

LONDON RESILIENCE



preparing for emergencies

LONDON REGIONAL RESILIENCE FORUM

TWENTY- NINTH MEETING

23 OCTOBER 2008

MINUTES

Those attending included the Minister for Local Government, the Minister for London and senior representatives from the following organisations:

Army HQ London
BAA
British Telecom
British Transport Police
Cabinet Office
Chair Business Sector Panel
Church of England
City of London Police
Civil Contingencies Secretariat
Communities & Local Government
DfT Transec
Environment Agency
Greater London Authority
Health Protection Agency
London Ambulance Service
London Coroners Group
London Fire Brigade
London Resilience Team
London Underground
LRF Representative
Metropolitan Police Service
National Grid
NHS London
Port of London Authority
St John Ambulance
Transport for London

1. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the twenty-ninth meeting of the London Regional Resilience Forum (LRRF).
- 1.2 Apologies were received and noted.
- 1.3 The Chair welcomed the new Director of Thames Region at the Environment Agency and the new Chair for the Faith Sector Panel.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

14. The Chair noted that the Rt Hon Tony McNulty has replaced the Rt Hon Tessa Jowell as Minister for London and Co-Chair of the Forum.

1.5 The Chair reminded forum members that the LRRF was being observed over a CCTV link.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF THE LAST MEETING

2.1 The Minutes of the 28th London Regional Resilience Forum, held on 24 July 2008 were agreed and accepted as an accurate record.

2.2 All actions from the previous minutes had been completed or were underway.

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 outlook was currently considered to be benign and that the electricity and gas outlook would continue to be monitored.

3.5 The Chair thanked The Cabinet Office. There were no questions or comments.

4. REVIEW OF LRRF TERMS OF REFERENCE

4.1 The Chair noted that the LRRF was set up six years ago with the Terms of Reference (ToR) having been last reviewed in 2005, following the introduction of the Civil Contingencies Act. The Chair invited the London Resilience Team (LRT) to present Paper (08) 29 Review of the LRRF Terms of Reference.

4.2 LRT said that, three years on from the introduction of the Civil Contingencies Act, it was the appropriate time to revisit the ToR and noted that the role of the LRRF is significantly different to that of the Regional Forums in the rest of England as the planning, response and recovery function takes place at a regional, rather than sub-regional, level.

4.3 LRT also said that the London Regional Resilience Programme Board (LRPB), which oversees and monitors the Regional Delivery Priorities Plan, was keen to get a steer from the LRRF on key strategic and policy issues and that they would welcome input from the Forum on how this might best be achieved.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- 4.4 The MPS stated that they were content with the suggested new ToR and supported the recommendations in the Paper.
- 4.5 The London Fire Brigade (LFB) also supported the review and agreed that the LRPB needed more strategic guidance from the LRRF.
- 4.6 Port of London Authority noted that there was difficulty stimulating debate due to the large numbers sitting on the Forum and would be keen to initiate a method of sparking debate.
- 4.7 London Underground agreed that the group was too large but was keen to point out that it was important that the Partnership continued to meet at this level to provide assurance that the necessary planning was taking place.
- 4.8 LFB pointed out that the LRRF demonstrated the strength of the Resilience Partnership and asked whether the Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) Enhancement Programme was likely to impact on the structure of the Forum.
- 4.9 The Cabinet Office replied that it was too early to say whether the CCA Enhancement would change the LRRF. The Cabinet Office also agreed that London was different to the rest of the Regional Resilience Forums and that good ToR should contain an 'honest assessment of the status of the region', 'what we need to do to improve' and 'how we can deliver it'.
- 4.10 The London Ambulance Service supported previous comments but thought that the agendas already tended to be large so was not convinced that a reduction to three meetings per year would be beneficial.
- 4.11 The Greater London Authority recognised that the Forum had undertaken good work but thought that there was scope to drop the frequency of meetings to three a year.
- 4.12 The Chair of the Business Sector Panel concurred, stating that he thought it sensible to consider meeting three times a year.
- 4.13 British Telecom supported the role and function of the LRRF, as well as the current membership, but noted the need to ensure that members of the Forum were actively challenged at the meetings, advocating separate sessions on major topics such as the 2012 Olympics.
- 4.14 The Chair then summed up the role of the LRRF:
- the Forum needs to ensure that what needs to be done is being done;
 - the Forum ought to be satisfied that it is doing all that it can;
 - the advantage in the current size of the Forum is that we can be sure that everyone is engaged at the right level;

