Please note: This item has already been circulated to Members of Treasury Committee as part of the agenda for the meeting on 30 June 2016.

Treasury Committee
30 June 2016

Safer Kingston Partnership Update
Report by Director of Finance and Chair of the Safer Kingston Partnership

Purpose
To update the Committee as to the 2016/17 priorities on community safety in the borough, provide an overview of what is being done to prevent extremism in Kingston, and to inform the Council of a proposal for the holding of an event in Kingston during Peace Week under the theme of ‘We Stand Together’.

Recommendation of the Portfolio Holder for Partnerships
To Resolve that -
1. the annual Strategic Assessment summary report and the two new priorities on Community Safety for the borough for 2016/17; Knife Crime, and; Preventing Violent Extremism, be noted; and
2. the Safer Kingston Partnership Co-ordinating Group review of any Prevent risks, commencing September 2016, be supported.

Key Points
A. This report sets out the annual Strategic Assessment summary report and 2016/17 priorities on community safety in the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames which are: Burglary; Domestic Violence; Sexual Offences; Violence Against the Person; Knife Crime (new in 2016), and; Preventing Violent Extremism (new in 2016)

B. It provides an overview of the Council’s involvement in preventing extremism within the borough through the CONTEST and Prevent Strategies. This section outlines the Council’s and partner agencies work under the Prevent duty which include; Kingston Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP); supporting vulnerable people against radicalisation; police action to prevent extremism at both a local and Metropolitan Police wide level, and; community based projects linked to the Prevent duty - including the proposal by Kingston Interfaith forum to host a ‘We Stand Together’ event on 21st September 2016 during World Peace week

C. The report also summarises the Council’s Business Continuity Plan as a mechanism through which to mitigate the effect that may be had on the Council’s ability to deliver its critical services in the event of an incident which is likely to have a significant disruptive impact on the way services are delivered

D. It further notes that in September 2016, the Safer Kingston Partnership Co-ordinating Group will be reviewing any Prevent risks, and confirming the implementation of any necessary actions required to mitigate risks as required
Context

1. A copy of the Safer Kingston Partnership Strategic Assessment Executive Summary (2015/16) has been attached to this report as Annex 1.

2. Each year, the Strategy Group of the Safer Kingston Partnership undertakes a Strategic Assessment, the purpose of which is to analyse crime, disorder, anti-social behaviour, substance misuse and re-offending. This analysis assists the Strategy Group of the Safer Kingston Partnership to set and review Partnership Plan Priorities.

Tackling Crime in Kingston 2015/16 - Summary of Performance

3. Between April 2015 and March 2016 the Royal Borough of Kingston upon Thames registered the lowest number of recordable offences for a London Borough. Kingston has also reported the best overall detection rates across the MPS at 26.1%, meaning that over 1 in 4 of all reported crimes are solved. This increases significantly for violent offences with a 42.1% detection rate for wounding/GHB, 38.5% detection rate for assault with injury, and a 41.8% detection rate for domestic abuse.

4. The borough also achieved the target set by the previous Mayor of London to reduce seven key neighbourhood crimes (violence, robbery, theft from person, burglary, theft from motor vehicle, theft of motor vehicle and criminal damage) by 20% over the last 4 years. Kingston achieved this with a 21% reduction across the seven crime types.

5. Alongside this, it is worth noting that the most recent (rolling 12 months December 2015) MOPAC data shows public confidence in Kingston Police currently stands at 74%. This is above the Metropolitan Police Service average of 67%. The same (rolling 12 months December 2015) data results show that overall levels of victim satisfaction in the police currently stands at 81%. This is above the MPS average of 80%.

6. Additionally, to tackle crime within the Town Centre, under the 2015 MOPAC ‘Buy One Get One Free Offer’, Kingston Council contributed £400,000 to fund the cost of six extra police officers. As part of the offer, the Mayor’s Office match-funded the deployment of a further six officers, meaning there are now 12 additional police officers patrolling the Town Centre until 2018.

7. It is believed that the aforementioned successes have been achieved in part thanks to a joined up, partnership approach towards tackling crime across the borough. This is primarily co-ordinated through the Safer Kingston Partnership, a Community Safety Partnership made up of local public, private and voluntary sector organisations, who each year undertake a strategic assessment to inform the priorities for inclusion in the Council’s Partnership Plan, as outlined below.

Strategic Assessment 2016/17 Community Safety Priorities (annex 1)

8. Each year the Strategy Group of the Safer Kingston Partnership undertakes a strategic assessment to identify trends and gain a broad understanding of the
changes to crime, disorder, substance misuse and re-offending within Kingston. Based on rolling crime statistics/data, the 2014 All in One Survey, and the undertaking of a 2015 resident tracker survey (quantitative study involving the interviewing of Kingston residents), the SKP Strategy Group is able to identify a series of Community Priorities which will assist partners in ensuring their activities are driven by reliable intelligence, meeting the needs of the public in Kingston.

