

Statement regarding Drummer Lee Rigby

This Council condemns the shocking and senseless killing of Drummer Lee Rigby on the 22nd May, and pledges that it will not allow extremists to cause divisions in our town.

The Council sends its sincere condolences to Drummer Rigby's family and friends, who will be grieving for the loss of their loved one; and its support to his colleagues in the Royal Regiment of Fusiliers and the Armed Forces as a whole, who continue to serve their country with bravery and dedication.

Drummer Rigby's family have spoken movingly of his zest for life and his love of people, as well as the great respect with which he treated people, regardless of their race, creed or culture. They emphasised that Lee would not have wanted anyone to use his name as an excuse to carry out attacks against others, and appealed for people to keep calm and show their respect in a peaceful manner.

It seems clear that this attack was designed to set communities against each other. Bolton Council and all of its partners stand united against violent extremism and terrorism, and take inspiration from the actions of those brave passers-by who intervened to comfort Lee and confront his attackers. Extremism must be tackled by individuals and communities – here in Bolton, the shared heritage and values of the Bolton Family have contributed to our strong record of community cohesion. The excellent work which our colleagues in the Police, the Bolton Interfaith Council and Bolton Council of Mosques have done in the past few weeks has been a powerful testament to the strength and importance of these relationships between individuals, organisations and communities. The Council pledges its continued support in maintaining these relationships.

Councillor Morris – Leader of the Council

Councillor Greenhalgh – Leader of the Conservative Group

Councillor Hayes – Leader of the Liberal Democrat Group