



NOTTINGHAMSHIRE
Fire & Rescue Service
Creating Safer Communities

Nottinghamshire and City of Nottingham
Fire and Rescue Authority
Community Safety Committee

FLOODING ARRANGEMENTS

Report of the Chief Fire Officer

Agenda Item No:

Date: 18 January 2008

Purpose of Report:

To highlight current activities being undertaken to enhance Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Services preparation for major flooding within Nottingham and Nottinghamshire.

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1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1 Nottinghamshire experienced exceptionally high levels of rainfall during the months of June and July 2007. To combat the widespread flash and fluvial flooding which occurred and to mitigate its effects, a significant multi-agency emergency response was put in place.
- 1.2 As part of the government response, Sir Michael Pitt produced an interim report into associated responses and arrangements to wide scale flooding affecting the UK. His recommendations are being dealt with and those affecting the Service and its partners are being considered.

2. REPORT

- 2.1 As part of the Service's business frameworks, Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service undertook to learn from its experiences and through its participation in its own and partner debrief sessions. Through this process it acquired significant material to improve the service it provides during these conditions and enhance the relationship it has with other service providers.
- 2.2 One of the more significant debrief sessions occurred at Kelham Hall on 17 September 2007 in which Mr. Eddie Coventry, Head of Emergency Management Services of Gloucestershire County Council facilitated a productive session which allowed organisations to reflect on their individual service area and internal procedures. The debrief was attended by member organisations of the Nottinghamshire Local Resilience Forum and over forty representatives took part.
- 2.3 The purpose of the debrief was to allow those directly and indirectly involved in responding to the emergency to reflect on their service performance and highlight:
 - Best Practice
 - Poor Practice
 - Lessons Learned, in order to improve future response
- 2.4 The outcomes from the exercise have been passed to participants and the Fire & Rescue Service is incorporating these into its arrangements as far as possible. The significant positives were the high level of staff commitment, in very difficult circumstances, the multi-agency working and the sharing of information and the use of sound local knowledge by staff on the ground. Learning outcomes were the transfer mechanisms for accurate public information some command and control issues and difficulties in obtaining technical advice from specialist agencies.

- 2.5 A major impact on the regions who were worst affected was the threat to National Critical Infrastructures (NCI). The threats to water treatment facilities and electricity generation and transmission equipment is of particular importance. The Service is awaiting the outcomes of a review being undertaken by the Environment Agency into our risks so as to arrange suitable preplanning via the Local Resilience Forum.
- 2.6 The Service experience has triggered a review into the standard of Personal Protective Equipment for the first responders we mobilise to such incidents. The arrangements and contingencies are clearly distinct from our Water Rescue capability. The Service has therefore made arrangements to consider requirements via a small working group with the expectation that any additional provision be fit for purpose.
- 2.7 The Service has also made inroads into integrating flood preparation for vulnerable communities into its Community Safety agenda. Working with partners we wish to endorse a sensible approach by the public so as to make them aware of the services they can expect to utilise and also raise a reasonable expectation with regards the types of incident the Fire & Rescue Service will concentrate their efforts on. The Warn and Inform concept is being developed to facilitate this.
- 2.8 The Service has already been contacted by one particular Parish Council who wish to work together to improve communications and pre-plan for future events. This may take the form of level one water awareness training similar to that we give to our own first responders.
- 2.9 Our input on the Multi-agency Civil Contingencies Course has highlighted the need for other partner agencies to ensure their staff are trained in water awareness, this is something that had been overlooked by other organisations in the past.
- 2.10 Members should be aware of the significant part Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service play during a flooding event not only locally but across the whole country; our expertise is recognised by many of the other services for both our High Volume Pump Team and Specialist Rescue Teams.

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

The consideration of the purchase of additional Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) will be determined by the Service budget setting arrangements and notification will be via agreed governance standards.

4. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

There are no personnel implications arising from this report.

5. EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

An initial equality impact assessment is attached Appendix A.

6. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

7. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

Although the Service has no strict statutory obligations in terms of flooding, public expectations are such that the Fire & Rescue Service is seen as a significant contributor when these conditions exist. Failure to meet this expectation could negatively impact the Service. Arrangements are in place therefore to meet that reasonable expectation thus controlling such adverse risks.

8. RECOMMENDATIONS

That Members of the Community Safety Committee note the contents of this report and Nottinghamshire Fire & Rescue Service's ongoing commitment to responding and dealing with flooding issues.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS FOR INSPECTION (OTHER THAN PUBLISHED DOCUMENTS)

None.

Frank Swann
CHIEF FIRE OFFICER

INITIAL EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

<i>Section</i> RISK RESPONSE	<i>Manager</i> ACFO HORTON	Date of Assessment DECEMBER 2007	New or Existing N/A
Name of Report to be assessed		FLOODING ARRANGEMENTS	
1. Briefly describe the aims, objectives and purpose of the report.	TO RAISE AWARESS REGARDING THE ABOVE WHICH DEMONSTRATES CONTINUED PREPAREDNESS OF THE SERVICE TO MEET COMMUNITY NEEDS WHEN FLOODING EPISODES EXIST.		
2. Who is intended to benefit from this report and what are the outcomes?	MEMBERS OF THE COMMUNITY SAFETY COMITTEE AND GENERAL PUBLIC.		
3. Who are the main stakeholders in relation to the report?	STARTEGIC MANAGERS AND LOCAL RESILIENCE FORUM MEMBERS.		
4. Who implements and who is responsible for the report?	RISK REPSONSE		

5. Please identify the differential impact in the terms of the six strands below. Please tick yes if you have identified any differential impacts. Please state evidence of negative or positive impacts below.

<i>STRAND</i>	Y	N	<i>NEGATIVE IMPACT</i>	<i>POSITIVE IMPACT</i>
Race		X		
Gender		X		
Disability		X		
Religion or Belief		X		
Sexuality		X		
Age		X		

6. Can this adverse impact be justified on the grounds of promoting equality of opportunity for one group?	Y	N	7. Should the policy/service proceed to a full impact assessment?	Y	N

I am satisfied that this policy has been successfully impact assessed. I understand the impact assessment of this policy is a statutory obligation and that, as owners of this policy, we take responsibility for the completion and quality of this process.

Signed (completing person)...ACFO HORTON.....

Date ...DECEMBER 2007.....