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- the LRPB is doing a good job but needs strategic direction from the LRRF.
- 4.15 The Chair asked what could be done to remedy the situation if it was felt that the Forum did not debate strategic matters.
- 4.16 London Underground suggested that the facilitation of strategic direction might be better initiated through a series of bi-lateral engagements rather than trying to stimulate discussion at the Forum. A further suggestion was made that the creation of separate workstreams similar to the Task & Finish Groups might be a way of initiating these 'off line' strategic bi-lateral engagements.
- 4.17 The MPS said that they would like to see the members of the LRRF tested at the meeting – particularly with challenges from the LRPB.
- 4.18 The Local Resilience Forum (LRF) Representative stated that it might be helpful to have thematic meetings on big issues and rising tide events such as the 2012 Olympics. The Greater London Authority agreed that a 2012 meeting would be beneficial.
- 4.19 The Chair identified excess deaths, flood planning (the Pitt Review) and the 2012 Olympic Games as issues on which the LRRF should have substantive discussions at future meetings. These discussions would also be informed by the Task & Finish Groups' analysis of gaps and issues in their workstreams which required direction from the LRRF.
- 4.20 The Chair recognised that there was current appetite to meet quarterly but that the LRRF should be able to cut the number of meetings if it were deemed necessary.
- 4.21 The Chair thanked everyone for their contributions to the discussion.

5. REGIONAL DELIVERY PRIORITIES PLAN 08/09 & RISK REGISTER – UPDATE ON PROGRESS

- 5.1 The Chair invited LRT to present LRRF Paper (08) 30 to the Forum.
- 5.2 LRT updated the Forum on progress against the 2008/2009 Regional Delivery Plan, which included updates on a number of key deliverables and activities which have been completed in the first half of the business plan year. LRT also brought several issues to the attention of the Forum which were running behind schedule but still making progress.
- 5.3 The Cabinet Office stated that there were two LRFs outside London who had undertaken good work on Water Supply Planning and that they would be willing to put the relevant planners in touch with those at

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

LRT working on similar matters. This would encourage the use of best practice with regard to resilience planning.

- 5.4 There were no further comments or questions.

6. STRATEGIC CO-ORDINATION CENTRE UPDATE

- 6.1 The Chair invited the Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) to present paper LRRF (08) 31 to the Forum.
- 6.2 The MPS informed the Forum that the MPS had been working hard to explore different ways in which the urgent need for a new London SCC could be addressed.
- 6.3 The MPS informed the Forum that the MPS Management Board had approved the specification for a site and that a Project Board to take the work forward had been set up.
- 6.4 The Chair noted that there was a need for London to have a new SCC facility and hoped that the MPS would continue to work closely with LRT to ensure that London gets the maximum benefit from the proposed site.
- 6.5 The Chair thanked the MPS and there were no further questions or comments.

7. REGIONAL GOLD 2009 EXERCISE UPDATE

- 7.1 The Chair invited LRT to present paper LRRF (08) 32 to the Forum.
- 7.2 LRT updated the Forum on progress with the 2009 Regional Gold Exercise, explaining that the Forum had agreed that a Regional Gold Exercise would be held every 18 months.
- 7.3 Planning for the 2009 exercise has commenced and the LRPB reviewed progress at the September meeting.
- 7.4 LRT asked for a commitment from Partners that they would be content to provide funding to assist with the implementation of the exercise. MPS questioned why the Task & Finish Group had decided to opt for the use of consultants.
- 7.5 LRT explained that the general expertise required for presenting a realistic scenario would be garnered from the partnership but that it was considered standard practice to bring in consultants to carry out an independent evaluation of the exercise.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

- 7.6 MPS asked whether it would be possible to arrange a reciprocal agreement with LRFs across the country in an attempt to utilise their help for exercise planning and staffing.
- 7.7 The Chair noted the comments and asked that LRT look into the issues surrounding the use of consultants, requesting that a discussion about contributions to costs be undertaken by the Regional Gold 2009 Task and Finish Group.

8. OLYMPICS UPDATE

- 8.1 The Chair invited the Cabinet Office to provide an oral update to the Forum.
- 8.2 The Cabinet Office stated that they were speaking on behalf of the Home Office who were putting in a huge amount of effort in delivering the Olympic Security and Safety Programme.
- 8.3 BT and Chair of the Utilities Sector Panel said that he had been having difficulties in engaging with the OSD and questioned what the role of LRT should be in the liaison between the Sector Panels and Central Government. BT asked whether resilience work relating to the 2012 Olympics should be directed into the London Resilience Partnership or the Home Office.
- 8.4 The Cabinet Office replied that, in relation to multi-agency resilience work, liaison should be undertaken with LRT but with regard to individual organisational infrastructure work it would be for each organisation to carry out their own infrastructure planning work.
- 8.5 The Greater London Authority stated that the Mayor would welcome a wider discussion regarding the Olympics at the Forum.
- 8.6 British Transport Police stated that a Ministerial Decision on funding was due in early 2009. A draft plan for funding is currently with the Home Office.
- 8.7 The Chair suggested that an agenda item for 2012 Olympics discussion be included in the agenda for the next meeting with a view to stimulating further discussion and providing a stocktake of the current situation.
- 8.8 The Chair thanked the Cabinet Office. There were no further questions or comments.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

