

EMERGENCY PLANNING ARRANGEMENTS	4th October 2016
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Emergency Preparedness
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment
Cost: (If applicable)	N/A

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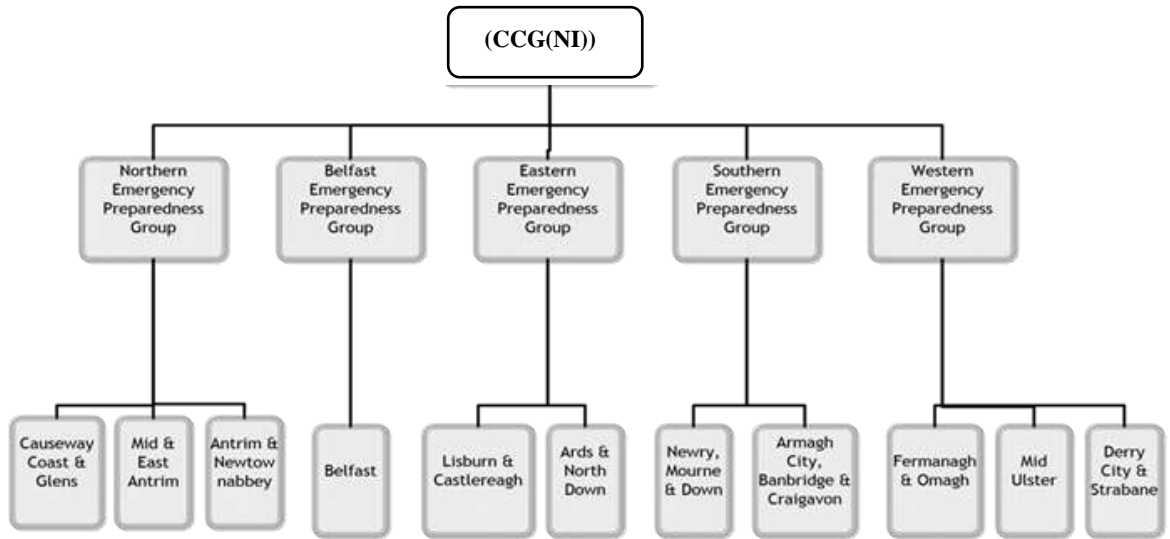
District Councils in Northern Ireland have voluntarily supported the planning, response and recovery to civil emergencies for many years using Article 29 of the Local Government (NI) Order 2005. Recent examples include impact from flooding of homes and other severe weather events experienced across the Borough. Article 29 provides Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council with discretionary powers to make arrangements for reducing, controlling and mitigating the effects of any Emergency in the area and to prepare Multi Agency plans in co-operation with other organisations.

Pursuant to the Civil Contingencies Framework 2005 (refreshed November 2011), the Department of the Environment (now Department for Communities) provided departmental guidance to District Councils in relation to emergencies via LG circular 07/06. This included reference to the application of the discretionary powers of Article 29.

Subsequently, the Northern Ireland Executive in February 2014 introduced '**Measures to Enhance Civil Contingencies Arrangements at Local Level**'. Five Sub-Regional Civil Emergency Preparedness Groups (EPGs) were formally established together with the creation of a Civil Contingencies Group (NI) (CCG(NI)) sub-group entitled Sub-Regional Civil Emergency Preparedness to oversee the work of the EPGs and facilitate communication between the local level and CCG(NI).

This enhancement locally created the Northern Emergency Preparedness group (NEPG) that is jointly chaired by the PSNI Superintendent and the Council's Chief Executive. The Council works in a co-ordinated approach alongside Mid and East Antrim Borough Council and Antrim and Newtownabbey Borough Council by supporting proactive multi-agency engagement across a number of government

agencies and blue light services. These structures ensure that a level of protection is in place for citizens of the Borough during any Emergency response.



Over the coming months there will be a number of Civil Contingencies Group (NI) (CCG(NI)) work streams and Multi Aid agreements endorsed by the NEPG that will be brought to Council for attention.