

# **JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE**

**(Civic Centre, Swansea)**

## **Members Present:**

**1<sup>st</sup> November, 2013**

**Neath Port Talbot  
County Borough  
Council:**

**Councillors** J.R.Bryant, R.G.Jones, Mrs.S.M.Penry and  
A.N.Woolcock

**City and County  
of Swansea:**

**Councillors** T.Hennigan, D.G.Sullivan,  
D.W.Cole and Mrs.M.H.Jones

## **Officers in Attendance:**

**Neath Port Talbot  
County Borough  
Council:**

S.Burgess, Miss.C.Davies and Mrs.T.Davies

**City and County of  
Swansea:**

B.Cromie

## **Apologies for Absence:**

**Councillors:**

Mrs.D.Jones (Neath Port Talbot County Borough  
Council), Mrs.C.Richards (City & County of Swansea)

**Officers:**

S.Phillips, G.Jones, J.Stephens and D.Taylor

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## **1. MEMBER'S DECLARATION**

The following Members made a declaration at the commencement of the meeting:

Councillor T.Hennigan	-	Joint Report of the Lead Heads of Service for Resilience for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council of Swansea – as he is a Member of Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.
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- Councillor D.W.Cole - Joint Report of the Lead Heads of Service for Resilience for Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council of Swansea – as he is a Member of Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> JUNE 2013**

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 28<sup>th</sup> June 2013, were received and noted.

3. **FIRE SERVICE STRIKE**

Members were updated on the current situation regarding the series of strikes held by the Fire Brigade Union (FBU) following disputes over pensions and the retirement age of fire fighters. A briefing note had been circulated to all Members in Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the City and Council of Swansea before each of the strikes regarding preparedness. Members noted that the Fire Officers Association was not holding any strikes.

It was agreed that a representative from the Fire Service be invited to attend the 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014 meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

4. **SECURE RESILIENCE WEBSITE UPDATE**

Following the development of a Secure Web Application in 2012 by the Joint Resilience Unit, Mr Burgess was pleased to report that the website will now be hosted as part of a regional collaboration by Ceredigion, with access and working practices extending to the 6 Local Authorities of Swansea, Neath Port Talbot, Carmarthen, Powys, Pembrokeshire and Ceredigion, with the funding coming from the Central and South West Wales Regional ICT Programme Board.

Members were very supportive of this piece of collaborative work, and would welcome a demonstration of the Website at a further meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the Secure Resilience Website be endorsed as an approach to building greater resilience in conjunction with partner agencies.

5. **BUSINESS CONTINUITY UPDATE**

Members noted that a review programme will be established to appraise both authorities' business continuity plans. Following work by the Joint Resilience Unit, approximately 90% of Swansea's schools now have business continuity plans and a similar project will be undertaken in Neath Port Talbot. This work has been carried out by Jayne Copues and Kevin Williams of City and County of Swansea Education Department. The JRU have provided support during this work. Officers will be working closely with schools and discussing risks with the children, as the starting point for the strategy 'Building Resilience into our Communities', which will be presented to Members at the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee.

Members discussed the recent fire in Margam Crematorium. The Joint Resilience Unit have been working with the Crematorium manager to bring their Business Continuity Plans up to date.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

6. **RISK REGISTER**

Members noted that there are two Risk Registers for Neath Port Talbot and Swansea – a Partnership Risk register, which is on a secure website; and a publically accessible document that is available to all. With regards the latter 5500 copies were sent out to local business in the form of an e-document, as a guide to what can be done to help yourself in an emergency.

Members discussed the use of social media (such as Facebook and Twitter) in major incidents, and a short session of social media training will be arranged for Members at the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

7. **JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT EXERCISES**

Members were given an overview of the exercises/seminars attended by Officers of the JRU in 2013, as contained within the circulated report, and noted that Neath Port Talbot and Swansea Councils are working closely with other Authorities as part of the South Wales resilience team.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

8. **COMAH EXERCISES**

Members discussed the next multi agency tabletop COMAH exercise, which would take place with Vale Europe site in Clydach on 18<sup>th</sup> December. Their off-site emergency plan would be tested against a credible scenario, where by a toxic gas plume would move towards Clydach. Mr Burgess gave an open invite to all of the Joint Resilience Committee Members to attend the exercise.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted.

9. **URGENT ITEM – ST JUDE’S STORM**

The Committee received an update on the recent St Jude’s Storm, which was supposed to have been headed towards Swansea and Neath Port Talbot. Members enquired how the Authorities talked to each other regarding the path of the storm and noted that Twitter had been well used by both Officers and members of the public. The Joint Resilience Unit had sent a briefing note out to all resilience coordinators in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea.

Members noted that there had been no inclusion on the agenda of recent Joint Resilience Unit business, and were pleased to note this was because there had been no incidents to report.

10. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

- 24<sup>th</sup> January 2014
- 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

**CHAIRMAN**