

23rd April 2013

Agenda Item:9

**REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR PROMOTING INDEPENDENCE
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, and an end of year summary, of the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

Information and Advice**Emergency Management**Safety of Sports Grounds

2. As the football season approaches its climax and the cricket season begins, the emergency planning team has been busy with work to support safety management across all of our local clubs. The most significant recent development has been the introduction of a new format, risk-based safety certificate for Trent Bridge Cricket Ground. This was introduced at the annual pre-season safety inspection of the ground, which took place on 26th March. The Safety Advisory Group was fully satisfied with the Operations Manual produced for the ground and commended the safety management approach taken by Nottinghamshire County Cricket Club.
3. Nottingham Forest Football Club has continued to maintain its own very high standards of safety management, and their recent good form on the pitch has raised the prospect of possible promotion to the Premiership. The Emergency Planning Team will work closely with the club to ensure safety arrangements are prepared for this.
4. It is pleasing to observe that Mansfield Town Football Club has also been performing impressively on and off the pitch, and the emergency planning team is working with them to ensure that they are prepared for their possible promotion back to the football league. Recent inspections have been positive and a further visit is planned for the final home fixture of the season. A possible issue regarding a suspected crack in the structure of the South Stand was found to have been in a section of fibreboard. This has been repaired by the club and checked by a County Council's structural engineer.
5. With regard to smaller football clubs around the County, it is pertinent to note that the current season has been particularly challenging. The emergency planning team has responded

constructively to requests for advice from Eastwood Town Football Club. The topics covered include provision for first aid room, exits, fencing and crush barriers. At Hucknall Town, the club has experienced difficulty in attracting volunteers to undertake responsible roles in the running of the club; and there has been a good deal of turmoil this season. A representative of the emergency planning team has met with management committee to ensure that they are all fully aware of their safety management responsibilities, and interim measures have been agreed to assist the club through to the end of the current season.

Summary of 2012 - 2013 Emergency Planning Performance

6. The overarching objective of the Emergency Planning Team is “To ensure continuity of resilience to emergencies affecting County Council business and Nottinghamshire communities”. During the 2012-2013 financial year the team continued to fulfil this role by facilitating the maintenance and development of resilience within the County Council and as a leading participant in the work of the Local Resilience Forum (LRF). This included providing the LRF secretariat role and chairing sub groups including the Resilience Working Group. The team fulfilled the County Council’s commitment to the Service Level Agreement (SLA) with the District and Borough Councils, and provided a temporary extension to normal arrangements with Newark and Sherwood to cover for a vacancy.
7. County Council Emergency Plans and guidance updated this year included those for Emergency Accommodation, Winter Weather, Interruptions to Fuel Supply and the Loss of Utilities at County Hall. Plans updated in collaboration with LRF partners included those for Communicating with the public, Crisis Support and Humanitarian Assistance. Training events were delivered in support of key plans, and included Water Awareness events, training for Flood Wardens and for 4x4 drivers. An emergency planning training event for Voluntary Agencies was held in November, and the team participated in the delivery of the LRF’s regular programme of training events. ‘Exercise Raven’ validated the function of the Emergency Mortuary Co-ordinating Group (EMCG) within the LRF’s Emergency Mortuary Plan. Exercise ‘Plum’ (Pipe Line Under the Motorway) tested the Major Accident Hazard Pipelines Plan, which is a plan required under the Pipeline Safety Regulations. Exercise ‘Over and Out’ tested emergency plans for the DHL Supply Chain site in Harworth and the Misterton Petroleum Storage Depot. These are ‘top-tier’ sites under the COMAH (Control of Major Accident Hazards) Regulations.
8. The team contributed generally to Safety Advisory Group work for events throughout the year, and assisted during the summer with support to around eighty organisers of events to light beacons across the county celebrating the Queen’s Diamond Jubilee. Significant resources were invested in planning and preparations for events along the route of the Olympic Torch Relay through the County, particularly in chairing the ‘Safety Advisory Group’ for the event overall. This was in addition to the normal full programme of Safety Advisory Group meetings and inspections for the Designated Sports Grounds and regulated stands across the County. Match-day safety inspections were carried out as necessary including at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground for the Test Match between England and the West Indies, and during a One Day International with South Africa.
9. Incidents during the year were mainly weather-related. The summer was the wettest on record, leading to localised flood events. Significant flooding affected the County again in late November and in December. During these incidents, the emergency planning team operated from the Emergency Centre, working in support of the Risk, Safety and Emergency

