

Minutes - APPROVED

Meeting London Resilience Forum
Date 14 February 2019
Time 2.00pm
Place Committee Room 5, City Hall, SE1 2AA

Ref	ACTION	OWNER
1 (5.4)	[REDACTED]	[REDACTED]
2 (5.4)	GLA to brief the LRF on the London Situational Awareness team at the next meeting of the LRF.	GLA
3 (5.7)	LRG to work with BRFs to support representation by the faith and voluntary sectors at BRFs.	LRG
4 (5.8)	MHCLG to follow up on what appears to be conflicting advice with regard to the National Emergency Plan for Fuel with regard to Brexit.	MHCLG
5 (5.9)	LRG to invite representation from the Faith, Voluntary and Business Sectors to the Brexit Communications with the public workshop planned for 5 March.	LRG

Present

Fiona Twycross, Chair
 Sean O'Callaghan, British Transport Police
 Peter Lavery, Business Sector Panel
 Dave Evans, City of London Police
 Samantha Lumb, Area Director London, Environment Agency
 Luke Miller, Faith Sector Panel
 Jon-Paul Graham, GLA
 Brian Fahy, HQ London District
 John Barradell, Local Authorities Panel
 Mark Jones, London Ambulance Service
 Doug Flight, London Councils
 Graham Ellis, London Fire Brigade
 Terry Leach, Maritime and Coastguard Agency
 Bryony May, Met Office
 Joseph McDonald, Metropolitan Police Service
 Laurence Taylor, Metropolitan Police Service
 Katherine Richardson, Deputy Director of the Resilience and Emergencies Division, MHCLG
 Robin Merrett, MOPAC

Peter Boorman, NHS England (London)
Marc Beveridge, Public Health England
Emma Spragg, Red Cross (Voluntary Sector Panel Chair)
Tim Corthorn, Thames Resilience Panel
Bill d'Albertanson, Utilities Sector Panel
Monica Cooney, Transport for London

London Resilience Group:

Hamish Cameron, London Resilience
Toby Gould, London Resilience
John Hetherington, Head of London Resilience
Manuela Roedler, London Resilience

GLA: Felicity Harris, Board Officer

Also in attendance

Stuart Downs, British Transport Police
Helen Turner, British Transport Police
Vicki White, British Transport Police
Hayley Deaking, Environment Agency
Richard Berry, GLA
Jyoti Bhojani, GLA
Mark Sawyer, Local Authorities Panel
Alan Palmer, London Ambulance Service
Verona Clarke, London Fire Brigade
Ian Kemp, HQ London District
Steve Feely, Metropolitan Police Service
Edward Rees, Metropolitan Police Service
Emily Pignon, MHCLG
Sarah Spencer, MOPAC
Tim Scott, Transport for London

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

- 1.1. The Chair welcomed Members to the Forum and requested that all attendees introduce themselves.
- 1.2. The Chair offered her congratulations to Peter Boorman from NHS England (London), who had been awarded an OBE in this year's New Year Honours List.

2. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

- 2.1. Apologies were received from: Dany Cotton, LFB; Yvonne Doyle, Public Health England; Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime; John O'Brien, London Councils; and Cathryn Spain, Port of London Authority.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising from the Previous Meeting

- 3.1. Subject to minor amendments, the Forum confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the Forum (60 01) held on 18 October 2018 as an accurate record.
- 3.2. With reference to matters arising, it was noted that all actions had been dealt with or would be addressed elsewhere on the Agenda.

4. Risks to London Resilience

a) MPS:

- i) **Threats:** The MPS confirmed that the threat from international terrorism remained at severe and that a change in that status was not anticipated.
- ii) **Drone Update:** With reference to the drone incident at Gatwick Airport in December 2018, the MPS confirmed that work was ongoing to determine what the most effective tactical response to future drone incidents should be. The MPS were working closely with the Government and military partners on this. It was noted that drone incidents were difficult to respond to but that a number of lessons had been learnt following the incident at Gatwick Airport to ensure that London's response to drone incidents is effective.-

- b) The MHCLG representative gave an update on current hazards, which included the likely impact of greater snowfall than normal, but details of where and when this could happen were not available. It was noted that temperatures for February, March and April were likely to be above average, as would precipitation levels. In terms of human health, MHCLG noted that there were two strains of aviation flu causing concern but that risk to UK residents and travellers was low. Members were advised that H5N6 avian influenza had been detected in England in 2018 and although it was not considered a threat to public health, it did increase the risk level. The risk of an outbreak in poultry was medium but no outbreaks had been identified.

