

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH NOVEMBER 2023

REPORT OF CORPORATE MANAGEMENT TEAM

CABINET INFORMATION ITEM

**Access, Communities and Community Safety – Lead Cabinet Member –
Councillor Norma Stephenson**

MAJOR INCIDENT PLAN UPDATE

Summary

By law the Council has a responsibility to prepare and maintain a major incident plan outlining our role during the life saving and recovery phases of an incident. The Council are supported in doing this by the joint authority's arrangement which is known as the Emergency Planning Unit, who provide specialist advice and support in the preparation and maintenance of the plan.

Under the Civil Contingencies Act, we are duty bound to frequently review the major incident plan to ensure it is fit for purpose and adequacy considers the known risks and appropriate responses available within Stockton on Tees.

Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to agree the contents of the Major Incident Plan.

Background

1. In October 2021 the Major Incident Plan for Stockton on Tees underwent a major overhaul in terms of content and the way which information was made available in the event of a serious incident occurring. These changes also reflected lessons learnt in the way we manage major incidents in light of the Covid-19 pandemic.
2. Slight amendments were made to the plan at the end of 2022, to reflect changes to the senior management structure and to implement a more formalised rota for both borough co-ordinating officers and strategic officers to ensure robust coverage in the event of an out of hours incident.
3. We are now due a formal refresh of the Major Incident Plan for Stockton on Tees, which will ensure we have a robust and legally compliant response strategy in place from 2023 to 2026.
4. Changes to this latest plan have been relatively light touch however the full plan has been reviewed and approved for legal compliance by the Emergency Planning Unit. Changes include updates to joint working protocols (JESIP), clear role definition in terms of responsibility for both tactical and strategic

level officers, the inclusion of a protocol in terms of virtual co-ordination and a general refresh on both role cards and also meeting templates.

5. The latest plan also looks to include, where relevant, aspects of the UK Governments Approach to Resilience, a new plan which looks to strengthen the countries response to civil contingencies risks up to 2030 in light of domestic and international risks.

Financial Implications

6. There are no new direct financial implication as an immediate result of updating the major incident plan.

Legal Implications

7. As a category one responder under the Civil Contingencies Act, the Council has a legal duty to respond and have appropriate published plans in place.

Risk Assessment

8. The approval of the amendments to the major incident plan and subsequent action plan are categorised as medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.
9. Appropriate consideration and assessment has also been given to the current UK Government National Risk Register (appendix 1).

Consultation Including Ward/Councillors

10. Consultation has taken place with Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit and strategic category 1 partners as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act. All relevant feedback has been incorporated into the draft Major Incident Plan 2023-2026.

Name of Contact Officer: Marc Stephenson (AD CS&RS)
Telephone No: 01642 526203
Email Address: Marc.Stephenson@stockton.gov.uk

Background Papers: N/A

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors: N/A

Property Implications: N/A