

14 December 2020**Agenda Item: 6****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, PLACE & COMMUNITIES****ROLE OF THE LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM IN RESPONSE TO COVID-19****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide background information about the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum and its role in the local response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Information

2. This report adds to information provided to the 15 September meeting of the Committee in the 'Update on COVID-19 Recovery and Resilience' report.

The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum

3. The Civil Contingencies Act, 2004, and accompanying regulations and non-legislative measures, provide a framework for civil protection in the United Kingdom including general arrangements for Local Resilience Forums.
4. The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) is a partnership of all local agencies that have a part to play in planning for and responding to local major emergencies. Partners include 'blue-light' emergency services, local authorities, health services and others. The purpose of the LRF is to ensure effective multi-agency collaboration in the delivery of duties under the Civil Contingencies Act. Aligned to this, the aim of the LRF is to establish and maintain effective arrangements to to minimise the impact of incidents on the public, property and environment of Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. A list of LRF partners is provided at Appendix A to this report.
5. The LRF is not a legal entity and does not have the powers to direct its members. Membership is open to all organisations that have a role in responding to emergencies within the Nottinghamshire Police force area. LRF meetings are led by the Chief Constable and are attended by the chief executives/chief officers (or their deputies) of principal emergency planning and response organisations. The members of the LRF also form the basis of the Strategic Co-ordinating Group that leads the response to any major emergency.
6. An LRF secretariat function is provided by Nottinghamshire County Council and Nottingham City Council alternating on a biennial basis, with the next change-over (from County to City on this occasion) due at the end of March 2021. The secretariat function ensures that the LRF performs effectively, however the role does not include incident

response, recovery processes, or the planning of exercises, as these functions are carried out by different lead partners depending on the nature of the activity.

LRF COVID-19 Response

7. The multi-agency LRF response to any emergency is led by a Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG) which has been meeting since 13 February 2020. The aim of the the COVID-19 SCG is to establish and maintain effective multi-agency arrangements to respond to the pandemic. The agreed principles of the SCG are:
 1. Saving and protecting human life.
 2. Containing the emergency, limiting its escalation or spread and mitigating its impacts.
 3. Providing the public with proportionate advice and information, in line with national advice and guidance.
 4. Restoring life to a new normality, for as many people as possible, as fast and as fairly as possible.
 5. Ensuring plans are in place to maintain normal services at an appropriate level should the situation escalate.
 6. Reducing harm.
 7. Protecting the health and safety of all staff.
8. Planning is informed by the government's 'Reasonable Worst Case Scenario' (RWCS) Planning Assumptions. These are not a prediction of what will happen but a scenario to use as a basis for planning. Specific details from the RWCS have been made available to those individuals who lead local planning work for response and recovery. The overall picture from the worst case scenario is of a rising number of infections and deaths culminating in a second peak in early 2021. This represents a a challenging winter during which local and national interventions will continue to be required to limit the impact on the NHS and on local authorities. The management structure for the LRF COVID-19 response is shown at Appendix B to this report.
9. The County Council has maintained a prominent role in the LRF COVID-19 response throughout the pandemic. Managers have contributed to the work of all groups and cells whose activities have involved County Council services, and the County Council has provided leadership and facilitation for key functions, including:
 - Tactical Coordination Group (Chaired by the Director of Public Health)
 - Recovery Coordinating Group (Co-chaired by the Corporate Director, Children, Young People and Schools).
 - Humanitarian Assistance Group (Chaired by Corporate Direction, Place)
 - Finance Cell (Chaired by Service Director Finance, Infrastructure & Improvement)
 - Logistics Cell (Chaired by Group Manager, Procurement)

Recovery

10. An LRF Recovery Co-ordinating Group (RCG) has been established with the strategic aim to support Nottinghamshire communities, businesses and public services, to recover from the impacts of COVID-19. The group is also aiming to advance long term opportunities for better physical and mental health, tackling climate change, better health outcomes and founding a sustainable fast-growing local economy. A partnership approach has been developed to promote cross-organisation and cross-border working to support communities to recover from Coronavirus.

