

Minutes (Public Version)

Meeting	London Local Resilience Forum
Date	Monday 4 April 2011
Time	2.00 pm
Place	Committee Rooms 4 and 5, City Hall

Chair: Deputy Mayor of London

Attending:

Transport for London
Environment Agency
London Fire and Emergency Planning Authority
City of London Corporation
Department for Communities and Local Government
Metropolitan Police Service
Utilities Sector Panel (UK Power Networks)
City of London Police
Health Protection Agency
Voluntary Sector Panel (St John Ambulance)
HQ London District, the Army
London Councils
Port of London Authority
Sub Regional Resilience Tier Secretariat (London Fire Brigade)
Comms Sector Panel (Metropolitan Police Service)
NHS London
Utilities Sector Panel (BT Group)
London Ambulance Service
British Transport Police
Faith Sector Panel
Greater London Authority

1. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed members to the first meeting of the newly constituted London Local Resilience Forum.
- 1.2 The Chair commented that the transfer of resilience responsibilities from Government to the GLA had not been straightforward.
- 1.3 Apologies had been received from: British Transport Police, Metropolitan Police Service and Health Protection Agency, all of whom had sent representatives.
- 1.4 The Chair introduced the members of the London Resilience Team who were not

sitting at the table.

2. Minutes of the London Regional Resilience Forum

2.1 **The Forum confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the former London Regional Resilience Forum held on 6 July 2010 as a correct record.**

2.2 The Chair highlighted the reference in the minutes to a report on response and lessons learned from the severe weather of winter 2009/10. Officers reported that the Department for Transport had carried out its own review and published a report.

Action:

2.3 Sub Regional Resilience Tier Secretariat undertook to check what reports had been produced on severe weather.

3. Threat and Horizon Scan

3.1 The Metropolitan Police Service gave a report on current threats. The threat level from international terrorism remains at Severe.

3.2 The threat level in Great Britain for terrorist activity relating to Northern Ireland had been raised in September 2010 to Substantial.

3.3 There are also, in the short term, two significant events in London which required a great deal of planning: the Royal Wedding on 29 April and the London Marathon on 17 April.

3.4 The Chair referred to the Forum's formal role in reviewing Olympics security in London and asked for a briefing at the Forum's next meeting.

Action:

3.5 The Department for Communities and Local Government undertook to commission the briefing on Olympics security.

4. New Structures and Changes to Legislation

4.1 DCLG gave an update on the new structures for resilience and changes to legislation as the representative of central government on the Forum.

4.2 DCLG is taking the work forward on a national basis within a single division. The structures had been tested during Exercise Watermark.

4.3 DCLG and the Cabinet Office Civil Contingencies Secretariat had written to partners to invite views on further collaborative ways of working, so that resilience work could benefit from devolving responsibilities to communities.

4.4 With changes to legislation, the London Local Resilience Forum had formally come into being on 1 April 2011. Some changes to legislation were needed in Parliament to establish the GLA as a category 1 responder, which would probably be finalised by the end of April.

4.5 DCLG stated that so long as London operated within the obligations of the Civil Contingencies Act, it made much more sense for London to decide for itself on

structures that work.

4.6 The Chair thanked DCLG for the presentation.

5. London Resilience Team Progress

5.1 The London Resilience Manager gave a brief summary of activity to date, including recruitment to the London Resilience Team (LRT) of four permanent staff, two posts funded by the Cabinet Office to focus on Olympics security and the role of seconded staff.

6. London Resilience Team Work Programme

6.1 The London Resilience Manager introduced the item by explaining that the LRT had not updated the spreadsheets previously used to update partners on the work programme. A number of the sector panels and task and finish groups had not met for at least a year.

6.2 In discussion, it was suggested that work around mass fatalities could be accelerated and brought to a conclusion by the end of 2011 and should be added to the list of priorities. DCLG commented that the report from the Coroner's inquests into the London bombings of 7 July 2005 was likely to cover the issue of interoperability and that any other lessons would need to be looked at.

6.3 The Forum noted the contents of the paper and agreed the immediate priorities listed in the report, with the addition of work on mass fatalities to be completed by the end of 2011 and building in any work resulting from the Coroner's inquests into the London bombings of 7 July 2005.

7. Future of London Local Resilience Forum

7.1 The Chair explained that the Mayor, through the Chair of the Forum is accountable to London if something goes wrong in a resilience context. The Chair asked for the Forum to have a clear mission, be prepared to engage with the wider public about what its mission is, and to foster confidence among the general public. The aim for the Forum should not be just to act as a rubber stamp for the Resilience Board, it should be able to hold discussions in confidence, while its conclusions should be open for the public to see.

