

MERSEYSIDE FIRE AND RESCUE AUTHORITY			
MEETING OF THE:	COMMUNITY SAFETY AND PROTECTION COMMITTEE		
DATE:	27 MARCH 2014	REPORT NO:	CFO/024/14
PRESENTING OFFICER	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER		
RESPONSIBLE OFFICER:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER	REPORT AUTHOR:	CHIEF FIRE OFFICER
OFFICERS CONSULTED:	NICK SEARLE		
TITLE OF REPORT:	JOINT EMERGENCY SERVICES INTEROPERABILITY PROGRAMME (JESIP) CONSOLIDATION EXERCISE		
APPENDICES:	NONE		

Purpose of Report

1. To advise Members that Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority have been chosen to host the Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) consolidation exercise which will take place on 16th and 17th September 2014.

Recommendation

2. That Members note the contents of this report.

Introduction and Background

3. The Joint Emergency Services Interoperability Programme (JESIP) was established in 2012 and is due to conclude at the end of September 2014. It is proposed to carry out a large scale live-play exercise at the end of the programme in order to test and validate the JESIP products in a realistic environment. This includes testing the integration of JESIP products with other elements of a major incident response which are not explicitly addressed within the programme e.g. strategic command and the response on non-blue light agencies. It will also act as a vehicle for promotion of JESIP principles to a wider audience. Merseyside has been identified as an appropriate area to host this exercise and provide an opportunity to exercise their local arrangements.
4. The aim of the exercise is to test the interoperability of the Emergency Services at all levels (responder, command and control room) alongside other agencies, in response to a major incident; where effective joint working is critical to achieving the successful outcomes of saving life and minimising harm.
5. The objectives of the exercise are as follows;

- i. To test how effectively the responding agencies *co-locate* command functions in order to support joint working.
 - ii. To test whether relevant information is effectively *communicated* across the responding agencies throughout the incident.
 - iii. To test the effective *co-ordination* of responding agencies activity.
 - iv. To test whether, collectively and individually, the responding agencies effectively *manage risks* associated with the incident.
 - v. To test whether a common '*situational awareness*' is shared across the responding agencies.
 - vi. To assess the overall effectiveness of the response, from the perspective of the victims of the emergency.
6. The exercise will take place within the Merseyside area over 24 hours commencing 16th September and extending in to 17th September. A venue will be used which allows for the realistic simulation of a major incident. It will be a 'live play' exercise with simulated casualties, hazards etc. The incident will be a no-notice 'accident' type, not CT or CBRN. The scenario will be sufficiently broad and detailed enough to require full major incident response by each of the Emergency Services and in particular to extensively test operational command interoperability. The location and scenario details will be kept confidential in order to support the realism of a 'no-notice' incident.
7. Subject to further detailed planning, it is intended that the exercise test the following:
 - Initial response by the emergency services
 - Command and control – operational, tactical and strategic levels
 - Follow-up response by wider agencies
 - Emergency Services Control Room activity/ response (an initial field test of the new JCC)
 - Management of the media (including social media)
 - Emergency Services coordination of mobilisation of national capability in support of local incident N.B. test of process, some actual deployments may be notional
 - The exercise may move from the 'initial response' phase to the start of the 'consolidation' phase
8. The exercise is not designed to test national government response (COBR etc.) however aspects will be simulated as required. There is a desire to make the exercise as realistic as possible, including exercising over a realistic period (up to 24 hours) in order to test resilience and shift changes/ command handovers. Where elements of the response can be undertaken on a genuine 'no notice' basis without significant cost or risk, then this will be done. The exercise will be subject of a multi-agency debrief including those role-playing as 'victims', and learning identified.
9. The exercise will be planned through a partnership of the JESIP team, National Ambulance Service Resilience Unit (NARU) and Merseyside Emergency Services (Merseyside Fire & Rescue, Merseyside Police and North West Ambulance Service). Each organisation will identify appropriate resources to

support planning however Merseyside Fire and Rescue Authority will lead on behalf of the Merseyside Emergency Services.

10. JESIP hold a budget of £126k to support delivery of the exercise. Other agencies may commit resources and/ or funding as appropriate. A funding strategy will be agreed but will be based on the principles that real/ actual costs will be met from the central JESIP budget but resources (opportunity cost) will be provided without charging.

Equality and Diversity Implications

11. There are no equality and diversity implications contained within this report.

Staff Implications

12. A Watch Manager from the Operational Planning and Policy Team has been designated to take the lead on exercise planning on behalf of the 3 Emergency Services. Exercise planning falls within the core role of the Operational Planning and Policy Team.

Legal Implications

13. It is important that this exercise takes place and others in the future to ensure that all who may be involved across the agencies are fully conversant with their roles. This is in order to ensure that any major incidents are dealt with effectively and draw no criticism about multi agency working

Financial Implications & Value for Money

14. The JESIP Team holds a budget of £126k from which any direct costs to the Authority will be met. This amount will be supplemented from the National Resilience training and exercising budget which has been created specifically to support exercises of this nature.

Risk Management, Health & Safety, and Environmental Implications

15. All aspects of the exercise live play will be subject to a robust risk assessment process that will allow for the most realistic conditions achievable in a safe training environment.

Contribution to Our Mission: *Safer Stronger Communities – Safe Effective Firefighters*

16. Effective joint working with our partners from the Police and Ambulance Service ensures the highest quality operational response is delivered to Merseyside residents.

BACKGROUND PAPERS

GLOSSARY OF TERMS

CT Counter Terrorist

CBRN Chemical, Biological, Radiological, Nuclear