

THE UK GOVERNMENT RESILIENCE FRAMEWORK

Cabinet - 15 June 2023

Report of: Deputy Chief Executive & Chief Officer, Finance & Trading

Status: For Information

Also Considered by: Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee – 13 June 2023

Key Decision: No

Executive Summary: This report updates the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee about a newly published (December 2022) UK Government Resilience Framework.

This report supports the Key Aim of: Protect our residents by making sure that all of our policies, partnerships and teams are working together to safeguard people and communities.

Portfolio Holder: Cllr. Margot McArthur

Contact Officer: Adrian Rowbotham, Ext. 7153

Trevor Kennett, Ext. 7407

Recommendation to Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee: That this report be considered by the Committee, and its views be submitted for consideration by Cabinet.

Recommendation for Cabinet: That the report along with any views submitted by the Cleaner & Greener Advisory Committee be considered and the report be noted.

Reason for recommendation: The framework proposes a number of fundamental changes to the current local arrangements for resilience forums and accountability.

Background

1. The new Framework is built around three fundamental principles: a need for a shared understanding of the risks we face; focus on prevention and preparation; and that resilience requires a whole of society approach.
2. The Government framework proposes a number of fundamental changes to the current local arrangements for resilience forums and accountability, namely:
 1. The creation of a new UK Government Resilience Directorate within the Cabinet Office.
 2. Local Resilience Forums in England will be strengthened and enhanced, in recognition of the vital role they play in resilience.
 3. Models of funding for Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in England will be reviewed to ensure they are appropriate to the expectations placed upon them.
 4. A new Resilience Academy built out of the Emergency Planning College and skills and training pathway will ensure that all those who work on resilience have the capability and knowledge they need to play their part.
 5. the UK Government will work with the sector to pilot evolving the nature of the LRF Chair role, including considering a full time permanent role occupied by an appropriately qualified and experienced individual who will become the Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for each LRF area.
3. Clear mechanisms and expectations for accountability between LRF Chief Resilience Officers and executive local democratic leaders will make LRFs more accountable to the communities that they serve and provide a mechanism for local communities to hold local leaders to account for driving and delivering resilience.

Introduction

4. The professionalism and commitment of all agencies who contribute to the UK's resilience is extraordinary and therefore we have a well-established framework for civil protection in the UK. But the last few years have exposed the need to build on these strong foundations and strengthen resilience in order to better prevent, mitigate, respond to and recover from the risks facing the UK.
5. The framework is the first articulation of how the UK Government will deliver on a new strategic approach to resilience. It is based on three core principles:
 - A developed and shared understanding of the civil contingencies risks we face is fundamental;
 - Prevention rather than cure wherever possible: a greater emphasis on preparation and prevention; and
 - Resilience is a 'whole of society' endeavour, so we must be more transparent and empower everyone to make a contribution.

6. The framework focuses on foundational building blocks of resilience, setting out the plan to 2030 to strengthen the frameworks, systems and capabilities which underpin the UK's resilience to all civil contingencies risks. The framework's implementation window reflects the UK Government's commitment to implement the systemic changes needed to strengthen resilience by 2030.
7. The framework proposes measures and investment to enable the UK's resilience system to prevent risks manifesting or crises happening where possible. But, while prevention is a key principle, it acknowledges that you cannot replace careful and effective management of emergencies as they occur.
8. The new Resilience Directorate in the Cabinet Office will drive the implementation of the measures set out in the framework and develop ongoing resilience programmes. This will include building on the National Security Risk Assessment (NSRA) to consider the chronic vulnerabilities and challenges that arise from the geopolitical and geo-economic shifts, systemic competition, rapid technological change and transnational challenges such as climate change, health risks and state threats that define contemporary crises.
9. This framework focuses on drawing together the many actors and programmes across the resilience system. The framework primarily outlines action for England and the UK Government in areas where responsibilities are reserved to the UK Government.

2030 Actions

10. By 2023 the UK Government plans to:
 - Understand that the national and local risks will be dynamic, driven by data and insight where appropriate, and informed by the best UK and international expertise and experience.
 - The UK Government will communicate about risk in an accessible, actionable and transparent way, so that everyone understands the risks they should plan for and how to protect themselves.
 - In every part of the resilience system, responsibilities and accountability will be clear, coordinated, and coherent. The crisis management and resilience capabilities within the UK Government will be overhauled and strengthened.
 - Local Resilience Forums in England will be strengthened and enhanced, in recognition of the vital role they play in resilience.
 - Partnerships with the private sector and experts will be strengthened to deliver and inform vital work on resilience.
 - A strengthened partnership with the Voluntary and Community Sector will support them to maximise their contribution to resilience at local and national level.

- Models of funding for Local Resilience Forums (LRFs) in England will be reviewed to ensure they are appropriate to the expectations placed upon them.

