

LONDON RESILIENCE



preparing for emergencies

LONDON REGIONAL RESILIENCE FORUM

THIRTY FIRST MEETING

20 MAY 2009

MINUTES

Those attending included the Minister for London and senior representatives from the following organisations:

British Transport Police
Chair of Local Authorities Panel
City of Westminster Council
Communities and Local Government
Environment Agency
Greater London Authority
Greater London Authority
Greater London Authority
Health Protection Agency
Home Office
London Ambulance Service
London Councils
London District, Army
London Fire Brigade
London Resilience Team
London Underground
LRF Representative
Metropolitan Police Service
Network Rail
NHS London
Port of London Authority
St. John Ambulance
Transec- DFT
Transport for London
Utilities Sector Panel

1. CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed everyone to the thirty-first meeting of the London Regional Resilience Forum (LRRF).
- 1.2 Apologies were received and noted.

- 1.3 The Chair noted that the Minister for Local Government was due to Chair this LRRF but, due to Ministerial commitments, would not be able to attend and the Minister for London would chair in his absence.

2. MINUTES AND ACTIONS OF THE LAST MEETING

- 2.1 The Minutes of the 30th London Regional Resilience Forum, held on 10 February 2009 were agreed and accepted as an accurate record.
- 2.2 All actions from the previous minutes had been completed or were underway.

3. THREAT & HORIZON SCAN

- 3.1 The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) gave a detailed update on the current position and threat levels.
- 3.2 The Chair thanked MPS and The Chair noted the Horizon Scan would not be delivered by the Cabinet Office representative as they were currently committed to responding to the Swine Flu outbreak.

4. PANDEMIC FLU

- 4.1 The Chair invited NHS London to present Paper LRRF (09) 07 on the current Swine Flu situation and prognosis for future developments.
- 4.2 NHS London said that this was a new novel virus where 100% of the population were susceptible and this was different from the normal seasonal flu virus worldwide. It was noted that we are currently in the pre-pandemic phase, as a pandemic has not yet been declared by the World Health Organisation.
- 4.3 NHS London said that pandemics normally run on 10 to 20 year cycles and this was the longest period since the last flu pandemic. The need to remain vigilant was important and NHS London passed on their thanks to all members of the Partnership for their support during the last four weeks.
- 4.4 NHS London said the next steps were to ensure that the level of preparedness within the NHS continued due to the unpredictable nature of the flu virus. There was a possibility of H1N1 becoming global and combining with H5N1 to create a significantly more serious virus.

- 4.5 NHS London said that London was well prepared with Tamiflu stocks, and that work was progressing well nationally to develop robust anti-viral distribution plans.
- 4.6 The Chair said London had responded extremely well to date and passed on his thanks for all the NHS and HPA had done to respond to the outbreak so far. The Chair highlighted that, moving forward, the key was to manage expectations as currently the unfolding situation could potentially become resource intensive if the severity of the virus outbreak increased in the autumn.
- 4.7 The Chair asked the representative from City of Westminster Council to present a paper regarding Pandemic Flu Excess Death Planning.
- 4.8 The City of Westminster said that Excess Deaths Planning needed to highlight the implications for managing excess deaths in London and the effect on the capacity for burials and cremation should a worst case scenario pandemic be declared.
- 4.9 The City of Westminster passed on thanks to the London Resilience Team, in particular for producing the Local Authority Toolkit which has been recently circulated to LAs.
- 4.10 LRT added that, with respect to the current outbreak of Swine Flu, the scientific evidence to date did not suggest that we will be faced with the reasonable worst case scenario. However, it was prudent to ensure that we have robust plans in place for a variety of scenarios.
- 4.14 The Chair thanked LRT and opened discussion to the Forum for questions.
- 4.15 The Greater London Authority echoed the thanks to the health representatives for providing clear messages to partners during this initial Flu phase.

5. SEVERE WEATHER- LESSONS LEARNT

- 5.1 The Chair invited LRT to present LRRF Paper (09) 09 & LRRF Paper (09) 10 to the Forum.
- 5.2 LRT introduced the Severe Weather Debrief which had been commissioned by the LRRF at its last meeting in February. An interim report had been circulated to members at the end of February.
- 5.3 LRT emphasised that the LRRF Debrief sought to provide an account of the event from Partners' perspectives and to highlight the positive outcomes and identify and address the lessons learnt.

