

MINUTES

Meeting **London Resilience Forum**

Date **Thursday 2 November 2023**

Time **1.00 pm**

Place **Committee Rooms 5 & 6, City Hall, London E16 1ZE; Microsoft Teams**

Ref	Action	Owner
4.7	DLUHC to share any appropriate information for LRFs from the national coordination of the implications of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.	DLUHC
4.8	DLUHC to confirm the arrangements for local resilience partners to receive early notification of an increase in threat level to enable them to adjust posture and deploy resources in advance of public notification.	DLUHC
5.6	LRG to review terminology used for Stronger LRFs to reflect that the resilience partnership will co-design London's pilot project, and BRFs will be invited to nominate themselves to participate.	LRG
5.7	LRG to ensure Stronger LRFs project plan is clear on when the LRF will decide on what the partnership is going to do during the pilot project.	LRG
5.18	LRCG to develop a London protocol for the use of Emergency Alerts, and to consider how London can best support central government in developing the approach to the use of Emergency Alerts for relevant emergencies.	LRCG
5.19	DLUHC to seek learning from the decision not to use Emergency Alerts for the red warning issued for Storm Babet in October 2023, to inform development of London's Emergency Alerts protocol.	DLUHC
5.20	All Capability Working Groups to consider the appropriate use of Emergency Alerts when next reviewing their capability framework or protocol.	Capability Working Groups
7.9	LRF Training & Exercise Group to consider options to exercise recovery as part of partnership exercise programme.	LRF
7.10	DLUHC to provide a note with an update on Exercise Mighty Oak national debrief report recommendations, and subsequent implementation to date or planned by the government.	DLUHC
8.6	DLUHC to provide an update on sharing of the report and recommendations from the national drought exercise held in February 2023.	DLUHC

Present:

Fiona Twycross, Chair
Pat Goulbourne, London Fire Brigade (Deputy Chair)
Kim Wright, Local Authorities' Panel (Deputy Chair)
Richard Twyford, British Transport Police (via Teams)
Peter Lavery, Business Sector Panel
Umer Khan, City of London Police
Tony Bray, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (via Teams)
James Lunn, Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (via Teams)
Darsha Gill, Environment Agency
Alastair Cutting, Faith Sector Panel
Jon-Paul Graham, Greater London Authority
Natasha Wills, London Ambulance Service (via Teams)
Martin Brookes, London Communities Emergencies Partnership (via Teams)
Doug Flight, London Councils
Jack Griffith, London Resilience Communication Group (via Teams)
Terry Leach, Maritime & Coastguard Agency
Joseph McDonald, Metropolitan Police Service (via Teams)
Emma Rowland, MOPAC
Aaron Gracey, Network Rail (via Teams)
Martin Machray, NHS England – London
Chloe Sellwood, NHS England – London
Kevin Fenton, Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (via Teams)
Christian Van Der Nest, Transport Sector Panel
Beth Reeves, Utilities Sector Panel
Yvonne Young, UK Health Security Agency

London Resilience Group (LRG):

Toby Gould, Interim Head of LRG
Fiona Mair, LRG
Edit Nagy, LRG (via Teams)
Jeremy Reynolds, LRG (via Teams)

Greater London Authority:

Felicity Harris, Senior Board Officer (clerk)
Clare Kutona, Board Officer (shadowing clerk)

Also in attendance:

Hayley Bennett, Environment Agency
Adam Crinion, London Fire Brigade (via Teams)
Kelly Dallen, London Resilience Group (via Teams)
Brian Fahy, Military (via Teams)
Kristen Guida, Greater London Authority
Simon Holmes, Metropolitan Police Service (via Teams)
Philip Morton, London Fire Brigade
Alan Palmer, London Ambulance Service (via Teams)
Catherine Pollard, UKHSA (via Teams)
Alysa Remtulla, Greater London Authority
Cairns Ronnie, British Transport Police (via Teams)
Mark Sawyer, Local Authorities' Panel (via Teams)
Helen Smith, UK Health Security Agency

