



Andover Town Council

Item No.

To **receive** and **approve** initial recommendations below to ensure implementation of counter terrorism measures under the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025

To: Policy and Resources Committee

From: Town Clerk

Date of Report: 17 July 2025

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are:

Clerk-Councillor Collaboration

The Town Clerk shall ensure timely and accurate updates are provided to this Committee and Full Council.

Progress Reporting

A progress report shall be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in January 2026, outlining actions taken and any further requirements identified.

Background:

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025 ('the Act') became law on 3 April 2025. It is known as Martyn's law, after Martyn Hett, who was killed in the Manchester Arena attack. The law is intended to improve counter-terrorism preparedness across the UK. It is expected that further regulations and guidance will follow, and that the implementation period will be at least 24 months.

Advice

Policy advice from the Home Office sets out that the new Act requires certain premises and events to ensure steps have been taken to prepare for potential terrorist attacks and get ready to help keep people safe should there be an attack¹. In addition, certain larger premises and events will be required to consider and, where appropriate, take steps to reduce their vulnerability to acts of terrorism. Steps must be 'reasonably practical' and could be as simple as locking doors, closing shutters, and identifying safe routes to cover.

A regulator will be established through a new function of the Security Industry Authority to support, advise and guide those responsible for premises and events in meeting the requirements of this legislation.

The Act defines the premises and events that are in scope as well as the persons responsible for compliance. Examples of qualifying premises are shops, sports grounds, and hotels. Events are those that take place in defined premises, are accessible to the public and likely to involve at least 800 people. 'Persons responsible' under the Act are those people who are in control of the premises or events.

The current national security level is substantial and has been for some time. This means a terrorist attack is likely.

Council's responsibilities

In advance of more detailed guidance being published, an initial assessment shows that Andover Town Council's responsibilities are likely to be minimal. The Council controls no premises, but Officers occupy offices in the Chantry Centre, which is likely to qualify. The Council also uses the Guildhall and The Lights, which are also likely to meet the criteria.

¹ [Terrorism \(Protection of Premises\) Bill 2024: factsheets - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1031111/Terrorism-Act-2025-factsheets.pdf)

In terms of Council events, the Act may not apply to parks, for example Pocket Park or Vigo Park, as they do not appear to be attached to a building. Nevertheless, security arrangements at events such as Andover Pride should also be a priority.

Risks

There are potential risks to:

- Officers, Councillors and visitors to the Council office at the Chantry Centre, Guildhall and the Lights if no security arrangements are put in place to deal with terrorism; and
- Andover Town Council in meeting its duties as an employer.

There is a further risk that putting security arrangements in place will be hindered by ongoing uncertainty around Local Government Reorganisation during the implementation period.

Legal implications

The Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025; Health and Safety at Work Act 1974.

Financial implications

There are no budget implications for the recommendations.

Recommendations:

1. **Clerk-Councillor Collaboration**
The Town Clerk shall ensure timely and accurate updates are provided to this Committee and Full Council.
2. **Progress Reporting**
A progress report shall be presented to the Policy and Resources Committee in January 2026, outlining actions taken and any further requirements identified.