1.1 Introduction:
The number of major disasters/emergencies that have occurred in this country and abroad during recent years reinforce the need for and importance of preparing for an emergency. Kingston Council, together with the emergency services, plans and exercises to ensure that in the event of such emergencies we can respond and support each other appropriately.

1.2 Definition of a major emergency:
A major emergency exists where the required council response, at the scene or elsewhere, is in excess of that which can be provided by the council operating under normal day or night conditions and / or where special mobilisation and organisation of council services is required.

Examples of the type of major emergency in which the council could become involved include: -

- Rail crash
- Major fire
- Flooding
- Building collapse
- Escape of dangerous chemicals or toxic substances
- Aircraft crash
- Explosion or risk of explosion
- Shortage of essential commodities e.g. vehicle fuel
- Terrorist incidents
- Widespread storm damage

1.3 Council:
In a major emergency the role of the council may be summarised as:

- maintaining statutory services at an appropriate level, wherever possible
- supporting the emergency services and other agencies involved with the immediate response
- mitigating the effects upon the people affected
• the restoration of normal services as soon as possible
• providing aid to other local authorities when requested

1.4 Emergency Response: Council
The Council has a team of senior council officers who will lead the response to an emergency incident. The team is called the Major Incident Team (MIT) and will also act as the Local Authority Liaison Officer (LALO) at the emergency incident site.

The MIT team will operate from the Borough Emergency co-ordination Centre (BECC)

Each council department/contractor is responsible for carrying out its assigned tasks.

A member of the Strategic Leadership Team will hold the post of Borough Controller. The Borough Controller will manage the council’s response to a major emergency.

Where extra resources are required to carry out a task they will be requested through the Controller.

Where there are conflicting demands for resources the Controller will decide priorities.

A Local Authority Liaison Officer will be sent to the incident to provide a direct link between the scene, emergency services and the emergency co-ordination centre.

Emergency rest centres may be opened depending upon the number of evacuees and the estimated duration of the incident. These will be identified Council buildings across the borough.
Some emergencies although traumatic to the evacuee may not require special arrangements to be put in place as they can adequately be dealt with by the resources normally available to departments.
The Borough will then lead the response in assisting the community to return to a state of normality once the Police and Fire Brigade have cleared the scene.

1.5 Emergency Response: General
The Police have the responsibility to co-ordinate the emergency services at the scene, to prevent unauthorised persons entering the cordoned area and to investigate the cause of the incident.

The Fire Brigade is responsible for dealing with fires or hazard, the safety of those near the incident and rescuing casualties. In addition the Fire
Brigade will play a major role in chemical or similar incidents in making areas safe and decontaminating casualties.

The Ambulance Service is responsible for dealing with casualties once rescued and conveying them to hospital if required.

1.6 Mutual Aid:
Assistance in responding to major emergencies is available from many sources including other Boroughs and Voluntary Organisations.

The London Boroughs are divided into five mutual aid groups. Kingston is in the South West Group of Boroughs, which includes the London Boroughs of Merton, Richmond, Sutton and Wandsworth.
Among the voluntary organisations that have agreed to assist the Borough in the event of an emergency are Go Kingston Volunteering, British Red Cross, St Johns Ambulance Brigade and the Women’s Royal Voluntary Society (W.R.V.S.)