1 Chair's opening remarks

- 1.1 The Chair welcomed Members to the 74th meeting of the Forum and thanked those who had attended the winter preparedness meeting at City Hall earlier that day.
- 1.2 The Chair opened the meeting by acknowledging the context in which the Forum was meeting. The Chair said that local resilience forums (LRFs) were established to consider risks affecting local communities but that, in a global city like London, it was evident that the work of the partnership also took into consideration the far-reaching impacts that emergencies abroad could have on local communities. The Chair acknowledged the exceptional collaborative working the partnership had undertaken in response to complex global events and expressed her thanks and that of the Mayor. It was noted that the uncertainty around the escalation of the ongoing conflict between Israel and Hamas weighed heavily on partners' minds and that some partners were actively engaged in the response to the conflict. Partners had also contributed to the response to the recent earthquake in Morocco, flooding in Libya and, closer to home, the impact of Storm Babet. As the Forum met, weather warnings in relation to Storm Ciaran were also in place, with some representatives unable to attend due to their emergency response commitments.
- 1.3 The Chair noted that while the value of partnership working was clear, it was important to continually review ways of working to ensure that the London Resilience Forum was as effective as possible. The Forum noted that London had been selected as one of the pilot LRF areas for the Stronger LRFs Programme, further detail about which would be covered later on in the agenda. The Chair noted her thanks to partners who had supported the bid and those who continued to contribute as the design phase got underway.
- 1.4 In addition to the above, the Chair noted that following an external review of London resilience structures, a decision had been made to proceed with the main recommendation outlined in a report by Eleanor Kelly, namely that a merger would take place between the London Resilience Group (LRG) and the GLA City Operations Unit. The intention was for LRG services delivered on behalf of the GLA and local authorities to transfer to the GLA under a TUPE process with a target date of 1 April 2024. This change presented an opportunity to bring resilience arrangements into one place and to support London working towards the UK Government Resilience Framework ambitions of a shared understanding of risk, a greater emphasis on prevention, and a whole-society approach to resilience. The governance structure for the merger would start to meet from November 2023 and would include representatives from the London Fire Brigade (LFB) and the Local Authorities' Panel. LRG and GLA City Operations Unit colleagues had already begun work to ensure a smooth transition and continuity of service, and the Chair noted that further information would be shared later in the year.

2 Introductions and apologies for absence

- 2.1 The Chair led a round of introductions from those in the room and attending remotely.
- 2.2 Apologies were received from: Sean O'Callaghan, British Transport Police; Charlotte Wood, Environment Agency; Niran Mothada, Greater London Authority; Andy Roe, LFB; Matt Hogan, London Resilience Group; Mark Rogers, Met Office; Jeremy Lamb, Military; Dawn Morris, MOPAC; and Superintendent Carl Lindley, Metropolitan Police Service.

3 Minutes and matters arising from the previous meeting

- 3.1 The Forum confirmed the minutes of the meeting of the Forum (74 01) held on 29 June 2023 as an accurate record.
- 3.2 With reference to actions outstanding, the Forum noted that:
- Item 1.4 – LRF membership organisations had been contacted and reminded of the need to ensure that attendees were at the right level of seniority and had the authority to speak on behalf of their organisation. It was noted that the Forum's Terms of Reference would be reviewed to ensure the proposed attendee list was up to date.
 - Item 7.3 – LRG and DLUHC work to consider lowering threshold planning assumptions had been deprioritised following the publication of the National Planning Assumptions. A further update would be provided later in the agenda.
 - Item 7.12 – A scoping exercise to review capacity for multi-agency gold incident command (MAGIC) training would take place over the winter. With the help of funding from TfL, the GLA and the London Borough of Merton, greater capacity was being delivered across the financial year 2023 to 2024.
- 3.3 All other actions had been completed.

4 Current and Emerging Risks to London

- a) **Threats update:** The Metropolitan Police Service (MPS) representative informed the Forum that the national terrorism threat level remained substantial, though there were growing risks that the threat level could be raised due to the events in Israel and Gaza. The threat level remained under constant review and partners were actively preparing for the possibility that the threat level may be raised. It was noted that various tabletop exercises were taking place to discuss threat mitigations and response actions. A longer-term strategic exercise plan would also be a step in the right direction.
- b) **Hazards and issues update:** Tony Bray, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities (DLUHC) provided an update on a series of hazards and issues:
- 4.1 Weather – Autumn and winter weather patterns had seen a wet and warm first half of the season, and it was anticipated that a colder and drier period would be seen in the second. The Forum noted that it was an El Nino year, one of the features of which was warmer ocean temperatures, particularly across the North Atlantic. This led to storms being energised and more intense as they moved towards the UK. Two major storms, Babet followed swiftly by Ciarán, had occurred, with major impact expected from the latter across southern England. Significant flooding had occurred in the Midlands as a result of Storm Babet. The impact of future storms would be monitored closely.
- 4.2 Industrial action – Organisations were broadly coping with intensifying widespread industrial action, though consideration was being given to how ongoing industrial action had the potential to store up pressure on services in the long-term. [REDACTED].
- 4.3 Water – Concerns were noted about the likelihood of disruptions and failures at wastewater treatment facilities. There were a limited number of facilities across the UK, and they were prone to disruption.

