

1. Briefly outline your role and responsibilities for either flood risk management or emergency planning in Wolverhampton?

As the Senior Resilience Officer, I must ensure that the work of the Resilience Team meets the aims and objectives of the Resilience Board through our three-year work programme.

During this time, we must ensure that the Council understands its obligations in relation to the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, supporting the Council in response to and recovery from (major) incidents or Business Continuity incident. At the time of an incident the Resilience Team may be called on as subject matter experts to advise and represent the Council at multi-agency meetings during office hours.

It is crucial that we ensure all response and recovery plans, documents and arrangements are fit for purpose, meet the National and Local Risk Register and any additional legal or statutory requirements.

I am responsible for the development and maintenance of a comprehensive training and exercising programme for Council staff to ensure an efficient response, including the development and training of both Duty Managers and Duty Directors.

2. What action did your organisation take in preparation for the weather forecast of heavy rainfall on Sunday 27 May 2018?

All forecasts prior to the event shared by the Met Office were shared in accordance to all protocols. Friday the 25th, the team were working off-site at West Midlands Fire Service (WMFS) HQ, Vauxhall Road, Birmingham at an Intelligence and Innovation event.

As usual the forecasts were distributed, however due to connectivity issues between City of Wolverhampton Council assets (laptop and phone) and the WMFS network, the email did not send and remained in the outbox. This has since been rectified as part of the collaborative work of the two teams.

3. What are your views of the effectiveness of current flood risk management and emergency response co-ordination with other partner organisations before during and after the flooding event on Sunday 27 May 2018?

For flood planning, the Resilience Team consult with all relevant agencies as required, including but not limited to; The Environment Agency, internal services and the emergency services.

However, this will change due to the release of the new National Guidance and the potential change to flooding responsibilities.

4. What were the challenges to your service in helping to prevent surface water and sewer flooding in known high-risk areas in Wolverhampton?

This is not part of the Resilience Team work, this will be Environmental Services and Highways in conjunction with water companies.

5. What changes, if any, would like to see flood risk management or emergency response plans in the future?

Currently we are awaiting the release of the upcoming National Guidance regarding the future of flood planning. This will influence the changes that we must make, those that are recommended as good practice and those that must be discontinued as responsibilities shift to other organisations.