

## **BABERGH DISTRICT COUNCIL**

**FROM:** Head of Corporate Services

**REPORT NUMBER**     **F64**

**TO:**     COUNCIL

**DATE OF MEETING**     1 August 2006

### **SUFFOLK JOINT EMERGENCY PLANNING UNIT – SCRUTINY ARRANGEMENTS**

#### **1. SUMMARY**

- 1.1 The scrutiny arrangements for the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit have been proposed and Members are asked to nominate and agree a representative and substitute from this Authority to sit on the Scrutiny Working Group.

#### **2. RECOMMENDATION**

- 2.1 That two Members of this authority's Overview and Scrutiny Committees be appointed as Member and substitute to serve as the Authority's representative on the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit Working Group.

#### **3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

- 3.1 It is likely that all meetings will be held in Ipswich and the only cost will be travel and subsistence allowances.

#### **4. KEY INFORMATION**

- 4.1 Under the Civil Contingencies Act 2004 Babergh District Council is classed as a Category 1 Responder and in accordance with the Act is required to fulfil a range of duties associated with emergency preparedness and response.
- 4.2 The specialist advice, guidance and support required to assist in the delivery of the Act is provided by the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit; a joint venture funded by all the local authorities in Suffolk except Ipswich Borough Council.
- 4.3 At the County Council's Public Protection Scrutiny Committee meeting in May the committee agreed to set up a joint working party to be responsible for the scrutiny of the emergency planning unit, and that the working party should include one Member from the Public Protection Scrutiny Committee and one Member from each of the district councils.
- 4.4 It is intended that the working party meet twice a year when it will scrutinise the joint emergency planning unit's draft business plan for the year ahead and performance against the plan for the current year. Additional meetings will be added to the work plan to scrutinise the outcomes from major incidents and exercises.

- 4.5 This type of arrangement already exists with regard to the Suffolk County Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 4.6 The Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit has held some Member training courses and is developing a more extensive programme of events for Members and officers, but it should be noted that Councillors Hurren (the only Member currently on an Overview and Scrutiny Committee), Rose and Hinton have attended training courses set up by the unit.
- 4.7 Members are asked to nominate and agree Members of this Authority to form part of the Suffolk Joint Emergency Planning Unit Working Group.

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18 July 2006

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