- 4.4. Gas and electricity – Energy security had increased, with European stored stocks higher than the previous year, meaning there was more tradeable gas in the market. Conditions were also reported as being more comfortable for customers this year, though a cold winter would present some potential pinch points.
- 4.5. Protest activity – Rising international tensions had led to a series of large-scale demonstrations taking place in Central London over recent weeks. The next large demonstration was due to take place in Trafalgar Square the following weekend. The Forum noted that having as much information as possible on potential disruptions would be helpful in preparing a suitable response.
- 4.6. The Chair noted that there had been ongoing discussions about potential scenarios that may play out over the winter months, and asked the DLUHC representative if there were any specific actions LRFs should prepare for beyond what was already outlined in the work programme. It was suggested that all partners ensure they were aware of what their respective mitigating response actions would be and that longer-term, strategic exercise plans continued to be reviewed. The Interim Head of London Resilience noted that a small group had been convened with a view to meeting the following day to take an initial look at any potential gaps, were there to be an increase in the threat level. It was suggested that there were not likely to be any gaps but that it would be a good opportunity to carry out some scoping work to see if there was a greater breadth of work required across the partnership. DLUHC were asked to ensure that partners were kept informed and notified as much as possible in advance if threat levels were likely to increase.
- 4.7. **ACTION: DLUHC to share any appropriate information for LRFs from the national coordination of the implications of the conflict between Israel and Hamas.**
- 4.8. **ACTION: DLUHC to confirm the arrangements for local resilience partners to receive early notification of an increase in threat level to enable them to adjust posture and deploy resources in advance of public notification.**
- c) **Met Office seasonal forecast:** in the absence of the Met Office representative, the Interim Head of London Resilience provided a brief update on the expected forecast over the following months, noting that colder and drier conditions were expected in the second half of winter. Partners were asked for their support in promoting the WeatherReady campaign, and ensuring public communications around weather events were amplified.
- d) **Infectious diseases:** The UK Health Security Agency (UKHSA) representative noted a normal flu season was expected this year, and that free vaccines were now available to eligible groups. The flu season was likely to be less severe than the previous year but could be sustained over a longer period. There had been a steady increase in COVID-19 infections since the summer, with nothing notable driving this pattern as it did not appear to be seasonally driven. Respiratory syncytial virus (RSV) and norovirus levels were expected to be normal, while there was potential for a surge of measles infections. There was poor uptake of measles vaccinations across the capital and cases were expected to rise. It was agreed that LRF partners could help by amplifying messages encouraging the public to have vaccinations.
- e) **Other agency updates by exception:** Pat Goulbourne, LFB, flagged the Charge Safe Campaign, which focused on e-scooter safety. He noted that there had been a marked increase in the number of injuries and fatalities resulting from electrical scooter fires caused by faulty charging points. There would be a push from London Fire Brigade for enhanced provision of accredited charging facilities and components.

5 Special Agenda Items

a) Stronger LRFs Programme (Papers 74 02 and 74 03)

