

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE REPORT

10th September 2010

1. **Action points carried over from meeting held on 23rd April 2010 and 13th August 2010 –**

ISSUE	ACTION BY JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT
Business Continuity Awareness Week	The JRU have made contact with the Swansea Business Forum (presentation made), NPT Business Club, Swansea Business Centre and Neath Chamber of Commerce (awaiting dates to attend meetings to raise awareness on the importance of business continuity plans).
Afan Lido Incident	Progress on the multi-agency forward action plan (FAP) will be discussed at the next JRC meeting on 10 th September.
JRC Programme	This was agreed on 13 th August 2010.
Exercise ROMEO	Multi-agency Aide Memoir & Off-site Plan reviewed & published and copies of the aide memoir provided at the JRC meeting held on 2 nd July. The FAP managed by the JRU and signed off by multi-agencies involved.
Members' Seminar	Date confirmed for 1 st November to be held in 'The Towers', Jersey Marine. Theme for the event is 'Community Resilience'.
Incident Log	Updated copy provided at the JRC meeting held on 2 nd July. In future, the Incident Log will be included under the 'Operational/Business' section of the report.
NPT/CCoS Resilience Partnership	<p>Meeting to be scheduled for September with stakeholders/partners to review actions. First piece of multi-agency work, an aide memoir for United Utilities, lower tier COMAH site completed and will be presented at the JRC meeting on 19th November.</p> <p>Meeting arranged for 21st September to review progress on the Multi Agency Flood Response Plans with stakeholders/partners.</p>

ISSUE	ACTION BY JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT
Elected Members Emergency Planning Leaflet	Draft to be circulated to members of the JRC by the end of August and to be discussed on 10 th September (agenda item). Once finalised, the leaflet can be launched at the Members Seminar on 1 st November.
Terms of Reference	To be circulated to the Chief Executives.
Non Local Authority venue for the Members Seminar	There is an issue about the venue and an explanation has been provided to the JRC.

2. **PART 1 – INFORMATION & AWARENESS:-**

Topic: Wales Extremism Counter Terrorism Unit presentation by Richard Knill.

2.1. **Purpose:**

- to raise awareness on issues arising from terrorism and associated risks
- To promote this subject in conjunction with the City Evacuation Plan
- To raise awareness on the UK Government's long term strategy for counter terrorism (CONTEST) and the four priority objectives.

2.2. **Background Information**

The UK Government is taking tough security measures to combat terrorism, but action at a local level is also essential to stop people becoming or supporting violent extremists. In 2006, to achieve this aim the UK Government introduced its long term strategy for counter terrorism (CONTEST) with four priority objectives:

- **Prevent** - To stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremists;
- **Pursue** - To stop terrorist attacks;
- **Protect** - To strengthen our overall protection against terrorist attacks, and;
- **Prepare** - Where we cannot stop an attack, to mitigate its impact.

The Prevent Strategy has five key strands:-

- **Challenging** the violent extremist ideology and supporting mainstream voices;
- **Disrupting** those who promote violent extremism and supporting the institutions where they are active;
- **Supporting** individuals who are being targeted and recruited to the cause of violent extremism;
- **Increasing** the resilience of communities to violent extremism; and
- **Addressing** the grievances that ideologies are exploiting.

These strands are supported by two cross-cutting work streams:

- Developing understanding, analysis and information; and
- Strategic communications.

In launching the Prevent Strategy in June 2008, the UK government asked Local Government and Community Safety Partnerships to respond to the preventing violent extremism agenda. Local Authorities and other community safety partners are uniquely placed to take a lead role given their direct links to the communities they serve and their proven expertise developed through the provisions of the Crime & Disorder Act 1998 in successfully resolving complicated and challenging local issues.

The Resilience Manager was asked by the Chief Executive to participate in the consultation process on developing the CONTEST strategy for Wales, working with the Welsh Assembly Government, South Wales Police and other stakeholders. The CONTEST strategy is however, more than emergency planning and our Community Safety Partnerships and Community Cohesion teams are now leading on delivering the strategy for Wales. The Joint Resilience Unit is a key partner in the work programme.

It is important for the JRC to understand what the CONTEST strategy and its priority objectives are and to engage in the community resilience work through the local partnerships.

3. **PART 2 – KEY PRIORITIES - -Governance and Compliance**

Topic – Audit Reports:

3.1. **Purpose:-**

- 3.1.1. Price Waterhouse Cooper and the Wales Audit Office were appointed to undertake a review of the Joint Resilience Unit and a report was published in January 2009 with recommendations.
- 3.1.2. In Swansea, the Internal Audit team undertook an audit and published a report in May 2010 making recommendations on how improvements could be made in delivering the duties under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

3.2. **Outcomes**

There were 4 key recommendations made in the PWC/WAO report which were:

R1 *The Councils need to strengthen their business continuity arrangements by:-*

- *developing a formal protocol setting out the terms of the partnership; and*
- *formalising the role of the Resilience Coordinators within their job descriptions.*

Consideration should also be given to:-

- Enabling the coordinators to spend a certain amount of time to undertake their roles each month:
- Reviewing the role and purpose of the Corporate Resilience Group; and
- Finalising and testing business continuity plans as a matter of urgency.

