

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE (SPECIAL)

(Civic Centre, Neath)

Members Present:

13th August, 2010

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

Councillors J.R.Bryant, Mrs.A.P.Davies, S.J.Mason,
Mrs.S.M.Penry and B.Roblin

**City and County
of Swansea:**

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

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

G.Jones and Mrs.T.Davies

**City and County
of Swansea:**

P.Thomas and Ms.K.Evans

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors:

D.G.Sullivan and R.J.Lloyd

Others:

P.Smith, S.Phillips and J.Stephens

1. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 2ND JULY, 2010**

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee dated 2nd July, 2010 were received and noted, subject to the amendment that Councillors L.G.Thomas and R.J.Lloyd were not present at the meeting.

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

(i) **Terms of Reference – July 2010**

The circulated report of the Joint Resilience Unit (JRU) included a section on the updated Terms of Reference of the Joint Resilience Committee along with an abbreviations and acronyms section, for Members' information. The Committee agreed the circulated Terms of Reference. These will be forwarded to the Chief Executives of both Authorities to highlight the revised approach to governance.

(ii) **Members Resilience Seminar**

Paul Thomas, JRU Manager, informed Members that invitations for the Members Resilience Seminar (to be held at the Towers Hotel, Jersey Marine on 1st November 2010) had been distributed to all Members of both Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the City and County of Swansea. Responses had so far been slow, but invitations would be recirculated shortly. Members queried why a non-local authority venue had been chosen to host the event. Mr Paul Thomas will provide an official response shortly.

3. **ANNUAL JOINT RESILIENCE AGENDA – PRESENTATION BY PAUL THOMAS**

Mr Paul Thomas gave Members an overview of the proposed Joint Resilience Agenda for the next 6 months or so, together with a proposed new future structure of Committee reports. The first new style report would be produced and circulated for the meeting of the JRC on 10th September, 2010. Mr. Thomas explained that not all the work of the Joint Resilience Unit would be documented; only the key areas the JRU are involved with. It is hoped that the new format would provide more of a structure to the reporting process.

4. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(i) **Health Hazard**

Members expressed concerns about media coverage regarding a new hospital-based virus within the UK, which is reportedly resistant to all current forms of treatment. Mr. Thomas advised that the JRU have had no information to date, but are aware that the Chief Medical Officer is preparing a paper for the Welsh Assembly Government. It was suggested that a suitable Health representative could be invited to a future Joint Resilience Committee meeting to report on this matter.

(ii) **Exercise Dynamo (Canalside, Aberdulais)**

Members were informed that there had been a poor turn out by local residents at public meetings relating to the planned Exercise Dynamo. This multi agency exercise would have made local residents more aware of the emergency flood procedures for their area. Despite the exercise being cancelled due to the poor response, the JRU has managed to collect a large amount of information regarding vulnerable residents living in the 32 properties, which will be an aid to any future emergency planning exercise.

(iii) **Exercise Bay Explorer**

Members were informed about the planned Exercise Bay Explorer, which would be based on a major maritime incident involving a passenger ferry in the Bristol Channel. The table top exercise would take place on the morning of the 24th November 2010, and Members would be invited to attend.

(iv) **Climate Camp Wales**

Mr. Neil Thomas of the JRU explained to Members that there was the possibility of a 'Climate Camp' being established during the next few days in the Onllwyn / Glynneath area. The likely protestors would be expressing their concern about opencast mining.

(v) Members Emergency Protocol

The draft handbook aimed at providing Members with an understanding of the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council/City and County of Swansea's emergency response arrangements will be brought to the meeting of the JRC on 8th September 2010, for Members information, before being distributed at the Members Resilience Seminar on 1st November 2010.

CHAIRMAN