

**Open Report on behalf of Pete Moore,
Executive Director Finance and Public Protection**

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| Report to: | Community & Public Safety Scrutiny Committee |
| Date: | 13 July 2016 |
| Subject: | Exercise Barnes Wallis Report |

Summary:

This report is being shared with committee for information and awareness following the successful engagement with three Community groups on the 12th November 2015. It was the first demonstration of a community led response that integrated the organised voluntary sector and emergency responders.

The exercise provided the opportunity to test the procedures outlined in their Community Emergency Plans and to practise their members in the roles they would need to fulfil when responding to an incident or emergency.

Actions Required:

The Committee is invited to acknowledge the report and highlight any questions regarding the involvement of community groups in emergency planning matters.

1. Background

Community resilience is a measure of the sustained ability of a community to utilise available resources to respond to, withstand, and recover from adverse situations. It can also be described as “Communities and individuals harnessing local resources and expertise to help themselves in an emergency, in a way that complements the response of the emergency services.”

Without any formal training however the uncoordinated effect of social resilience can create additional challenges for responding agencies. In order to address this the Lincolnshire Resilience Forum’s (LRF) Community Resilience project has been tasked to assist with the preparation and planning required to ensure that all communities know the risks they face and have a plan in place to be able to respond to them. The exercise provided the opportunity for three community groups to test their plans.

2. Conclusion

As a result of the exercise and observations on the day, carried out by facilitators from the LRF and an external professional assessment from academics from Manchester University the Community Resilience project has developed a new 5 stage Community Engagement Programme. In addition, members of the Community Resilience Project Group are providing further retention training packages such as First Aid, Registration at Emergency Support Centres by the British Red Cross, monitoring of waterways and screen cleaning by the Environment Agency, Defibrillator training from EMAS etc. The increase in take up by community groups, especially in the South Holland and Boston areas has been significant, helped also by accessing funding of £10k to provide battle boxes for established community groups in the South Holland area. In partnership with LALC and the Communities & Commissioning Team (LCC) further funding is being sought to enable the same level of engagement and provision across the whole of the county. This includes community engagement & cohesion training and the PREVENT agenda as well as the Emergency Planning aspect.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

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| These are listed below and attached at the back of the report | |
| Appendix A | Exercise Barnes Wallis Report & Recommendations |

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

| Document title | Where the document can be viewed |
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| Involving citizens in the response and recovery to flood emergencies Final Report FD2666 July 2015 | www.defra.gov.uk |

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