


ROTHERHAM METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

Environment and Climate Change Group

15th April 2014 @ 13:30 – 14:30
Conference Room 1, Town Hall

Present:

Cllr K Wyatt (**Chairperson**)
Cllr E Wallis
John Blanksby, University of Sheffield
David Rhodes

		Action
1.	<u>Apologies for Absence</u> Cllr Watson Cllr Roche Zafar Saleem Andy Newton (due to last minute change of time) Graham Kaye (due to last minute change of time) Peter Whitwam Francesca Croot Noel Bell	All to note
2.	<u>Previous Minutes</u> There were no issues raised with the previous minutes.	All to note
3.	<u>Climate Local Conference (31st March 2014) - Delivering Growth and Supporting Resilient Communities</u> The Local Government Association's Climate Local initiative held a conference bringing together representatives from the 81 Climate Local Councils, to hear the latest examples of council-led action, the real-world impact it is having locally as well as keynote speakers from partner organisations. A presentation was given by David Rhodes summarising the conference. A copy of the presentation can be accessed by double clicking the icon below:  Presentations given at the conference can be accessed through the link below: <u>View the presentations</u>	All to note

		Action										
4.	<p><u>Report on Environment and Climate Change Strategy key area and objectives:</u></p> <p>3. Emergency Planning (and Recovery), Social Care & Health</p> <p><u>Objective 3.1</u> - <i>Ensure potential environmental damage is minimised in emergency situations and accidents through the development of emergency response plans at sites of significant environmental risk.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A report was presented on behalf of the Emergency and Safety Team summarising plans relating to adaptation to Climate Change. A copy of the report is at Appendix A. <p><u>Objective 3.2</u> - <i>Ensure communities are prepared and able to adapt to future climate</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Camino Project</u> - A presentation was given by John Blanksby, Pennine Water Group, University of Sheffield, outlining the aims and future direction of the EU funded Camino Project. A copy of the presentation is enclosed. • <u>Development Control</u> - A report was presented on behalf of Development Control and Planning summarising controls and plans relating to adaptation to Climate Change. A copy of the report is at Appendix B. • <u>Drainage and Highways</u> - A report was presented on behalf of Drainage and Highways summarising works and plans relating to adaptation to Climate Change. A copy of the report is at Appendix C. 	All to note										
4.	<p><u>Key Area Objectives to be reviewed at the next meeting:</u></p> <table border="1" data-bbox="312 1279 1158 1760" style="width: 100%; border-collapse: collapse;"> <tr><td>1. Strategic Planning and Policy</td></tr> <tr><td>2. Built and Natural Environment</td></tr> <tr><td>3. Emergency Planning and Recovery, Social Care and Health</td></tr> <tr><td>4. Energy and Water</td></tr> <tr><td>5. Engagement, Education And Awareness Raising</td></tr> <tr><td>6. Housing</td></tr> <tr><td>7. Procurement and Resources</td></tr> <tr><td>8. Regeneration and Business</td></tr> <tr><td>9. Transport</td></tr> <tr><td>10. Waste and Recycling</td></tr> </table>	1. Strategic Planning and Policy	2. Built and Natural Environment	3. Emergency Planning and Recovery, Social Care and Health	4. Energy and Water	5. Engagement, Education And Awareness Raising	6. Housing	7. Procurement and Resources	8. Regeneration and Business	9. Transport	10. Waste and Recycling	All to note
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5.	<p><u>Any Other Business</u></p> <p>Nil</p>											

		Action
6.	<u>Date and Time of Next Meeting</u> Tuesday 15 th July 2014; 12:30pm – 1:30pm, Rotherham Town Hall.	All to note

Appendix A to ECGG Minutes dated 15th April 2014

key Area	Emergency Planning (and Recovery), Social Care & Health
Reporting Officer	Francesca Croot & Peter Whitwam
Date	15 April 2014

Objective 3.1 Ensure potential environmental damage is minimised in emergency situations and accidents through the development of emergency response plans at sites of significant environmental risk.

The Emergency planning Shared Service has a suite of local authority and South Yorkshire Local Resilience Forum emergency plans. These plans detail emergency responses to a wide range of emergencies, including those that have direct implications to climate change. The following climate change related major incident scenarios have been identified for South Yorkshire:

1. Flooding
2. Severe weather, scales and storms
3. Severe snowfall and icy conditions
4. Heat wave resulting in drought, water supply disruption, wildfires and excess deaths (as experienced in Europe 2003)
5. Human disease outbreak caused from mosquitoes, ticks and midges for example West Nile Virus
6. Animal disease outbreak caused from mosquitoes, ticks and biting midges for example bluetongue

Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 local authorities has a legal duty to risk assess the likelihood and impact of a range of scenarios. A Community Risk Register must be produced by each Local Resilience Forum based on this risk assessment.

