



Subject:	Follow up report on presentation by Community Rescue Service
Date:	12 February 2019
Reporting Officer:	Nigel Grimshaw, Strategic Director, City & Neighbourhood Services
Contact Officer:	Siobhan Toland, Director of City Services Davy Neill, Emergency Coordination Officer

Restricted Reports	
Is this report restricted?	Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
If Yes, when will the report become unrestricted?	
After Committee Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
After Council Decision	<input type="checkbox"/>
Some time in the future	<input type="checkbox"/>
Never	<input type="checkbox"/>

Call-in	
Is the decision eligible for Call-in?	Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>

1.0	Purpose of Report or Summary of main Issues
1.1	The purpose of this report is to outline how Belfast City Council currently engages with Community Rescue Service.

2.0	Recommendations
2.1	This Committee is asked to; <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Note the contents of this report.
3.0	Main report
	<u>Key Issues</u>
3.1	Members may recall the presentation given by Sean McGarry, Community Rescue Service, to the People and Communities Committee on 21 st January 2019. This report briefly outlines how Belfast City Council engages with voluntary search and rescue organisations such as Community Rescue Service.
3.2	Co-ordination of land and inland water rescue is a devolved matter with search and rescue policy the responsibility of the Department of Justice. Co-ordination of land and inland water search and rescue operations falls to the PSNI. Community Rescue Service sit on a Practitioners Group made up of statutory and voluntary organisations which report into the Department of Justice. Community Rescue Service is a declared resource under the NI Search and Rescue agreement.
3.3	Belfast Emergency Preparedness Group (Belfast EPG) is a Multi-Agency partnership involved in preparing and planning for emergencies which would impact on the people and communities of Belfast. Belfast EPG partners may engage the assistance of organisations such as Community Rescue Service during an emergency response situation. In such circumstances a request to Community Rescue Service for search and rescue assistance will come from one of the statutory emergency responder organisations such as the PSNI or NI Fire & Rescue Service. Belfast City Council would support such efforts where humanitarian assistance is required by activating emergency support centre arrangements and providing buildings for emergency rest centres etc.
3.4	In the past, Belfast City Council's Parks and Warden staff have worked with Community Rescue Service during land based search efforts for missing persons. Community Rescue Service also provide invaluable voluntary search and rescue assistance at events in the City such as Belfast Vital, Belsonic and events around the harbour estate.
3.5	During the presentation on 21 st January 2019, Sean McGarry made reference to Community Rescue Service utilising the Lagan lookout building. The Lagan lookout building is currently

	under the control of the Department for Communities (DfC) and there are no current plans to change this.
3.6	<u>Finance & Resource Implications</u> None
3.7	<u>Equality or Good Relations Implications/ Rural Needs Assessment</u> None
4.0	Appendices – Documents Attached
	None