



GOVERNMENT OFFICE  
FOR LONDON

LONDON RESILIENCE TEAM

Riverwalk House, 157 – 161 Millbank, London, SW1P 4RR

**SUMMARY BRIEFING – 18<sup>th</sup> meeting of the London Regional Resilience Forum on 18 January 2006.** (Those attending included Phil Woolas, Minister for London, as Chair, and Ken Livingstone, Mayor of London, as Deputy Chair, in addition to senior representatives from the organisations listed at Annex A, below.)

**Minister's introduction**

1. The Minister offered the Forum's congratulations to those involved in resilience whose work had been recognised in the New Year's Honours list. He mentioned in particular: Mr Roy Bishop OBE, Deputy Commissioner, London Fire Brigade; Ms Julie Dent CBE, Chief Executive, South West London Strategic HA; Mr Martin Flaherty OBE, Director of Operations, London Ambulance Service; Mr Peter Hendy CBE, Managing Director, Surface Transport. TfL; Major Muriel McClenahan OBE, Salvation Army, currently seconded to London Resilience Team; Mr Tim O'Toole honorary CBE, Managing Director, London Underground Ltd; Ms Alison Thompson MBE, HM Coroner, London Coroner's Group.

**Threat and horizon scan**

2. An oral brief to the Forum by the MPS on current threat. CCS gave an oral update on recent and upcoming issues, including pandemic flu, bird flu, severe weather, gas/electricity supplies. The Director, LRT, gave an oral update on fuel planning. LRT has held meetings with DTI to resolve issues raised by London partners.

**Regional Risk Assessment/National Capabilities Survey**

3. LRT has been reviewing and updating the **Regional Risk Assessment (RRA)** with London Resilience partners, building upon the 2004 RRA. The updated RRA had been carried out to a revised format which included 45 generic hazards assessed against six impact categories and the likelihood occurrence in each case and was an attempt to bring together a consistent view on risk across the UK. There should be a reasonably consistent position by Easter. The Risk Assessments should feed through to individual partners' Business Continuity Planning.

4. The next step in this process was the **National Capabilities Survey (NCS)** which would assess the ability of each region to deal with, and measure the way in which they operated during, emergencies. The NCS would be circulated at the beginning of February and the current timetable for completion was the end of March.

## **London Bombings – progress against actions**

5. Items not subject to more detailed papers elsewhere in the meeting agenda were, **sustainability** (against repeated attacks) - partners were incorporating sustainability in their on-going planning; **warning & informing the public** – the Communications Sub-Committee had reviewed the issues and a strategy was currently being prepared; **Common Information Picture** - under review by the Command and Control Working Group; **cordons** – under review by the Blue Lights Sub Committee; **arrangements for future debriefs** – being taken forward by LRT and CCS, and a report would be made to the next Forum. The Minister had written to the Home Secretary to advise the results of the Forum's debrief on 7 July and a reply had been received thanking the Forum for its work, and confirming that the national issues were being taken forward as part of the national level response.

6. **Family Assistance Centre** - an interim plan had been prepared and could be implemented immediately. A Family Assistance Centre Working Group had been established and an early draft plan would be ready for the next Forum meeting on 5 April. LRFs were asked to consider suitable locations for FACs.

7. **Strategic Co-ordination Centre** - the Command and Control Working Group (C&CWG) had considered a report into the SCC and had broadly endorsed a number of recommendations, including those for a secure, accessible and bespoke SCC; creation of a dedicated SCC secretariat; training and exercising for the Gold Coordinating Group. However, there was more work to be done by the C&CWG who would report back in due course to the Forum.

8. **Telecomms** - the Forum agreed that further investigation should be carried out into **cell broadcasting** as a means of fast time communication to the public, to be taken forward by CCS and progress reported to the next meeting. The Communications Sub-Committee would take forward, together with CCS, the matter of **public education** in efficient use of mobile phones. A draft **London satellite phone summary plan** was discussed and it was agreed that the Blue Lights Sub-Committee would consider it, with a view to including the final version in the London Strategic Emergency Plan. A paper would be prepared for the next Forum meeting on issues around **telecoms resilience some years into the future**.

9. An oral update was provided on the **London Bombings Relief Fund**. Reference was also made to the great deal of work taken forward by the Government, the Mayor, the Police and Local Authorities, on **community cohesion**.

## **Single non-emergency number**

10. The Single Non-Emergency Number (SNEN) project was well advanced and was a joint initiative between the Home Office and the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister. The SNEN would provide the public with direct access, through a new 3-digit number, to community safety advice, information and action, whilst freeing up the 999 emergency services to handle emergency incidents. The SNEN would be rolled out across England and Wales in a number of waves. It was anticipated that the first wave was expected to see the service launched in five areas in 2006, and operating nationally by 2008. Scotland and Northern Ireland were developing their own systems.

