

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Port Talbot)

Members Present:

26th February, 2010

**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 L.G.Thomas, D.A.Robinson and
G.Sullivan

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

G.Jones and Mrs.T.Davies

**City and County
of Swansea:**

J.Stephens, P.Thomas, K.Evans and B.Cromie

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor:

Mrs.M.Jones

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 30TH NOVEMBER, 2009

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 30th November 2009, were received and noted.

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

(i) **Pandemic Influenza**

Mr.P.Thomas gave an update on the work of the Joint Resilience Unit, beginning with the current status of the Swine Flu epidemic within Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Reported cases had reduced, which had in turn reduced the pressure on the primary care services. Members were pleased to note that good progress had been made with regards to plans for the distribution of anti-viral medication, identifying vulnerable persons within the communities, provision of vaccinations, planning for excess deaths and business continuity planning.

(ii) **Afan Lido Fire**

Members noted that a structured debrief involving Fire and Police services, had taken place on 24th February, 2010 for Neath Port Talbot employees. A report will be drafted following the debrief.

NPT employees and members of the JRC were complimented on their work at the time of the Afan Lido fire.

(iii) **Business Continuity Plans**

Members were given an overview of Annex A to the circulated report, and noted that there had been significant progress made over the last few months. A number of business continuity plans had been activated over the last few months within both councils due to the inclement weather.

(iv) **Resilience Policy**

The Resilience Policies for Swansea and Neath Port Talbot had been updated and circulated prior to the meeting. The Policies will subsequently go to the Finance, Audit and Business Improvement Overview Board in Swansea, and the Policy and Resources Cabinet Board and Scrutiny Committee in Neath Port Talbot.

Members expressed an interest in inviting the Police Authority to a future JRC meeting to discuss the security arrangements at Swansea docks.

(v) NPT/CCos Resilience Partnership

Mr.P.Thomas will provide a written report at the next Joint Resilience Committee regarding the Flood/Risk Groups. Members were informed that 9 high flood risk areas have been identified in Neath Port Talbot and 7 in Swansea. The Joint Resilience Unit referred to a planned exercise at Canalside in Neath Port Talbot, which would involve evacuating local residents as a 'dry run' for the event of an actual flood.

(vi) Exercise Romeo – BOC Gases Europe, Margam

A live exercise will take place on 9th March and Members of the Joint Resilience Committee will be invited to attend a 'table top' exercise on 29th March.

(vii) City Centre Evacuation Plan for Swansea

Members noted that an evacuation plan had been drawn up taking into account Swanses in its present state – it will be amended accordingly once all of the current City Centre refurbishment works are completed. Mr. Thomas informed Members that a presentation would be prepared for the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee.

(viii) Resilience Website

Members were pleased to note that the Resilience Website was now up and running, and could be accessed via the main www.Swansea.gov.uk website. There is also a protected area which can only be accessed by authorised persons.

(ix) Members Seminar

A date has yet to be agreed for the Joint Resilience All Member Seminar. Keynote speakers are on standby and Members will be notified as soon as a date has been confirmed.

(x) Incident Log

Members were given a summary of Annex C to the circulated report which detailed the list of incidents since July 2009 where the Joint Resilience Unit Duty Officer had been contacted by Fire Control. There were seven incidents in total, including the train fuel leak in Briton Ferry in August 2009 and the Afan Lido fire in December 2009.

3. **USAR EXERCISE**

Ms.K.Evans gave Members a presentation on the Urban Search and Rescue Exercise which took place on Saturday, 21st November 2009. It was led by the Urban Search and Rescue Wales, and involved a number of agencies including Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Services, South Wales Fire Service, South Wales Police, 203 Field Medical and the British Red Cross.

The scenario for the exercise involved a large gas explosion in a busy shopping centre, resulting in a large number of casualties – some trapped amongst collapsed structures and a large number of uninjured survivors. This part of the exercise took place at the Earlswood Training Facility, in Briton Ferry. A Survivor Reception Centre was opened at The Quays, Briton Ferry, which gave Social Services and Health and Housing Volunteer Rest Staff a chance to practice their role in managing and operating a Survivor Reception Centre.

The whole exercise was a great success and helped promote multi agency working. All Councillors who were present on the day reported that they were very impressed, and emphasised that the whole team should be congratulated on the success of the operation, despite the poor weather conditions on the day.

4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

- (i) Mr.P.Thomas was pleased to introduce a new Member of the Joint Resilience Unit, Mr. Ben Cromie.

- (ii) The JRU are hoping to produce a newsletter for publication every 6 months which will contain information about Resilience activities.
- (iii) Mr.J.Stephens had recently attended a training programme at Police headquarters in the new hydro suite. Members expressed an interest in visiting this facility.

CHAIRMAN