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### A MESSAGE FROM OUR CHAIR MARK ADLESTONE OBE DL



As we embark on an exciting new era for the Jewish Representative Council, it is important to reflect on the previous twelve months and consider our future plans.

The passing of our bespoke Constitution by a huge margin was a defining moment. This gave us an undeniable mandate to implement the far-reaching reforms required to modernise and reinvigorate the organisation.

This process commenced with an independent Strategic Review. The review recognised the values and history of the organisation. However, it also highlighted that change was essential. It was clear that a Chief Executive was required in order to grasp the community's agenda and drive it forward with key internal and external stakeholders.

I have been so delighted with the progress that has been made since commencing my role in May 2021. Our primary focus has always been looking at engaging with our whole diverse community. Through the Jewish Strategic Group, I had built strong relationships with a number of critically important individuals and organisations. These have been strengthened through regular engagement and visits. I am so grateful to everyone for their time and allowing me to learn about the amazing work that is done on a daily basis. I speak regularly about living as part of an ecosystem. In order for the community to thrive, we need strong links with those elected to represent us. We have made representations at the very highest levels of local and national government and I have personally seen this during a visit to Downing Street and Westminster. These links have also delivered tangible results not just for the Jewish community across the region we represent but also across the country.

Our communication outside of the community has also been excellent. Marc Levy has appeared on local and national news and our statements have been balanced, carefully thought out and well received. This was emphasised in the first few weeks following my installation as Chair. During the conflict in Israel, we released joint statements with the leadership of Greater Manchester Councils, the Chief Constable of GMP and Metro Mayor, Andy Burnham. The Jewish Representative Council of Greater Manchester (JRC) is now seen as the first point of contact for politicians and the media on issues that affect our community.



Shadow Foreign Secretary Lisa Nandy MP in conversation with JRC Chair, Mark Adlestone OBE  $\mathsf{DL}$ 

Within the JRC, we have created a mechanism to allow the Charedi community to properly engage with the JRC. Our success is being looked at by representative bodies across the world. It is a source of great pride to me personally that I have chaired meetings with representatives from our whole community. Not long ago this would have been considered inconceivable. However, through the dialogue and trust that has developed, we are in a unique position.

Over the next twelve months, the Management Board will commence its work. Each individual will work in conjunction with Marc and have an agenda to progress on behalf of the community. This will create a dynamic organisation designed to be proactive in tackling issues affecting our community. I am so pleased by the number of requests from communal organisations who have approached myself and Marc asking for the JRC to intervene and assist with their work.

I would like to thank the JRC President, Russell Conn and his team of Officers for their work this year. I am truly excited for the next twelve months as we continue to evolve into a modern, effective organisation. We have a number of exciting plans and projects that will be designed to take a strategic view and ensure our community remains strong and dynamic for many years to come.

Mark Aglestone



JRC Chair Mark Adlestone and Chief Executive Marc Levy at Number 10 Downing Street

# JEWISH STRATEGIC GROUP AND THE PANDEMIC

The Jewish community across Greater Manchester was hit extremely hard by the Coronavirus pandemic. However, from the difficulties being experienced by communal leaders and their organisations, the Jewish Strategic Group was born and this brought together representatives from organisations across the whole Jewish community alongside members from local and national government.

The meetings are co-ordinated by the JRC and Jewish Leadership Council and are chaired by Mark Adlestone OBE DL. They have been addressed by Andy Burnham, the Police and Crime Commissioner, Baroness Beverley Hughes and the Chief Rabbi, amongst others. They allow our communal organisations to engage and explain what is required to look after the vulnerable and needy in our community. This has led to a number of communal visits from MPs and Council Leaders so they are able to better understand the challenges facing our community.



Salford Council that led to their hugely successful vaccination campaign.

Facilitated discussions between Hatzola and



The key communal organisations ensuring the Jewish community were present at each round table. Discussions took place on health and social care, transport, mental health, volunteering and social action.

A directory was designed, created and widely distributed detailing service provision across our Jewish community.



Regular meetings held where concerns on a number of key issues were escalated.



Communication campaign orchestrated alongside the GMCA to inform community members of Covid-19 rules and regulations. Leaflets translated into Hebrew and Yiddish. They were widely distributed amongst our whole community.



Mapping the emergency food provision to take pressure off the food banks.



Arranged for Parliamentary questions to be tabled to ensure kosher food provision in emergency shielding packs.

