



NOTICE OF MEETING

EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL COMMITTEE

I hereby give notice that an Ordinary Meeting will be held on:-

DATE: **Tuesday, 5 February 2002** **TIME:** **9.00 am**

VENUE: **Civil Defence Headquarters, 7 Elcoat Avenue, Henderson, Waitakere City**

to consider the business as set out herein and to take any necessary action connected therewith.

31 January 2002

Sharon Simiona
COMMITTEE SECRETARY

Telephone (09) 836 8000 extn 8820

MEMBERSHIP:

Councillors	DQ	Battersby, JP (Chairperson)
	VS	Neeson, JP (Deputy Chairperson)
	RP	Dallow, QPM, JP
	AC	Fenton
	GW	Russell

Mayor, Bob Harvey, QSO, JP (ex officio)
Deputy Mayor, Carolynne Stone (ex officio)

(Quorum 2 members)

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(The reports and recommendations contained in all agendas are reports and recommendations only and are not to be construed, in any way, as Council policy until adopted.)

**AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL
COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS, 7 ELCOAT
AVENUE, HENDERSON, WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY,
5 FEBRUARY 2002 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM.**

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AGENDA FOR AN ORDINARY MEETING OF THE EMERGENCY SERVICES SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO BE HELD IN THE CIVIL DEFENCE HEADQUARTERS, 7 ELCOAT AVENUE, HENDERSON, WAITAKERE CITY, ON TUESDAY, 5 FEBRUARY 2002 COMMENCING AT 9.00 AM.

1 APOLOGIES



2 URGENT BUSINESS

Section 46A(7) and (7A) of the Local Government Official Information Act and Meetings Act 1987 provides that where an item of business is not on the agenda, it may only be dealt with at the meeting if:

- (i) the item is a minor matter; and
- (ii) the Chairperson has explained at the beginning of the meeting (when open to the public) that the item will be raised for discussion, why the item is not on the agenda, and why it cannot be delayed until a subsequent meeting; and
- (iii) the Committee resolves to deal with the item.

No resolution, decision, or recommendation may be made in respect of the item except to refer the item to a subsequent meeting for further discussion.

NOTE: Urgent Business need not be dealt with now and may be delayed until later in the meeting.



3 CONFIRMATION OF MINUTES

Inaugural - 5 December 2001

RECOMMENDATION

That the minutes of the Inaugural Meeting of the Emergency Services Special Committee held on Wednesday, 5 December 2001, as circulated, be taken as read and now be confirmed.



4 COMMITTEE WORKSHOP AND ORIENTATION TO CIVIL DEFENCE AND RURAL FIRE

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

To inform the Emergency Services Special Committee of the programmes for the Workshop to be held immediately following this meeting, and the tri-ennial Workshop to be held to orientate all the Elected Members to Council's responsibilities for Rural Fire and Emergency Management.

BACKGROUND

Under the Civil Defence Act 1983, and the Forest and Rural Fires Act 1977, local councils are given certain responsibilities and powers. Since 1990, it has been the practise to present each newly elected council with an introduction to these responsibilities and the measures already in place to meet them.

As well as this, the members of the Emergency Services Special Committee asked at its December 2001 meeting, that a workshop be run at the Emergency Operations Centre, Elcoat Avenue Henderson, to brief the committee on the response capabilities of the Emergency Operations Centre.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

The Emergency Services Section works to meet the Council's responsibilities under the two pieces of legislation named in "background" above. Civil Defence Emergency Management, and Rural Fire are statutory responsibilities of the Council.

ISSUES

The programmes for these two workshops are as follows:

1. Workshop One. Tuesday, 5 February 2002, immediately following this committee meeting

Location: the Emergency Operations Centre, 7 Elcoat Avenue, Henderson.

Title: "Emergency Services Special Committee Workshop"

- The Emergency Operations Centre layout and working areas.
- Message flow and Information Management in the Operations Room.
- Standing Operating Procedure 15 "The Role of Elected Members"
- Presentation of the new Rural Fire Tanker.
- Questions or comments

This workshop is planned to take between 60 and 90 minutes.

2. Workshop Two. Thursday, 28 February 2002, 7pm to 9pm.

Location: the Emergency Operations Centre, 7 Elcoat Avenue, Henderson.

