



Meeting

**COMMUNITY SERVICES SELECT COMMITTEE**

date

**25 April 2005**

agenda item number

## **Report of the Assistant Director (Community Protection)**

### **The Civil Contingencies Act – Consultation on Draft Regulations and Guidance**

#### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To advise Members of responses made by the Nottingham and Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum and the Local Government Association in respect of the Cabinet Office consultation on the Civil Contingencies Act draft Regulations and Guidance.

#### **Information and Advice**

##### Background

2. As previously reported, following the floods and fuel crisis in 2000, and the Foot & Mouth Disease outbreak in 2001 the government set in motion the process to develop and introduce new legislation in the area of civil protection. This led to the Civil Contingencies Act gaining Royal Assent on the 18<sup>th</sup> November 2004.
3. This was followed by publication, on the 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004, of draft Regulations and Guidance to accompany the Act, which were subject to a three-month consultation which ended on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005.
4. The Act itself came into effect from April 2005, with actual commencement of the duties from October 2005. New Civil Protection funding for local authorities came into effect from 1<sup>st</sup> April 2005. The final Regulations and Guidance will become known during the early summer 2005.

##### Consultation on the draft Regulations and Guidance

5. The draft Regulations and Guidance published on 9<sup>th</sup> December 2004 included 40 specific consultation questions. The deadline for responding to these was 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2005. The process was carried out in accordance with the Cabinet Office Code of Practice on Consultation.
6. As part of this consultation process the Cabinet Office has arranged a series of Workshops around the UK. The East Midlands event was held in Nottingham in

mid-January and was attended by three officers from the County Council; the Assistant Director (Community Protection), Head of Emergency Management and one Emergency Planning Manager.

7. The County Council's Head of Emergency Management contributed to the collective response made by the Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum (LRF), which is the police-led, multi-agency, strategic-level partnership of the key emergency planning agencies in this area. A copy of the LRF response is attached to this report as Appendix 1.
8. Also attached to the report (Appendix 2) is a copy of the Local Government Association's response to the consultation.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

9. The report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities personnel, Crime and Disorder, and users. Where such implications are material, they have been brought out in the text of the report.

### **Recommendations**

10. That Community Services Select Committee note the report.

**Richard Hodge**  
**Assistant Director (Community Protection)**

### **Legal Services' Comments[IR 11.04.05]**

Any legal issues arising out of the proposed new regulations are dealt with in the body of the report, which has been referred to Committee for noting purposes only.

### **Director of Resources' Financial Comments(C&C/RWK)**

None.

### **Background Papers Available for Inspection**

The Civil Contingencies Act, 2005, and draft Regulations and Guidance.

### **Electoral Division(s) Affected**

All.

## **Appendix 1.**

### **Nottingham & Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum response to the Cabinet Office consultation on the Civil Contingencies Act, 2004, draft Regulations and Guidance**

## **Appendix 2.**

### **Local Government Association response to the Cabinet Office consultation on the Civil Contingencies Act, 2004, draft Regulations and Guidance**