

JOINT RESILIENCE COMMITTEE

(Civic Centre, Swansea)

Members Present:

2nd May 2014

**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: D.W.Cole, T.Hennegan,
Mrs.M.H.Jones and Mrs.C.Richards

Officers in Attendance:

**Neath Port Talbot
County Borough
Council:**

S.Burgess, G.Jones and Miss G.Cirillo

Apologies for Absence: D.Williams

1. MEMBER'S DECLARATIONS

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

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

Councillor T.J. Hennegan - Member of Mid and West Wales Fire Authority.

2. **MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON THE 24TH JANUARY 2014**

The Minutes of the Joint Resilience Committee held on the 24th January 2014 were received and noted. It was noted that Cllr. Mrs. C. Richards had also submitted her apologies for this meeting.

3. **GUIDE TO THE ROLE OF AN ELECTED MEMBER DURING AN EMERGENCY**

The Joint Resilience Manager, Mr.S.Burgess illustrated to Members a new Member Guide which was now available, copies of which were circulated at the meeting. The Joint Resilience Manager reminded Members that many people, including JRU team members, rely on the skills, resources and knowledge of an Elected Member, as they provide an invaluable resource and communication channel to the community prior, during and after an incident. It is, therefore, essential that Elected Members' awareness of civil protection and emergency preparedness arrangements contribute to the successful outcome of an emergency incident. Members commended the new Guide but also asked that they be informed as soon as possible when incidents occur. In response to this, the JRU Manager stated that all Elected Members would receive communication via e-mail or by phone.

RECOMMENDED: that the revised Elected Members Guide be approved.

4. **PUBLIC FACING RESILIENCE WEBSITE**

The JRU Manager updated Members about progress to date regarding the shared public facing website. A meeting had taken place with the North Wales Local Resilience Forum (NW LRF) to discuss promoting a shared public facing website between the South Wales and North Wales LRFs as an additional method of engaging with the public. It was also noted that this would also be an ideal forum to publish the Community Risk Register.

Within the context of the website development work which has been progressed by the NPT and Swansea JRU, this is increasingly being used to support collaborative working regionally and nationally.

RECOMMENDED: that the work being progressed by Neath Port Talbot and Swansea JRU regarding

collaborative working for the public facing resilience website, be approved.

5. **MULTI AGENCY CROSS BORDER CHEMICAL INCIDENT EXERCISE**

Members were given information about “Exercise Bridge” which is a cross border exercise with Dyfed Powys Local Resilience Forum to take place on 19th November 2014. This exercise will test the multi-agency response to a road tanker carrying chemicals crashing on the M4 near to junction 48. The City and County of Swansea will be tasked with setting up a rest centre assisted by staff from Neath Port Talbot Council utilising mutual aid arrangements. Members were encouraged to attend where possible.

RECOMMENDED: that the collaborative working approach regarding cross-border exercises be approved.

6. **COMAH EXERCISES**

Members were updated regarding the current preparations for multi-agency COMAH exercises at Calor Gas (Aberdulais) and Tata Steel (Port Talbot), scheduled to take place in Autumn 2014.

The aim of the exercises will be to test the off-site plan for these sites as a result of their top tier status under the Control of Major Accident Hazard (COMAH) regulations 1999.

Participating agencies will include representatives from Neath Port Talbot CBC, South Wales Police, Welsh Ambulance Service, Mid and West Wales Fire Service, Natural Resources Wales, Public Health Wales and ABMU Health Board. The JRU Manager stated that in organising these excercises the aim is to get as close as possible to “real-life” scenarios and encouraged Members to attend these exercises, if possible. Members commended the report and suggested that Town and Community Councils should also be made aware of these exercises as well as the public facing website, discussed earlier in the meeting.

RECOMMENDED: (a) that the Committee notes the arrangements for the COMAH Exercises as detailed in the circulated report;

- (b) that the links to the JRU website be e-mailed to all Town and Community Councils in Neath Port Talbot and Swansea

7. **SUMMARY OF INCIDENTS**

Members received a summary of incidents between the 31st January and 4th April 2014 as detailed in the circulated report.

With regard to the tyre materials incident of 4th April, Members noted that details about the storage of a quantity of tyre shred and other materials were recently reported to the JRU via the Arson Reduction Team of Mid and West Wales Fire and Rescue Service (MWWFRS). Concern was expressed by MWWFRS about the tyre shred which was stored mainly within an enclosed building.

MWWFRS considered that this material potentially presented a fire risk. A multi-agency team meeting comprising MWWFRS, local authority officers, South Wales Police, Public Health Wales and chaired by National Resources Wales (NRW) was immediately established. Members noted the detailed verbal and visual update given by the JRU Manager given the concerns emerging from this particular incident which included finds of hazardous substances.

Members commended the partnership working efforts of all concerned and ongoing work to remedy the complex issues which have emerged from this incident.

RECOMMENDED: that the report be noted.

8. **JOINT RESILIENCE UNIT 2014/2015 WORK PROGRAMME**

Members received details of the proposed key activities for inclusion in work programme for the Joint Resilience Unit (JRU) for 2014/2015 are set out in **Appendix 1** to the circulated report.

The aim of the work programme is to ensure that the JRU and other key players in both local authorities focus on agreed priorities, leading to both local authorities and their constituent communities becoming more resilient.

RECOMMENDATION: that the Joint Resilience Unit Work Programme 2014/2015 be approved.

9. **ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

Fire Strike Update

The JRU Manager gave Members an overview of the current situation concerning the planned industrial action by the Fire Brigade Union and potential impacts to the activities of Neath Port Talbot County Borough Council and the City and County of Swansea.

Members noted that the fire fighters' dispute is a national dispute about pensions and the issue is currently with UK Ministers who determine pension scheme matters. In the meantime, the Mid and West Wales Fire & Rescue Service (MWWFRS) will keep local businesses and the community up to date with the progress of its dispute, and have contingency plans in place to ensure operational emergency response services can be maintained.

RECOMMENDATION: that the report be noted

10. **DATES OF FUTURE MEETINGS**

Friday, 1st August 2014 – Port Talbot Civic Centre

Friday, 7th November 2014 – City & County of Swansea

CHAIRMAN