

MINUTES

Meeting: London Resilience Forum

Date: Thursday 23 June 2022

Time: 2.00pm

Place: Microsoft Teams

Ref	Action	Owner
5b	DLUHC to feedback on Living with Covid-19 Strategy	DLUHC
6b	A response to be composed to Sophie Linden (Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime) regarding the Harris Review.	LRG
6c	LRG and LAP to write to Local Authorities to encourage sign-up to the Data Sharing Agreement for People Affected by Emergencies.	LRG/LAP
6c	Voluntary Sector Panel and LRG to discuss additional support that could be offered to voluntary and charitable bodies to navigate the sign-up process for the Data Sharing Agreement for People Affected by an Emergency.	VSP/LRG
8c	LRG to compose letter to central government on capability gap analysis in relation to mass evacuation and shelter.	LRG

Present:

Dr Fiona Twycross, Chair

John Barradell, Deputy Chair

Don Randall, Business Sector Panel

Umer Khan, City of London Police

Tony Bray, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities

Charlotte Wood, Environment Agency

Archdeacon Luke Miller, Faith Sector Panel

Niran Mothada, Greater London Authority

Kim Wright, Local Authority Panel Chair

Natasha Willis, London Ambulance Service

Patrick Goulbourne, London Fire Brigade

Alison Griffin, London Councils

Ruth Shulver, London Resilience Communication Group

Mark Rogers, Met Office

Sarah Streete, Military

Jon Simpson, Metropolitan Police Service
Guy Huckle, Network Rail
Martin Machray, NHS England
Christian Van Der Nest, Transport Sector Panel
Yvonne Young, UK Health Security Agency
Beth Reeves, Utility Sector Panel
Emma Spragg, Voluntary Sector Panel
Terry Leach, HM Coastguard
Diana Luchford, Policing and Crime
Kevin Fenton, Office for Health Improvement and Disparities

London Resilience Group:

John Hetherington, Head of London Resilience
Jeremy Reynolds, Deputy Head of London Resilience
Toby Gould, Deputy Head of London Resilience

GLA:

Richard Kember, Board Officer (Clerk)

In Attendance:

Georgina Timmins, London Resilience Group
Steve Mulrooney, DLUHC
Mary-Clare Walsh, Greater London Authority
Alan Palmer, London Ambulance Service
Keeley Foster, London Fire Brigade
Richard Stevens, Metropolitan Police Service
Mhairi Sharp, National Emergencies Trust
Vijay Jassal, National Emergencies Trust
Peter Boorman, National Health Service
Agnes Jung, UK Health Security Agency
Anna Sexton, UK Health Security Agency
Christopher Rowbottom, City of London Police

1. Chair's Opening Remarks

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed those present to the meeting. It was noted that the meeting was taking place remotely due to ongoing industrial action by the Rail, Maritime and Transport Union.
- 1.2 The Chair noted thanks to all colleagues and resilience partners for their work in planning and executing the Platinum Jubilee celebrations.
- 1.3 The Board recorded it's thanks to John Barradell (Deputy Chair) who would be stepping down from the Forum, for his work in meeting system challenges and enhancing London's resilience.

2. Introductions and Apologies for Absence

- 2.1 Apologies were noted from: Stuart Love, Local Authorities Panel (LAP); Andy Roe, London Fire Brigade; Jeremy Bagshaw, HQ London District; Bill D’Albertanson, Utilities Sector Panel, Hamish Cameron, London Resilience Group.

3. Minutes and Matters Arising from Previous Meetings

- 3.1 The Forum confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the Forum (70 01) held on 24 February 2022 as an accurate record.
- 3.2 With reference to actions outstanding, the forum noted that:
- Item 4b – The Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) to share details on the Ukraine planning assumptions had been completed.
 - Item 5b – MOPAC had released recommendations to all lead agencies.
 - Item 5b – This action for BTP/MPS was ongoing as the Manchester Arena Inquiry report had not yet been published.
 - Item 5b – LRG continued to liaise with Lord Harris on a suitable date to attend the Oversight and Strategy Group.
 - Item 5c – The written weather forecast was shared following the previous meeting.
 - Point 6.3 - The LAP fundamental review had not yet published findings.
 - Point 9.2 – Forum partners had provided feedback on the MTPAS paper.