- 5.1 The Chair thanked the teams involved in the successful Stronger LRFs bid and invited Toby Gould, Interim Head of LRG to provide an update on the Stronger LRFs Programme, which would run as a pilot for two years, starting in early 2024.
- 5.2 Toby Gould, LRG said the programme would look at how to create stronger LRFs and enhance partnerships over two-year period, with commitments stretching beyond 2025. Resourcing support would be provided to the at least three borough resilience forums (BRFs) as part of the pilot, with a focus on enhancing local accountability, assurance and integration, and what the priorities were for those BRFs. A review of accountability would focus on mapping the current landscape of structures and functions, and how they fitted together. On assurance, the pilot would look at the benefits of enhanced assurance processes with a view to adding value to existing work and not duplicating or creating additional work. This work would look at the assurance of multiagency capabilities and would avoid cutting across existing, assurance processes within sectors. Integration would focus on how London and borough-based strategies and policies could be best aligned, and provide a dedicated resilience partnership resource to ensure resilience had a meaningful voice in other policy areas.
- 5.3 The Forum noted that while there was no current resource available, a high-level plan for the pilot would need to be formulated and consulted on before moving forward into the design phase. Two workshops had been scheduled to consider this before the Christmas period.
- 5.4 Partners welcomed the update and agreed that the pilot would need to be designed at a local level, with engagement across a range of organisations and sectors that did not currently have a direct voice in resilience. It was noted that work to identify a number of BRFs interested in engaging in this piece of work would continue, but it was made clear that they would not be asked to go through an onerous bidding process in order to do so.
- 5.5 Borough Resilience Forum taking part in the pilot would also be encouraged to share lessons identified and any issues or barriers they came across, in order to build a community of best practice.
- 5.6 The Chair concluded by thanking DLUHC for providing the programme funding and opportunity to enhance London's resilience.
- 5.7 **ACTION: LRG to review terminology used for Stronger LRFs to reflect that the resilience partnership would co-design London's pilot project, and BRFs would be invited to nominate themselves to participate.**
- 5.8 **ACTION: LRG to ensure Stronger LRFs project plan was clear on when the LRF will decide on what the partnership would do during the pilot project.**
- 5.9 **DECISION: That the Stronger LRFs update and the Forum's comments on the initial project proposal be noted (papers 74 02 and 74 03).**

b) Winter Planning Assumptions update

- 5.10 The Forum noted that a document would be produced over the coming weeks setting out London's winter planning assumptions. Access to a written version of the national three-month horizon scan that had been shared verbally at an LRF Chairs meeting in October was expected imminently, and it was hoped that this national product could be built on for use in London rather than developing separate planning assumptions from scratch.

c) 999 outage

i) Actions from the London debrief

5.11 [REDACTED]

5.12 A meeting had taken place with BT, at which BT had been keen to give assurances that it had moved from a back-up legacy system to a normal level of service delivery. BT's business continuity model gave assurances that facilities would remain available should they encounter some loss of service. Joint working across London control rooms and the Blue Lights Panel continued. It was noted that lessons from this incident would be included within the partnership database.

ii) Key findings from the national debrief report

5.13 The DLUHC representative noted that the national debrief report was moving through internal governance processes and that it was intended that a ministerial statement in the House of Commons, followed by the House of Lords would take place prior to publication. An exact timetable could not be given but progress was expected in the coming weeks.

d) Emergency Alerts update

5.14 The Chair invited Jack Griffiths from the London Resilience Communication Group (LRCG) to provide an update on the Emergency Alerts system and the actions London was taking to support the extended pilot of this project.

5.15 The Forum noted that the LRCG would be leading this work, following an extension of the pilot by six months. Online training sessions had been run on the mechanics of getting a message out through this system, what the message should contain and scenarios in which its use would be effective. It was noted that a tabletop exercise would be carried out in due course, and that the LRCG was in the process of identifying a lead agency to take this forward.

5.16 The use of emergency alerts was considered during the Storm Babet response in Scotland and Derbyshire, though it was decided that emergency alerts would not be used as it was difficult to specifically confirm which communities ought to be targeted. The system was yet to be properly tested in a live situation as it was difficult to balance the positive against the negatives for local communities. The Forum agreed that there was value to be had in using emergency alerts, particularly as the public may lose confidence in the system if not used. It was agreed that there needed to be a clear procedure and threshold guidance to follow for its use, and that further testing and exercising at national and local levels would be welcomed. Partners noted that it would be useful to understand the rationale behind the decision not to use the system during Storm Babet, to which the DLUHC representative noted that live modelling could not be sufficiently specific about which areas would be most badly affected.

5.17 It was acknowledged that it would be difficult to reach a decision on use of the system during a crisis, which was why it would be critical to include use of the alerts in preparedness protocols. It was suggested that LRCG would consider the circumstances in which use of the system would be appropriate and collate a London-specific protocol for use of the system.

5.18 ACTION: LRCG to develop a London protocol for the use of Emergency Alerts, and to consider how London could best support central government in developing the approach to the use of Emergency Alerts for relevant emergencies.

