

SEVERE WEATHER – MARCH 2013

1 INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 This report updates the Area Committee on the issues raised by and the actions in place as a result of the severe weather and power outages in Kintyre and Islay in March 2013

2 RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 1 That the Area Committee notes the contents of the report.

3 DETAIL

- 3.1 The Kintyre, Islay and Arran areas were subject to a severe, prolonged and highly unusual weather pattern that started on 22 March 2013. This weather pattern had a significant impact on the power infrastructure that resulted in power cuts throughout Kintyre for a prolonged period of time.
- 3.2 The council worked closely with partners from the initial 'calling' of the emergency situation on Friday 22 March. Police led the initial response phase and the council then took over lead of the recovery phase on Monday 25 March. Lessons that had been learned from the previous severe weather and power outage incident were acted on, particularly with regard using the strong working relationships at a senior level with colleagues in the other agencies, SSE and CalMac.
- 3.3 Immediately following the incident, the council led a multi agency debrief to capture issues. Individual agencies and organisations also held organisational debriefs. The Council has collated feedback from officers and members, including issues that were raised at and as a result of the MAKI business day on 1 April 2013. An action plan to address these issues is now being developed.
- 3.4 One of the main areas for future improvement is the close liaison with communities on the ground in the areas affected by an emergency situation. Since the incident, council officers have participated in the SSE roadshows that took place in Campbeltown, Southend, Carradale and Clachan.

Officers also held a debrief in Campbeltown for the Southend, East Kintyre and West Kintyre community councils, which resulted in actions identified for inclusion in the action plan.

MAKI area communities in Ardrishaig, Lochgilphead, Inveraray, Southend, East Kintyre, Skipness, South Knapdale, Islay and West Kintyre are currently preparing Community Resilience Plans (or just about to start), supported by the council and police.

An officer will be attending Campbeltown Community Council meeting on 10 June with a view to supporting them prepare their plan.

The council, through its community resilience project, sourced funding for community emergency kit bags, which contain a range of essential equipment such as wind up torches and radios, space blankets and high visibility vests. These are handed out when plans are complete.

- 3.5 Other key areas for improvement that are being addressed are:
- Communications – posters and other non electronic means of communication
 - Communication for councillors
 - Use of visual images early in the incident
 - Continued development of the positive use of social media
- 3.6 Following any incident, processes and procedures are reviewed and updated as necessary in order to improve future readiness and response. This is also the case with the March incident and changes will be made to the procedures as a result.

4 CONCLUSION

- 4.1 The severe weather incident in March 2013 was unusual in nature and had a significant impact on the communities that were affected. The response that was put in place made significant use of the learning and improvements that had been implemented since the previous severe weather and power outage incident in 2012.
- 4.2 The council and partners have identified further areas for improvement as a result of the March 2013 incident. We will implement these improvements in order that we continue to improve our readiness and response to incidents that affect our communities.

5 IMPLICATIONS

Policy	None
Financial	None
HR	None
Legal	None

Equal Opportunities	None
Risk	Improved preparedness for emergency situations reduces the risk to our communities.
Customer Service	None

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