

10th July 2012**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF GROUP MANAGER, EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT & REGISTRATION
UPDATE ON EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AND REGISTRATION SERVICES****Purpose of the Report**

1. To provide an update on recent key activities and events of the County Council's Emergency Planning Team and of Registration and Celebratory Services.

Information and Advice**Emergency Management**Floods response planning

2. During May, the Emergency Planning Team carried out a telephone 'call-out' exercise to test the out-of-hours contact arrangements in place as part of the Local Resilience Forum 'Sandbag policy'. The policy formalises the multi-agency procedures for responding to requests for sandbags, and has been agreed by all relevant agencies. It establishes the procedure used by local public bodies when they receive a sandbag request from a member of the public or a local business. The policy recognises that sandbags may be useful in only in specific circumstances, and requests from hospitals, care homes and other life saving services will be given priority. The public are encouraged to purchase their own sandbags and flood protection equipment prior to a flood occurring, and are advised that there may be a significant delay in the issuing of sandbags if there is a high volume of requests during a flood emergency.
3. The County Council has robust and appropriate plans to respond to local flood events. However, recent changes in legislation, and changes to local highways management arrangements between the County Council and other Councils, have changed the capacity of some Councils to issue sandbags. Consequently, the emergency planning team, together with authority's Highways colleagues, have begun the process to revising and update emergency plans ahead of the seasonal flood risk period over the winter months.
4. In early June, wet weather across the UK caused significant flooding in Wales, South West England and Sussex. In Nottinghamshire some of the forecasts from the Met Office and the Environment Agency were reminiscent of those that caused surface water flooding in summer 2007, and preparations were made for possible flooding once again. The emergency planning team maintained close touch with environment agency colleagues, and

issued information as appropriate. Information was also passed to the chairman of the Community Safety Committee and the Transport and Highways Committee.

Emergency Temporary Mortuary Exercise

5. 'Exercise Raven', on 8th May, was established with the aim of validating the function of the Emergency Mortuary Co-ordinating Group (EMCG) within the Local Resilience Forum's Emergency Mortuary Plan. The emergency planning team had played a major part in the development of the plan, and the County Council's representation at the exercise was led by the Service Director for Promoting Independence and Public Protection.
6. Participants in the exercise included Dr Nigel Chapman representing HM Coroner, plus representatives of Nottinghamshire Police, all local authorities, local health services and the Regional Emergencies Division of the Department for Communities and Local Government. Delegates reported that it had been a productive event, and demonstrated the importance of local authority's involvement in this work. It had been useful to address the role of the District and County Council, and had confirmed that a memorandum of understanding in relation to costs and role needs to be included in the current emergency mortuary plan.

Queen's Diamond Jubilee Beacons

7. The period since the last meeting of the Community Safety Committee included the celebration of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee during an extended Bank Holiday in early June. Events included the lighting of thousands of beacons across the country, including around 80 in Nottingham and Nottinghamshire. The Emergency Planning Team contributed to the work of the overall organising committee, led by the Chief Fire Officer, in particular by signposting event organisers to guidance on event safety. Happily, the beacon events throughout Nottinghamshire were as safe as they were spectacular, provided a fitting tribute the occasion without any serious injuries occurring.

Olympic Torch Relay

8. At time of writing, the Emergency Planning Team is devoting significant resources to planning and preparations for events along the route of the Olympic Torch Relay through the County, scheduled for 28th June. In particular, the team are leading the multi-agency 'Safety Advisory Group' which is scrutinising and advising on Event Safety Management Plans for activities along the relay route. In doing so, they have been reviewing lessons learnt reports from earlier sections of the relay route. Two members of the team attended the briefing for Elected Members, which was organised by colleagues from the Children, Families and Cultural Services department.

Update on Safety at Sports Grounds

9. A match-day safety inspection was carried out at Trent Bridge Cricket Ground on the first day of the Test Match between England and the West Indies. Full details have been reported to the relevant 'Safety Advisory Group' and the key points are summarised here.
10. The ground was subject to a structural inspection on the day before the match, which confirmed that the ground is in very good condition and is maintained to a high standard. No major defects were found. The Cricket Club has a very experienced and qualified safety

team and strong safety culture is evident among the Steward Supervisors and to the Stewards. The Control Room is well equipped. Communications systems are resilient. The ground has a very clear public address system, and all steward supervisors have radios with direct access to the Control Room. The CCTV cameras are monitored from the Control Room and give a good coverage of the stands and concourses. There was no public disorder during the match, and only a very small minority became “boisterous” in afternoon.

11. With regard to Mansfield Town Football Club, the emergency planning team is currently investigating two suspected breaches of the club’s General Safety Certificate. These occurred at the One Call Stadium in the fixture against York City on Monday 7th May 2012. As part of this, the club was given time to complete their own internal enquiries prior to being interviewed by the emergency planning team on the 18th June.
12. The team is currently facilitating the process for a change of Safety Certificate Holder at Hucknall Town Football Club.

Industrial Action planned by Doctors on 21st June 2012

13. During June, team members worked with colleagues from across County Council departments to determine possible impacts arising from the anticipated industrial action by doctors scheduled to take place on 21st June. Consideration was given in particular to potential impact of children’s and adults social care.
14. The team represented the County Council in discussions with health service colleagues to make contingency plans to maintain critical services during the industrial action. They also gave information to be fed into a national 'Situation Reporting' system. A network of contacts was established to coordinate local plans, share assumptions and consider interdependencies affected by possible disruption. Health Service emergency planning colleagues were able to offer reassurance that doctors would be available to advise on and support ‘Section 47’ decisions under The Children's Act. There was confidence that urgent requests made for assessments be carried out on the same day if child was at risk.
15. With regard to doctors commissioned to undertake the Mental Health Assessor role within the deprivation of liberty safeguards, representatives of Nottinghamshire Healthcare NHS Trust predicted there would be no problems in providing emergency assessments. Similarly, there was no expectation of a surge or delays in hospital discharges. It was believed that discharges should be as normal on the day of action and that there should not be a knock-on effect to the following day. However, it was felt that routine, non-emergency calls from Social Workers to GP practices could be affected as some may not be dealing with calls that are not urgent.

Registration and Celebratory Services

Registration Records Repository Project

16. As part of the overall reorganisation of the Registration Service, it is planned that all Registration Service historic records, dating back to 1837, will be gathered into one repository. It is intended that this will be a business unit for copy certificates and family history research. The repository project aims to provide improved facilities for the public and for staff, including the use of information technology to offer online certificate ordering.

17. Early enquiries established that the business unit and records cannot be accommodated in the County Council's Archives, therefore it was decided to utilise the Council's Registration Office in Bulwell, which was formerly Basford Register Office. Calculations have demonstrated that, after a building refit, there would be more than enough expansion space for many years to come. A temporary project manager has been provided to assist in planning the project.
18. At present, the only personnel assigned to this project are the Registrations Records Manager and a temporary Project Manager. The staffing establishment includes three Registration Support Officers, whose recruitment will begin soon. Once appointed, these officers will be based initially in each of our three Registration areas, from where they will organise the transfer of records to the repository, while maintaining business as usual for the public. It is anticipated that the project will be completed in spring 2013.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. 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

It is recommended that the Community Safety Committee:

- 1) Note and commend on the contents of the report.

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Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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