

Overview and Scrutiny

How Scrutiny Works - Scoping

Scoping Scrutiny Reviews in Nottinghamshire

1. OSC

The County Council Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) manages the programme of scrutiny work, identifying and prioritising issues for review. For each review the OSC will set a key question, appoint a chair and vice-chair, a suggested period of time for the review and the number of Members to sit on the select committee.

2. Chair and vice-chair

The chair and vice-chair will meet with the lead officer to the review and other identified officers to draft a scope for the review using the scoping document template. This process provides the select committee with an initial outline of the review and will include suggested witnesses and evidence.

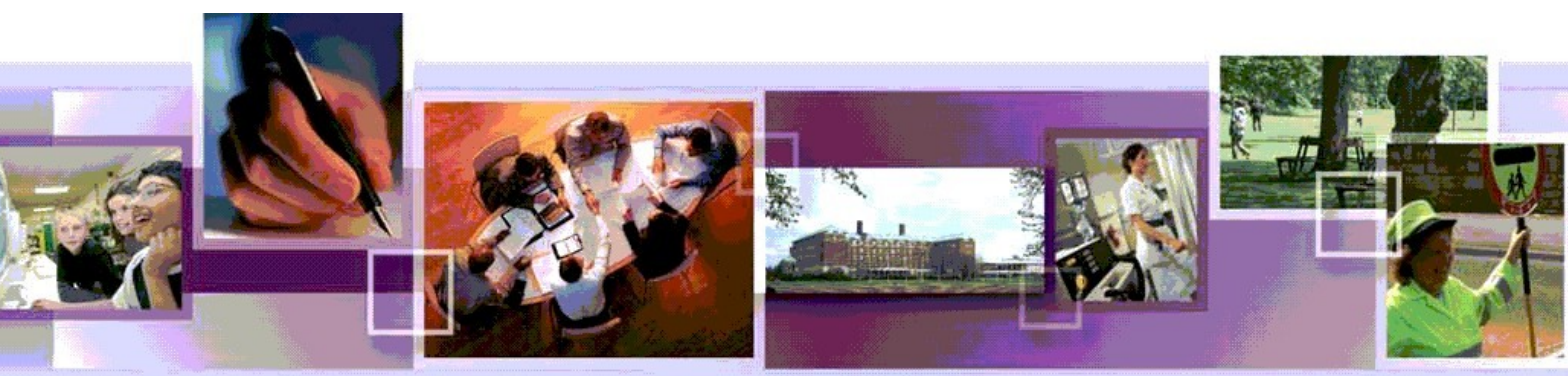
3. Service departments

If the review includes consideration of county council services then the draft scope will be sent to the service directors responsible for those services so that they are aware that the review is taking place. The service director will be invited to comment on the proposed scope of the review. In any review Members will want to ensure that the provision of services is fair. To enable the review to determine this, service directors will be asked to provide all relevant equality service diversity reviews (SDRs) which will be listed on the scope. If no SDRs are available this will also be recorded on the scope.

The draft scope will be shared with the Corporate Communications Team to look at how the review will be communicated with the public.

4. Select Committee

At the first meeting of the select committee Members will usually be provided with an introduction to the review. The select committee will receive the draft scope and also a copy of all relevant service diversity reviews. Where no SDRs are available the select



committee should consider whether any SDRs should be completed and provided as part of the review.

Overview and Scrutiny Scoping Document

Review Title

Critical Infrastructure

Chairman

Cllr Yvonne Davidson

Vice Chair

Cllr Andy Stewart

Lead Officer

Martin Gately

email

martin.gately@nottsc.gov.uk

Start date

27th October 2008

Completion date

23rd March 2009

Reason for review

The issue of long term loss of services and utilities due to weaknesses in the critical infrastructure was highlighted by the Pitt review of the summer 2007 floods. In particular, the experience of Gloucestershire where major electricity sub-stations were threatened by inundation from flooding. The select committee reviewing Flooding, drainage and watercourses recommended critical infrastructure as a possible topic for a future review – especially in light of the inundation of a pump located at West Burton Power Station which resulted in worsened flooding in the village of North Leverton.

