

## **Council**

**Monday 17 July 2023**

### **Written Questions**

**Question From: Councillor Andrew Beere**

**Question To: Leader of the Council, Councillor Barry Wood**

**Topic: Emergency Planning**

#### **Question**

“Can the Leader of the Council outline and describe any proposals for an upgraded and more Professionally Emergency Planning Service for residents in Cherwell that he would agree might be set up.

Subsequent to that first part

Will the Council and the Executive raise the level of “risk element” in its deliberations and on any CDC “Risk Registers” and urge all Local Government Bodies and other public bodies to do the same in the Thames Valley Basin/Region”

#### **Response to Question**

Cherwell have a formalised arrangement whereby Oxfordshire County Council Emergency Planning provide Business Continuity and Emergency Planning support to Cherwell District Council.

Work focusses on ensuring that the authority meets statutory compliance for the responsibilities as a category 1 responder under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, National Resilience Standards, Pipeline Safety Regulations 1996 (Major Accident Hazard Pipelines) and Reservoir Act. The team also supports work under the Flood and Water Management Act and monitors obligations under COMAH, REPPIR & MACR regulations for specific risk sites (there are currently none within Cherwell that meet Upper Tier planning requirements).

There are individual plans in place for responding to both adverse weather and flooding that cover the responsibilities, actions and mitigations that are relevant to CDC in either scenario. Training is provided to relevant officers via the arrangements in place and we are satisfied that these measures ensure we are able to respond as appropriate were such emergencies to be experienced in Cherwell.

The Corporate Risk Register has Emergency Planning listed as a risk consideration, this is reviewed and updated as required on a monthly basis. Whilst the inherent risk of flooding and drought may be increasing, we are

satisfied that the plans in place satisfactorily demonstrate the council's responsibilities and actions to be taken in response to any incident, so the increased risk of adverse weather or flooding will not materially affect the overall risk. We are confident other local government authorities and other public bodies with responsibilities in response to such incidents will be considering adverse weather and flood risk routinely in their own risk registers and taking the necessary actions as a result to ensure they satisfactorily meet their statutory responsibilities.

A restricted briefing document on Emergency Planning was updated and circulated to all Members after the elections in May. This can of course be recirculated.