



**TYNE AND WEAR FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY
EMERGENCY PLANNING UNIT**

Committee Report

Meeting: CIVIL CONTINGENCIES COMMITTEE: 15 MARCH 2010

Subject: NATIONAL CAPABILITIES SURVEY 2010 PILOT

Report of the Chief Emergency Planning Officer

1. INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The purpose of this report is to make Members aware of an invitation for the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF) and constituent member organisations to participate in a pilot of the National Capabilities Survey (NCS) 2010.

2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 Every two years the Government carries out a detailed survey within the United Kingdom, which is a vital element of the Government's programme to make the country more resilient to disruptive events.
- 2.2 The NCS is intended to assess the extent of current national, regional and local capability as defined in the UK Capabilities Programme, to enable the analysis of gaps at each level. The survey plays a key role in assessing the UK's readiness to respond to a range of assessed risks, whether these are threats in the form of terrorist attacks or natural hazards such as flooding. The results of the survey help to improve understanding of national preparedness and inform priorities for future investment, exercises and policy development.
- 2.3 The survey goes to a range of involved organisations, which in this area includes the Northumbria Local Resilience Forum (LRF), the Tyne and Wear Councils, and the Fire and Rescue Authority.

3. NCS 2010

- 3.1 The survey is divided into three strands; essential services, government, and local responders. The survey is issued to over 1000 responders within these groups.
- i) The 'Essential' Strand is sent to Gas, Electricity, Telecoms, Transport, Health and Water sectors. The Financial Sector and Food sector provide responses via alternative surveys.
 - ii) The 'Government' Strand is sent to government departments and regional government offices.

iii) The 'Local Response' Strand is sent to all category 1 responders and some category 2 responders. The survey also contains some questions which now focus specifically on the work of the LRF.

- 3.2 The questionnaires are tailored to the specific organisation, and designed to collect specific information relating to its capabilities. They are sent to every Local Authority, Police Force, Fire Service, Primary Care Trust, Foundation Trust, Acute Trust, Strategic Health Authority, Mental Health Trust and Environment Agency regional offices in England and Wales,
- 3.3 In addition to the involvement of individual organisations, Local Resilience Forums are asked a range of questions which follow a similar format to those given to individual organisations with a focus on multi-agency relationships and collective capabilities. It is recommended that the constituent partner organisations should work together to provide a consolidated response.

4. 2010 PILOT SURVEY

- 4.1 The Government asked LRF's whether they would like to like to participate in the pilot which is to be held in March 2010. This will also entail constituent organisations completing their individual parts of the survey.
- 4.2 Participation in the pilot means that when the main survey is conducted from the 24th May until the 7th July, it will be somewhat easier and less time consuming for those organisations that have been involved with the pilot.
- 4.3 The invitation was considered at the LRF meeting held on the 3rd March, where it was agreed that the LRF and constituent organisations would once again participate in the pilot.

5. EPU INVOLVEMENT

- 5.1 Officers from the Emergency Planning Unit assist colleagues in the Councils and the Fire and Rescue Service by advising on certain aspects of the completion of the Survey.
- 5.2 In addition, an officer from Tyne and Wear EPU assists the Head of Resilience for Northumberland to prepare the LRF element of the survey.

6. CONCLUSION

- 6.1 The NCS is an important aspect of the Government's resilience programme in determining priorities.
- 6.2 The findings will allow the LRF members to focus on the specific areas which need more work, and allow a programme of work to be developed to ensure resilience in this part of the country is at a high standard.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 Members are asked to note this report, and endorse the continued

involvement of the EPU in this important work-stream.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

- The National Capabilities Survey 2008 - Results from the Government Office for the North East Region
- Tyne Wear FRS Civil Contingencies Committee report 6th July 2009

Copies of these documents are available in the Emergency Planning Unit offices.

ANNEX 1

NATIONALCAPABILITIES SURVEY

The National Capabilities Survey asks local responders a range of questions in 16 modules as listed below:

Business Continuity	Generic Resilience
CBRN	Site Clearance
Urban Search and Rescue	Human Infectious Diseases
Animal Infectious Diseases	Mass casualties
Evacuation and Shelter	Warning and Informing and Alerting
Mass Fatalities	Humanitarian Assistance
Flooding	Recovery
Data Sharing	Human Capabilities

Categories of questions to be answered by the Local Resilience Forum

LRFs are asked a different set of questions in the following modules:

Generic Resilience	CBRN
Human Infectious Diseases	Pandemic Influenza
Animal Infectious diseases	Mass Casualties
Evacuation & Shelter	Warning, Informing and Alerting
Mass Fatalities	Humanitarian Assistance
Flooding	Recovery