Hartlepool
Borough Council

Emergency Planning Joint Committee Agenda

18th November 2026

Time: 10.00 am

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

Members: Emergency Planning Joint Committee

Hartlepool Borough Council: Councillor Amanda Napper

Middlesbrough Borough Council: Councillor Theo Furness

Redcar and Cleveland Borough Council: Councillor Neil Bendelow

Stockton Borough Council: Councillor Nigel Cooke

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1. Apologies for absence

2. To receive any declarations of interest by members

3. Minutes

3.1 To receive the Minutes and Decision Record in respect of the meeting held on 8th July 2026 (previously published and circulated).

4. Items for Decision

4.1 Confirmation of Appointment of Chair

5. Items for Discussion / Information

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

5.2 Emergency Planning Joint Committee Introduction Report *(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)*

5.3 Activities Report 27/06/2026 – 31/08/2026 *(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)*

5.4 Incidents Report 27/06/2026 – 31/08/2026 *(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)*

5.5 National Resilience Campaign 'Be Ready' *(Chief Emergency Planning Officer)*

6. Any other business which the chair considers urgent

For Information

Date of next meeting – 6th January 2027 at the Emergency Planning Annex, Stockton Police Station

Hartlepool Borough Council

Emergency Planning Joint Committee

18th November 2026

Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer and Head of Finance– Neighbourhoods & Regulatory Services and Housing, Growth & Communities

Subject: FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT UPDATE REPORT

Decision Type: For information

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To provide details of the forecast financial outturn for the financial year ending 31st March 2027 for the Emergency Planning Unit (EPU) and the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), which the Joint Committee provides political oversight of on behalf of the members.

2. Forecast Outturn

2.1 The latest forecast outturn is a favourable variance of £42,000 before transfer to reserves as shown in Table 1 below.

Table 1 – Main Emergency Planning Budget - Forecast Outturn

	Budget £'000	Latest Forecast as at 31st July, 2026 £'000	Forecast Outturn Variance Adverse/ (Favourable) £'000
Main Emergency Planning Budget			
Direct Costs - Employees	349	311	(38)
Direct Costs - Other	116	112	(4)
Income	(465)	(465)	0
Net Position Before Reserves	0	(42)	(42)

Transfer to Reserves	0	42	42
Net Position After Reserves	0	0	0

2.2 The favourable variance is mainly owing to reduced employee costs from vacant posts and a secondment of a member of staff to Hartlepool Borough Council.

2.3 The MHCLG LRF grant budget is shown in Table 2 below is forecast to be within budget.

Table 2 – 2026/27 MHCLG LRF Grant Forecast Outturn

	Budget	**Latest Forecast as at 31st July, 2026**	**Forecast Outturn Variance Adverse/ (Favourable)**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**
Direct Costs - Employees	156	156	0
Direct Costs - Other	45	45	0
Grant	(201)	(201)	0
Net Position	0	0	0

2.4 The main LRF budget is shown in Table 3 and shows a forecast underspend of £30,000 owing to the vacancy of the LRF Officer post. Attempts to recruit have so far been unsuccessful. It should be noted that the MHCLG funding is dependent on the continued annual contributions from members. Therefore, any unused funding will be carried forward in a ring-fenced reserve to meet future LRF related expenditure.

2.5 **Table 3 – LRF Forecast Outturn**

	Budget	**Latest Forecast as at 31st July, 2026**	**Forecast Outturn Variance Adverse/ (Favourable)**
	£'000	**£'000**	**£'000**
Direct Costs - Employees	55	25	(30)
Income	(55)	(55)	0
Net Position Before Reserves	0	(30)	(30)
Transfer to Reserves - Underspend		30	30
Net Position After Reserves	0	0	0

3 Recommendations

3.1 To note the latest forecast outturn for 2026/27

4. Background Papers

4.1 None.

5. Contact Officers

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Hartlepool Borough Council

Emergency Planning Joint Committee

18th November 2026

Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: EPJC INTRODUCTION PAPER

Decision Type: For information

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. 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**.

1.2. To highlight useful resources for the EPJC membership to assist in their role.

1.3. To outline a proposed reporting schedule for 2026 – 27 to the membership for consideration.

1.4. 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 outlining the training and exercising functions.

2. Background

2.1. 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.

2.2. 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 Emergency Planning Officer / Senior Emergency Planning Officer for the borough.

2.3. 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.

2.4. In addition to the Local Authority elements the Unit also hosts the Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Secretariat, including LRF Manger, Coordinator and Community Resilience 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.

2.5. 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.

3. Proposals

3.1 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 Councillors (A councillor's guide to civil resilience | Local Government Association).

3.2 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.

