

Date: 29th September 2017

Subject: Greater Manchester Tackling Violent Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission

Report of: Andy Burnham, Mayor of GM, Councillor Rishi Shori, Portfolio Lead for Young People and Social Cohesion, and Councillor Jean Stretton, Portfolio Lead for Equalities and Fairness

PURPOSE OF REPORT

Following the terrorist attack at the Manchester Evening News Arena on 22nd May 2017, the Greater Manchester Mayor announced his intention to establish a Commission to tackle violent extremism and promote social cohesion, which would be led by Councillor Rishi Shori in his capacity as the Mayor's lead for social cohesion and young people.

This report is to update Members in relation to progress that has been made to establish that Commission.

RECOMMENDATIONS:

This report is for information. Members are asked to note the contents of report and request an update upon completion of the work.

CONTACT OFFICERS:

Andrew Lightfoot
Deputy Chief Executive-GMCA
Andrew.lightfoot@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
07736 028790

Laura Mercer
Principal-Victims and Vulnerability-GMCA
Laura.mercer@greatermanchester-ca.gov.uk
07866 253070

Risk Management – see paragraph 1.5

Legal Considerations – see paragraph N/A

Financial Consequences – Revenue – see paragraph 1.4

Financial Consequences – Capital – see paragraph-N/A

BACKGROUND PAPERS:

Greater Manchester Tackling Violent Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion
Commission Terms of Reference

TRACKING/PROCESS	
Does this report relate to a major strategic decision, as set out in the GMCA Constitution (paragraph 14.2) or in the process (paragraph 13.1 AGMA Constitution) agreed by the AGMA Executive Board:	No
EXEMPTION FROM CALL IN	
Are there any aspects in this report which means it should be considered to be exempt from call in by the AGMA Scrutiny Pool on the grounds of urgency?	no

1. INTRODUCTION

This report is to update Members in relation to progress that has been made to establish the Greater Manchester Tackling Violent Extremism and Promoting Social Cohesion Commission.

1.1 Background

Following the terrorist attack at the Manchester Evening News Arena on 22nd May 2017, the Greater Manchester Mayor announced his intention to establish a Commission to tackle violent extremism and promote social cohesion, which would be led by Councillor Rishi Shori in his capacity as the Mayor's lead for social cohesion and young people.

1.2 Terms of Reference

The Commission's Terms of Reference are attached for information at Appendix One and have been developed with Greater Manchester partners and dialogue with our communities, to ensure that the objectives of the Commission align to both existing local work programmes and community concerns.

The Commission has three primary areas of focus which are;

- To consider how Prevent operates in Greater Manchester
- To look at the broader determinants of social exclusion and how we can work collectively to address these and;
- To engage in dialogue with our communities to establish a Greater Manchester Charter-establishing shared values and commitments that will be the foundations upon which the Greater Manchester Strategy work is built (not just principles that are called into action when something goes wrong).

1.3 Commission Membership

Membership of the Commission has been confirmed as follows:

- Nazir Afzal (Former Head of the CPS in the North West)
- Darra Singh (Ernst and Young, focus on working with small businesses)
- Saima Alvi (Co chair of the British Muslim Heritage Centre)
- Nigel Bromage (Small Steps-Countering Far Right Extremism)
- Professor Hilary Pilkington-(Academic with an expertise in Radicalisation-University of Manchester)
- Shalni Arora-(Philanthropist-Savannah Wisdom)

1.4 Cost Implications

A provisional budget of £50,000 has been allocated by the Mayor, from the PCC budget, to support the work of the Commission.

This funding of this has been agreed with the Chief Finance Officer.

1.5 Officer Resources

A Chief Executive steering group has been nominated, with representation from GMCA, Oldham, Manchester and Stockport and this will be supported by a strategic officer group.

Key to the success of the Commission will be a collaborative approach. Partners from a number of organisations have been approached to participate and dedicated resources in some cases have been allocated.

A dedicated senior manager from the GMCA communications teams will oversee communication, to ensure that appropriate liaison is made with partner organisations, in order that key messages are suitable and tailored, in terms of what will be a sensitive piece of work.

1.6 Governance Arrangements

The Commission will meet on a monthly basis and be chaired by Councillor Rishi Shori, with Councillor Jean Stretton taking the role of vice chair.

It is intended that the first Commission meeting will be held in mid-October, when Members will be asked to consider a draft workplan and key areas of responsibility /oversight.

At this stage, it is envisaged that the Commission will be in a position to report to the Mayor and Deputy Mayor in Spring 2018, after which there will be a report to the Combined Authority.

