

Urgent Decision Taken on Behalf of Cabinet

Report to the Leader of the County Council

Report submitted by: Head of Legal and Democratic Services

Part I

Electoral Divisions affected:
All

Delegation of responsibility for Counter Terrorism and Prevent related matters

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Executive Summary

This report proposes to give responsibility, including urgent decision making responsibilities, for Counter Terrorism and Prevent to the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services.

Reason for Urgency

This decision is urgent and cannot await the next meeting of Cabinet on 7 December 2017. The reason for this is to provide a single point of contact at elected member level for all Counter Terrorism and Prevent matters with immediate effect. The decision is therefore being taken on behalf of Cabinet by the Leader of the Council in accordance with the provisions of Standing Order 34(1).

Recommendation

The Leader of the County Council is asked to delegate responsibility, including urgent decision making responsibilities, for Counter Terrorism and Prevent to the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services.

This decision should be implemented immediately for the purpose of Standing Order 35 as any delay could adversely affect the execution of the County Council's responsibilities. The reason for this is to enable the Council to have a single point of contact with specific responsibility for Counter Terrorism and Prevent matters.

Background and Advice

The Government's Counter Terrorism Strategy 2011 "CONTEST" has four strands Pursue, Protect, Prepare and Prevent. The aim of CONTEST is to reduce the risk to the UK and its interests overseas from terrorism, so that people can go about their lives freely and with confidence. CONTEST, has proven to be successful over a

number of years and our approach is world leading, but the threat from terrorism continues to adapt and change.

The County Council directly contributes to Protect, Prepare and Prevent. Protect is aimed at reducing our vulnerability to attacks, Prepare is to ensure we are resilient and ready to deal with any attacks and Prevent is safeguarding vulnerable individuals and communities from becoming radicalised. Pursue is for the security services that target terrorists.

Following the terrorist attack of Fusilier Lee Rigby in May 2013 the Government set up an Extremism Task Force to look at how we can ensure consistent partnership delivery, enhance efforts to prevent terrorism, and understand how to respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism. The recommendations were brought into legislation via the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015. Within the Act, Section 26 places a duty on specified authorities "to have due regard to the need to prevent people being drawn into terrorism", local authorities have been required to fulfil a range of responsibilities following the commencement of the Duty in July 2015 and this work falls into the following categories:

- Partnership
- Risk Assessment
- Action Plan
- Organisational Training
- Use of local authority resources

Under the prevent Duty the County Council also support other agencies and organisations who support children and in out of school settings.

Whilst the Leader of the Council has delegated areas of responsibility to individual cabinet members, executive decisions are considered and approved by Cabinet collectively. Only urgent decisions which cannot await the next meeting of the Cabinet are approved by the Leader (or in his/her absence the Deputy Leader) and the relevant Cabinet Member.

In the event of a terrorism incident occurring in Lancashire, urgent decisions will need to be taken and it is felt that responsibility for any such decisions should rest with a single Cabinet Member who would be the Council's key point of contact. Therefore it is proposed that responsibility for Counter Terrorism and Prevent be delegated to the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services who would be able to act in the event of an emergency situation. The Cabinet Member already has lead responsibility for Community Safety.

The Leader of the Council would take any 'urgent' Counter Terrorism and Prevent related decisions in the absence of the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services. All 'non-urgent' Counter Terrorism and Prevent related decisions would continue to be taken by Cabinet collectively.

Consultations

N/A

Implications:

This item has the following implications, as indicated:

Risk management

The delegation of responsibility for Counter Terrorism and Prevent to the Cabinet Member for Community and Cultural Services will provide a single point of contact for urgent decision making so far as the County Council's duties and responsibilities are concerned. It will also enable the Cabinet Member to act as a 'lead' member for the purpose of co-ordinating and disseminating Counter Terrorism and Prevent information across Council services and areas of the responsibility held by all Cabinet Members.

List of Background Papers

Paper	Date	Contact/Tel
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None		
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Reason for inclusion in Part II, if appropriate

N/A