9. RESILIENT TELECOMS

- 9.1 The Chair invited LRT to present paper LRRF (08) 33 & 33a to the Forum.
- 9.2 LRT stated that the Resilient Telecomms Task & Finish Group was established in January and, in conjunction with input from a BT secondee, has produced the London Telecommunications Task & Finish Group Report on the Resilience of London Telecommunications.
- 9.3 LRT pointed out that there was further work to be done but noted that the findings of the report were broadly positive. Work had taken place to improve resilience such as the Airwave Underground Project and the improvement of multi-agency interoperability.
- 9.4 LRT invited the Forum to endorse the plan whilst noting that work on Resilient Telecoms was ongoing.
- 9.5 The Chair then opened the floor to comments.
- 9.6 The Chair if the Utilities Sector Panel thanked LRT for the work that had been undertaken with regard to the Telecomms Report.
- 9.7 The Chair noted that the members of the Forum were happy to endorse the Telecomms Report.
- 9.8 The Chair thanked LRT. There were no further questions or comments. The Forum agreed with the proposals in the paper.

10. EXTRANET

- 10.1 The Chair invited the Cabinet Office to update the Forum on the latest developments with the Extranet.
- 10.2 The Cabinet Office explained that the Extranet Project was to provide a controlled IT platform for information sharing amongst (nationwide) accredited organisations to allow the distribution of planning documentation and a space for stakeholders to upload documents in times of disruptive challenge.
- 10.3 A range of responder organisations have been involved in the project and roll-out is currently expected for the middle of 2009.
- 10.5 The Chair thanked the Cabinet Office for the update. There were no further questions or comments.

11. LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM UPDATE

- 11.1 The Chair invited the LRF Representative to present paper LRRF (08) 35 to the Forum.

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

11.2 The LRF Representative explained that the Local Resilience Forums last met during September 2008. He highlighted the key areas being taken forward by the LRFs. These were:

- LRRF / LRT update including horizon scan and the regional delivery priorities plan.
- London Risk Advisory Group update including amendments to published Community Risk Registers and recommendations for additional risk treatment.
- Updates against tasks on the LRF business plans.
- Presentations from the Met Office and the Environment Agency on the Extreme Rainfall alert project and new Surface Water flood mapping.
- Discussion item on progress in response to the Pitt Review.
- Summary of London multi-agency National Capabilities Survey results.
- Update on revised London Recovery Management Protocol.
- Update on security and resilience arrangements for the 2012 Olympics.
- There will be a series of presentations at the next round of LRFs to bring local responders up to speed with mass evacuation planning.

11.3 The Chair thanked the LRF Representative. There were no further questions or comments.

12. REPORTS FROM THE LRRF PANEL CHAIRS

12.1 The Forum heard reports from the Chairs or representatives of Sector panels regarding progress made and the key issues facing each. Reports were only taken from Chairs with specific items to report.

12.2 **Business Sector Panel**

The Business Sector Panel Chair was pleased to see that the MPS were moving forward with piloting a system which will provide real time messages to the public and businesses.

12.3 **Local Authorities Panel**

The Local Authorities Representative stated that, in addition to the detail supplied in the progress report, that the Panel had been working on how best to approach resilience at the 2012 Olympics and ensure that the Local Authorities are 'plugged in'.

12.4 **Utilities Sector Panel**

The Utilities Sector Panel Chair highlighted to the LRRF that the Utilities Sector Panel was hosting an event on 28 October in Southwark. He explained that the aim of this event was to raise awareness of the role of utilities companies in London, and was a

NOT PROTECTIVELY MARKED

chance for attendees to meet senior directors and managers of utilities companies. He encouraged members of the Forum to attend the event.

12.5 Health Sector Panel

The Chair of the Health Sector Panel noted that there had been four fires in London hospitals this year which have all resulted in successful no-notice evacuation operations. Lessons learnt from these evacuations will be collated in due course. The Chair said that he would like to hear the outcome of these lessons learnt.

12.6 Transport Sector Panel

The Deputy Chair of the Transport Sector Panel took the opportunity to thank the London Resilience Partnership for their invitations to TSP members to participate in multi-agency exercises and also for the Forums ready assistance in agreeing to participate in 'transport' exercises where appropriate.

12.7 Faith Sector Panel

The new Chair introduced himself to the Forum and explained that he represented all faiths and was available to offer advice on faith issues during a time of disruptive challenge or in normal business. The Chair expressed thanks for this offer.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 There was no further business.

Meeting close: 11:17hrs