Title: "Orientation to Civil Defence Emergency Management and Rural Fire" for all elected members.

- Powers and responsibilities of the Civil Defence Act 1983 and the Waitakere City Civil Defence Plan Nov.1999 – Nov.2002
- Standing Operating Procedure 15 and Civil Defence Reporting Centres

- The place of Volunteers
- Rural Fire responsibilities
- The implications of the new Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill 2001.
- Walk round the Emergency Operations Centre.

This report provides committee members with the opportunity to input into the programmes for these workshops or ask questions on related matters.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Report prepared by: Heather E Smith, Manager, Emergency Services Section.



5 REGIONAL NON-CIVIL DEFENCE WORKING GROUPS

PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The report will provide the Emergency Management Committee with an overview of some of the regional work being undertaken which while not directly in the Civil Defence area, is of value to civil defence emergency management planning and reduction strategies.

BACKGROUND

In the past inter-council groups and committees, especially those incorporating civil defence officers, worked together to exchange information and co-operate in working parties on associated hazard identification and risk reduction projects.

Such useful enterprises have continued under the new civil defence emergency management structure to the benefit of all people resident within the Auckland Region.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Risk identification and reduction initiatives help to minimise the occurrence of local disasters especially those described as “man-made”. The rising annual cost of maintenance and repair of council’s major assets such as civic buildings and transportation lifelines, are exacerbated in civil defence disasters. Thus the civil defence emergency management retains a position of importance in council’s strategies.

ISSUES

Among current projects being carried out regionally to the benefit of all civil defence emergency management organisations are the following:

1. Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group

The Auckland Engineering Lifelines Project was initiated by the Auckland Regional Council in late 1995 with the primary objective of reducing the impact of all known hazards on the Lifelines / Utilities services within the Auckland region. The membership included representation from the local territorial authorities and the power, gas, water and telephone companies serving the region. A Final Report of Stage One was produced in November 1999 which examined and assessed the vulnerability of the lifeline services to damage from natural hazards and identified practical strategies for reducing the risk.

Currently the Auckland Engineering Lifelines Group is working on identifying Priority Emergency Routes within Auckland Region. Information on current and future projects undertaken by Auckland Engineering Lifelines can be seen at www.aelg.org.nz. The Lifelines work is being reported to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and the Co-ordinating Executive Group.

2. Auckland Volcano Seismic Monitoring Network.

This group is made up of representatives from Auckland University, the Institute of Geological and Nuclear Sciences, the Auckland Regional Council and Waitakere City Council. One of the groups key functions is to provide scientific and technical expertise to aid rapid response in the event that the Auckland volcanic field shows signs of reawakening. It is interesting to note that although two events were recorded by the seismic network in October 2001, closer investigation proved that one was an off-shore event and the other the result of quarry blasting. Recent upgrades in the system mean that there is a “near-real-time” monitoring capability allowing detection 24hours per day, 7 days per week.

3. “The Impact of Predicted Climate Change on Hazards in the Auckland Region.”

This report dated January 2002, produced by the Auckland Regional Council’s Environmental Hazards Management section, sets out to identify the climate changes which have the potential to become serious issues, and to identify the risk mitigation strategies available in each case.

4. Auckland Local Authority Hazard Liaison Group

This group was formed convened in 1997 by the Auckland Regional Council. Building on the work of a previous working party, it set out to provide a forum for local authorities to share hazard related information, and discuss hazard issues towards improved inter-council and intra-council hazard management. The group consists of representatives from all the local authorities within the region. Sections 30 (c) and 31(b) of the Resource Management Act (1991) and Section 36 of the Building Act 1991 and impending changes to the civil defence emergency management legislation all point to increased requirements on territorial and regional authorities to avoid or mitigate the impacts of natural hazards and technological hazards.

CONCLUSION

Although retaining autonomy in many matters relating to the Waitakere City area, it is obvious that there are on-going benefits derived from council’s on-going participation in regional research and study groups. The committee will be informed of ongoing work in these areas.

RECOMMENDATION

That the information be received.

Report prepared by: Heather E Smith, Manager, Emergency Services Section.



6 CIVIL DEFENCE EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT - REGIONAL ISSUES

PURPOSE OF REPORT

This report provides the Emergency Services Special Committee with a briefing on regional arrangements for civil defence and emergency management. It also provides the opportunity for the committee to provide guidance to Council's representative on the Auckland Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee in relation to a number of issues that are likely to arise in the next few months.

