

**To: City Executive Board**

**Date: 23<sup>rd</sup> July 2008**

**Item No:**

**Report of: Head of Community Housing and Community Development**

**Title of Report: Building Resilience in Communities**

### **Summary and Recommendations**

**Purpose of report:** To seek delegated powers to draw down grant monies from central government, and develop an action plan for work to be funded from the grant.

**Key decision** No

**Executive lead member:** Councillor Bance

**Report approved by:**

**Executive Director City Regeneration: Mel Barrett**

**Finance: Penny Gardner**

**Legal: Lindsay Cane**

**Policy Framework:** None

**Recommendation(s):** That the Board: -

1. recommends Council to approve the drawing down of £105,000 of government grant for the purpose of building community resilience to extremist ideologies, and
2. grants delegated powers to the Director of City Regeneration to develop an action plan for work to be funded from the grant.

### **Background**

1. The Home Office has made funding available to a number of local authorities for the purpose of building community resilience to extremist ideologies. Oxford City Council is to receive £105,000 for this purpose for the 2008/09 financial year.
2. The funding is expected to be used particularly to enable Muslim organisations and communities to develop the ability to counter the arguments and actions of those individuals and organisations who seek to promote violence in the name of Islam, and to support and educate vulnerable members of the community who may be preyed upon by such individuals and groups.

3. Officers intend to draw up an action plan in conjunction the lead elected member, partner agencies including the County Council and Thames Valley Police, and with the involvement of representatives of the communities concerned, outlining the types of activity that it would be appropriate to fund from this grant, and then commission and/or seek bids from suitably qualified individuals and organisations to carry out the work.

### **Risk**

4. Detailed risk assessment will be included in the action plan, both in terms of the project as a whole, and with reference to individual items of activities and items of expenditure.

### **Equalities**

5. The project will be subject to the Council's standard Equalities Impact Assessment processes, and officers will seek to ensure that it is delivered in line with best practice in relation to diversity.

### **Environmental Impact**

6. There are no climate change or other environmental impacts ensuing from this work.

### **Recommendations**

That the Board: -

1. recommends Council to approve the drawing down of £105,000 of government grant for the purpose of building community resilience to extremist ideologies;
2. grants delegated powers to the Director of City Regeneration to develop an action plan for work to be funded from the grant.

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**List of background papers: None**

**Version number: 1**