5. Special Agenda Items

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b) Situational Awareness

5.3 The GLA's City Operations and Major Events Lead gave an overview of the work around situational awareness, noting that the Mayor had asked officers to look at how the Mayoralty and relevant partners could be more aware of what was going on in London. Members heard that current proposals were to mirror the Cabinet Office's process by having a watch keeper team available to draw on open source data 24-hours a day, 365 days a year. Funding had been allocated for this work, and it was noted that the permanent situational awareness team would be based at City Hall. The recruitment process would begin in April and it was expected that a briefing on progress to date could be given at the next LRF meeting.

5.4 **ACTION:** GLA to brief the LRF on the London Situational Awareness team at the next meeting of the LRF.

c) Borough Resilience Forum Report (Paper 60 02)

5.5 The Deputy Head of London Resilience (LRG) introduced the paper, noting that all boroughs now had functioning BRFs in place. There were no significant issues to report but the development of MPS Basic Command Units was ongoing and LRG would monitor the impact of these on BRFs. It was noted that the Richmond and Wandsworth BRF was being restructured and that the LRG would continue to visit each BRF at least once year, while also hosting at least two meetings of the BRF and LRF chairs forum each year.

5.6 Members discussed representation at BRF level, noting that there was patchy engagement with representatives from both the faith and voluntary sectors.

5.7 **ACTION:** LRG to work with BRFs to support representation by the faith and voluntary sectors at BRFs.

d) Brexit

i) **MHCLG Update:** Representatives had visited 10 LRFs around the UK since the last LRF meeting in October and had collated concerns and queries from each, noting that concerns were similar around the country. It was noted that a letter from the Department for Transport (DfT) would be sent to all LRFs setting out the support given around borders and transport, and that London

would have a named contact at DfT. An announcement on financial support for Brexit resilience planning had been made in January and London would be in the top tier of recipients.

ii) **London Update:**

- **C3 arrangements and reporting:** The Head of London Resilience gave Members an update on a workshop held the previous week, at which a draft strategy for the EU Exit Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) was agreed. Further meetings would be scheduled in the run up to 29 March 2019 and beyond, at which the short-term impact will be looked at. It was noted that Members of the London SCG would need to have clear knowledge of the resources available within their organisations as well as an understanding of the implications immediately post-Brexit. It had been agreed that the a Local Authority Chief Executive would Chair the EU Exit SCG and that incident coordination group capability would be maintained alongside it. It was expected that the Strategy will be distributed within the following two weeks.

iii) **Agency and sector updates on Brexit planning:**

- **GLA** – There was no further update.
- **MOPAC** – Conversations with Government were ongoing but many questions remained unanswered. Intelligence flows were at risk as the current Brexit deal contained no long-term view on sustainability of international intelligence and arrest warrants.
- **MPS** – Clear messages about the impact on the police had been shared in the media. In the short-term, the MPS had concerns about public order and it was noted that significant protests were expected the weekends before and after Brexit. Officers would be prepared at all times and national coordination of mobilisation plans were being tested.
- **CoLP** – Staff were being seconded to carry out national policing work and CoLP would remain part of the tactical planning team. Extended leave restrictions for officers in the City were in place to increase resilience and preparations were being made for a national drawdown of resources.
- **BTP** – Planning was ongoing with industry partners in relation to St Pancras and any potential knock-on impacts. There was some nervousness surrounding BTP resources being removed from the railway throughout the country but the primary focus remained on the capital, specifically on the underground.
- **LAS** – Demand for the service had been high and it was anticipated that it would remain high in the lead up to Brexit. Business continuity issues were being reviewed to ensure that the fleet can continue operating.
- **LFB** – A Strategic Resilience Board meeting had been held two weeks previously, at which a discussion centred around the model used during the London Olympics for updating intelligence in real-time. LFB were considering the potential for people hoarding fuel and the fire safety risks that might present. A Blue Lights Panel had also taken place, where attendees discussed how best to use resources across all sectors.
- **Local Authorities Panel** – Each local authority had been assigned a single point of contact with senior officers identified that should be briefed and receive information from boroughs on issues requiring escalation. The London Prevent Network had been initiated to monitor

community tension and any increase in reporting. A weekly reporting system was in place with data being shared with the MPS.

