

EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Wednesday 10 September 2025

10.00 am

**At the Emergency Planning Annex,
Stockton Police Station, Bishop Street,
Stockton-On-Tees, Cleveland, TS18 1SY.**

MEMBERS: EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE:-

Hartlepool Borough Council: Councillor Karen Oliver
Middlesbrough Borough Council: Councillor Theo Furness
Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council: Councillor Adam Brook
Stockton Borough Council: Councillor Nigel Cooke

1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS

3. MINUTES

- 3.1 To receive the minutes of the meeting held on 25 March 2025 (previously published and circulated)

4. ITEMS FOR DECISION

No items

5. ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION / INFORMATION

- 5.1 Financial Management Update Report – *Director of Finance, IT and Digital and Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.2 Emergency Planning Joint Committee Introduction Paper – *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*



- 5.3 HM Government Resilience Action Plan – *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.4 Cleveland Multi-Agency Flood Plan - *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.5 Industrial Emergency Planning - *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.6 Exercise Hera Overview - *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.7 Activities Report 10/03/25 – 23/08/25 – *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.8 Incidents Report 10/03/25 – 23/08/25 – *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*

6. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS WHICH THE CHAIR CONSIDERS URGENT**

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 7 January 2026 at 10am at the Emergency Planning

Annex, Stockton Police Station



EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Director of Finance, IT and Digital and Chief
Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide details of the forecast outturn for the current financial year ending 31st March 2026.

2. FORECAST OUTTURN

- 2.1 The latest forecast outturn is an unfavourable variance of £25,000 before release of reserves as shown in the table below.

Table 1 – Main Emergency Planning Budget - Forecast Outturn as at 30th June, 2025

	Budget	Latest Forecast as at 30th June, 2025	Forecast Outturn Variance Adverse/ (Favourable)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Main Emergency Planning Budget			
Direct Costs - Employees	336	351	15
Direct Costs - Other	122	122	0
Income	(458)	(448)	10
Net Position Before Reserves	0	25	25
Release of Reserves	0	(25)	(25)
Net Position After Reserves	0	0	0

- 2.2 There is an unfavourable variance of £15,000 on employee costs and also £10,000 on income as a result of reduced recharges for staffing to the LRF budget. This is owing to a revised schedule of activity to spend

£178,000 of MHCLG grant from previous years, to avoid grant clawback. The composition of this spend has now changed to include fewer staffing costs and a greater amount of non-staffing costs.

- 2.3 The latest forecast for the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) budget is an overall nil variance as shown in the following table:

Table 2 – 2025/26 LRF Forecast Outturn for Financial Year Ending 31st March, 2025

	Budget	Latest Forecast as at 30th June, 2025	Forecast Outturn Variance Adverse/ (Favourable)
	£'000	£'000	£'000
Direct Costs - Employees	175	150	(25)
Direct Costs - Other	85	183	98
Income	(54)	(54)	0
Grant	(206)	(101)	105
Net Position Before Reserves	0	178	178
Release of Reserves - LRF Grant	0	(178)	(178)
Net Position After Reserves	0	0	0

- 2.4 Since the budget was set the Government has recognised that many LRFs have yet to spend grant allocations from previous years. Given this, Government has introduced a requirement to spend all remaining grant funding dating back to 2021/22, which equates to £178,000 for our LRF (which is held in reserve). Meeting this requirement will allow 2025/26 funding grant funding to be received, albeit at a reduced rate of £101,000. This has resulted in revised spending plans reflected by the variances shown in Table 2 and includes the unbudgeted release of £178,000 reserves to qualify for the in-year grant allocation. The adverse variance of £105,000 reflects the revised grant allocation compared to the original budget. The overall effect has been to increase the planned level of non-employee expenditure by £98,000 in conjunction with a reduced level of recharges required for EPU management and officer time.
- 2.5 None staffing costs have increased to meet the MHCLG funding conditions and aim to support delivery of the objectives of the Government's Resilience Action Plan – building capacity and capability both within LRF members and the wider community. Examples of spend include community grants aimed at small groups, an increased training budget and commissioning of the UK Resilience Academy to undertake assurance work on lessons management, provision of automated notification and satellite communications.

3. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To note the latest outturn forecast for 2025/26

4. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 4.1 None.

5. CONTACT OFFICERS

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EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: EPJC Introduction Paper

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non-Key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide the new members of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee (EPJC) with an overview of the working arrangements and wider context of the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit to enable effective oversight of the CEPU and CLRF activities and to enable members to contribute to future direction and policy. For reference a copy of the EPJC constitution is contained at Appendix A.
- 2.2 To highlight useful resources for the EPJC membership to assist in their role.
- 2.3 To outline a proposed reporting schedule for 2025 – 26 to the membership for consideration.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit provides an emergency planning service to the four unitary authorities (Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar & Cleveland and Stockton) who previously made up Cleveland County. This arrangement, with a lead provided by Hartlepool Council, ensures a level of coordination and economies of scale as well as ensuring that in the event of an incident there are a number of trained and experienced staff who can be drawn upon.
- 3.2 The majority of the Unit's work can be aligned to the Integrated Emergency Management framework comprising of 6 stages (anticipate, assess, prevent, prepare, respond and recover). Specific actions are aligned to the duties on the local authority as a category 1 responder designated under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Within each Local Authority area there are strategic

and tactical officers from the respective councils who work with the designated CEPU Senior Emergency Planning Officer for the borough.

- 3.3 The work of the emergency planning team is outlined in the CEPU action plan issued for approval by the EPJC annually. This plan is developed in conjunction with the Local Authority leads and aligns to requirements of legislation including the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Control of Major Accident Hazard Legislation 2015, Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 and Radiation Emergency Public Information Preparedness Regulations 2019. In addition to these specific pieces of legislation the plan incorporates elements of non-statutory guidance.
- 3.4 In addition to the Local Authority elements the Unit also hosts the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Secretariat, including Manager, Coordinator and Support Officer. The purpose of the LRF process is to ensure effective delivery of those duties under the Act that need to be developed in a multi-agency environment and individually as a Category 1 responder.
- 3.4 In practice this includes risk assessment, emergency and business continuity planning, publishing information, maintaining arrangements to warn and inform the public and enabling effective multi-agency planning and exercising. In response the standing protocols outlined in UK Government Doctrine are implemented with the establishment of command structures including Strategic Coordinating Groups.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Members review the sources of information / guidance to aid them in their role and seek further information where required from the Chief EPO. The most beneficial guidance for members at this stage is the Local Government Association's Guidance for Councillors¹.
- 4.2 Members advise if the proposed report schedule outlined below meets their needs or if there are any areas that they would particularly wish to cover in the coming 12 months. These proposed topics will be reviewed, and where appropriate additional papers may be submitted i.e. in the event of a major incident impacting Cleveland or release of new guidance.