Management Board, and maintaining close collaboration with colleagues from other involved agencies.

Registration and Celebratory Services

Summary of 2012 - 2013 Registration Service Performance

10. In the 2012 – 2013 financial year the Registration Service made further, very substantial progress toward its' overarching objective to become cost neutral by 2014 – 2015. From a 2010/2011 baseline of £428K, the service operated to a budget of £64K in the current year. This progress has been achieved primarily by increased ceremony income.
11. The following sections summarise key performance statistics for the year (as at 12th March).
12. The number of births registered (8,495) included a 5% reduction in the County, but still represented an overall increase of 4% due to the number of registrations on behalf of Nottingham City (up 30%). This indicates that the Service Level Agreement with Nottingham City is benefiting County residents who would otherwise have had to visit the city or registered by means of a declaration. 99% of Births were registered within 42 days, compared with the national standard of 98%.
13. The number of deaths registered (5,452) was down 3% when compared with the whole of 2011-2012. 83% of Births (excluding those involving inquests) were registered within 42 days. This figure is lower than the national standard of 95% due to a combination of factors outside the control of registrars. These include delays in hospitals issuing Medical Certificates of Cause of Death, problems with information from the coroner's office, and a County Council Information Technology incident towards the end of 2012, and running into 2013, that affecting registrars' access to the Registration Online system.
14. The number of Still Births register (30) was down 31% (20 this year compared with 29 last year). 100% of Still Births were registered within 42 days, compared with the national standard of 98%.
15. There was an overall 11% increase in ceremonies (mainly income generating). Civil Marriages increased by 10% (from 2271 to 2500) while Civil Partnerships increased 20% (from 56 to 67). Naming Ceremonies were up 24% (from 25 to 31) and Renewal of Vows were up by 57% increase (from 14 to 22). The number of Civil Funerals: decreased by 5 % (from 20 to 19) although these ceremonies are not been marketed vigorously while our registrars develop their experience of this most sensitive of services.
16. The total number of new citizens was 636, which is up 1% on last year, and the number of people choosing an (income generating) individual ceremony was up 9%. Group ceremonies were held at fortnightly intervals in Worksop, Mansfield, Newark and West Bridgford. Since October, ceremonies have included the attendance of a Deputy Lord Lieutenant, delivering a statement in support of the Chairman's address, and offering a welcome on behalf of Her Majesty the Queen.
17. The 'Celebrate in Nottinghamshire' brochure was produced at no cost to the service. The look and feel of the magazine reflects the style the service is aiming to achieve. Also, a

double-page article in the East Midland's 'Bride' magazine (in return for distribution of the magazine in registration offices in waiting rooms) has helped to promote the experience for our customers.

- 18. During the year, a dedicated specialist Training Officer resource was acquired to support maintenance and development of the service. Initial indications are that this is proving successful and beneficial, with highly complimentary feedback from staff attending the early courses.
- 19. A significant proportion of management capacity was occupied this year in planning for major office moves. The most prominent of these is the planned departure from Baldertongate to the Gilstrap Centre in Newark; a move that has now been approved by the Charity Commissioners.

Statutory and Policy Implications

- 20. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are included in the report.

RECOMMENDATION/S

- 1) It is recommended that the contents of the report be noted.

PAUL MCKAY
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Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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