

# LONDON RESILIENCE



preparing for emergencies

## LONDON REGIONAL RESILIENCE FORUM

### TWENTY- SECOND MEETING

17 January 2007

#### MINUTES

Those attending included the Minister for Local Government and Community Cohesion, as Chair, and the Mayor of London as Deputy Chair, in addition to senior representatives from the following organisations:

British Telecom  
British Transport Police  
Cabinet Office  
City of London Police  
Communities and Local Government  
Environment Agency  
Government Office for London  
Greater London Authority  
Health Protection Agency  
Home Office  
HM Coroner Group  
LFEPA  
London Ambulance Service  
London Borough of Croydon  
London Councils  
London District (Army)  
London Fire Brigade  
London First  
London Resilience Team, GoL  
London Underground  
Metropolitan Police Service  
Network Rail  
NHS London  
Port of London Authority  
Resilience Team, Government Office, East of England  
Chair of the Voluntary Sub-Committee  
Chair of the Business Sub-Committee  
Transport for London

#### Observers

Minister's Private Secretary, DCLG  
NHS London  
London Ambulance Service

## **1. MINISTER'S INTRODUCTION**

1.1 The Minister welcomed everyone to the twenty-second meeting of the London Regional Resilience Forum.

### **1.2 Apologies**

Apologies were received and noted.

1.3 The Chair reminded the Forum that, to comply with the requirements of the Civil Contingencies Act, the minutes of the Forum would be marked 'unrestricted' and would be made available to all Category one and two responders and published on the London Prepared website.

1.4 The Chair welcomed new Forum members.

1.5 The Chair informed the Forum that following the Director of The London Resilience Team's recent illness he had decided not to return to LRT. The Deputy Director of LRT is standing in until a permanent replacement is recruited. The Chair thanked the Director of LRT for his hard work and dedication and wished him well in his new job.

## **2. MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING**

2.1 The Minutes of the 21<sup>st</sup> London Regional Resilience Forum, held on 19 October 2006 were agreed and accepted as an accurate record.

2.2 The action from the last Forum meeting for CLG to review the situation of security clearance for Chief Executives had been covered in a letter from CLG to The Chair of the London Local Authorities Sub-Committee (LLAEPSC), which was circulated to the Forum, and this would be followed up with a meeting.

## **3. THREAT & HORIZON SCAN**

3.1 The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) gave a detailed update on the current position and threat levels.

3.2 The Chair thanked the MPS and invited The Cabinet Office to provide the horizon scan.

3.3 The Cabinet Office explained that the main priorities were Pandemic Flu and Avian Flu.

### **3.4 Pandemic Flu**

The Cabinet Office reported that the threat of a human pandemic flu remains and that there are a number of exercises planned to test responses to this scenario.

- 3.5 **Avian Flu**  
The threat from Avian Flu was still present although was a low risk. If the weather in Siberia worsens this situation could change as the birds may migrate.
- 3.6 **Blue Tongue**  
There is a risk that the Blue Tongue disease which affects cattle and sheep in mainland Europe could spread across the Channel if the warm weather conditions continue.
- 3.8 The Chair thanked The Cabinet Office. There were no questions or comments.
- 3.9 The Chair invited LRT to update the group on the position following the Polonium 210 incident.
- 3.10 LRT explained that The MPS had handed control of Gold to the LA led recovery working. Decontamination surveys have taken place and a protocol put in place for handling the remediation process. Remediation is now underway in various properties and the group's aim is to complete the remediation process for the remaining premises over the next two months.
- 3.11 The Chair added his thanks to all those involved in the Operation. He commented that it was very successful and he was particularly grateful for the work done.

#### **4. REGIONAL DELIVERY PRIORITIES**

##### **Review of the London Resilience Team (Steady State Review)** (Paper LRRF (07) 01)

- 4.1 The Chair invited LRT to update the group on the results of the Review of the London Resilience Team.
- 4.2 LRT explained that the Review of the London Resilience Team (LRT) was commissioned in November 2006 and was undertaken by the In-House Policy Consultancy Team which provides support to the Government Offices. The review aimed to reassess the role of LRT and to recommend next steps on clarifying its role and responsibilities. The Consultancy Team also looked at the committee and working group structure and the role and responsibilities of secondees in LRT. Members of the LRRF were informed of the review by letter in November and a number were interviewed as part of the study.
- 4.3 The report concluded that the London Resilience Partnership has achieved a great deal since its inception, particularly in establishing multi-agency working, establishing a political momentum behind London resilience planning, helping to develop multi-agency plans and in the aftermath of 7/7. One of the key recommendations from the report was the establishment of a Business Planning Sub-Committee.

