

# **JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE**

**(Civic Centre, Swansea)**

**Members Present:**

**24<sup>th</sup> January 2014**

**Neath Port Talbot  
County Borough  
Council**

**Councillors:** Mrs. D. Jones, R.G.Jones, Mrs.S.M.Penry  
and A.N. Woolcock

**City and County  
of Swansea:**

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

**Officers in Attendance:**

**Neath Port Talbot  
County Borough  
Council:**

S.Burgess, N. Thomas and Miss G. Cirillo

**Apologies for Absence:**

**Officers:**

S.Phillips, G.Jones, T. Whomsley

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

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

Councillor D.W.Cole                      -    Member of Mid and West Wales Fire  
Authority.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 1<sup>st</sup> NOVEMBER 2013**

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 1<sup>st</sup> November 2013 were received and noted.

3. **MR. J. STEPHENS**

Mr.S. Burgess, Manager Joint Resilience Unit confirmed with those present that Mr. Jeremy Stephens has now left CCOS council. Members expressed that their thanks and best wishes be extended to Mr. Stephens for all his hard work in supporting the work of the Joint Resilience Committee.

4. **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. To date there were no serious issues to report and the Joint Resilience Unit Manager, Mr. S. Burgess confirmed that safety measures such as briefing notes and protocols had been communicated internally and externally across Neath Port Talbot and Swansea. Mr. Burgess confirmed that the strike will continue, but to date, no strike dates have been issued.

It was agreed that a representative from the Fire Service be invited to attend the next meeting of the Joint Resilience Committee scheduled for the 2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014.

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

5. **SECURE RESILIENCE WEBSITE UPDATE**

Members received an update on the bespoke Joint Resilience Unit (JRU) secure website to improve multi-agency emergency planning and response arrangements as discussed at the previous meeting and detailed in the circulated report.

The Joint Resilience Manager, Mr. S. Burgess updated members regarding progress made around the website development and confirmed that a Governance Group has been established comprising Emergency Planning

Leads from Neath Port Talbot, Swansea, Pembrokeshire, Ceredigion, Powys and Carmarthenshire Local Authorities.

Members also noted developments and options to host the website application, which would enable the NPT/Swansea application to be rolled out to a wider range of organisations as detailed in the circulated report. Mr. Burgess also confirmed with Members that the secure website had been demonstrated over the last nine months across all four Local Resilience Forums areas in Wales with positive outcomes.

Members were given a “live” demonstration of the secure website and noted the variety of functions’ the system offered, including, incident management, document management and GIS capability.

Members thanked Mr. Burgess and Mr. N. Thomas for the work of the JRU on this item which would contribute to building greater resilience across Wales using a local solution.

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

## 6. **PUBLIC FACING WEBSITE**

Members received an update on developments on the public facing website as detailed within the circulated report. Mr. S. Burgess reminded Members that this has been set up to assist the Councils in meeting their warning and informing obligations in accordance with the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Links on the website <http://www.jointresilience.co.uk/> now exist in relation to Met Office information, News Stories, live Traffic information, M4 traffic watch cameras, joint newsletters and articles by Community Police are some examples including social media such as “Twitter” <https://twitter.com/JointResilience>

**RECOMMENDED:** that Members endorse the approach to building greater resilience.

7. **COMAH EXERCISES**

Members discussed the multi agency tabletop COMAH exercise, which took place at the Vale Europe site in Clydach on 18<sup>th</sup> December 2013.

The exercise scenario was based on an accident on-site which resulted in an escape of Sulphur Dioxide Gas into the surrounding atmosphere. Organisations represented at the exercise included City and County of Swansea, South Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Service, Mid and West Wales Fire Service, Public Health Wales and ABMU Health Board. Mr. S. Burgess confirmed that initial feedback from this exercise was positive.

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

8. **MULTI -AGENCY CROSS BORDER CHEMICAL INCIDENT EXERCISE**

Members received a report stating that the Joint Resilience Unit (JRU) had been approached by Natural Resources Wales and colleagues from the Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum inviting the JRU to take part in a cross border multi-agency exercise as detailed within the circulated report. Members noted that a planning group will be formed for this exercise with a view to it taking place in November 2014.

Any updated information would be brought back to the Committee where appropriate.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted

9. **SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS**

Members received a brief update regarding incidents between 11<sup>th</sup> December 2013 and 2<sup>nd</sup> January 2014 as detailed in the circulated report.

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

10. **STAFFING MATTERS**

Mr.S.Burgess gave Members a brief update on staffing matters within the JRU. A new Emergency Planning Continuity Officer appointment has been

made with a commencement date of JRU on 22<sup>nd</sup> April 2014, and another existing member of the team had now completed a Diploma in Emergency Management.

**RECOMMENDED:** that the report be noted

11. **DATE OF NEXT MEETING**

2<sup>nd</sup> May 2014

**CHAIRMAN**