EPJC Meeting Date	Standing reports - Every meeting will include activity, finance and incidents reports.
2027 01 06	LRF Chair update and LRF action plan Resilience Standards Food security in emergencies Learning from exercises, incidents and inquiries Incidents Report Activities Report
2027 03 03	Future CEPU and LRF Priorities Industrial Emergency Planning – Report Emergency Plans and Protocols CEPU staffing and structure Incidents Report Activities Report

4. Other Considerations/Implications

Risk Implications	Failure to provide information to the EPJC will hamper the committee in its role potentially impacting the service provided.
Financial Considerations	No material financial implications.
Legal Considerations	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. 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.

Single Impact Assessment	There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.
Staff Considerations	There are no staffing considerations relating to this report.
Asset Management Considerations	There are no asset management considerations relating to the content of this report.
Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations	There are no Environmental, sustainability or climate change considerations relating to this report.
Consultation	There has been no public consultation on this report.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Members ensure that they are familiar with the EPJC terms of reference and LGA guidance for councillors and seek further information where required.

5.2. 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.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

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

7. Background Papers

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

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.

2026 – 2027 membership is:

- Councillor Amanda Napper, Hartlepool Borough Council
- Councillor Theo Furness, Middlesbrough Borough Council
- Councillor Neil Bendelow, 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

Hartlepool Borough Council

Emergency Planning Joint Committee

18th November 2026

Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: ACTIVITIES REPORT 27/06/2026 - 31/08/2026

Decision Type: For information

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. 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. This report outlines progress against the 2026 – 2027 action plans.

2. Background

2.1. As reported the Cleveland Emergency Planning Unit (CEPU) produces an annual action plan, approved by the EPJC identifying key areas of work to be undertaken on annual basis by CEPU.

2.2. 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).

2.3. 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 emergencies[1] revised and re-

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

issued 2018, whilst non-statutory they are critical to resilience. A summary of progress made against the Unit's 2026/7 Action Plan is outlined below.

Table 1: Progress on CEPU annual action plan 2026 - 2027

Area	Complete	Ongoing	Redundant	Yet to start	Grand Total
CEPU Internal Functions	6	11	1	13	31
Community Resilience	6	2		12	20
Event Support	4	2		14	20
Financial Control				2	2
Industrial Emergency Planning	3	7		21	31
ITC / Cyber planning		1			1
Local authority resilience	23	21		25	69
Plans and procedures	7	8		7	22
Risk Assessment	1	5			6
Support, review and development of the LRF	1	8		9	18
Training and exercising	6	15	1	16	38
Warn and inform	2	1		5	8
(blank)					
Grand Total	**59**	**81**	**2**	**124**	**266**
Percentage - rounded	22	30	1	47	100

2.4. From the 2026 – 2027 CEPU plan significant actions undertaken in period include:

- Training of rest centre staff, volunteers and managers in line with the roles of the Local Authority to provide rest centres / emergency accommodation.
- Review of rest centre equipment and locations.
- Working on community resilience with 5 more groups previously not engaged in resilience
- Quarterly testing of a multi-agency activation system / officer training to ensure that a multi-agency response can be rapidly undertaken.
- Updating of borough emergency contact lists ensure that the authority staff can be contacted outside normal working hours to support a response.
- Internal health and safety updated of risks assessments and awareness across officers including for use during responses.
- Review of information on emergency management contained on council's websites
- Training plan for staff within the four local authorities as part of the wider NE LRF's Training Needs Analysis.
- Update to the fuel plans including confirmation of designated filling stations.

2.5. Redundant actions relate to a review of internal council training needs, identified as no longer required by the council following a focus on external training provision and the cancellation of a meeting scheduled to take place during an election period.

Table 2: Progress on the LRF Action Plan 2026 - 2027

Action Type	Yet to Start	Ongoing	Redundant	Grand Total
Assurance	15	21		38
Awareness and Engagement	3	19		27
Capability and Capacity	10	13		26
Community Resilience including the voluntary sector	2			2
Governance and Financial Control	4	7		14
Information sharing	3	6		9
Learning from incidents and exercises		4		5
Plans, protocols and procedures	9	4		14
Risk assessment		9	1	11
Support, review and development of the LRF	3	4		8
Training and exercising	6	24	2	37
Warn and inform		6		6
ITC / Cyber planning	3			3
Grand Total	**58**	**117**	**3**	**200**
Percentage	29	58.5	1.5	100

2.6. Redundant actions relate to a undertaking a course as per training needs assessment however when offered there was not enough interest from agencies to run the external courses (relating to risk, loggist, Multi-agency recovery arrangements).

