

**CLACKMANNANSHIRE COUNCIL**

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**Report to: Scrutiny Committee**

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**Date of Meeting: 24 June, 2010**

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**Subject: Benkert Fire, Alva - Incident Review**

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**Report by: Head of Strategy & Customer Services**

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## **1.0 Purpose**

- 1.1. The requirement to report on major incidents which invoke our emergency planning response was identified in an internal audit report of the Emergency Planning function in 2009.
- 1.2. The purpose of this report is to summarise for the Committee various recommendations arising from a review of the management of the major incident at Benkert UK, Alva, in November, 2009, and to advise of steps which have been taken to implement these.

## **2.0 Recommendations**

- 2.1. It is recommended that Committee notes this report and the progress made in improving procedures for dealing with major incidents.

## **3.0 Considerations**

- 3.1 A major fire broke out at the Benkert UK Ltd in the Alva industrial estate on Tuesday, 10 November 2010. The incident lasted until Friday, 13 November, 2009, when the premises were returned into the control of Benkert UK Ltd, at which point the recovery phase commenced.
- 3.2 A review was undertaken within the Council of the management of the incident. This review considered a number of aspects of the incident as follows:
  - activation process
  - response
  - on-site
  - incident management
  - rest centre
  - evacuation
  - communication
  - media relations
- 3.3 The findings of the review were that, overall, the Council responded well to the incident in support of the emergency services and in providing an effective

service both to the other responders and to the local community which was affected.

- 3.4 A small number of recommendations for action emerged from the review of the incident; these are summarised below along with a comment on their implementation to date:

Recommendation	Implementation Status
Deployment of an electronic incident management system	Completed
Installation of a discrete number for use as and when room 36 is used as the Incident Management Unit	Completed
Put in place arrangements to ensure access to Emergency Planning Unit resources when Emergency Planning Officer not available.	Completed
Undertake additional training for Council Liaison Officers on roles and responsibilities at Major Incidents (different from usual emergencies).	Training in May 2010. Will be an on-going element of future in-house training.
Have available Council hand-held radios at all satellite resources responding to the incident and deploy GPRS laptops/tablets to all satellite resources to give access to AIMS (incident management software package) enabling rapid dissemination of all information relating to the incident	Recommendations adopted and included in Major Incident Operational Plan updates
Evacuation plans to be developed for towns and villages.	Being taken forward at Forth Valley level via the Strategic Co-ordinating Group; a multi-agency working group is developing suitable procedures
A suitable vehicle or accommodation is made available for use at the scene as an incident wagon for the Council.	Under consideration
Ensure there is assistance for the CO-ordinator at the scene in relation to administration and communications.	Included in MIOPs update and discussions with Business Support Manager in hand
Major Incident Operational Plans to be amended and updated to reflect lessons learnt from this incident.	Completed

#### 4.0 Sustainability Implications

4.1 None

#### 5.0 Resource Implications

##### 5.1 *Financial Details*

There are no financial implications as a direct result of this paper.

## 5.2 Staffing

There are no staffing implications as a direct result of this paper

## 6.0 Exempt Reports

6.1 Is this report exempt? No

## 7.0 Declarations

The recommendations contained within this report support or implement our Corporate Priorities and Council Policies.

(1) **Our Priorities 2008 - 2011** (Please double click on the check box )

The area has a positive image and attracts people and businesses	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are more cohesive and inclusive	<input type="checkbox"/>
People are better skilled, trained and ready for learning and employment	<input type="checkbox"/>
Our communities are safer	✓
Vulnerable people and families are supported	<input type="checkbox"/>
Substance misuse and its effects are reduced	<input type="checkbox"/>
Health is improving and health inequalities are reducing	<input type="checkbox"/>
The environment is protected and enhanced for all	✓
The Council is effective, efficient and recognised for excellence	✓

(2) **Council Policies (Please detail)**

The report identifies various areas within the Major Incident Operational Procedures which need refining in light of the experiences of the Council's response to the fire in support of the Emergency Services. These have all been implemented.

## 8.0 Equalities Impact

8.1 Have you undertaken the required equalities impact assessment to ensure that no groups are adversely affected by the recommendations? N/A

## 9.0 Legality

9.1 it has been confirmed that in adopting the recommendations contained in this report, the Council is acting within its legal powers. Yes

## 10.0 Appendices

10.1 Please list any appendices attached to this report. If there are no appendices, please state "none".

- None

## 11.0 Background Papers

- Benkert Lessons Learned Report

**Author(s)**

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**Approved by**

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