

Colchester Borough Council Emergency Response Plan (Summary)



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Dated August 2016

A major emergency can be simply defined as “a major threat to life, the environment or the community, requiring exceptional use of resources to restore normality”. Fortunately, major emergencies rarely happen but when they do it is expected that Local Government (In Essex, this will be ALL Borough and District councils as well as the County Council) and other Category 1 responders (as detailed in the Civil Contingencies Act 2004) are prepared and able to respond to them. It should also be remembered that, wherever possible, a “normal service” should be maintained in addition to the incident response.

It is accepted that there are a number of “minor” incidents when the assistance of the Council is requested by the Emergency Services. These requests will usually be met without the need to invoke this plan, even though the resources of one or more Council departments could be employed.

It should also be understood, that no plan, regardless of how well it is written, can cope with every potential incident. A large degree of flexibility of response is required in many incidents. The senior officers of The Council must be aware of this need.

The Council will do all that it can to assist the response in connection with a major incident, but in broad terms, a local authority is required, under current legislation, to:

- Maintain services, which are considered essential.
- Co-ordinate the non-Emergency Service response to an incident.
- Maintain a full record of the events.
- Provide and manage Rest Centres & temporary mortuaries.
- Assist the Emergency Services in dealing with a situation.

The Chief Executive (CEO) or their nominee will, following advice from various sources, determine whether it is necessary to invoke this plan.

Should the incident require the assistance of the Council, the First Call Officer (FCO) will liaise with the CEO (or their nominee) to seek the relevant authority and take the necessary actions, attend site or organise relevant resources.

For the purposes of this Plan a Major Emergency may be defined as any serious disruption to the normal life of the Borough, which causes or threatens:

- An event or situation, which threatens serious damage to human welfare.
- An event or situation, which threatens serious damage to the environment.
- War, or terrorism, which threatens serious damage to security.

“Definition from Civil Contingencies Act 2004”.

Such incidents would be on a scale beyond the every day working capacity of Council services, and would require a special mobilisation or reorganisation of those services.

It would be impossible to “plan” the response to a specific incident as the location, extent, nature, and time of day/week/year can all have a direct influence on the reaction and the response required.

