

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 26 January 2021

City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures Update Report

Executive/routine Wards Council Commitments	Routine City Centre 15, 16, 46, 51
---------------------------------------------------	----------------------------------------------------------

1. Recommendations

- 1.1 It is recommended that Committee:
- 1.1.1 notes that the officer working group progressed the assessment of the suitability of type, position, and cost of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) installations at prioritised sites in the city centre up until “lockdown” in March 2020;
 - 1.1.2 notes the proposed extension of activity to include external partners to allow joint planning for any installations;
 - 1.1.3 approves the working group recommendation that all statutory and project planning for the city centre public realm going forward includes consideration of HVM measures at key sites;
 - 1.1.4 notes that a further update report will be prepared following return to normal working conditions to outline the findings from the working group and to provide details of the anticipated cost and how it will be funded; and
 - 1.1.5 approves the continued liaison with Police Scotland and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), as appropriate, to develop the protective scheme proposals.

Paul Lawrence

Executive Director of Place

Contact: John McNeill. Senior Public Safety Officer

E-mail: john.mcneill@edinburgh.gov.uk | Tel: 0131 529 4559

City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures Update Report

2. Executive Summary

- 2.1 This report updates Committee on the progress of the project to install safety measures in the city centre to protect crowded places from the threat of a hostile vehicle being used as a weapon (VAW).
- 2.2 It is proposed that the working group continues to gather information and to bring forward recommendations for the future installation of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures in the city.

3. Background

- 3.1 HVMs were provided to the city by the Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) in 2017 to mitigate the risks associated with VAW.
- 3.2 A working group was established in 2019 to consider options for the city to introduce HVM at locations across the city where VAW could be deployed.
- 3.3 It was noted in the previous [report](#) that it is essential that HVM measures are considered when public realm developments and/or events in the public realm are planned and that these measures should be demountable, where possible, and, as far as possible, are in keeping with the surrounding landscape and built environment. Discussions have been on-going with project staff for several city centre projects to incorporate HVM measures into the designs, e.g. King's Theatre redevelopment, George Street / City Centre Transformation, Meadows to George Street cycleway, Picardy Place etc.
- 3.4 The Centre for Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI) have not indicated a terminal date for the current National Barrier Asset (NBA) but are encouraged to see that the city is working towards a replacement for their assets.
- 3.5 The in-house temporary system is retained and can be deployed at events in the city where a risk from VAW had been identified. These events may include Summertime Streets, REMT, various Festival sites, Christmas and Hogmanay activities.

- 3.6 As noted in the last report, a Working Group meeting took place on 17 April 2019. At this meeting one of the preferred option gates was presented. The flexibility in the final appearance of this type of gate was explained, showing it can be tailored to the requirements of the city (see Appendix 1).
- 3.7 A briefing on the up to date position was circulated on 29 November 2020 to Elected Members and Council Officers involved in project design.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The working group met on 23 and 29 May 2019 and 28 January 2020 to discuss HVM locations for the High Street in more detail and to explore the potential for a pilot installation in conjunction with proposed Public Realm road works to the High Street/Jeffrey Street/St Mary's Street junction, including the sharing of subterranean investigation research on utilities etc.
- 4.2 The meetings resulted in the potential to install a pilot gate in the High Street between the junction and John Knox House, giving a design and build timeline together with more accurate costs for much of the rest of the scheme.
- 4.3 This would provide a potential opportunity to pilot the installation of a proposed HVM gate, although this location is considered a second-tier priority.
- 4.4 The Council, through the Working Group, will continue to progress liaison with venue owners and managers like the University of Edinburgh, the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) etc. to develop a partnership approach to the installation of HVM measures.
- 4.5 Locations for permanent fixtures will be kept under review in line with Public Realm works and other emerging proposals.
- 4.6 Initial consideration of the introduction of HVMs in the city have concluded that it is preferred for any measures to be demountable and deployed only when and where required, to minimise impact on pedestrians, cyclists and those enjoying Edinburgh's public realm and the appreciation of the city centre. The only proposal where this may not be possible would be at Mound Place where a section of stone wall may require to be constructed to define the line of protection. The wall design will be considered alongside planning requirements for the locale and the Meadows to George Street cycleway project.
- 4.7 The Council will still retain the ability to deploy the portable, temporary assets which can be used to protect one-off events in areas where there is no permanent protection.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 It is proposed that the working group continues to progress discussions on the design and costs of HVMs.

- 5.2 Briefings for Elected Members will be set up to consider design criteria for the final pattern of the gates at the appropriate time.
- 5.3 The installation of the pilot gate in the High Street will remain on the project planning agenda as it would assist in the final preparation of a business case for the project as accurate costs and timelines could then be set.
- 5.4 Engagement with partner organisations to investigate the suitability of locations for mitigation within their property and to seek funding partnerships where appropriate will continue.
- 5.5 Continue to consider second priority areas that occasionally become crowded places for events and festivals e.g. George Square, George Street, Cowgate, parts of the Royal Mile, etc, then third priority areas that very occasionally become crowded places due to circumstances such as building evacuations or high-level events, such as the Playhouse, and E.I.C.C. etc.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The full cost of the installing and maintaining of HVM measures is still to be calculated and, to a great extent will be based on final product choice exact number and location of gates, bollards etc.
- 6.2 There is currently no dedicated funding for the installation of these measures within the Council's capital budget, although limited funding is integrated into budgets for wider public realm improvements. Similarly, there is no revenue budget available to maintain the measures once they are installed.
- 6.3 A future report will set out the full cost and funding solutions for consideration by members, although timescales on this are uncertain due to the current pandemic.

7. Stakeholder/Community Impact

- 7.1 The Working Group is made up of both Council officers and partner agency representatives; the membership will also work with event producers and affected site owners and interested parties going forward.
- 7.2 Partners will be invited to a presentation to be held in March 2021 which will outline the proposals for the areas affected.

8. Background reading/external references

- 8.1 None.

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1 – Lockdown barrier design.

Appendix 1 Examples



London Embankment protecting Houses of Parliament Estate

Square fretwork with blank centre panel.



Windsor Castle

Ring fretwork with blank centre panel

Appendix 1 Electronic renders



Westminster render with rings and crest decal in centre panel



Westminster render with portcullis and crest decal in centre panel

Notes:

- The fretwork is a laser cut panel and can have almost any design cut in to it.
- The centre panel is non-structural and can be completely omitted, have any design applied or left blank for other attachments (street names, traffic signage etc)
- The gates can be any colour