4. National Emergencies Trust

- 4.1 The Chair welcomed Mhairi Sharp, Chief Executive Officer; and Vijay Jassal, Assistant Director – Policy and Strategic Partnerships, to the meeting to discuss the role of the National Emergencies Trust (NET).
- 4.2 Following significant levels of public charitable giving in response to the Grenfell Fire and a series of terror attacks in 2017, the Charity Commission had commissioned work that led to creation of the Trust to coordinate and support future charitable funding responses to disasters.
- 4.3 Ahead of launching first campaign in March 2020, the NET had conducted a wide range of research, analysis and sector engagement. The Trust aimed to launch an appeal within 4 hours of need arising.
- 4.4 In order to determine whether to activate a response the NET Trustees considered the following criteria: national significance; need for support; public support for an appeal; and if it feels like “the right thing to do.”

- 4.5 The Trust's Coronavirus appeal had raised over £100 million supporting 14,000 projects nationwide.
- 4.6 Outside of appeal related work, the NET had worked to improve practices, legislation, relationships and networks in order allow for a more effective response.
- 4.7 An outline of how the NET could most effectively work with the Forum was shared including using insights to equitably distribute funds, information sharing and advising on public fundraising in an emergency.
- 4.8 A question arose how the NET delivered and monitored equity between different communities in its decision making. Mhairi responded that the Equity Scrutiny Group monitored and advised on all aspects of emergency and day-to-day business.
- 4.9 A question arose on how the NET would engage and liaise with significant donation campaigns led either by individuals or major charitable organisations. Mhairi explained that the Trust works closely with a wide range of partners with the chief aim of providing a single trusted point of contact. The Trust also provided background support and advice on established giving campaigns.
- 4.10 The Faith Sector Panel representative welcomed the work of the NET, and its engagement with a broad range of religious groups.

5. Current and Emerging Risks to London

- a) **Threats (Metropolitan Police Service (MPS)):** The MPS representative confirmed that the national threat level from international terrorism was at substantial.

Public order threats from environmental activism were highlighted including possible protest action intended to disrupt the fuel supply network starting in July 2022. Planning was also underway for major events including the Women's European Football Championships and the Notting Hill Carnival.

The GLA requested any information on potential protest action linked to the ongoing cost of living crisis. The MPS representative noted that a broad range of intelligence was monitored which did not suggest major disruption was likely.

- b) **Hazards (Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC)):** The DLUHC representative, Tony Bray, confirmed that the current risks included:

- A number of infectious diseases that were being closely monitored.
- The potential for the ongoing rail strikes to spread into other public and private sectors was being monitored. The National Rail representative provided an update on the industrial action; strike days were seeing reduction significantly reduced with services on subsequent days also impacted. Further action was expected due to lack of progress in talks.
- Possible protest action linked to increased fuel prices was noted.

The Chair requested information on the government's back-up plans to the Living with Covid-19 strategy including on the timing of these being available for LRFs. Tony agreed to feedback on this point.

- **ACTION:** DLUHC to feedback on Living with Covid-19 Strategy.

c) **Weather Forecast (Met Office):** The Chair noted that a written update (Paper 70 02) had been included in the agenda papers. The Met Office representative added that the next update would be made available to partners on 27 June 2022.

d) **Infectious Diseases Risks:** The UKHSA representative outlined the ongoing and emergent risks being posed by infectious diseases:

- Covid-19 continued to present a major challenge. Increased infection rates were being observed linked to the spread of the BA.4 and BA.5 variants combined with social mixing over the half-term and Jubilee weekend. Planning was also underway for the winter flu season.
- There had been 532 cases of Monkeypox in London since May 2022. A highly targeted vaccination campaign was underway for the most at risk groups and health care workers. Most cases had been mild, with low risks to the wider population.
- Following media coverage of Polio being detected in water samples at Beckton Sewage works, it was noted the strain was linked to an oral polio vaccine no longer used in the UK. It was suggested that such could be linked to an individual or small group whose immune response to vaccination had been poor.
- Four cases of Measles had been detected in London, the first cases in two years. An NHS communications campaign would emphasise the importance of childhood MMR vaccination. The Chair added that the GLA and Mayor of London would be keen to support and amplify such public messaging.

e) **Other agency updates by exception:** None

6. Special Agenda Items

a) National Updates

i. National Resilience Capabilities Programme and National Resilience Forum update

6.1 The DLUHC representative gave a verbal update on the National Resilience Capabilities Programme.

6.2 The UK Resilience Forum last met on 3 May 2022. The body had been convened to take a broad view on enhancing resilience and planning nationwide. Chaired by the Minister for the Cabinet Office (Michael Ellis MP), partners would be able to feed thoughts straight to the government.

