

29th April 2014**Agenda Item: 13****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR,
ACCESS AND PUBLIC PROTECTION****UPDATE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

Information and Advice**Emergency Management**Floods Response Plan

2. The risk of flooding in Nottinghamshire is ranked among the highest of the risks identified on the Community Risk Register for Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. Therefore, the emergency planning team continues to develop and improve the County Council's flood response planning work. The latest development has been the creation of a new County Council 'Flood Response Plan' to aide implementation of the County Council's part in existing Local Resilience Forum (LRF) plans.
3. The new plan has been considered and now approved by the Risk, Safety and Emergency Management Board. Its' aim is to outline how the County Council will respond to flood emergencies (or potential flood emergencies) across the county, and it contains details of the resources available to assess if flooding is likely, what the impact may be and what actions should be taken. The Plan will help enable the setting of response priorities at an early stage of a flood incident to ensure that resources are deployed appropriately to areas of greatest need. Alongside the new plan, a One Space 'flood response' folder is being established to include flood visualisation maps and the LRF's plans. Staff training on the new plan will be scheduled during 2014.

Community Flood Signage Scheme

4. The Nottinghamshire Community Flood Signage Scheme has been in place for more than two years in Woodborough and Bleasby. The aim of the scheme is to provide community volunteers with the equipment and skills to quickly close off

pre-designated (and Highways approved) roads when they are affected by flooding. This helps to prevent flooding of properties by stopping vehicles from driving through flood water and creating bow waves. It also helps to prevent drivers from entering flood water and becoming stranded. The scheme helps enable Highways resources to be focused on areas of greatest need. The scheme has featured recently on BBC East Midlands Today and has been promoted via various local print media. The scheme is currently being rolled out in Southwell, Collingham and Thurgarton.

5. The scheme in Southwell is particularly elaborate as it seeks to help defend the town against some of the worst effects seen by the flooding of July 2013, when more than 250 properties in the town were flooded. The developing scheme currently involves eight proposed sections of road closure, with 21 possible road closure points.

Exercise 'Rosedale' - NFRS simulated train derailment exercise – 17th Feb.

6. Exercise 'Rosedale' was a train derailment exercise led by Nottinghamshire Fire and Rescue Service, which took place on Monday 17th February at DB Schenker in Toton Sidings, Stapleford. A County Council emergency planning manager and one officer participated in the exercise to test arrangements for multi-agency working at the scene.
7. The aims of the exercise were to test individual agency procedures and demonstrate the integrated multi-agency response to a dangerous goods and passenger train derailment incident. The scenario was that a locomotive towing a tanker containing 20,000 litres of molten Phenol had derailed at a junction where the line is also utilised by passenger trains. It was supposed that a passenger train collided with the tanker causing a large leak of Phenol and derailling a passenger carriage.
8. Participants in the exercise included all emergency services (including British Transport Police), DB Schenker Rail UK, Network Rail, Environment Agency and Nottinghamshire County Council emergency planning. Volunteers from St John's Ambulance and the Casualty Union acted as casualties.
9. The main focus of the exercise focus was the emergency services training and exercising under the principles of JESIP (Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme). This is a scheme whereby 'blue light' services are trained and exercised to work together as effectively as possible in response to major or complex incidents so that as many lives as possible can be saved. The event also provided an opportunity to test initial activation and on scene arrangements, including multi-agency tactical-level command meetings. The exercise provided the opportunity for the County Council's participants to demonstrate and confirm the roles and responsibilities of local authorities and the train operating companies in relation to the welfare of passengers affected by a major incident on the rail network.

Ashfield District Council Senior Leadership Exercise 'Gusto' – 5th March

10. As part of the County Council's Service Level Agreements with District and Borough Councils, the emergency planning team devised and facilitated a half-day, no-notice, strategic-level major emergency exercise for the senior leadership team of Ashfield District Council. The aim of the event was to provide a simulated emergency experience to test the content and usefulness of the District Council's 'Major Emergency Plan' and 'Corporate Business Continuity Management Plan'.
11. The event took the form of a facilitated discussion exercise aided by simulated information bulletins and representations of key support officer roles. The discussions were structured into three phases; initial actions, recovery actions (one month on) and a hot debriefing discussion.
12. The scenario for the exercise supposed that gales had affected the whole area, and that a 130mph wind storm had caused severe damage in one particular area of Ashfield. Homes and businesses in the affected area were without power, and the emergency services were responding to a large volume of calls from the area. For the purposes of the exercise, it was supposed that 200 people had been evacuated from damaged homes and the Lammas leisure centre was being used as a 'Place of Safety'. The management team also faced the difficulty of responding to the emergency without their Chief Executive, who it was supposed had been seriously injured by a falling tree.
13. The Chief Executive observed the exercise, and participated in the debriefing discussions. Also, the leader of the Council, Councillor Baron, participated in the event by simulating the role he would play in a real event, providing support and challenge to senior managers. Feedback from all participants indicated that the event had been successful and worthwhile.

Safety at Sports Grounds

14. The annual, pre-season safety audit and inspection for Trent Bridge Cricket Ground took place on 25th March. Representatives of the Emergency Planning Team were joined by others from the Safety Advisory Group, including Police, Fire and Rescue Service, District Council and Sports Ground Safety Authority. All were in agreement that the Cricket Club continues to demonstrate exemplary standards of safety management. As a consequence, the General Safety Certificate for the ground was approved to continue for the forthcoming season.
15. In advance of this inspection, a Fire Safety Audit had been completed for the cricket ground. This found that fire safety management at Trent Bridge is of a high standard. A satisfactory Fire Safety Audit has also been completed recently for the City Ground, home of Nottingham Forest Football Club.
16. With regard to Mansfield Town Football Club, a change has been agreed to the Safety Certificate such that the club is now permitted to sell plastic bottles of soft drinks with the lids still on. The proposal to do this was discussed by the Safety Advisory Group, who noted that the practice has been introduced already at some other grounds, and that the effects will be monitored over the coming months. Two match-day safety inspections have been completed recently at Mansfield Town. One was the fixture against Bury on 25th February, and the other was the

local derby against Chesterfield on 22nd March. Both were uneventful from a safety perspective, and each demonstrated the high standard of safety management currently in place at the club.