9. Based on the 2015 resident tracker survey this year’s Strategic Assessment has identified two new community priorities for 2016/17:
   ○ knife crime, and;
   ○ preventing violent extremism.

The four remaining 2016/17 Community Priorities are:
   ○ Burglary;
   ○ Domestic Violence;
   ○ Sexual Offences, and;
   ○ Violence Against the Person

10. In addition to this, the priority crime/problem types remain essentially the same as last year. All Community Priorities are addressed through a series of action plans that sit under the following boards:
   ○ Anti-Social Behaviour Strategic Board
   ○ Re-Offending Strategic Board
   ○ Strategic Partnership Alcohol and Drugs
   ○ Domestic and Sexual Violence Strategic Board
   ○ Town Centre Strategic Board

11. A full list of the priorities which emerged from the Assessment, including the MOPAC Business Crime Priorities, is detailed within Annex 1.

Preventing Extremism in Kingston

12. Linked to the new Community Priority of Preventing Extremism, and following questions at December’s Full Council meeting, this section of the report provides a summary of Kingston Council’s involvement in countering terrorism within the borough, as well as addressing what measures are in place should a terrorist incident occur which has the potential to have a significant disruptive impact on the way in which the Council delivers services.

13. Section 26 of the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 places a duty on certain bodies, including Kingston Council, to have ‘due regard to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism’. The work that Kingston Council and partner agencies undertake in this respect ultimately stems from Prevent, a work strand listed under the national CONTEST Strategy.

CONTEST Strategy

14. The CONTEST Strategy is the Government’s UK counter-terrorism strategy. It is intended to deal with all forms of terrorism through four main areas of work:
   ○ Pursue: the investigation and disruption of terrorist attacks;
   ○ Prevent: work to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism and extremism;
   ○ Protect: improving protective security to stop a terrorist attack; and
   ○ Prepare: working to minimise the impact of an attack and to recover from it as quickly as possible.
15. As outlined above, it is the Prevent strand of work which places a duty on local authorities and other organisations to prevent people being drawn into terrorism.

Prevent Duty

16. Prevent, the second part under the CONTEST strategy, aims to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. It responds to the ideological challenge faced from terrorism and aspects of extremism, and the threat from those who promote these views. It provides practical help to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism ensuring they are given appropriate advice and support.

17. The duty covers all forms of terrorism, including far right extremism and some aspects of non-violent extremism. In Kingston, Prevent is delivered as a joint initiative between the Council, Kingston Police, and other partners. Whilst delivered through the Safer Kingston Partnership, each partner subject to the duty is required to undertake functions which are specific to their roles and responsibilities.

18. Prevent is concerned with stopping terrorist acts, but it is also focused on protecting Kingston communities and supporting vulnerable people who may be targeted by extremists looking to recruit or radicalise them. There is no single profile of a potential terrorist, and the prevent programme therefore relies on community support and information.

19. There are three key objectives under Prevent:
   - Challenging the ideology that supports terrorism and those who promote it
   - Protecting vulnerable people
   - Supporting sectors and institutions where there are risks of radicalisation

20. To meet these key objectives, partners across Kingston are engaged in various activities, a number of which are outlined below:

Kingston Workshops to Raise Awareness of Prevent (WRAP)

21. Communities and local authorities both have a key role in achieving the objectives of the national Prevent strategy. The Security and Terrorism Act 2015 places a duty on local authorities to have “due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism”.

22. Whilst the Police carried out initial training during the autumn of 2015, pending training of other staff, the responsibility for raising awareness of Prevent lies with Local Authorities. Several RBK officers and a Local Safeguarding Children’s Board Trainer are accredited to deliver the Home Office workshops to raise awareness of Prevent (WRAP) and undertake this function alongside their existing work.

23. Throughout 2016, sessions have been delivered by RBK trainers raising awareness of Prevent amongst school staff, governors, community groups and other public sector employees. The training, developed by the Home Office, and currently delivered free of charge, helps frontline staff to identify people who may be vulnerable and at risk of becoming involved in violent extremism, as well as providing advice on how staff should respond appropriately.

24. WRAP workshops will continue to be delivered across schools and to front line staff within the Royal Borough during the coming year, along with the identification of
additional trainers in order to maintain capacity for raising awareness of Prevent throughout the Borough.

Supporting Vulnerable Individuals in Kingston

25. Identifying and supporting individuals who may be vulnerable to radicalisation and, as a result, drawn into terrorism, is a key activity. Any individuals considered to be at risk of radicalisation are referred through existing safeguarding routes or other agencies to specialist Police.

26. Each referral is carefully screened by the Police to determine the most appropriate response. In some cases this will involve referral to a specialist multi-agency group chaired by RBK which meets monthly to develop a support plan for any individuals referred to it. In other cases a safeguarding response or other Children’s or Adult Social Care response will be more appropriate. The London-wide Children’s and Adult Safeguarding procedures have been updated to embed the Prevent function.

27. It is important to note that all this activity is designed to be supportive and does not criminalise individuals as it all takes place in the ‘pre-criminal’ space.

