

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

The Quays, Brunel Way, Briton Ferry

Members Present:

30th January, 2009

Chairman: **Councillor C.Morgan**
(Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council)

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

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:** **Councillors J.R.Bryant, S.J.Mason, Mrs.S.M.Penry
and B.Roblin**

**City and County
of Swansea:** **Councillors A.Jopling, R.J.Lloyd, A.Robinson and
L.G.Thomas**

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:** **K.R.Sawyers, G.Jones and G.Cirillo**

**City and County
of Swansea:** **P.Smith, J.Stephens and P.Thomas**

PART 1

1. MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on 7th November, 2008 were received and noted.

2. **NPT/CCOS RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP FLOOD GROUP**

Mr. Paul Thomas, Resilience Manager, explained that the Group had been established to address flooding issues at local/community level as detailed in the circulated report. He confirmed the ongoing work being carried out by Members, residents and partner organisations and that the overall aim is to have improved multi-agency responses to flood incidents.

Members noted that a joint exercise, led by the Environment Agency, is to be arranged for Canalside, Aberdulais on a date to be agreed. It was confirmed that there will be an opportunity for Members to observe this Exercise.

3. **PANDEMIC FLU**

Mr. Graham Jones reported that a Gold Command training exercise relating to Pandemic Flu preparations - Exercise Taliesen - will take place on 23rd April 2009. Feedback on this Exercise will be provided to Members at the next meeting of this Committee on 24th April, together with a detailed report on Pandemic Flu preparations more generally .

4. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

To resolve to exclude the public for the following items pursuant to Section 100A(4) & (5) of the Local Government Act 1972 and Exempt Paragraph 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

PART 2

5. **PRIVATE JOINT REPORT OF HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES AND HEAD OF PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS**

Mr. G. Jones reported that the Wales Audit Office (WAO) and Price Waterhouse Coopers (PWC), in their capacity as auditors for Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Councils respectively, had been commissioned on behalf of both Chief Executives to carry out a review of the work of the Joint Resilience Unit.

The joint WAO/PWC report, together with a response, in the form of a Priority Resilience Work Programme for both Councils for the period January to June 2009 which had been agreed by both Chief Executives, had been circulated to Members prior to the meeting.

The key conclusion arising from the WAO/PWC report was that the two Councils have in place a basic framework to support compliance with Civil Protection Legislation but that the Joint Resilience Unit had not made the progress expected by the Councils in delivering the objectives that it was set up to achieve.

Both Chief Executives expressed their appreciation of the work done to date by the Joint Resilience Unit but also emphasised the need for significant further progress to be made during the next six months, and beyond.

Mr. P. Thomas emphasised that the building of resilience in both Councils requires a significant and ongoing input from a range of officers across both Councils in addition to the work of the Joint Resilience Unit. Both Chief Executives confirmed that they would continue to assist in ensuring that all relevant officers play their respective part in building resilient local authorities.

Members noted that progress in delivering the Priority Resilience Work Programme would be formally monitored by both Chief Executives. A progress report will also be presented to Members at the next meeting of this Committee.

6. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

Friday 24th April 2009 – (Swansea)

CHAIRMAN