

To: Communities Policy Overview Committee -13 January 2009

By: Mike Hill, Cabinet Member, Amanda Honey, Managing Director, Communities

Subject: Emergency Planning

Classification: Unrestricted

Summary: This report summarises developments in emergency planning in the past year and notes three incidents which have occurred or been anticipated. It also highlights the attention being given to resilience issues in Kent that may be associated with the 2012 Olympic Games.

Recommendation: Members are asked to NOTE this report

FOR INFORMATION

1.0 The role of the Emergency Planning Team

1.1 The primary role of the emergency planning team is to fulfil the legal requirements associated with civil protection. The key piece of legislation is the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, which commits the authority to the following duties:

- Risk assessment
- Emergency planning
- Emergency response and recovery
- Business continuity planning
- Cooperation with other responders
- Information sharing
- Warning & informing
- Promoting business continuity in the community.

1.2 The team is also responsible for detailed emergency planning for Dungeness, other high hazard sites and pipelines. Additionally, KCC acts as a key partner in Kent wide resilience activities and is a primary player within the Kent Resilience Forum.

2.0 Emergency Planning & Business Continuity Planning

2.1 Since coming to post in January 2008, the Head of Emergency Planning is pleased to report that a broad range of improvement activities has been introduced. This has led to an overall step-change in team performance and the execution of our responsibilities under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. Of note are the following achievements and work in progress.

- a) The implementation of a new team structure to provide a better focus on the demands of major emergency planning and the delivery of improved

standards and capabilities. This has led to a range of improvements, including the development of standardised plans, procedures and other documents within KCC, enhanced response facilities and training, and a refreshed approach to KCC internal planning to underpin corporate response. Other measures such as incident response email briefings have also received universal acknowledgement.

- b) A thorough review of the business continuity management process within KCC, with an enhancement programme approved to further increase the business continuity planning and response capability of the authority.
- c) An improved working relationship with district council partners, leading to the possible development of a “one Kent” approach to emergency planning, with common plans and response capabilities being considered by the district council community. A revised service level agreement is also being considered to further enhance support to the district councils who wish to procure KCC’s services in order to assist them in their direct discharge of civil protection duties under the Act.
- d) An improved working relationship with the Kent Resilience Forum (KRF) and the engagement of KCC in a range of Kent-wide resilience activities. This has included KCC leading on various improvement measures, including document standards, recovery management and forum structure.
- e) Continued development and enhancement of relationships with key agencies and specialist utilities, further improving and developing Oil Pollution capability and off site nuclear response planning. Of note is Kent’s recent demonstration of recovery management working following a postulated nuclear emergency, with other authorities looking to KCC for expert advice on this subject.
- f) The development of a range of third-party relationships within London and the South East, sharing good practice and exchanging ideas with a wealth of agencies and specialist organisations.

2.2. KCC has also been involved in a range of other activities conducive to the emergency planning agenda. This has included guest speaking on emergency planning with various groups, continued engagement with the voluntary sector, promoting good business continuity practice within the community and supporting key parallel agendas and initiatives, such as national exercise participation and contributing to national debate on capabilities and related EP issues.

3.0 Emergency call-outs and responses

3.1 KCC has responded to a range of incidents where a response was required. The following highlights a range of these high profile events.

- a) Potential Fuel Crisis, June 2008: The council faced a serious situation where supplies of petrol and diesel could have been seriously disrupted as a result of strike action by drivers delivering for Shell. This would have only affected around 30% of the country’s fuel stock capability, but unpredictable elements

such as buyer behaviour and the possible escalation of industrial action could have further reduced overall availability of fuel supplies. Two weeks before the first planned strike, emergency arrangements were activated to look at the business continuity impacts to KCC and its critical suppliers so that suitable continuity strategies could be formulated and put into place before the action started. This was an extremely successful operation which ensured that if required, as far as reasonably practicable, KCC could ensure that its critical functions could be protected.

- b) Channel Tunnel Fire, September 2008: A well rehearsed and understood Bi-National emergency response plan was activated as a result of a fire onboard a Eurotunnel freight train on the 11th September 2008, with KCC responding in accordance with this plan. Although there was limited involvement for KCC as a responder, KCC Emergency Planning were placed in an empowered and trusted position to ensure that key political and organisation stakeholders were kept up to date, that they could be confident in the multi-agency response, and that all possible measures were being taken to lessen the impact of supporting measures such as Operation Stack.
- c) Port of Dover Strike Action, November 2008: Again, the emergency scheme was activated as a proactive measure to deal with the issues surrounding this event and the impact of Operation Stack. As with the Fuel Crisis detailed above, it gave KCC the opportunity to think through the issues before the event occurred.

4.0 Olympics resilience planning

4.1 In 2005, London won the bid to host the 2012 Olympic Games and Paralympic Games. Since then, sectoral work has commenced to prepare for the broad range of activities that will take place over the period of the Games and other associated activities, including the bid for the torch procession. This work is under the auspices of the Kent 2012 Campaign, which is led and managed by KCC's Sport, Leisure and Olympics service.

4.2 In addition to this primary work, various agencies in Kent have made initial assessments on how this major event will impact on them and the broader multi-agency community. A number of reports has been produced, including a report and presentation to the KRF highlighting some of the resilience issues.

4.3 Over the past 6 months or so, a broad range of concerns has been raised from various parties that the multitude of issues surrounding effective planning, coupled with the issues raised by previous reports and presentations, requires some holistic focus and assessment. Additionally, it has been recognised by the KRF Executive Group that these issues impact on the overall resilience agenda, even though they may not be of primary concern to the core business of the KRF.

4.4 It was therefore agreed that the County Council facilitate a multi-agency investigation and "brain-storm" into these issues and the impact on the resilience agenda in Kent and the resource implications, and report back formally to the KRF on

the output of this work. A productive meeting, chaired by KCC discussed the full implications that the 2012 Olympics would have on Kent from a resilience perspective and involved the following agencies:

- Kent County Council Emergency Planning
- Kent Highways Services
- Kent County Council Sport, Leisure and Olympics
- Dover District Council
- Sevenoaks District Council
- Ashford Borough Council
- Swale Borough Council
- Dartford Borough Council
- Kent Police
- Kent Fire & Rescue Service
- Network Rail

4.6 A broad range of implications were identified and the general themes which have emerged include:-

- Capacity
- Capability
- Security
- Congestion and overload
- Scale
- Overall "increase" considerations with existing problems and issues
- Overall resilience of "Kent" during this period
- Public Safety.

4.7 It was also the view of all agencies that the work associated with these issues did not sit with one specific agency, team or discipline and that consideration should be given to the provision of a dedicated resource to examine the full implications of this agenda, the strategic approach to resolution and its links with the broad range of agencies, groups and disciplines that may be affected or may have an impact on these issues. This resource proposal is now being developed and a suitable role profile and associated costs are being examined. It is envisaged that this information will be presented to KRF members in January 2009 for a final decision on funding and moving forward.

5.0 Recommendation

Members are asked to NOTE this report

Contact:-

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