

Community Safety Overview & Scrutiny Committee 5 November 2014
Report of the Assistant Director, Governance & ICT

Update on Implementation of Recommendations from Previously Completed Community Resilience Scrutiny Review

Summary

1. This report provides Members with a further update on the implementation of the recommendations arising from the previously completed Community Resilience scrutiny review, and asks Members to sign off any recommendations considered to be fully implemented.

Background

2. At a meeting in September 2012, this Committee agreed they would like to carry out a review on adaptation to climate change. Their concerns centred on the increase in localised surface water flooding (not river flooding) and they questioned what plans the Council had in place to respond.
3. At a meeting in November 2012, the Committee received a presentation on the changing climate, flood risk and emergency planning in respect of flooding in general. They considered information on York's vulnerability to past events e.g. flooding, snow, wind and storms etc, and, the consequential disruption to Council and/or Partner organisations processes i.e. interference with day to day service delivery and normal operational regime. They also looked at the predicted changes in climate for the future and its potential impact.
4. In January 2013, the Committee received information on Surface Water Management and queried if there were ways in which communities could assist the council in identifying flood risks, and learnt that the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy included consultation and engagement with the community. Also, that the council encouraged residents to notify them when persistent surface water problems occurred in order that they could be assessed.

5. Having considered all of the information provided, the committee agreed that a review of Surface Water Management was not required following Cabinet's approval of a new Surface Water Management Plan. However having learnt that the new plan was generic for across the whole city, this raised the question of community preparedness for any form of emergency, as the Committee perceived a gap in emergency preparedness at community level. They therefore agreed that the focus of their scrutiny review should be on the arrangements in place to enable communities to be more resilient in times of emergency.
6. Work on the review concluded in April 2013 and the Committee concluded that:
 - The approach taken by East Riding of Yorkshire Council to community resilience planning could be adapted and combined with current practices in York e.g. Snow Wardens, Flood Wardens etc, for introduction across the city.
 - The introduction of community emergency plans could be supported by the Council's Emergency Planning Unit and the Communities & Equalities Team, and the completed plans could lie beneath the Community Contracts currently being drawn up.
 - The council's partners e.g. North Yorkshire Fire & Rescue and Yorkshire Water would be willing to support and help fund the process of introducing community resilience plans.
 - It would also be useful to provide individual households with advice and guidance on emergency preparedness.
7. In May 2013 the review recommendations were approved by Cabinet, and a report presenting the first update on their implementation was presented to this Committee in November 2013 which was subsequently updated in January this year – see column 2 in Annex A.
8. The latest update information is shown in column 3 of Annex A.

Consultation

9. The Assistant Director of Housing & Community Safety has provided the latest update information detailed below and in Column 3 of Annex A, and will be in attendance at this meeting to answer any questions arising.

Progress to date

10. A fundamental cornerstone of Community Resilience Plans are led and owned by the community and not a statutory agency. There are currently 7 Community Resilience Plans in place within the city, covering:
 - Naburn,
 - Rawcliffe,
 - New Earswick,
 - Strensall,
 - Skelton,
 - Dunnington,
 - Elvington.
11. Naburn is the most up to date as of August 2014. Rawcliffe is the most out of date at May 2007, however we have a meeting booked with them for the 10th Nov to review and update. New Earswick have also been in contact and we are waiting for them to contact us with a date for review.
12. Following the O&S Review a community training event was carried out on the 3rd October 2013 supported by 5 Partners (Fire, Environment Agency, Met Office, British Red Cross & North Yorkshire Police).
13. The aim of the event was to provide focused information on how the agencies work and how communities could support them and how they could support the communities to become more resilient. The event was attended by 58 members of the community and interested groups, ranging from individual residents, members of residents associations through to representatives from schools. An information pack was provided which set out draft community resilience templates, examples of completed plans, contact details for all partners. Unfortunately whilst there was interest at the event, despite follow up no community groups have expressed an interest in developing a community resilience plan.
14. A significant proportion of the limited capacity available within our Emergency Planning Team has been focused on the planning and delivery of the Tour de France and strengthening the councils Business Continuity plans. Whilst not directly linked to community resilience, the work around community involvement in the Tour de France resulted in significant volunteers engaging with the council and other partners to

ensure that the event ran smoothly. Approximately 150 volunteers undertook the role of Way Finder, supporting agencies and the public. It is hoped that this positive experience will encourage more members of the public to get involved.

15. However, where possible work has continued and:

- All Parishes with existing plans have all been contacted with a view to update these.
- Work is ongoing in conjunction with the NYLRF Community Risk Register to identify those communities most at risk. These communities will be contacted directly and asked to create a plan. - Using the risk register to highlight a communities risk will hopefully entice them further to engage.
- The North Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum (NYLRF) community emergency plan template has been reviewed and updated to make it simpler for communities to complete. A further information pack with other agencies key messages has been included so that we are not duplicating work.
- A Twitter account has been created by the Emergency Planning team to not only encourage community resilience but personal and household resilience too. The feed in November will look at Business Continuity, the Environment Agencies Flood Campaign and the governments Get Ready for Winter campaign.
- A work plan has been created to look at personal and community resilience, business continuity planning amongst SME's and also school level resilience.
- Good links with Rural Action Yorkshire and the CVS have been made. These organisations are best placed to identify funding and communities will be encouraged to make contact.
- The Work Plan for the Emergency Planning Team has community resilience as a focus for 2014/15. Current work includes engaging with the Environment Agency as they target thousands of households in York with their annual flood campaign which will see media and social media engagement as well as individual properties at flood risk being leaflet dropped.

Options

16. In light of the additional information provided, Members may now agree:
 - a. The recommendations have been fully implemented and sign them off as completed.
 - b. The recommendations remain unimplemented and therefore:
 - i. Seek clarification on when the required work is to be undertaken
 - ii. Request a further update and the attendance of the relevant officer at a future scrutiny meeting

Council Plan 2011-15

17. The Community Resilience Review supported the Council's priority to build strong communities and be a city full of active and self-reliant communities, where everyone has an effective voice in local issues and where there is a strong sense of belonging.

Implications

18. There are no known Financial, Human Resources, Equalities, Legal, ITT or other implications associated with the recommendation made in this report.

Risk Management

19. In compliance with the Council's risk management strategy, there are no known risks associated with this report.

Recommendations

20. Members are asked to note the contents of this report and
 - i. Sign off any recommendations from the Community Resilience Review that have been fully implemented.

Reason: To raise awareness of those recommendations which are still to be fully implemented.

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Report Approved



Date

9 September 2014

Wards Affected:

All



For further information please contact the author of the report

Background Papers: None

Annexes:

Annex A – Update on Community Resilience Review Recommendations