- 5.19 ACTION: DLUHC to seek learning from the decision not to use Emergency Alerts for the red warning issued for Storm Babet in October 2023, to inform development of London's Emergency Alerts protocol.**
- 5.20 ACTION: All Capability Working Groups to consider the appropriate use of Emergency Alerts when next reviewing their capability framework or protocol.**

6 Agency and Sector Updates

- 6.1 The Chair invited partners to comment on the updates outlined in the paper and to provide any further updates where necessary. Further updates were noted as below:
- The London Ambulance Service (LAS) representative noted that the service was preparing for any potential concerns this winter over fuel and electricity supplies, and the subsequent risk of a national power outage. Some reassurance had been provided at the winter preparedness briefing earlier that morning and it was noted that the general outlook from government was that the risk to electricity supplies was reduced compared to last winter.
 - **[REDACTED]**
- 6.2 **DECISION: That the updates be noted.**

7 London Resilience Programme

a) London Risk Advisory Group and planning assumptions update (Paper 74 05)

- 7.1 In referring to the paper circulated with the agenda, the Deputy Head of London Resilience, Jeremy Reynolds, noted that a revised version of the London Risk Register and Planning Assumptions would be reported to the next meeting of the Forum.
- 7.2 **DECISION: That the ongoing resource commitment for LRAG/partnership risk and planning assumptions work, and the priorities outlined in paper 74 05, be noted.**

b) Learning and implementation update (Paper 74 06)

- 7.3 In referring to the paper circulated with the agenda, the Deputy Head of London Resilience, Jeremy Reynolds, noted that the final Grenfell Tower Inquiry report was expected in 2024. While recommendations from the report would be considered at a strategic level from a partnership perspective, this would not replace the responsibility of individual organisations to scrutinise the report to identify learning for their organisation.
- 7.4 The Forum noted that a complete review of the partnership lessons process had been undertaken, and that a number of improvements would be implemented over the coming months. A light-touch report would be produced to enable partners to complete ongoing work while the database was moved to a new platform. The light-touch report would provide an overview of work carried out previously and while it would not include comparisons with the last report, it would still capture what was in the pipeline, a breakdown of lessons and a summary of lessons closed in the last period. Partners were assured that progress against lessons would not be affected in any way and that progress was expected to continue at pace.
- 7.5 The Chair noted that direct recommendations for the LRF were expected within the final Grenfell Tower Inquiry report, and that these would need to be responded to quickly. There was a

possibility that a standalone meeting to review and respond to the recommendations may be required.

- 7.6 **DECISION: That the potential use of light-touch reporting for February and June 2024 LRF meetings whilst changes were made to the platform for the partnership lessons database, be approved.**

c) Partnership training and exercising update (Paper 74 07)

- 7.7 In referring to the paper circulated with the agenda, the Deputy Heads of London Resilience, Fiona Mair and Jeremy Reynolds, provided an update on partnership training and exercising.
- 7.8 The Forum heard that the Training and Exercising Group had last met in August 2023, following which 14 lessons had been closed on the Partnership database. An exercising considerations document had been developed for partners to use and work was ongoing to improve oversight of training and exercising. The Forum noted updates on a number of exercises, and it was agreed that notification of exercising dates would be provided as early as possible to ensure the right people would be able to attend.
- 7.9 **ACTION: LRF Training & Exercise Group to consider options to exercise recovery as part of partnership exercise programme.**
- 7.10 **ACTION: DLUHC to provide a note with an update on Exercise Mighty Oak national debrief report recommendations, and subsequent implementation to date or planned by the government.**
- 7.11 **DECISION:**
- That:**
- **the proposed partnership training and exercising activity over the next reporting period, as outlined in paper 74 07, be endorsed**
 - **plans for Exercise Cathedral be endorsed and the demands on LRG and partners in relation to the SCG exercise planned for 22 November 2023 deferred to December or January (paper 74 07), be noted**
 - **plans to incorporate partnership strategic response aspects to the next counter-terrorism exercise (Exercise Felix Fort at end of February/beginning of March 2024) (paper 74 07) be endorsed**
 - **the initial proposal for Exercise Helios (heat exercise in June 2024) (paper 74 07) be endorsed**
 - **plans for Exercise Urban Sun and its prioritisation within Partnership work, including moving the exercise from June to September 2024 (ref. paper 74 07), be endorsed.**

d) Partnership priorities update and work programme (Paper 74 08)

- 7.12 The Chair invited Toby Gould, Interim Head of London Resilience, to provide an overview of the paper circulated with the agenda.