CONCLUSION

Whilst this piece of work has emerged following a terrorist attack that shocked not only Greater Manchester but the world, it is clear following our dialogue with communities and partners who engage with those communities, that any piece of work that seeks to address and improve social cohesion needs to be much wider than an investigation into preventing violent extremism.

The intention for this Commission is to look more broadly at what excludes people, why people feel isolated and vulnerable and how the Greater Manchester approach can help to address these issues.

TACKLING VIOLENT EXTREMISM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION COMMISSION

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

DEVELOPING A GREATER MANCHESTER APPROACH TO PREVENTING RADICAL EXTREMISM AND STRENGTHENING COMMUNITY COHESION

BACKGROUND/PURPOSE

In the wake of the terrorist attack at the Manchester Arena, the Mayor of Greater Manchester, as agreed by the Greater Manchester Combined Authority is establishing a Commission to review the work that is currently being undertaken in the City-Region to tackle and confront violent extremism in all its forms and from wherever it emanates. It will be led by Councillor Rishi Shori, Leader of Bury Council together with Councillor Jean Stretton, Leader of Oldham Council.

Protecting our citizens from extremism cannot be left to our state agencies alone.

The Commission will take three basic observations as its starting point.

First, the active participation of families and communities is critical. It is they who are best placed to identify changes that may provide the early indicators or warning signs of potential extremist views.

Second, tackling extremism is everyone's responsibility and we all need to ask ourselves what more we can do to identify, challenge and report materials or behaviour which is unacceptable or extremist in its nature.

Third, in Greater Manchester, we will seek to develop clear protocols around what is expected of individuals and organisations in terms of reporting and challenging behaviour or materials.

The Mayor wants to develop a new, collaborative approach whereby public services and other agencies work in true partnership with our diverse communities to stop the radicalisation of young people, men and women living in Greater Manchester.

Some elements of the current Prevent strategy to tackle radicalisation have been successful. But, in some parts of the community, the way Prevent has been implemented has led to feelings of alienation. In the long-term, this is counter-productive.

We are clear that we will not compromise our duty to protect all our communities from the actions of radical extremists and this objective will be at the heart of the review. However, to be effective, we also need to build stronger, safer and more cohesive communities through a grassroots approach, with communities central to any strategy to tackle extremism.

Below are the **Terms of Reference** for the Mayor's Review:-

- 1. Build an in-depth understanding of community cohesion issues in GM by working with key stakeholders and all communities;**
- 2. Develop an effective means of promoting the values of community cohesion;**
- 3. Undertake an evaluation of the Prevent strategy and its delivery in GM to include:**

- (i) reviewing the findings of the 10 GM Local Authorities Prevent Duty Self Assessments (complete in July 2017);
- (ii) reviewing the findings of the Channel Peer Reviews in Manchester, Bury and Rochdale and Stockport (complete in June 2017);
- (iii) evaluating of implementation of the Channel pilot, including Operation Dovetail (in Oldham);
- (iv) reviewing good practice in the monitoring and managing of community tensions and in tackling hate crime;
- (v) providing input to the Government on the necessity of feedback after organisations or individuals have reported suspect behaviour or materials; and
- (vi) identifying areas of strength and good practice and the weaknesses in the Prevent strategy particularly around community engagement.

4. Develop a distinctive community led GM approach to challenging radicalisation of all kinds and from wherever it comes with a focus on the following:

- (i) developing clearer protocols with community and faith groups around what is and what isn't acceptable behaviour or materials;
- (ii) working with young people and developing an appropriate means of engagement including work in early years;
- (iii) developing clear mechanisms to enable the community to monitor and report concerns relating to extremism effectively to include a responsibility for the relevant public body to provide feedback on the outcome of the concerns raised;

- (iv) developing an effective anti-extremism and anti-radicalisation network across Greater Manchester;
- (v) further developing our approach of zero-tolerance and prevention of hate crime, including ways of challenging prejudice in the media and on social media;
- (vi) engaging with women and girls to assist with the early detection of potentially extremist behaviour within their families;
- (vii) identifying learning from the delivery of the Rethinking Radicalisation community engagement programme in Manchester and the resulting co-designed community resilience campaign called RADEQUAL as well as work elsewhere in the City-Region;
- (viii) building on existing work promoting social cohesion and community integration; and
- (ix) considering the resource and governance arrangements to oversee this work for the future with a direct line of reporting to the Mayor of Greater Manchester.

Over the last month, we have seen a real sense of togetherness and solidarity in our communities. Our challenge now is to build on that and use it to make our communities safer.