

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, 4 APRIL 2011 at 10.30 a.m.

Present:

Councillor Clark in the Chair

Councillors Charlton, Mole, Renton, Trueman and Wright.

Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor Bell.

Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest

Minutes

31. RESOLVED that the minutes of the last meeting held on 31 January 2011 be confirmed and signed as a correct record.

Performance Against Targets – Quarter 4 2010/2011

The Committee considered a progress report by the Chief Emergency Planning Officer on performance against targets for the financial year 2010/2011 as detailed in the EPU Business Plan for 2010/11.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The report provided information on the work completed in quarter 4 of the financial year 2010/11 by the Emergency Planning Unit.

It was noted that significant changes in the structure of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF), as previously reported to Members, had meant that roles and responsibilities previously allocated to the EPU had changed.

Due to the impending closure of the EPU, many decisions needed to be taken about the allocation of work areas by the Strategic Management Board (SMB). In order to ensure that resources were utilised while possible, the SMB were holding monthly meetings so that the allocation of work to EPU staff remained dynamic. Some areas of work had been highlighted for progression beyond March 2011 and these were shown in Appendix B to the report.

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

32. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

National Flooding Exercise 'Watermark'

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Emergency Planning Officer to inform Members of the involvement of Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF) in a national flooding exercise.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The national exercise had provided an excellent opportunity to test and validate the local response procedures as set out in the Northumbria LRF Multi Agency Flood Plan. The Planning Team had worked hard to develop a credible challenging exercise for the participants who seem to have gained from taking part.

It was hoped these arrangements would not need to be used in a real incident, but if they were, the experience gained in the exercise should help to deal with any flooding situation which arose.

33. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Civil Contingencies Act Enhancement Programme

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Emergency Planning Officer to advise members on the progress within the Enhancement Programme following a recent roadshow event held at Citygate, Newcastle on Thursday 10th March 2011.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

Councillor Wright advised that it was important to consider the role of the Civil Contingencies Committee in relation to the future governance of the organisation, particularly with regard to its scrutiny role.

Joy Brindle stated that future governance would be looked as at part of the review of resilience provision.

34. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

Northumbria LRF Exercise Calendar 2011-12

The Committee considered a report by the Chief Emergency Planning Officer to inform members of the annual Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Multi Agency Exercise Calendar, the scheduled events in 2010; and to inform Members of the process involved in its development.

(For copy report – see original minutes).

The current version of the Northumbria Exercise Calendar 2011-12 was received and agreed by the Northumbria LRF Business Management Group (BMG) at the meeting on 25th February 2011 together with the Groups updated Terms of Reference and Exercise and Training Policy. The Calendar was presented to the Northumbria LRF Executive on the 16th March 2011 for information. Further editions of the calendar would be published through-out the year in response to any necessary alterations.

35. RESOLVED that the report be noted.

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

At the instance of the Chairman, it was:-

36. 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) R. CLARK,
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.