

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Swansea)

Members Present:

23rd April, 2010

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

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

**City and County
of Swansea:**

Councillors Mrs.M.Jones, L.G.Thomas, D.A.Robinson
and R.J.Lloyd

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

G.Jones and Mrs.T.Davies

**City and County
of Swansea:**

P.Smith, J.Stephens, N.Thomas and Ms.S.Perrett

**South Wales Police
Authority:**

R.Thomas

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor G.Sullivan; P.Thomas and S.Phillips

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 26TH FEBRUARY, 2010

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 26th February, 2010 were received and noted.

2. **CITY CENTRE EVACUATION PRESENTATION, NEIL THOMAS, JRU**

Members received a presentation from Mr.N.Thomas regarding the development of a plan for the evacuation of Swansea City Centre.

Mr. Thomas explained why the Swansea City Centre Evacuation plan was necessary. He explained the process the evacuation would take from when a major incident was declared, the partner agencies who would be involved, and how traffic and pedestrians would be directed and assisted to leave the city centre.

Mr. Thomas proceeded to explain that further engagement with local businesses and residents would now be necessary as well as the publication of city centre zone map areas and aide memoirs, and the publication of the plan on the internet. This would be tested via an exercise named Operation Cobalt.

Mr.G. Jones raised the issue of extending this planning piece for crowded places other than the city centre i.e. Neath, Port Talbot, Fforestfach, etc. The JRU were requested to come back with proposals.

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

(i) **Business Continuity Awareness Week, 22nd March – 26th March, 2010**

Mr.J.Stephens informed Members that Business Continuity Awareness Week had gone well – there had been 252 hits on the website. Swansea and Neath Port Talbot were the only local authorities in South Wales who had used this opportunity to promote business continuity. Leaflets were made available to the Committee for their comment and feedback. The next steps for the JRU were to continue further dialogue with the Business Fora, City Centre/ Town Partnerships and the wider business community.

(ii) Afan Lido Fire

Mr.G.Jones gave Members an overview of the circulated report regarding the multi-agency debrief following the Afan Lido Fire in December 2009.

Mr. Jones explained to Members that the Police had categorised the fire as a ‘major incident’ – a point which Neath Port Talbot Council had not been made aware of until the publication of the debrief. There were a number of key points which were noted following the fire and which will be helpful in the future planning and management of similar operations. The Members commended the work that had been produced for the debriefing document and welcomed the opportunity to be updated on progress in 6 months.

(iii) Priority Work Programme

Mr. Stephens gave Members an overview of the Resilience Priority Work Programme (April 2010 – March 2011) as contained in Annex B to the circulated report. Members agreed it would be beneficial to hold a meeting in September/October 2010, solely to discuss the Priority Work Programme.

(iv) Terms of Reference – Joint Resilience Committee

Members were asked to discuss the Current Terms of Reference in relation to their relevance to the JRC at the current time. Members agreed that a change should be made, as although the terms of reference suggested quarterly meetings, the Committee would prefer to retain the current bi-monthly pattern. The suggestion was made that the proposed Member Seminar to discuss the work of the JRC should become an annual event and that the work programme in terms of performance monitoring and scrutiny should become an integral part of the Committee’s work

(v) ‘Resilience Matters’ Newsletter

Ms.S.Perrett distributed a copy of the Spring/Summer 2010 edition of the new ‘Resilience Matters’ newsletter for Members information. Members suggested the newsletter should be circulated within both

Councils and also to key partners such as the Police and Fire Authorities. The JRU requested Member's feedback on the content and their ease of reading.

(vi) NPT/CCoS Resilience Partnership

The Neath Port Talbot/City and County of Swansea Resilience Partnership risk working group met in February 2010 and discussed a number of issues (Annex E to the circulated report) including the planned Ferry Exercise which will be led by the Coastguard and Associated British Ports. A report was due back to the Committee regarding the work of the Flood/Risk Groups but it was agreed that in the absence of the Manager this would be deferred to the next meeting.

(vii) Exercise ROMEO – BOC Gases Europe, Margam

Members were pleased to note that both the live COMAH exercise (9th March 2010) and the table top exercise (29th March 2010) were very successful events. Work is ongoing to finalise the forward action plan, and a multi agency debrief report will be submitted to the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee.

(viii) All Member Seminar

The suggested date for the proposed All Member Seminar is 11th June 2010 subject to the availability of speakers and the agreed venue. This will coincide with the first Annual Meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee of the 2010/11 cycle. It is planned that a live computer workstation will be available at the seminar to allow Members to experience the new Resilience Website. Another topic to be included in the Seminar is the Members Emergency Protocol. A presentation on the Members Emergency Protocol will be arranged for the next Joint Resilience Committee meeting.

(ix) Incident Log – Joint Resilience Unit

Members noted there had been only one incident since the last meeting of the JRC, which was the Rhos Common fire in Neath.

4. A.O.B

- (i) Mr. J.Stephens introduced Mr. Neil Thomas as a new member of the Joint Resilience Team and commended him on his work regarding the City Centre Evacuation Plan
- (ii) Mr. J.Stephens raised the issue of ensuring that a Forward Programme needs to be produced for the JRC to function more effectively. It was agreed that this would be considered before the next JRC meeting in June.

CHAIRMAN