



THE LONDON BOROUGH

# Members' introduction to the Council's response to emergencies



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- Introduction to the relevant legislation and Council responsibilities
- How the Council responds to an emergency incident
- Councillor's role
  - supporting the resilience agenda
  - during an emergency incident
  - during the recovery process
  - other considerations



# The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 (CCA) overview

Establishes a statutory framework for civil protection at the local level by:

- Establishing clear roles and responsibilities for local responders
- Giving greater structure and consistency to civil protection activity
- Creates Category 1 and Category 2 Responder classification
- Local Authorities are classed as a Category 1 responder



# Council's responsibilities under the CCA as a Category 1 responder

- Assess, plan and advise on risk of an emergency and carry out risk assessments
- Have emergency plans in place
- Maintenance of plans for reducing, controlling and mitigating the effects of an emergency incident
- Co-operate with other local responders to enhance efficiency, coordination and information sharing
- Warn and inform the public in the event of an emergency
- Have business continuity management plans in place
- Advise and assist the public with making arrangements for business continuity management



# Civil Contingencies Act 2004

## definition of an emergency

An emergency is defined as :

- An event / situation that threatens serious damage to human welfare
- An event / situation which threatens serious damage to the environment, or
- War, terrorism, which threatens serious damage to security



# Civil Contingencies Act 2004, types of emergencies

- Loss of human life
- Human illness or injury
- Homelessness
- Damage to property
- Disruption to money, food, water, energy or food
- Disruption of facilities of transport
- Disruption of services relating to health
- Contamination of land, water or air
- Disruption or destruction of plant life or animal life



# Council's response to an emergency

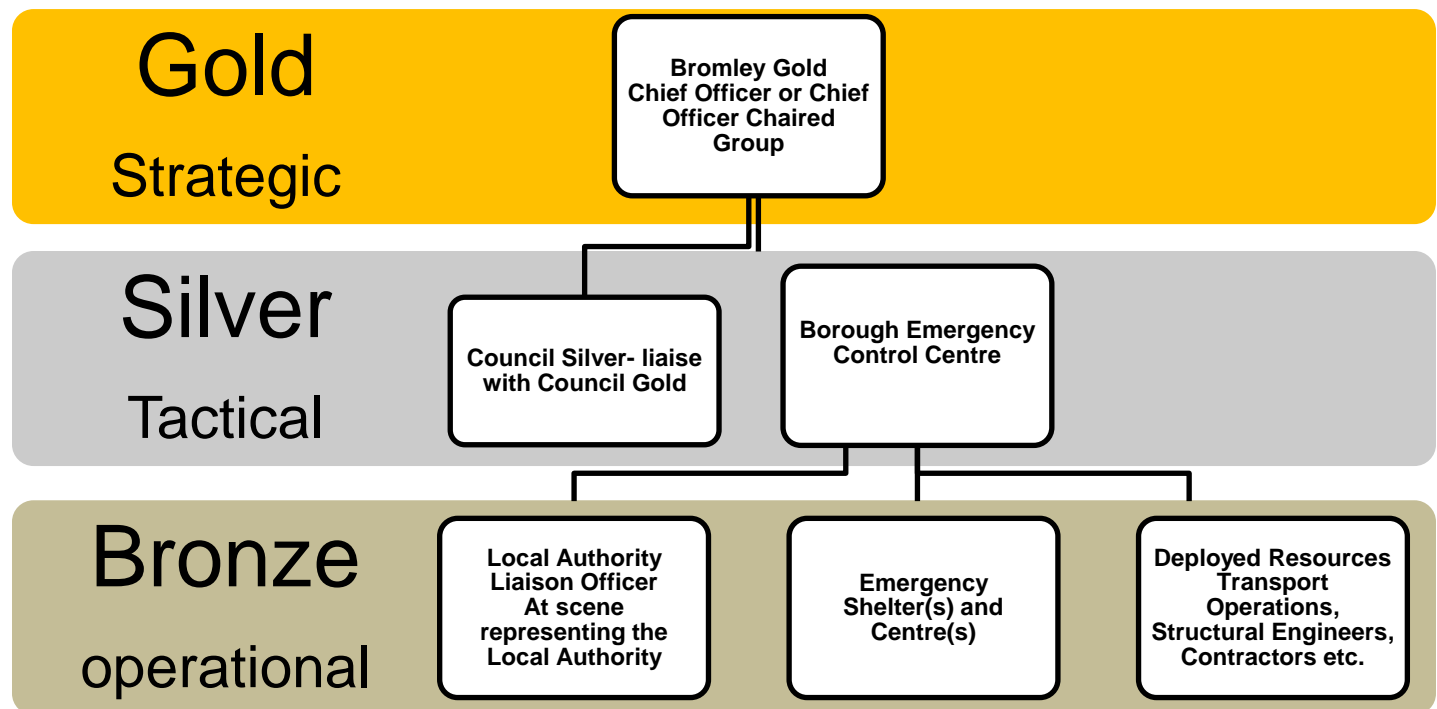
Local Authorities play a critical role in civil protection. The Council will play an enabling role, working with partners to;