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'Lunch is Not a Luxury' Campaign raised £23,000 in 24 hours to assist children on free school meals. They received their vouchers along with menus detailing healthy meals. During the pandemic, Mark Adlestone and Marc Levy, along with key stakeholders, engaged with:

Greater Manchester Combined Authority – Andy Burnham - Metro Mayor.

Manchester – Sir Richard Leese and Cllr Bev Craig – Leaders and Joanne Roney – Chief Executive.

Bury – Cllr Eamonn O'Brien – Leader and Geoff Little – Chief Executive.

Trafford – Cllr Andrew Western – Leader and Sara Todd – Chief Executive.

Salford – Paul Dennett – City Mayor and Tom Stannard – Chief Executive.

Stockport – Cllr Elise Wilson – Leader.



During Covid, we were fortunate as a local authority that we were able to rely upon the work of the Jewish Representative Council and Jewish Leadership Council. Their advice and guidance was invaluable in ensuring those in need received the required levels of support. I have seen first-hand the work of the Jewish Strategic Group. This forum has enabled the Council to engage with the diverse community in a coordinated and effective manner. I am looking forward to deepening our relationship so the Council can continue to support the thriving Jewish community across Bury.

Cllr Eamonn O'Brien - Leader Bury Council



As Mayor of Greater Manchester, I continue to have an excellent working relationship with the Jewish Representative Council and Jewish Leadership Council. The engagement they have provided has highlighted the very best of the Jewish community across Greater Manchester whilst identifying areas of concern that need to be addressed together. The Jewish Strategic Group has regularly been discussed as a model of best practice and I am very pleased that the GMCA has taken such a proactive role in this group. I look forward to continuing my close links with Mark and Marc over the coming years.

Andy Burnham - Greater Manchester Metro Mayor



Andy Burnham presents to the Jewish Strategic Group

### ANTISEMITISM AND ENGAGEMENT WITH THE COMMUNITY SECURITY TRUST (CST) AND GREATER MANCHESTER POLICE

Unfortunately, 2021 saw the Jewish Community across Greater Manchester suffer record levels of hate crime. This was exacerbated by the conflict in the Middle East which accounted for almost half the incidents recorded in the first six months of 2021. In total, the community endured 294 antisemitic incidents representing an 86% increase on 2020.

The JRC immediately called together key internal stakeholders to discuss how to reassure the community. It was decided that a strongly worded statement would be released emphasising how the community must not be targeted due to the situation in the Middle East.

Alongside CST, the JRC were also proactive in engaging with local government and the police. Supportive joint statements were released following meetings with the leadership of Manchester, Salford, Bury, Trafford and Stockport Councils. We also worked with a number of MPs to table written and oral questions asked of the Home Secretary, designed to allow the government to demonstrate their support.



Communal meeting with Secretary of State for Education, Gavin Williamson MP to discuss the rise of antisemitism in schools

On a national level, the JRC have joined with communal partners from the Jewish Leadership Council, CST and Antisemitism Policy Trust to advocate at the highest levels of government. We have arranged for oral and written questions to be asked of the Home Secretary on the issue of antisemitism. This follows the recent CST report and the terrorist attack targeting a Synagogue in Texas. We also briefed MPs ahead of the recent debates in Westminster dealing with an increase in antisemitic incidents on campuses across the UK, including within Greater Manchester.



Statement following meeting with the Chief Constable and the Police and Crime Commissioner

Following the recent surge in antisemitic hate crime, we discussed this issue directly with a large number of MPs from across Greater Manchester and beyond. They are now fully briefed on the concerns of our community and the fact that our communal buildings are located behind gates with security guards. This has also enabled us to focus on important legislation designed to combat antisemitism on social media platforms and university campuses. Our discussions have yielded tangible benefits as the legislation is starting to reflect some of our key concerns.

The JRC, JLC and CST also met the newly appointed Chief Constable of Greater Manchester Police (GMP), Stephen Watson and had regular engagement with the Police and Crime Commissioner. At the meetings, it was emphasised how the community was being targeted and why it was essential to counter antisemitism emanating at rallies.

We are also working alongside various levels of GMP to promote engagement and understanding of the Jewish community. GMP has also become an integral member of the Jewish Strategic Group.