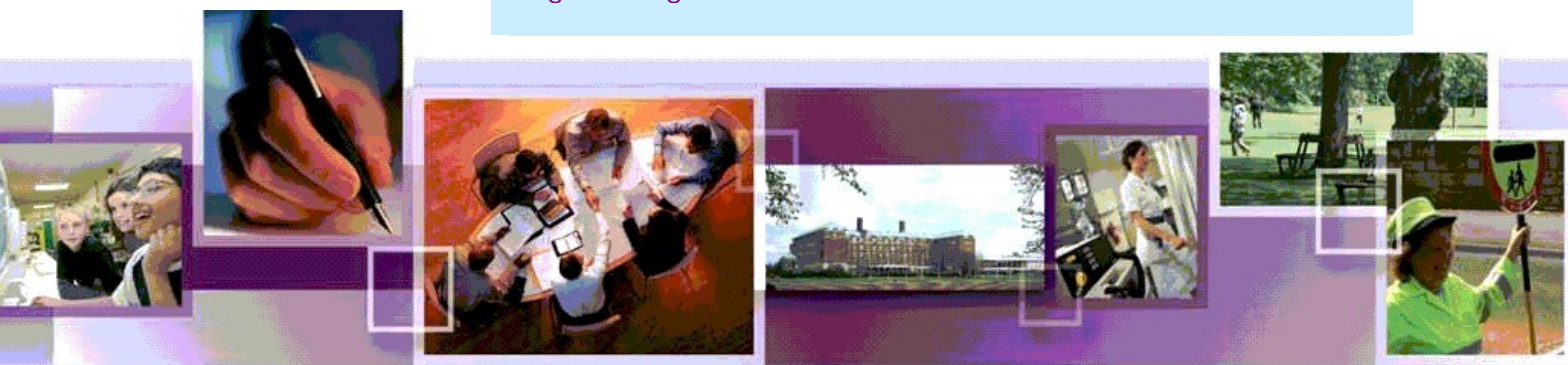
Objectives

To ensure that all potential weaknesses in the critical infrastructure have been identified and mitigated in order to preserve community resilience when very severe events occur.

Risks and issues

This is a wide-ranging subject so the review will focus on critical infrastructure around utilities, transport and health. The aspects of critical infrastructure excluded from the review will be: telecommunications, food supply and banking/finance.

The review will consider the effects on the critical infrastructure from any relevant severe events (not just flooding) e.g. other extreme weather, natural disasters, industrial accidents, catastrophic fires, events causing massive casualties (air collisions, motorway pile-up, flu pandemic). The review should not just look at physical threat to the infrastructure but also circumstances whereby urgent demand could take systems to breaking point e.g. how hospitals might cope with massive numbers of casualties or drain on resources caused by events in neighbouring counties.



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| | <p>Some of the information in this subject area may be confidential and therefore external agencies may be unwilling to share it because of the open and transparent nature of Scrutiny Committee evidence gathering. The Select Committee may need to take legal advice on individual issues that arise and/or utilise protocols relating to the handling of confidential or exempt information.</p> |
| Background information | Members will be provided with a folder containing background information |
| Theme | Safer and Stronger |
| Witnesses | <p>Emergency Planning Officers (for initial briefing – to cover Civil Contingencies Act and public domain issues around weaknesses)</p> <p>Severn Trent resilience team</p> <p>Central Networks</p> <p>Military Liaison</p> <p>Rail, Highways and airport authorities</p> <p>Gloucestershire Emergency Planning Team</p> <p>Lincolnshire representatives (regarding severe coastal flooding impact on resources)</p> <p>Emergency Services</p> <p>Nottinghamshire NHS</p> |
| Proposed visits | Highways Agency Regional Control Centre, Nottingham Business Park |
| Public Involvement | The review may receive information from Parish Councils or local interest groups in un-parished areas. |
| Communications | The commencement/conclusion of the review may be announced via a press release. |
| Equalities issues | Emergency Plans should ensure that the needs of all vulnerable people are taken into consideration. Relevant Equality Impact Assessments will be examined by the select committee as appropriate. |
| Service Director comments | Nationally, at Central Government level through the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), there is an understanding of critical infrastructure as the underlying framework of facilities, systems, sites and networks necessary for the functioning of the country and the delivery of the essential services which we rely on in every aspect of our daily life. |

Examples of essential services by the CPNI's definition include the supply of water, energy, food, telecommunications, health and transport. Failure of this infrastructure and loss of the services it delivers could include severe economic or social damage and/or large scale loss of life.

Alongside the work of the CPNI, the Civil Contingencies Act (2004) established a legislative framework for emergency planning arrangements which requires Category 2 responders, many of whom are private sector bodies (e.g. utilities, transport companies), to co-operate and share information with Category 1 responders (e.g. emergency services and local authorities) to inform multi-agency planning frameworks.

To progress the requirements of the CCA the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) formed the Critical Infrastructure Group (CIG). This group provides the opportunity for emergency planning officers of the local authorities and the emergency services to meet with representatives of Category 2 (utility) organisations covering Nottingham & Nottinghamshire. The utility companies that are part of this group cover energy, transportation, telecommunications and environmental interests."

The Terms of Reference for the CIG include the following objectives:

- To promote an integrated local emergency response to incidents which involve or have an impact on critical infrastructure providers.
- To discuss relevant incidents, exercises and near misses with a view to enhancing resilience and emergency preparedness.

With such a high level of importance being placed on critical infrastructure, both at national and local level, it is a worthwhile exercise to take stock of the extent of the resilience built into the essential services within Nottinghamshire. The results of this scrutiny committee will be eagerly awaited by the Communities Department and more specifically the work done by the Emergency Planning Team in conjunction with their LRF partners

Additional comments None.