2.7. Significant pieces of work undertaken in as part of the action plan include:

- Provision of full Multi-Agency Gold Incident Commander Course (Strategic command / coordination)
- Review of the Multi-agency warning and informing group and approach to work
- Delivery of the North East LRF's Symposium
- Provision of structured debrief course – increased number of staff now able to undertake debriefs
- Review of the cyber resilience plan
- Testing of the TCG and SCG environments
- Business Continuity Assurance questionnaire across the partnership - results provided to LRF

- Provision of JESIP awareness session for non-blue light agencies to increase awareness/familiarity with key elements (joint decision making, incident reporting etc).

2.8. Activity in addition to the Local Resilience Forum annual action Plan and completed in period include:

- Assurance questionnaires for HM government
- Provision of a staff member to a MHCLG led peer review in another LRF area
- Provision of debriefer to a neighbouring area
- Range of support during responses to responders and wider partners
- Provision of information to HMG to aid understanding of Food Security, Pandemic Response, Power outage, Winter Response and Capabilities.

Table 3: LRF Action Plan 2026 - 2027

Group / Borough	Yet to Start	Ongoing	Complete	Redundant	Grand Total
Q1	**101**	**86**	**0**	**1**	**200**
Q2	**58**	**117**	**22**	**3**	**200**

2.9. Staffing, a member of the Unit (Emergency Planning Officer Community Resilience) is due to return from secondment in September which will increase capacity in this area. We are currently advertising for an EPO / Senior EPO (Development scheme) following a member of staff leaving the unit. Work is ongoing reference a business support apprenticeship role within the team.

3. Proposals

3.1. 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.

3.2. 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. Other Considerations/Implications

Risk Implications	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.

Financial Considerations	There are no financial considerations relating to this report.
Legal Considerations	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. 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.
Single Impact Assessment	There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.
Staff Considerations	There are no staffing considerations relating to this report.
Asset Management Considerations	There are no asset management considerations relating to the content of this report.
Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations	There are no Environmental, sustainability or climate change considerations relating to this report.
Consultation	There has been no public consultation on this report.

5. Recommendations

5.1. That members seek involvement and clarification on the CEPU Action Plan where appropriate.

5.2. That the CEPO 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.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

6.1. 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.

7. Background Papers

7.1. None presented.

8. Contact Officers

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Hartlepool Borough Council

Emergency Planning Joint Committee

18th November 2026

Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: INCIDENTS REPORT 27/06/2026 – 31/08/2026

Decision Type: For information

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. 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.

2. Background

2.1. 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.

2.2. 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.

2.3. **Appendix 1** lists the incidents that staff have been involved in or notified of. No multi-agency incident debriefs have been conducted in this period.

3. Proposals

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

4. Other Considerations/Implications

Risk Implications	Failure to respond appropriately may result in impacts on the social, economic and environmental welfare of the community.
Financial Considerations	There are no financial considerations relating to this report.
Legal Considerations	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. 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.
Single Impact Assessment	There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.
Staff Considerations	There are no staffing considerations relating to this report.
Asset Management Considerations	There are no asset management considerations relating to the content of this report.
Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations	There are no Environmental, sustainability or climate change considerations relating to this report.
Consultation	There has been no public consultation on this report.

5. Recommendations

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

6. Reasons for Recommendations

6.1. 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.

7. Background Papers

7.1. None presented.

8. Contact Officers

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Appendix 1 Incidents of note 27/06/2026 – 31/08/2026

Date	Borough	Location	Type of incident	Additional Information
27/06/2026	Redcar & Cleveland	Middlesbrough to Redcar Railway Line	Unclassified	Burst sewage pipeline resulting in spill onto railway line between Middlesbrough and Redcar. NWL and Network Rail along with EA carrying out cleanup.
12/07/2026	Hartlepool	Seaton Carew	Maritime	2 persons drowned Seaton Carew
13/07/2026	Stockton On Tees	Fuji Billingham	Chemical	Release reported, local communications. Concerns from business and school in the area.
20/07/2026	Hartlepool	Hartlepool Beach next to golf club	UXO	Potential phosphate canisters discovered on beach (historic munitions)
13/08/2026	Redcar & Cleveland	New Marske Woods	Fire	CFB in attendance 3 pumps to fight fire. 200mSq impacted, no assistance required from LA.
13/08/2026	All Boroughs	Pilkington Street, TS3 6JL Macbean Street, TS3 6PP Thoralby Close, TS21 1GU	Unsafe Structure	Request for support with structural engineers following 3 houses being rammed by vehicles. LA Highways teams attended and made safe until following day.
16/08/2026	Redcar & Cleveland	Near Ship Inn Saltburn	Unclassified	Rock falls reported by public to the Coastguard, RCBC council notified and staff asked to attend to fence off area.
22/08/2026	Redcar & Cleveland	A66	RTC	CEPU officers supporting command structure / links into the Local Authority following fatal incident. Range of actions required by the LAs and partners to support the response / investigation.
26/08/2026	All Boroughs	North Sea coast line	Maritime	Request from South Tyneside for information on the Nurdles within the area following number of media reports. Linkage offered to LAs into the Northumbria recovery group and

