



meeting **Critical Infrastructure Select Committee**

date **24th November 2008**

agenda item number

Report of the Chair of the Critical Infrastructure Select Committee

Work Programme

Purpose of the report

1. To introduce organisations providing evidence to the Select Committee and to indicate the current arrangements for the work programme.

Background

2. On 15 September 2008, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee commissioned a Select Committee to examine issues associated with long term loss of services and utilities in Nottinghamshire linked to weaknesses in the critical infrastructure.
3. Further to this, on 27 October the Select Committee received a briefing from Emergency Planning Officers with a strong focus on the Civil Contingencies Act and the responsibilities of category 1 and 2 responders. The Select Committee also prioritised its work programme.
4. The focus of this scrutiny review is to ensure that all potential weaknesses in the critical infrastructure have been identified and mitigated in order to preserve community resilience when very severe events occur

Severn Trent Water

5. Severn Trent Water provides high quality sewerage and water services to over 3.7 million households in the Midlands and Mid Wales. Relevant areas of questioning for this organisation may include:
 - Continuity of water supply following severe or unexpected events
 - Logistical arrangements for the emergency supply of water (e.g. bowsers)
 - Measures to prevent and recover from contamination (e.g. cryptosporidium)
 - The protection of critical assets

Central Networks

6. Central Networks is an electricity distribution business which brings power to 4.9 million customers across Central England through 133,000 km of underground and overhead cables via nearly 97,000 sub-stations. Central Networks' area includes the Peak District in the north to parts of Bristol in the south and from the Welsh Borders to the Lincolnshire Coast. Relevant lines of questioning for this organisation might include:

- Factors likely to cause disruption to electricity supply
- Contingency plans around re-establishing supply
- Weaknesses in the network as a whole which might make it susceptible to catastrophic failure (e.g. loss of service for weeks or months)
- Measures taken to protect critical assets from severe events (e.g. sub-stations and flooding).

Work Programme

7. The dates for future meetings are as follows: 15 December, 26 January, 23 February, and 23 March. All meetings due to take place at 10:00 a.m.
8. Subject to attendee availability, the 15 December meeting will look at issues around the emergency services and the assistance that can be provided to local authorities by the military. The meeting of 26 January 2009 will be given over to the resilience experience of other local authorities – Lincolnshire County Council has already agreed to attend.

Recommendation

9. It is recommended that
- the Critical Infrastructure Select Committee consider the work programme, receive briefing and evidence, and initiate lines of questioning as necessary.

Councillor Yvonne Davidson
Chair of the Select Committee

Background papers: nil.