



Appendix 3(a)

Date	01 st February 2019
Title	Report to the special meeting of the Communities Scrutiny Committee, 20 March 2019
Purpose	For consideration
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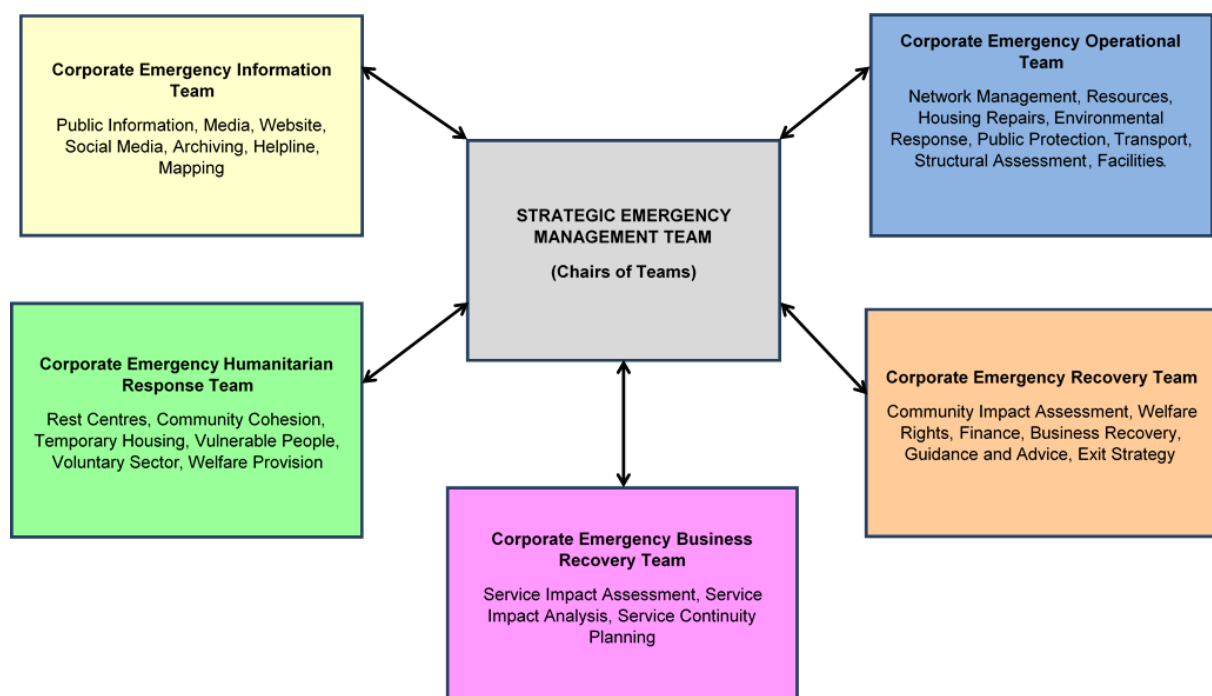
1.0 Background

This report provides an overview of the Denbighshire County Council response to the Llantysilio Mountain fire of summer 2018, from the perspective of the North Wales Councils Regional Emergency Planning Service (NWC-REPS).

NWC-REPS, hosted by Flintshire County Council, provides an initial point of contact for partner agencies (both in hours and out of hours via the Duty Emergency Planning Officer) to initiate the Denbighshire County Council response to major incidents and emergencies, and is also part of the Councils internal escalation processes.

The DCC Duty Gold is a strategic-level role that assists in managing incidents and has the ability to make strategic decisions on resource allocation and ensuring the appropriate levels of the organisation are activated to support the response. This role oversees the corporate response and can initiate one or more of several groups to deliver the Council response, as illustrated in the diagram below, depending on the nature of the incident.

DCC Emergency Management response structure.



2.0 Incident Response

Below is a summary of the key NWC-REPS activities in relation to this incident. Further analysis is provided in Section 3.0.

26.07.2018: - Email notification of incident via DCC Duty Gold in reference to NWFRS request for operational support in the form of JCB provision. No specific action required from NWC-

REPS and no specific confirmation that an evacuation was required. No indication given of liaison with residents.

27.07.2018, commencing 20:00: - Notification received by NWC-REPS Duty Emergency Planning Officer from North Wales Police, informing that the grassfire on Llantysilio Mountain advancing toward properties. NWP Confirmed that residents of 4 properties had been spoken with, 4 remained to be engaged. All residents reported in place at this time. The NWC-REPS Duty Emergency Planning Officer was requested to establish a Rest Centre in preparation for any potential evacuation. This was actioned in liaison with the DCC Duty Gold officer. Ongoing liaison between NWC-REPS Duty Emergency Planning Officer, DCC Duty Gold officer, North Wales Police (NWP) and North Wales Fire & Rescue Service (NWFRS) took place over the course of the evening.

Cysgod-y-Gaer, a Denbighshire County Council-run Residential Care Home located in Corwen, was established as the Rest Centre location for this incident. NWP were advised of this. The Rest Centre was not utilised as no evacuation took place. NWP did advise the Duty Emergency Planning Officer that of the 12 residents living in properties at risk, upon an evacuation, 6 would require accommodating at the Rest Centre and the other 6 had access to alternative arrangements.