¹ LGA Guidance - <https://www.local.gov.uk/publications/councillors-guide-civil-emergencies>

EPJC Meeting Date	Standing reports - Every meeting will include activity, finance and incidents reports.
2025 10 09	Industrial Emergency Planning – Report HM Government Resilience Action Plan Exercise Hera Overview Report Multi-agency Flood Plan Incidents Report Activities Report
2026 01 07	LRF Chair update Resilient Standards Training and Exercising Emergency Plans and Protocols Future CEPU and LRF Priorities Incidents Report Activities Report
TBC	CEPU staffing and structure Engagement with academia Learning from exercises, incidents and inquiries Incidents Report Activities Report

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Failure to provide information to the EPJC will hamper the committee in its role potentially impacting the service provided.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 No material financial implications.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The key legislation is the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which identifies the local authorities as a Category 1 responder, section 10 of the CCA 2004 identifies failure by a person or body identified within the legislation may bring proceedings in the High Court.
- 7.2 Further enforcement may take place in the event of failure to meet the duties identified under industrial legislation including the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (2015), Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 and Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations 2019.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations relating to this report.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations relating to this report.

11. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no environment, sustainability and climate change considerations directly relating to this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Members ensure that they are familiar with the EPJC terms of reference and LGA guidance for councillors and seek further information where required.
- 12.2 Members confirm if they wish the CEPO to proceed with the reporting schedule as outlined, and advise of any additions or specific areas of interest.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 To aid the members in ensuring the effectiveness of the emergency planning unit.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

Appendix A: the revised EPJC constitution (June 2013).

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Appendix A Revised EPJC Constitution

Constitution and Terms of Reference – Emergency Planning Joint Committee

Introduction

The Emergency Planning Joint Committee is an Executive Committee of the four constituent unitary Local Authorities in the former area of the County of Cleveland, namely Hartlepool Borough Council; Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council; Middlesbrough Borough Council and Redcar & Cleveland Borough Council.

Hartlepool Borough Council have been nominated as the “host / lead” authority for the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit (CEPU) and provide the following services and facilities for/to the CEPU:

- Human Resources
- Finance
- Democratic Services
- Legal Services
- Information Technology (IT)

Legal and Constitutional Position

The Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit is a “Joint Unit” established under articles in the constitution of each of the four local authorities, for example, article 11 and part 7, schedule ‘A’ of the constitution of Hartlepool Borough Council provide the power to establish a joint arrangement with one or more local authority and to exercise executive functions.

The power to establish a joint arrangement under the constitution of the four local authorities is conferred from Section 101 of the Local Government Act 1972 - ‘Arrangements for discharge of functions by local authorities’. Section 102 – ‘Appointment of Committees’ allows local authorities (two or more) to appoint a Joint Committee with respect to any joint arrangement made under section 101.

The definition of ‘public authority’ is set out in Schedule 1 of the Freedom of Information Act 2000. Whilst the definition is lengthy it does include at Part II section 25 that a public authority includes a joint committee constituted in accordance with sections 101 and 102 of the Local Government Act

Therefore, the legal position is that both the Emergency Planning Joint Committee and Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit are a public authority for the purposes of the Local Government Act and the Freedom of Information Act and are classed as and “outside body”.

Membership of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee

On a biennial basis the four constituent Local Authorities elect an Elected Member (Councillor) and deputy to act on their behalf as a member of the Joint Committee.

Due to the Committee having executive powers, membership is made up of a leading/senior Councillor from each of the four local authorities, for example, a Portfolio Holder or Cabinet member.

The Joint Committee meets on a quarterly basis to meet the terms of reference of the committee. Meetings are arranged and administered through the Democratic Services Officer of Hartlepool Borough Council.

The Chair of the Committee is elected on a biennial basis from the membership of the committee. This election occurs at the first meeting in the fiscal year.

2025 – 2026 membership is:

- Councillor Karen Oliver, Hartlepool Borough Council
- Councillor Theo Furness, Middlesbrough Borough Council
- Councillor Adam Brook, Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council
- Councillor Nigel Cooke, Stockton-On-Tees Borough Council

In recognition of the requirement to have 3 Councils represented as a quorum, all members are expected to attend meetings unless exceptional circumstances prevail.

Terms of Reference:

To exercise the executive duties and functions of the four unitary authorities in relation to the following matters:

1. To approve for each authority the annual budget required by the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit to fulfil its duties and responsibilities on behalf of the four unitary authorities and the basis of disaggregation to be met by the constituent authorities in their contribution to the overall costs.
2. To approve 'year end' reports on the budgetary performance of the Emergency Planning Unit, in accordance with financial regulations and procedures, including requests to place unspent money in 'reserves' or carry money forward.
3. To approve the Action Plan of the Emergency Planning Unit and receive a report thereon at each year end.

4. To oversee the performance and effectiveness of the Emergency Planning Unit and its value to the four unitary authorities.
5. To draw to the attention of each of the constituent authorities best practice in the field of emergency planning and the impact of new legislation and regulations.
6. To set and review the staffing establishment of the Emergency Planning Unit in accordance with the budget provision approved by the four constituent authorities.
7. To be responsible for, and keep under review, the accommodation and provision of equipment / facilities in the Emergency Planning Unit.
8. To approve the holding of Members Seminars in relation to emergency planning responsibilities and activities.
9. The Committee should meet at least 4 times per year at times to be determined by the Chair of the Joint Committee.
10. The quorum for meetings of the Joint Committee is 3 councils being represented.
11. The Chair of the Joint Committee will be appointed for the following 24 months at the first meeting in every other fiscal year.