11. A new Resilience Academy built out of the Emergency Planning College and skills and training pathway will ensure that all those who work on resilience have the capability and knowledge they need to play their part. A reinvigorated National Exercising Programme will test preparedness throughout the resilience system.

The Local Tier & Local Resilience Forums

12. The multi-agency work across planning, preparation, response and recovery at the local level will continue to be the building block of the UK's resilience. All risks and emergencies and their impacts are local; only some are regional or national.

13. The recent Post Implementation Review of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 made clear that the core principles of subsidiarity and local leadership remain critical. However, The Government want to recognise that expectations and pressures on local resilience structures have grown significantly over recent years, and that this is unlikely to change in the future.

14. In recognition of the central, and growing, role of LRFs and to ensure that all parts of England can anticipate, prevent, prepare for, respond and recover from risks and emergencies, the UK Government plan to work to significantly strengthen LRFs. There are three key pillars to this reform: Leadership, Accountability, and Integration of resilience into the UK's levelling up and growth mission and wider local policy and place making.

15. The Government's aim is to empower LRFs, local partners and local leaders to consider, drive and improve resilience across the places for which they are responsible. They will be given a clear mandate to support the building of more resilient communities and places that are best able to adapt and respond to, and recover from risks, emergencies and disruptive events and to take full advantage of the opportunities of levelling up. This will include identifying those communities most vulnerable to key risks and addressing these vulnerabilities to build their resilience.

Leadership of LRFs in England

16. As the role and expectations on LRFs have grown to meet the varied challenges of recent years, so too has the role of LRF Chairs. For many years LRFs have been led to great effect by committed senior leaders drawn from a variety of responder organisations, including the Police, Fire Service and Local Authorities. This has typically been as part of a wider role within their organisations that included a range of other duties and responsibilities. The UK Government will work with LRFs and their members to ensure LRF leaders have the resources,

capacity, and capability to sustain this work as they engage with an ever more challenging risk landscape and drive resilience in their areas.

17. It is critical to the success of LRFs that senior leaders from the organisations outlined in the CCA and beyond continue to take a key leadership role in the work of LRFs. It is equally vital to ensure that LRF Chairs have the capacity and capability to lead LRFs in delivery of the strengthened roles and responsibilities we are proposing.
18. They will need the time and space to fully embed themselves and their LRFs in wider local structures – including working in close partnership with locally elected democratic leaders and the full range of senior leaders across local government and responder organisations. To best enable this, the UK Government will work with the sector to pilot evolving the nature of the LRF Chair role, including considering a full time permanent role occupied by an appropriately qualified and experienced individual who will become the Chief Resilience Officer (CRO) for each LRF area.
19. The UK Government will set clear expectations for LRF Chief Resilience Officers to lead the building of resilience and delivery of resilience activity in their areas and they will be accountable to executive local democratic leaders. This will give these democratic leaders a clear role in ensuring effective delivery of resilience activity, including integrating resilience into wider local delivery and levelling up.

Accountability for LRFs in England

20. Strengthening the accountability and assurance across LRFs in England will ensure local leaders have key tools to drive the building of resilience and multiagency collaboration in their communities. Clear mechanisms and expectations for accountability between LRF Chief Resilience Officers and executive local democratic leaders will make LRFs more accountable to the communities that they serve and provide a mechanism for local communities to hold local leaders to account for driving and delivering resilience.

Standards and regulation

21. The UK Government will introduce standards on resilience and develop an action plan to deliver these across the private sector, where these do not already exist, to give a clear benchmark on what ‘good’ looks like for resilience. These standards on resilience will be non-statutory, and adjusted to take into account the unique sector landscapes, priorities, needs, and interlinkages with other sectors, to ensure that expectations are appropriate and not overly burdensome or disproportionate to the benefits they can deliver.

Resilience skills

22. At the centre of our professionalisation offering will be a new UK Resilience Academy (UKRA), which will be the heart of a network of similar UK-Government affiliated providers and deliver leadership and learning to all those in the resilience system. This will be built up and out of the Cabinet Office's Emergency Planning College (EPC) which is already partnered with the UK GSCU.

Key Implications

Financial

Parking income would remain unchanged.

Legal Implications and Risk Assessment Statement.

No legal implications have been identified in this report.

Equality Assessment

No decisions are being made within this report, so there is low relevance to the substance of the Equality Act.

Net Zero

Members are reminded of the Council's stated ambition to be Net Zero with regards to carbon emissions by 2030. The decisions recommended in this paper directly impact on this ambition. The impact has been reviewed and there will be no increase or decrease on carbon emissions produced in the district as a result of this decision.

Conclusions

Given that technology now plays a significant and vital role in paying for parking and that full parking payment has been made, it is fair to cancel keying mistakes made by the user.

Appendices

Appendix A - UK Government Resilience Framework

Background Papers

None.

Adrian Rowbotham

Deputy Chief Executive and Chief Officer - Finance & Trading