- 6.3 The Head of London Resilience noted that LRG was seeking to rebut some of the planning assumptions for power. It was felt that local responders were not properly consulted on these prior to publication. Further discussions between Central Government planners and local responders to inform future iterations were welcomed.

ii. Feedback on the National Resilience Strategy

- 6.4 The DLUHC representative explained that discussion was underway in government on the publication date for the National Resilience Strategy. An update to Local Resilience Forums was expected to be delivered in July 2020.

iii. Ukraine situation update

- 6.5 The DLUHC representative explained that the Russian invasion of Ukraine was expected to continue in the medium-to-long term. This would include further materiel aid to support combat operations and support for recovery efforts.
- 6.6 A long-term economic and social impact would be felt across Britain as a result of the disruption arising from the conflict.
- 6.7 The Homes for Ukraine programme continued to run under joint administration by DLUHC and the Home Office.
- 6.8 The Head of London Resilience noted that the LRG was seeking assurance from the government that no changes to the planning assumptions were required.

b. Harris Review

- 6.9 The Chair explained the MOPAC would provide a comprehensive update at a later meeting. The Head of London Resilience added that the Review had made recommendations with actions assigned to relevant partners.
- 6.10 The Chair drew members attention to the letter from Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime, regarding the Harris Review. It was agreed that a response should be drafted for remote agreement.

ACTION: London Resilience Group to draft a response to Sophie Linden, Deputy Mayor for Policing & Crime, regarding the Harris Review.

c. Data Sharing Agreement for People Affected by an Emergency

- 6.11 The Deputy Head of London Resilience introduced the Data Sharing Agreement. The Agreement had been published at the end of March 2022. Efforts were being coordinated with partner organisations to secure further signatories to the Agreement.
- 6.12 A question arose on whether Borough resilience partners were being lobbied on signing up to the Agreement. The Deputy Head of London Resilience responded that LRG would be interested to send a letter of recommendation to local authorities to encourage all Boroughs to sign the agreement, with direction from the Local

Authorities' Panel, and that a specific item would be tabled at the next Borough Resilience Forum Chair's meeting.

- 6.13 The Voluntary Sector Panel representative requested a meeting on additional support that could be offered to voluntary and charitable bodies to navigate the sign-up process.

ACTION: LRG and LAP to write to Local Authorities to encourage sign-up to the Data Sharing Agreement for People Affected by Emergencies.

ACTION: Voluntary Sector Panel and LRG to discuss additional support that could be offered to voluntary and charitable bodies to navigate the sign-up process for the Data Sharing Agreement for People Affected by an Emergency.

6.14 DECISION:

That the Forum note the Data Sharing Agreement is now in place.

d. Emergency Alerts

- 6.15 The DLUHC representative noted that the initial launch date was planned for September 2022, with a test event planned for the North East with local resilience partners encouraged to take part. Such would lead to a nationwide launch in 2023.

- 6.16 Following a question from the Chair, the London Resilience Communication Group representative confirmed that the Group had been receiving regular communications and engagement from the Cabinet Office on testing and training processes.

- 6.17 The Network Rail representative highlighted concerns with the potential impact of the alert system on rail services and people travelling on rail services.

7. Progress Against London Resilience Programme

a) Partnership Work Programme

- 7.1 The Head of London Resilience introduced the Work Programme noting that the new format sought to align workstreams more effectively alongside overall resilience strategy. The Deputy Head of London Resilience gave a brief overview of progress and delays on specific work areas, including all of those those highlighted in bold within the programme.

- 7.2 The Deputy Chair emphasised the importance of helping Londoners to better prepare for challenges and of progressing further work on cyber emergency preparedness.