- 7.13 The Forum heard that the paper provided an interim update, and changes made since the previous version had been highlighted in yellow. **[REDACTED]** A further updated work programme would be brought to the next meeting of the Forum.
- 7.14 **DECISION: That the partnership workplan as the agreed status for current partnership activity be noted.**

8 Documents recommended for approval

a) Humanitarian Assistance Framework (Papers 74 09 and 74 10)

- 8.1 The Forum was asked to approve the updated framework, noting that the final Grenfell Tower Inquiry recommendations were due to be published in 2024, at which point the framework would be reviewed again and updated to incorporate any partnership and strategic level recommendations.
- 8.2 **DECISION: That the LRP Humanitarian Assistance Framework be endorsed.**

b) Pandemic Response Framework (Papers 74 11 and 74 12)

- 8.3 The Forum was asked to approve the interim framework, which had been developed from the previous Influenza Pandemic and Coronavirus Frameworks, with recognition that partners needed to update pandemic response arrangements. A further review of the framework would take place following the publication of national guidance. Training and awareness raising with partners would be required, and further work would take place to consider how to deliver more structured and holistic work on inequalities and their impacts.
- 8.4 **DECISION: That the London Interim Pandemic Response Framework be endorsed and the red capability assessment, which was due to a lack of national guidance and was being followed up with the relevant government departments, be noted.**

c) Drought Response Framework (Papers 74 13, 74 14 and 74 15)

- 8.5 The Forum was asked to approve the updated framework which had been updated to capture additional information on risks and impacts. A specific Drought Communications Plan had also been developed. Further capability briefing sessions were not deemed necessary following the updates. The Forum noted that a national drought exercise had been carried out in February 2023 but that outputs from the exercise had not yet been received. It was agreed that the DLUHC representative would follow this up.
- 8.6 **ACTION: DLUHC to provide an update on sharing of the report and recommendations from the national drought exercise held in February 2023.**
- 8.7 **DECISION: That the Drought Response Framework and the LRCG Drought Communications Plan be endorsed and the fact that the outcomes from the February 2023 national drought exercise were still awaited, be noted.**

d) Severe Weather and Natural Hazards Framework (Papers 74 16 and 74 17)

- 8.8 The Forum was asked to approve the updated framework which underwent an additional review outside the usual cycle due to the publication of the UKHSA's Adverse Weather Plan and key

developments in the GLA's Severe Weather Emergency Protocol (SWEP). A number of lessons from wildfires the previous year had been incorporated and an interim version of the framework had been published earlier in the year for utilisation over the summer months. No further capability briefing sessions were planned following the updates.

8.9 DECISION: That the Severe Weather and Natural Hazards Framework be endorsed.

e) Voluntary Sector Response Capability Document (Papers 74 18 and 74 19)

8.10 The Forum was asked to approve the updated framework which had been updated to represent the shift from the Voluntary Sector Panel to the London Communities Emergency Partnership. It was noted that the framework remained reasonably static and did not reflect the collaborative work taking place across community organisations. That said, the updates did include reference to greater links and joint working with the faith and belief sector. It was also noted that effort had been made to engage with more partners in the voluntary sector, but that more work was needed to truly reflect what happened in response to an emergency.

8.11 DECISION: That the Voluntary Sector Response Capabilities Document be endorsed.

f) BRF Guidance (Papers 74 20 and 74 21)

8.12 The Forum was asked to approve the guidance document which had been updated to reflect changes to partnership processes over the last three years. The guidance also including new ways of working and referenced the Stronger LRFs programme. Additional changes during the subsequent three-year review period may be required.

8.13 DECISION: That the Borough Resilience Forum Guidance be endorsed.

9 Any Other Business

9.1 The Chair expressed her thanks and congratulations to Bill D'Albertanson (UKPN) following his retirement. The Forum noted the considerable contribution Bill had made to the partnership over a number of years. It was agreed that the Chair would write to Bill thanking him for his contribution.

9.2 Pat Goulbourne, London Fire Brigade, also extended his thanks to the firefighters deployed to Morocco to support search and rescue efforts following the earthquake in September 2023.

10 Dates of Next and Future Meetings

10.1 The dates of the next and future meetings were noted as follows, with the caveat that the location of the meetings was under consideration:

- Thursday 29 February 2024, 2-4pm, LFB HQ, 169 Union Street, London.
- Wednesday 26 June 2024, 2-4pm, City Hall, London
- Wednesday 6 November 2024, 2-4pm, City Hall, London
- Thursday 27 February 2025, 2-4pm, City Hall, London.