- 5.4 LRT asked Forum members to agree the report and note its recommendations. The LRRF Debrief would be published on the London Prepared website.
- 5.5 The Chair thanked LRT and asked the Forum for questions.
- 5.6 The GLA queried how much GLA involvement there had been during the production of the report.
- 5.7 LRT replied stating that the GLA had been heavily involved and the GLA secondee had drafted the report and had been involved in Partnership meetings.
- 5.8 The GLA raised the question whether there should have been better liaison between Boroughs and TFL Buses as he believed there were lessons to be learned from the event.
- 5.9 TfL replied stating that successful Borough interaction with TFL had occurred during the event using the LLACC.
- 5.10 The Forum agreed the Debrief and its release on the website.

6. G20 UPDATE

- 6.1 The Chair passed on thanks to the Partnership for delivering the response to the G20 event.
- 6.2 The Chair invited the Metropolitan Police Service to update the Forum on the response to the G20 event.
- 6.3 The MPS thanked the Chair and informed the Forum that the event was the largest public order event for many years. MPS public order tactics were currently being reviewed in light of lessons learnt and investigations were ongoing into criminal activity carried out by demonstrators.
- 6.4 The MPS were able to get the correct messages across to partners on the day and using LRT to present a unified message to partners was beneficial.
- 6.5 The Chair thanked the MPS.

7. REGIONAL DELIVERY PLAN 08/09 END OF YEAR REVIEW

- 7.1 The Chair invited LRT to present paper LRRF (09) 11 on the Regional Delivery Plan to the Forum.
- 7.2 LRT highlighted the significant achievements delivered by the London Resilience Team on behalf of the wider Partnership. A number of Regional Response Plans were completed during 2008/09:
- the Pandemic Influenza Plan;
 - Strategic Emergency Plan;
 - the London CBR Response Framework;
 - the London Mass Evacuation Plan; and
 - London Science and Technical Advice Cell Arrangements.
- 7.3 LRT said that it was key to note that the Plans could not have been delivered without the Partnership secondees and that this arrangement was vital to the effective working of the Partnership.
- 7.4 The Chair then asked the Forum for questions.
- 7.5 The Chair stated that it was absolutely vital that all Partners continued to support Partnership working by providing secondees to the London Resilience Team. The Chair stated this would not only ensure successful plan delivery but without secondees it would be impossible to deliver the plans and it would have a severely damaging effect on the Partnership.
- 7.6 The Chair thanked LRT for the presentation.

8. FORWARD LOOK

- 8.1 The Chair noted the forward look due to be delivered by the Cabinet Office would be postponed till the next Forum meeting.

9. REGIONAL DELIVERY PLAN 09/10

- 9.1 The Chair invited LRT to present paper LRRF (09) 12 to the Forum.
- 9.2 LRT said that completion of the work was dependent on organisations continuing to show their commitment to the London Resilience Team by supplying secondees and continuing to attend the multi-agency groups. Continuing support was vital especially considering the resilience planning which will be needed for the Olympics.
- 9.3 The Chair thanked LRT. There were no further questions or comments.

10. CONTEST 2 UPDATE

- 10.1 The Chair invited the Home Office to present an update on the UK Counter-Terrorism Strategy and the MPS to discuss the work that they were doing with respect to identifying crowded places in London.
- 10.2 The Home office briefed on the new Counter-terrorism Strategy, CONTEST 2009, which had been launched in March.
- 10.6 The Forum agreed it would dedicate part of its future agenda to Protect matters (in effect becoming London's Protect Board) to ensure links between Protect and Prepare.
- 10.7 The Chair thanked the Home Office and the MPS. There were no further questions or comments.

11. LRF UPDATE

- 11.1 The Chair invited the LRF representative to present Paper LRRF (09) 13 to the Forum.
- 11.2 The LRF Representative said there was nothing to report to the Forum in addition to that included in the paper.
- 11.3 The Chair thanked the LRF Representative.

12. REPORTS FROM THE LRRF PANEL CHAIRS

- 12.1 The Forum heard from the Chairs or representatives of the nine Sector Panels and there were no additional items to those covered in Paper LRRF (09) 14.

13. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

13.1 No further business.