Last reviewed: June 2013

EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: HM Government Resilience Action Plan

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Non-Key

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To advise members of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee of the release of the HM Government Resilience Action Plan (RAP) in July 2025 and highlight the key themes to the EPJC membership.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 HM Government released the Resilience Action Plan (RAP) on the 9th July 2025. The full plan is accessible at:
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/media/686d2fab10d550c668de3c6c/CCS0525299414-001_PN9801267_Cabinet_Office_-_HMG_Resilience_Strategy_3_.pdf
- 3.2 The RAP's ambition is that whilst *"It is impossible to prepare for every risk, but it is in our gift to close many of the gaps in our vulnerabilities and work together to make the UK a more resilient, more secure country."*
- 3.3 The RAP highlights an increased remit across sectors that currently have no formal role in resilience – *"Resilience has to be a shared responsibility between individuals, communities, businesses, local, devolved and national government, and public services across the UK."*
- 3.4 Further detail is provided on the HM Government Plan to strengthen domestic resilience and how the UK government is investing to protect the nation, defining objectives and the actions that will be taken to become more resilient.

- 3.5 The RAP focuses on building an all hazards approach and identifies three objectives:
1. continuously assess how resilient the UK is to target interventions and resources effectively
 2. enable the whole of society to take action to increase their resilience
 3. strengthen the core public sector resilience system
- 3.6 HM Government proposes to do this by:
- a. assessing risks, including the contexts in which they materialise.
 - b. assuring resilience system to identify problems and make improvements in our planning.
 - c. developing a comprehensive assessment of the UK's resilience, so that system-wide interventions can be considered.
- 3.7 There are a number of specific areas of note for the local areas within the RAP, further information can be expected in due course.
- 3.8 Chronic Risks
The RAP outlines the approach to chronic risks including publication of chronic risks to the public, guidance for policymakers and businesses, guidance for the use of chronic risk in local risk assessment.
- 3.9 Sharing of data
- a. Development of a Risk Vulnerability Tool
 - b. Publish new guidance to support vulnerable people
 - c. Create an independent panel focused on vulnerable people
- 3.10 Assurance
The RAP includes a range of measures for assuring resilience including the use of Red teams and LRF peer review protocol (note Cleveland LRF is one of 5 LRFs supporting the development of this tool).
- 3.11 Assessment of UK Resilience
As a means of measuring overall national resilience HM government will develop:
- a. a date driven picture of baseline resilience
 - b. a new cyber resilience index
- 3.12 Whole of societal Resilience
The RAP identifies a need to ask all parts of society to strengthen resilience through 5 key actions:
- a. ask and support the public to take action
 - b. better integrate the offer services offer from voluntary, community and faith services to planning and response
 - c. improve the resilience of Critical National Infrastructure through targeted interventions based on comprehensive data
 - d. provide the right tools to work with the private sector on risk and resilience planning
 - e. bring together organisations from across the whole-of-society to enhance our approach to training, exercising and governance

3.13 Public sector resilience

To get the best out of the public sector resilience system the UK government will:

- a. improve clarity of roles and responsibilities in the public sector resilience system through enhanced guidance and legislation across all stages of the risk life cycle
- b. better connect the public sector resilience system by upgrading digital tools and more effectively sharing up-to-date, timely data with partners, supporting them to take better decisions
- c. improve the quality of work in the public sector resilience system, including via Stronger LRF Trailblazers; training opportunities; and scientific and technological advice mechanisms and capabilities

3.14 LRF Funding

The RAP advises that the UK government is working to determine what future funding will look like including a review of LRF funding models, including the partner contribution model. This review will be co-designed with local partners and will be informed by the findings of the Stronger LRF Trailblazer evaluations, the integration of resilience into local governance through devolution, and the standards and expectations set through updated standards and guidance.

4. PROPOSALS

4.1 Members of the Strategic LRF have yet to convene following the release of the RAP, but it is anticipated that there will work undertaken to assess the implications on the local context in detail. This may impact some areas of LRF working and will be incorporated into action plans and future planning as required. We expect further updates from HM government from both a LRF and Local Authority perspective, where required / beneficial we will look to align local work to the RAP.

4.2 Members ensure that they are familiar with the RAP and raise any areas for clarification or local impacts with the CEPO.

4.3 The CEPO updates the EPJC when further information on the impact on the Cleveland area is available, including implications on staffing, funding and activities.

4.4 The CEPO ensures alignment between the RAP and the CEPU and LRF action plans and reports on this in future meetings.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Delivery of the local elements of the RAP may see an increase in the expectation on the Unit and wider LRF.

- 5.2 Failure to align to the HM Government priorities and initiatives on resilience may impact funding streams, assurance and the effectiveness of local resilience.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 No material financial implications at this time.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The key legislation is the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which identifies the local authorities as a Category 1 responder, section 10 of the CCA 2004 identifies failure by a person or body identified within the legislation may bring proceedings in the High Court.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations relating to this report.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations relating to this report.

11. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no environment, sustainability and climate change considerations directly relating to this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 Members ensure that they are familiar with the RAP and raise any areas for clarification with the CEPO.
- 12.2 The CEPO updates when further information on the impact on the Cleveland area is available, including implications on and support provided.
- 12.3 The CEPO ensures alignment between the RAP and the CEPU and LRF action plans.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 To aid the members in ensuring the effectiveness of the emergency planning unit and understanding the alignment of the CEPU and CLRF to national priorities on resilience.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Cleveland Multi-Agency Flood Plan

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To give members of the EPJC an oversight of the Multi-Agency Flood Plan produced by the Unit on behalf of the Local Resilience Forum.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As a category one responder as defined by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 there is a duty on the Local Authority to assess the risk of emergencies and to plan for emergencies, many of these emergencies will be either caused by or impacted by adverse weather and flooding. This paper provides a background brief on adverse weather and flooding.
- 3.2 The Cleveland Local Resilience Forum's (LRF) community risk register identifies a several flood related risks including Coastal, Tidal, Fluvial (river) and Surface water flooding. As well as the initial impacts of flooding secondary impacts often effect utilities and transport further complicating responses and impacting normal services, impacts on health, life and property risk.
- 3.3 Forecasting weather for the UK is a challenge due to geography, but a number of tools have been made available such as Hazard Manager and the National Severe Weather Warning Service to support responders. Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit (CEPU) Officers are further supported by Resilience Advisors from the Met Office including 24/7 contacts who will provide live updates on request before and during periods of adverse weather.
- 3.4 The LRF has a flood and adverse weather group that sits bi-annually to seek assurance that agencies are prepared, share learning and to review lessons identified over the past six months. CEPU continues to work closely with partners including from the Councils, Met Office and Environment Agency to

raise awareness of flooding and the actions that can be taken at the community and household level.

