

Report on	Proposal to Develop a New Local Government Resilience Model
Date of Meeting	2 July 2018
Reporting Officer	Mark Kelso - Director Public Health & Infrastructure

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

1.0	Purpose of Report
1.1	To seek agreement from Members to endorse a new local government model for delivery of the civil contingencies function.
2.0	Background
2.1	In light of local government reform in April 2015, the Business Consultancy Service of the Department of Finance and Personnel undertook an independent review of the local government civil contingencies arrangements in Northern Ireland. The recommendations from this report aimed to provide direction for local government to ensure fit for purpose, collaborative multi-agency working arrangements could be implemented for the good of the people and communities of Northern Ireland.
2.2	In 2016, PSNI advised that the model of five Emergency Preparedness Group areas (EPGs) did not fit well with how PSNI co-ordinate their response. A disconnect existed between the planning areas and the police area co-ordination tiers and consequently the PSNI response model. Furthermore, there was significant resource required to support the five EPGs with some duplication of effort, therefore the reduction in the number of EPG to three areas was proposed.
2.3	In August 2017, a Regional Officer was appointed to co-ordinate and oversee the delivery of local government's civil contingencies work programme following the priorities set by SOLACE. One of the first priorities was to ensure a seamless transition to this new model, which came into effect in January 2018. The new EPG structures are jointly chaired by the PSNI and local government, with representation from all the emergency services, health sector, Department for Infrastructure, NI Water, NI Housing Executive, Met Office, Utilities, Voluntary sector and other relevant organisations essential to ensure an integrated approach to emergency planning, e.g. airports, ports.
2.4	The introduction of these new structures requires a new local government-resourcing model to provide adequate programme management of these new areas and sufficient resources to enable an effective response to emergencies. The desired outcomes of this new model are to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide confidence and assurance for Councils and their CEOs that multi-agency plans are in place which complement arrangements existing within councils; • Include sufficient resilience to provide adequate cover, particularly during response to emergencies;

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed adequate governance arrangements to ensure consistency and performance management across all EPG areas; • Align as best as possible with other organisations planning and response structures to allow for effective planning and response in event of an emergency.
3.0	Main Report
3.1	To enable these outcomes to be achieved, it was recommended that the proposed model was based on a regional service hosted by a single council, where all civil contingency officers would be employed and DFC funding drawn down.
3.2	This would prevent the current duplication of financial and HR resources across the five legacy employer councils and enhance accountability and governance arrangements. This concept has been successfully employed for other shared service functions, e.g. Animal Welfare .
3.3	Consultation with the councils and other key partners has been undertaken in tandem with a risk to resource assessment. This considered the risk categories as detailed within the 2013 NI Risk Assessment and cross-referenced these with the geography and demography of the new Emergency Preparedness Group areas (EPGs).
3.4	The proposed model establishes a Regional team, employed through a single Council (Belfast CC) and reporting to the Regional Officer, whilst working across the three EPG areas. The Regional Officer will report to a relevant Director within the employer council and an executive steering group consisting of Chief Executives from the three EPG areas and the SOLACE lead for this function. Each EPG will have a Resilience Manager, who will be responsible for the programme management of the EPG and co-ordinate planning, response and recovery activities across this area. A Resilience Officer who will be responsible for taking forward specific work streams, including training, exercising and task and finish functions will support them. The Southern EPG has been identified as requiring an additional officer, due to its geographical area and risk to resource assessment .
	Key Proposals
3.5	The Key proposals arising from the implementation of this new model are :- <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Three new Emergency Preparedness Group Areas : - Northern Area , Southern Area and Belfast Area - Each Area to be resourced with a Resilience Manager and a Resilience Officer. - Southern Area which includes Mid Ulster DC to have two Resilience Officers . - The Local Government Resilience Group to be fully resourced and funded by Department for Communities and hosted in one Council area. - Staff transferring to new employers
3.6	As outlined in the Proposal attached in Appendix 1, Emergency Planning / Resilience support has been provided in various guises since 2007 when officer support was provided through historical Group structures , fully funded through DOE – Local Government Division. District Councils also received direct funding as part of this programme to support staffing costs which equated to £15,000 for Mid Ulster area. This support funding was withdrawn by DOE at Council reorganisation.
3.7	It is noted that a business case for these arrangements has been put to the funders , Department for Communities which has resulted in confirmed funding up to 2021.

3.8	It should be noted that this revised Model of Resilience support will result in some staff employed by the legacy Group Councils transferring to the new employer and in some cases possibly leaving the service with redundant costs to be met.
3.9	In light of all these issues it is recommended that members agree the proposed revised Resilience structure on the basis of no cost for these arrangements being transferred to or being accepted by Mid Ulster District Council either presently or at any point in the future.
4.0	Other Considerations
4.1	Financial, Human Resources & Risk Implications
	Financial: A business plan was agreed in 2016 to fully fund this function until 2021. Funding to value of £15k was withdrawn from Mid Ulster Council for Emergency Planning support at point of Council reorganisation .
	Human: The implementation of this model will be conducted as a TUPE transfer in relevant Councils.
	Risk Management: N/A
4.2	Screening & Impact Assessments
	Equality & Good Relations Implications: N/A
	Rural Needs Implications: N/A
5.0	Recommendation(s)
5.1	That members note the content of this report and agree the establishment of a single employer for delivery of the Local Government Resilience Model subject to no current or planned cost being attributed to Mid Ulster District Council as a result of these arrangements.
6.0	Documents Attached & References
6.1	Appendix 1 – Paper to Develop a New Local Government Resilience Resourcing Model (May 2018).