- **London Councils** – There were three key service areas being monitored: adult social care, children's social care and education, and environmental services.
- **NHS** – Extensive planning continued with two key focuses on regional office oversight and medicine supply. Planning was focused on guidance from national teams and it was noted that supply chain issues had been mitigated at a national level.
- **PHE** – PHE's focus was on continuing functions protecting the health of the UK, including supply chain management and rapid diagnostics. They were looking at EU health security institutions and disease prevention, considering how information would continue to be shared. The response structure in relation to disease outbreaks across the world had been activated and contact was being made with the Department for Health and Social Care twice weekly.
- **EA** – The EA's internal response process had been stepped up and a key focus remained on waste disposal and storage and water quality.
- **Transport Sector Panel** – The TSP's main priority was understanding the possible impact of Brexit on the transport network. A management plan would be reviewed at a meeting the following week.
- **Thames Resilience Panel** – There were concerns about possible delays to ships being checked at harbours in the PLA and that any backlog could lead to a build-up of HGVs on the M25 and in the Dartford Crossing area.
- **Utilities Sector Panel** – No significant risks had been identified but it was noted that supply chain issues were being dealt with at a national level. An issue specific to London was that utilities cover multiple LRFs so there was a need to make sure service requirement communication to Government works effectively.
- **Business Sector Panel** – The key focus was on establishing an effective two-way communication route in order to obtain accurate information from businesses.
- **Voluntary Sector Panel** – The primary concern the VSP were reviewing was the impact on vulnerable people in the medium to long-term. The sector was keen to provide support to the public where possible, particularly in response to concerns about a shortage of medical supplies.
- **Faith Sector Panel** – There were concerns amongst minority faith leaders of an increase in hate crimes. Importance was being placed on the faith sector being a strong voice for the public.
- **HQ London District** – Contingency planning to look at what would be scalable and appropriate was ongoing. There were very few requests from LRFs for direct support, other than in Kent and Hull but training and exercise programmes were in place to ensure the military was ready to support if needed.
- **Met Office** – No particular issues had been identified that would prevent normal services from being delivered.

- 6.11. **National Health Service** – There was a change in the way the NHS regional office was working and it was noted that this would have some impact on changes to senior staff and who would be available. Mass casualty planning was ongoing and lessons from previous incidents on humanitarian planning and data sharing had been acknowledged.
- 6.12. **Public Health England** – PHE was working with partners to monitor the ebola virus outbreak in the Democratic Republic of Congo. The UK public health risk assessment had been completed, which concluded that there was a negligible-low risk to the public but that UK residents who had worked with NGOs in the DRC would be monitored on their return to the UK. PHE was also working with the Animal Health Trust and Plant Agency to conduct a risk assessment on the equine flu outbreak. There was no indication of horse to human transfer but reactive advice would be provided if required. Seasonal flu activity was normal but could change in the following weeks.
- 6.13. **Environment Agency** – Groundwater was below normal and the risk of flooding was low. The Drought Response Framework was at level one, which is considered normal, but will be constantly monitored. There was no risk to public water supply, despite a dry January.
- 6.14. **Transport Sector Panel** - Organisations involved with the TSP had agreed to send representation to the Palestra liaison facility should there be a major incident and work was ongoing to ensure the most appropriate representatives were selected. Nominations were due to be returned by mid-March.
- 6.15. **Thames Resilience Panel** – There had been no meetings since the last LRF meeting but a meeting had taken place with the London Risk Assurance Group to look at the Thames Risk Register and risks associated with land and water, and how an incident would affect multiple agencies.
- 6.16. **Utilities Sector Panel** – Utilities were operating as usual, with no significant issues over the winter. Drought was still high on the agenda for water companies.
- 6.17. **Business Sector Panel** – The BSP met the day before the LRF meeting and received a briefing from LRG on counter-terrorism preparedness and social resilience.
- 6.18. **Voluntary Sector Panel** – Work with the FSP on joint capability exercises was ongoing. The Red Cross was helping to facilitate 100 Resilient Cities workshops to be held in April.
- 6.19. **Faith Sector Panel** – There had been a number of new members of the FSP and efforts to diversity representation from minority faiths continued. The London Churches Gold Group was reforming itself to align its focus with that of the London Church Leaders Group. Concerns had been raised about the availability and ability of some faith leaders to attend meetings and events.
- 6.20. **HQ London District** – The winter programme was underway and the ceremonial season was approaching. Preparations were being made for the first three Saturdays in June leading up to the Queen's birthday and the State Opening of Parliament. The military had been deployed to help the police at Gatwick and Heathrow airports and regular requests for support from the MPS were being received.
- 6.21. **London Resilience Communication Group** – There was no update.
- 6.22. **Government (MHCLG)** – An updated preparedness guide for civil emergencies for local authority chief executives had been republished in November 2018. Government's response to Tim Cross' multi-agency flood plan review was published in January 2019. The first 12 national

