

LONDON RESILIENCE



preparing for emergencies

LONDON REGIONAL RESILIENCE FORUM

THIRTY THIRD MEETING

4 FEBRUARY 2010

MINUTES

Those attended included the Parliamentary under Secretary of State from the Department of Communities and Local Government and the Mayor of London. In addition, senior representatives from the following organisations:

- British Airports Authority
- British Transport Police
- Business Sector Panel
- Chair of Local Authorities Panel
- City of London Police
- Civil Contingencies Secretariat
- Communities and Local Government
- Comms Sector Panel
- Coroners Office
- Environment Agency
- Faith Sector Panel
- Greater London Authority
- Health Protection Agency
- London Ambulance Service
- London Councils
- London District, Army
- London Fire Brigade
- London Resilience Team
- London Underground
- LRF Representative
- Metropolitan Police Service
- NHS London
- OSCT, Home Office
- Port of London Authority
- St. John Ambulance
- Transec- DFT
- Transport for London
- Utilities Sector Panel

The meeting was Chaired by the Parliamentary under Secretary of State from the Department of Communities and Local Government.

1. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the thirty third meeting of the London Regional Resilience Forum (LRRF).
- 1.2 Apologies were received and noted.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF THE LAST MEETING

- 2.1 The Minutes of the 32nd London Regional Resilience Forum, held on 21st October 2009, were agreed and accepted as an accurate record.
- 2.2 All actions from the previous meeting were completed or underway.

3. THREAT & HORIZON SCAN

- 3.1 The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) gave a detailed update on the current position and threat levels. The MPS commented police forces remain alert and vigilant regardless of the alert level.
- 3.2 The Chair thanked the MPS.
- 3.3 The Civil Contingencies Secretariat (CCS) gave a detailed update on the current situation and forward look, including updates on the Swine Flu and the Severe Weather response.
- 3.4 The Chair thanked the CCS.

4. CIVIL CONTINGENCIES ACT (CCA) ENHANCEMENT PROJECT

- 4.1 The Chair invited the CCS to summarise the current position with regards to the review of the CCA.
- 4.2 The CCS stated that a review of the Act in London had taken place to ensure that resilience arrangements were robust, cost effective, joined up and able to meet the needs of all partners. The review also aimed to ensure emergency planning in London was aligned with emergency response and recovery arrangements.
- 4.3 The CCS stated that a national consultation on the review is currently underway, with responses due by 26 February. Once the consultation has been completed, it will be for the Minister for London to decide on any changes.
- 4.4 The CCS confirmed that the consultation is based around four main areas – the establishment of a single London Resilience Forum as the statutory focus for regional planning, reviewing the role and remit of the sub-regional tier, placing Borough Resilience Forums on a statutory basis and removing regulations and statutory guidance relating to LFB and LFB-EP.

- 4.5 The Chair invited the Chair of the Local Authorities Panel to outline the proposed regional response, saying that a multi-agency meeting had been held to compile a draft single regional response to the consultation.
- 4.6 All members of the Forum noted the contents of the regional response. The London Resilience Partners listed in the response endorsed the single response and agreed that it be submitted to the Cabinet Office as the single response of partners to the consultation on the 'London arrangements'.
- 4.7 The Chair thanked all who contributed.

5. GOVERNMENT'S VISION ON RESILIENCE PLANNING

- 5.1 The Chair invited the CCS to outline the current Government's resilience priorities.
- 5.2 The CCS representative updated the Forum on the work which was being undertaken on behalf of the Government by the CCS across all their capability workstream areas. Key areas included the National Resilience Extranet going live with further users added throughout 2010, the High Integrity Telecommunications System being now fully operational, significant work been completed to progress the Pitt Report flood recommendations and commencing the national Swine Flu debrief.
- 5.3 Members of the Forum noted the CCS are developing a Community Resilience Toolkit which outlines reasonable steps and forward thinking which the public should take during an emergency. The Forum believed that the public should be encouraged to fulfil their civic duties by clearing footpaths of snow etc.
- 5.4 The Chair thanked the Civil Contingencies Secretariat.

6. REGIONAL DELIVERY PLAN 09/10 SIX MONTH REVIEW

- 6.1 The Chair invited the London Resilience Team (LRT) representative to update the Forum on the progress made to the Regional Delivery Plan.
- 6.2 LRT highlighted that a significant amount of work had been completed since the Forum last met. Four regional response plans have been finalised - the Mass Fatalities Plan, the Fuel Disruption Protocol, the Strategic Flood Framework and the first Mass Casualties Plan. In addition, the Regional Gold Exercise was completed in October with a debrief report being written to capture the lessons from the exercise.
- 6.3 LRT stated that there are no workstreams which were significantly running behind schedule, nor any significant risks which prevented LRT from delivering further workstream delivery.

- 6.4 LRT expressed thanks to the Partnership for their support by continuing to provide secondees into LRT, as without this support, the Regional Delivery Plan would not be delivered.
- 6.5 The Chair thanked LRT and reiterated thanks to the Partnership for providing secondees to LRT.

