

# ACT for Local Authorities

ACT for Local Authorities is an initiative led by Counter Terrorism Policing (CTP) to support local authorities to engage with counter terrorism protective security and preparedness experts to embed counter terrorism considerations into day-to-day council activity.

Local authorities either own or have influence over the land and activities which occur in public spaces. By mitigating terrorist risks through protective security and preparedness activity, with the support of counter terrorism experts, local authorities are in a unique position to enhance the safety and security of public spaces for their communities.

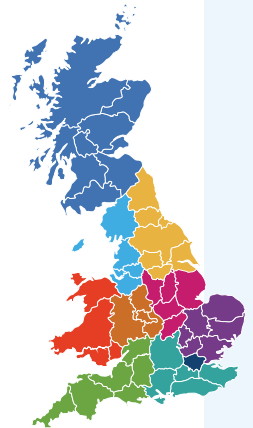
ACT for Local Authorities is separate, yet complementary, to the Terrorism (Protection of Premises) Act 2025, also known as Martyn's Law. While Martyn's Law places greater responsibility on individual qualifying premises

and events to enhance their counter terrorism planning, ACT for Local Authorities addresses counter terrorism planning holistically across public spaces, which are either owned, managed, or influenced by local authorities.

Five areas of local authority activity — community safety, emergency planning, licensing, planning and development, and transport and highways — are the focus of this initiative. CTP wish to work more closely with local government across these five areas to improve protective security and preparedness at a local level.

ACT for Local Authorities has been designed by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) and will be delivered by Counter Terrorism Security Advisors (CTSAs) and Counter Terrorism Prepare Officers (CTPOs) across ten of the UK's CTP regions:

- North East
- North West
- East Midlands
- West Midlands
- South West
- London and the City of London
- South East
- Eastern
- Wales
- Scotland



## Community Safety

Counter terrorism often aligns with community safety workstreams, including crime reduction, hate crime awareness, community tension monitoring, and the use of CCTV. ACT for Local Authorities aims to strengthen relationships between CTAs and community safety teams to ensure that protective security and preparedness are leveraged within existing community safety resources.

## Emergency Planning

ACT for Local Authorities seeks to enhance collaboration so that CTP Protect and Prepare can support local authority emergency planners by raising awareness of the risks and potential impacts of terrorism, provide relevant threat information, signpost to appropriate guidance, and promote training products, such as the Action Counters Terrorism (ACT) and See, Check, and Notify (SCaN) products.



## Licensing

Local authority licensing activities can incorporate protective security and preparedness considerations to have a significant impact on safety and security outcomes, including by encouraging or mandating measures in license applications. CTP will also support local authorities to understand the Sensitive Information in Licensing Applications (SILA) process, so that licensing applications cannot be used by hostile actors.

## Planning and Development

Considering security early in the planning process is vital to identify potential terrorist risks and vulnerabilities. This allows for the design of built environments that deter threats, facilitate quick emergency response, and promote a sense of safety. Through ACT for Local Authorities, CTP can support local planning authorities to enable adoption of protective security recommendations.

## Transport and Highways

Local authority transport and highways networks can be vulnerable to terrorist activity, both as a potential target and as a resource for terrorists to exploit. CTP can support local authorities to address these vulnerabilities through hostile vehicle mitigation (HVM) measures and training of council transport and highways staff who are valuable 'eyes and ears' of the local area.