17. An amendment has also been made to the General Safety Certificate for Southwell Racecourse, following a change of personnel at the course leading to a change to the holder of the certificate.
18. Unfortunately, Eastwood Town Football Club has ceased its' association with the Coronation Park ground in Eastwood. The General Safety Certificate for the ground was withdrawn following notice from the holder. The two regulated stands at the ground now have no Safety Certificate in force, and it would be an offence under the Fire Safety and Safety of Places of Sport Act 1987 to admit spectators to these stands. It has been emphasised to all relevant parties that a period of disuse may lead to deterioration in the fabric of the ground, making it unsafe. The boundary walls and floodlight masts are of particular concern.

Peer Review of South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum

19. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) were asked (via the Resilience and Emergencies Division of the Department for Communities and Local Government) to carry out a peer review South Yorkshire LRF. The County Council's emergency planning team participated in a Review Team, led by Nottingham City Council that undertook a 'Challenge Day' in South Yorkshire, and are currently considering the outcome of this, along with a review of extensive paperwork submitted by them.
20. Whilst the Peer Review process is essentially a one direction review, it nevertheless provided a useful opportunity to benchmark local arrangements against another LRF. Outcomes from the review will be reported to the Resilience Working Group of the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire LRF.

Incident - Armed siege in Hucknall

21. In March, the emergency planning team coordinated County Council assistance to Nottinghamshire Police during an armed siege at a premise on Vine Terrace in Hucknall. The immediately surrounding area was cordoned off by the police and local people were directed to a 'Place of Safety' set up in Hucknall Leisure Centre. An emergency planning officer attended the leisure centre as a point of contact and to assist with the provision of temporary overnight accommodation by Ashfield District Council for those who needed it. The siege ended in the early hours of the following morning.

Registration and Celebratory Services

Facility to register deaths at Kings Mill Hospital

22. The registration service has joined with Sherwood Forest Hospitals Trust to provide the facility to register a death or a still birth at Kings Mill Hospital. The new office is currently available from 9am to 4.30pm on Tuesday, Wednesday

and Thursday each week, with bookings being made by the hospital's Bereavement Centre.

23. Next of kin are able to collect a medical certificate of cause of death at the hospital and then register the death at the same time without the need to make an additional appointment to visit a register office elsewhere. Registrars also offer the 'Tell Us Once' service which notifies other local and national authorities that the death has occurred, so that passports, driving licences, blue badges and so forth can be cancelled without delay.
24. Appointments are also available for notices of marriage or civil partnership, individual citizenship ceremonies and change of name deeds. Additional services may be considered at a later date, including Nationality Checking and possibly birth registrations.

Introduction of same sex marriages

25. Following Royal Assent for the Marriage (Same Sex Couples) Act 2013, same sex couples have been able to give notice of marriage since Thursday 13th March 2014, and the first same sex marriages took place on Saturday 29th March. The first in Nottinghamshire was at 10 o'clock at Newark Registration Office.
26. The change in the law necessitated a change to the legal wording of the civil marriage ceremony. Previously, registrars explained that marriage, according to the law of this country, was the union of one man with one woman. Now the wording is that it is the union of two people. Also, the couple can select if they wish for the registrar, in declaring that they are legally joined together in marriage, to refer to them as husband and husband, wife and wife, or husband and wife, whichever the case may be.
27. In planning for the launch of same sex marriages, managers were mindful of the advice from the Registrar General that there was a possibility that some objectors to marriage of same sex couples might have sought to attend and disrupt ceremonies, as had been seen in some other countries that have introduced marriage for same sex couples. However, there were no incidents at all in Nottinghamshire.
28. As yet, there remains no confirmed timetable for couples who wish to convert an existing civil partnership into a marriage.

Nationality Checking Service

29. As previously reported, the Registration Service has commenced a Nationality Checking Service (NCS) for people who are applying for British Citizenship. This assists applicants to make a good quality and complete application, which the Home Office Nationality Group will be able to process quickly.
30. By the end of March, a total of 45 appointments had been booked with the service, raising an income of £2,300. In addition, two of the applicants from

outside the county chose also to complete their citizenship ceremony with the service, bringing further income from the applicants and from the Home Office.

31. Appointments are currently being offered at the registration offices in West Bridgford, Newark, Retford, Carlton and Mansfield, with County Hall proving to be a particularly popular venue (with 18 applications appointments). Investigations are being made for the Beeston Office to take appointments soon, and an online enquiry form is being developed to take customer applications outside office hours and thereby retain the business in Nottinghamshire. A second cohort of registrars will be trained during April to enable more appointments to be completed in more offices across the County. Marketing and promotional material has been distributed widely, and the service is beginning to see bookings coming through “word of mouth”.

Statutory and Policy Implications

32. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (Public Health only), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and vulnerable adults, service users, sustainability and the environment and ways of working and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee notes the Emergency Planning Team’s response to the recent siege incident in Hucknall, plus recent planning and training activities, and notes the successful commencement of same sex marriage ceremonies in Nottinghamshire.

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Constitutional Comments (Shb.03.04.14)

33. The Report is for noting only so no constitutional comments are required

Financial Comments (KAS 08/04/14)

34. There are no financial implications contained within this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All