The South Yorkshire Community Risk Register was produced in partnership with RMBC and other emergency responders. This risk register includes the following climate change related risks:

Risk	Risk rating
Storms and gales	Medium
Heavy snow	High
Flooding	Very high
Emerging infectious diseases	Medium
Non-zoonotic animal diseases	Medium
Exotic animal diseases	High
Heat wave	High
Drought	Medium
Forest or moorland fire	Very high

The likelihood of these risks and their associated impacts are anticipated to increase in correlation with climate change. These risks are reviewed on an annual basis, ensuring that the risk assessment is current and based upon the most recent information.

Emergency planning by the EPSS and the Local Resilience Forum is prioritised in accordance with the Community Risk Register. This means that both the EPSS and other responders within South Yorkshire have adequate plans in place, to respond effectively to the risks identified in the above table. These plans are reviewed and updated on a regular basis, in accordance to the Civil Contingencies Act. The EPSS and the Local Resilience Forum have the following emergency plans and arrangements in place, which addresses these risks:

1. RMBC Borough Emergency Plan
2. Rotherham Multi-Agency Flood Plan
3. RMBC Heatwave Protocol
4. RMBC Snow Warden Scheme
5. RMBC Generic Notifiable Animal Diseases Contingency Plan
6. RMBC Severe Weather Plan
7. RMBC Recovery & Restoration Plan

Planning for other climate change major incidents such as wildfires and drought are undertaken by other agencies such as the Fire and Rescue Service and Yorkshire Water. RMBC would activate its Borough Emergency Plan or other plans, where required to support these responses.

Public Health

Public Health is a new responsibility under the Health and Social Care Act 2012, for the Local Authorities, which commenced April 2013. RMBC Public Health is responsible for planning for the following risks:

1. Increased disease spread due to milder winters, fewer frosts and increased rainfall, causing an increase in population growth and spread of disease carrying midges, mosquitoes and ticks e.g. Lymes disease.
2. Emergence of new diseases to the UK as a result of warmer climates, which are more favourable to disease carrying ticks, mosquitoes and midges from Europe and Northern Africa etc. Examples include West Nile Virus and Dengue Fever.
3. Air pollution resulting in premature deaths and respiratory hospital admissions related to ozone exposure which may increase as a result of climate change. The warmer climate may mean that the UK pollen season will start earlier and last longer.
4. Increase in Public health responses to climate change related emergencies such as floods, heat waves and drought.

Animal Health

Under the Animal Health Act 1981 the local authority has a legal requirement to put into place plans to respond to notifiable animal diseases. There are some notifiable animal diseases, which are not present in the UK. Climate change could result in climates more favourable to disease carrying mosquitoes, midges and ticks from Europe and Northern Africa etc. The RMBC notifiable animal diseases plan identifies the roles and responsibilities of RMBC and how an emergency response will be undertaken.

Assurance

Although there are no specific emergency plans for climate change, there are a suite of plans, which can be used to address the impacts climate change may have on Rotherham. Arrangements are currently in place to review these risks, exercise plans and revise emergency plans as per the Civil Contingences Act 2004. Through these measures the Emergency Planning Shared Service, Public Health and Animal Health can respond effectively to climate change major incidents as required.

Objective 3.2 Ensure communities are prepared and able to adapt to future climate

RMBC EPSS under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 has a requirement to warn and inform the community before, during and after a major incident. As part of this requirement the EPSS with other partners in the Local Resilience Forum, has arrangements in place to inform the community of the actions they should undertake in preparation of a major incident. This includes the need to make an emergency kit bag, to stay-in, tune in and shut all doors and

windows and await further advice from the emergency services during an emergency etc.

During an emergency the EPSS would assist the emergency services in communicating with the public and advising them of the actions they should undertake.

As part of community emergency preparedness the EPSS has a community plan template, which can be used by communities to develop their own plans. The purpose of a community plan is to increase community resilience to any emergency, including flooding and severe weather. The template has been circulated to all Parish Councils. In addition Community Flooding Booklets have been produced for a number of areas in the Borough.

Through warning, informing and community plan template, the community can be encouraged to prepare for climate change major incidents, in addition to other types of emergencies.

