

<b>Report on</b>	Emergency Planning Update
<b>Date of Meeting</b>	14 <sup>th</sup> November 2023
<b>Reporting Officer</b>	Terry Scullion, AD Property Services
<b>Contact Officer</b>	Rory Donnelly, Corporate Health & Safety Manager

<b>Is this report restricted for confidential business?</b>  If 'Yes', confirm below the exempt information category relied upon	Yes	
	No	X

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report</b>
1.1	To update members with respect to Emergency Planning Mutual Aid Protocols to assist District Councils make arrangements to reduce, control and mitigate the effects on any emergency.
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Background</b>
2.1	Article 29 of the Local Government (NI) Order 2005 provides District Councils with discretionary powers to make arrangements for reducing, controlling and mitigating, the effects of any emergency which may occur and to prepare plans to cooperate with other organisations. District Councils play a key role in co-ordinating planning and supporting certain aspects of the response and recovery should a civil emergency arise.
2.2	Prior to Local Government Reform in 2015 a number of protocols and memorandum of understandings were in place between Councils and other agencies to provide and receive support in an emergency situation. These documents have now been updated to aid consistency of approach by District Councils and partner organisations.
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main Report</b>
3.1	<p><b>District Council Mutual Aid Protocol</b></p> <p>This protocol provides a statement of intent rather than a binding contract to enable councils to provide mutual aid to each other during an emergency or business continuity disruption that goes beyond the resources of an individual Council. The protocol outlines how assistance will be requested and provided and the guidelines which should be followed. Please see attached the protocol detailed in appendix in section 6.1.</p>

3.2	<p><b>Joint Protocol ‘Emergency Call-Off Contracts’ between Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Northern Ireland District Councils</b></p> <p>The Northern Ireland Housing Executive (NIHE) has a number of measured term contracts in place to facilitate response maintenance to its properties. These contracts are on a District Council basis and have been utilised over the years by NIHE and District Councils in the aftermath of emergencies, for example flooding, to provide practical assistance to communities and households that have been affected. This protocol permits District Councils to access these contracts at pre agreed rates when an emergency has occurred. Please see attached the protocol detailed in appendix in section 6.2.</p>
4.0	<p><b>Other Considerations</b></p>
4.1	<p><b>Financial, Human Resources &amp; Risk Implications</b></p> <p>Financial: None</p> <p>Human: Officer time to manage the Emergency Planning protocols and continued engagement with the Regional Emergency Preparedness Group.</p> <p>Risk Management: None</p>
4.2	<p><b>Screening &amp; Impact Assessments</b></p> <p>Equality &amp; Good Relations Implications: N/a</p> <p>Rural Needs Implications: N/a</p>
5.0	<p><b>Recommendation(s)</b></p>
5.1	<p>It is recommended that members note these Protocols for their Information.</p>
6.0	<p><b>Documents Attached &amp; References</b></p>
6.1	<p>Appendix 1: MUDC Mutual Aid Protocol</p>
6.2	<p>Appendix 2: Joint Protocol ‘Emergency Call-Off Contracts’ between Northern Ireland Housing Executive and Northern Ireland District Councils</p>