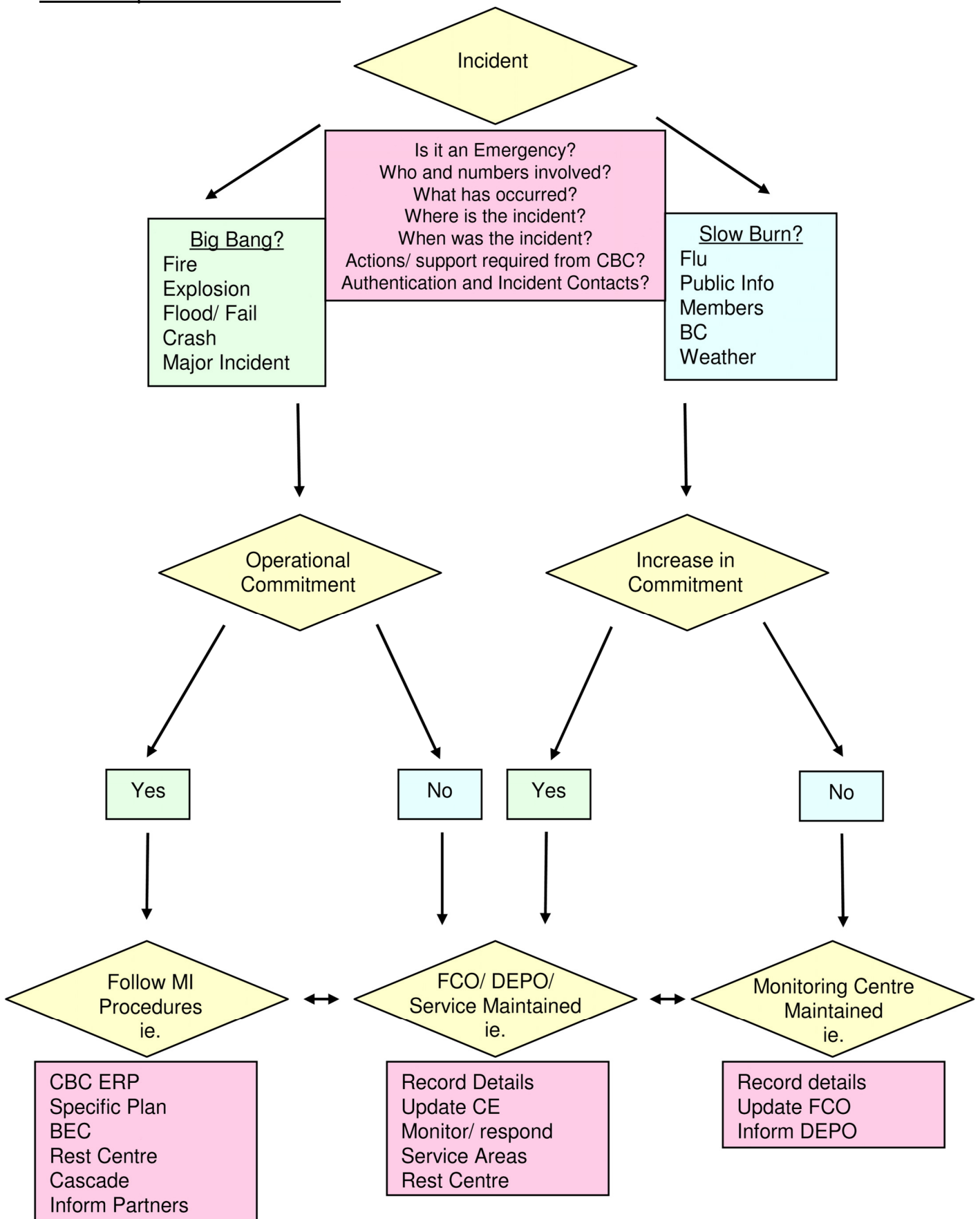
There are several countywide liaison groups that meet on a regular basis to discuss, plan for, and identify potential hazards. As a result of these various groups' work, the working relationships developed have proved to be beneficial at the time of an emergency.

Some emergency incidents defy any amount of planning and have to be responded to as the situation demands. The principles of Integrated Emergency Management (IEM) still apply to this sort of occasion.