BACKGROUND

As committee members would be aware, successive governments have been working on a reorganisation of Civil Defence and Emergency Management arrangements nationally for a number of years. This work has resulted in the Civil Defence Emergency Management Bill, which is currently awaiting its third reading before the House.

The Bill has an impact on Civil Defence Emergency Management arrangements at all levels. The Bill provides for the establishment of Civil Defence Emergency Management Groups to operate at the regional level. These are seen as the main planning and administrative structures for civil defence and emergency management below national level. Under each regional grouping territorial authorities still have responsibilities in respect of local planning and response.

The legislation has been developed over a number of years. This has allowed local authorities to plan in advance for the new arrangements. In the Auckland region, the Auckland Regional Council and the seven Territorial Local Authorities have worked together to establish Civil Defence Emergency Management arrangements prior to the new legislation coming into effect. This has seen the establishment of the Auckland Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Committee under the auspices of the Auckland Regional Council and a number of regional initiatives undertaken. Generally, the regional structure has worked well, allowing for cooperation between Territorial Local Authorities and the Regional Council on a number of issues and initiatives, a regional approach to regional issues and a solid base for immediate operation when the new proposed legislation becomes law.

STRATEGIC CONTEXT

Civil Defence and Emergency Management are an integral part of Council's Eco City strategic direction. Outputs provided in the areas of civil defence and emergency management support objectives in the area of community well being and safety. Readiness, Response and Recovery initiatives provide for an efficient and effective response both by Council and by other emergency services should any significant emergency events affect the City. Reduction initiatives help reduce risks and hazards to the City and are linked to a wide range of Council operations and other activities in the City. For instance, the natural hazards provisions of the Proposed District Plan (among others) help reduce hazards that would likely contribute to or exacerbate Civil Defence events.

ISSUES

The proposed legislation will effect a number of changes to current and previous arrangements in Civil Defence and Emergency Management within the region. While significant progress has been made on establishing appropriate regional arrangements, a number of issues still require to be resolved among the seven Territorial Local Authority's and the Auckland Regional Council.

The principal forum for resolving these issues is the Auckland Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee. This committee is currently a committee of the Auckland Regional Council with one representative from each of the seven territorial local authorities, one from the Auckland Regional Council as well as representation from Police, Fire Service and the Ministry of Civil Defence and Emergency Management. Councillor Battersby is Council's representative on the committee, with Councillor Dallow serving as alternate.

The work programme of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is supported in two ways. The Auckland Regional Council currently has, as part of its organization, an Emergency Management Office. This group supports, commissions and undertakes a number of regional emergency management projects as well as providing the principal reporting function to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group and the support function with respect to the Co-ordinating Executive Group. The Co-ordinating Executive Group is the other means by which the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is supported. It comprises senior staff from each of the Territorial Local Authorities and the Regional Council, and representatives from the Ministry of Civil Defence Emergency Management and the Emergency Services. It co-ordinates the regional work with the individual work of each Territorial Local Authority and the Emergency Services, oversees the work of the emergency management office, and formulates advice to the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee is likely to be considering a number of issues over the forthcoming months, and this committee's guidance to Council's representative on these issues would be appropriate.

Form of Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee

As stated above, the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee is currently a committee of the Auckland Regional Council with the membership established to provide representation from the other territorial local authorities. This is appropriate under the provisions of the existing Civil Defence Act. The proposed new legislation currently provides for Civil Defence Emergency Management Group to be joint committees of the local authorities involved. This would mean that rather than the Auckland Regional Council being statutorily the lead agency, it would be an equal participant with the other local authorities. The legislation provides that the Regional Council would be the administering authority for a Civil Defence Emergency Management Group, but the scope of this role is not clearly defined.

The Auckland Regional Council has been opposed to this approach right through the development of the legislation, and are now signalling that should the legislation be enacted in its current form they will withdraw much of their funding and work programme in support of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group (i.e. no longer fund the Emergency Management Office from regional rates) and take a very narrow interpretation of the administrative role (i.e. Committee Secretary type services only).