R2 *The Joint Resilience Committee should be given greater responsibility for monitoring the Councils' progress in meeting their civil protection duties. It should continue to explore opportunities for improved joint working with other agencies and stakeholders building on the progress made to date.*

R3 *The role and purpose of the Unit should be reviewed, in particular:*

- The Unit's service plan and workload status documents should be reviewed and the key priorities clearly set out and explained to the whole team.
- Progress with this business plan should be monitored regularly.
- Lines of responsibility need to be reviewed and enforced within the Unit and there is scope for better delegation and involvement of the more junior members of the team.
- Ensuring that it has the necessary skills and experience to deliver the key priorities set for it by the two councils with a focus on business continuity.
- There needs to be greater enforcement of performance management to ensure that the Unit delivers what it is tasked to do.
- The Unit needs a presence at both councils in order to raise its profile and ensure that both councils obtain the full benefits of the partnership.

R4 *Both Councils can improve there preparedness for dealing with emergencies through:*

- Better integration between the Councils' other risk assessment processes and the community risk register.
- Neath Port Talbot CBC should work with the City and County of Swansea in further developing their database of skills and equipment necessary to deal with an emergency. This should be shared across both councils' and regularly updated.
- The Councils should ensure that their policies for key staff are updated to take account of the Corporate Manslaughter and Corporate Homicide Act which came into force in April 2008.
- Development of a joint communication plan for dealing with emergencies that may span both councils' boundaries. The councils could also consider undertaking further joint work on the 'warn and inform' aspects of the Act.
- Undertaking further work with local businesses to improve their awareness of business continuity.
- Greater engagement with other stakeholders such as local health boards and the voluntary sector to ensure that there is sufficient joint preparedness for an emergency.

3.3. The Internal Audit undertaken by the Swansea team raised a number of operational improvements to consider. There were 8 in total and none were identified as fundamental recommendations (the highest in ranking for immediate action).

3.4. There were a number, however, that appeared in both reports. The Service level Agreement, Performance management and business continuity (in particular the training and exercising element).

3.5. **Recommendations**

- Joint Resilience Committee review and scrutinise the recommendations from the PWC/WAO and to request an update on the progress and in particular, to concentrate on R1 and the formal protocol (the draft Service Level Agreement)
- Joint Resilience Committee review and verify the progress of the formal adoption on the Resilience Co-ordinators job description, prepared by the Joint Resilience Unit.
- Joint Resilience Committee to request an update in 6 months on the progress to date in implementing the Swansea Audit recommendations

4. **PART 3 – BUSINESS/OPERATIONAL – Validation, Exercising and Information**

4.1. **Topic – Afan Lido Forward Action Plan:-**

The multi-agency debrief of the Afan Lido fire, facilitated by the Joint Resilience Unit was held on 24th February and the Forward Action Plan was presented to the Joint Resilience Committee on 23rd April 2010.

4.1.1. **Outcome**

The Forward Action Plan was noted and it was agreed by the JRC that progress on actions be reported at the 10th September JRC meeting.

4.1.2. **Recommendation**

JRC members to note progress of the resolution of issues and to make recommendations to the resolution of outstanding actions.

4.2. **Topic – Exercise Dynamo**

4.2.1. A live multi agency exercise had been scheduled for 26th September to test the multi agency flood response plan for Canalside, Aberdulais. Unfortunately, due to the lack of support from the residents, the decision was made by the planning group to cancel the exercise. Although disappointing, the planning process has been useful in identifying the needs and vulnerability of the community. This information can be used by Social Services in the event of an evacuation of residents being required in the future.

4.2.2. **Recommendation**

To note that the event has been cancelled

4.3. **Topic – Incidents (Information only)**

To inform the JRC of incidents where the duty officer has been contacted by Fire Control for information and/or assistance.

Since the beginning of July 2010, the JRU have been contacted twice regarding incidents:-

- **16.07.10** - Fernhill Road, Gorseinon – Mini digger ruptured a gas main, with 8 residents evacuated but no rest centre required
- **13.08.10 to 16.08.10** - Climate Change Camp Environmental protestors in the Neath Valley – liaising with Police Gold every day

4.4. **Topic – Annual Agenda**

The annual agenda has been amended to reflect the cancellation of Exercise Dynamo and to include Exercise Bay Explorer. Copies will be provided at the meeting.

4.5. **Topic – INCO multi agency exercise (Information only)**

Exercise Ludwig has been confirmed for 10th November 2010 and the forward action plan will be included in the JRC report scheduled for 21st January 2011.