

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	MONITORING & AUDIT COMMITTEE	Item A2	Page 1 of 3
Report Originator	Beth Gordon / John Conway	<i>Fwd Plan Ref No:</i>	
Wards Affected	All Saints	29 th October 2019	
Title	Regent Street Bedding Factory Fire – Debrief Report		

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To provide members with a summary of what went well and what lessons could be learned following the Council's involvement in the Regent Street bedding factory fire.

2. INFORMATION

- 2.1 At 12.34pm on Monday 13th May 2019, a fire broke out in the bedding factory in Regent Street, Kettering. This resulted in a significant response from the emergency services and Council at the time of the incident and in the following days/weeks. Due to the location (terraced street) and ferocity of the fire, surrounding streets were evacuated whilst the fire was brought under control and extinguished. The majority of residents were allowed back to their properties later in the day, however 22 houses were unable to return due to heat damage to their properties and safety concerns regarding the structure of the remaining part of the factory and potential structural damage to the properties adjoining the factory.
- 2.2 The incident involved a significant response from the Council and involved officers from a number of service units. Incident Liaison Officers (ILO's) attended the scene on the day of the fire and following the fire to co-ordinate any response needed from the local authority. The Housing Options team attended the reception centre on the evening of the fire and found temporary accommodation for all those residents who were unable to return to their properties and required it. This was achieved by 10.00pm on the evening of the fire.
- 2.3 Once the Fire Brigade had left the scene, the Council took over management of the recovery operation. This involved working with the building insurers on a plan for the remaining structure of the building and supporting residents who had been evacuated from their properties. A single point of contact was put in place for all residents affected and daily contact maintained to update them on the situation. A recovery group was established within the Council, who met at least daily for the first week, to deal with any issues raised and ensure all departments involved in the recovery operation had the most up to date information on actions being taken and any responses required.

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	MONITORING & AUDIT COMMITTEE	Item A2	Page 2 of 3
-----------	-----------------------------------------	------------	----------------

2.4 An internal debrief was held in June 2019 to consider what went well and what the learning points were from the Council's involvement in the incident. These are summarised below.

What went well:

- Joint working across the Council from a number of service units, including SMT, Housing, Planning and Building Control, Emergency Planning, Public Services, Environmental Care
- Quick response to incident initially, and then ongoing
- Provision of temporary accommodation to residents evacuated on the day
- Provision of single point of contact for each household affected
- Recovery meetings (daily initially)
- Joint working with other agencies involved

Learning points – these are summarised in three main topics

- Emergency Planning
 - ILO's having access to equipment required (this has now been resolved and grab boxes have been located at Bowling Green Road, Robinson Way and Lammas Road for ILO's to access equipment)
 - Training of additional ILO's to provide resilience (this has been completed)
 - Consider whether to set up an Emergency Control Centre when future incidents occur so resources and communication can be co-ordinated
 - Consider deploying a Silver Officer to the scene
 - If possible, deploy an ILO that is not likely to get involved in technical or specialist issues to do with the incident
- Communications
 - Ensure the communications team are notified as soon as possible of the incident occurring and kept up to date
 - Consider member training so they are aware of the Council's emergency planning procedures and response
- Resources
 - Provide access to corporate procurement cards so equipment can be purchased in emergency situations particularly out of hours
 - Consider alternative internet access solutions for laptops to ensure information required can be accessed

BOROUGH OF KETTERING

Committee	MONITORING & AUDIT COMMITTEE	Item A2	Page 3 of 3
-----------	-----------------------------------------	------------	----------------

3. CONSULTATION AND CUSTOMER IMPACT

- 3.1 As well as an internal debrief a multi-agency debrief was carried out with all the organisations involved in the incident, so learning points could be considered by the Local Resilience Forum.
- 3.2 At the time of the incident there was significant impact on those customers who were directly affected by the fire.

4. POLICY AND RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 4.1 There are no policy implications as part of this report.
- 4.2 There are resource implications in terms of the provision of alternative means of internet access and incident boxes. These can be funded from existing budgets.

5. LEGAL AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS

- 5.1 There are no legal and equality implications as a result of this report.

6. CLIMATE CHANGE IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no climate change implications as a result of this report.

7. RECOMMENDATION

- 7.1 It is recommended that members note the contents of the report.

Background Papers:
Title – Kettering Regent
Street Fire Incident Debrief
Report
Date – 6 June 2019
Contact Officer – Beth
Gordon

Previous Minutes/Reports:
Ref:
Date: