

A4.1.4 Economic Recovery Group

a) Role

Assess the economic implications for the affected area and provide assistance.

b) Terms of Reference

- To support affected businesses.
- To devise an economic recovery and restoration strategy.

c) Chair

CMBC Regeneration and Partnerships Unit Manager

d) Membership

Representatives (as appropriate) from:

- Castle Morpeth Borough Council
- Northumberland County Council
- Government Office North East
- One North East (Regional Development Agency)
- Business Link
- Castle Morpeth Business Forum
- Morpeth Chamber of Trade
- Northumberland Tourist Board
- Other agencies as required, e.g. National Trust, National Farmers Union etc

e) Strategy

- Enable businesses affected by the incident to resume trading as soon as possible.

f) Methods

- Establish schemes to assist businesses, including access to interest free loans from third parties, grants or rent for alternative premises.
- Make advice available through call-centre, drop in centre, website and leaflets.
- Liaise with employers, employees and associations including Unions.
- Make use of Project Methodology to track progression (Appendix F).

g) Issues

- Businesses in affected area, tourism, grants, rates, road and rail closures, reluctance to deliver to area, unemployment, compensation, insurance, and recruitment.