

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

(County Hall, Swansea)

Members Present:

18th January, 2008

Chairman:

**Councillor Mrs.M.H.Jones
(City and County of Swansea)**

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council:

**Councillors H.M.Bebell, J.R.Bryant, Mrs.S.M.Penry
and P.A.Rees (Vice Chairman)**

City and County of Swansea:

Councillors A.Robinson, G.Sullivan and G.Thomas

Officers in Attendance:

Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council:

G.Jones and R.Williams

City and County of Swansea:

P.Smith, J.Stephens and P.Thomas

Apologies for Absence:

Officers:

K.R.Sawyers

1. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 23rd
November 2007, were received and noted.

2. **PRESENTATION BY PHIL PICKERSGILL – FLOOD RISK MANAGEMENT**

Members welcomed Mr Phil Pickersgill, from the Environment Agency, who gave a presentation on Flood Risk Management.

Mr Pickersgill informed the Committee of the current structure of the Agency in South West Wales area along with the specific roles and responsibilities of each section.

Members were advised that in the event of emergencies and a significant restriction on resources, responses were understandably prioritised. Inter-agency communications are seen as critical for the coordination of any effective response. Mr Pickersgill spoke of a recently devised response strategy to deal with the potential incidents, on a multi Agency basis, outlining the specific tasks of each Agency.

Members were informed that the Environment Agency have the facility to present all households with a “Statement of Risk”, whereby once their specific location had been identified the chances of flood risk to their property could be ascertained. It was agreed that details of this scheme would be distributed to all Members of the Committee.

Mr Pickersgill showed photographic evidence of flooding incidents that had occurred across the region and advised that there was currently a flood warning alert system available for residents. It was highlighted that there were inadequate resources within the Agency to defend all areas. Mr Pickersgill offered to give a presentation to all City and County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot Elected Members.

The Chairman thanked Mr Pickersgill for his informative presentation.

3. **REPORT OF THE JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT**

Members received an update on the activities of the Joint Resilience Unit, as detailed in the circulated report. Resilience Manager, Paul Thomas, advised that the Joint Resilience Unit had been directly involved in one incident with the Emergency Services on the 8th of December regarding a landslide at Ynysgored, Velindre and flooding at Victoria/Regent Street, Briton Ferry. Neath Port Talbot Members conveyed their ongoing concern for this area during the poor weather conditions over the Christmas period.

Members noted that work was continually being carried out on the Emergency Response Plans for both Authorities and “desktop exercises” would be facilitated over the next 12 months to test the Directorate Emergency Response Plans.

Mr Thomas informed the Committee that the NPT/CCoS Resilience Partnership Risk Group would meet on the 29th of January 2008.

Members were given a list of future events planned including a Seminar, arranged for the 3rd March 2008 at the Liberty Stadium, which involved a tabletop exercise along with participation from Partner Category 1 responders. Elected Members were invited to take part in the event.

Members also noted a multi-agency Flood Emergency Response Exercise Plan for Canalside, Aberdulais which would take place in Spring 2008.

Members noted the circulated document “Learning Lessons from the 2007 floods”. The urgent recommendations of the Pitt Review were enclosed for Members’ information containing proposals for Councils and other relevant organisations across the UK in response to the Summer floods and the subsequent Independent Review commissioned by the Government. Officers suggested that the Pitt Report afforded Local Authorities the opportunity to work more proactively with the Environment Agency and other partners.

The Chief Executive of City and County of Swansea, Mr Paul Smith suggested that an action plan be drawn up targeting relevant recommendations to attract funding for a pilot scheme.

4. **EXERCISE “HEAVY METAL” – HELD AT INCO, CLYDACH**

Members were presented with a DVD showing the sequence of events of the recently held live exercise “Heavy Metal” held at INCO, Clydach. Mr Paul Thomas advised Members that positive feedback had been given from the Emergency Services in relation to the organisation of the exercise.

5. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The Committee noted the future dates of the Joint Committee which were as follows:-

Friday, 27th June 2008, at 9.30am (County Hall, Swansea)
Friday, 19th September 2008, at 9.30am (Civic Centre, Port Talbot)
Friday, 7th November 2008, at 9.30am (County Hall, Swansea)
Friday, 30th January 2009, at 9.30am (Civic Centre, Port Talbot)
Friday, 24th April 2009, at 9.30am (County Hall, Swansea)

CHAIRMAN