

**Environment Scrutiny Panel – 17 November 2010**

**Emergency Planning Informal Scrutiny Group – Update Report**

**Report of Head of Democratic Services**

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1. Purpose of the Report

1.1 To provide an update to the Scrutiny Panel on progress with the recommendations of the final report from the Emergency Planning Informal Scrutiny Group (ISG) (Report EN100 refers), which was considered at the meeting of the Scrutiny Panel held on 20 July 2010.

2. Executive Summary

2.1 At the previous meeting of the Panel, it was agreed to delegate to the City Council's Emergency Planning Officer authority to amend the recommendations, so that they more clearly stated which body or officer was responsible for carrying out each of the recommendations. The Panel also requested for its next meeting an update from the Portfolio Holder on Cabinet's response to the recommendations.

2.2 For completeness, the amendments to the recommendations that were submitted to Cabinet on 15 September 2010, are set out below in italics.

1. That in respect of the vulnerable:

1.1 That Hampshire County Council be aware of the need to provide assistance to the vulnerable, not already on the risk register, living in rural communities in the event of a loss of electricity or a pandemic situation.

2. That in respect of communications:

2.1 That *within Councillor Lipscomb's letter* the Parish Councils and community groups be encouraged to identify a person to champion and lead on emergency planning and provide a second individual to provide administrative support and to store and update emergency planning documentation.

2.2 That in the event of an incident, such as severe weather, frequent updates on the situation be circulated *by the Head of Communications* to all Members.

2.3 That further consideration be given *by Hampshire County Council* to publicising the opening of Prepared Rest Centres and Parish Community Halls when opened, to include signage and the use of Parish Notice Boards, in order that the public are directed to safe areas.

2.4 That resilient communication channels be established between *City Council's Emergency Planning Officer* and Parish Councils and other Community Groups with Emergency Plans and an incident control point, such as through Hants Direct or Winchester City Council's out-of-hours service (though this would need enhancing for the purpose).

2.5 That *Hampshire County Council* increase public awareness of the need to tune into local radio stations and websites ~~be increased~~.

2.6 That *Hampshire County Council, in consultation with City Council's Emergency Planning Officer, information be provided information* on the provision of grit bins, their location, their replenishment and responsibilities for spreading grit in the event of adverse weather.

2.7 That information be provided by *the Head of Access and Infrastructure in consultation with City Council's Emergency Planning Officer* on the availability, distribution and effective use of the provision of sandbags.

2.8 That a clear and positive message be given *by the City Council's Emergency Planning Officer* on the legal liabilities of homeowners clearing pathways of snow and ice outside of their properties.

### 3. That in respect of Community Plans:

3.1 That *Parish Council* plans include details of plant and machinery that can be called upon to assist in the event of an incident.

3.2 That identified high risks, such as flooding, be planned for in advance by *Hampshire County Council in consultation with City Council's Emergency Planning Officer*.

3.3 That *Hampshire County Council in consultation with City Council's Emergency Planning Officer* give special consideration ~~be given~~ to the needs of Whiteley (including the participation of the Whiteley Business Forum) and Winchester Town and that the final report be taken to the Winchester Town Forum.

3.4 That appropriate Parish Councils consider establishing links with major employers in their Parishes to improve resilience and establish

the possibility of mutual aid and that Parish Councils be encouraged to work with neighbouring parishes to produce effective emergency plans.

3.5 That the resources and expertise available from Winchester Area Community Action be given consideration *by Hampshire County Council in consultation with City Council's Emergency Planning Officer* when preparing community plans.

4. That the Environment Scrutiny Panel should review biennially the effectiveness of the changes recommended by it to Cabinet, if adopted.

2.3 The above recommendations of the Scrutiny Panel were subsequently considered at the meeting of Cabinet held on 15 September 2010. Cabinet agreed to the Panel's recommendations in principle, but the detail of the implementation was delegated to the Chief Executive, in consultation with the Portfolio Holder for Communities.

2.4 Subsequent to Cabinet, consultation has taken place with Hampshire County Council on how best to implement the recommendations for which they have responsibility. These will be incorporated into the letter from the Portfolio Holder for Communities to all Parish Councils (copying to all Members) explaining the Report's recommendations. The letter has been drafted and will be distributed shortly.

**RECOMMENDED:**

That the Report be noted.

**Risk Management Issues**

There are no risk management issues arising from this Report.

**Background Documents**

None

**Appendices**

None