

EAST RENFREWSHIRE COUNCIL**29 September 2016****Report by Deputy Chief Executive****PROPOSED EXPANSION OF THE JOINT CIVIL CONTINGENCIES SERVICE TO
INCLUDE WEST DUNBARTONSHIRE COUNCIL**

PURPOSE OF REPORT

1. To seek Council approval to expand the Joint Civil Contingencies Service to include West Dunbartonshire Council

RECOMMENDATION

2. It is recommended that Council approves the expansion of the Joint Civil Contingencies Service to include West Dunbartonshire Council.

BACKGROUND

3. In November 2008 the Council approved the establishment of a Joint Civil Contingencies Service (CCS) based in Renfrewshire Council covering East Renfrewshire, Inverclyde and Renfrewshire Council areas. The service has been in operation since 2009 and has supported significant improvements in the resilience of each Council area and the ability to respond to civil contingencies incidents and events. The joint service has brought a number of benefits:

- Better use of available staff resources across three Councils
- Increased resilience and service development, particularly training & exercising
- Increased efficiency from reduced duplication of effort
- Improved relationships, training and information sharing arrangements with Category 1 Responders and other national agencies
- Significant performance improvements in resilience, contingency planning and emergency response
- Improved capacity and expertise to be able to respond to changing and emerging risks and threats
- Improved capacity to support local businesses and voluntary organisations with their business continuity and management arrangements.

4. The service is governed by a Joint Management Board comprising the Chief Executives of each of the member Councils supported by a relevant Head of Service from each Council and CCS Senior Officer.

REPORT

5. Earlier this year the Joint Management Board of the CCS was approached by West Dunbartonshire Council with a request that it consider the expansion of the Joint Civil Contingencies Service to include West Dunbartonshire Council area.

6. In considering this request the CCS Senior Officer undertook a review of current civil contingencies working arrangements and policies within West Dunbartonshire, the nature of relevant specific risks and response arrangements that are in place and the data on historic incident response requirements over the period from 2013 – 2016. This showed that there is no reason, in principle, why the service could not be successfully expanded to include West Dunbartonshire Council area and that there would be no detrimental impact on existing members of the service if this were done.

7. The analysis determined that the service could be provided for West Dunbartonshire Council at the same cost as for East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils on the basis that an additional transition resource be provided to support the integration of the service over the first 2 years of operation. This report now seeks approval to expand the Joint Civil Contingencies Service to include West Dunbartonshire Council. Similar reports are also being considered by Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils

8. Should the proposal be formally approved by each Council, the initial budget contribution to the service from West Dunbartonshire Council would match East Renfrewshire and Inverclyde Councils current contribution - £55,645. This figure is jointly reviewed and agreed annually by the Joint Management Board. In addition an administrative employee resource will be provided by West Dunbartonshire Council for the transitional period up to the value of £20,000 per annum, working directly to the senior Civil Contingencies Officer, this is to support the transition process.

9. An additional transitional fund of £5,000 per annum will be provided by West Dunbartonshire Council for the first 2 years of the service to be used for any training requirements specifically targeted at aligning West Dunbartonshire Council's officers to the Council Incident Officer programme that is currently in place across the existing 3 Councils and to provide a contingency to support any emergency incidents or events in West Dunbartonshire during the transitional period and any other ancillary costs associated with the integration of West Dunbartonshire's Civil Contingencies into the shared service.

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

10. East Renfrewshire Council currently supports the services with a contribution of £55,645 this will not be affected by the proposals outlined in this report

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

11. The Minute of Agreement and detailed specification of service for the Joint Civil Contingencies Service will require to be updated to reflect the proposed addition of West Dunbartonshire Council. This exercise will be led by Renfrewshire Council Legal Services working with the agreement of each of the Member Councils.

EQUALITY & HUMAN RIGHTS IMPLICATIONS

12. There are no Equality or Human Rights implications associated with the recommendation in this report.

RECOMMENDATION

13. It is recommended that Council approves the expansion of the Joint Civil Contingencies Service to include West Dunbartonshire Council.

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