



Safe Newcastle Board

10 September 2009

Contest Strategy - Governance Proposals

Purpose of Report

1. To provide an update on progress of the Contest Strategy and outline proposals for governance of this important agenda

Background

2. Contest is the Government's strategy for countering international terrorism. The Home Office issued a revised Contest strategy 2009-2012 known as Contest 2 in May 2009. Contest 2 builds on the experience and lessons learnt tackling international terrorism since the strategy was first established in 2003. Contest 2 takes into account the greater resources and wider range of people working to address the terrorist threat to promote joint working to deal with the new challenges presented by international terrorists.
3. The strategy has four work streams known as the four "Ps" which are:
 - **Pursue** - increase detection and investigation capability, effectiveness of prosecution processes and improve co-ordination relating to terrorist activity.
 - **Prevent** - to challenge the ideology behind violent extremism, disrupt those who support violent extremism and support communities to increase resilience. The approach in Newcastle is proportionate and aims to promote cohesive communities
 - **Protect** – reduce vulnerability of crowded places, transport systems and borders.
 - **Prepare** – ensure systems are in place to deal with terrorist incidents

Current Progress

4. **General** – The Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) has produced a Counter Terrorism Local Profile (CTLP) for Newcastle. This is a restricted document which includes a local profile on Newcastle together with recommendations on how to address any threats, risks and vulnerabilities identified. The proposed Contest Delivery Group will be taking forward relevant actions in respect of Newcastle
5. **Prevent** – Newcastle submitted its Prevent Action Plan in January 2009 to the OSCT. Newcastle is one of 24 cities to have been given Preventing Violent Extremism Pathfinder status which has provided funding for two Northumbria Police Prevent officers. Safe Newcastle is the lead partnership for Prevent, and a Prevent Co-

ordination Group has been set up chaired by Supt Frank Gallop of Northumbria Police with significant input from Newcastle City Council and other partners. Positive feedback from GONE was received on the action plan and GONE's recommendations have been incorporated into a revised plan. See separate update report at item X?

6. **Protect** – Sites of importance defined under 'crowded places' guidance have been identified by Northumbria Police Counter Terrorism Advisors. The implications for planning and development across the city under the crowded places and safer places guidance documents are currently being assessed. The Crowded Places guidance is a new national framework to encourage greater partnership working at a local level. A new counter-terrorism supplement to the "Safer Places - the Planning System and Crime Prevention" guidance has been issued to provide advice on how best to design counter-terrorism measures into new development proposals. The Community Safety Supplementary Planning Document is being adapted to incorporate the safer places and crowded place guidance and is expected to be formally adopted by the Council in November 2009

The Office of Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) in the Home Office have identified a modest amount of revenue/resource funding for relevant Local Authorities to support taking this agenda forward. This is likely to be in the region of £34k for the remainder of the current financial year. It would be available to support a range of activities for example:

- funding posts to write the plans for reducing the risks;
 - providing training for staff in publicly owned crowded places;
 - funding staff to take forward the work on publicly owned spaces (e.g. if extra planning work is needed etc);
 - funding modelling, options analysis, consultation etc for changing the way publicly owned spaces (including roads) could be used; and
 - designs for changes needed to make places safer (both for publicly owned crowded places and for changes needed for public land adjoining privately-owned designs for hostile vehicle mitigation that enhances street scene).
7. **Prepare** - The Prepare strand is led through the resilience work stream. Locally the City Council has worked with the police and other agencies to develop a multi agency evacuation plan for the city centre. Newcastle has also been identified as one of 18 sites across the country to need a site specific plan in the event of a Chemical, Biological, Radiological or Nuclear (CBRN) attack. The evacuation plan underpins this. Other plans that would support a response to any terrorist attack are also in place e.g. Rest Centres, Humanitarian Assistance Centres etc.
 8. Further work is now being carried out including a schedule of briefings for key constituencies such as elected members, council staff and delivery partnerships to raise awareness of Contest 2.

Governance

9. The Home Office has made it clear that it sees CDRPs as the natural lead for the governance of Contest. It is proposed that Safe Newcastle is formally agreed as the lead partnership. We are looking to build on existing forums and networks already established and at the opportunity to draw additional capacity to this emerging agenda.

10. The proposed governance structure for Contest is attached in the following appendices

- Appendix 1 - Diagrammatic structure and explanatory notes
- Appendix 2 – Proposed membership and Terms of Reference of Contest Steering Group

Regional Context

11. Contest is co-ordinated through the Home Office and Office for Security and Counter Terrorism (OSCT) In the north east, GONE has established a regional Contest Board and a regional Prevent Co-ordination Group .

12. GONE staff/secondments are

- Overall Contest lead - Chief Superintendent Sue Hall (Northumbria Police)
- Prevent Co-ordinator - Alan Devon
- Protect Co-ordinator - Peter Davies

Recommendation

13. Safe Newcastle Board is asked to

- Agree Safe Newcastle as the lead partnership for Contest
- Agree the proposed governance structure for Contest
- Receive regular updates as necessary

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