- Provide immediate shelter and welfare
- Provide medium to longer term welfare support and community needs as part of the recovery effort
- Draw on a range of resources and technical expertise to support the recovery
- Co-ordinate the activities of the voluntary sector and volunteers, and
- Lead the recovery effort



# The Council's roles in an emergency

## Command and Control





# Council's response arrangements for emergencies

- On call Gold capability 24/7 at Director level
- Generic strategy statement in place
- Silver - during office hours – member of the EP and CR team
- Silver - out of office hours – on call rota
- Bronze roles – trained volunteers not on call



# Council's recent response to emergency incidents

- Evacuation of 72 flats at County House, Beckenham
- Gas leak affecting 400 homes in Worsley Bridge Rd area
- Severe flooding affecting 54 properties in St Mary Cray
- Storm Eunice response
- Water disruption affecting 45,000 properties in Bromley
- Fire at St Marks Square, with 150 people evacuated



# Councillor's role to support emergency preparedness

“As representatives of their local communities, Ward Councillors can help build community resilience and strengthen the Council's ability to respond to emergencies by developing an understanding of their local areas and building relationships with them.”

Quote from 'A councillors guide to civil emergencies' published by the LGA



# To support emergency preparedness, Councillors may consider;

- Promoting self-resilience within the community and help manage residents' expectations
- Engaging with community members involved in community resilience work more widely
- Promoting and encourage the preparation of Community plans
- Identifying local groups and partners who may be able to play a role in preparedness, response and / or recovery and where appropriate, provide associated details to Council Officers
- Developing knowledge further with regards the Resilience Agenda



# Councillor's role during the emergency response phase

“The most important role for local Councillors in the event of an emergency will be to be in their communities, providing support and reassurance to residents, calming tensions if these have become inflamed and providing as much information as possible, including correcting inaccuracies and rumours”

Quote from ‘A councillors guide to civil emergencies’  
published by the LGA



# During the emergency response phase, Councillors may consider;

## **As Community representatives**

- Identifying the needs of residents and the community and advise responding organisations / Council staff accordingly
- Confirming the reliability of information before passing it on
- Avoiding attempting to get involved in the operational response to the emergency
- Maintaining a record of significant experiences and actions for use in subsequent debriefs / inquiries etc



# During the emergency response phase, Councillors may consider;

## As Community Leaders

- Being a visible, trusted and reassuring presence in the community
- Advising responding staff of your presence when providing support to communities
- Communicating key messages and reliable information to the public and the media on behalf of the Council
- Signposting residents and businesses towards the right agency to get the support they need
- Providing support and encouragement to Council staff and others involved in the response effort



# Councillors role during the Recovery phase

“Recovery will be multi-faceted and may be long running, potentially involving many more agencies and participants than the response phase. It will certainly be more costly in terms of resources, and it will undoubtedly be subject to close scrutiny from the community and the media.”

Quote from ‘A councillors guide to civil emergencies’ published by the LGA





# During the Recovery phase, Councillors should consider;

## As Community representatives

- Listening to, and advocating on behalf of the community to ensure their needs and aspirations inform the recovery process
- Helping assess how business as usual services are being delivered alongside the recovery operation
- Ensuring the community are being kept well informed of plans and progress
- Providing community feedback on the progress of the recovery operation



# During the Recovery phase, Councillor's should consider;

## As Community Leaders

- Continuing to be a visible, trusted and reassuring presence in the community
- Communicating key messages and reliable information to the public and the media on behalf of the Council
- Participating in community self-help groups that may be set up to support those affected in the community
- Attending memorial or remembrance services, as appropriate.
- Providing support and encouragement to Council staff and others involved in ongoing recovery effort.



# Other considerations for Councillors

- Assemble a response kit
- Notification of an incident
- Attending the incident
- Presence of the media
- Maintaining a record



# London Borough of Bromley

## Emergency Planning and Corporate Resilience

**Any Questions ?**

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