

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Swansea)

Members Present:

18th November, 2011

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

Councillors Mrs.A.P.Davies (Vice Chair), S.J.Mason,
Mrs.S.M.Penry and B.Roblin

**City and County
of Swansea:**

Councillors Mrs.M.H.Jones (Chair), R.J.Lloyd and
D.A.Robinson

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

G.Jones, S.Burgess and Ms C.Grocutt

**City and County
of Swansea:**

J.Stephens

Apologies for Absence:

Councillors:

D.G.Sullivan and L.G.Thomas (City & County of
Swansea)

Others:

J.Straw and S.Phillips

1. GLEISION MINE INCIDENT

As a mark of respect for the four Miners who lost their lives in the Gleision Mine, the Committee stood in silent tribute.

2. MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 26TH AUGUST 2011

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 26th August 2011, were received and noted.

3. **URGENT ITEM**

Because of the need to deal now with the matter contained in Minute No. 4 below, the Chairman agreed that this could be raised at today's meeting as an urgent item pursuant to Section 100B (4) (b) of the Local Government Act 1972.

Reason:

Due to the time element.

4. **INDUSTRIAL ACTION**

In the event of Industrial Action being undertaken by the Trade Unions on the 30th November 2011, Members were advised of the contingency planning arrangements which were being developed at both local authorities.

11 out of 12 Unions had balloted for a public sector strike. Both NPT and CCoS were working together. Critical services had been identified across both Authorities and requests would be made to Trade Unions for specific posts to be covered by employees exempted from the strike, e.g. community care, residential care and community meals.

Members noted the information provided.

5. **ACCESS TO MEETINGS**

RESOLVED: that pursuant to Section 100A(4) and (5) of the Local Government Act 1972, the public be excluded for the following items of business which involved the likely disclosure of exempt information as defined in Paragraph 15 of Part 4 of Schedule 12A to the above Act.

6. **JOINT PRIVATE REPORT OF THE HEAD OF HUMAN RESOURCES (NPT) AND THE HEAD OF PERFORMANCE AND STRATEGIC PROJECTS (CCoS)**

Members were advised that following the significant budget reductions which had impacted upon the Joint Resilience Unit in 2011/12, the staffing restructure of the Joint Resilience Unit had now been concluded, as detailed in the private circulated report.

It was noted that the Joint Resilience Unit had recently relocated to the Quays, Briton Ferry but was still working across both Authorities. A revised Joint Resilience Unit Work Programme for 2011/2012 would be presented to the next meeting.

Simpson Report – Emergency Planning

(An additional Paper on the Simpson report was circulated at the meeting)

Members were briefed on the main objectives of the Simpson Report regarding Emergency Planning. It was noted that both NPT and the CCoS were already working collaboratively and had built a collaboration model which could be used across Wales.

Fforestfach Fire

Members noted that an internal debriefing session had been undertaken following the Fforestfach Fire. A City and County of Swansea Action Plan was currently being developed and would be submitted to a future meeting of this Committee along with the main findings of the multi-agency debriefing.

Visit to TATA Steel

It was noted that Mr J.Stephens would make arrangements with TATA Steel for Members to view the waste disposal and recycling facilities and to receive further information about the storage of the residual waste from the Fforestfach Fire.

It was suggested that the visit could take place on 27th January or 9th March 2012. The Committee would be informed as soon as arrangements had been confirmed.

Gleision Colliery Incident, Cilybebyll

Members were given an overview of the Gleision Colliery incident which had occurred on 17th September, 2011 and the resultant multi agency partnership search and rescue operation undertaken, detailed in the private circulated report.

Members expressed their appreciation on the exemplary manner in which this incident was handled by all concerned.

It was noted that a detailed Neath Port Talbot Council Action Plan was currently being developed as a result of the Gleision Colliery incident which would be submitted to this Committee for consideration in due course.

Update on Storage of Ammonia Nitrate – Swansea Docks

Members received the circulated private report which contained information provided by the Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service which had been previously been requested.

As a consequence, Members requested a further detailed report from Mid and West Wales regarding the current status of the above mentioned storage facility.

Olympics 2012 – Planning Update

(An additional paper on the Olympic preparations was circulated at the meeting).

The private circulated report provided details of the events and itinerary of the Olympic Torch route through South Wales. The report also contained details of the appropriate resilience arrangements which were currently being discussed, prior to the Olympic Torch's arrival in the locality on 26th and 27th May, 2012. Members endorsed the necessary arrangements and would be kept updated on this matter.

Revised CONTEST Strategy for Countering Terrorism

The private circulated report contained details of the revised Strategy for Countering Terrorism CONTEST launched by the Home Secretary. Members also received a verbal update on this matter.

Internal Resilience – Related Changes within the Welsh Government

Members noted that due to changes to Ministerial portfolios and priorities, the responsibility for Resilience and Emergencies within the Welsh Government had moved to the Community Safety Division in Local Government and Communities.

JRU Duty Officer Call Outs

The Committee noted details of the incidents notified to the Joint Resilience Unit since the last meeting, as detailed in the private circulated report.

7. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

The dates of the future meetings as set out below were noted:-

27th January 2012 (Swansea)

9th March 2012 (Port Talbot)

20th April 2012 (Swansea)

CHAIRMAN