Waitakere City Council has always supported the concept of a joint committee. This view is based on the notion that role or service in question should be carried out by the body most appropriate to do so, based on whether it is regional or local in scope, the nature of the role, and who it impacts or effects (and how). The role of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group envisaged in the new legislation appears to be focussed on regional governance and co-ordination for readiness, reduction, and response and recovery planning. This involves regional work undertaken by the Emergency Management Office, regional work undertaken by a number of authorities and organisations jointly, and co-ordination of regional work with that done by individual authorities and organisations. This governance role is one that involves and impacts on the regional council and the Territorial Local Authorities jointly. The co-ordination role also requires joint input. On this basis a joint committee structure can be viewed as most appropriate.

In terms of the management and funding of the Emergency Management Office, Waitakere's view has been based on the same principle – that role or service in question should be carried out by the body most appropriate to do so, based on whether it is regional or local in scope, the nature of the role, and who it impacts or effects (and how). The Emergency Management Officer role is principally around conducting regional work either directly or by commissioning for the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. The work is regionally focused, which would seem to suggest it is best undertaken by one organisation. The co-ordination role at this management level is carried out by the Chief Executive. On this basis the Regional Council seems the most appropriate body to undertake the function, with the regional ratepayer the most appropriate funder.

The Committee's direction on this issue is sought. The Auckland Regional Council does not appear to be persuaded by this Council's reasoning and would seemingly like a late change to the legislation at its third reading to provide for a Committee of the Regional Council to be the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group. Staff from the Auckland Regional Council have indicated that their Council may feel that they should only fund activities for which they have decision making authority. Were there a joint committee structure in place they may be inclined to only fund a share of the cost (alongside the Territorial Local Authorities). The Committee may wish to take account of the possible significant reduction of Auckland Regional Council funding and resourcing for regional emergency management work programmes should the legislation be enacted as currently proposed with its associated increased demands on Territorial Local Authorities for funding. Given Auckland Regional Council priorities for spending in other areas such as transport there is unlikely to be any reduction in the Auckland Regional Council levy should emergency management funding be reduced.

The committee may wish to reconsider Council's position on this basis. Alternatively, the committee might wish to confirm Council's existing position that it supports the joint committee structure but also sees as necessary continued Auckland Regional Council funding and resourcing of the regional emergency management work programme.

Number and Location of Emergency Operation Centres

One issue that has been discussed at length through the Co-ordinating Executive Group is the number and location of emergency operation centres in the region. The Auckland region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group has been developed based on three response zones, Northwest (incorporating North Shore, Rodney and Waitakere), Central (comprising Auckland City), and Southern (comprising Manukau, Papakura and Franklin). Original proposals from the region saw one Emergency Operation Centre within each response zone, and proposed to not recognise Waitakere's Emergency Operation Centre as one of the regional facilities.

Council's position at that time was that this was unacceptable given the size of the north-west zone and the Council's own responsibilities, and staff have worked with colleagues from around the region to change this approach. The position that has now been reached is that there will be three response zones, but four regionally recognised Emergency Operations Centres with two within the Northwest zone (being Waitakere and North Shore). While this position has been agreed at officer level, it is yet to be formally ratified by the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group Committee and it is appropriate for this committee to reaffirm the position taken by the previous Council. Council's alternative position was to push for four response zones, with separate northern and western zones, each with their own Emergency Operations Centre.

Subsequent work has seen regional agreement on Auckland City being the lead Emergency Operations Centre for hosting the regional Group Emergency Operations Centre (for region wide response activity), with each of the other three Emergency Operations Centres (Manukau, North Shore and Waitakere) being equipped to provide an alternative location.

The Committee's confirmation of this position is sought.

CONCLUSION

The Civil Defence Emergency Management Group is working through a number of issues in relation to regional arrangements for civil defence emergency management in preparation for the passage of the proposed legislation. The Committee's views on some of the key issues are sought, in order to provide direction for Council's representative.

RECOMMENDATIONS

1. That the information be received.
2. That the Emergency Services Special Committee confirm Council's position in respect of the following issues:
 - Structure and status of the Civil Defence Emergency Management Group
 - Location and funding of the regional work programme for Civil Defence Emergency Management
 - Number of Response Zones and Emergency Operations Centres in the Auckland Region Civil Defence Emergency Management Group.

Report prepared by: Ross McLeod, Director: Corporate and Civic Services.