Kingston Police

28. The Metropolitan, City of London, and British Transport Police routinely promote their ‘it’s probably nothing, but…’ campaign. The campaign, delivered in Kingston by the Metropolitan Police, is promoted through the use of posters and emails which provide details of the anti-terrorist hotline should anyone see or hear anything which they think may be terrorist related (see annex 2 for an example of a recent email sent out by Coombe Vale Neighbourhood Policing Team).

29. In addition to this, the Safer Kingston Partnership’s Town Centre Action Plan for 2016/17, for whom the Kingston Police Borough Commander is the Strategic Lead, includes several actions aimed at; increasing business’s ability to react to terrorist incidents; increasing the protection of the town centre community against terrorist activities; increasing the public’s awareness of their ability to assist in the protection of Kingston, and; to ensure that the emergency services have plans in place to deal with a terrorist incident.

30. As well as running activities locally within Kingston, centrally the Metropolitan Police Service constantly review a wide range of policing tactics, including the deployment of high visibility policing at a variety of locations. These additional policing measures may be put in place for a number of reasons, including as a response to seasonal crime patterns or as a precautionary measure in light of the current and continuing threat from terrorism.

31. Overt policing is used in combination with a range of other police activities including covert tactics that by their nature are not obvious to residents. The Metropolitan Police will continue to use a selection of police tactics that work to ensure the safety of people who live, work and visit Kingston.

Community Based Projects

32. The Prevent Duty also encourages the use of community based projects through which to raise awareness of Prevent, and help combat terrorism. Two examples of
such schemes operating within Kingston are the Neighbourhood Watch Crime Prevention Talks, and the ‘We Stand Together’ campaign.

33. Earlier this year Kingston Neighbourhood Watch delivered a series of Crime Prevention Talks, including a Counter Terrorism Project Griffin talk. Designed for residents and those who work within Kingston, the talk provided an overview of various aspects of Project Griffin, encouraging attendees to remain vigilant and report suspicious behaviour and activity around their community, combating both terrorism and crime.

34. In addition to the Neighbourhood Watch Talks, launched by the Police Service the ‘We Stand Together’ campaign encourages people to come together in order to build a safer and stronger United Kingdom. It was primarily formed to unite communities following a series of terrorist attacks in various countries. In its current form, the campaign is now frequently used as an engine through which to make a stand against hate crime and intolerance, promoting cohesion and understanding amongst all community groups.

35. Following on from the success of the We Stand Together events after the recent disasters in Paris and Brussels, the Kingston Interfaith Forum is proposing to hold an event during Peace Week (19th-25th September 2016) under the theme of We Stand Together. The event will take account of recent tragedies around the globe which have taken place in the name of terror.

36. The event will ideally take place on September 21st 2016, the International Day of Peace. This day is dedicated to world peace, specifically to strengthening the ideals of peace, both within and among all nations and peoples.

37. In Kingston, the event would culminate in the coming together of people from all communities, religions or beliefs, races and backgrounds, to Stand Together outside the Bentall Centre. It is through this that all those who live, work and visit Kingston, can come together to celebrate diversity and reject all forms of hatred.

Kingston Council Business Continuity Plan

38. Although not directly relating to preventing extremism within the borough, it is important to note that in the event of a terrorist incident, or any other event which is likely to have a significant disruptive impact on the way in which the Council operates, RBK has developed business continuity plans. These are in place to mitigate the effect that may be had on the Council’s ability to deliver its critical services, and to manage any adverse impact on its most vulnerable customers.

39. The impact of disruptive incidents fall under four categories:
   ○ Loss of staff
   ○ Denial of/loss of access to buildings
   ○ Loss of utilities and support systems
   ○ Loss of supplier (specialist or multi-function)

40. Each critical service has a business continuity plan, which sits under the Corporate Business Continuity plan, all of which are reviewed on an annual basis. Supporting this is the Command and Control Structure, with the Borough Controller having overall responsibility for all business continuity and emergency incidents.

41. There is a Business Continuity Management Forum Group which meets quarterly to maintain and address Business Continuity issues and arrangements. In the event of
a Business Continuity incident being declared the Group will form and coordinate the response across the Council, reporting directly to the Strategic Leadership Team (SLT).

42. Training and exercising is carried out on a regular basis with a live two day Business Continuity exercise undertaken in December 2015, and four Business Continuity workshops running in April 2016.

Review of Risk under the Prevent Duty

43. As part of the Safer Kingston Partnership, the Council has, and will continue to undertake reviews of the risk of terrorism within the borough using the Counter Terrorism Local Profile and through engagement with partner agencies including schools, the University and College, probation, health services, AfC and others. In September of this year, the Safer Kingston Partnership Co-ordinating Group will be reviewing risks in accordance with the Prevent Duty, and confirming any actions to be implemented to mitigate such risks.

Background papers - Held by author of report - Michael Williams, Senior Policy and Partnership Officer, GH, Kingston Council

- None other than those referred to in this report