



## Emergency Planning

Update Report – October 2013

### Incidents to date - 2013

See Incident summary sheet giving summary details of multi-agency responses in Belfast:

- **Security Alerts: 45** (recent alerts involved railway line and motorway closures). Emergence support centres opened for most of these.
- **Civil Unrest:** Multiple rioting incidents requiring recovery work by Cleansing staff (including 2 with requests from PSNI Silver requiring co-ordination by ECO)
- **Flooding: 4** (including one involving Westlink closure)
- **Severe Winter Weather: 1**
- **Gas Leaks: 2**
- **Fires: 1**
- **Protests at City Hall: 3** (requiring combined ECC/Security operations)

### Emergency Exercises

26/11/2013	Belfast & East Coast Areas	Exercise Eluvies II	Tidal Flooding Desktop Exercise	Various Agencies
22/10/2013	Belfast City Council	Exercise E-CRM	'Live' Emergency- CRM system test	Emergency Planning & ISB

### Emergency Co-ordination Centre – Operations (previous & planned)

**January 2013:** Flag Protests Operations centre

**10-19 June 2013:** G8 Operations Centre

**16 November 2013:** Christmas Tree Lights Switch on – Event Management Room

**17 March 2014:** St. Patrick's Day

**9-11 May 2014:** Giro D'Italia Cycle Race – Event Operations Centre

NB. The ECC was used by a team of senior people working on the 'Smarter Cities Challenge' project for two weeks in September.

### Emergency Response Vehicle

A large box van has now been allocated to Emergency Planning for the transportation of humanitarian aid kit to emergency rest centres and for other emergency response purposes. The vehicle will also be used by Fleet Managers for driver training on trailer towing.

### **Community Emergency Plans**

The community emergency plan for Knocknagoney has been completed with flood risk the main issue. We are also working to complete the plan for Orangefield and are looking at other areas in the south (Sicily) and west (Riverdale/Orchardville) of the city. A new Regional Community Resilience Group has been established which we are aligning our work with. The group will initially focus on flood risk areas but the plans will eventually be more generic in character.

### **Sandbag Protocol/Flood Response Arrangements**

The sandbag protocol has now been regionalised and most Councils have signed up along with NI Water, Roads Service and Rivers Agency. Arrangements with Parks staff are working well. **Staff have delivered 355 sandbags** to concerned residents over the summer period in addition to their normal duties and there is agreement that Parks staff will help to support Rivers Agency during flooding responses. Temporary flood alleviation work on the Knock River system (enlarged culvert, excavated water holding area, Council ECO linked into warning telemetry, new temp flood barrier) has helped prevent flooding and will eventually solve flooding issues along this corridor. Disposal of sandbags continues to be an issue which needs addressed due to landfill charges. A possible sustainable solution would be for Parks staff to use the sand for spreading on park lands.

### **Flood Alleviation Improvement Project**

The flood alleviation improvement project has been awarded to Turner & Townsend with the consultants URS Scott-Wilson taking on the work locally. Work is at the early stage of data collection from the three drainage agencies.

### **DOE Emergency Planning Grant Aid for District Councils**

DOE LGPD has indicated that the grant allowance for 2013/14 will be increased from £105K to £139K. This consists of £50K (100% funded) for Belfast Resilience and £89K for Emergency Planning (50% match-funded). We are in the process of completing claims for quarters 1 and 2.

Money from the above £89K (approx £6K) was separated out to cover G8 overtime for officers working in PSNI Silver and the ECC. This did not require match funding.

### **Local Government Reform**

The Castlereagh Borough Council Emergency Planning Officer has approached the EP team re meeting about convergence issues. This will not take place until formal convergence processes are in place as instructed by Sam Skimin. Belfast already has a mutual aid agreement with other councils for emergencies. **Both the Castlereagh and Lisburn areas will bring added flood risks and potential evacuations from security alerts.**