

REPORT TO: SAFER AND STRONGER STRATEGIC GROUP – SEPTEMBER 2009

SUBJECT: DELPHINUS GROUP

BY: MORAY COUNCIL, CORPORATE POLICY UNIT MANAGER

1. REASON FOR REPORT

- 1.1 To raise awareness of members in relation to the Government's CONTEST Strategy and the obligations this places on Statutory Authorities.
- 1.2 To seek agreement and discussion regarding the establishment, remit and representation of a Delphinus Group within Moray Community Planning Structures.

2. RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The content and recommendations associated with the Government's Contest Strategy are noted
- 2.2 A Delphinus Group is established within Community Planning Structures as either
 - i) an agenda item on the Safer and Stronger Theme Group or
 - ii) as a separate sub group which reports to the Safer and Stronger Theme Groupto develop and progress an Action Plan for delivering on the Contest Strategy

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 The threat from international terrorism to the United Kingdom (UK) is currently assessed to be SEVERE. This means there is a high likelihood of future terrorist attacks and indicates a continuing high level of threat from extremists who believe they can advance their aims by committing acts of terrorism both in the UK and abroad.
- 3.2 Since early 2003, the UK Government has developed a long term strategy for countering international terrorism. This strategy is known as CONTEST and has been updated in a revised strategy launched in March 2009 (See attached) The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from international terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. The strategy is divided into four strands, commonly referred to as the 'Four Ps':

'Prevent': to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting violent extremism

'Pursue': to stop terrorist attacks

'Protect': to strengthen our protection against terrorist attack

'Prepare': where an attack cannot be stopped, to mitigate its impact.

- 3.3 Only the 'Prevent' strand has the potential to reduce the ongoing threat by cutting of the supply of recruits willing to join in these criminal attacks. Quite simply 'Prevent' is intended to stop people supporting or becoming violent extremists. 'Prevent' is not a police agenda, indeed the majority of its objectives lie with local government and the communities themselves.
- 3.4 To assist national delivery the Scottish Government has adopted a model by which key service delivery partners can gather to progress this 'Prevent' agenda at the local level. Key to this is the creation of Delphinus groups which will comprise of leads from key agencies.
- 3.5 Local authorities and the police should take the lead and ensure that other partners from the statutory and voluntary sector - including those representing children's and youth services, schools, further and higher education, the Criminal Justice Sector, probation services, prisons and the UK Border Agency - are involved.

4. SUMMARY OF IMPLICATIONS

(a) Single Outcome Agreement/Service Improvement Plan

National Security is a key Action within the SOA under Priority 11

(b) Policy and Legal

Minutes and reports submitted to the Delphinus Group will be exempt from publication and FOI requests as they relate to issues of National Security.

(c) Resources (Financial, Risks, Staffing and Property)

(d) Consultations

5 CONCLUSION

- 5.1 It is necessary to establish a Delphinus Group within the Moray Community Planning Structures to progress the Governments CONTEST Strategy

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Background Papers: Contest Strategy- Updated Guide for Local Partners

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