

minutes



Meeting CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE SELECT COMMITTEE

Date Monday, 26 January (commencing at 10.00 am)

Membership

Persons absent are marked with 'A'

COUNCILLORS

Yvonne Davidson (Chair)
Andy Stewart (Vice-Chair)

	Reg Adair	Dave Shaw	A
	John Carter	Mark Spencer	
A	John Clarke	Yvonne Woodhead	
	Stan Heptinstall		

MINUTES

The minutes of the last meeting held on 15 December were confirmed and signed by the Chair.

APOLOGY FOR ABSENCE

An apology for absence was received from Councillors John Clarke.

DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS AND OFFICERS

Councillor Yvonne Davidson declared a personal interest in agenda item 4 – Resilience Issues and Nottinghamshire Police.

AGENDA

It was agreed that the order of the agenda be changed.

EMERGENCY PLANNING AND RESILIENCE IN LINCOLNSHIRE – DAVID POWELL HEAD OF EMERGENCY PLANNING LINCOLNSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

David Powell, Head of Emergency Planning, Lincolnshire County Council gave a presentation to members on matters in relating to emergency planning and resilience in Lincolnshire. He explained about the pilot study taking place to research the best way to guide and inform individuals in preparing for future emergency or disaster events. Mr Powell referred to some of the issues faced by the emergency planners which included the high concentration of caravans, most of which were transient and

the longer term effects of global warming. Plans for the future included the creation of mutual aid agreements and information sharing.

He explained that 20% of the Lincolnshire population had acute needs and were very vulnerable; educating was very difficult and required the help of the community groups. There was a requirement for a generic community based action plan. Mr Powell pointed out that the Authority emphasises that individuals have a responsibility to safeguard their homes and urges them to undertake simple tasks to improve their resilience. It was recognised that getting residents to leave their homes was an issue which presented further problems for the emergency services. An east coast evacuation plan had been tested and it was found that further planning was necessary and that services would be dependant on other neighbouring authorities through mutual aid arrangements if it were necessary to evacuate its population within 24 hours.

In reply to Councillor Heptinstall, Mr Powell explained that in terms of an evacuation, they did not have a one way system worked out like the east coast USA. They were reliant on the local road system which did not support this.

Councillor Spencer asked about the involvement of other authorities and organisations to deal with matters such as allowing the sea to reclaim part of the land. Mr Powell explained that a scoping meeting was soon to take place with DEFRA to look at the east coast problem. There were structural issues to consider which included the fact that a significant majority of land was below sea level and presented huge challenges.

RESILIENCE ISSUES AND NOTTINGHAMSHIRE POLICE – INSPECTOR TERRY McQUAID

Mr McQuaid outlined the Police's role in a crisis. In doing so, he explained that Nottinghamshire Police were the lead organisation for the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum, which co-ordinated emergency planning. Its performance and delivery was currently being reviewed. The risk assessment register was an area crucial for its function, which covered flu, flood, fire and terrorism.

In terms of the their role in co-ordinating a response, Mr McQuaid pointed out that the police could only advise people to leave their homes and only in exceptional circumstances, such as an act of terrorism a senior officer was given the power but this was still difficult. The reality was that people preferred to stay in their home.

An area of weakness identified following the tsunami disaster was the recovery of the dead and mortuaries. The force provided 10 officers to the Foreign Commonwealth Office to go abroad in the event of a disaster.

A big piece of work had been undertaken in readiness for the 2012 Olympic and Paralympics Games, to identify the skills specialisms of the police force. This had highlighted a key issue for the police, in that; there were relatively small numbers of officers having a double specialism, this was something that was being looked at regionally.

Work was taking place to determine how to co-ordinate category 1 & 2 organisations through multi-agency co-ordination centres. The business continuity of all category 1 responders was a key part of this work and part of a report of Her Majesty's Revenue and Customs (HMRC) due out soon. The capability of the airwave system was also being looked into.

In reply to questions in connection with the Olympic Games, Mr McQuaid commented that it was not clear if there would be any additional funding. Nottinghamshire was allying bids with Loughborough. In terms of security the onus would be on the sporting venue. Councillor Woodhead asked about security when residents had evacuated their homes. Mr McQuaid said that whilst they did what they could this did present challenges for the police as it placed a further demand on resources.

Councillor Adair asked at what point resilience came to a breaking point concerning terrorism. It was explained that the police could not cope alone and that was why work was ongoing to look at this. It required regional and national protocols to sustain support for an ongoing length of time. This was an area being looked at by Her Majesty's Inspectorate of Constabulary (HMIC). Councillor Heptinstall asked about the continuity of planning when people left the Police authority. It was pointed out that skills would follow on and cascade down. It was recognised that the day job was critical during the Games and that the police planned for critical incidents on a priority basis.

PRESENTATION BY DAVID PHILLIPS, UK RESILIENCE, NATIONAL GRID

David Phillips, UK Resilience Manager for the National Grid gave a presentation on resilience and support to civil authorities in emergencies. He outlined the service's input on resilience matters, which included planning for similar emergencies as local authorities and working with police organisations. There were mechanisms in place to plan and discuss matters on a regular basis. Staff were trained to respond to any incident that might occur. A Joint Response Team would give advice to the Secretary of State when faced with an energy crisis in light of serious incident. Meetings took place with emergency planners from each company on a regular basis.

There were plans to set up a working group to draw up a memorandum of understanding between the category 2 organisations, a recommendation from the Pitt review.

In reply to Councillor Davidson, Mr Phillips explained that all of the sites were assessed for flooding and had flood and continuity plans in place. Those sub stations at risk of a one in two hundred year event received extra protection. Councillor Stewart asked how supply was determined if electricity were to run out. There was an emergency code which applied to such circumstances.

WORK PROGRAMME

Members wanted Category 2 organisations including in the work programme.

The meeting closed at 11.30am.

CHAIR