7.2 In the discussion on the role of the Forum and related arrangements, the following points were raised:

7.2.1 Resilience work should be carried out with a risk-based approach, but be focused on outcomes and capabilities; the forum has scope to provide added value in areas such as command and control co-ordination and lessons learned across the range of agencies involved.

7.2.2 The LRT will take over responsibility for the preparation of a single Community Risk Register for London from LFB-EP. The current format of the current risk assessments does not give a one-page non-technical overview of risks, which could make it more accessible.

- 7.2.3 There is value in the members of the Forum getting to know each other to foster trust and understanding in the event of an incident.
- 7.2.4 The Utilities Sector Panel enables the members to have an understanding of each other's disciplines and so that there is someone who can be called in confidence in the event of an incident,.
- 7.2.5 The Transport Sector Panel allows Transport for London, Network Rail and the train operation companies to work in partnership, as well as integrating road, rail and river modes. The Transport Sector Panel sees the 'task and finish' groups as fundamental and should not be discounted just because some of them have not met for some time.
- 7.2.6 The Faith Sector Panel has not generally contributed a great deal at the meetings of the Forum, but has worked to build up trust and contacts between different faith groups – although it was difficult to get representatives from one or two faith groups to attend.
- 7.2.7 The Voluntary Sector Panel is part of the Forum in recognition of its role in providing training and support for the public, fire and ambulance services and local authorities. The Forum provides an opportunity to represent the range of voluntary bodies across the whole of London.
- 7.2.8 Sub-regional Resilience Forums have continued to work in the run-up to the establishment of new arrangements, with current business plans carried over.
- 7.3 The London Resilience Officer gave a presentation on the different approaches to the structure of resilience across the UK, what the considerations are for London, and the range of options available.
- 7.4 In the discussion on the future options for the Forum, the following points were raised:
- 7.4.1 It should be within the gift of the of bodies represented on the Forum to deal with resourcing,. However, the position remains that the Forum has to work with the resources it has.
- 7.4.2 The organisations represented on the Forum have always been good at working together and there is concern not to lose the strengths that such a multi-agency group can offer.
- 7.4.3 The sub-regional tier continues to offer scope to support resilience work. Humanitarian assistance is an example of where the sub-regional tier has worked well.
- 7.5 **The Forum agreed to:**
- (a) **Direct the London Resilience Team to review Terms of Reference ahead of the Forum's next meeting; and**
- (b) **Support Option E – a mix of central co-ordination and lead agency for identified capabilities – set out in paragraph 5.1 of the report, for the development of resilience capabilities, with the recognition of the role of**

the sub-regional tier.

8. Olympics Update

- 8.1 British Transport Police confirmed that the events calendar for the whole of 2012 had not yet been finalised.
- 8.2 The London Resilience Manager briefly updated the Forum on the recruitment of two fixed-term posts to focus on Olympics resilience, funded by the Cabinet Office. The Risk Advisory Group for the Olympics was due to meet within two weeks to make sure that London is ready in terms of resilience. Officers are working to ensure that there is no overlap between the different groups looking at the issue.
- 8.3 A representative from the Utilities Sector Panel indicated that there is an urgent need to clarify arrangements for utilities around Games time, and not just utilities for the Games themselves.

9. Exercise Watermark

- 9.1 The Environment Agency gave an update on Exercise Watermark, making clear that a more formal review would be reported back to a future meeting. Watermark was the largest emergency exercise undertaken in this country, with 10,000 people taking part on just the first day. The exercise ran for four days and included surface water and fluvial flooding in London as well as other types of flooding across in other parts of the UK.
- 9.2 Some early lessons around effective communications and information flow had been identified, but the main lessons would emerge through a structured local debrief, leading to a national report to be considered at a national conference in London at the end of June before a final report goes to Government in September.

10. Strategic Co-ordination Centre Update Report

- 10.1 The Metropolitan Police Service reported that the Strategic Co-ordination Centre (SCC) was complete and tested during Exercise Watermark.
- 10.2 A representative from the Utilities Sector Panel gave feedback from Exercise Watermark that major IT and communications issues at the SCC just a few days before Watermark had been resolved with impressive speed.
- 10.3 Following Watermark, MPS will offer the SCC for use on the last Friday of each month from May 2011 for exercises and familiarisation.

Action:

- 10.4 London Resilience Team to work with MPS to co-ordinate invitation day for SCC in June 2011.

11. Date of Next Meeting

- 11.1 The Chair indicated that the next meeting of the Forum would be held towards the end of June 2011.