- 3.5 The major types of flooding affecting the Cleveland area are Tidal (including tidal Tees and coastal), Fluvial (river) and Pluvial (surface water). The Environment Agency advise that there are approximately 5,000 properties at risk of flooding within the Cleveland LRF area. Members of the public can check the flood risks associated with a location on the Environment Agency's website.
- 3.6 The risk of flooding is demonstrated by numerous relatively small-scale flooding incidents as well as the major tidal inundation of 2013, appendix 1 contains a brief summary of instances of flooding and adverse weather reported to the Local Authority Emergency Planning Unit since 2020. Whilst the rural communities within Cleveland area are affected appendix 1 demonstrates that the risk also applies to those in the urban areas including residential, commercial and industrial sites within the LRF.
- 3.7 Whilst flood forecasting is increasingly accurate for coastal and river flooding, surface water flooding is often more challenging. The Met Office in conjunction with the Environment Agency do deliver a service via the Flood Forecasting Centre which identifies and warns of heightened periods of risk. However, whilst wide areas can be identified as being at risk often only a small geography will be impacted by the most intense weather. This means that resources cannot be pre-deployed and that often the first notification of surface water flooding will be calls from residents already impacted to local authorities and emergency services.
- 3.8 The Environment Agency operates a flood warning system mainly centred around tidal and fluvial flooding these warnings can be delivered by email, voice (telephone) or SMS (text message), residents in the flood warning areas can sign up for this service at no cost. The nature and forecasting technology generally allow for earlier notification than surface water flooding enabling Flood Advisory Service Teleconferences between partners to ensure that all partners are aware in advance.
- 3.9 There are three levels of warning flood alert (flooding is possible), flood warning (flooding is likely) and severe flood warning (threat to life), in addition to this the recently introduced government emergency alerts can be issued in addition to the severe flood warning, the main advantage of this being that it is broadcasted to mobile phones in a designated area rather than just those signed up for flood warnings.
- 3.10 As well as agency specific operational flood plans there is an overarching LRF Multi-Agency Flood Plan (MAFP), stating roles and responsibilities of LRF agencies as well as guidance sheets around communities at risk. It includes numbers of properties at risk, local evacuation centres, vulnerable properties and infrastructure as well as known community groups. This plan is audited on behalf of DEFRA and at the last audit February 2022 was identified as good practice and updated plan is currently being audited. This

plan is further supported by operational documents such as a water rescues capability document outlining those agencies with specialist equipment and staff who may be deployed in a flooding event.

- 3.11 The MAFP also covers flooding from reservoir inundation (reservoir failure), this includes the impacts from reservoirs outside the LRF area.
- 3.12 In 2022 a large-scale national exercise “Flood Ex” was held based on an East Coast Inundation (Tidal Flooding) scenario, over 80 people participated in the Cleveland exercise including all four local councils, emergency services, social housing providers, industry, and volunteer groups. The LRF, EA and Met Office provide regular briefing sessions and are regularly required to provide assurance to Central Government.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 That the Emergency Planning Joint Committee continue to obtain reassurance that individual agencies are prepared and that lessons identified are embedded from incidents.
- 4.2 That the CEPU alongside other LRF partners continue to promote the actions and work that can be done at a household and community level to aid resilience to adverse weather.
- 4.3 Should members require further information on any element of the EPU or LRF regarding planning for, responding to and recovery from adverse weather events contact the Chief and Emergency Planning Officer.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Failure to understand the impacts of adverse weather could adversely affect any response.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations relating to this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 All key legislative requirements regarding response to adverse weather are adhered to.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 8.1 There are no child and family poverty implications relating to this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no staff considerations relating to this report.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no asset management considerations relating to this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 That the CEPU continues to be represented at the LRF Flood and adverse weather group and ensures the multi-agency flood plan is reviewed as per protocol.
- 12.2 Members advise if they require further information on the arrangements in place reference the emergency response to flooding and adverse weather.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 To ensure that members of the EPJC can effectively obtain assurance that the duties and expectations on the Local Authorities of Cleveland are being met in regard to planning for emergencies due to adverse weather and flooding.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None presented.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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Appendix 1: Summary of flooding and adverse weather incidents

Date	Boroughs impacted	Locations	Type	Notes
07/01/2020	Redcar & Cleveland	A66 Tees dock junction	Flooding	Surface water flooding causing traffic disruption flooding was due to water main bursting
14/01/2020	Stockton-On-Tees	Tidal River Tees	Flooding	Potential flooding issues due to high tides and tidal surge
20/01/2021	All Boroughs	All Borough effected mainly Middlesbrough and Redcar especially Loftus	Flooding	Large areas reporting surface water flooding properties flooded in Loftus and Ormesby other areas property affected
28/01/2021	Stockton-On-Tees	Port Clarence	Flooding	Holme fleet beck blockage eventually leading to flooding behind Port Clarence no properties flooded although potential properties affected
30/11/2022	Middlesbrough	Ormsby High Street	Flooding	Mechanical damage to major water pipe junction leaving to severe flooding of the carriageway and nearby bungalows. Later also realised that water was knocked off to a large number of properties
09/05/2023	All Boroughs	Billingham, Norton, Middlesbrough	Flooding	Surface water flooding following thunderstorms – primary impact on highways including A19 at Billingham, Norton, A172 and A171
02/08/2023	Stockton-On-Tees	Port Clarence	Flooding	Flooding in Port Clarence (faulty flap valve) impacting community – coincided with high spring tides
05/08/2023	Redcar & Cleveland	Loftus and East Cleveland	Flooding	Flooding to Loftus, Carlin How and other areas of East Cleveland, intense rainfall leading to significant surface water.
26/5/2024	Stockton	Very localised but many separate locations	Flooding	Very localised mainly Hardwick / Bishops garth area of Stockton some evacuation
09/07/2024	Redcar	Loftus	Flooding	Mix of fluvial and surface water
26/09/2024	Redcar	East Cleveland	Flooding	Mainly around Loftus and Skinningrove although other areas of East Cleveland affected

EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Industrial Emergency Planning

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

Key Decision (test (i)/(ii)) Forward Plan Reference No.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To provide EPJC members with an awareness and understanding of the duties placed on Local Authorities under a range of legislation, the relevance to the Cleveland area and how these duties are met by the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit (CEPU).
- 2.2 To inform the members of the work undertaken by the CEPU in connection with the statutory requirements relating to industrial emergency planning.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The Control of Major Accident Hazards Regulations 2015 (COMAH) and the Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 are a set of regulations that apply to sites and operators that present a high hazard. These regulations apply controls to prevent and mitigate the effects of major accidents that could occur at these sites and place duties on both the operator and the local authority.
- 3.2 These regulations place duties upon the Local Authority to produce and maintain external emergency response plans for COMAH and Major Accident Hazard Pipelines falling within their area. The LA is notified by the Competent Authority Health and Safety Executive and the Environment Agency when sites meet the criteria within the regulations (due to the nature of the product / volume of the product).
- 3.3 The Cleveland area currently has 26 Upper Tier COMAH sites (17 operators) accounting for approximately 8% of the UK total number of Upper Tier COMAH sites. Across Cleveland there are numerous areas containing both businesses and residential properties which fall within COMAH Public

Information Zones (PIZ) surrounding the sites, where the operator has a duty to advise the public on the risks and the actions to take in an incident. These are predominantly in areas around Billingham and Wilton chemical complexes. Due to the nature of the Cleveland area there are also numerous occasions where one COMAH site sits within the Public Information of another, in these cases operators have been assigned into “domino groups” to allow them to better understand shared potential impacts and improve response.

3.4 Distribution of sites by Local Authority Area

Borough	Number of upper tier sites
Hartlepool	3
Middlesbrough	2
Redcar and Cleveland	3
Stockton	18

- 3.5 In addition to the above COMAH establishments there are also 57 Major Accident (MAH) pipelines. This is over 300km of pipeline to which the Major Accident Hazard Pipelines section of the Pipeline Safety Regulations (1996) apply. These lines run across the four Local Authority area of Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, Redcar and Cleveland and Stockton on Tees and convey both products used by industry (hydrogen, ethylene) and gas used in domestic and industry supply. Under legislation there is no statutory requirement to test the plans developed under the pipeline regulations but we look to engage with the operators when opportunity arises to jointly test the response.
- 3.6 Regulation 14 of the COMAH 2015 outlines the review and testing of emergency plans and states that the external emergency plans must both be reviewed and tested at least every three years. These tests are undertaken by the team in conjunction with the emergency services and other key agencies including utilities and health partners. Each test is based on a credible scenario, but which often overrides the various safety systems aim to ensure that in the event of an incident agencies can effectively respond and protect the public and environment. In the financial year 2024 – 2025 there were 6 COMAH exercises undertaken.
- 3.7 Learning from the exercise is collated into a single learning database, allowing analysis of reoccurring areas for improvement / cascade as good practice. Most exercises demonstrate an effective response against pre-identified elements of the plan. However, there are some common issues identified in testing and debriefs including:
- Access by responders to up-to-date maps and plans
 - Communication linkages (especially within reinforced buildings)
 - Provision of information to and between services
 - Communication strategy and notification to near neighbours
- 3.8 Learning from both exercises and incidents are shared with all operators and via forums including the Emergency Planning Unit contributes to a number of multi-agency forums to support the effective emergency planning including the

Northern COMAH forum, the local Safety Health and Environment Managers Meetings and the national COMAH forum.

- 3.9 Industry and the associated risks are changing on Teesside. Several existing upper tier sites are facing significant challenges due to energy prices, changing demands and competition in global markets. There are a number of proposed sites within the Cleveland area specifically linked to the carbon neutral agenda that may be classed as Upper Tier COMAH sites. It is worth noting that the by-products of several sites primary production can be significant in their own right and can have significant impacts on sectors if production reduces i.e. carbon dioxide used in food preservation and water treatment.
- 3.10 Over the last 10 years there have been a number of Upper Tier sites within the Cleveland area that when decommissioning have presented challenges and in some instances incidents. Proactive work is undertaken with sites during decommissioning to ensure that the risks are understood and communicated to emergency services and wider partners.
- 3.11 The HSE host a webpage that provides public information on the COMAH sites and the risk / actions associated – enabling a search by postcode and operator name: <https://notifications.hse.gov.uk/COMAH2015/Search.aspx>
- 3.12 Work undertaken in the preparation of external emergency plans and testing the plans by CEPU under COMAH is annually recharged to the operators. Whilst the whole team is involved in undertaking industrial emergency planning especially the testing the majority of the work is undertaken by an officer funded through the recharges.
- 3.13 It is also worth noting that the sites themselves are at times subject to external factors that require support from the emergency planning unit / wider Local Resilience Community, for example during utilities outages, incidents at neighbouring sites, and flooding.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Members familiarise themselves with the requirements of industrial emergency planning and raise any queries with regards to the impact of their respective areas.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Failure to respond appropriately may result in impacts on the social, economic and environmental welfare of the community.
- 5.2 Failure to comply and be able to demonstrate compliance with legislation will result in action being taken against the authorities by the Competent Authority (Health and Safety Executive and Environment Agency)

- 5.3 COMAH sites pose significant risk implications to public safety, health and the environment. Some examples are fires, explosions, toxic gas release and leaks of hazardous substances to the environment.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial implications relating to this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The COMAH legal regulations stipulate that all OFFSERP sites must test and review their external emergency plans at least every three years and revise their plans considering lessons learned.
- 7.2 A number of actions relate to the control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 2015 and Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996. The above place statutory duties upon the local authority, failure to provide an adequate level resulting in possible enforcement.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

