

## **THE DISTRICT EMERGENCY PLAN (Min 132/01)**

### **1 SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The draft District Emergency Plan consultation period has closed, and the final draft is presented to Members for approval.

### **2 THE DISTRICT EMERGENCY PLAN**

- 2.1 Having taken note of Member comments following presentation to this Committee in March, the draft District Emergency Plan was sent to all the external and internal parties shown on the Distribution List.
- 2.2 A number of alterations have been made as a consequence of responses to consultation, and the draft, produced here in its proposed finished form, is presented to Members for approval.
- 2.3 Thought was given to a number of formats, and bindings. However, as the document will require amendment from time to time, the loose-leaf A4 format before Members is considered the most suitable.

### **3 MATTERS ARISING**

Matters arising from other Member comments in March are addressed as follows:

#### **FOOT AND MOUTH DISEASE**

- 3.1 Essex County Council ran a seminar to discuss the management of the Foot and Mouth disease presence in Essex. There was a general acknowledgement that there were several valuable lessons learnt during the crisis. Whilst steps would be taken to alter plans accordingly, an event in several years time may well be "new" to the practitioners of the day.
- 3.2 Neighbouring authorities conducted risk assessments of their own. In one case, the decision was made that there was little risk.

#### **SNOW AND ICE GRITTING**

- 3.3 The provision of rock salt for untreated roads is a matter that the Highway Authority considers as part of its Winter Maintenance Programme. The needs of individual sites are measured against the overall priorities at the time. There are a number of issues indicating care in the provision of a series of street collection points, not least being security, and fair distribution.

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**VOLUNTARY WORKERS**

- 3.4 The use of any voluntary groups must be considered carefully. Volunteers must have the appropriate skills for the roles they may find themselves employed in.

**4 NEXT STEPS**

- 4.1 The District Emergency Plan is a live document, and has had several amendments even since March. The Plan will always need to adapt to changing circumstances. However, in its current form, it embraces a wide group of actual and potential contingencies and potential partners, should a major incident occur. The Plan will be regularly reviewed in any event.
- 4.2 The Plan also contributes to the Best Value Review of Emergency Planning, and will be a factor during the central government review of the provision of this area of local authority work. A major review has started, and a formal consultation process expected later this year. A further report will be made in due course.

**5 RECOMMENDATION**

- 5.1 It is proposed that the Committee **RECOMMENDS**

That the Draft District Emergency Plan be approved, published and distributed in accordance with the Distribution List. (Cex)

Paul Warren

Chief Executive

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