

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

(Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Centre, Earlswood)

Members Present:

28th February, 2011

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

Councillors J.R.Bryant, Mrs.A.P.Davies (Chair),
S.J.Mason and B.Roblin

**City and County
of Swansea:**

Councillors Mrs.M.Jones, D.A.Robinson
and D.G.Sullivan

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

G.Jones and Mrs.T.Davies

**City and County
of Swansea:**

P.Thomas

Apologies for Absence:

Councillor:

L.G.Thomas

Others:

P.Smith, S.Phillips and J.Stephens

1. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 21ST JANUARY, 2011

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee dated 21st January, 2011 were amended as follows:

Minute Item 2 (iii) should read: J. Stephens and G.Jones will jointly prepare a letter relating to the mutual benefits of continuity of involvement by Police Officers in Resilience matters and also to invite the Police to attend Joint Resilience Committee meetings on a regular basis.

2. **MATTERS ARISING**

Members will be kept up to date with regards the possible reduction/ withdrawal of funding for Air Sea Rescue Services. The issue of funding raised by the Chair has since been escalated to UK Government level.

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

Members received an update on the work of the Joint Resilience Unit, as contained in the circulated report. Topics covered included:-

(i) Swansea Dry Dock

Following a request for further information regarding the proposed change of use of the Swansea Dry Docks by Members of the Joint Resilience Committee, a report will be circulated prior to the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee.

(ii) UK Border Agency

Although a representative of the UK Border Agency had not been present at Exercise Bay Explorer, it is hoped that a delegate will attend the May 2011 meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee in order to provide an overview of the role of the Border Agency.

(iii) Cabinet Officer Paper – ‘The Role of Local Resilience Forums’

Members noted the circulated summary document which provided an overview of the report produced by the Civil Contingencies Secretariat within the Cabinet Office on the role and functions of a Local Resilience Forum. Mr. P. Thomas gave an overview of the structure of Resilience groups from Central Government down to workstreams and task and finish groups within Local Resilience Forums.

(iv) COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazard) Sites

Information had previously been requested by Members of the Joint Resilience Committee on COMAH sites. These were explained in the circulated report, and information was provided

regarding the COMAH operators within the Neath Port Talbot and City & County of Swansea areas.

(v) Exercise Titan

Members received information with regards the up coming Exercise Titan, which is a multi agency COMAH table top exercise for Tata Steel, Port Talbot. The scenario will be built with the site operator and will aim to bring together Tata Steel staff and emergency responders in the Port Talbot area to validate the COMAH off-site plan for Tata Steel, to ensure it correlates with the on-site plan and emergency response plans of responders and broaden the understanding of each other's roles and responsibilities when responding to an incident at Tata Steel. Members felt it would be useful for Mr. P. Thomas to attend the next meeting of the NPT Council Tata Steel Joint Consultation Group in order to discuss the exercise with Group Members.

(vi) Severe Weather

Members discussed the severe weather questionnaires sent to each Directorate within the City & County of Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. The feedback from the questionnaires was included in the circulated report. Members noted that many Directorates had activated their business continuity plans, which was considered to be a positive reaction to the situation. Common themes between the two authorities included the use of 4x4 vehicles in priority areas, such as Social Services. Members felt that it would be advantageous to compile a register of 4x4 vehicle owners employed by both Councils who were prepared to help out in times of severe weather. This would depend in part on the level of insurance cover on the vehicles. Mr. P. Thomas will look into this option further, and report back to a future meeting of the JRC.

Members also noted the continued theft of grit from grit bins, and also the theft of the bins themselves.

4. **URGENT ITEMS**

- i) Mid & West Wales Fire and Rescue Service informed Members about a recent case of unauthorised tipping of waste material and the consequential actions being taken. An update will be given to Members at a future meeting.

- i) Mr. G. Jones advised Members that the financial problems facing both authorities would have implications on the availability of funding for the Joint Resilience Unit. Members will receive an update as soon as more information is available.
- iii) Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service have provided information to the JRU on the location of surface water and flooding incidents that they have attended. The JRU have mapped these locations and have identified hotspots. A report will be provided later in the year at a future meeting of the JRC, and local Members will be made aware if any of the hotspots are within their wards.

5. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

The meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee dated 13th May, 2011 will be rescheduled, and information circulated to Members regarding the change of date.

6. **SITE VISIT**

Following the conclusion of the meeting, Members and Officers of the Joint Resilience Committee were provided with a tour of the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service Centre at Earlswood. The tour focussed on the Wales Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) operations and facilities supported by the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service.

CHAIRMAN