No equality and diversity considerations

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

No staff considerations

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

No staff considerations

11. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 The COMAH Regulations require establishments to consider the potential impacts of their operations on the environment, sustainability and climate change and to put in place measure to prevent or mitigate these impacts.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 For the EPJC members to stay informed about the type of business in the area and the legislative controls in place to minimise the likelihood of a major accident and in the event of an incident mitigate the impacts.
- 12.2 Provide an understanding of the elements of the CEPU plan that are undertaken to ensure compliance with the legislation.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 To provide EPJC members with the knowledge of the requirements of the legislation enabling them to seek further information and provide assurance to residents reference the measures in place.
- 13.2 To highlight that the nature of industry and the demands on the duty holders are changing with a potential change in the profile of industry in the area from traditional chemical processing and manufacture to carbon capture.
- 13.3 To ensure that members of the EPJC can effectively obtain assurance that the duties and expectations on the local authorities can be met in the event of an industrial incident.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

No additional papers provided.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Exercise Hera Overview

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To give members of the EPJC an oversight of the recent exercise HERA a recent REPIR Exercise and the process for identifying and actioning learning.

3 BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Exercise Hera was held on the 14/05/2025 and was designed to test the offsite emergency response plan to an incident at Hartlepool PowerStation, a site that is included within the REPIR Regulations (2019). Under the regulations the authority has a duty to prepare an emergency response plan and includes the information required in both the legislation and the relevant approved codes or practice.
- 3.2 Prior to the main exercise a prepare exercise was held, this enabled the testing of the initial communications from the site to the external services. There were two phases to the prepare exercise.

Phase one: of the prepare exercise an initial test of communication within information being relayed to those identified in the plan using the current method of call cascade.

Phase two: a second exercise was held that trialled the use of the LRF's automated notification system RAYVN to significantly reduce the time required to notify agencies, confirm attendance and issue joining instructions.

- 3.3 Both prepare exercises demonstrated that the information from site could be effectively relayed as per the plan.
- 3.4 The overall aim of Exercise Hera was to satisfy Regulation 12 of the Radiation Emergency Preparedness and Public Information Regulations

(REPPiR) 2019, in particular REPPiR 12(7) which required by paragraph 1(b) must be adequate to test the ability to implement the plan. To support the delivery of this aim objectives were identified in appendix 1.

- 3.5 Joint work was undertaken with the site operator to develop a scenario based on the station, it is of note that multiple safety systems had to be disregarded to enable the scenario.
- 3.6 The scenario included a number of issues within and around the PowerStation, that required a range of partners to assess and respond to information:
- Incident at site and safety of responders / ability to assist with trapped and injured staff members
 - Incident at a neighbouring site where the ability to shelter was compromised
 - Request for support to access countermeasures and assistance from emergency responders within and outside the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone
 - Development of a communications strategy including addressing mis-information
 - Concerns reference the welfare of a range of communities and need for effective assurance
 - Consideration of the longer-term recovery and community issues and support required
- 3.7 Agencies involved in the test included the operator, emergency services, Hartlepool Council, UKHSA, NHS Trusts, MHCLG, MoD. Response cells tested as part of the exercise included the Strategic Coordination Group, Tactical Coordination Group, Media Cell, Borough Emergency Centre, Multi-agency Information Cell and the Scientific and Technical Advice Cell. The exercise did not involve live play at the Station beyond a simulated forward control post, with the focus being on the Strategic and Tactical tiers.
- 3.8 Planning was undertaken by a multi-agency group and objectives are identified in appendix 1. Injects were used to simulate a range of issues throughout the exercise, allowing for exercise staff to identify if the plan was being successfully implemented against the scenario presented. Exercise staff recorded actions and observations throughout the exercise. Not all objectives were fully met during the exercise for example recovery wasn't fully tested.
- 3.9 A debrief was held on the day of the exercise and a structured debrief held later, a report has been drafted and shared with all relevant partners including the operator and Office for Nuclear Regulation.
- 3.10 The exercise identified where improvements to the existing plans and procedures can be made and these will be progressed during the coming

months. In total 39 recommendations have been made in the full debrief report some of the key findings from the exercise include:

- Increasing the accessibility of information within the plan and officers' awareness of the specific measures and support in place to manage a nuclear incident.
- Ensuring a clear understanding of the Science and Technical Advice available.
- Review training options available for tactical / strategic advisors and commanders.
- The need to develop localised Radiation Monitoring Unit plans.
- Increase the specific information on agencies attending a STAC for this scenario.
- Ensure clarity of the Detailed Emergency Planning Zone and the countermeasures in place within the area amongst responders.
- Review the means of distribution of additional supplies of stable iodine beyond those who have it already pre-distributed within the DEPZ.
- The benefit in running a more focussed recovery exercise building on the scenario presented in exercise Hera.

- 3.11 In conclusion the exercise successfully tested the existing offsite emergency response plan as per legislation for Hartlepool PowerStation in response to what was a very challenging scenario. The actions identified will now be progressed through the LRF and CEPU, with regular updates to the Office for Nuclear Regulation.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 That the CEPU alongside other LRF partners progress the actions identified in the debrief report and update the EPJC in due course on progress.
- 4.2 Should members require further information on any element of exercise Hera contact the Chief and Emergency Planning Officer.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Failure to adequately test the plan required under Legislation could impact response, welfare, public confidence and legal position.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations relating to this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 All key legislative requirements regarding response the testing of the plan under REPPiR have been adhered to.

8. CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY

- 8.1 There are no child and family poverty implications relating to this report.

9. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.

10. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no staff considerations relating to this report.

11. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no asset management considerations relating to this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 That the CEPU provides an update on core actions including the recovery exercise at a future meeting.
- 12.2 Members advise if they require further information on the arrangements in place reference an incident at the PowerStation and the arrangements in place.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 To ensure that members of the EPJC can effectively obtain assurance that the duties and expectations on the Local Authorities of Cleveland are being met in regard to planning for nuclear emergencies.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None presented.

