

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH NOVEMBER 2017

**REPORT OF SENIOR
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Arts, Culture & Leisure – Cabinet Lead – Councillor Mrs Wilburn

COUNTER TERRORISM UPDATE

1. Summary

Members are aware the UK terrorism threat remains at Severe. Officers across all departments continue to work with Police and other partners to respond to the general threat and strengthen procedures.

This paper provides an update on Stockton Council's work on terrorism threat mitigation in relation to events. This includes strengthening event planning, threat assessment, dialogue with external agencies, training for staff and physical protection measures.

In addition to our own internal processes and protocols, this report also considers what actions and support the Council can introduce to help community groups and other external event organisers, in raising their own awareness and helping them understand what steps they can take to improve their own security arrangements.

Additional costs associated with terrorism protection and hostile vehicle threat mitigation were anticipated and referenced in previous reports. Some provision was made in the MTFP to cover short term measures whilst longer term options are explored. Work on longer term measures is not yet complete but Cabinet are advised that a further allocation will be required in the 2017/18 MTFP.

Information contained within this report could be of value to anyone considering an attack in this area and the detail is therefore contained within a confidential appendix. Taken out of context the contents could also be misinterpreted by the public leading to a fear that the threat level has increased, which it has not. This gives further cause for the paper to be dealt with as a reserved item and not for publication.

2. Recommendations

1. Cabinet are requested to note the actions taken to strengthen measures to protect the public against terrorist threat at events and endorse the adoption of the further threat mitigation measures outlined.

3. Reasons for the Recommendation(s)/Decision(s)

To provide Cabinet with confidence that all reasonable actions are being taken to protect the public against the known threat.

4. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members) should consider whether they have a personal interest in any item, as defined in **paragraphs 9 and 11** of the Council's code of conduct and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with and/or taking account of **paragraphs 12 - 17** of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 16** of the code, in any business of the Council he/she must then, **in accordance with paragraph 18** of the code, consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest and the business:-

- affects the members financial position or the financial position of a person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code, or
- relates to the determining of any approval, consent, licence, permission or registration in relation to the member or any person or body described in **paragraph 17** of the code.

A Member with a personal interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, may attend the meeting but must not take part in the consideration and voting upon the relevant item of business. However, a member with such an interest may make representations, answer questions or give evidence relating to that business before the business is considered or voted on, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under a statutory right or otherwise (**paragraph 19** of the code)

Members may participate in any discussion and vote on a matter in which they have an interest, as described in **paragraph 18** of the code, where that interest relates to functions of the Council detailed in **paragraph 20** of the code.

Disclosable Pecuniary Interests

It is a criminal offence for a member to participate in any discussion or vote on a matter in which he/she has a disclosable pecuniary interest (and where an appropriate dispensation has not been granted) **paragraph 21** of the code.

Members are required to comply with any procedural rule adopted by the Council which requires a member to leave the meeting room whilst the meeting is discussing a matter in which that member has a disclosable pecuniary interest (**paragraph 22** of the code)

AGENDA ITEM

REPORT TO CABINET

16TH NOVEMBER 2017

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

COUNTER TERRORISM UPDATE

Summary

Members are aware the UK terrorism threat remains at Severe, meaning that an attack is highly likely. As we have seen from within the UK and across Europe attacks can happen at any time and place and without warning.

Although the terrorism threat is wide and attacks could take any form, this report primarily concerns itself with the risk of attacks associated with the Council's management and delivery of its outdoor Event Programme. In particular it is concerned with the risks associated with terrorism activity at large scale events/gatherings. The use of vehicles as a weapon is increasingly common and efforts are intelligence suggests this situation is likely to be ongoing. As a result there is an understandable focus on Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) at a national level.

The Council is mindful of its duty of care when staging public events and public safety has always been paramount when event plans are being developed. It is acknowledged that our existing Event Delivery Framework and Safety protocols must be reviewed and amended to encompass procedures and systems to mitigate potential terrorist activity.

In addition to our own internal processes and protocols, this report also considers what actions and support the Council can introduce to help community groups and other external event organisers, in raising their own awareness and helping them understand what steps they can take to improve their own security arrangements.

Additional costs associated with terrorism protection and hostile vehicle threat mitigation were anticipated and referenced in previous reports. Some provision was made in the MTFP to cover short term measures whilst longer term options are explored. Work on longer term measures is not yet complete but Cabinet are advised that a further allocation will be required in the 2017/18 MTFP.

Recommendations

1. Cabinet are requested to note the actions taken to strengthen measures to protect the public against terrorist threat at events and endorse the adoption of the further threat mitigation measures outlined.

DETAIL

Background

1. The National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) guidance on terrorism threat mitigation is evolving and with each new attack there is an urgency that safety arrangements and event planning protocols are continually challenged and reviewed to protect the public.
2. The Council's Event Delivery Framework (EDF) delivers an agreed systemised approach to event management based on sound project management principles and safeguards to ensure its programme is well-managed and complies with the relevant legislation and best practice.
3. Public Safety and wellbeing remain at the core of its event management protocols and the Council has built a solid foundation and reputation in relation to its health and safety standards. Integral to this success is our ability to develop key partnerships/relationships across the emergency service sector, who are fundamental in ensuring that working practices are robust and kept current to safeguard individuals and the wider community as we deliver our services.
4. The new threats linked to terrorist activity/event delivery have and continue to be considered very carefully. Over the past few months, Council Officers have been working closely with police, security and emergency services colleagues at a National, Regional and Tees Valley level. This work has involved assessment of the types of threat/attack we potentially face in Stockton and has started to look into mitigation measures and practical steps, in terms of working safety practices (EDF) and also the procurement of semi-permanent infrastructure.
5. There are a number of work streams being carried out, including
 - Review of working systems/practices and support to event organisers (EDF Update)
 - Short term mitigation measures for 2017 events programme
 - semi-permanent & long term solutions
 - Monitoring Risk across the Tees Valley
6. The detail of work on systems short term measures, long term solutions and risk monitoring are set out in the attached confidential appendix (not for publication).

COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

7. N/A

FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

8. The financial implications are dealt with in the body of the report.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

9. The legal implications are dealt with in the body of the report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

10. The report deals with the assessment and mitigation of risk in relation to events and therefore this is covered in the body of the report.

COUNCIL PLAN POLICY PRINCIPLES AND PRIORITIES

11. Events contribute to the following Policy Principles:

- Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention
- Promoting equality of opportunity through targeted intervention
- Developing strong and healthy communities
- Creating economic prosperity

This report contributes to our efforts to deliver events which are consistent with the aims of these policy principles.

CORPORATE PARENTING IMPLICATIONS

N/A

CONSULTATION INCLUDING WARD/COUNCILLORS

N/A

Name of Contact Officer: Reuben Kench
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Education related

No

Background Papers

None

Ward(s) and Ward Councillors:

All

Property

None