



**Hinckley & Bosworth
Borough Council**

Forward timetable of consultation and decision making

Executive 6 November 2024

Wards affected: All wards

PREVENT UPDATE AND VENUE HIRE POLICY

Report of Director, Community Services

1. Purpose

- 1.1 To advise Executive on work undertaken to ensure the authority meets its statutory Prevent Duty. The report highlights completed and planned work to increase resilience and effectiveness of our response to Prevent concerns, which will ultimately help to ensure our communities are protected from harm.
- 1.2 To present for approval the Venue Hire Policy and guidance documents.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That Executive note the contents of this report.
- 2.2 That Executive note the changes to the statutory Prevent Duty for local authorities.
- 2.3 That Executive approve the proposed Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council Venue Hire Policy and guidance documents.

3. Background

- 3.1 Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council has both a moral and legal obligation to help prevent the risk of people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism. The Prevent duty sits alongside safeguarding duties for professionals. The council have a legal duty under the following legislation:

- The Prevent duty- Section 26 of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 (CTSA 2015)

- Prevent duty guidance: England and Wales (2023)

- 3.2 The Prevent duty was established by the Counter-Terrorism and Security Act 2015 and places a duty on specified authorities to have 'due regard to the need to prevent people from becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism'.

The Prevent duty guidance assists statutory partners to understand how to comply with the Prevent duty. This duty guidance has been updated to reflect several recommendations of the Independent Review of Prevent published in February 2023.

- 3.3 Key recent changes to the Prevent statutory guidance includes:

- Amending the first Prevent objective to "tackle the ideological causes of terrorism", moving away from the previous objective of "tackle the causes of radicalisation and respond to the ideological challenge of terrorism". This shift recognises the role that ideology plays in an individual's susceptibility to radicalisation and extremist beliefs.
- Updating terminology to reflect current best practice and official terminology.
- Outlining the new Security Threat Check (STC), which consists of three questions, to ensure that high level decision-making within Prevent is always informed by proper consideration of the terrorism threat picture and responds proportionately.
- Communicating the need for genuine concern about an individual's path to radicalisation and that ideology should be a critical consideration (to improve the quality of referrals).
- Clearer advice on how to understand and manage risk, including by having training and risk assessments.
- Including 'Reducing Permissive Environments' as a key theme to tackle the ideological causes of terrorism and broader radicalising influences.

- 3.4 In May 2023 the work to ensure that the authority meets its Prevent Duty transferred to the Safeguarding Team, with work being led and managed by the Community Services and Safeguarding Manager and Senior Safeguarding Officer.

4. Quarter 4 Achievements 2023-24

- 4.1 In line with the statutory Prevent guidance and duty that came into effect on the 31st December 2023 a Hinckley and Bosworth Prevent Action Plan has been produced that sits alongside a County Action Plan, please see Appendix A. Please note regarding actions where we considered that there was potential slippage in delivery (red flagged), further work has already commenced with our communities & communications team, to increase awareness around Prevent. The action with some slippage around further face to face Prevent training packages is currently sat with the Home Office; County & District Prevent Leads are waiting on further clarity and information from the Home Office before they can roll this out.

- 4.2 A Prevent Situational Risk Assessment (SRA) for Hinckley and Bosworth has been produced.
- 4.3 To raise awareness around the Prevent duty key training has been rolled out to all staff and members in alignment with recommendation 2 of the Home Office Leicestershire Prevent Duty Annual Assurance recommendation (2022-2023) and key updates have been included within Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council's Safeguarding newsletter for all staff & members. A new recording system has been put in place to ensure we have records of staff training to evidence that we are meeting the duty in terms of staff training.

5. Venue Hire Policy and Procedure

- 5.1 Section 5 of the Prevent Duty guidance (2023, as amended in January 2024), subsection 85 states, "It is important for specified authorities to identify and consider opportunities to disrupt those who seek to radicalise others into conducting terrorism-related activity or supporting terrorism, or who perpetuate extremist ideologies linked to terrorism. This may mean having policies in place that, where appropriate, limit radicalising influences (including online), or ensure that facilities are not used inappropriately."
- 5.2 The Senior Safeguarding Officer has set up and led a task and finish group with representatives of other relevant service areas across the council to develop a draft Venue Hire Policy and guidance for the authority in order that we meet our statutory duty, attached at Appendix B & C. Service areas involved have included Estate Management, the Atkins Building staff, Green Spaces, Cultural Services & Safeguarding.
- 5.3 The draft Venue Hire Policy and guidance for the authority has had any legal considerations incorporated by the council's legal team.

6. Some key areas of work for Quarter 1 2024-25

- 6.1 A Hinckley and Bosworth Prevent Delivery Plan is in place to ensure compliance with statutory duty.
- 6.2 Areas of work that are now core business will continue.
- 6.3 Prevent updates to be delivered to Hinckley & Bosworth Borough Council Members & at the Hinckley & Bosworth Parish Council Forum to raise awareness of the importance of reducing permissive environments.
- 6.4 For the Venue Hire Policy & guidance to be agreed and rolled out to relevant Council teams for use.

7. Financial implications [CS]

7.1 The costs of the Prevent duty are met from existing resources within the Community Safety and Safeguarding team.

8. Legal implications [JS]

8.1 As set out within the body of the report.

9. Corporate Plan implications

9.1 This report relates to priority ambitions of Hinckley and Bosworth Borough Council's Corporate Plan 2022-25, as below:

- People
- Place

10. Consultation

10.1 Relevant council teams have been consulted in the preparation of this report and the Venue Hire Policy, alongside relevant information from key partners. Service areas involved have included Estate Management, the Atkins Building staff, Green Spaces, Cultural Services & Safeguarding.

11. Risk implications

11.1 It is the council's policy to proactively identify and manage significant risks which may prevent delivery of business objectives.

11.2 It is not possible to eliminate or manage all risks all of the time and risks will remain which have not been identified. However, it is the officer's opinion based on the information available, that the significant risks associated with this decision / project have been identified, assessed and that controls are in place to manage them effectively.

11.3 The following significant risks associated with these report / decisions were identified from this assessment:

No significant risks identified.

12. Knowing your community – equality and rural implications

12.1 The plans and policies within this report are delivered for all residents across the borough.

13. Climate implications

13.1 Work will be delivered to limit carbon impact where possible, for example virtual methods of engagement and paperless systems.

14. Corporate implications

14.1 By submitting this report, the report author has taken the following into account:

- Community safety implications
 - Environmental implications
 - ICT implications
 - Asset management implications
 - Procurement implications
 - Human resources implications
 - Planning implications
 - Data protection implications
 - Voluntary sector
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Background papers:

Appendix A – Hinckley and Bosworth Prevent Plan

Appendices B and C – Hinckley and Bosworth Venue Hire Policy and Guidance

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