

Report to the Council

Committee: Cabinet
2006

Date: 19 December

Subject: Community Wellbeing Portfolio

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Ms S-A Stavrou

Item: 7(d)

Recommendation:

That the report of the Community Wellbeing Portfolio Holder be noted.

Emergency Planning

(a) Exercise Icarus II

At the end of September, I attended a multi-agency table-top exercise organised by the Council to test and validate its major incident plan for North Weald Airfield.

The exercise was held at the Airfield. All three emergency services attended together with representatives from the Council's Emergency Response Team, Airfield Operations and other Leisure Services staff and Hughmark Ltd, the company that operates the weekend and bank holiday markets.

The exercise was well received by all those participating and it did much to foster partnership working.

(b) Exercise Alexander

In February 2007, the Council will be hosting at the Civic Offices, another multi-agency table-top exercise, this time organized by the Highways Agency designed to test the response and management of a serious incident on the M25 motorway in the Bell Common Tunnel. Up to 10 different agencies are likely to participate.

(b) Flu Pandemic

There has been publicity recently in the media about the likelihood and effects of a flu pandemic. This Council like many other organizations has in place Business Continuity Plans to deal with incidents that affect the organisation.

These plans are currently being reviewed by officers with particular reference to the likely effects on the Council's ability to maintain services in the event of a flu pandemic.

Grant Aid

I have just signed service level agreements with three CABs – Loughton, Epping and Waltham Abbey. There is £31,115 remaining in the long term, one-off and village halls budget for this financial year.

Crime and Disorder

(a) Press Releases

Press releases were issued for Halloween and Bonfire Night. Further releases are to be issued regarding Drink Driving over Christmas.

(b) Staff

I am pleased to report that the Council's Crime and Disorder Reduction Team is fully staffed again with the following officers in post:

Caroline Wiggins – Crime and Reduction Co-ordinator
Sarah Strong – Crime Reduction Assistant
Paul Gardener – Anti-Social Behaviour Co-ordinator

Concessionary Fares

A report is being submitted to the Cabinet in December 2006.