- 4.4 LRT concluded that they now intended to consider the key recommendations of the report and will submit a future work plan, including draft regional delivery priorities, to the April Forum.
- 4.5 The Chair thanked LRT and asked the Forum members if they were content. The Forum noted and accepted the proposals in the paper. Further questions and comments were invited.
- 4.6 The Greater London Authority (GLA) commented that the review did not clarify to whom LRT was accountable. The Cabinet Office explained that the LRT was accountable to Communities and Local Government (CLG) in the first instance, as they were responsible for regional resilience, and they are in turn, accountable to the Cabinet Office who hold CLG accountable for delivering capabilities.
- 4.7 The GLA also commented that they thought the review should cover; the financial aspects of the LRT, as lack of funding for LRT seems to be a key issue; a review of the number of committees - which he felt should be streamlined; and they suggested that the decision to phase out the LRT Communication specialist should be revisited. The GLA would write a letter to LRT highlighting these points.
- 4.8 The Chair agreed that Communications was a key area for the London Resilience Partnership. He saw that there was a difficult balance between raising public awareness on the issues effectively without being seen to be excessive and scaring the public unnecessarily. It was also difficult to maintain interest in these important issues with the media community. He suggested one simple way of help solve this problem was by encouraging more use of the London Resilience website.

**ACTION 1:** Any Comments on the Review of the London Resilience Team to be sent to LRT by 31 January 2007.

#### **Regional Risk Assessment (Paper LRRF (07) 02)**

- 4.9 The Chair invited LRT to update the group on the Regional Risk Assessment
- 4.10 LRT explained that The Regional Risk Assessment (RRA) is an annual process that requires non-malicious hazards identified by the National Risk Assessment to be assessed for London. The work is used to inform, in part, the development of regional delivery priorities for the LRRF. A multi-agency working group had now considered the London Regional Risk Assessment and this document was presented to the Forum. The Economic Impact section of the RRA was still to be completed, although this was unlikely to have any significant impact on the current results. Once this is completed it will be circulated to Forum members.

4.11 The Chair thanked LRT, the Forum agreed to approve the preliminary results of the Regional Risk Assessment. There were no further questions or comments.

## **5. LONDON 2012 OLYMPIC GAMES AND PARALYMPIC GAMES PLANNING**

5.1 The Chair invited MPS to give a presentation on the security approach to the Olympic and Paralympic games.

5.2 MPS gave a PowerPoint presentation on the operational readiness and security approach to the Olympic and Paralympic games. They explained that a large programme was already underway to help ensure the security for the duration of the games and that in order to deliver this effectively partnership working was key. MPS explained the scope and scale of the event and approach the Police were taking, as well as how the role of the LRRF might fit into this.

5.3 The Chair thanked MPS and asked if there were any comments or questions.

5.4 London Councils agreed that the resilience planning for The Games needed to be part of the wider resilience planning programme for London. It was essential for all partners to programme Olympic planning into their mainstream resilience planning agendas.

5.6 The Chair agreed with this and commented that important lessons could be learnt from the Commonwealth Games where, despite sceptical coverage from the media which doubted Britain's ability to host such a large event, the games were a huge success. He commented that he was pleased to hear the feedback from the IOC that Britain's security planning was ahead of schedule and encouraged this positive work to continue.

5.7 The Cabinet Office commented that it was important to get Olympic Games planning into everyone's minds so that planning for it becomes part of the working culture, as the Beijing Olympic games is only next year and following that attention will turn fully to London.

## **6. LONDON GENERIC REGIONAL RESPONSE PLAN (Paper LRRF (07) 03)**

6.1 The Chair invited LRT to update the Forum on the Generic Regional Response Plan.

6.2 LRT explained that the purpose of this update was to alert Forum members to the intention to produce a Generic Regional Response Plan for London. This was required by the Civil Contingencies Act 2004. It would also be a chance to update the existing Strategic Emergency Response Plan (SEP) to include new plans and especially the revised Command and Control arrangements.