Date	Borough	Location	Type of incident	Additional Information
				information sent back reference extent of nurdles within the area.
26/08/2026	Redcar & Cleveland	Birchington Avenue, Grangetown	Fire	Police request for support following fire in property. Structural engineer, fencing, highways and other services
29/08/2026	Redcar & Cleveland	Main burst at Cargo Fleet	Utility Failure	Main burst NWL advised near to a previous incident, teams required to be on site overnight to dig down and repair

Hartlepool Borough Council

Emergency Planning Joint Committee

18th November 2026

Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: NATIONAL RESILIENCE CAMPAIGN 'BE READY'

Decision Type: For information

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1. Purpose of Report

1.1. To provide an overview of the recently launched 'Be Ready' campaign.

1.2. To highlight the key messages of the campaign.

2. Background

2.1. On 22nd October 2026 the Government launched the new National Resilience Campaign branded 'Be Ready'. It replaces and expands upon previous preparedness guidance available through GOV.UK under the "Prepare" programme. Members are likely to have seen a number of articles recently in the national and local media on the campaign.

2.2. Research had been undertaken in the UK which indicated that a significant proportion of the public do not feel well informed about emergency preparedness, and they are keen for clearer advice from Government on practical steps they can take. The campaign aligns the UK with resilience initiatives already established in other European countries.

2.3. The core message of the campaign is encouraging households to consider how they would cope if essential services such as electricity, water, internet access or telecommunications were unavailable for up to three days.

2.4. The Government emphasises that this preparation should be gradual and proportionate. Residents are encouraged to build resilience over time rather than purchasing expensive emergency equipment.

2.5. It also highlights the Priority Services Register urging households to check if they are eligible to sign up for support during gas, electricity or water outages. Furthermore, it encourages individuals and community groups to play their part by volunteering safely and building networks to support communities before, during and after an emergency.

2.6. Government have been very clear that the campaign is not being launched in response to a specific threat or heightened risk, it is intended to improve everyday preparedness and resilience across our communities to the full range of risks that the UK is exposed to.

2.7. The initial launch (described as a soft launch) is the first phase of a three-year programme designed to improve public preparedness and strengthen national resilience.

2.8. From a local stance the benefits of the campaign are clear, in terms of raising awareness of the actions that the public can undertake to increase their resilience in the event of an incident. We recognise that there will be many who will not be in a position to undertake the actions outlined for a range of reasons, but overall any increase in resilience amongst those who can take action will benefit the whole of society.

3. Proposals

3.1 From a CEPU / LRF perspective we are ensuring we signpost communities to the Be Ready website and include the respective link appropriately.

3.2 The CLRF Warn and Inform Group made up of media leads from the respective LRF Members are leading on the rollout of information (for example articles in council magazines, updating websites etc).

3.3 The campaign updates and messages are being shared across out networks and work is being undertaken at a local level to amplify the campaign.

3.4 The national toolkit has not yet been made available, however once received we will consider the most effective approach to deliver local messages which aligned to the national campaign.

3.5 Support future phases of the campaign as it develops over the next three years, including localisation where beneficial.

4. Other Considerations/Implications

Risk Implications	Failure to provide information to the EPJC will hamper the committee in its role potentially impacting the service provided.
Financial Considerations	No material financial implications.
Legal Considerations	The key legislation is the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 which identifies the local authorities as a Category 1 responder, and includes the duty to warn and inform our residents before, during and after an emergency.
Single Impact Assessment	There are no equality and diversity considerations relating to this report.
Staff Considerations	There are no staffing considerations relating to this report.
Asset Management Considerations	There are no asset management considerations relating to the content of this report.
Environment, Sustainability and Climate Change Considerations	There are no Environmental, sustainability or climate change considerations relating to this report.
Consultation	There has been no public consultation on this report.

5. Recommendations

5.1. Members ensure that they are familiar with the Be Ready campaign and share local messages as appropriate.

5.2. Members advise of any feedback from communities or any identified needs local considerations.

6. Reasons for Recommendations

6.1. To aid the members awareness of the National Resilience Be Ready Campaign and to aid the local impact of the campaign.

7. Background Papers

Be Ready - Be Ready

Play your part in your community - Be Ready

Contact Officers

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