

Committee	Dated: 18 November 2021
Policy & Resources	
Subject: National Preparedness Commission & Review of London's Preparedness to Respond to a Major Terrorist Incident	Public
Which outcomes in the City Corporation's Corporate Plan does this proposal aim to impact directly?	1,2,3,4,9,10,12
Does this proposal require extra revenue and/or capital spending?	No
Report of: Town Clerk	For Information
Report author: Mark Sawyer , London LA Chief Executive Liaison Officer (Resilience) Gordon Roy , District Surveyor & Environmental Resilience Director	

Summary

In December 2020, this Committee accepted an invitation from Lord Toby Harris of the National Preparedness Commission to look at what needs to be done systematically to improve society preparedness and resilience, drawing lessons from the current crises. Several organisations had already signed up to be partners for this work and the City agreed to work with the Commission on this project.

In addition, The Mayor of London, Sadiq Khan, committed in his 2021 manifesto to a further assessment of London's preparedness for a major terrorist incident, following on from the 2016 Harris Review. On 27th July 2021 the City Corporation was notified that Lord Toby Harris has been appointed to lead this work once again, and as before examining the capability, capacity, and collaboration arrangements of those London agencies with a part to play in protecting Londoners. Lord Harris is seeking to revisit considerations related to multi-site attacks, including the implications of those occurring simultaneously in other parts of the country; the effectiveness of collaboration between the emergency services; the inter-operability of services; and the programme of joint planning and exercising. Lord Harris will also consider the extent to which those recommendations from his previous Review have been addressed, and to examine learning from the attacks which took place across London and, where relevant, in Manchester in 2017, as well as those perpetrated more recently at Fishmongers Hall and in Streatham. The City has supported the review through contributions at member and officer levels.

This report provides an update on the National Preparedness Commission work and the review on London's preparedness for a major terrorist incident.

Recommendation(s)

Members are requested to

- a) Note the option of continuing work with the National Preparedness Commission.
- b) Note and further contribute to the Review of London's Preparedness to Respond to a Major Terrorist Incident following receipt of the draft recommendations.

Main Report

Background

1. The current COVID19 crisis has shown how major events precipitate and accelerate major long-term changes.
2. The National Preparedness Commission has been established with a view to ensuring that preparedness and resilience receives greater policy consideration and debate, working towards building a society that is better able to deal with traumatic events.
3. For the City, preparedness and resilience are about ensuring that the City of London is a place where businesses and employees working and living in the City can feel comfortable and secure, and this work will build on the work that the City has already completed through the London Recovery Taskforce and its vision into "Placemaking".
4. Whilst the City continues to address the challenges of COVID, the threat of a major terrorist attack remains. The way in which London collectively responds to attempts or actual incidents of terrorism will be critical to ensuring the recovery from COVID does not lose momentum Therefore the review by Lord Harris is timely.

Current Position

5. In December 2020, the Committee accepted an invitation from the National Preparedness Commission to become a partner, and to work with them to develop the concept of preparedness and place and prepare a framework for future work.
6. Since December, officers have been meeting with Lord Harris to establish the concept of preparedness and place and establish a framework for future work and reports. A Draft framework is attached in Appendix A, with discussion remain ongoing. It is anticipated that the framework will be agreed in the near future.
7. Lord Harris has spent the last two months meeting representatives from all key London responder agencies and officers and members from across London local government. It is anticipated that a draft set of recommendations will be available for comment in November.

Proposals

8. To continue to partner with the National Preparedness Commission, develop the work as set out in the draft Framework and agree the extent of involvement expected from the City.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

Financial implications

9. Working in Partnership would not involve any financial commitment from the City.

Resource implications

10. As the Partnership with the Commission progresses, it is anticipated that staff will, from time to time, become involved with the work relating to the Framework where it is relevant to delivering the corporate objectives and where capacity allows.
11. It is also reasonable to assume that the Commission may, from time to time, request to use the Guildhall's facilities for meetings and similar events. Any such requests would be subject to the usual consideration and approval processes.
12. Reviewing the draft recommendations produced by Lord Harris as part of his work on preparedness for terrorist incidents is not expected to take up a significant amount of member and officer time. Subject to the nature of the recommendations and the implications these have for the City a further assessment will be required to confirm further resource requirements at that time.

Conclusion

13. The City Corporation through this Committee agreed to partner with the National Preparedness Commission with its work and support the review of arrangements for dealing with terrorist incidents, to develop preparedness and resilience which will ensure that the City of London is a place where businesses and employees working and living in the City can feel comfortable and secure.

Appendices-

Appendix A - Draft Preparedness and Place Framework Agreement

Appendix B - Introductory Letter and terms of reference for the Review of London's Preparedness to Respond to a Major Terrorist Incident

Mark Sawyer

London LA Chief Executive Liaison Officer (Resilience)

E: mark.sawyer@cityoflondon.gov.uk

Gordon Roy

District Surveyor & Environmental Resilience Director.

E: gordon.roy@cityoflondon.gov.uk