resilience standards had been published and would be looked at in more detail following Brexit. A new cyber hub on Resilience Direct had been launched in November 2018, which included guidance and templates for LRFs.

6.23. **Met Office** – Aside from a relatively small amount of snow at the beginning of February, it had been a quiet winter. Transport networks were affected for a short time. Training courses on basic weather resilience plans for emergency responders was available and it was noted that further dates had been set for May and October 2019.

6.24. **London Resilience Group**

i) **Sub- Regional Resilience Forum (SRRF) and Borough Resilience Forum (BRF)** – The next set of SRRF workshops would be held in March and would focus on disruption to water supply.

ii) **Partnership Training Update** – The Group was next due to meet on 22 February, which would also be used as an opportunity to test enhanced facilities at the primary Strategic Coordination Centre location. Forthcoming training events included a Strategic Coordination Summit on Cyber Resilience in May and one based on a Control of Major Accident Hazards (COMAH) scenario later in 2019. Full Multi-Agency Gold Incident Command (MAGIC) training courses were scheduled for June and July 2019, with a one-day version in October. The SCC familiarization training would be held in March. A scoping document had been drafted for the next full-scale partnership exercise due to be held in 2020.

iii) **Capability Development** - The frameworks would shortly undergo the next round of reviews. It was noted that the current frameworks contained good guidance but were bulky and not easily accessible on the spur of the moment. Efforts would be made to condense the quick reference information. The Mass Casualty, CBRN(E) Structural Collapse, Drought Arrangements and Flood Response capabilities are expected to be brought to the June LRF.

7. Progress Against London Resilience Programme

a) Work Programme

7.1 The Deputy Head of London Resilience provided an update to Members, noting that the Work Programme continues to be improved and developed following a complete review at the end of 2018. The Programme highlights that there is a lot of Partnership work taking place to review capabilities and some special project areas have been stalled due to a lack of resources and interruptions to workload that the Brexit planning has required. A more complete Work Programme will be presented at the June LRF.

b) Documents Recommended for Approval:

- **Community Risk Register (Paper 60 03a and 60 03b)** – The London Resilience Manager noted that the Community Risk Register had been approved by the London Resilience Programme Board and would be published once agreed by the LRF. There were no significant changes since the previous version was published in February 2018 but there was a proposal to look at the unequal distribution of risks assessed by different agencies. A one-year trial period to include Category 2 responders as lead assessors of risks was suggested, with outcomes being reported back after the first year.

7.2 **DECISION:-** The Forum then approved the Community Risk Register.

c) Learning and Improvement Report (Paper 60 04)

7.3 The London Resilience Manager noted that the latest lessons report provided an overview of the status of 47 planning and implementation lessons, the majority of which would be addressed this year. A concern was raised about the proportion of lessons outstanding, particularly those that were established 2-3 years ago. It was suggested that the report needed to be a clear reflection on the number of lessons learned.

7.4 **DECISION:-** The Forum noted the report and the LRG noted comments outlined above.

8. Assurance of Partnership Capabilities – (60 05)

8.1 The Deputy Head of London Resilience introduced the report, noting that there were no changes since the previous report. Updates to the report were on hold due to Brexit but would be picked up at the earliest opportunity.

8.2 **DECISION:-** The Forum then noted the report.

9. Review of Actions

9.1 The Deputy Head of Resilience summarised the actions agreed; as set out above.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 There was no other business.

11. Dates of Next and Future Meetings

11.1 The dates of the next and future meetings were noted as follows:

Thursday 20 June 2019 at 2.00pm at City Hall
Thursday 17 October 2019 at 2.00pm at City Hall
Thursday 6 February 2020 at 2.00pm at City Hall