**ACTION 2:** Any Suggestions for items to be included in the Generic Regional Response Plan to be sent to LRT

6.3 The Chair thanked LRT, The Forum agreed with the proposals in the paper. There were no further questions or comments.

**7. LONDON PANDEMIC FLU PLAN (Paper LRRF (07) 04)**

7.1 The Chair invited LRT to present the paper and the London Pandemic Flu Plan.

7.2 LRT explained that, following the LRRF's agreement at the Oct 2006 LRRF, the current plan, which had been approved at the May 2006 LRRF, has been updated to reflect changes to the command and control arrangements, the release of updated guidance and planning assumptions from the Civil Contingencies Secretariat, Health Protection Agency (HPA) and Department of Health and following the merger of London's five Strategic Health Authorities.

7.3 LRT explained that the plan was tested at Exercise Athena on 8 January 2007 and the version being presented to the Forum incorporated lessons learned from that exercise. In addition, the plan will be tested at the National Winter Willow Exercise in February

7.4 The Chair thanked LRT and asked the Forum members if they were content for the London Pandemic Flu Plan to be approved. The Forum noted and agreed the plan. There were no further questions or comments.

**8. LONDON MASS FATALITIES PLAN (Paper LRRF (07) 05)**

8.1 The Chair invited LRT to present this paper and the London Mass Fatalities Plan.

8.2 LRT explained that the final draft of the London Mass Fatalities plan had been brought to the last Forum in October 2006. This final version now included; Lessons learned from 7/7; the new National Emergency Mortuary Arrangements (NEMA); the new UK-DVI (Disaster Victim Identification) Team; the Human Tissue Authority and new London Mortuary sites. The plan had been approved by relevant partners and the Mass Fatality Working Group.

8.3 The Chair thanked LRT and invited any questions and comments.

8.4 The Chair of LLAEPSC commented that he was disappointed that guidance from the Home Office on managing excess deaths had still not been issued.

8.5 The Chair shared the concerns on this issue. He asked the Forum members if they were content for the London Mass Fatalities Plan to be agreed. The Forum noted and approved the plan. There were no further questions or comments.

## 9. WATER SHORTAGE PLAN (Paper LRRF (07) 06)

- 9.1 The Chair invited LRT to update the Forum on the Water Shortage Plan.
- 9.2 LRT explained that the Water Shortage Plan had been developed, following reports of a third dry winter affecting water supplies, in order to manage the impact of an Emergency Drought Order. Whilst developing the plan the Water Shortage Working Group concluded that the focus of this work needed to move to the wider water efficiency agenda.
- 9.3 LRT explained that the MET Office was now forecasting average or above average rainfall this winter and the Environment Agency, in its report on early drought prospects for 2007, required water companies to monitor water resources through the winter in the south east of England and to continue with their education programmes to restrain the use of water; leakage repairs and preventive maintenance programmes. Therefore, it was recommended that the WSWG's Plan should be put on hold and would form the basis for any work which may be identified in the future in respect of consequence management activities and that the GLA's Water Action Framework and Stakeholder group take forward work on prevention and water saving.
- 9.4 The Chair thanked LRT and invited any questions or comments.
- 9.5 London Councils expressed concern over the proposals to stop work on this workstream. Water Shortage in London would, he explained, have potentially huge consequences and work on prevention alone is not enough.
- 9.6 The Cabinet Office agreed that whilst prevention was a long term solution he too felt that there are important issues that need to be considered. He explained that there were still many issues that needed more work, such as the relationship between the Public Sector and Water Companies. They agreed to take this issue back to the Cabinet Office and discuss options further.

**ACTION 3:** The Cabinet Office to provide guidance and recommendations on how this work stream should develop.

- 9.10 The Environment Agency would be issuing a press notice later in the week announcing that the hose pipe ban could be lifted in certain areas. The Environment Agency explained that the winter was not as dry as had been feared and that surface water reservoirs were now full. They would circulate the press announcement to members of the Forum when it became available.

