

		AGENDA ITEM
		SSC/03/11
Committee:	Safer and Stronger Communities Policy & Scrutiny Committee	
Date:	11 February 2011	
Scrutiny Review on the Off Site Emergency Planning Requirements around COMAH Sites in Essex		
Enquiries to:	Christine Sharland, Governance Officer 01245 430450 christine.sharland@essex.gov.uk	

In September 2010 (Minute 49) the Committee agreed to pursue the following project with the objective:

‘To undertake a scrutiny review of the off site emergency planning requirements around COMAH Sites in Essex’.

At its last meeting on 14 January 2011 (Minute 4) the Committee took evidence on the off site emergency planning requirements that are linked to COMAH Sites from the following witnesses:

- David Johnson, Chief Fire Officer and County Emergency Planning Officer, Essex County Fire and Rescue Service
- Rosanna Briggs, Deputy County Emergency Planning Officer, Emergency Planning Service
- Keith Mead, Health and Safety Manager, Petrochem Carless.

An outline of their evidence will be incorporated into a draft scrutiny report together with other evidence that is being obtained for the Committee’s consideration at a future meeting. A briefing paper prepared by the Chief Fire Officer and County Emergency Planning Officer was attached to report SSC/01/11.

At this meeting the Committee will be addressed by the following witnesses to provide their perspectives on the off site emergency requirements around COMAH Sites:

- Councillor J King, Castle Point Borough Council on behalf of the Canvey Island West Neighbourhood.

It was the Group that originally referred its concerns about self regulation at COMAH Sites to Councillor Howard and inter alia this Committee.

- George Whatley and Steve Sawkins on behalf of the group 'People Against Methane' (PAM), Canvey Island. Mr Whatley has provided a written submission that has been sent under separate cover to Committee Members.

There are a number of outstanding visits that will be arranged in due course.

Please note that the evidence obtained from witnesses at this meeting will be collated into a separate report together with evidence obtained from other witnesses for consideration by the Committee at a future meeting. The evidence will not be set out in detail in the Minutes of the meeting.

Action required by the Committee:

The Committee is requested to consider the evidence presented to the meeting, and to identify any particular questions that Members may wish to pose to witnesses as part of this review.
