

**Select Committee on Community Safety and Community Services**  
**- 18<sup>th</sup> March 2010**

**Funding arrangements for partnership working; Contingency & Disaster Management Report of the Chief Executive on multi agency contributions to the cost of refurbishment of council facilities.**

**Purpose of Report**

1. To report on the financing of the refurbishment of an additional training room, following the report of the Head of Contingency & Disaster Management to the Select Committee in November.

**Background**

2. The Civil Contingencies Act (CCA) places a statutory duty on the local authority to plan for emergency situations either natural or man made, and to respond to such emergencies to reduce the disruption to the community caused by such incidents. With the introduction of the Act a considerable increase in finance for resilience work was allocated within the Standard Spending Assessment. , the diligent use of this finance led to the dedicated facility at Himley being developed, to provide better multi Agency response to disruptive incidents
3. In order to fulfil its obligations under the CCA the council have dedicated facilities to deal with these situations at Himley Hall.
4. The facilities are of a high standard; however with the development of technology and the concept of multi agency working in an emergency situation, the facilities need to be extended.
5. Some of the training now undertaken by Contingency & Disaster Management is of a sensitive nature and needs to be undertaken in sterile surroundings. The development of the GMIS mapping system, specifically for emergency planning functions (and its sensitivity) and the inclusion of CCTV coverage to assist the council's Emergency Management Team during an emergency, along with the ability to display current communications with the emergency services, all through data projectors and screens, will enhance the council's response. This cannot be done in the current offices.
6. In the event of a major emergency any agencies premises may need to be utilised as a Tactical Co-ordination Centre for multi agency management. Dudley's facilities have been viewed by different agencies and the police felt that the facility is of such a standard that its use as a Tactical Co-ordination Centre for incidents would be ideal.

7. The use of the facilities by the Government Office of the West Midlands Resilience Team as a fall back facility should their offices, in the centre of Birmingham, become unavailable, and the use as Tactical Control was in both instances utilisation of the existing facility. Those other organisations' understanding is that any incidental/consumable costs incurred would be reimbursed. If additional equipment or resources were required then these would be paid for.
8. Recent events such as flu and the fuel strike in the summer of 2008 has led to the setting up of multi agency groups to discuss events. If the local authority were the lead agency for incidents such as flood, or when instigating a Recovery Co-ordination group following events with involvement of both other agencies and community groups, the current facilities would not be able to cope with these numbers of people.
9. The decision to extend the current facilities was seen as a progression in the light of these eventualities and monies set aside to provide a capital project.
10. The other agencies have been consulted on the provision of funding, however all have their own control rooms to facilitate and funding is not available. West Midlands Police are currently constructing an Events Suite which will be available as a Strategic Co-ordination Centre for incidents throughout the conurbation. There has been no request for financial aid from other parties.
11. Currently the rooms available at Himley are used by other agencies for training and in these cases payment is secured for their use.
12. If the facilities were used by an agency for incidents, where Dudley MBC were not involved in the response, fair and reasonable charges would be levied against that organisation.
13. The securing of any property or service by either revenue or capital finance has to be of necessity to the authority first and foremost, and the combined use of others latterly. There is no intention that this project is for the benefit of partner agencies. It is primarily to ensure the council's planning and training for major emergencies and to provide adequate accommodation to the council's Emergency Management Team in a crisis, where information, communication and working with other category 1 and category 2 responders, plus voluntary agencies as detailed by the CCA (appendix 1) can be undertaken to the betterment of the community we serve.

### **Finance**

14. A sum of £29,000 has been allocated to a capital project from Contingency & Disaster Management revenue expenditure over the last 2 years. This finance has been able to be found by careful management of funds.  
The LGA lobbying of the government in 2004 led to an increase in the RSG for Local Authorities to instigate partnership working as laid down in the CCA.

### **Law**

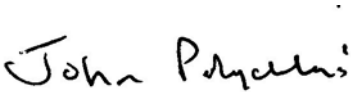
15. The emergency planning and response functions of the council are laid down within the Civil Contingencies Act 2004.

### **Equality Impact**

16. Contingency & Disaster Management ensures that all sections of the community are treated equally and has printed material available in other languages, Braille and audio for times of emergency and the ability to have additional resources prepared at any time.

**Recommendation**

That members support the financial aspects of ensuring that the council will be able to carry out its planning and response to major incidents, with the best facilities available to the Emergency Management Team, to assist in both response and recovery phases of these impacts on our community.



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**JOHN POLYCHRONAKIS  
CHIEF EXECUTIVE**

**Category 1 responders**

Police  
Fire  
Ambulance  
Local Authority  
Acute Trusts  
Primary Care Trusts  
Health Protection Agency  
Independent Healthcare Organisation  
Environment Agency  
British Transport Police

**Category 2 responders**

Gas companies  
Electric companies  
Water and sewerage undertaken  
Telecommunications Companies – fixed and mobile  
Transport providers – bus and rail  
Highways Agency  
Strategic Health Authority  
Health & Safety Executive  
Airports

**The wider resilience community**

Animal Health Agency  
Public Health  
Coroner  
Armed Forces  
Air Accident Investigation Branch  
Rail Accident Investigation Branch  
Marine Accident Investigation Branch  
Private Sector organisations

**Voluntary Sector**

Faith groups  
Red Cross  
WRVS  
St John Ambulance  
RAYNET  
Samaritans  
RSPCA  
PDSA  
Citizens Advice Bureau  
Salvation Army

Many of these agencies will become involved in the local authority response to incidents.