



<b>Subject:</b>	Framework Document for Civil Contingencies Northern Ireland
<b>Date:</b>	12 <sup>th</sup> October 2021
<b>Reporting Officer:</b>	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Seamus McBride, Emergency Planning Officer

<b>Restricted Reports</b>	
<b>Is this report restricted?</b>	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?</b>	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

<b>Call-in</b>	
<b>Is the decision eligible for Call-in?</b>	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

<b>1.0</b>	<b>Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues</b>
1.1	The purpose of this report is to update members on the new Framework for Civil Contingencies Northern Ireland ‘Building Resilience Together’ document produced by the Executive Office (TEO). This document is the first product within a wider strategic programme of work setting the direction for civil contingencies strategic planning in NI.
1.2	Members will be aware that there are several regional emergency planning related protocols and reference documents in place, some of which are outdated and do not fully align to local level preparedness, response, and recovery structures.
1.3	The new framework document “Building Resilience Together” is designed to work as a foundation for all governance structures and procedures across the civil contingencies’ structures. The framework does not alter the existing local multi agency structures both in planning and response. The new approach focuses on providing a coordinated strategic

	<p>risk managed environment for civil contingencies in NI with TEO bringing together all the partners and providing leadership and strategic direction for the management of an agreed portfolio of NI risks.</p>
1.4	<p>Presentations on the draft framework were delivered by TEO to the Civil Contingencies Group NI on the 26th March and 30th June 2021, and a detailed update provided to SOLACE in June 2021. A workshop was facilitated on the 13th May 2021 for NI Emergency Preparedness Group (NIEPG) members to ensure a clear understanding of the prepare, respond and recover phases in addition to any changes that may impact local government and other partners working at a local or sub regional level.</p>
1.5	<p>Civil Contingencies Policy Branch in The Executive Office (TEO) are responsible for the management and dissemination of this Framework.</p>
1.6	<p>NILGA is hosting an interactive workshop for councillors on civil contingencies/emergency planning on 26 October 2021 from 10.30am-1.00pm. The session will be physically held in Craigavon Civic Centre and simultaneously available on zoom. The Regional Civil Contingencies Team and some emergency planning partners will be presenting and will be running through some scenario examples. Elected members, officers and interested stakeholders are welcome to register to attend.</p>
<b>2.0</b>	<b>Recommendations</b>
2.1	<p>The Committee is asked to</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consider and note the Framework for Civil Contingencies Northern Ireland 'Building Resilience Together' document</li> </ul>
2.2	<p>Further work is now required to ensure local emergency planning documents and arrangements are fully aligned to the framework and this work will be taken forward by the Northern Ireland, Belfast, Northern and Southern Emergency Preparedness Groups. Training and familiarisation on the Framework will be arranged by TEO in the forthcoming months and councils will be fully engaged within these arrangements.</p>
<b>3.0</b>	<b>Main report</b>
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	<p>The purpose of the NI Civil Contingencies Framework is to set out the Northern Ireland arrangements for effective emergency management, identifying the processes involved in preparing for, responding to, and recovering from an emergency. It is not prescriptive in terms of the incidents it outlines but provides generic guidance for all types of emergencies.</p>

	<p>It is complementary to the Civil Contingencies Act of 2004 and provides tools to those responsible for drawing up emergency plans. It draws upon best practice and lessons learned from previous emergencies, both within Northern Ireland and from UK, Republic of Ireland (ROI) and global experiences.</p>
3.2	<p>The Framework is not a legislative document but provides regional cohesion to the civil contingencies' agencies by common acceptance of its principles and guides and should be used in conjunction with individual organisations' emergency plans.</p>
3.3	<p>The new framework document is designed to work as the foundation stone for all governance structures and procedures in the NI civil contingencies arena. It is based on 3 principles of transparency, accountability, and cohesion. More detail on content of the Framework is attached in Annex 1.</p>
3.4	<p>The Framework can be accessed at: <a href="https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/ni-civil-contingencies-framework.pdf.pdf">https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/ni-civil-contingencies-framework.pdf.pdf</a></p>
3.5	<p><u>Financial &amp; Resource Implications</u></p> <p>None</p>
3.6	<p><u>Equality or Good Relations Implications /Rural Needs Assessments</u></p> <p>Not applicable</p>
<b>4.0</b>	<b>Appendices – Documents Attached</b>
	<p><a href="https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/ni-civil-contingencies-framework.pdf.pdf">https://www.executiveoffice-ni.gov.uk/sites/default/files/publications/ofmdfm_dev/ni-civil-contingencies-framework.pdf.pdf</a></p> <p>Appendix 1: Overview of NI Civil Contingencies Framework: Building Resilience Together</p>