

**EMERGENCY PLANNING ADVISORY PANEL  
26 FEBRUARY 1999**

Present: Councillors Flood, (Chairman), Adams, Barnard,  
Mrs Clifford and Mrs Pile

**7 Minutes**

**RESOLVED** that the Minutes of the Meeting of the Emergency Planning Advisory Panel held on 18 December 1998 be confirmed as a correct record and signed by the Chairman.

**8 The Standards Approach – Civil Protection (Item 1)**

The Advisory Panel was advised that the Home Office had issued a consultation paper "The Standards Approach – Civil Protection" in January 1999 which proposed eight "Principal Standards" of Local Civil Protection. The Panel noted that the new approaches to emergency planning adopted by the Council in its role as a unitary authority were generally in line with the proposals outlined in the Home Office's consultation document. The Panel agreed that the Director in consultation with the Chairman would respond to the Home Office's consultation.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the report be noted; and
- (ii) the Director of Public and Environmental Services, in consultation with the Chairman of the Panel, prepare a response on the proposals in the Home Office's consultation paper "The Standards Approach – Civil Protection".

**9 Preparations for the Millennium Date Change Period (Item 2)**

The Advisory Panel considered a report which outlined the emergency planning and health and safety implications of the Millennium celebrations. A strategic steering group, established by the Corporate Management Team, would co-ordinate work carried out by officers and would enable the Council to work with other Berkshire unitaries, the emergency services and other relevant organisations.

The Panel also noted that the Policy Development Unit had begun to compile a database of events planned by members of the local community to be held over the millennium period and throughout the year 2000. The Panel considered that this database should be as comprehensive as possible and in order to encourage members of the public to provide information on their events, consideration should be given to a moratorium on fees and charges for the required temporary licences and permissions.

**RESOLVED** that

- (i) the extent of the preparations being made for the millennium date change period be noted;

- (ii) the Emergency Planning Officer be requested to provide regular progress reports to subsequent meetings of the Panel; and
- (iii) the Director of Public & Environmental Services be requested to pursue the issues raised by the Panel in relation to ascertaining information on events organised by members of the public and, in liaison with the Director of Leisure Services, prepare a report for the Advisory Panel on the organisation of such local millennium events.

10 **Internal Officer Training in the Generic Tiered Response (Item 3)**

The Panel noted that as a result of the Generic Tiered Response being adopted by the Public & Environmental Services Committee in January 1999, a comprehensive training programme had begun. Initial feedback on the first phase of the training had been positive and the Panel considered the arrangements for the second and subsequent phases which would involve individual departments looking at their own out of hours and emergency procedures. The Panel noted that ultimately training would involve the emergency services and other agencies and suggested that town and parish councils could be involved in this stage of the training programme.

**RESOLVED** that the training programme, set out in the report, be endorsed and officers be requested to submit a further report on completion of the programme.

11 **Members' Seminar: Emergency Planning 10 March 1999 (Item 4)**

The Advisory Panel considered the arrangements for the Members' Seminar on Emergency Planning. The seminar would involve a problem solving exercise and videotape footage of emergencies that had affected other local authorities.

**RESOLVED** that the proposed arrangements for the Members' Seminar on Emergency Planning be approved.

The meeting commenced at 4pm and concluded at 5.25pm

**CHAIRMAN**