

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

(City and County of Swansea)

Members Present:

30th November, 2009

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

Councillors J.R.Bryant, S.J.Mason, C.Morgan,
Mrs.S.M.Penry and B.Roblin

**City and County
of Swansea:**

Councillors Mrs.M.H.Jones, A.Robinson and
L.G.Thomas

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

G.Jones and Mrs.T.Davies

**City and County
of Swansea:**

J.Stephens and P.Thomas

Police Authority:

Chief Superintendent M.L.Mathias

**South Wales Trunk
Road Agency
(SWTRA):**

R.Paul

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor:

A.Jopling

Officers:

S.Phillips and P.Smith

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 7TH AUGUST, 2009**

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 7th August 2009, were received and noted.

2. **SOUTH WALES TRUNK ROAD AGENCY (SWTRA)**

Members received a presentation from Mr.R.Paul from the South Wales Trunk Road Agency (SWTRA). Mr. Paul explained the role and structure of the agency. He explained that SWTRA has 70 members of staff, is managed from its headquarters in Llandarcy and is supported by three regional offices. It is SWTRA's responsibility to manage over 600km of highway, 2 tunnels, 30,000 drains and various other assets.

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

(i) **Pandemic Influenza**

Mr.P.Thomas gave an overview of the circulated report. Members were pleased to note the pandemic influenza planning assumptions had been revised downwards, due to less people currently being affected by the illness. These lower than expected numbers of confirmed cases of swine flu, could be a result of the vaccination programme which is currently underway. A change has been made to the high priority groups receiving the vaccine – these now include special needs children. Currently, the children are being vaccinated within their schools, but during school closures at Christmas time, it is likely that GP Surgeries will be used as vaccination centres. Front-line services are continuing to be offered the Tami-flue vaccination, but it was noted, that staff cannot be made to take up the offer of the vaccination, they are to make up their own minds after being given all the information available. Depending on the scale of the virus in the New Year, it will be decided whether or not to offer the Tami-flu vaccination to the whole population. Members were pleased to note that, to date, no schools in Swansea or Neath Port Talbot had been closed due to swine flu.

(ii) Exercise Taliesin

Mr. Thomas informed Members that a formal debrief by the South Wales Fire Service, on behalf of the Welsh Assembly Government, took place on 8th July 2009. The Joint Resilience Manager took part in a WAG led Pandemic Flu workshop on 18th November 2009, regarding which a detailed report had been produced. The report covered the following main issues:-

- To develop a business process for the Strategic Co-ordinating Group (SCG);
- Media messages and information messages to the public;
- Antiviral distribution arrangements;
- Recovery;
- Public Health;
- Excess deaths and
- Information to and from WAG.

It was noted that the Welsh Assembly Government's initial response to the flu pandemic was too high, which caused panic throughout Wales; this was coupled with a lack of communication with local Authorities.

(iii) Flo Gas – Exercise Firefly

The Llandarcy exercise had been acknowledged by Flo Gas as best practice, and had been adopted at sites throughout the country. Chief Superintendent M.L.Mathias explained how the Police also use information from the exercises.

(iv) Canalside, Aberdulais

With regards the issue of flooding at Canalside in Aberdulais during periods of heavy rain, meetings between residents, representatives of the local Authority, South Wales Police, Mid and West Wales Fire Service, the Environment Agency as well as local Members had taken place. Only 14 of the 32 affected properties had taken part in the information gathering process. A leaflet will be developed for residents entitled 'What to do in a flood'.

(v) USAR

Mr. Thomas notified Members that at the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee, there would be a presentation on Exercise USAR Cymru '09. Members who had been at the exercise praised all agencies who had taken part. Participants included South Wales Police, British Red Cross, St. Johns Ambulance, South Wales Fire and Rescue Service, Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the Military.

(vi) Baglan Fire

Mr. Thomas circulated a report at the meeting which explained the action taken by Neath and Port Talbot Command following the fire on Baglan Mountain on 23rd and 24th April 2009. The Fire Authority have subsequently reviewed the following areas:-

- Water supplies – feasibility studies will be carried out with a view to installing 4 water hydrants in the immediate area of the Civic Centre, Port Talbot;
- Vehicle access – Baglan Mountain provides restricted access for fire appliances;
- Property risk – certain properties on Baglan Mountain and surrounding areas have been identified as most at risk from fire and these have been identified as requiring priority action and attendance of appliances at an early stage of any incidents;

- Land Management – vegetation bordering properties on Baglan Mountain needs to be managed. The land is owned by the Earl of Jersey's estate who are unwilling to provide financial or physical assistance.

Members will receive an update on the above at the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee following discussions with local ward Members (Baglan and Cwmavon) as well as the Fire Service.

(vii) Neath Port Talbot and City and County of Swansea Risk Register

Mr. Thomas gave Members an overview of the Risk Register which was contained within the circulated report.

(viii) Members Resilience Seminar

An all Member Seminar is to be arranged for the New Year focusing on 'Community Risk'. Members of both Authorities will be notified of the arrangements in due course.

(ix) Joint Resilience Unit

Mr. Thomas informed Members that the two new Members of the Joint Resilience Unit – B.Cromie and N.Thomas – had settled in well.

4. **CHIEF SUPERINTENDENT MARK MATHIAS**

Chief Superintendent Mark Mathias took this opportunity to introduce himself to Members and give an overview of his career background. Chief Superintendent Mathias explained how important the role of the Members of the Joint Resilience Committee was within the community. A survey was carried out asking various members of the local population who they saw as the top community leaders. Local Councillors came out top, above the Police and Members of Parliament. Chief Superintendent Mathias praised the work of the Joint Resilience Committee from a preparedness point of view.

5. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Friday, 26th February 2010 (Port Talbot)

Friday, 23rd April 2010 (Swansea)

Meetings will commence at 10.00am instead of 9.30am.

CHAIRMAN