



**Corporate Overview Group**

**Tuesday, 3 September 2024**

**Business Continuity Strategy 2024-2027**

## **Report of the Director of Finance and Corporate Services**

### **1. Purpose of report**

- 1.1. This report and the Business Continuity Strategy appended to the report articulates the broad arrangements for the council to be able to provide critical functions and services in the face of a significant disruptive incident.
- 1.2. Councillors are asked consider the strategy, scrutinise and comment as appropriate.

### **2. Recommendation**

It is RECOMMENDED that Corporate Overview Group scrutinise the Business Continuity Strategy and comment as appropriate.

### **3. Reasons for Recommendation**

- 3.1. To comply with the requirements of The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 where the Council is required to have prepared, as far as reasonably practical, to provide critical functions during any disruptive incident. An overarching Strategy and associated action plan for business continuity is an essential requirement for critical services to continue in the face of significant disruption.

### **4. Supporting Information**

- 4.1. Unfortunately, disruptive incidents can occur that impact on the Council delivering services. The Council has to be fully prepared to mitigate the impact of such incidents and minimise the impact on services. This is both good practice and a legislative requirement. The Business Continuity Strategy provides the overarching parameters that govern the ability of the Council to successfully respond to incidents that cause significant disruption.
- 4.2. The Business Continuity Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 (Appendix A) provides an operational structure for responding to serious business interruption. Areas covered within the Strategy include:
  - Identifying priorities (aims and objectives), management structure and communication mechanisms to ensure an appropriate response to any disruption

- That the breadth of council services provided, including third party providers such as Parkwood Leisure (as well as interdependencies) are covered
- Individual service areas prepare and maintain their own business continuity arrangements.

4.3 Councillors are asked to scrutinise and comment on the Strategy and associated action plan.

## **5. Alternative options considered and reasons for rejection**

5.1. There are no alternative options presented.

## **6. Risks and Uncertainties**

6.1. There are many risks that have the potential to cause business disruption 1.5 within the Strategy highlights many types of business interruption risk.

## **7. Implications**

### **7.1. Financial Implications**

There are no direct financial implication of the Business Continuity Strategy. The implications of not dealing effectively with significant business disruption can be far and wide. The Council does have a General Fund Balance which could mitigate financial risk and nationally the Government often makes funding available via additional grant funding (e.g. recent flooding is an example).

### **7.2. Legal Implications**

Producing the Business Continuity Strategy helps the Council comply with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

### **7.3. Equalities Implications**

There are no direct equalities implications.

### **7.4. Section 17 of the Crime and Disorder Act 1998 Implications**

Section 17 requires local authorities to consider the community safety implications of all their activities. Use this section to state the potential implications of a decision on community safety or alternatively explaining why this consideration does not apply to this report.

There are potential social risks which could impact on business continuity such as civil unrest as such having a strategy and supporting plans for business continuity help mitigates such risk.

## 7.5. Biodiversity Net Gain Implications

There are no direct BNG implications.

## 8. Link to Corporate Priorities

The Environment	Effective business continuity in the face of significant disruption can impact on all of the Council's Corporate priorities.
Quality of Life	
Efficient Services	
Sustainable Growth	

## 9. Recommendations

It is RECOMMENDED that Corporate Overview Group scrutinise the Business Continuity Strategy and comment as appropriate.

<b>For more information contact:</b>	Peter Linfield (Director of Finance and Corporate Services)  plinfield@rushcliffe.gov.uk  Chevalier Douglas (Emergency Planning Officer)  cdouglas@rushcliffe.gov.uk
<b>Background papers available for Inspection:</b>	
<b>List of appendices:</b>	Appendix A – Business Continuity Strategy and Action Plan 2024-2027 Appendix B - Matrix