

**HERTFORDSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**COMMUNITY INFORMATION AND PROTECTION  
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

**TUESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2002 AT 10.30 A.M.**

**REPORT ON PROGRESS TO DATE OF THE RESPONDING TO  
EMERGENCIES TOPIC GROUP**

Report of the Head of Safety Emergency & Risk Management

Author:- John Boulter, Principal Emergency Planning Officer

Tel: 01992 555951

Executive Member: Gerald Game

**1. Purpose of report**

**1.1** To outline the Topic Group's terms of reference and to report on the proposed programme of work which the group will undertake in the New Year.

**2. Summary**

**2.1** At the Community Information and Protection Select Committee meeting of 30 October, 2001 it was agreed that a Topic Group would be established to scrutinise in more detail multi-agency arrangements for responding to major emergencies.

**2.2** It has since been agreed that the Topic Group's terms of reference will be as follows:

"To review the role and performance of HCC in the context of a multi-agency response to major emergencies using recent flooding incidents as an example and to consider response arrangements to respond to future flooding events."

Membership of the Topic Group has been established as follows:

Keith Emsall, Moyra O'Neill, John Usher, Rosie Sanderson and Michael Colne.

**2.3** The Topic Group will conduct its work over three meetings and then submit a report containing its conclusions and recommendations to the Scrutiny Committee. The first meeting will be a briefing session by HCC Officers who will provide background information on the subject. The second session will be a day of visits to relevant locations across the county starting at the Environment Agency Regional Offices (Hatfield) from where flood warnings are issued and the EA response co-ordinated. The group will then make a series of visits to parts of the county which have recently experienced significant flooding (London Colney,

Agenda Item No.

**4**

Little Hadham, Bishops Stortford). The third meeting will take place at County Hall and will provide an opportunity for members to put questions to senior officers from various agencies with roles to play in responding to major flooding and other incidents. At the final session the Topic group will also be able to formulate recommendations and identify learning points.

- 2.4** It had been hoped that the Topic Group would have met prior to the Christmas and New Year break. However, this has not been possible due to a large number of existing diary commitments for both HCC Officers and Members. Details of Members' availability have been sought for January when it is expected that at least two, and possibly three, of the sessions will take place.

**3. Conclusion**

The Scrutiny Committee are asked to consider and comment on the report.

**4. Financial Implications**

There are no financial implications arising from this report.

*Background papers used by the author in compiling this report:*

None