**10. LONDON EVACUATION PLAN (OPERATION SASSOON) (Paper LRRF (07) 07)**

10.1 The Chair invited MPS to update the group on the London Evacuation Plan (Operation Sassoon).

10.2 MPS explained that the original Operation Sassoon plan was in the process of being reviewed and updated by the Evacuation Working Group. He explained that the revised plan would take into account the recent Cabinet Office guidance on Evacuation, and in accordance with this guidance the plan would only cater for an evacuation of approximately 100,000 people or more. Any less and local borough plans should be able to deal with the situation adequately. MPS also commented that the Working Group would aim to present a draft version of the plan to the Forum for comments by the meeting in July 2007.

10.3 The Chair thanked MPS and asked the Forum members if they were content. The Forum noted and accepted the paper. There were no further questions or comments.

**11. EXERCISE SAFER CITY, EVALUATION and REPORT**

11.1 The Chair invited The London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority (LFEPA) to report back to the Forum on Exercise Safer City.

11.2 LFEPA presented a short film which explained the background behind Exercise Safer City, which took place on 18 Oct 2006, and the main outcomes from the exercise.

11.3 LFEPA explained that the principle recommendation that came out of the exercise was for there to be a GOLD level exercise every year for all resilience partners. The primary reasons for recommending this arrangement were that it would give all partners reassurance and an understanding of each others' capabilities and that it would avoid duplication between other activities.

11.4 The Chair thanked LFEPA and asked the Forum members if they were content to endorse the proposal for an annual GOLD exercise. The Forum accepted this proposal, and members agreed to consider this proposal further and report back with any concerns. There were no further questions or comments.

**12. EXTRANET UPDATE (Paper LRRF (07) 08)**

12.1 The Chair invited London Councils to update the group on progress of the Extranet.

12.2 London Councils explained that the extranet project has been ongoing for a long period of time. He explained how the project started as a London pilot and then was subsumed by the National Government Extranet project. London Councils explained that London Local

Authorities were concerned by the lack of progress, especially since Exercise Safer City highlighted the need to make better use of data sharing resources. However, he explained that it was now hoped that the national project would be delivered in June 2007.

- 12.3 The Chair thanked London Councils, there were no further questions or comments.

### **13. MEDIA PLAN UPDATE**

- 13.1 The Chair invited The Cabinet Office to update the Forum on progress of the Media Plan.

13.2 The Cabinet Office updated the group on progress on the Media Plan which would be circulated to the group for comments in the next two weeks. The Plan had been updated to take account of the revised Communications Alert Protocol, Lessons learnt from 7/7 and other recent events, The Civil Contingencies Act 2004 and the development of the London Prepared Website.

13.2 The Cabinet Office also explained that there were a number of areas of ongoing work on cascade groups and media plans in a Flu Pandemic and Evacuation.

- 13.3 The Chair thanked The Cabinet Office, there were no further questions or comments.

### **14. LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM (LRF) UPDATE (Paper LRRF (07) 09)**

- 14.1 The Chair invited LFEPA to introduce the paper

14.2 LFEPA updated the forum on the latest developments from the Local Resilience Forums. The key issues being discussed by the LRFs were Pandemic Flu Planning and to aid this LFEPA would shortly be producing a generic exercise pack to aid exercise planning for Local Authorities. This would also be available to other agencies.

14.3 LFEPA explained that the future role and development of LRFs continued. There would be a shift from the current communication exchange LRF model which currently exists, to a deliverable-driven model. To aid this process each LRF would now have a formal mission statement and business plan and would be responsible for the oversight of progress towards targets, against set timescales given in the business plan. The link between LRFs and the London Local Authority Emergency Planning Sub-Committee (LLAEPSC) was important.

- 14.4 The Chair thanked LFEPA and invited any questions or comments.

14.5 The Chair of LLAEPSC endorsed the proposals in the paper; he commented that there had been dissatisfaction in the past about the

role of LRFs and their relationship with LLAEPSC. This is addressed by the proposals in the paper.

14.6 The Forum noted and accepted the paper. There were no further questions or comments.

**15. REPORTS FROM THE LRRF SUB-COMMITTEE CHAIRS** (Paper LRRF (07) 10)

15.1 The Forum heard reports from the Chairs or representatives of the Sub Committees on progress made and the key issues facing each Sub Committees (as set out in Paper LRRF (07) 10).

**15.2 Business Sub-Committee**

The Chair of the Business Sub-Committee thanked the Chair for his kind words at the start of the meeting. He explained that the focus of the group is changing from generic issues to focus on more specific issues like communication links. He announced that he would be retiring as chair of the Sub-Committee and wished his successor all the best.

