

Business Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Thursday, 23 January 2020

REPORT TITLE	NEW FERRY EXPLOSION SCRUTINY REVIEW
REPORT OF	NANCY CLARKSON, HEAD OF INTELLIGENCE, STATUTORY SCRUTINY OFFICER

REPORT SUMMARY

Further to a report on the Council's response to the New Ferry disaster presented to the Business O&S Committee on 17th September 2019 members of the Committee resolved that:

(2) That a Scrutiny Review Panel be established to look at the lessons to be learnt from the New Ferry incident and that dependent on the results of the review the Panel then look at a major incidents procedure and protocol.

RECOMMENDATION/S

1. The Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee is requested to support the contents and recommendations of the Scrutiny review 'New Ferry Explosion'.
2. The report be referred to the next appropriate Cabinet Meeting for consideration of the Recommendations made.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

1.0 REASON/S FOR RECOMMENDATION/S

This report is subject to review by Members of the Committee and is required to be referred to Cabinet for consideration.

2.0 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

Not Applicable.

3.0 BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 As part of the Business Overview & Scrutiny Committee's work programme, a task and finish scrutiny review into Council's response to the New Ferry Explosion was agreed. The panel consisted of Cllrs. Dave Michell, Jo Bird, Steve Hayes and Mike Collins.

3.2 It was agreed during the scoping meeting that Cllr Dave Mitchell would be the chair of the panel. A cross party panel was convened and at a scoping session held in October 2019 the following review outcomes were agreed.

- To ensure that all necessary steps have been taken to address those residents, traders and other people affected by the incident.
- To consider what improvements can be made by the council and partner organisations in their response to future disasters.

3.3 The panel then agreed to a review approach and over the course of November and December 2019 undertook several interviews and stakeholder sessions. The full report, recommendations and scoping document are attached as appendices to this report.

4.0 FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

There is no direct financial implication as a result of this report or its recommendations. There are financial implications regarding any future regeneration of New Ferry, however, these have been covered in the report.

5.0 LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

No Direct Implications

6.0 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS: ICT, STAFFING AND ASSETS

No Direct Implications.

7.0 ENVIRONMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct implications as a result of this report or its recommendations. However, the panel agrees that any rebuilding and regeneration of the blast site should take into consideration environment and climate change implications.

8.0 RELEVANT RISKS

There are no direct risks as a result of this report or its recommendations. Any indirect risk implications are covered in the report.

9.0 ENGAGEMENT/CONSULTATION

The review panel consulted with members of the New Ferry Traders Association, Resident Groups and Community. They also increased engagement with members of the community via mail shot to ensure everyone had a chance to contribute.

10.0 EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

Members of the panel have due consideration to the accessibility of focus groups for all members of the community and sought to include their input as part of the review. The suggested recommendations have been made with equality implications in mind.

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APPENDICES

Appendix 1: New Ferry Scrutiny Review

Background Papers

SUBJECT HISTORY (last 3 years)

Council Meeting	Date