

<b>CABINET REPORT</b>	<b>AGENDA ITEM No. 9</b>
<b>18 NOVEMBER 2019</b>	<b>PUBLIC REPORT</b>

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Irene Walsh, Cabinet Member for Communities	
Contact Officer(s):	Rob Hill – Assistant Director Public Protection	Tel. 07815 558081

**PREVENT STRATEGY REFRESH – 2019 - 2021**

<b>R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S</b>	
<b>FROM :</b> <i>Rob Hill – Assistant Director Public Protection-Community and Safety Directorate</i>	<b>Deadline date :</b> <i>N/A</i>
It is recommended that Cabinet endorse the proposed combined Peterborough City Council and Cambridgeshire County Council Prevent Strategy 2019 -2021.	

**1. ORIGIN OF REPORT**

1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee held on 1 July 2019.

**2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT**

2.1 The Purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with an overview of the proposed combined Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Prevent Strategy, and for Cabinet to consider approval of the proposed strategy.

2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.4, “To promote the Council’s corporate and key strategies and Peterborough’s Community Strategy and approve strategies and cross-cutting programmes not included within the Council’s major policy and budget framework.”

**3. TIMESCALE**

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	<b>NO</b>	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	<b>N/A</b>
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**4. MAIN BODY OF REPORT**

4.1 The Counter Terrorism and Security Act received Royal Assent on 12 February 2015 and states a specified authority must, in the exercise of its functions, have ‘due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.’ Cambridgeshire County Council and Peterborough City Council have a duty to work together, and with local partners to actively prevent people from being drawn into terrorism.

4.2 The purpose of the National Prevent Strategy (2011) is to stop people from being drawn into terrorism or supporting terrorist activities. Whilst the percentage of people willing to support violent extremism in the UK is small, evidence identifies that terrorist and violent extremist organisations exploit vulnerabilities to spread their rhetoric and gain support. Understanding and targeting these factors is crucial to prevent radicalisation and minimise the risks it poses to the national security.

- 4.3 The Government has recently announced changes, titled Project Dovetail, to the Prevent agenda, currently expected to be affecting Cambridgeshire and Peterborough late in 2020. This will see the lead for Prevent move from the Police to Local Authorities, with an expectation that local authorities will monitor and manage Prevent referrals from then on.
- 4.4 The original Prevent Strategy for Peterborough was last updated in 2016. Since the plan was approved, there have been a number of changes in the way Cambridgeshire and Peterborough Councils operate. With the announcement of Project Dovetail it was decided that the strategy should be updated to combine Cambridgeshire and Peterborough's processes.
- 4.5 The strategy forms part of the multi-agency delivery plan held by the Cambridgeshire Partnership Prevent Delivery Board. At the moment the Partnership Board is chaired by the Police Prevent Lead for Cambridgeshire. The multi-agency delivery plan confers on the local authority and its partners shared responsibility for training, safeguarding, and raising awareness. As part of this delivery all frontline staff should be trained to recognise the signs of prevent and the procedures for making a referral to Channel Panel. Additionally all staff should be aware of the prevent agenda, and be able to promote the importance of the prevent duty both internally and to the community. With these measures in place all staff should be able to support the community to challenge extremist views.
- 4.6 Across Cambridgeshire the Assistant Director for Public Protection on behalf of both Authorities will coordinate Prevent delivery. The Prevent duty guidance published alongside the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015 sets an expectation that the coordinator will:
- Establish or make use of an existing local multi-agency group to agree risk and co-ordinate prevent activity.
  - Use the existing counter-terrorism local profiles to begin to assess the risk of individuals being drawn into terrorism.
  - Engage with Prevent coordinators, schools, universities, colleges, local prisons, probation services, health, immigration enforcement and others as part of the risk assessment process.
  - Mainstream the prevent duty so it becomes part of the day-to-day work of the authority, in particular children's safeguarding.
  - Any local authority that assesses, through the multi-agency group, that there is a risk will be expected to develop a Prevent action plan.
  - Ensure frontline staff have a good understanding of Prevent, are trained to recognise vulnerability to being drawn into terrorism and are aware of available programmes to deal with this issue.

To achieve this, single points of contact (SPOC) have been identified across the county with the expectation that they will maintain delivery activity for their respective service areas, which will be part of the Prevent Delivery Board.

#### 4.7 ***Channel Panel***

The Channel Panel is a safeguarding programme aimed at supporting individuals identified as vulnerable to being drawn into violent extremism or terrorist related activity. As with other safeguarding practices Channel is reliant on a multi-agency response and multi-disciplinary work to minimise and manage the risk to an individual. Channel is voluntary and so the individual must provide consent. It draws on existing collaboration between local authorities, the police, statutory partners and the local community. PCC/CCC operate a combined Channel Panel led by the Head of the Youth Support Services who is required to report into the Prevent Delivery Board.

