

# Report

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Report to:	<b>Equal Opportunities Forum</b>
Date of Meeting:	<b>6 September 2011</b>
Report by:	<b>Executive Director (Corporate Resources)</b>

Subject:	<b>Contest Strategy</b>
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## 1. Purpose of Report

1.1. The purpose of the report is to:-

- ◆ update the Forum on the national counter terrorism strategy Contest

## 2. Recommendation(s)

2.1. The Forum is asked to approve the following recommendation(s):-

- (1) that the contents of the report be noted.

## 3. Background

- 3.1. The UK government, in its commitment to tackling terrorism, has developed the Contest strategy which it is actively rolling out in partnership with police authorities across the country.
- 3.2. International counter-terrorism work has made significant progress over the past 10 years. Al Qa'ida is weaker than at any time since 9/11 and it has played no role in recent political change in North Africa and the Middle East. Its ideology has been widely discredited and it has failed in all its objectives.
- 3.3. Continued international pressure can further reduce its capability and the UK is working with other countries to seize all such opportunities in the coming months and years.
- 3.4. Al Qa'ida does continue to be a significant threat and other terrorist groups, some affiliated to Al Qa'ida, have become stronger. The threat from Northern Ireland related terrorism has also increased.
- 3.5. The government therefore continues to give the highest importance to its counter-terrorism work.
- 3.6. CONTEST is organised around four principal workstreams:-
- ◆ **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks
  - ◆ **Prevent:** to stop people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism
  - ◆ **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack
  - ◆ **Prepare:** where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact

#### **4. Prevent**

- 4.1. Preventative measures ensure the stability of our communities. They enable the police and others to take steps to intervene early and prevent a terrorist or extremist attack from happening within our area.
- 4.2. South Lanarkshire Council is working with Colleagues in Strathclyde Police to deliver 'Work to Raise Awareness of Prevent' (WRAP) across our workforce.
- 4.3. The workshops are designed for people who work with vulnerable members of our communities who may be susceptible to radicalisation. The workshops enable participants to recognise, intervene and divert those people before their behaviour escalates.
- 4.4. Prevent is the strand of the counter-terrorism workstream that aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism.
- 4.5. Preventing terrorism will mean challenging extremist ideas that are conducive to terrorism or are shared by terrorist groups.
- 4.6. The objectives of Prevent are to:-
  - ◆ respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism and the threat we face from those who promote it
  - ◆ prevent people from being drawn into terrorism and ensure that they are given appropriate advice and support
  - ◆ work with a wide range of sectors (including education, criminal justice, faith, charities, the internet and health) where there are risks of radicalisation which we need to address

#### **5. Employee Implications**

- 5.1. Raise awareness and understanding of Prevent and the Contest Strategy amongst those who work with vulnerable groups in our communities and who may be most susceptible to radicalisation.

#### **6. Financial Implications**

- 6.1. None.

#### **7. Other Implications**

- 7.1. There is no risk associated with the contents of this report. The Council is working together with partners in Strathclyde Police to roll out training on WRAP to all appropriate levels of staff.
- 7.2. There are no sustainability issues associated with this report.
- 7.3. Raising awareness of and effective implementation of the Contest Strategy within South Lanarkshire will assist the Council in continuing to meet its Public Sector Equality Duties.

#### **8. Equality Impact Assessment and Consultation Arrangements**

- 8.1. This report does not introduce a new policy, function or strategy or recommend a change to an existing policy, function or strategy and, therefore, no impact assessment is required.
- 8.2. There was also no requirement to undertake any consultation in terms of the information contained within this report.

**Robert McIlwain**  
**Executive Director (Corporate Resources)**

22 August 2011

**Link(s) to Council Objectives**

- ◆ Fair and open
- ◆ Accountable effective and efficient
- ◆ Committed to tackling disadvantage and deprivation
- ◆ Determined to act in a responsible and sustainable way
- ◆ People focused

**Previous References**

None

**List of Background Papers**

None

**Contact for Further Information**

If you would like to inspect the background papers or want further information, please contact:-

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