TACKLING HATEFUL EXTREMISM AND PROMOTING SOCIAL COHESION

COMMISSION

TERMS OF REFERENCE:

DEVELOPING A GREATER MANCHESTER APPROACH TO PREVENTING HATEFUL 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 hateful 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 hateful 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.