

COUNCIL MEETING – WEDNESDAY 18 NOVEMBER 2015

MOTION - STRATEGIC OBJECTIVE – SAFER AND STRONGER

This Council is concerned to note that the timetable for renewing the Merton Community Cohesion Strategy has slipped, as illustrated by the agenda/minutes of the Joint Consultative Committee with Ethnic Minorities in July and September 2015 so that it has been re-badged between meetings and now referred to as a (new) 2016-18 strategy.

The legal and statutory implications in the last report to the JCC remind the Council that under the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 it has a duty in the exercise of its functions to have ‘due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism’ and that the strategy will..... promote inclusion and support local people to get involved in their local community and to continue to build good relations in the borough

The Council resolves to recommend to the Merton Partnership – as owners of the strategy – to inject a greater degree of urgency into the process of renewal and:

1. Bring forward the current timetable for implementation from February 2016
2. Encourage meaningful dialogue between the key stakeholders (i.e. Thematic Partnerships; Safer Stronger Group/Executive Board; JCC and Faith and Belief Forum and the Executive Board itself) that goes beyond the repetition of platitudes and aspirations outlined in the identified seven key priorities (e.g. developing, supporting, raising, encouraging, improving etc.)
3. Impose a rigour with targets and expectation of outcomes that are SMART (specific, measurable, attainable, relevant and timely)
4. Expect that the promotion of the use of the English language in all established groups receiving public funding is an essential pre-requisite for future funding

Cllr Abdul Latif

Cllr David Simpson

Cllr David Williams

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