- 7.3 The LAP representative outlined the need for a consistent cross-partnership understanding of how to monitor and achieve objectives.

7.4 DECISIONS:

That the Forum note the Work Programme.

b) London Risk Advisory Group and Planning Assumptions update

7.5 The Deputy Head of London Resilience introduced the paper. It was highlighted that all High and Very High risk assessments would be concluded by the end of 2022.

7.6 It was also proposed that the capability gap analysis conducted in 2020 should be revisited to determine where further national support was necessary.

7.7 DECISIONS:

That the Forum:

- **note the update;**
- **agree to continue to support the work to integrate planning assumptions in driving capability development - and the creation of lower threshold planning assumptions (where appropriate) as part of this.**

c) Training & Exercising update

7.8 The Deputy Head of London Resilience introduced the update and drew members attention to upcoming FloodEx 2022 encouraging partners to engage with the exercise.

7.9 DECISIONS:

That the Forum:

- **Approve the Terms of Reference and Strategy for the T&E group,**
- **Note the progress / forward programme of T&E events,**
- **champion the commitments made by organisations within the T&E calendar.**

d) Learning & Implementation Report

7.10 The Deputy Head of London Resilience introduced the report and drew members attention to the Partnership Debriefing Policy. The policy was intended to improve the collective approach to learning capture.

7.11 DECISIONS:

That the Forum:

- **approve the revised LRP Debriefing Policy;**
- **note the intention for this Policy to be incorporated into a wider Lessons Policy**

8. Documents recommended for approval

a) Severe Weather & Natural Hazards Framework

- 8.1 Agnes Jung (Emergencies Preparation Manager, UKHSA) introduced the Framework, noting that it had been updated to include a new Hazard Specific Impact Information section. A key change was to the threshold for tripartite calls on cross partnership coordination.
- 8.2 It was also recommended that the Severe Weather & Natural Hazards Working Group be adopted as a standing group to allow for more effective consideration of recent and long-term issues.
- 8.3 The Deputy Head of London Resilience noted that the lowered threshold on tripartite calls had already been put into effect following severe weather warnings for heavy rainfall on 22 and 23 June 2022 and for a heat health alert earlier in June.

8.4 **DECISIONS:**

That the Forum:

- **note the Severe Weather & Natural Hazards Framework document approval report (Paper 70 10)**
- **approve the Severe Weather & Natural Hazards Framework (Paper 70 11)**

b) London Resilience Strategic Flood Response Framework

- 8.5 The Environment Agency representative introduced the Framework noting that the issue of flooding was a live one with the anniversary of the London surface water flooding in July 2022.
- 8.6 The primary changes were to the thresholds in the Triggers and Action section prompting partnership coordination mechanisms and preparatory actions ahead of forecast flooding, flood risk mapping including basement density and detail on recovery arrangements

8.7 **DECISIONS:**

That the Forum;

- **note the London Resilience Strategic Flood Response Framework document approval report (Paper 70 12)**
- **approve the London Resilience Strategic Flood Response Framework (Paper 70 12)**

c) Mass Evacuation and Mass Shelter Framework

- 8.8 The Local Authorities Panel representative introduced the Framework. It was noted that there was a substantial capability gap between the planning assumptions and existing capacity to temporarily rehouse Londoners. It was suggested that the Framework should be recommended for approval but with a note of the Forum's concerns regarding the capability gap.

- 8.9 The Chair felt that further consideration was needed on the capability gap analysis. Members agreed with the Chair's suggestion that a letter should be composed to the government highlighting the Forum's concerns on this matter.

ACTION: LRG to compose letter to government on capability gap analysis.

8.10 **DECISIONS:**

That the Forum;

- **note the Mass Evacuation and Mass Shelter Framework document approval report (Paper 70 13)**
- **approve the Mass Evacuation and Mass Shelter Framework (Paper 70 14), while noting the capability gap against planning assumptions**

d) Tactical Coordination Protocol

- 8.11 The MPS representative noted that the Protocol was compiled to accompany and complement the existing Strategic Coordination Protocol. Further work was required to embed related training and processes to enable full engagement in a pan-London Tactical Coordinating Group.