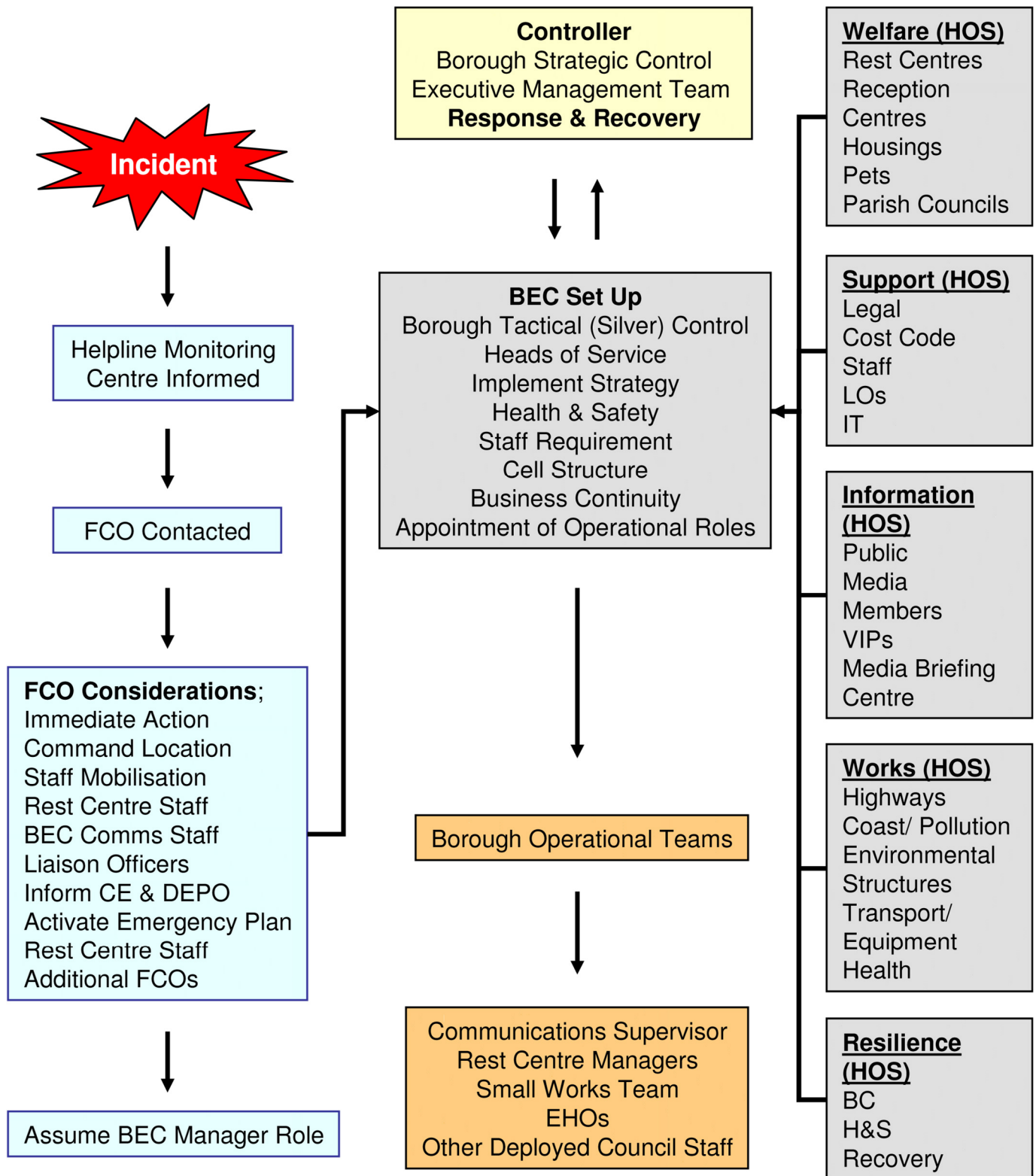
The main hazard potentials identified within the Borough come from the following areas:

- Oil pollution risks to several miles of estuary and river coastline.
- Main transport routes.
- Main railway line with three stations.
- Main flight paths overhead.
- Coastal & Fluvial flooding potential.
- Severe weather related implications.
- Communicable disease outbreak, eg Pandemic Flu.
- Ever present risk of acts of terrorism.

