

Recovery Plan – Dalton-in-Furness & Newton-in-Furness

1. Purpose of the Recovery Plan

This Recovery Plan sets out how Dalton with Newton Town Council will support the community following an emergency or major incident. The Town Council does not lead recovery operations; this responsibility lies with the Principal Authority (Westmorland & Furness Council) and other Category 1 responders. The Town Council's role is community support, communication, and coordination.

2. Recovery Objectives

1. Support residents affected by the incident through communication and signposting.
2. Assist the Principal Authority by providing local information and community engagement support.
3. Coordinate volunteers and community groups where appropriate.
4. Help restore normal community activities and services.
5. Ensure lessons learned are captured and the Emergency Plan is updated.

3. Recovery Phases & Town Council Actions – Phase 1 (Immediate Recovery)

0–48 hours after incident. Led by Principal Authority / Emergency Services.

Communication & Information:

- Share verified updates from emergency services and Westmorland & Furness Council.
- Provide information via social media, website, noticeboards, and local groups.

Welfare & Support:

- Coordinate volunteer welfare checks (non-hazardous areas only).
- Signpost residents to emergency accommodation, NHS/Public Health, utility companies, and insurance support.

Local Intelligence:

- Feed back local issues such as blocked roads, vulnerable residents, and community damage reports.

Recovery Phase 2 – Short-Term Recovery

2–14 days.

Community Coordination:

- Work with community centres, churches, schools, and organisations to support residents.

Volunteers:

- Coordinate safe clean-up volunteers, welfare checks, and supply distribution.

Businesses & Local Economy:

- Liaise with local shops and businesses to share updates and identify needs.

Recovery Phase 3 – Medium-Term Recovery

2–12 weeks.

Ongoing Community Support:

- Identify continuing needs and support community activities.

Partnership Working:

- Attend recovery meetings (if invited) and provide resident feedback.

Repairs & Infrastructure:

- Report infrastructure issues to the Principal Authority.

Recovery Phase 4 – Long-Term Recovery

3 months+.

Review & Evaluation:

- Hold community and council debrief sessions.

- Record lessons learned.

Update Plans:

- Refresh the Emergency Plan and contact lists.

Community Resilience:

- Promote preparedness workshops, volunteer recruitment, and flood awareness.

4. Roles During Recovery

Town Clerk – Main contact with Principal Authority, coordinates communications.

Emergency Plan Lead Councillor – Oversees community support and attends meetings.

Communications Lead – Issues verified public information.

Volunteer Coordinator – Manages volunteer activities and safety.

All Councillors – Support welfare checks and local intelligence gathering.

5. Safeguarding, Insurance & Legal Considerations

- Volunteers undertake only safe, non-technical tasks.
- Council does not enter hazardous areas or direct emergency operations.
- Volunteer activities must be covered by Council insurance.
- Safeguarding concerns must be referred to appropriate agencies.

6. Stand-Down Procedure

The Council will stand down recovery support when the Principal Authority declares recovery complete, or when community needs return to normal levels. A final debrief must be completed and the plan updated.