8.12 **DECISIONS:**

That the Forum;

- **note the Tactical Coordination Protocol document approval report (Paper 69 11)**
- **approve the Tactical Coordination Protocol (Paper 69 12)**

9. Agency and Sector Updates

The Chair requested that partners submit written updates by exception via the meeting chat function. These are included in the updates below.

9.1 GLA: There was no further update.

9.2 Blue Light Panel and Emergency Services

- i. **Blue Light Panel:** There was no further update.
- ii. **Metropolitan Police Service:** There was no further update.
- iii. **City of London Police:** There was no further update.
- iv. **British Transport Police:** There was no further update.
- v. **London Ambulance Service:** There was no further update.
- vi. **London Fire Brigade:** There was no further update.
- vii. **Maritime Coastguard Agency:** There was no update.

9.3 London Authorities:

- i. **Local Authorities Panel** – The LAP was due to undertake a review of standards ahead of the full re-instatement of Resilience Standards.

Local authorities had also been monitoring the progress of the Grenfell Inquiry ahead of the closing statements of Phase 2 Module 4 and would have to consider any urgent actions needing to be completed to address anticipated recommendations.

- ii. **London Councils** – There was no further update.

9.4 Health:

- i. **London Local Health Resilience Partnership:** The Partnership's last meeting was held on 27 April and next meeting would be on 27 July 2022 and would cover many of the major issues discussed by the Forum.

- ii. **NHS England and NHS Improvement (London):** There was no further update.

- iii. **UK Health Security Agency:** UKHSA representative encouraged partners to consider heatwave planning following recent alerts.

9.5 Environment Agency: There was no further update.

9.6 Met Office: It was noted that the Civil Contingencies Act Review had recommended that the Met Office become a Category Two responder, with implications of such being considered.

A short notice communications project had been launched with tweets issued when significant thunderstorms were developing. A reminder to promote the #WeatherReady campaign.

A reminder of the availability of Met Office online training courses.

9.7 Sector Panels:

- i. **Business Sector Panel:** There was no further update.

- ii. **Thames Resilience Panel:** There was no further update.

- iii. **Transport Sector Panel:** The TSP representative noted the Panel had recently reconvened with most previous members present and explained that the Panel had been seeking further updates from aviation partners regarding recent disruption and the planned British Airways strike action. The next TSP meeting was scheduled for 6 October 2022.

- iv. **Utilities Sector Panel:** The USP representative noted the Panel continued to meet regularly (monthly), and planning was underway for a Utilities Awareness Day in October 2022.

- v. **Faith Sector Panel:** The panel had commissioned work on the development of their Terms of Reference, with support of Cliff Fleming the new Community Resilience Officer, and were engaging with the Voluntary Sector Panel to ensure a good fit. This would lead to the development of responses to the four relevant recommendations in the Harris Report, and would give the FSP capacity to engage with Training & Exercising.

There had also been activity around the recent five-year anniversary of the Westminster Bridge attack, as well as a Westminster Abbey service for the Grenfell Tower fire. The quinquennium of the Finsbury Park Attack was due shortly.

PUBLIC VERSION

The Panel continued to engage on the Protect Duty which would have, some thought, the risk of significant unintended consequences for churches specifically and other places of worship.

- vi. **Voluntary Sector Panel:** Discussions were progressing regarding a new model for engaging the wider voluntary and community sector in resilience planning and preparedness, building on learning from major incidents including Covid response, and in recognition of the valued role that local community organisations play in response and recovery.
- vii. A workshop had been held and another was due in early July to work through some of the practicalities of a proposal for a new model which would be delivered in collaboration with the VCS Emergency Partnership. There was broad agreement on the principles across a range of partners including funders, faith sector and GLA.

9.8 HQ London District: OP RESCRIPT, the military support to COVID was stood down in May. The Joint Military Command (London) Liaison Officers who had been working with NHS London and the LAs came off task after the Queens Platinum Jubilee.

9.9 London Resilience Communication Group: There was no further update.

9.10 Government (DLUHC): There was no further update.

9.11 London Resilience Group: There was no further update.

- i. **Borough Resilience Forums (BRFs):** There was no further update.

10. Any Other Business

10.1 The updated Terms of Reference for the London Resilience Programme Board and London Resilience Forum were shared for information.

11. Date of Next Meeting

11.1 Thursday 13 October 2022 2pm (Location TBC).