

7. AVAILABILITY OF CITY CARE RESOURCES DURING EMERGENCIES

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The purpose of this report is to obtain the Council's approval to a method of sharing City Care resources during emergency events.

Oversight of emergency management for the city's services is carried out at officer level by a team convened by the Director of Operations and including membership from regional Civil Defence as well as infrastructure and regulatory managers from the Council.

Discussion has arisen around the provision of emergency services by City Care now it has LATE status and will, in all probability, expand its operations to work in adjoining local authorities and perhaps further afield. As with the city's own contracts with City Care, new operational commitments outside the city boundaries will carry with them requirements to provide emergency services. It has been necessary to obtain from City Care assurance about the level of resources that will be available to the city during emergencies, in particular those that affect other clients with whom City Care has contractual arrangements.

City Care's response has been that where demand on its services is coming from more than one client during an emergency it will undertake to provide resources to the city in proportion to its day-by-day contractual commitments.

It is important that the Council understands and approves this undertaking. It means that during an emergency the Council cannot assume that all of the LATE's resources will be available to it. This may appear to be less than satisfactory for a Council-owned company but reflection shows that the company has little choice. If it is to make full use of its expertise and resources and maximise its return to the Council it will inevitably look for opportunities beyond the servicing the Council's operational requirements and those opportunities will bring with them contracted emergency responsibilities.

It is expected that City Care will continue to have several hundred staff who are deployed in the city.

Recommendation: That the Council note and approve the undertaking given by City Care that where there is competition for City Care services during an emergency, its resources will be made available in proportion to its normal contractual commitments.

(Note: Councillor Wright abstained from the voting and discussion on the above clause.)