Marc Levy, BBC Media Appearance

PRESS RELEASE	PRESS RELEASE
As a local council, it has been profoundly troubling to see the Jewish community targeted on the streets of Bury due to unacceptable reactions from a minority of people to the conflict in the Middle East.	As a direct result of the recent hostilities in the Middle East, the Jewish community across Salford has endured an unprecedented rise in antisernitic hate crime. This follows a well- established pattern of Jewish communities being targeted due to a conflict taking place
In particular, we were deeply concerned to hear that Community Socially That have reported a national increase in nationatic incidence of 4490, were the previous 14 days. This has understandably sent fear and anxiety throughout our local Javaith Community. Bary Council has not and will not accept any form of hate crime, including wheth antimetimic an Unkinghibia, Was were working with the Price to resource mediants the is a not tolenated in they and that every incident and entre. It biological has not denoted and they and that every incident and entre. It biological has not denoted and they and that every incident and entre. It is a set of the set in the set of the set of the set of t	Broands of influences, The promy second of Connectly Seconds Tube, Jonek Representative Connel of Conter Mechanics & Regines and Jonite Seconds (Jonez III) wanters that contenting of building the second of a specific to integrit call darget the Jones Tube Regines and Media Bach has been cond as a primer to integrit call darget the Jones (III) wanters of the Media Connel III). This conversion of the Administry of the Jones (III) wanter and the Second of the III) wanter of the Administry of the Administry of the Media Connel is strendown analysis of Bach and the Other Bach and Second on the strendown of the Connel Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the strendown of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the strendown of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry of the Administry provides of the Administry of the A
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86%

increase in antisemitic incidents compared to 2020

# POLITICAL ENGAGEMENT

The JRC and JLC met with a large number of MPs from across the whole country in 2021. Given the critically important pieces of legislation navigating their way through Parliament, we worked closely with JLC member organisations to represent our community at a local and national level.



Deputy Leader of Labour Party, Angela Rayner MP, Greater Manchester Metro Mayor, Andy Burnham and Leader of Bury Council, Cllr Eamonn O'Brien visit The Fed



Shadow DCLG Team, Mike Amesbury MP and Sarah Owen MP

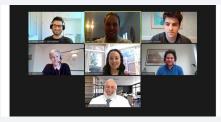
In total, the JRC have relationships with around 160 MPs, the Greater Manchester Combined Authority and the leadership of all 10 local authorities located in Greater Manchester.

- Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP Speaker of the House of Commons
- Liz Truss MP Foreign Secretary Meeting with the JLC and Board of Deputies
- Lisa Nandy MP Shadow Foreign Secretary and Shadow Secretary of State for Levelling Up and Communities – Meeting with CST
- Andy Burnham Metro Mayor for Greater Manchester Meeting with The Fed and CST
- Oliver Dowden MP Conservative Party Chairman
- James Cleverly MP Conservative Party Chairman and Middle East Minister
- Amanda Milling MP Conservative Party Chairman and Minister for Asia
- Sir Graham Brady MP Chair 1922 Committee
- Angela Rayner MP Deputy Leader Labour Party
- Nigel Huddleston MP Sports Minister Meeting with Maccabi
  - Robin Walker MP Schools Minister Meeting with PaJes
- Lucy Powell MP Shadow Secretary of State for Department for Culture, Media and Sport – Meeting with CST

- Jim McMahon MP Shadow Secretary of State for Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs.
- Jonathan Reynolds MP Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Shadow Secretary of State for Business – Visit to Work Avenue.
- Kate Green MP Shadow Secretary of State for Education
  Meeting with PaJes and Union of Jewish Students.
- Nigel Evans MP Deputy Speaker Meeting with CST.

Jess Phillips MP – Shadow Domestic Violence and Safeguarding Minister – Meeting with Jewish Women's Aid.

- Jonathan Ashworth MP Shadow Secretary of State for Health and Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions.
- Preet Gill MP Shadow Secretary of State for International Development Meeting with World Jewish Relief.
- Stephen Morgan MP Shadow Schools Minister Meeting with PaJeS.
- Matt Western MP Shadow Universities Minister Meeting with CST and the Union of Jewish Students.
- Sarah Owen MP Shadow Faith Minister Meeting with Antisemitism Policy Trust.
- Mike Kane MP Shadow Transport Minister Visit to Jewish Museum.



Kate Green MP – Shadow Secretary of State for Education with PaJes and Union of Jewish Students





Shadow Secretary of State for Work and Pensions - Jonathan Reynolds MP visits Work Avenue

Schools Minister Meeting with PAJES



Foreign Secretary, Liz Truss MP

House of Commons Speaker, Sir Lindsay Hoyle MP

#### GREATER MANCHESTER COMBINED AUTHORITY

The relationship with the Greater Manchester Combined Authority is absolutely crucial. In May 2021, local elections took place to elect the Metro Mayor. Conversations were held with all the candidates to ensure they were familiar with the issues affecting our community.