15. CONTACT OFFICER

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Appendix 1: Overarching objectives Exercise Hera

Objective	Tested?
1) To test the notification and activation arrangements as per the Off-Site External Emergency Plan as part of the exercise start and if there are any reasonable improvements to be made.	Tested
2) To test the Strategic Co-ordination Centre (SCC) at the primary site, Hemlington Middlesbrough, including any reasonable improvements to be made.	Tested
3) To test the Tactical Co-ordination Centre (TCC) at Police HQ, Hemlington Middlesbrough, including any reasonable improvements to be made.	Tested
4) To test consistency of advice and terminology used.	Tested
5) To test the decision-making process across all Command Levels including any supporting group, and implementation of public protection advice, including the safety of the work force.	Tested
6) To test the effectiveness of shared situational awareness, including the use of hybrid technologies and key Resilience Direct functions.	Tested
7) Test the use of RAYVN and teams to reduce the time required for activation / response.	Tested
8) To review the rescue, management and onward treatment of contaminated casualty(ies) by external responders whilst ensuring staff safety.	Tested
9) To test the response to a threat to life within the DEPZ by external services in the event of an offsite nuclear emergency.	Tested
10) To test the preparation for the handover from response to recovery as per Cleveland arrangements including the handover criteria, initial impact assessment and drafting of the certificate.	Not tested

EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Activities Report 10/03/2025 - 23/08/2025

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To assist members of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee (EPJC) in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Emergency Planning Unit and its value to the four unitary authorities.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 As reported and presented at the meeting in March 2023 the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit (CEPU) produces an annual action plan, approved by the EPJC identifying key areas of work to be undertaken in 2025-26 by CEPU.
- 3.2 A number of actions relate directly to the statutory functions placed upon the authorities by the relevant legislation (including the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 2015, Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations 2019 and Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996).
- 3.3 Where non-statutory duties are included, they are based upon guidance, such as that associated with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the good practice contained in the SOLACE guidance on emergencies¹ revised and re-issued 2018, whilst non-statutory they are critical to resilience.
- 3.4 A summary of progress made against the Unit's 2025/6 Action Plan is outlined below.

¹ SOLACE <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/local-authorities-preparedness-for-civil-emergencies>

Area	Yet to start	Complete	Ongoing	Grand Total
CEPU Internal Functions	15	5	9	29
Community Resilience	13	5	3	21
Event Support	15	2	3	20
Financial Control	1	1		2
Industrial Emergency Planning	13	8	10	31
ITC / Cyber planning	1			1
Local authority resilience	26	15	8	49
Plans and procedures	12	5	5	22
Risk Assessment	1	1	4	6
Support review of the development of the LRF		1		1
Support, review and development of the LRF	8	2	7	17
Training and exercising	18	2	5	25
Training Needs			1	1
Warn and inform	7	1	1	9
Grand Total	130	48	56	234

3.5 Significant pieces of work from the CEPU work plan completed in period include:

- Review of rest centre cases
- Community Resilience Newsletter issued to stakeholders
- Quarterly test of activation system
- Audit of Borough Emergency Centres
- Reporting to each LA
- Review of EPU Website
- Internal Health and Safety processes
- Review of high fire risk waste sites
- Updates of emergency contacts
- COMAH and pipeline overview review

3.6 Additional pieces of work by CEPU relating to local authorities in period not included within the annual plan include:

- Community engagement, promotion of community safety award, Hubs
- Engaging with areas on literacy impact on resilience
- Public events exercising including Kite Festivals
- Debriefs undertaken on a range of exercises and incidents
- REPPiR Familiarisation session undertaken / coordinated for partners to raise awareness of offsite emergency response plan
- Supporting increased pandemic planning for the four boroughs
- Contribution to national forums – including on CCA matrix promotion

Group / Borough	Complete	Ongoing	Redundant	Yet to start	Grand Total
Blue Lights Group	1	5		1	7
Business Continuity Focus Group	4	3		2	9
COMAH Review	3	1			4
Community Resilience	1	4		6	11
Death Management Group	1	9		1	11
FAWG	4	1		2	7
NE Cyber Group	1	2		1	4
NE Death Management Group		6			6
NE Risk Plus Group	1	5			6
Resilience Direct User Group	1	3			4
Risk Assessment Group	2	9		1	12
Strategic Board	4	9		6	19
Tactical Business Group	2	14		11	27
Training and Exercising	8	8	1	41	58
VELG		5			5
Warn and Inform	1	4		1	6
Grand Total	34	88	1	73	196

(Note: the redundant action identified as not required by partner agency who proposed an exercise).

3.7 Significant pieces of work undertaken as part of the Local Resilience Forum annual action Plan and completed in period include:

- Update of the Multi-Agency Flood Plan
- Review of cyber risk assessments
- Delivery of the NE LRFs symposium
- Facilitation of Ministerial Visit and demonstration of capability
- Community resilience grants round
- Mass Decontamination Exercise
- Provision of Exercise Hera including (Level 2 REPPIR)
- Initial review of the Resilience Action Plan

3.8 Significant pieces of work undertaken in addition to the Local Resilience Forum annual action plan completed in period include:

- Exercise Cerberus – attendance and support to NE exercises
- Trained blue lights commanders in resilience direct
- Multi-Agency Strategic Holding Area – support for identification of potential sites and development of multi-agency plans
- Additional training and contracts arranged (LRF)
- Distribution of community risk registers

3.9 Staffing

There have been no changes to staffing within the period:

The LRF support officer role remains vacant, with recruitment starting shortly.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 That the Chief Emergency Planning Officer continues to provide quarterly updates and additional information as requested by EPJC members on the work undertaken by the Unit on behalf of the Local Authorities and the Local Resilience Forum.
- 4.2 Should members require further information on any element of the EPU work plan or LRF work plan or wish to discuss activities further please contact the Chief EPO.
- 4.3 That the final LRF action plan is presented following sign off by the LRF Strategic Board.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Failure to understand the role and remit of the role of the Unit may result in a lack of preparedness or resilience within the authorities.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations relating to this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The key legislation is the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which identifies the local authorities as a Category 1 responder, section 10 of the CCA 2004 identifies failure by a person or body identified within the legislation may bring proceedings in the High Court.
- 7.2 Further enforcement may take place in the event of failure to meet the duties identified under industrial legislation including the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations (2015), Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 and Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations 2019.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

- 8.1 There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

- 9.1 There are no staff considerations relating to this report.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

- 10.1 There are no asset management considerations relating to this report.

11. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

- 11.1 There are no Environment, Sustainability or climate change considerations directly applicable to the content of this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 12.1 That members seek involvement and clarification on the CEPU Action Plan where appropriate.
- 12.2 That the CEPU continues to develop the CEPU Annual Action Plan and the EPJC standard report to provide assurance to EPJC members that the key considerations continue to be met and that members are updated at the quarterly EPJC meetings reference any amendments / additional actions.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 13.1 To ensure that members of the EPJC can effectively obtain assurance that the duties and expectations on the local authorities can be met in the event of an incident and that key elements are being delivered.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None presented.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

10 September 2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Incidents Report 10/03/2025 – 23/08/2025

1. TYPE OF DECISION/APPLICABLE CATEGORY

For information.

2. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 2.1 To assist members of the EPJC in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Emergency Planning Unit and its value to the four unitary authorities through provision of a list of incidents within the reporting period.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 CEPU provides both a 24 hour point of contact for partners requesting assistance, and for the provision of tactical advice to the four local authorities.
- 3.2 There are several mechanisms in place to ensure that CEPU are made aware of incidents both in and out of normal office hours. These include protocols with the emergency services and early warning systems with industry and agencies, for example warnings from the Met Office, Environment Agency and communications chains with local industry.
- 3.3 Appendix 1 lists the incidents that staff have been involved in or notified of.
- 3.4 A number of these incidents have been followed up with multi-agency debriefs the learning from which is shared with agencies and where appropriate actioned via the Local Resilience Forum / agencies internal procedures. On occasion lessons are shared nationally on the Joint Organisational Learning (JOL) platform.

4. PROPOSALS

- 4.1 Members familiarise themselves with the range of incidents that have occurred with a view to seeking additional detail / clarification if required.

5. RISK IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 Failure to respond appropriately may result in impacts on the social, economic and environmental welfare of the community.

6. FINANCIAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 6.1 There are no financial considerations relating to this report.

7. LEGAL CONSIDERATIONS

- 7.1 The key legislation is the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which identifies the local authorities as a Category 1 responder, section 10 of the CCA 2004 identifies failure by a person or body identified within the legislation may bring proceedings in the High Court.
- 7.2 In addition a number of actions relate to the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 2015, Radiation Emergency Preparedness Public Information Regulations 2019 and Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996. All of the above place statutory duties upon the local authority, failure to provide to an adequate level resulting in possible enforcement.

8. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY CONSIDERATIONS (IMPACT ASSESSMENT FORM TO BE COMPLETED AS APPROPRIATE.)

There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.

9. STAFF CONSIDERATIONS

There are no staff considerations relating to this report.

10. ASSET MANAGEMENT CONSIDERATIONS

There are no asset management considerations relating to this report.

11. ENVIRONMENT, SUSTAINABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE CONSIDERATIONS

There are no Environmental, sustainability or climate change considerations relating to this report.

12. RECOMMENDATIONS

That members consider the incidents listed and seek any additional information as required in their role of EPJC members.

13. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

To ensure that members of the EPJC can effectively obtain assurance that the duties and expectations on the local authorities can be met in the event of an incident.

14. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None presented.

15. CONTACT OFFICERS

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Appendix 1 Incidents of note 10/03/2025 – 23/08/2025

Date	Borough	Location	Type of incident	Additional Information
22/03/2025	Hartlepool	High Tunstell school	Unclassified	Credible bomb threat
03/04/2025	Hartlepool	Manor Community Academy	Potentially disruptive event	Incident at school - widely mis-interpreted on social media resulting in significant concern and response by community
05/04/2025	Middlesbrough	Derby Avenue	UXO	Approximately 50 houses property's evacuated Acklam Green Centre opened as a Survivor Reception Centre
14/04/2025	Hartlepool	Eskimo Joe Victoria Road	Fire	Fire
27/04/2025	Stockton On Tees	Thornaby Eagle Pub	Fire	Derelict pub in Thornaby on fire, significant coverage on local social media reference asbestos, police and fire attendance
12/05/2025	Stockton On Tees	Scrapyard off Hope Street	Fire	Scrapyard fire in Industrial Estate south of Cowpen Bewley / Haverton Hill Road
29/05/2025	Hartlepool	All areas	Health	Number of synthetic opioid overdoses in short period of time
04/06/2024	Hartlepool	Power Station	Utility Failure	Loss of mains power
17/06/2025	Stockton On Tees	Preston Farm	Flooding	Burst water main multi-agency call requested by CFB due to access / supply impacts
20/06/2025	Hartlepool	All Areas	Utility Failure	Large scale Power cut
27/06/2024	Stockton On Tees	Ingelby Barwick (River Tees)	Unclassified	Missing person
04/07/2025	Redcar & Cleveland	Fire in garage impacting local area	Fire	Arlington St Loftus, fire and impact on number of neighboring properties – power
16/07/2025	Middlebsrough	Burst water main	Utility Failure	Ladgate Lane area, notification from water company advising no assistance required but some disruption locally.
19/07/2025	Redcar & Cleveland	Care Home Eston	Adverse weather – ICT failure	Leaking roof resulted in loss of a number of services, including on call nursing. Staff resorted to manual work arounds and business continuity implemented.
31/07/2025	Middlebsrough	Hemmlington Lake	Blue Green Algae	Blue green algae reported in Hemmlington Lake. Public advice issued, notification / signage etc
31/07/2025	Middlesbrough	Park End	Potential UXO	Initial evacuation EoD (bomb squad attended and incident resolved).
01/08/2025	Hartlepool	Usworth Rd	Fire	Fire in industrial unit, impacts from smoke and heat, some local

				evacuation managed onsite by emergency services.
13/08/2025	Redcar & Cleveland	North York Moors	Wildfire	Contac from North Yorkshire Council reference the ongoing wildfires. Establishing contact given potential impact on Redcar and Cleveland communities in East Cleveland. Links established should the situation escalate.
15/08/2025	Hartlepool	Coronation Drive Seaton	Fire and cylinder explosion	Gas bottle exploded, impact on nearby businesses, no local authority assistance requested.