

## **CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE**

Minutes of the meeting of the CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE held in the Authority Rooms, Fire and Rescue Service Headquarters, Nissan Way, Barmston Mere, Washington on MONDAY, 31 JANUARY 2011 at 10.30 a.m.

### **Present:**

Councillor Bell in the Chair

Councillors Charlton, Mole, Renton, Trueman and Wright.

### **Apologies for Absence**

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Clark.

### **Declarations of Interest**

Councillor Wright disclosed a personal interest in Item 10 as he was a member of GMB

### **Minutes**

24. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 25 October 2010 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

### **Update of Northumbria Community Risk Register**

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Emergency Planning Officer on the update of the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Community Risk Register (CRR).

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The CRR was an important document produced following extensive work by partners within the LRF area. It provided a basis for local responders to consider which emergency plans were required, and whether any existing plans should be modified in the light of continuing risk assessment. It was also used to determine priorities for the LRF annual training and exercising calendar.

The risks identified in the CRR were prioritised into the following four categories:-

- Very High
- High
- Medium and
- Low

This allowed organisations to develop control measures, and plans and response arrangements for the highest risks.

The Very High risks in the Northumbria Register were:-

- Industrial Accident – involving large toxic release e.g. of Chlorine,
- Flooding – coastal/tidal, fluvial (river), and
- Influenza – pandemic and epidemic

These all had specific emergency response plans prepared for them; on-site and off-site plans for the industrial accident site (under the Control of Major Accident Hazard Regulations 1999), the LRF Multi Agency Flood Plan, and an LRF Influenza Plan.

In reply to a question from Councillor Mole regarding joint emergency planning arrangements, the Chief Emergency Planning Officer reported that Newcastle Airport played an active role in emergency planning. The Civil Aviation Authority required a live exercise to be held every two years and in addition to this, the Airport also held a multi-agency table top exercise every other year to ensure the integrity of emergency planning arrangements.

The update of the Northumbria LRF CRR, developed by the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum Risk Assessment Working Group (RAWG), had been duly published. It provided the basis to determine priorities for the LRF annual training and exercising calendar for 2011.

25. RESOLVED that the publication of Version 6 of the Northumbria LRF Community Risk Register be noted.

## **Northumbria Local Resilience Forum Multi-Agency Flood Plan**

The Chief Emergency Planning Officer submitted a report on the current status of the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Multi-Agency Flood Plan.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

There continued to be significant activity in relation to flooding, both locally and nationally.

New responsibilities had been placed upon some organisations by the Flood and Water Management Act 2010, in particular Councils such as the Tyne and Wear Authorities had been designated as ‘Lead Local Flood Authorities’ and given responsibility for developing flood risk mitigation strategies for their area in conjunction with partner organisations.

The Multi-Agency LRF Flood Plan Group continued to develop response arrangements, to address any significant flooding events which occurred in the future.

The LRF Flood Plan had been updated to address:-

- additional information indicated by Defra,
- surface water flooding information provided by the Environment Agency,
- issues identified in the ‘Walk Through’ exercise of July 2010,
- the updated Flood Plan Guidance, and
- the revised Flood Warning codes devised by the Environment Agency.

Councillor Mole suggested that representations be made by the Flood Group on the need to emphasise prevention in relation to flood defences.

26. RESOLVED that Members note that the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum Multi-Agency Flood Plan had been updated to include the improvements/changes detailed in the report.

## **Great North Run 2010**

The Committee considered a report on the detailed planning of the safety aspects of the 2010 Great North Run, the involvement of Newcastle, Gateshead and South Tyneside Councils and the Tyne and Wear Emergency Planning Unit in the development and implementation of these arrangements.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The scale of the event demanded significant detailed planning and organisation and for this purpose a number of working groups, overseen by the Safety Advisory Group, had been established.

The 'Medical Working Group' was responsible for the planning of all aspects of medical provision in relation to the event extending to such matters as the provision of first aid/medical treatment, Field Hospital provision, casualty and fatality procedures.

The comprehensive safety planning arrangements for the event had aided in the delivery of a successful 30<sup>th</sup> Great North Run.

A wide-ranging de-brief process was now underway which would help inform further improvements in the planning arrangements for next year's event.

27. RESOLVED that the collaborative arrangements in place for ensuring the effective planning and management of safety for the Great North Run be noted.

### **Dame Hines Pandemic Influenza Review Recommendations**

The Chief Emergency Planning Officer (CEPO) submitted a report (copy circulated) on the summary of the recommendations of the review by Dame Deidre Hines of the United Kingdom's response to the 2009 influenza pandemic.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The implementation of these recommendations largely relied on the publication of a revised version of the document 'Pandemic Flu: A national framework for responding to an influenza pandemic' in 2011. Local responders and the LRF collectively would be the key means of implementation at local level. The Northumbria LRF Multi-Agency Pandemic Influenza Plan would be a key document to aid local responders in adapting to changes in policy and guidance.

The LRF Health Theme Group, once formally established, would disseminate the wider issues identified, such as the use of social media and communications with the media, back to the LRF Communications Theme Group for consideration.

28. RESOLVED that:-

- (i) the report be noted, and
- (ii) the Committee agrees to receive any further updates as necessary.

### **Performance Against Targets – Quarter 3 2010/11**

The Committee considered a progress report by the Chief Emergency Planning Officer on performance against targets for the financial year 2010/11 as detailed in the Emergency Planning Unit Business Plan for 2010/11.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The report provided information on the work completed in quarter 3 of the financial year 2010/11 by the Emergency Planning Unit.

Due to changes in the structure of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), it was anticipated that some of the LRF roles and responsibilities allocated to Emergency Planning Unit staff would change over the coming weeks. The Emergency Planning Unit would continue with current duties on behalf of Councils until these changes were formally implemented.

The report detailed both work areas that were completed and also those which had commenced and were ongoing pieces of work.

29. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

### **Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006**

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

30. RESOLVED that in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006 the public be excluded during consideration of the remaining business as it was considered to involve a disclosure of information relating to consultations/negotiations in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the Authority and employees of the Authority (Local Government Act 1972) Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, Schedule 12A, Part I, Paragraph 4.

(Signed) J. BELL,  
Chairman.

### **Note:-**

The above minutes comprise only those relating to items during which the meeting was open to the public.

Additional minutes in respect of other items are included in Part II.

