



Subject:	District Council Mutual Aid Protocol Update
Date:	6 August 2024
Reporting Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
Contact Officer:	Patrick Mallon, Emergency Planning Officer

Restricted Reports

Is this report restricted?

Yes **No**

Please indicate the description, as listed in Schedule 6, of the exempt information by virtue of which the council has deemed this report restricted.

Insert number

1. Information relating to any individual.
2. Information likely to reveal the identity of an individual.
3. Information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the council holding that information)
4. Information in connection with any labour relations matter
5. Information in relation to which a claim to legal professional privilege could be maintained.
6. Information showing that the council proposes to (a) to give a notice imposing restrictions on a person; or (b) to make an order or direction.
7. Information on any action in relation to the prevention, investigation or prosecution of crime

If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?

After Committee Decision
After Council Decision
Sometime in the future
Never

<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>
<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in

Is the decision eligible for Call-in?

Yes **No**

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is for Members to note the updated District Council Mutual Aid Protocol. This protocol had been previously approved at People and Communities Committee on Tuesday 13 th June 2017.
2.0	Recommendations
2.1	People and Communities Committee is asked to note the update and agree the working arrangements defined in the Mutual Aid Protocol (Appendix 1).
3.0	Main report
3.1	Mutual aid is defined as “an agreement between organisations, within the same sectors and across boundaries, to provide assistance and additional resources during an emergency or business continuity disruption which may go beyond the resources of an individual organisation”. Mutual aid arrangements exist between all district Councils in relation to multi-agency response and this was previously ratified by Belfast City Council in 2017.
3.2	This protocol has been developed in recognition that mutual aid may be required between District Councils and is in line with the principals of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and Civil Contingencies Framework 2021.
3.3	This protocol is not a legally binding contract but rather a statement of intent which will act as a point of reference should such arrangements need to be invoked between two or more of the Councils.
3.4	Each of the Councils will endeavour to assist in the form of provision of personnel and/or equipment if there is an excessive demand for a statutory service placed on a Council due to an unusual event which must be met and requires resources beyond that within the Council affected.
3.5	The mutual aid protocol made be activated following, or in anticipation of, an emergency as defined in the NI Civil Contingencies Framework: <i>“An event or situation which threatens serious damage to human welfare, the environment or the security of Northern Ireland or the UK as a whole.”</i>
3.6	The MoU has recently been reviewed by the Civil Contingencies regional team and they have requested the Councils update and sign the updated version.
4.0	Financial & Resource Implications
4.1	In the event of activating this protocol the affected Council requesting aid agrees to reimburse the assisting Council on a cost recovery basis upon the termination of the aid and within 28 days of the submission to the affected Council by the assisting Council of a fully documented account for settlement. The affected Council may be able to seek reimbursement of these costs, for example under the Department for Communities Scheme of Emergency Financial Assistance if a scheme is in place.
5.0	Equality or Good Relations Implications / Rural Needs Assessment
5.1	There are no Equality or Good Relations Implications or Rural Needs Assessment implications associated with this report.
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	Appendix 1 - Revised Mutual Aid Protocol