

Item No. 21.	Classification: Open	Date: 18 July 2017	Meeting Name: Cabinet
Report title:		Borough Emergency Plan	
Ward(s) or groups affected:		All	
Cabinet Member:		Councillor Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety	

FOREWORD - COUNCILLOR BARRIE HARGROVE, CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES AND SAFETY

The council has clear legal and moral obligations to provide effective, robust and demonstrable emergency arrangements to mobilise its resources at short notice to deal with a broad range of incidents. This may be on a localised departmental level where a simple out-of-hours activity is required, or on a much larger scale, where a multi function response requires dedicated coordination, liaison and communication. In either case, high quality planning provides the foundation for this flexible response, whatever the initiating event may be.

Southwark has in place a generic emergency plan which sets out the framework that is used to deploy and control its resources during emergency incidents. The framework within the plan is flexible enough to be adapted dependent on circumstances but sufficiently structured to allow the same principles to be employed for all incidents which in turn gives a better understanding of specific responsibilities and roles.

The arrangements detailed in the plan also support the deployment of London Local Authority Gold (LLAG), and give due regard to the requirements detailed in the Local Authority Panel (LAP)

The overarching generic plan is supported by a number of supporting plans/handbooks that cover specific roles integral to the effective management of emergency incidents and a further set of individual plans covering identified risks that reflect the National Risk Register, the London Risk Register and local Risk Register.

A recent external audit confirmed the importance of governance and ownership of the emergency plan at a corporate level.

Recent tragic events both within Southwark and across London have highlighted the requirement for each borough to be confident that it has robust and proven plans in place. The frame work of our plan has been used to good effect for a number of years and continues to evolve. Recently the full activation of the plan was used during the funeral of PC Keith Palmer and during the London Bridge Terrorist attacks.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Recommendations for the Cabinet

1. That the cabinet approve the generic borough emergency plan.

Recommendation for the Leader of the Council

2. That the future governance for the borough emergency plan is discharged through the cabinet member for communities and safety.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3. The generic emergency plan sets out the council's strategy for dealing with a broad range of incidents. It ensures that as the local authority we are meeting our moral responsibility to the community, and as a designated Category 1 responder we are meeting our legal obligations in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.
4. The London Borough of Southwark Generic Emergency Plan is available for public view and outlines what the council will do in the event of an emergency.
5. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 requires that emergency plans are in situ and recommends they be reviewed annually. It is also vital that each supporting plan/handbook is revised annually to ensure the council's moral and legal compliance to maintain our reputation of good practice and to capture additional response capability.
6. Detailed operational procedures are not captured in the generic emergency plan due to the complexity and occasional sensitive nature; they are captured in the supporting plans and handbooks.

KEY ISSUES FOR CONSIDERATION

7. That the council are satisfied the generic plan provides a simple but robust framework that enables the council to respond to emergency incidents affecting the borough.
8. The plan enables the council to effectively deploy its resources to mitigate the effect of any incident and facilitate the return to normality.
9. That the council are satisfied that the annual review and post incident review of the generic emergency plan and of the supporting plans/handbooks provide assurance that our arrangements are both appropriate and effective.

Policy implications

10. Overview and scrutiny committee will also receive the emergency plan as part of their 2017-18 work programme.

Community impact statement

11. The plan ensures that as the local authority we are meeting our responsibilities to the community.

Resource implications

12. A broad range of facilities and equipment are in place to support any emergency response. These include:
 - A fully equipped Borough Emergency Control Centre (BECC)
 - A fully equipped Alternative Borough Emergency Control Centre (ABECC)

- A general use van to assist in emergency operations
- A range of rest centre equipment
- An ongoing MOU with British Red Cross to support staffing and equipment provision in rest centres
- Nominated rest centres within the borough (usually schools, leisure centres and halls)
- Tools and equipment associated with specific council services
- A range of communications and data infrastructure and equipment.

Legal implications

13. The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) requires each Category 1 responder to put in place plans deal with emergencies. As a Category 1 responder we are also required to co-operate and liaise with a broad spectrum of stakeholders in the planning process. The Southwark Emergency Planning Forum (SEPF) and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) provide the opportunity to liaise and interact with these parties on a regular basis.

Financial implications

14. The recourses identified above are all in place. There are no additional financial implications other than planned renewal and updating.

Consultation

15. There has not been any specific consultation in respect of this report. The emergency plan is developed in conjunction with officers across the council and our key partners.

SUPPLEMENTARY ADVICE FROM OTHER OFFICERS

Director of Law and Democracy

16. Cabinet has the power to make this decision under Part 3C of the constitution. The Leader may delegate any executive function to an individual cabinet member.
17. As detailed in this report, pursuant to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 schedule 1, Southwark as a Category 1 responder has statutory responsibility for emergency planning.

Strategic Director of Finance and Governance (FC17/056)

18. The strategic director of finance and governance notes the recommendations in this report. There are no additional financial implications arising from the report.

REASONS FOR URGENCY

19. The next cabinet meeting is scheduled for September 2017. In light of the recent tragic events the council wishes to confirm the generic emergency borough plan at the earliest opportunity. In addition the cabinet is due to consider at its July meeting a report on borough wide fire safety. It is therefore timely that the emergency plan is considered alongside this report.

REASONS FOR LATENESS

20. It has not been possible to circulate this report five clear days in advance of the meeting because officers were awaiting the outcome of the scrutiny consideration on the borough wide fire safety report in case there were implications for the borough emergency plan. The scrutiny meeting was only held on 13 July 2017.

BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Background Papers	Held At	Contact
None.		

APPENDICES

No.	Title
Appendix 1	Southwark Generic Emergency Plan

AUDIT TRAIL

Cabinet Member	Cllr Barrie Hargrove, Cabinet Member for Communities and Safety	
Lead Officer	Eleanor Kelly, Chief Executive	
Report Author	Andy Snazell, Emergency Planning and Resilience Manager	
Version	Final	
Dated	13 July 2017	
Key Decision?	No	
CONSULTATION WITH OTHER OFFICERS / DIRECTORATES / CABINET MEMBER		
Officer Title	Comments sought	Comments included
Director of Law and Democracy	Yes	Yes
Strategic Director of Finance and Governance	Yes	Yes
Cabinet Member	Yes	Yes
Date final report sent to Constitutional Team	14 July 2017	