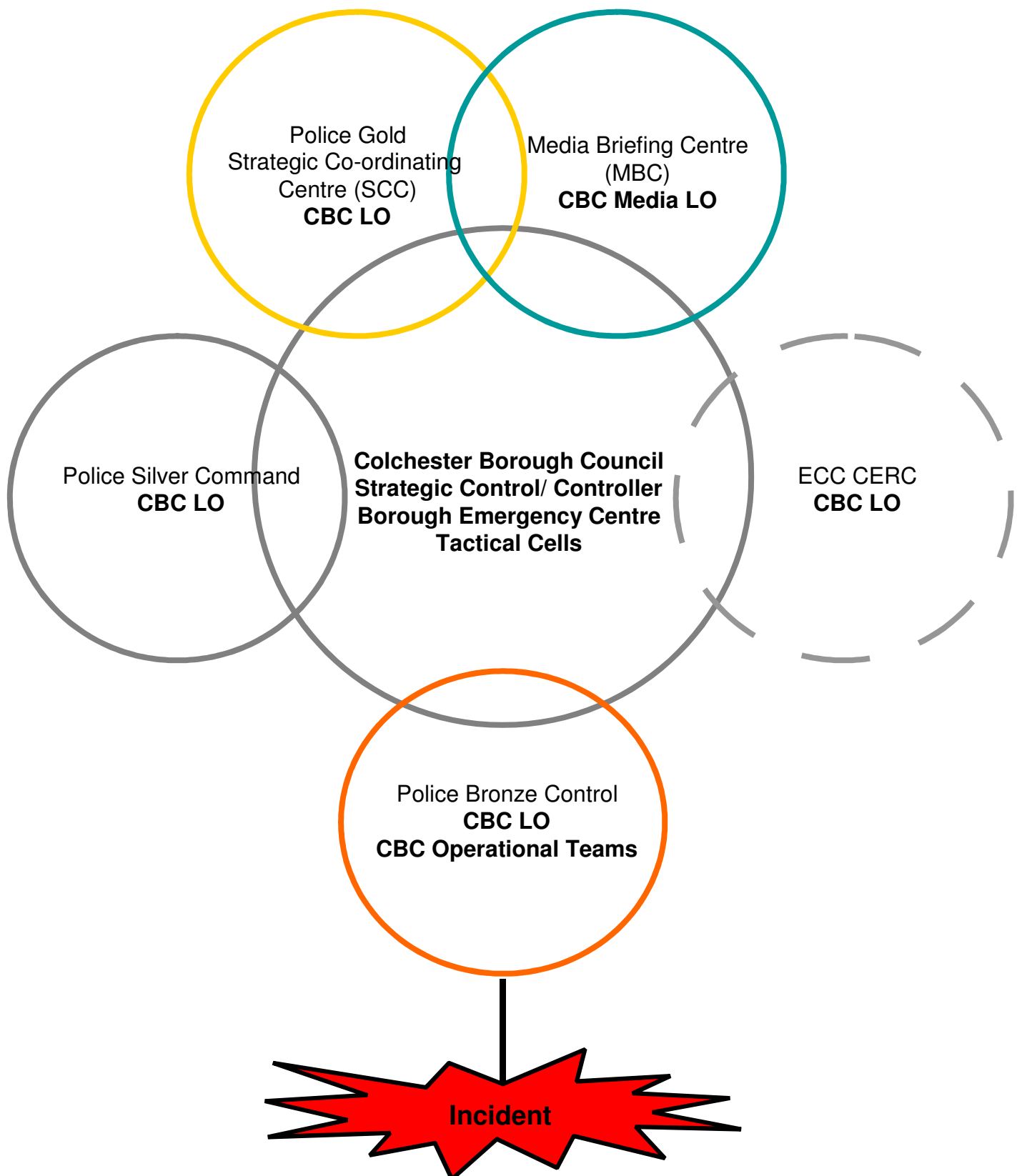
Initial Response Decision Flow



Major Incident Command & Control



Integration of the Council with Police Command



Major Incident Outline of Events – Initial Response to Recovery

Blue Light Services/ County Duty Officer



Monitoring Centre Informed



FCO Informed

FCO Considerations



**Contact CE, DEPO, CEPO. All via Monitoring Centre
Requirement of BEC and/ or Rest Centres
Informing and Warning of Staff
Health and Safety, Accommodation, Feeding, Resources
FCO Folder and Borough Emergency Response Plan**



Response Considerations

**Liaison With Blue Light Services, ECC, Partners
CBC Considerations
Deployment of Liaison Officers
Likely Consequences of the Incident
Business Continuity
Informing and Warning the Public/ Calls Centres/ Media
Equipment/ Resources Required**



Recovery Considerations

**Finance – Inc Bellwin
Support Required from Emergency Services
Contracts and Government Decontamination Service
Informing and Warning Staff and Public
Business Continuity
Public Enquires
Long Term Health and Welfare Issues Inc Anniversaries and Disaster Appeals
COLCHESTER BOROUGH COUNCIL CONTACTS**