

Committee:	Date:	Item no.
Police	16 th January 2015	
Policy and Resources	22 nd January 2015	
Community and Children's Services	13 th February 2015	
Safer City Partnership Strategy Group	3 rd March 2015	
Subject: Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill	Public	
Report of: Remembrancer	For Decision	
<p><u>Summary</u></p> <p>This report advises the Committee of the relevant provisions of the Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill. The Bill will place two new duties on the Common Council. First, it will need to have due regard to the need to prevent people from being drawn into terrorism when it exercises functions as a local authority or police authority. Second, it will have to ensure that a panel of persons is in place to identify and provide support to those in the City who are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism.</p> <p>Recommendation:</p> <p>It is recommended that this report be referred to the Town Clerk, the Commissioner of the City of London Police and the Director of Community and Children's Services for consideration of follow-up action required in the light of the Bill.</p>		

Report

1. The Counter-Terrorism and Security Bill was presented to Parliament in November and is expected to be enacted shortly. Attention has focused on measures to restrict the ability of British citizens to return to the United Kingdom after going abroad to participate in terrorist activities, and new obligations on internet service providers to retain usage data. Of greater relevance to the City Corporation, however, are two new duties which are to be placed on local government. They are intended to provide a statutory footing for existing policies such as the 'Prevent' strategy and the 'Channel' programme.
2. First, local authorities (along with various other public bodies) will come under a general duty to "have due regard to the need to prevent people from

being drawn into terrorism.” The duty will apply to the Common Council in the exercise of its functions as a local authority and as a police authority. The Secretary of State will issue guidance about how this duty is to be put into practice. If the Secretary of State considers that an authority is failing adequately to fulfil the duty, then she may issue binding directions in order to secure its performance.

3. Second, each local authority (including the Common Council acting in that capacity) will have to ensure that a panel of persons is in place for its area with the function of assessing the extent to which identified individuals are vulnerable to being drawn into terrorism. The panel must include representatives of the local authority and the chief officer of police for the area. It will be possible for more than one local authority to establish a joint panel for their combined area. If the panel considers that any individual should be offered support to reduce his vulnerability, then it will be able to prepare a “support plan” for the individual and make arrangements for its implementation. Alternatively, the panel will be able to refer individuals to health or social care services. Certain partner bodies will be obliged to co-operate in the work of the panel, including the Government, other local authorities and police forces, the prison and probation services, NHS bodies, and education and child-care providers.
4. There will be a need to review the extent to which the work currently undertaken by the Common Council as local authority and police authority, as well as related institutions such as the City-sponsored schools, in combating radicalisation and other terrorism issues will need to be adapted in order to reflect the new statutory scheme.

Recommendation:

5. It is recommended that this report be referred to the Town Clerk, the Commissioner of the City of London Police and the Director of Community and Children’s Services for consideration of follow-up action required in the light of the Bill.

Contact:

Sam Cook,
Barrister (Parliamentary Affairs), Remembrancer’s Office,
020 7332 3045,
sam.cook@cityoflondon.gov.uk.