#### 4.8 **Prevent Member leads**

The Home Office Prevent Toolkit recommends that a member lead is selected to assist with Prevent delivery. For Cambridgeshire County Council this is Cllr Mark Goldsack and for Peterborough City Council this is Cllr Irene Walsh. The member leads are responsible for:

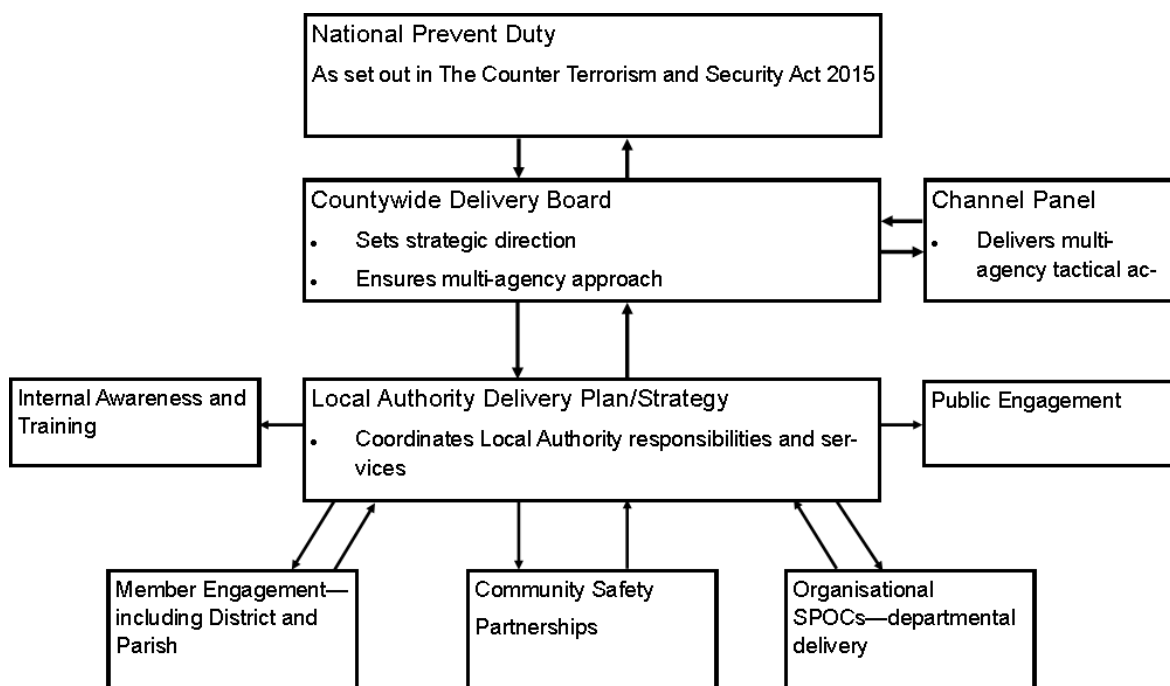
- Ensuring that other elected members are fully briefed on key work in Prevent and how it will affect other portfolio areas.
- Encouraging open discussion and transparent decision-making.
- Ensuring Prevent priorities are reflected in the work of the local authority and keeping
- Prevent partnerships aligned with other local plans.
- Attending meetings to ensure that recommendations and decisions of the partnership are fed into local leadership arrangements.
- Raising community concerns and supporting community engagement.
- Embedding Prevent issues in the policy and decision-making processes of the local authority and championing the mainstreaming of Prevent.
- Helping the partnership to secure funds and resources to address community concerns.

#### 4.9 **SPOC Delivery Plan**

Each delivery SPOC will hold an Action Plan designed and delivered under the following principles:

- Communities are key to preventing terrorism and central to the successful delivery of the Action Plan
- Prevent is everyone’s business and therefore awareness will be mandatory for all specified authorities, including their commissioned services
- Actions taken will always be proportionate to the risk identified for Cambridgeshire
- Prevent is part of the wider safeguarding agenda and thus will focus on providing support and re-direction to vulnerable individuals at risk of being drawn into terrorism from an early stage

#### 4.10 **Prevent Delivery Structure**



## **5. CONSULTATION**

- 5.1 Consultation has been held across Peterborough and Cambridgeshire with relevant officers to identify departmental 'Single Points Of Contact'.

Consultation has been had with the portfolio holder (Cllr Walsh) who has agreed to be Member lead for Peterborough

This draft agenda was present to Adults and Communities Scrutiny Committee on 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019, who endorsed the approach and asked for this to be brought before Cabinet for approval.

## **6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES**

It is anticipated that Cabinet will consider the draft strategy and views of the scrutiny committee, and consider approval to adopting this.

## **7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

To improve local authority response to Prevent, ensuring we have a structured approach to delivery that applies across both Peterborough and Cambridgeshire.

## **8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

To continue with Peterborough only strategy. Not suitable as we need to unify the approach across the county in preparation for Op Dovetail (as per 4.3 above)

## **9. IMPLICATIONS**

### **9.1 Financial**

There are no specific financial implications from this strategy refresh. No budget is attached to Prevent. It is a strategic coordination partnership.

### **9.2 Legal**

The strategy was designed to ensure that the Council meets its statutory and legal obligations regarding the Counter Terrorism and Security Act 2015.

### **9.3 Equalities**

The strategy focuses attention on tackling extremism wherever it exists, recognising that this may be driven by cultural, religious or ethnic discriminatory attitudes. Our strategy will deliver our Prevent duty in a proportionate and fair way, working closely with all communities impacted and ensuring consideration is given to any conflict with the Equality Act 2010 and the Human Rights Act 1998:

- Staff training will include an overview equality and human rights to ensure actions are proportionate, balanced and necessary
- The prevent lead will conduct a thorough assessment of action plans to consider equality and human rights implications
- Prevent actions will be carried out in a timely and effective manner to minimise impact on vulnerable victims and communities who may be adversely affected by radicalisation

### **9.4 Carbon Impact Assessment**

A carbon impact assessment has been undertaken in relation to this decision and the resulting impact would be zero.

## **BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

- Adults and Communities Scrutiny Report – 1<sup>st</sup> July 2019
- Proposed Prevent Strategy 2019-2021

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