

LONDON BOROUGH OF HARROW

Meeting:	Cabinet
Date:	17 February 2004
Subject:	Local Authority Gold Resolution
Key decision:	Yes
Responsible Chief Officer:	Chief Executive
Relevant Portfolio Holder:	Strategy and External Affairs
Status:	Part 1
Ward:	All
Enclosures:	Appendix A - Local Authority Gold Resolution Appendix B – ALG Circular – 07/04 - Questions and Answers

1. **Summary/ Reason for urgency (if applicable)**

- 1.1 This report informs Members of the decision of the Association of London Government's (ALG) Leaders' Committee to recommend that all London boroughs, the City of Westminster and the Corporation of London adopt a resolution on Local Authority Gold Command and Control in the event of a catastrophic incident.

2. **Recommendations (for decision by Cabinet)**

- 2.1 **That the resolution prepared by the Association of London Government and set out at Appendix A be approved**
- 2.2 **That the Chief Executive inform the Association of London Government of the Council's adoption of the Local Authority Gold Resolution.**

REASON: To ensure satisfactory contingency arrangements for any catastrophe which occurs.

3. **Consultation with Ward Councillors**

- 3.1 N/a

4. **Policy Context (including Relevant Previous Decisions)**

- 4.1 None in the context of this report.

5. **Relevance to Corporate Priorities**

- 5.1 Harrow Council's Vision 2002-2006 states "in Harrow we will strive for a community where everybody is able to enjoy healthy and happy lives in an environment which is clean, safe and secure."

6. **Background Information and options considered**

- 6.1 On 9 December 2003, the ALG'S Leaders' Committee recommended that all London boroughs adopt a resolution on Local Authority Gold Command and Control in the event of a catastrophic incident. The resolution is attached at Appendix A and its purpose is to vest the "Gold " Chief Executive with the necessary powers to act on behalf of all London local authorities, in responding to a catastrophic incident, including the power to incur expenditure.
- 6.2 In the event of a catastrophic incident, the Local Authority Gold Chief Executive is likely to face situations, such as the removal of rubble, the setting up of information centres and providing practical assistance to the emergency services, where expenditure may need to be incurred on behalf of London local authorities.
- 6.3 A group of Chief Executives have volunteered to act as Local Authority "Gold", providing strategic input into the wider "Gold " group, chaired by the Metropolitan Police, and will manage the collective response to a catastrophic incident. The "Gold" group includes representatives of all emergency services, the health service and utilities.
- 6.4 The ALG has indicated that the proposed resolution will only become operative where the Government has declared a catastrophic incident and when the Government has confirmed that it will reimburse any expenditure reasonably incurred in taking immediate action to safeguard life or to prevent suffering or severe inconvenience.
- 6.5 The ALG have requested that the text of the resolution attached at Appendix A be formally agreed as soon as practicable.

7. **Consultation**

- 7.1 N/A

8. **Finance Observations**

- 8.1

9. **Legal Observations**

- 9.1 Functions under section 138 Local Government Act 1972 are executive functions (by virtue of the Local Authorities (Functions and Responsibilities) (England) Regulations 2000).
- 9.2 These arrangements are consistent with the Council's emergency planning powers.

10. **Conclusion**

- 10.1 Members are requested to adopt the resolution set out at Appendix A to vest the "Gold " Chief Executive with the necessary powers to act on behalf of all the London local

authorities, in responding to a catastrophic incident, including the power to incur expenditure.

11. **Background Papers**

- 11.1 Association of London Government - Report to Chief Executives – 11 November 2003
- 11.2 Letter to the Chair of ALG Leaders Committee from the Minister of State for Local Government and the Regions – London Resilience – Expenditure by LA Gold
- 11.3 Chief Executives' Circular (66/03) – Local Authority Gold Resolution
- 11.4 Association of London Government Chief Executives' Circular (03/04)
- 11.5 Any person wishing to inspect the background papers should telephone 020 8424 1266

12. **Author**

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