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Meeting	Cabinet Resources Committee
Date	10 February 2005
<b>Subject</b>	<b>Major fire incident in Cricklewood on Saturday 8 January 2005 – Emergency Action taken</b>
Report of	Cabinet Member for Resources
Summary	To note emergency action taken by the officers in responding to this major incident and to approve arrangements to meet the costs incurred.

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Officer Contributors	John Ward, Project Manager, Special Projects
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	Cricklewood
Enclosures	None
For decision by	The Committee
Function of	Executive
Reason for urgency / exemption from call-in (if appropriate)	Not applicable

Contact for further information: John Ward, 020 8359 2033

## **1. RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 1.1 That the emergency action taken in response to the fire at Cricklewood on 8 January 2005 be noted.
- 1.2 That the cost of the emergency action be met from the Emergency Planning budget, or if this budget is insufficient will be met from balances.

## **2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS**

- 2.1 None.

## **3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Not applicable.

## **4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES**

- 4.1 Not applicable.

## **5. FINANCIAL, STAFFING, ICT AND PROPERTY IMPLICATIONS**

- 5.1 Final costs will be confirmed when volunteers' overtime has been calculated, but will be in the region of £19,000.
- 5.2 This cost will be reflected in the revenue budget monitoring report elsewhere on this agenda.

## **6. LEGAL ISSUES**

- 6.1 None.

## **7. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS**

- 7.1 Part 3 of the Constitution, Responsibility for Functions, section 6.12, requires that any emergency action taken be reported to the relevant body as soon as possible.

## **8. BACKGROUND INFORMATION**

- 8.1 At around midnight on the night of Friday 7 January 2005 a fire started in Cricklewood in a builder's yard off Handley Grove NW2.
- 8.2 The Council's Emergency Telephone Service was contacted by the police at half past midnight requesting assistance in the relocation and emergency accommodation of up to 1,000 people.
- 8.3 The Police and Fire Service later declared the incident to be a Major Incident and established Gold, Silver and Bronze controllers. The fire proved to include a quantity of Liquid Petroleum gas cylinders and several Acetylene cylinders.
- 8.4 The Fire Brigade employed eight appliances to contain the fire and were unable to allow people to return to their homes before midday on Sunday 9 January.

- 8.5 The Council provided accommodation and care for approximately 200 people at different times during the incident. Two families were accommodated for 24 hours at the Holiday Inn, South Mimms. 80 people were accommodated for 34 hours at the Town Hall, Hendon, which was used as a rest centre.
- 8.6 St Agnes RC School was used as a local control centre by the emergency services for much of the period.
- 8.7 There were no reports of injuries to persons. One person was taken to hospital as he required replacement medication.
- 8.8 Council teams were supported throughout the incident by the Red Cross and St John Ambulance services. The Metropolitan Police provided a representative at the Town Hall throughout the incident to deal with the evacuees' worries.
- 8.9 Families were allowed to return home just after midday on Sunday 9 January after being briefed at the Town Hall by a senior police officer who explained that a large police presence had been in place throughout the incident in order to protect their homes.
- 8.10 Reports from staff members and Councillors who spoke with residents during and after the incident are that residents felt well cared for by their Council. Press coverage of the Council's response was positive in local newspapers and in television broadcasts. The Press newspaper referred to the way in which "Barnet Council's impressive Emergency Plan sprung into action" under a headline "Council's Emergency Response Plan proves to be worth its weight in gold".

## **9. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS**

- 9.1 Diary of events.
- 9.2 Personnel involved.
- 9.3 Any person wishing to inspect these documents should telephone 020 8359 2033.

BS: SM  
BT: CM