

	Essex County Council	Basildon District Council	Castle Point Borough Council	
1	Could the County Council provide a complete emergency planning response for the Rochford District?	No. The Emergency Planning Unit of the County Council could, in theory, provide an Officer to undertake plan writing, training and liaison. The emergency planning function should be part of any integrated emergency management approach by the District. It could not extend to provision of emergency response, albeit assistance may be provided, subject to the County's own operational requirements.	We probably could at a cost (all things are possible) but if there were no Rochford input we would need a free hand over hour expenditure. Emergencies by their nature are unexpected and anything can happen, without a Rochford Officer in attendance we would need a blank cheque book.	No
2	If yes, would the County Council be willing to?	-	Probably not but we would need a definite specification and decision if not member level.	Not Applicable - but willing to help.
3	If no, please state why the County Council could not.	The Emergency Planning Unit currently has no capacity to provide this service. (Please see also response to Q1.)	We have our own district to cover and whilst we are relatively large resources only stretch so far. Depending upon what was wanted we may have to get additional Emergency Planning resource, which with recharges may not be cheaper for you. It would mean existing staff taking on more in the way of call out liability and this is difficult now. Lack of knowledge of Rochford geographically, politically and administratively. Response should be Rochford's response not Basildon's.	We do not have sufficient resources.
4	Could the County Council provide a part service for the Rochford District?	Yes	Possibly, indeed as we do now with out of hours service. What we may be able to contract to provide would be specific services, e.g. Public Health Officers or Building Control Officers for an agreed call-out rate. We could provide rest centre management or plant and equipment on a rechargeable basis.	Not with existing resources which are only sufficient to cover this Borough.
5	If yes, would the County Council be willing to?	The Emergency Planning Unit currently has no capacity to provide this service. (Please also see response to Q1.) However, if more than one District wished to pursue this option an additional member of staff could be employed on a contract basis. There may be a possibility of this as a part-time post.	Possibly depending on what was required, if we have the staff and if we could agree a price.	Not Applicable
6	How would this be done, and what part would the County expect the District to play?	This could be implemented along the lines of the arrangement currently in place with Epping Forest District Council. Costs for 2002/2003 £12,500 per annum. This would depend on grade of Officer. (Copy of Service Level Agreement attached.)	We would need a specification setting out exactly what service was required, how and when it would be provided, who would be authorised to initiate works and reimbursement procedures, etc. But I think control and direction must remain with your authority, after all it would be your emergency response.	Not Applicable.
7	What would be the County Councils view of, say, up to three Districts grouping together to form a Joint Emergency Planning Unit?	The County Council would have no objections to such a scheme although this would need to be in the context of the County response. Would a group have the breadth of skills and expertise currently available through the control emergency plans unit?	OK for provision of some services, e.g. rest centre management but again I cannot see how any one authority can totally hand over their responsibility to a third party. The overall control and responsibility must remain with the Authority with the emergency.	I believe our Council would be in favour. Certainly Officers would support and the proposal has merit. Partnerships always attract more favourable funding.
8	Can you identify any shortcomings in such an arrangement?	Different priorities and political agendas may cause conflict of interest, particularly when representing an authority at meetings, training and exercises. Who would have first call on the Officer? Also, there could be issues regarding liability and responsibilities. What would be the personnel and financial implications?	Identification and division of responsibility, division of costs, ownership of equipment (all could be overcome I am sure).	Nothing immediate comes to mind.