1.1 The Civil Contingencies Act 2004(CCA) places a statutory duty on category 1 and category 2 responders, Local Authorities are category 1 responders under these provisions and have a set duties that are specified in the CCA (2004).
- 1.2 The Civil Protection Unit (CPU) ensures that Councils fulfil the above duties.
- 1.3 South Wales Local Resilience Forum (SWLRF) Co-ordinator is hosted by Vale of Glamorgan Council; this post is funded from all category 1 responders of SWLRF. The Principal Civil Protection Officer is responsible for line management of this role.
- 1.4 The Council's BREXIT response is co-ordinated and integrated into the regional response.
- 1.5 The CPU has a duty officer on-call 24/7 out of hours.

2. Key Issues for Consideration

- 2.1 The Civil Protection Officer (CPO) was appointed to post in February 2018 and is undertaking training, coaching and a programme of development and learning about the Council and the profession.
- 2.2 The Barry Chemical Complex External Plan (COMAH) has been reviewed as part of the COMAH regulations and in line with the 3 year required cycle. The multi-agency exercise to validate the plan was held 19th January 2019.
- 2.3 The review of the Council Business Continuity Management Programme has been restarted. The Business Impact analysis that has involved a review of the Council Priority Services (previously called critical) is completed and will allow for a solid base on which to progress this project.
- 2.4 An all Wales BREXIT risk assessment allowed us to overlay this onto the Priority one services business Impact analysis. This will allow us to review the current business continuity plans and also give an opportunity to strengthen areas where

there is likely to be more risk due to BREXIT. This work is in the final stages of completion.

- 2.5** The reporting structures that have been activated for BREXIT follow the Counter Terrorism C3 structure. The CPU co-ordinates the Council response into this structure, it is anticipated that work will re-commence in early September 2019, to meet the 31st October 2019 deadline.
- 2.6** The CPU have responded to a number of incidents over the period including fires at Barry and Llandow, coastal incidents and cliff falls, loose horses, unauthorised travellers encampments and the recent hot weather.
- 2.7** The CPU duty officer procedures have been reviewed and the internal and external contacts directories have been updated in line with the Council's GDPR policy.
- 2.8** The work of the Building Security Group has been paused, the PCPO is currently in discussion with the Council's Facilities Manager and Security Manager on re-invigorating the group.
- 2.9** The Events Safety Advisory Group (ESAG) meets every 6 weeks and has dealt with a number of long standing planned events and new and one off events within the Vale.
- 2.10** The PCPO is a member of the Cardiff Airport Emergency Group, a major exercise was held on 11th March 2019 for which the PCPO was the exercise monitor at the Tactical (Silver) command. Following this further work is being undertaken to strengthen procedures and ensure staff are trained.
- 2.11** The new SWLRF Co-ordinator commenced in post at the beginning of October 2018, this post has been vacant since February 2018 and the CPU has acted as the interim co-ordinator to ensure that the SWLRF can function and provided continuity. It is anticipated that this will need further support; this will include managerial support and monitoring of tasks.
- 2.12** The PCPO is working with the SWLRF Co-ordinator on the provision of emergency mortuary facilities project within South Wales area, this project is complex due to the fact that in Wales there are no public mortuaries. The Health Boards provide the mortuary service, funded by Local Authorities via the Coroners Service.

3. How do proposals evidence the Five Ways of Working and contribute to our Well-being Objectives?

- 3.1** SWLRF ensures that there is collaboration, involvement and integration across the SWLRF area, through the multi-agency forum resilience preparedness and planning is in place across the South Wales Area.

- 3.2** The Vale of Glamorgan Council take a leading role within the SWLR partnership. The Director of Housing and Environment Services is the Vice Chair of SWLRF and the SWLRF co-ordinator post is hosted by Vale of Glamorgan Council based within the Civil Protection Unit and managed by the PCPO.
- 3.3** SWLRF is based on South Wales Police boundary and includes the seven Councils, three Health Boards, Two Fire Services, South Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Service, the Maritime & Coastguard Agency, Public Health Wales, Natural Resources Wales and the three Armed Services.

4. Resources and Legal Considerations

Financial

- 4.1** None directly arising from this report.

Employment

- 4.2** None directly arising from this report.

Legal (Including Equalities)

- 4.3** The Civil Contingencies Act 2004
Control of Major Accidents Hazards (COMAH Regulations 2015)

5. Background Papers

None.