## **Regional Pandemic Flu Plan**

11. The Forum considered the first draft London Pandemic Flu Plan, based upon mechanisms already in place. Comments on the draft were requested to be sent to LRT by 31st January 2006. There were a number of outstanding issues. Pre-pandemic education of the public would be important; myths would need to be countered with fact, e.g. rumours

about the benefit of face masks, vaccination and anti-viral drugs. CCS would shortly be issuing refreshed guidance to local planners, this would cover masks, public transport and decision making at national and local level. Occupational health material had been published by the Department of Health / Health and Safety Executive and was available on their websites. Pre-pandemic material was being developed and was currently being piloted with focus groups. The issue of school closure was still being worked through by the Department for Health and the Department for Education.

### **Local Resilience Forum update**

12. All Local Resilience Forums had now met. Primary work areas were Risk Assessments and Community Risk Registers. A communication strategy would be published at the end of February.

### **Extranet/Brokerage Centre update**

13. Whilst ODPM had agreed to provide the one-off capital costs for this project, some difficulties had been encountered over funding the annual revenue element. Any failure to deliver the Extranet in London would represent a missed opportunity to respond to the lessons coming out of 7 July and to provide a communications platform for the London Resilience Partnership. There was also the potential for the Extranet to be used outside London. A multi-agency Project Board would be established to oversee implementation of the project.

### **Olympics**

14. Planning for the 2012 Olympics was at an early stage. An MPS-led Olympic Safety, Security and Resilience Strategy Group had been set up and would meet every two months. Regular updates on progress would be provided to the Forum.

### **Reports from Forum Sub-Committees**

15. The Forum received reports from the following sub-Committees: Utilities; Blue Lights; Health; Transport; Voluntary Sector.

### **Reports from Forum Working Groups**

16. The Forum received reports from the following Working Groups: Chemical, Biological, Radiological and Nuclear; Consequence & Recovery Management; Mass Fatalities; Evacuation; Critical Infrastructure and Business Continuity; Faith; Command & Control; Exercises.

LRT  
February 2006

Association of London Government  
BAA plc  
British Transport Police  
BT (Chair of Utilities Sub-committee<sup>1</sup>)  
Cabinet Office  
City of London Police  
Corporation of London  
Environment Agency  
Government Office for the South East  
Greater London Authority (Chair Communications Sub-Committee<sup>2</sup> & Recovery Management Working Group)  
Health Protection Agency  
Home Office  
London Ambulance Service  
London Borough of Greenwich  
London Borough of Islington  
London Borough of Newham  
London Bombings Relief Fund  
London Coroner's Group  
London District (Army)  
London Fire Brigade  
London Fire Emergency Planning Association  
London First (Chair Business Sub-Committee<sup>3</sup>)  
London Resilience Team  
London Underground  
Metropolitan Police Service  
Network Rail  
ODPM  
O2 Airwave  
Port of London Authority  
Public Health  
St John Ambulance (Chair, Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee<sup>4</sup>)  
South West London Strategic Health Authority (Chair of the Health Sub-Committee<sup>5</sup>)  
TRANSEC, Department for Transport

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<sup>1</sup> BT; UK Transco; Thames Water; EDF Energy; O2; NGT; Airwave; Telehouse Europe Ltd; LRT.

<sup>2</sup> CE, Greater London Authority; CE, South West London Strategic Health Authority; Office of the Deputy Prime Minister; Government Information Communication Service; MPS; Transport for London; Home Office; British Telecom; Cabinet Office; CE, London Borough of Croydon; LRT.

<sup>3</sup> MPS; Barclays Bank; Southward Chamber of Commerce; Citysafe/LRT; City of London Police; City of Westminster; Shell International Ltd; Government Office for London; English Heritage; Business Link London; Westminster Crime Reduction Unit; Canary Wharf Management Ltd; London First; West London Business; British Bankers Assoc'n; Prudential; Oxford Street Traders Assoc'n; Credit Suisse First Boston; London Tourist Board; Corporation of London; Westminster Property Owners Assoc'n; BAA plc; Society of London Theatre; CBI London; The Business Continuity Institute; London Development Agency; EdF Energy; Bank of England; London Chamber of Commerce and Industry; Federation of Small Businesses; 2Change; Continuity Forum; London Resilience Team.

<sup>4</sup> London Churches for Social Action; British Red Cross; WRVS; Salvation Army; Disaster Action; St John Ambulance; LB of Camden; LRT.

<sup>5</sup> South West London Strategic Health Authority, LRT, LAS, RPHG, South London & Maudsley NHS Trust, Guy's & St Thomas NHS Trust, NHS Direct South West London, City & Hackney PCT, Whipps Cross University Hospital, Chemical Hazards & Poisons Division (Health Protection Agency), Lambeth Primary Care Trust, London Borough of Hackney, London Borough of Havering, Islington PCT, Ealing PCT, Department of Health, Health Protection Agency, Princess Grace Hospital Trust.