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NPT & CCS Resilience Partnership

FLOOD GROUP

NOTES & ACTION POINTS ARISING FROM THE MEETING HELD AT BRITTANIC HOUSE, LLANDARCY 9TH DECEMBER 2008 AT 10.00AM

PRESENT:

Martin Linforth (ML)	Environment Agency Wales
Malcolm Weatherall (MW)	Met Office
Rob Quin (RQ)	Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (NPT)
Mick Higgins (MH)	Mid & West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (Swansea)
Peter Azzopardi (PA)	South Wales Police
Owen Jenkins (OJ)	NPT CBC - Communications
Steve Owen (SO)	NPT CBC - Environment
Lyn Davies (LD)	NPT CBC - Environment
Wayne Hunt (WH)	City & County of Swansea - Environment
Jorg Hoffman (JH)	NPHS
Andy Irving - Jt Chair (AI)	Environment Agency Wales
Paul Thomas – Jt Chair (PT)	Joint Resilience Unit, Neath Port Talbot & Swansea
Sandra Perrett - Sec (SP)	Joint Resilience Unit, Neath Port Talbot & Swansea

APOLOGIES

Patrick Fletcher	City & County of Swansea - Communications
Bob Langdon	Dwr Cymru Welsh Water



ACTION	OWNER
<p>1. INTRODUCTION</p> <p>PT gave an overview that the Group had been established to address flooding issues at a local/community level.</p> <p><u>TOR</u> – as presented were agreed with the option to review periodically.</p> <p><u>Members</u> - It was agreed that:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the NPHS and Local Health Board's would be added under 'Others' and would attend by exception but remain on the circulation list. The NPHS would take the lead on health issues. It is imperative that Dwr Cymru Welsh Water is represented on the Group. If emergency planning representative can not attend, invite a local operational representative to participate. <p>SO stressed in going forward with this area of work there is a requirement for more mutual aid between City & County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot rather than working in silos.</p>	
<p>2. PITT UPDATE</p> <p>AI reminded the Group that the Pitt report made 15 critical recommendations and circulated a paper giving an update (attached).</p> <p>The report recommendations are back with Central Government. Central Government and WAG will be making a statement by end of December.</p> <p>(http://archive.cabinetoffice.gov.uk/pittreview/thepittreview.html)</p> <p><u>Critical Infrastructure</u></p> <p>EA have looked at all vulnerable infrastructure across Wales and it has been mapped on GIS and was distributed to partner organisations last month. If additional copies are required, requests should be made via the Chair.</p> <p>Surface water map layers have also been produced showing flooding hotspots on the assumption that drains are full and an on-going 6.5 hour storm</p> <p>All this is additional information for compiling Community Flood Plans which is a national initiative. The data already collected is not 100% accurate but is a basis for this Group to build on and improve.</p>	

ACTION	OWNER
<p>3. MULTI AGENCY FLOOD PLANS</p> <p>EA have been commissioned to take the lead on producing Multi-Agency Flood Plans as a result of the Pitt Report.</p> <p>The aim is to have a co-ordinated multi-agency response to flood incidents.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Roles and responsibilities of responding organisations need to be defined. ▪ Triggers and levels of escalation need to be identified. <p>The EA are developing a generic template across South Wales based on Local Authority areas. Guidance as been given by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat but the EA need to consult with responding organisations on the proposed template.</p> <p><u>Catchment Management Plans</u> - will be identified and considered in the local community multi-agency flood plans.</p> <p>AI circulated a draft proposed structure of the plans (attached).</p> <p>It is proposed there will be 3 sections:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction ▪ Area overview ▪ Community Risks - will form the bulk of the document. This will look at every community at risk individually, identifying vulnerable and critical sites, additional risks, etc. 	<p>AP 1 AI</p>
<p>4. ABERDULAIS</p> <p>AI circulated a multi-agency response plan for Aberdulaais, which is an area considered to be the most dangerous place in South Wales for river flooding.</p> <p>Considerable work has been carried out on the canal but defence levels are very low with a 1:10 chance of flooding. No further flood defences are going to be put into the area for time being.</p> <p>A flood warning scheme is in operation that all in the area have signed up to.</p>	<p>AP 2 AI & PT</p>

ACTION	OWNER
<p>5. <u>Forward Action:-</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> EA are moving sandbags and gates to a storage cabinet to be kept at site. Hold a public meeting to speak to local residents in collaboration with NPT Environment Directorate and Joint Resilience Unit representatives. (formally send invite to SO). Hold a live multi-agency exercise to test the plan and evacuation of residents. 	
<p>6. WAY FORWARD</p> <p><u>New Water Bill:-</u> being circulated for consultation next year.</p> <p><u>Welsh Water Surface Strategy:-</u> been released (attached)</p> <p>£59 million is going to be made available through WAG for flood risk management.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> SO and WH are going to check that they have the surface water data/maps. Use existing Local Flood Warning Plans as basis to commence further detailed plans along with the vulnerable and critical infrastructure data. PT and AI to meet and look at current plans and risk assessments (meeting arranged for 13/1/09) 	<p>AP 3 SO & WH</p> <p>AP 4 PT & AI</p>
<p>7. AOB</p> <p><u>Victoria Tce, Britton Ferry</u> – regularly floods. There is a pump in the railway bridge owned by Network Rail. AI to investigate further.</p> <p>Fire Service have no statutory duty to respond to flooding incidents and no funding. The equipment it had under the new dimensions strategy (high volume pump, etc) has to be maintained by the Service at its own cost.</p>	<p>AP 5 AI</p>
<p>8. NEXT MEETING</p> <p>MW to do presentation on Met Office triggers and weather warnings at next meeting.</p> <p>Next meeting to be arranged for 3 -4 months time.</p>	<p>AP 6 PT & AI</p>