11. The recovery strategy is based on key themes of:

- health and care;
- humanitarian and community;
- business and economy;
- transport and infrastructure.

12. The initial focus of the strategy is on immediate recovery with a view to longer term renewal across the City and the County. This is accompanied by an Action Plan for delivery by partners working together through various recovery cells. The LRF management structure for COVID-19 recovery is shown at Appendix C to this report.

Learning from the LRF response

13. All partners engaged in the LRF COVID-19 response have had the opportunity to contribute to a police-led initial debriefing process. This is consistent with normal practice for the LRF to conduct a post incident debrief whenever an incident results in a multi-agency response.

14. A debriefing survey was sent to approximately 800 individuals affiliated to the LRF. Most respondents indicated a view that the LRF response was effective or very effective. Approximately a third of responders qualified their replies, indicating improvements such as by reducing duplication or repetitiveness. A report detailing the full outcomes of the survey was presented to the 13 November meeting of the LRF.

Other Options Considered

15. This report provides background information about the LRF and a summary of its role in the local multi-agency response to COVID-19. Consequently, no other options are considered by the report.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

16. To provide Committee with the opportunity to engage with, and influence, the manner in which the Council should continue to work with LRF partners to respond to the pandemic and learn lessons from this.

Statutory and Policy Implications

17. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

18. The emergency response by the Council, both as an organisation in its own right and through its partnership working under the LRF, has impacts and implications in most, if not all, of these respects. The nature of these impacts are too many and varied to be detailed here, but all should be specified through the more detailed reports the Committee receives.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1) That Members consider whether they require any further actions in relation to the issues contained within the report.
- 2) That Members agree to receive further updates at subsequent meetings.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact: Rob Fisher, Group Manager
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Constitutional Comments (KK 18/11/2020)

19. The proposals in this report are within the remit of the Covid-19 Resilience, Recovery and Renewal Committee.

Financial Comments (SES 17/11/2020)

20. There are no specific financial implications arising directly from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All

LRF Partners

Civil Contingencies Act Category 1 responders (sharing the full set of statutory duties):

- Ashfield District Council
- Bassetlaw District Council
- British Transport Police
- Broxtowe Borough Council
- Doncaster & Bassetlaw Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust
- East Midlands Ambulance Service
- Environment Agency
- Gedling Borough Council
- Mansfield District Council
- Newark & Sherwood District Council
- NHS England and NHS Improvement Midlands
- NHS England and NHS Improvement North East & Yorkshire
- Nottingham City Council
- Nottinghamshire County Council
- Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service
- Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust
- Nottinghamshire Police
- Nottingham University Hospitals NHS Trust
- Public Health England
- Rushcliffe Borough Council
- Sherwood Forest Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust.

Civil Contingencies Act Category 2 emergency responders:

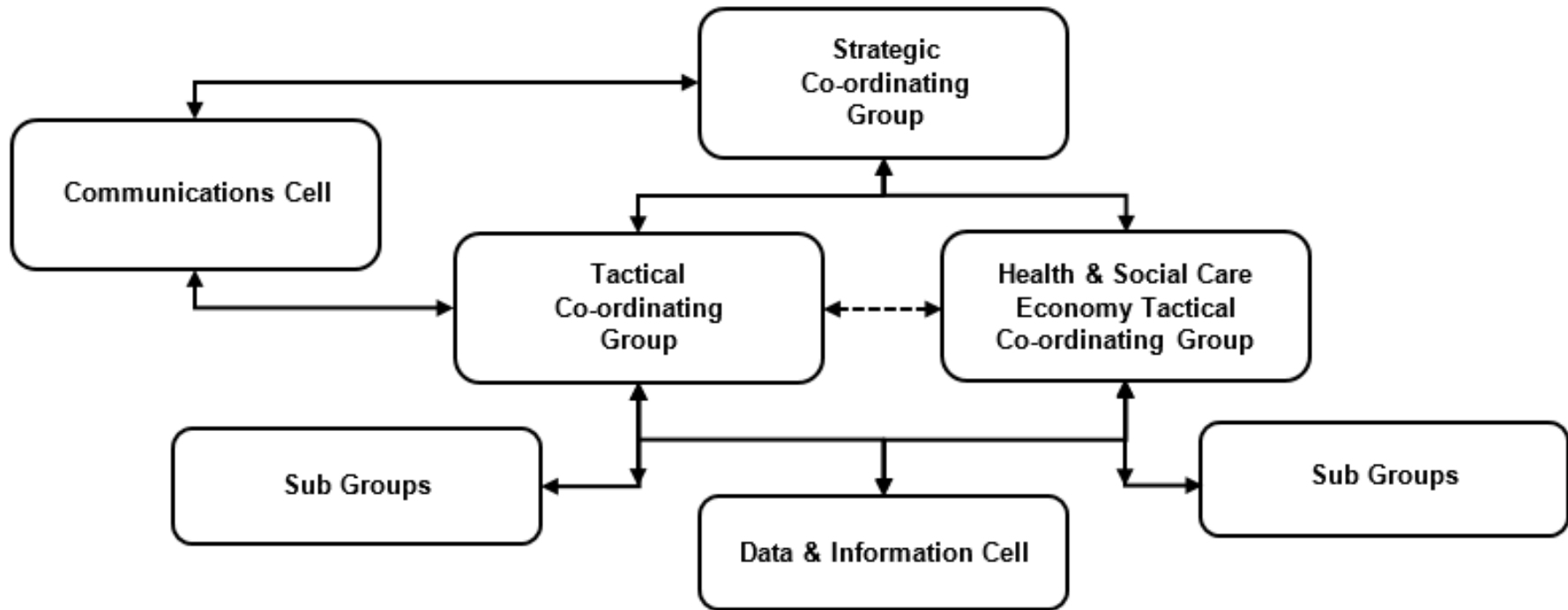
- Anglian Water Services
- BT
- Canal & River Trust
- CrossCountry Trains
- East Midlands Railway
- Grand Central
- Health & Safety Executive
- Highways England
- Hull Trains
- London North Eastern Railway
- National Grid
- Cadent Gas Distribution
- Network Rail
- NHS Bassetlaw Clinical Commissioning Group
- Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Clinical Commissioning Group
- Northern Powergrid
- Severn Trent Water
- Western Power Distribution.

Various other organisations have been involved to varying degrees during the evolution of LRF emergency response arrangements. These include:

- Age UK
- Animal & Plant Health Agency
- British Red Cross
- CLH Pipeline Systems
- Costain
- Cruse Bereavement Care
- DHL Supply Chain
- Diocese of Southwell & Nottingham
- E.ON
- HM Coroner's Service
- HQ 7th Infantry Brigade & HQ East
- IGas Energy
- intu Broadmarsh
- intu Victoria Centre
- JobCentre Plus
- Mainline Pipelines
- Met Office
- Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government
- National Association of Citizens Advice Bureaux
- National Farmers Union
- National Ice Centre
- NESST
- Nottingham Business Improvement District
- Nottingham CityCare Partnership
- Nottingham City Homes
- Nottingham City Transport
- Nottingham Emergency Medical Services
- Nottingham Express Transit
- Nottinghamshire Search & Rescue
- Nottinghamshire 4x4 Response
- Nottingham Trent University
- Nottingham University
- Rapid Response Team
- RAYNET
- Royal Air Force
- Royal Life Saving Society
- Royal Voluntary Service
- RSPCA
- St John Ambulance
- Samaritans Purse
- The Guide Association
- The Salvation Army
- The Samaritans
- The Scout Association
- Total
- Trent Valley Internal Drainage Board
- Victim Support
- Virgin Media.

This list is not exhaustive. The chair and secretariat of the LRF will consider membership annually and ensure that appropriate organisations are represented. Membership may change as work evolves and other organisations may be requested to advise or assist as necessary.

LRF COVID-19 RESPONSE Structure



LRF COVID-19 RECOVERY Structure

