



Hartlepool
Borough Council

Emergency Planning Joint Committee

Minutes and Decision Record

8th July 2026

Meeting commenced

Time: 10:00 am

Location: Emergency Planning Annex, Stockton Police Station, Bishop Street, Stockton-on-Tees, Cleveland, TS18 1SY

Present:

Councillor: Amanda Napper (Hartlepool Borough Council) (In the Chair)

Councillors: Neil Bendelow (Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council)

Also present: Ronnie Buglass (Hartlepool Borough Council)

Officers: Sylvia Pinkney, Assistant Director (Regulatory Services)
Stuart Marshall, Chief Emergency Planning Officer
Jonathan Hepworth, Group Accountant
Claire Mcpartlin, Democratic Services and Legal Support Officer

1. Apologies for Absence

Councillor Theo Furness (Middlesbrough Borough Council).

2. Inquorate Meeting

It was noted that the meeting was inquorate. The Members present agreed to hear the matters for information listed on the agenda though acknowledged that any recommendations requiring decision would need to be deferred to the next meeting.

3. Declarations of Interest from Members

None.

4. Minutes of the meeting held on 7th January 2026.

Minutes received.

5. Financial Management Update Report *(Director of Finance, IT and Digital, Chief Emergency Planning Officer)*

Purpose of report

To provide details of the financial outturn for the financial year ending 31st March 2026 for the Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). To report on the current level of reserves.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Group Accountant reported the overall financial outturn for the Emergency Planning Unit was a favourable variance of £22,000. There was a favourable variance of £13,000 on employee costs due to costs being chargeable to the LRF Grant. Due to a higher level of REPPIR fees in the year, income was £12,000 greater than budget.

The financial outturn for the LRF was a £49,000 favourable variance. This underspend was due to an in-year saving on the core budget.

To meet the new MHCLG conditions, £189,000 of grant brought forward from previous years had been released. In addition to this, £4,000 was held in reserves to finance expenditure in year.

Decision

- i) That the report be noted and the recommendations in relation to 2026/27 budget be brought back to the next meeting.

6. Whole of Society Resilience Update *(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)*

Purpose of report

To provide Members of the Emergency Planning Joint Committee with an update on the work being undertaken with regards to building Whole of Society Resilience (WOSR).

Issue(s) for consideration by Committee

The Chief Executive of Middlesbrough Voluntary Development Agency had been identified as the new Strategic Lead for the Whole of Society Resilience. It was recognised that the LRF Strategic Board needed to be expanded beyond the traditional responders and include communities.

The development of the Community Response Hub was ongoing with four established hubs within the LRF area. Work was ongoing to establish several

additional hubs however; it was also recognised that physical hubs may not necessarily be the best model for some communities.

There had been funding totalling £28,250 provided by the LRF from the MHCLG grant to support grass roots resilience initiatives with eight being supported following a review of applications received in December 2025. Projects included the purchase of equipment and resources, communication aids and training.

The Community Safety Award aimed at youth awareness continues to be promoted with some groups undertaking the training for a third year. The intent is a clear offer of support to all youth groups with key messages including the dangers of flood water.

Discussions were ongoing in relation to the HM Government Resilience Action Plans direction reference Whole of Society Resilience and that this includes academia and business. Although there were long standing relationships between some business sectors and the LRF and responders, it was recognised that further consistent work could be done in this area. For example, a recent project with smaller independent care providers on cyber resilience supported by the LRF.

Decision

- i) Members were sighted on the work on Whole of Society Resilience being undertaken within the Emergency Planning Unit and wider LRF;
- ii) Members considered supporting the developing work on Whole of Society Resilience.

7. Activities Report 28/02/2026 – 26/06/2026 (*Chief Emergency Planning Officer*)

Purpose of report

To assist Members in overseeing the performance and effectiveness of the Emergency Planning Unit and its value to the four unitary authorities.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Chief Emergency Planning Officer outlined the report which closed out the 2025/26 action plans and outlined progress against the 2026/27 action plans, details of which were included in the report. This included pieces of work contained within each plan and significant work which had been completed in addition to each plan.

Following a Member question, the Chief Emergency Planning Officer advised there was currently a significant difference in preparedness on food security in comparison to other sectors for example water, however, the National Audit Office were beginning work around this which the LRF has fed into and a local

group had been established to undertake further work in this area. It was discussed that a Food Security Report would be welcomed to a future meeting.

Decision

- i) That the report be noted and Members continue to seek involvement and clarification on the plans where appropriate;
- ii) That quarterly updates continue to be provided to Members;
- iii) A report around Food Security be brought to a future meeting.

8. Incidents Report 27/03/2026 – 26/06/2026 (*Chief Emergency Planning Officer*)

Purpose of report

To assist members 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.

Issue(s) for consideration by the Committee

The Chief Emergency Planning Officer reported on the incidents of note that had been responded to by the Emergency Planning Unit during the reporting period, details of which were set out in Appendix 1.

The Assistant Director (Regulatory Services) highlighted that learning was achieved through incidents to put the Emergency Planning Unit and relevant Local Authority in a better position if there was to be a reoccurrence.

Decision

- i) That the contents of the report be noted.

The meeting concluded at:

Time: 11:10 am

H MARTIN

DIRECTOR OF LEGAL, GOVERNANCE AND HUMAN RESOURCES

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