

1st March 2016**Agenda Item: 13****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR FOR SOUTH NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
AND PUBLIC PROTECTION
UPDATE ON EMERGENCY PLANNING 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 Planning**Mutual Aid to West Yorkshire Councils

2. The Chief Executive of the City of Bradford Metropolitan District Council has thanked the County Council for the help given to residents in West Yorkshire who were affected by flooding over the Christmas period. The emergency planning team worked with Highways colleagues to implement the outcome of the Leader's offer of help to areas affected. One thousand sandbags were sent to the Bradford areas at short notice. The sandbags were dispatched from the Markham Moor Highways depot.
3. Writing on behalf of the Leader of the Council and herself, the Chief Executive expressed heartfelt thanks and gratitude for the support provided. She said that the sandbags were of great assistance in helping respond to the flood which had devastated parts of the District. She said that the swift and substantial support provided would be reciprocated were Nottinghamshire to face a similar civil emergency in the future.

Support for flood risk communities

4. In January, Councillor Grice and two members of the emergency planning team and a Community Officer met with approximately thirty Hucknall residents to discuss local emergency planning and preparations for future flood emergencies in the town. The meeting examined the merits of establishing a community scheme involving the recruitment and training of local flood wardens and the preparation of a Community Emergency Plan. Examples from elsewhere in the County were described and the role of flood wardens was explained. The meeting also looked at the possibility of creating a Flood Community Signage Scheme to enable trained volunteers to erect warning signs and, if necessary, to close local roads on behalf of County Highways during a flood emergency. The emergency planning team will continue to support this

community and will work with the volunteers who came forward to be involved in this work and to undertake specific training.

LRF Floods Plan Training

5. On 13 January, the emergency planning team joined colleagues from the Environment Agency and other partners to deliver staff training on the LRF Flood Response Plans. Approximately fifty people, together with trainers and facilitators, participated in the half-day event held at Highfields Fire Station, Beeston. Separate sessions during the event examined three key plans: The LRF Flood Response Plan; LRF Generic Reservoir Plan and the Local Flood Response Plan for District and Borough Council areas across the County. Presentations on these topics were each followed by workshop discussions and feedback. The staff trained were from the County Council, City Council, District and Borough Councils, and from the emergency services.

Major Emergency Response Training

6. The emergency planning team held a Major Emergency Response (MER) training session for County Council staff on 2 February 2016. This training covered how a major emergency is managed within Nottinghamshire County Council, and outlines the operational procedures within the County Emergency Centre (CEC). The course is designed for staff that may be required to:
 - Work in the CEC as part of a functional team, or;
 - Attend the Risk, Safety & Emergency Management Board (RSEMB) meetings, or;
 - Participate in the multi-agency response to an emergency.
7. Normally, two or three staff are needed to work in each of four functional teams at any given time during a major emergency. Sufficient staff must be trained to ensure these teams can operate on a 24 hour basis if required. Following completion of the training on 2 February, a total of 67 individual members of staff have completed MER training; 21 from CFCS Department, 22 from ASCH&PP, 10 from Place and 14 from Resources. Further training sessions have been arranged on Thursday 28 April and Tuesday 22 November this year.

LRF Exercise Courier Signal

8. The Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF) held a no-notice emergency call-out and Strategic Coordinating Group (SCG) exercise on 26 January. Members of the emergency planning team used contact numbers held in emergency response plans to successfully alert senior County Council Officers and emergency planning contacts in the Borough and District Councils across the County.
9. Partners who were able to travel or telephone in were able to join an SCG meeting chaired by the Chief Constable at Police Headquarters. The few agencies that were unable to participate all gave assurance that they would have been able to had it been a genuine major incident.

Syrian Refugee Resettlement

10. The emergency planning team has continued to fulfil the lead role in coordinating the County Council's involvement in the UK Syrian Refugee Resettlement Programme (SRRP). A member of the team participated in a Strategic Debrief Session that was held following the first arrival of refugees. Eighty-one refugees arrived in mid-December 2015 and were accommodated by Nottingham City Council, and by Borough and District Councils in Mansfield, Gedling and Broxtowe. The debriefing meeting reflected on all aspects of planning for the refugees' arrival, and the lessons arising from the experience. Priority is now being given to ensuring support for these first arrivals.
11. The emergency planning team was also present at a conference entitled 'Resettling Syrian Refugees: delivering a multi-agency resettlement programme in the East Midlands' that took place in Nottingham on Thursday 11 February. The event was organised by East Midlands Councils, and included an address by Richard Harrington MP, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State jointly for the Home Office, the Department for Communities and Local Government and the Department for International Development. Sessions included presentations from Syrian Charities and Networks UK and from the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Refugee Forum. Workshop sessions then examined each stage of planning and implementation of arrangements for future arrivals of Syrian Refugees.

Safety of Sports Grounds

12. A routine in-performance inspection of safety arrangements was carried out at the City Ground during the FA Cup fixture between Nottingham Forest and Watford Football Club. This particular match was selected because, due to Football Association rules, the number of visiting supporters permitted to attend is greater than seen for league games. As a consequence of this, there was a different configuration of accommodation provided for the visitors. The inspection found that this caused no issues for the Safety Officer and his team, who had planned well for the change and managed its implementation without incident. In all other respects the match was equally well-managed and there were no safety issues to note.
13. The total capacity of sports stadia in the UK is calculated in the basic of two key factors; the physical aspects of the ground and safety management systems in place. The emergency planning team monitors the measures of these on a continuous basis, with periodic detailed reviews to ensure they are set at the correct level. In line with this, a new review has begun into safety management at the City Ground, which currently has maximum ratings for physical and safety management factors. At present, there are no capacity reductions in force at any of the three major stadiums in Nottinghamshire (the City Ground, the One-Call Stadium and Trent Bridge Cricket Ground). All have maximum ratings for physical and safety management factors.

Registration and Celebratory Services

Registration Service Accommodation

14. Following the recent loss of the ceremony facility at D.H. Lawrence Heritage Centre in Eastwood, the service has been actively seeking an alternative premise. A suitable room has been identified at Arnot Hill, Gedling, in the same building where additional office accommodation for registration appointments had already been found.
15. This offers the opportunity to expand services to the public and to generate income to offset service costs. The move is in addition to the proposed return to the Hall, West Bridgford, in spring 2017. Costs associated with the move will be offset by leaving an existing registration property in Carlton. The financial and accommodation aspects of this move were considered at the 22 February meeting of the Finance and Property Committee, following consultation with staff, Trade Unions and Elected Members for the areas affected.

Other Options Considered

16. None.

Reason/s for Recommendation/s

17. To update the Committee on this area of work contained within its remit.

Statutory and Policy Implications

18. 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.

Financial Implications

19. There are no financial implications for Emergency Planning or Registration budgets.

RECOMMENDATION

It is recommended that the Committee:

- 1) Notes the update on recent key activities and events in the work of the Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

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For any enquiries about this report please contact:

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Constitutional Comments

20. As this report is for noting only, no Constitutional Comments are required.

Financial Comments (MM 17/02/15)

21. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

- None

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All