

EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

AGENDA

Wednesday 30 July

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



- 5.3 HM Government Resilience Action Plan – *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.4 Activities Report 10/03/25 – 04/07/25 – *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*
- 5.5 Incidents Report 10/03/25 – 04/07/25 – *Chief Emergency Planning Officer*

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

FOR INFORMATION

Date of next meeting – Wednesday 10 September at 10am at the Emergency Planning Annex, Stockton Police Station



EMERGENCY PLANNING JOINT COMMITTEE

30/07/2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Emergency Planning Joint Committee
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 Training and Exercising – Report Exercise Hera Overview Report Multi-agency Flood Plan Incidents Report Activities Report
2026 01 07	Resilient Standards 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

30th July 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

30/07/2025



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 The RAP sets out further detail 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 will 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.
- 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

30/07/2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Activities Report 10/03/2025 - 04/07/2025

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	16	3	10	29
Community Resilience	13	5	3	21
Event Support	15	2	3	20
Financial Control	2			2
Industrial Emergency Planning	13	8	10	31
ITC / Cyber planning	1			1
Local authority resilience	30	14	5	49
Plans and procedures	13	3	6	22
Risk Assessment	1		5	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	137	40	57	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	2		3	9
COMAH Review	3	1			4
Community Resilience	1	4		6	11
Death Management Group	1	8		2	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	86	1	75	196

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 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.

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

30/07/2025



Report of: Chief Emergency Planning Officer

Subject: Incidents Report 10/03/2025 – 04/07/2025

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 – 04/07/2025

Date	Borough	Location	Type of incident	Additional Information
22/03/2025	Hartlepool	High Tunstall 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