7. SEVERE WEATHER UPDATE

- 7.1 The Chair invited LRT to provide an update to the Forum on the lessons learnt from the 2009 Severe Weather and the current regional response to the recent severe weather.
- 7.2 LRT stated that the capital had learnt a great deal following the severe weather in 2009, with a number of the recommendations identified. The actions taken against these recommendations were fully tested and validated during the severe weather throughout the recent cold spell and this had contributed, in no small part, to keeping London running and fully open for business.
- 7.3 The Government Office for London took the initial coordination lead across the London Resilience Partnership for the regional response; this then passed to the Greater London Authority and Local Authority Gold once the issues moved from general service delivery to salt supplies; with TfL providing strategic leadership input through the London Salt Cell.
- 7.4 LRT raised that the Gritting Panel Review Team had completed and published its review on “Keeping London Moving Through Severe Winter Weather” in December. This paper highlighted the key roles and responsibilities which organisations have during severe weather incidents.
- 7.5 LRT said that the Department for Transport established and led the national salt cell; designed to manage salt supplies across the country. London was represented on this group by Transport for London. Following the formation of a national salt cell, a GLA/TfL led London salt cell was formed to manage the region’s supplies.
- 7.6 The Chair thanked all for contributing.
- 7.7 The Forum endorsed all the actions which had taken place in relation to the Severe Weather to date and welcomed a full debrief to commence once the Severe Weather had ceased.

8. PANDEMIC INFLUENZA UPDATE/DEBRIEF

- 8.1 The Chair invited NHS London to provide an update on the Swine Flu situation.
- 8.2 NHS London said that the number of Swine Flu cases continued to decrease, with Wave Two now drawing to a close. There remained a

possibility that there could be a third wave of the virus and it is likely the virus will remain active in the region for a few years.

- 8.3 NHS London felt that the overall London response to the outbreak was robust and effective.
- 8.4 NHS London still recommends that people in risk groups, including those under 5 and pregnant women should take up the vaccine.
- 8.5 The Chair thanked NHS London and invited LRT to provide the multi-agency Swine Flu debrief summary.
- 8.6 LRT informed the Forum that a Partnership debrief report had been written and is submitted to the Forum for endorsement. A discussion at the last London Resilience Programme Board in January assisted the development of this multi-agency debrief. An additional health debrief, being lead by NHS London, will also be produced.
- 8.7 LRT stated that Partners believed that the multi-agency coordination throughout the outbreak was successful; however a review of the Regional Resilience Flu Pandemic Response Plan is needed to reflect the lessons learnt during the Swine Flu response.
- 8.8 The Chair thanked all those who contributed. The Forum noted all comments and recommendations within the debrief report.

9. OLYMPICS PROGRESS REPORT

- 9.1 The Chair invited LRT to provide an update to the Forum on the Olympic planning work completed by LRT since the Forum last met.
- 9.2 LRT informed the Forum that significant work had been completed. The first version of the London Olympic Resilience Planning Assumptions (LORPA) had been produced, combining the National Risk Assessment, the Regional Risk Register, Community Risk Registers and the Olympic Safety & Security Strategic Risk Register.
- 9.3 LRT informed the Forum that they will now produce the London Olympic Resilience Gap Analysis, reflecting the contents of the LORPA. This document will be a detailed operational assessment of how current levels of capability across the Partnership compares with what needs to be in place by 2012.
- 9.4 The Chair thanked LRT for the update. Members of the Forum noted the update and endorsed the Guidance for Planners.

10. LRF UPDATE

- 10.1 The Chair invited the LRF representative to update the Forum on the work of the Local Resilience Fora.

10.2 The LRF representative said there were two main items to note; one being that all LRFs have reviewed their business plans to reflect how they can best add value and utilise resources within the existing (and potentially new) regional structures. Secondly, that training will shortly commence across all boroughs on the North Central Humanitarian Assistance Plan which will be developed into a new regional plan.

10.3 The Chair thanked the LRF representative.

11. REPORTS FROM THE LRRF PANEL CHAIRS

11.1 The Forum heard from the Chairs or representatives of the nine Sector Panels.

11.2 All the Sector Panels continue to meet and are including focusing on the Olympics in each of their agendas.

11.3 The Blue Light Panel continues to make progress at reviewing the use of siren noise following a recommendation by the Mayor's Office. The Sector Panel will report progress at the next meeting.

11.4 The Chair thanked all Sector Panel representatives for their updates.

12. LONDON PROTECT BOARD

12.1 The Chair invited the Government Office for London (GOL) to update the Forum.

12.2 GOL informed the Forum that progress continues to be made with Counter-Terrorism Security Adviser assessments on Crowded Places in London with action plans being developed to tackle their vulnerability.

12.3 The Chair thanked GOL.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 The Environment Agency made reference to a national exercise that is planned for March 2011 and questioned whether the exercise could be adopted as the next Regional Gold Exercise. Members of the Forum agreed that this should be reviewed further by the London Regional Resilience Board.