a. Links to national / local performance indicators

Civil Contingencies Act 2004

Health and Social Care Act 2012

Appendix B to ECCG Minutes dated 15th April 2014

key Area	Emergency Planning (and Recovery), Social Care & Health – Development Control
Reporting Officer	Noel Bell
Date	15 April 2014
Objective 1: Ensure communities are prepared and able to adapt to future climate change	
<p>New development should be designed to avoid adding to the vulnerability of existing or other proposed development to impacts arising from changes in the climate. This could include using landform, layout, building orientation, tree planting, massing and landscaping to reduce likely energy consumption and resilience to increased temperatures.</p> <p>In designing new development and any associated drainage systems the Council will expect applicants to demonstrate their understanding of surface water flows and where water flows will occur in extreme flood events. It will be important for applicants to understand where capacity of drainage systems may be exceeded. Applicants should take this information into account when designing development proposals, incorporating suitable mitigation measures where appropriate. The Council will also encourage design which improves the flood resilience of properties, helping to minimise the damage from flood water and reduce the time required to recover damaged buildings. Such measures could include the provision of barriers (such as door guards), water resistant door and window frames and waterproofing of plaster or stone flooring.</p> <p>Provision of public or private greenspace is also advocated so that an accessible choice of shade and shelter is offered, recognising the opportunities for people, biodiversity, flood storage and carbon management provided by multi-functional green spaces and green infrastructure networks.</p> <p>Transport Assessments and Travel Plans are a valuable tool to mitigate traffic from developments. They should include mitigation measures against agreed trip generation levels, target setting (e.g. for cycling, walking and bus use), monitoring and enforcement. In addition to the trip levels agreed and transport and highways measures put forward through the planning process, the development will be monitored to ensure that the agreed trip levels are not exceeded.</p> <p>Support for renewable energy proposals will be provided unless they would have unacceptable adverse effects which are not outweighed by the local and wider environmental, economic and social benefits of the development. This includes wider benefits arising from a clean, secure energy supply, reductions in greenhouse gases and other polluting emissions.</p>	
a. Links to national / local performance indicators	
<p>National Planning Policy Framework</p> <p>National Planning Policy Guidance</p> <p>Annual Monitoring Report as the main mechanism to assess the Local Plan's performance and effect</p>	
b. Obstacles	
<p>Viability of development</p> <p>Changes in Central government stance e.g. Housing Standards Review and the transition towards integration in Building Regulations</p>	
c. Resources	

Staff & budgetary resources available from:

Development Management

Planning Policy

Building Regulations

Opportunities explored to utilise external knowledge base

Next Steps and Future Actions

In next 12 months:

Adoption of Rotherham's Core Strategy

Continued progression of the Sites & Policies document

Production of Annual Monitoring Report

Ongoing determination of Planning Applications as necessary

Appendix C to ECCG Minutes dated 15th April 2014

key Area	Emergency Planning (and Recovery), Social Care & Health - Drainage and Highways
Reporting Officer	Graham Kaye
Date	April 2014
Objective 3.2: Ensure communities are prepared and able to adapt to future climate changes	
Actions and progress; <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RMBC is working closely with Communities, Businesses Flood Wardens, and Flood Action Groups Business• Continuity Plans have been produced to ensure that business continues to trade during and after exceptional storm events.• The Council through Planning and Land Drainage are now ensuring that developers and designers are designing, constructing and maintaining surface water drainage systems to allow for climate change plus an allowance for freeboard where necessary.• The Council is working closely with DEFRA in the implementation of Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS), for developments and drainage schemes. By autumn 2014 all Lead Local Flood Authorities (LLFA) will implement a Sustainable Drainage Approving Body (SAB). All SuDS applications will be submitted to the Council's SAB for approval where officers will check designs, supervise the construction and maintain SuDS systems submitted to the SAB for approval.• A Local Flood Risk Management Strategy has been produced by Rotherham Metropolitan Borough Council to set out how the local flood risk within the borough will be managed. The brief for the strategy was approved by Cabinet on 19 March 2012. It is proposed that the Strategy will be published on the Council's web site in July 2014 for public information after approval from Cabinet. The general principles of the Local Flood Risk Management Strategy are:<ul style="list-style-type: none">o Community focus & partnership workingo Sustainabilityo Risk Based Approacho Proportionalityo Multiple benefits	
a. Links to national / local performance indicators	
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Flood Risk Regulations 2009• Flood and Water Management Act 2010• Pitt Report 2008• National Standards for SuDS	
b. Obstacles	

Obstacles for the Council are as follows:-

- Additional roles and responsibilities for most Council Services identified under the Floods and Water Management Act 2010.
- Awaiting Defra confirmation for the implementation of SAB and publication of National Standards for SuDS.
- Additional assets and responsibilities for future maintenance.
- Shortage of resources and skills.
- Funding

c. Resources

The Council is proposing to utilise the existing in house resources. It is likely that after autumn 2014 the increase in work will require up to a further 4 FTE to deal with the additional work and to successfully carry out the duties of the Council.

The Council is exploring ways of generating income and funds to carry out its duties.

Next Steps and Future Actions

- Rotherham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy will be presented to Cabinet for approval.
- Publish Rotherham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy on the Council's web site for public information.
- To implement the Council's SAB after autumn 2014.
- To continue to update Rotherham Local Flood Risk Management Strategy as a 'living document' and to take into account any future changes climate changes.
- Work closely with Communities, Partners, Stakeholders and the public.