
Title: Community Resilience Project Update Report

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Project Initiation Document for the Council's Community Resilience project was presented to the Community Planning Partnership Management Committee at the meeting on 6 June. This report provides an update on the development of the project.
- 1.2 The Community Resilience project is informed by the lessons learnt from the severe weather of winter 2011/12 and subsequent power outages for protracted periods in some areas highlighted the need to improve power and communication resilience.
- 1.3 The development of wider community resilience is also seen as an area for significant improvement across Argyll and Bute.
- 1.4 The CPP management committee helped to identify key stakeholders who would be able to assist the project team in delivering the outcomes. The project team have now met with almost everyone and these meetings have been very informative, helping to shape the approach to the project and have already resulted in improved sharing of information.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 That the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Community Planning Group notes the progress of the Community Resilience project to date.
- 2.2 That the Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Community Planning Group endorses the approach to the distribution and promotion of the Scottish Government community resilience toolkits.
- 2.3 The Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands Community Planning Group promotes the project within Mid Argyll, Kintyre and the Islands to encourage communities to complete their resilience plans and to highlight and promote the importance of self-resilience.

3. DETAIL

- 3.1 The project is split into two workstreams, organisational resilience and community resilience. Within each workstreams there is a further split into two themes.
- 3.2 The organisational resilience workstream will deliver improvements to Council buildings, communications and IT.
- 3.3 The project team are recommending the Council enters in to an agreement with a leading provider in the hiring of standby generators to provide backup power for 6 key offices. These offices are in Oban, Lochgilphead, Campbeltown, Helensburgh, Dunoon and Rothesay. For an annual fee the council will enter into a contract which will ensure that each office has a plan for loss of power, identifying the capacity of generator required and delivery and installation details. We will also install connection panels to connect these generators to the buildings. Generators can then be delivered to site or put on standby if severe weather is forecast.
- 3.4 In order to protect the Councils IT systems our servers will be supported by fixed generators in Helensburgh and the Council HQ in Kilmory.
- 3.5 The project team are also investigating opportunities for backup power arrangements at the large council owned rest centres.
- 3.6 The council's telephony system, Microsoft Lync, will be made more resilient as a result of the backup power arrangements. In addition, the project will also ensure that there is an emergency phone, which doesn't require power to operate, in each key office, care home, hostel and depot. The council has also taken ownership of a satellite phone trailer from the Scottish Government which can be towed to any location to provide additional communications via satellite.
- 3.7 The community resilience workstream is tasked with promoting resilience within Argyll at both an individual and community level.
- 3.8 The project team are working with the Scottish Government to promote individual resilience through the 2012/13 "Ready for Winter" campaign. Rather than focusing on one weather type, the campaign this year will promote individual resilience in an emergency situation. The Scottish Government are going to use real life stories to illustrate this and have approached the council with a view to using residents and workers in Bute.
- 3.9 The Scottish Government will launch their campaign on Monday 22 October and then embark on a programme of road shows around Scotland promoting the campaign. We have suggested that these

be held in Campbeltown and Rothesay this year. The council will promote these road shows via the website and other communication channels.

- 3.10 Community resilience will be improved by encouraging communities to complete the Scottish Government “Guide to emergency planning for community groups” and its associated resilience plan templates and information. These information packs will be prepared by the project team working with Strathclyde Police, Strathclyde Fire and Rescue, NHS Highland, Argyll Voluntary Action, Red Cross, WRVS, Strathclyde Emergency Coordinating Group and both power companies to make sure they are relevant for Argyll. They will include endorsements, information about roles and responsibilities, public safety information and key risks affecting the area, as well as templates and useful hints and tips. Examples of completed plans will also be provided. Everything will be presented together in a handbook.
- 3.11 Packs are going to be distributed towards the end of September by Argyll Voluntary Action and the police officers attending community council meetings are going to help endorse and encourage participation, even offering to scribe plans to ensure a consistent quality. AVA will triage responses and requests for further information from the community councils and collate plans that are returned. Copies of returned plans will be sent to all agencies involved. Plans received by the Council will be quality assured by the civil contingencies team and feedback given. Copies will be filed for future reference and the content will help to inform future training exercises.
- 3.12 The project team would also ask that the Community Planning Partnership encourages communities to complete their resilience plans and to highlight and promote the importance of self-resilience. Whilst it is no requirement to complete a plan, any plans produced will be very beneficial to all members of the community, the first responders and the Community Planning Partnership.

4. CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The project will deliver its objectives by improving resilience at an organisational, community and individual level. The project is on track to deliver its outcomes before the start of winter 2012/13
- 4.2 The support of the Community Planning Partnership will help to deliver improved resilience for communities by endorsing the approach taken and encouraging participation to maximise the uptake in completed Community Resilience plans.

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