DRAFT – RESILIENCE POLICY and FRAMEWORK

Report by EMERGENCY PLANNING OFFICER , CHIEF EXECUTIVE

SCOTTISH BORDERS COUNCIL

31 AUGUST 2023

1 PURPOSE AND SUMMARY

1.1 **This report proposes the DRAFT Resilience Policy and Framework for adoption by Scottish Borders Council.**

1.2 Scottish Borders Council's Resilience Policy and Framework aims to ensure that the Council carries out its duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (as amended in the Civil Contingencies Act Amendment Regulations 2013) (CCA) and effectively prepares for, responds to and recovers from any incident impacting on our communities.

1.3 The Council's Resilience Policy and Framework will ensure that:

The concept of resilience and the Council's resilience policy and approach is understood and embedded by all stakeholders.
Up-to-date plans and arrangements are in place and can be activated, as necessary, in response to an incident that is impacting upon communities.
The response to and recovery from any incident is proportionate and effectively managed thus reducing the impact on communities and Council services.
A programme of training and exercising is put in place to robustly test resilience related plans.
Lessons identified through an incident response (based on either real experience or training and exercising) are embedded into resilience arrangements.
Generic business continuity advice and assistance is provided to the business community and voluntary organisations.
Where appropriate, resilience advice is provided to communities to support the development of community resilience.

2 RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 **It is recommended that the Council endorses and adopts the draft Resilience Policy and Framework.**

3   BACKGROUND

3.1   Following an internal audit on Resilience Planning by the Chief Officer Audit and Risk it was identified that the Council not only meets the specific duties placed on it by the Civil Contingencies Act but also demonstrates good practices as defined in the guidance.
Specifically;
The use of the Resilience Direct Platform demonstrates various good practices including good cyber resilience.
Effective early warning systems are in place with good communications processes.
A number of community groups are in place with good governance to allow effective support to the Council. The groups undertook vast a range of duties during the Covid-19 pandemic and following Storm Arwen

3.2   An area for improvement was identified in that there was no overarching resilience policy. This would provide clarity to all stakeholders and assist in embedding resilience across the Council.

4   IMPLICATIONS

4.1   **Financial**
There are no costs attached to any of the recommendations contained in this report.

4.2   **Risk and Mitigations**
The report carries no significant elements of risk that have been identified in relation to this policy and no specific additional concerns need to be addressed.

4.3   **Integrated Impact Assessment**
A full Integrated Impact Assessment has been completed as this is a new policy and is submitted to Council for approval in support of the draft Resilience Policy and Framework.

4.4   **Sustainable Development Goals**
Goal 11- Sustainable Cities and Communities
(By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations)

4.5   **Climate Change**
There are no related climate impacts associated with this report.

4.6   **Rural Proofing**
This report does not affect or amend rural proofing policies.

4.7 **Data Protection Impact Statement**
There are no personal data implications arising from the proposals contained in this report.

4.8 **Changes to Scheme of Administration or Scheme of Delegation**
There are no changes to the Scheme of Administration or the Scheme of Delegation as a result of the proposals within this report.

5   CONSULTATION

5.1 The Chief Executive, Council Management Team (inc) Director (Finance & Corporate Governance), the Monitoring Officer/Chief Legal Officer, the Chief Officer Audit and Risk, the Director (People Performance & Change), the Clerk to the Council and Corporate Communications have been consulted.

Approved by

Name   **David Robertson**   **Title**   **Chief Executive**

Author(s)

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Background Papers: Final Audit Report to Chief Executive, Directors and Emergency Planning Officer on Resilience Planning, 2nd August 2023
Previous Minute Reference: N/A

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