

## **NORTHUMBERLAND COUNTY COUNCIL**

### **COUNTY EMERGENCY COMMITTEE**

At a meeting of the **County Emergency Committee** held in the Lindisfarne Room, Fire and Rescue HQ, West Hartford on Tuesday, 5 September, 2017 at 2.00 p.m.

#### **PRESENT**

Councillor J. Riddle (Chairman)  
in the chair

#### **COUNCILLORS**

Daley, W.  
Davey, J.G.  
Jackson, P.A.

Simpson, E.  
Sharp, A.

#### **OFFICERS IN ATTENDANCE**

Hedley, P.  
Clough, I.  
Morgan, E.  
Bennett, Mrs L.M  
Allan, Ben  
Shute, Sharon

Chief Fire Officer  
Civil Contingencies Manager  
Interim Director of Public Health  
Senior Democratic Services Officer  
Civil Contingencies Officer  
Civil Contingencies Officer

#### **1. MEMBERSHIP AND TERMS OF REFERENCE**

Members noted the following:-

**8 Members (4:3:1)**

**Quorum – 3**

**Chair – J.R. Riddle**

**Vice Chair – R.R. Dodd**

<b>Labour</b>	<b>Conservative</b>	<b>Liberal Democrat</b>	<b>Independent</b>
J.G. Davey	W. Daley	A. Sharp	
S. Dickinson	R.R. Dodd		
E. Simpson	P.A. Jackson		
	J.R. Riddle		

### **Functions:**

- To function under emergency legislation and to deal with such matters concerning the County Council's emergency planning functions as may be referred to them by the Council.
- To reconvene when called upon either before, during or after a significant incident or emergency whereby the County Council may be required to respond beyond its normal day to day capabilities

## **2. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors S. Dickinson and R.R. Dodd

## **3. MINUTES OF PREVIOUS MEETING**

**RESOLVED** that the minutes of the previous meeting of the County Emergency Committee held on 28 September, 2016, as circulated, were confirmed as a true record and signed by the Chair.

## **4. COUNTY EMERGENCY ARRANGEMENTS AND EXERCISE BORDER REIVER**

Members received a presentation from the Chief Fire Officer and the Civil Contingencies Officer. (Copy attached to the signed minutes.)

### **Emergency Arrangements and Response**

Members were updated on the following:

- The responsibilities of Northumberland County Council were directed by a the following legislation:
  - Civil Contingencies Act 2004 - There was no lead authority. Category 1 Joint partners included the Fire & Rescue Services, Police and Ambulance with category 2 partners in a supporting role.
  - Fire and Rescue Services Act 2014 - including promotion of fire safety, fighting fires, attendance at road traffic accidents, specific emergencies such as flooding or terrorist attack. Mutual Aid and Discharge of Functions.
  - Policing and Crime Act 2017 - duty to collaborate between the three emergency services.
  - Control of Major Accident Hazards Regs 2015 (COMAH)
  - Major Accident Hazard Pipelines (MAHP) Regs 1996
- Members were informed of the primary requirements of this legislation such as
- Community Risk Register 'Hazards' - This included flooding, pandemic influenza, industrial/transport accidents, severe weather, human and animal health, and industrial or international action

- Community Risk Register 'Threats' - this included terrorist attacks in crowded places, on infrastructure or transport systems and cyber attack.
- Emergency Plans included
  - Emergency Community Assistance Plan
  - NFRS Major Incident Plan
  - Flood Action Plan, Reservoir Inundation Plan
  - COMAH and Pipelines
  - Emergency Rest Centres and Humanitarian Assistance
  - Recovery and Restoration and Business Continuity
  - UK Threat Level Plans for NCC and NFRS
- Response Arrangements included rotas for the corporate leadership team, duty Principal Officer and Duty Manager, Civil Contingencies Team. A confidential internal and external telephone directory, support staff and Incident support Room at West Hartford.

Members commented as follows:-

- Grenfell Tower - the Local Authority response had been inadequate and it was expected that Northumberland would respond more effectively. It was reported that restoration groups needed to be set up very quickly and this action needed to be visible to the general public
- There was concern that Northumberland was not working closely with the Environment Agency particularly regarding flooding at Haydon Bridge during Storm Desmond. The flooding at Haydon Bridge may not have happened had local people not been prevented by the Environment Agency from removing gravel from the river bed. It was reported that there was now a formal link with the Environment Agency and one of its officers was now based at West Hartford.
- An Environment Agency representative should be invited to attend a meeting of the County Emergency Committee in six months time.
- Some Parish Councils did not have flood plans for their Parish.

### **Exercise Border Reiver**

- A major counter terrorism exercise was planned on 3-5 October 2017.
- The exercise would be Police led but Northumberland County Council would be the lead Local Authority during the exercise.
- The purpose of the exercise was to stretch and test internal structures across the emergency services and the NHS and specifically the multi agency response.
- In order to increase the realism of the exercise it was planned to call a meeting(s) of the County Emergency Committee.
- Members welcomed the opportunity to be involved in the exercise and requested that contact be made with them via e-mail with a follow up text message alert.

The meeting was adjourned.

CHAIR John P. Redd.

DATE 26 March 2018.