



## Cabinet 28 March 2012

### Recommendations from the West Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Panel: 16 February 2012 (Apr12/11)

*Cabinet Member:*  
*Cllr Robert Everitt*

*Chairman of the Joint Committee:*  
*Cllr Andy Drummond*

#### 1. Terms of Reference (Report C356)

**RECOMMENDED:-**

*That in relation to Paragraph 6 of the Terms of Reference and the frequency of meetings of the Joint Panel, i.e. every 6 months, this be amended by the addition of 'or as appropriate'.*

The Joint Panel considered its Terms of Reference, and in relation to the frequency of its meetings concluded that it would be prudent to recommend that flexible arrangements be made to enable it to meet in circumstances which might arise between the fixed periods provided for in the original Terms of Reference.

#### 2. Community Preparedness (Report C358)

**RECOMMENDED:-**

*That Members of both Councils promote the opportunity for communities to obtain the Local Emergency Kit by raising awareness of it at Town/Parish Council meetings attended by them with a view to encouraging greater participation.*

Report C358 was submitted to the Joint Panel and advised that £2,000 has been allocated through the Borough Council's Rural Action Plan to a project to increase the resilience of rural communities. The money will fund a basic Local Emergency Kit that will be given to parishes and community groups that have developed a Local Emergency Plan in conjunction with the Joint Emergency Planning Unit (JEPU). The same amount has also been allocated from the Community Services budget at Forest Heath District Council (FHDC) to fund the same scheme in its area.

Initial workshops/meetings have been held in each area to explain what is involved with creating an Emergency Plan, and to gain feedback on the type of equipment that Parish Councils or community groups will find useful. Eleven communities within the Borough and seven within FHDC have attended these initial sessions.

These workshops will continue on a regular basis so that the interested communities can share ideas and best practice.

Officers advised that the response to date had been pleasing, and that communities are at varying stages in producing Emergency Plans. To be eligible to receive the Local Emergency Kit, communities will have to meet the criteria set out in the Rural Action Plan. An example of the kit was displayed at the meeting. Details of parishes participating to date were reported, and lists are available from the District Emergency Planning Officer.

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