



St Edmundsbury
BOROUGH COUNCIL

D195

Cabinet 21 November 2012

Recommendations from the West Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Panel: 9 October 2012 (Nov12/16) and (Nov12/17)

Cabinet Member:
Cllr Robert Everitt

Vice-Chairman of the Joint Panel:
Cllr Jim Thorndyke

1. Community Preparedness (Report D157)

(Forest Heath District Council's (FHDC) Cabinet approved the following recommendation on 6 November 2012. Whilst it is acknowledged that the detail is now out of date, it is considered appropriate to maintain administrative consistency by ensuring both SEBC and FHDC's Cabinets consider the recommendation.)

RECOMMENDED:-

That the forthcoming Community Resilience Support Network Meetings, as detailed in Section 4 of Report D157, be promoted with Councillor colleagues and with Town and Parish Councils in St Edmundsbury Borough and Forest Heath District.

Report D157 was considered which advised Members of the dates of two forthcoming Community Resilience Support Network meetings arranged for 8 November 2012, 6.00 pm at Forest Heath District Council offices and 15 November 2012, 6.00 pm at St Edmundsbury Borough Council offices.

All of the Parish and Town Councils in West Suffolk had been invited and positive responses had been received from the following Parish Councils: -

(a) 8 November 2012

Brandon, Dalham, Freckenham, Gazeley, Red Lodge

(b) 15 November 2012

Bardwell, Chedburgh, Clare, Great Barton, Haverhill

Other Parish/Town Councils had expressed an interest but were unable to attend due to prior commitments.

In addition, an Emergency Planning training session had been arranged for District and Borough Councillors on 22 October 2012. As space was available the invitation had now been extended by Portfolio Holders to Parish and Town Councillors. The meeting was to be held at Forest Heath District Council from 5.00 pm to 7.00 pm.

Councillors expressed concern that the response rate for resilience training was low. The District Emergency Planning Officer replied that steady progress was being made, and asked that Councillors present promoted the importance of training to their colleagues in Parish and Town Councils.

2. Performance and Capability Assessment (Report D158)

RECOMMENDED:-

That the proposal to move towards producing a single West Suffolk Capability and Performance Report, as detailed in Section 4 of Report D158, be supported.

Consideration was given to Report D158, the purpose of which was to provide an analysis of Emergency Preparedness in the Forest Heath and St Edmundsbury areas.

The District Emergency Planning Officer informed the meeting that the format of the report had changed and was now presented as a high level summary. Appendix A was split into two parts showing performance against either a Mandatory or Better Practice heading for both Councils using a RAG (Red, Amber, Green) status system. The majority of results for mandatory components were shown as green or yellow, which gave a better result than other Suffolk authorities.

In respect of capability it was reported that the number of volunteers was decreasing. To address this, and the move towards Shared Services, it would be logical to integrate the Emergency Planning Volunteer teams and processes as soon as possible.