**15.3 London Local Authority Emergency Planning Sub-Committee**

The Chair of LLAEPSC reported that the Sub-Committee has been considering its future role and has decided that the composition of the committee should be revised. The proposals are that the Sub Committee would meet three times a year, with the aim of providing a strategic overview for Local Authority resilience activity in London and it would also act as the Client Steering Group for LFEPA

15.4 The Chair of LLAEPSC explained that, as both himself and the Deputy Chair would be retiring in the near future, they would be replaced.

15.5 London Councils and LFEPA have arranged a summit for all London Chief Executives, which aims to provide them with the information needed to carry out the London LA Gold role.

15.6 The Chair thanked The Chair of LLAEPSC and asked the Forum members if they were content with the proposals to revise the membership of LLAEPSC. The Forum noted and agreed the paper. There were no further questions or comments.

**15.6 Utilities Sub-Committee**

The Chair of the Utilities Sub-Committee reported that the Sub-Committee had been looking into how utilities companies could work in contaminated areas. They had also been focusing on planning for the Olympics particularly at infrastructure and security by design planning.

**15.7 Blue Lights Sub-Committee**

No actions to report this period

**15.8 Health Sub-Committee**

NHS London reported that the Sub-Committee had been developing new working arrangements to account for the new single Strategic Health Authority. They had also been planning for the forthcoming Winter Willow Exercise and had been involved with the Polonium incident. She thanked the Health Protection Agency for their ongoing work on the Polonium incident.

**15.9 Transport Sub-Committee**

Transport for London reported that the Sub-Committee was involved in ongoing work with the LFB into Acetylene Cylinders and how best to deal with incidents near transport hubs. Information was important in helping people understand the implications of these Cylinders and that emergency services were not over-reacting.

**15.10 Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee**

The Chair of the Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee reported that the Sub-Committee had been working on ensuring that appropriate Gold training for key voluntary sector personnel was in place and discussions continued on trying to equip VCS organisations with the necessary equipment to communicate effectively in an emergency situation.

15.11 The Chair thanked The Chair of the Voluntary Sector Sub-Committee and asked to be kept informed about progress on the equipment issue.

15.12 The Cabinet Office commented that they continued to look at options for providing appropriate equipment to all responders and were currently looking at how best to provide O2 Airwave sets to partners.

**15.13 Communications Sub-Committee**

The Chair of the Communications Sub-Committee reported that The London Media Protocol, and the Emergency Media Protocol for the role of the Mayor of London, were in the process of being revised. In addition, the committee will look into the options for increasing awareness of the website and will provide a paper of options for the next meeting of the Forum.

**16. REPORTS FROM THE LRRF WORKING GROUP CHAIRS - (LRRF (07) 11)**

16.1 The Forum heard reports from the Chairs of Working Groups on progress made and the key issues facing each group. Reports were only taken from Chairs with specific items to report.

**16.2 CBRN Working Group**

LRT reported that work on Hazardous Area Response project is underway and on schedule to be concluded in July 2007. The Plume Modelling project is now complete and a DVD is due to be released to "Blue Light" responders to inform them of its findings. Also a Workshop on Programme Cyclamen is taking place on the 16 March.

**16.3 Faith Working Group**

LFEPA thanked the MPS on behalf of the Faith Working Group for agreeing that their diversity directorate would act as a conduit to faith groups who do not sit on the Working Group. The Working Group has also been developing a multi-faith plan and considering training for faith sector representatives who sit on GOLD. A representative for the Faith Working Group will attend future LRRF meetings.

**16.4 Command and Control Working Group**

MPS reported that work on the Strategic Command Centre (SCC) continues and proposals will be discussed further in the July meeting of the LRRF.

**16.5 Exercises Working Group**

LFEPA reported that they would develop proposals for the annual GOLD training exercise. Further work would also be developed following the creation of the Business planning Sub-Committee.

**16.6 Humanitarian Assistance Centre Working Group**

LRT reported that, following the completion of the HAC plan, this group would no longer meet.

**16.7 Flood Working Group**

LRT reported that the London Flood Response Strategic Plan was currently being developed and will be presented to the Forum in April.

**17. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

17.1 None