The JRC and JLC along with The Fed, hosted virtual Hustings with the candidates representing the main parties. This was chaired by Mark Adlestone OBE DL and attracted hundreds of people from across the country. Questions were answered on a variety of topics including antisemitism, Israel, social care, housing and the cost of living.



#### MANIFESTO AND COMMUNITY

The JRC and the JLC produced a full Manifesto which outlined the main priorities for Jewish people across the region. There were sections on education, health and social care, antisemitism, housing and culture. The Manifesto was endorsed by all the main candidates and has formed the basis of our political engagement, specifically on a local level.

The JRC are extremely active in the wider community. We proactively take part in a number of consultations including a Domestic Abuse Listening Forum and work with local authorities on Hate Crime Awareness Week. We have also marked International Women's Day and attended Listening Events across Greater Manchester. The development of interfaith networks has been a primary focus to ensure continued excellent relations with other communities. At the JRC, we always look to celebrate Jewish festivals with friends from wider society. This was demonstrated by gifts being handed out over Rosh Hashana and Chanukah.





JRC President gives doughnuts to firefighters at Chanukah

#### LOCAL AUTHORITIES

The Greater Manchester Combined Authority comprises the ten councils from across Greater Manchester. We hold regular engagement with all the Leaders to ensure they are aware of concerns being faced by the Jewish community. All the Leaders received and approved the Manifesto. The JRC and JLC have also been instrumental in ensuring councils across Greater Manchester adopt and enforce the IHRA definition on antisemitism.



The JRC has a strict rule in that comments are only made on issues that affect the Jewish community across the region. The statements that we have released have consistently been balanced and effective. They have been carried in local and national media and our Chief Executive, Marc Levy has appeared on BBC, Sky News and ITV News.



Leader of Manchester Council - Cllr Bev Craig visits The Fed



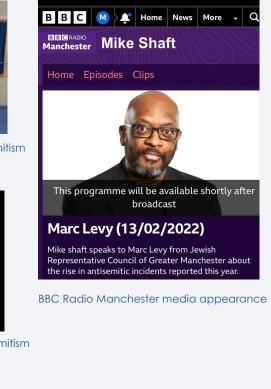
Jewish community visit from Salford City Mayor seeing Hatzola, L'Chaim Foodbank and Aim Habonim



Media appearance on LBC to discuss antisemitism



ITV Media Appearance following CST's antisemitism report.



# **EVENTS**

Over the previous 12 months, the JRC have held a number of high-profile events. They include: -



Her Excellency, Israel Ambassador Tzipi Hotovely interviewed by JRC Chief Executive, Marc Levy.



Mark Adlestone OBE DL lit a candle at the Greater Manchester Combined Authority Holocaust Memorial Day Commemoration.



Andy Burnham lighting the menorah alongside the Jewish community at Hale Synagogue.



Lord Mann interviewed by Christian Wakeford MP about the rise in antisemitism across the world.



A Community Stars Event recognised the immense contribution from individuals and organisations in caring for people during the Coronavirus pandemic. Over 100 people were nominated and they were celebrated during a specially arranged broadcast watched by people across the country.



Shadow Foreign Secretary Lisa Nandy MP, Marc Levy and JRC Chair Mark Adlestone OBE DL

# **FUTURE PLANNING**



Alongside key stakeholders, advocating on all critically important pieces of legislation that affect the Jewish community on a local and national level.



Continue to develop relationships with other communities across Greater Manchester



Working with local Authorities and the Greater Manchester Combined authority to ensure we continue to engage with other communities.



The Management Board will be responsible for their portfolios ensuring the JRC is at the centre of communal life.



We will facilitate discussions between the community and local authorities on topics that affect the Jewish community across Greater Manchester.



Responsible for planning and implementing important pieces of strategic research with a focus on asset management, mapping, education and mental health.



Continue to co-ordinate the Jewish Strategic Group ensuring the voice of our diverse community is heard across government.



Holding round tables on specific topics to promote collaboration and ensure best practice.



The JRC will involve ourselves with Affiliates and communal organisations to promote coordination and best practice.



Actively involved in the development of the next generation of Jewish communal leaders.



Continue to host events of interest to our diverse Jewish community.



Proactively visit a diverse range of schools to teach pupils about Judaism.

- www.jewishmanchester.org
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JEWISH REPRESENTATIVE COUNCIL OF GREATER MANCHESTER & REGION HEATHLANDS VILLAGE, HEATHLANDS DRIVE, MANCHESTER M25 9SB