

Minute 72 of the Safer and Stronger Overview and Scrutiny Panel

72. EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

The Cabinet Member for Customer Services, Performance and Partnerships, the Civil Protection Manager and the Civil Protection Officer submitted a report on the Emergency Response Plan.

Members were informed that –

- (i) under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004, the local authority was classed as a Category One Responder, which required it to maintain plans for reducing, controlling or mitigating the effects of emergencies and taking other action in the event of emergencies;
- (ii) the Emergency Response Plan had been developed to embrace the following –
 - the statutory responsibility of the Act
 - the Audit Commission's Self Assessment Tool
 - the Corporate Improvement Priorities 2 and 13
 - the Comprehensive Area Assessment
- (iii) the purpose of the plan was to provide guidance to officers, service departments and elected Members;
- (iv) an additional statutory responsibility incorporated within the plan was a Learning Development Strategy, which outlined the different courses offered by the Civil Protection Unit which enabled identified members of staff to be prepared for their possible role in a major emergency; external accredited training was provided by the Cabinet Office's Emergency Planning College;
- (v) the progress and development of the Emergency Response Plan included the following –
 - the Learning Development Strategy
 - corporate training
 - exercises, which included the following –
 - ▶ exercise light orchestra
 - ▶ exercise Edgcumbe airwaves
 - ▶ oil fuel depot, Thanckes
 - ▶ exercise jetty
 - ▶ exercise nightingale
 - ▶ Plymouth City Airport tabletop exercise
 - ▶ Millbay awareness exercise
 - CICERO upgrade

- Emergency Response Plan updates
 - future development which included the following –
 - ▶ organisational structure
 - ▶ emergency operations centre Temeraire Room
 - ▶ training and exercising
- (vi) an emergency management training needs analysis for Plymouth City Council staff had recently been completed.

Members of the Panel put forward questions, to which the following responses were provided –

- (a) the emergency management training needs analysis identified the training needs of Plymouth City Council staff which highlighted a budget implication of £11,000;
- (b) the sum of £11,000 identified for external training requirements had not been included in the budget process as the training needs analysis had only recently been published;
- (c) if provision of the additional funding was over a two year period, it could be possible to deliver half of the training programme by re-prioritising the courses;
- (d) the sum identified for the provision of external training was required to train staff throughout the Council and not members of staff from the Civil Protection Unit;
- (e) the funding received from the Devonport Royal Dockyard for work undertaken for the off site emergency planning response and exercise Short Sermon was used to provide training for Council staff;
- (f) 24,000 letters had been sent out to residents and businesses regarding the introduction of the free warning and informing service; as a result of this exercise 4000 responses had been received;

the service –

- provided notification of accidents via mobile phones
 - had been recognised by the Cabinet Office as the most advanced in the country;
 - would be rolled out in the city centre in the summer
 - was available for residents and businesses in one or more of the following sites -
 - ▶ Devonport Site (the Dockyard)
 - ▶ Defence Storage and Distribution Agency, Ernesettle (the storage site near the Tamar Bridge)
 - ▶ Defence Fuels Group, Oil Fuel Depot Thanckes, Torpoint
 - ▶ Chevron Ltd, Cattedown
 - ▶ ConocoPhillips, Cattedown
- (g) the Radiation (Emergency Preparedness and Public Information) Regulations 2001, established the framework to protect the public from radiation accidents;

the regulations required the Ministry of Defence and Babcock Marine Ltd, as the on-site operators for the Devonport Royal Dockyard, to have an emergency plan which fitted into the Council's emergency plan;

- (h) it would be difficult for the Civil Protection Unit to provide accredited training to members of staff due to resourcing implications, currently only one member of staff was accredited but not in all of the courses that would be required;
- (i) information learnt from previous major incidents, such as the unexploded bomb at Prince Rock, identified the need to improve the facilities within the emergency operations centre; £15,000 had been invested in the most up to date technology which had been installed in the Temeraire and Warspite rooms;
- (j) if an emergency occurred within the vicinity of the Civic Centre/Council House, the Council's emergency operations centre would be relocated to Windsor House;
- (k) the emergency operations centres would be set up as follows –
 - the Council's centre would be set up in the Temeraire Room and would be operated by its own members of staff
 - Silver Control (tactical command) would be set up at Crownhill Police Station and operated by multi agencies including the police, fire and ambulance services; each agency would also operate their own control room;
 - Gold Control (strategic command) would be set up at the Police headquarters at Middlemoor in Exeter
- (l) a total number of 47 elected Members had attended the emergency awareness training;
- (m) it was important to provide the relevant training for members of staff to ensure familiarity with the emergency procedures.

The Chair thanked the officers for attending.

Resolved that -

- (1) the report is noted;
- (2) **the Panel recommends to Cabinet that funding in the sum of £11,000 is allocated over two years for the provision of external training for members of staff.**