28.07.2018: - Ongoing liaison between Duty Emergency Planning Officer, Duty Gold and NWFRS. This indicated that 10 properties were potentially at risk from the fire but weather conditions and fire break (in the form of a road) were favourable. Confirmation made that NWP were visiting properties and engaging with residents. The Rest Centre was not used but arrangements retained in a state of readiness.

29.07.2018: - Report from NWFRS to Duty Emergency Planning Officer that no properties now at risk from the fire. Agreement reached at 12:53 to stand Rest Centre arrangements down but advised to maintain a state of alert in the event that situation changes. DCC Duty Gold agreed to inform Senior Leadership Team and Councillors of position.

30.07.2018: - No specific actions required of the Duty Emergency Planning Officer, following enquiries with North Wales Fire & Rescue Service.

01.08.2018: - Internal discussion in relation to re-opening roads that had been closed in response to the fire. Direct liaison between NWFRS Incident Commander and DCC Highways facilitated. Following a telephone call between NWC-REPS Duty Officer and NWFRS Incident Commander, NWC-REPS Duty Officer log suggests that NWFRS were considering the establishment of a Tactical Coordinating Group (TCG) in order to update all partners. This did not formally form.

At this point, NWC-REPS involvement in the incident response ceased.

3.0 Post Incident activity

Following the conclusion of this incident, Denbighshire County Council held an internal debrief, attended by but the Duty Emergency Planning Officer, to ensure any issues encountered during the response were identified and could be used to contribute to organisational learning. This took place on 05.09.2018 (notes of which are appended).

By October 2018, no arrangements for a multi-agency debrief of this incident were in place. Due to the multi-agency issues that had been raised in the internal Denbighshire County Council debrief, NWC-REPS submitted a request to North Wales Local Resilience Forum for a multi-agency debrief to be held. The request was submitted on 10.10.2018 and officers of the Council attended a multi-agency debrief on 14.11.2018.

4.0 Conclusion

The response of DCC to this incident was timely, appropriate and proportionate. Several staff from a range of departments and roles were involved over several days by linking in with professional partners to support their requests in managing this event. Appropriate post-incident activities were undertaken in the form of an internal debrief and contributing to the multi-agency debrief.

Appendix 1 – notes of Denbighshire County Council internal debrief.

LLANTYSILIO DEBRIEF MEETING

WEDNESDAY 5TH SEPTEMBER 2018

10.00 a.m. Social Services Office, County Hall

Minutes

Present

Nicola Stubbins (NS) (Chair)	Corporate Director Communities
Davie Shiel (DS)	Senior Countryside Officer
CLlr Martyn Holland (MH)	
CLlr Melvyn Mile (MM)	
Tim Towers (TT)	Section Manager – Network Management
Tony Ward (TW)	Head of Highways and Environmental Services
Phil Gilroy (PG)	Head of Community Support Services
Liz Grieve (LG)	Head of Customers, Communications and Marketing
Julian Templeton (JT)	Emergency Planning Officer
Andy Clark (AC)	Works Unit Manager
Jon Chapman (JT)	Area Coordinator

Item	Discussion	Action
1	<p>Welcome and Introductions</p> <p>NS welcomed everyone to the meeting. The purpose of the debrief meeting was to capture issues and any questions so as to assist our partners and to learn lessons from this event.</p>	
2	<p>Roles during the incident</p> <p>Officers gave a summary of their role in the event.</p> <p>Action: Officers and both local members to write a summary of their role during this event and send to JT</p>	All
3	<p>What aspects of the response did not go well?</p> <p>Key issues raised:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Current position / situation from NWF&RS – Assurance 2. An emergency was not called by NWF&RS – Should it have been declared as an emergency / major incident? 3. Is there a chronology of events? 4. Why were the specific details of properties not shared? Vulnerable people information could have been shared. 5. Did the blue light services have sufficient resources – particularly given the time of year (holiday season)? 	

	<p>6. Why was a multi-agency TCG not called? Who considered this and why was it not called?</p> <p>7. Do we know how this fire started? Is it being investigated?</p> <p>8. Whose responsibility is it for fire breaks? – in different contexts.</p> <p>9. Are all water hydrants clearly marked?</p>	
4	<p>What aspects of the response went well? And should be highlighted as good practice for the future</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Communication between DCC staff were in place should the residents have had to be evacuated from their homes to a rest centre. 	
5	<p>Key recommendations for if a similar event happened again</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Formally write to NWFS to request a multi-agency debrief meeting. Officers from DCC to be invited to attend the meeting - David Shiel, Liz Grieve, Tim Towers and Julian Templeton • DCC to arrange an EMC meeting • Gold/Silver officers to meet following this incident to discuss any eventualities in the future • DCC and Local members to prepare a chronology of events • Forest fire/moorland plan to be in place • Emergency Planning (Gold Rota) to be shared more widely 	
6	<p>Any other business Llantysilio Mountain Fire to be an agenda item at Scrutiny Chairs and Vice-Chairs Group, Thursday, 6 September 2018, 2.00 pm</p>	