

Culture and Communities Committee

10.00am, Tuesday, 10 September 2019

City Centre Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Measures Update Report

Executive/routine

Wards

City Centre

Council Commitments

[15](#), [16](#), [46](#), [51](#)

1. Recommendations

1.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- 1.1.1 notes the continuation of the officer working group to ensure a full assessment of the suitability of type, position, and cost of Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) installations at prioritised sites in the city centre is undertaken;
- 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 planning for city centre public realm going forward includes consideration of HVM measures at key sites;
- 1.1.3 notes that a further update report will be prepared within six months to outline the findings from the working group and to provide details of the anticipated financial impact; and
- 1.1.4 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 an officer working group which has been tasked with maintaining the safety of the city centre, utilising HVM measures.
- 2.2 The working group have already concluded that it is essential that HVM measures are considered at key Council-owned sites within the city centre, when public realm developments and/or events in the public realm are planned. For locations which are not Council-owned, it is suggested that early engagement takes place to request that HVM measures be considered.
- 2.3 The report suggests consideration of demountable HVM measures for the city centre, to ensure that the design and detail is in keeping with the surrounding landscape and built environment.
- 2.4 It is proposed that the working group continues its work to gather information and to bring forward recommendations for the future deployment of HVM in the city.

3. Background

- 3.1 The Council is responsible for overseeing the safe operation of public roads and footways and has a duty to protect the public using them. Safe and confident pedestrian movement through the public realm is obviously important to people living, working, and visiting the city.
- 3.2 The Council also works with event organisers and “venue” owners, when relevant spaces are used for events, or when they become crowded with an influx of visitors to the city when events are taking place, as with summer and winter festivals.
- 3.3 Although not a new or unique phenomenon, by summer 2017 there was a sharp rise in the number of vehicle borne attacks on crowded places throughout the world, particularly in Europe, that were considered terrorist incidents.

- 3.4 All of these incidents involved fatalities and serious injuries to members of the public.
- 3.5 The CPNI works throughout the UK identifying places and events most at risk from vehicle borne attack. Edinburgh, particularly during the summer Festival, was identified as at risk, with the crowds gathering for the Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo (REMT) and the Festival Fringe's High Street. These two locations were considered the highest priority but were not the only areas to be identified for mitigation measures.
- 3.6 The CPNI and Police Scotland advised that the best course of action available at the time (pre-summer Festival 2017) would be the installation of the National Barrier Asset (NBA), located in six strategic points to protect these areas. These were deployed at no cost to the Council and have remained in place. These assets are temporary and CPNI have confirmed that they cannot be considered as a long-term solution in the city as deployment is reviewed regularly and alternative sites may be identified in future as higher priority requiring the redeployment of the NBAs.
- 3.7 Council officers developed an in-house temporary system for deployment at other sites. This asset was recognised as a robust method of dissuading and slowing attack. These barriers were deployed as prototypes for the Castle Concerts 2017 (locations and examples are shown in appendix 1).
- 3.8 An officer working group was established to consider city centre HVM measures and to research options for replacement of the NBA installations. The group was also asked to look at locations which become "crowded places" at events throughout of the year. The group remit covers HVM only.
- 3.9 Working group meetings took place on 31 October 2018, 21 November 2018 and 11 December 2018, with group membership extended to include specialist Security Advisors from Police Scotland. The extended group also attended a presentation on market products on 17 April 2019. Meetings took place on site in June 2019 involving Council officers and representatives from Police Scotland and the UK Police National Vehicle Threat Mitigation Unit
- 3.10 The CPNI commissioned two reports on the requirements for HVM measures in the city and include indicative costs for the two main priority areas (REMT and the Edinburgh Festival Fringe High Street event) and several other areas for permanent measures, e.g. George Street and George Square.
- 3.11 It is the view of the National Counter Terrorism Policing Unit (Unit) that all temporary deployments, like Edinburgh, should be developed to permanent or semi-permanent installations.
- 3.12 It should be noted that there is no intention of removing the protection without prior consultation and an understanding of the plans that the city will have in place to implement a longer-term solution.
- 3.13 The installation or deployment of NBAs needs to take account of the legislative requirements which apply and the design will need to take account of the surroundings.

4. Main report

- 4.1 The Council is committed to protecting and enhancing the city’s environment and economy. Several of the Council’s Commitments recognise the positive impact that good quality public spaces have in contributing to the city’s success as a place in which people want to live, work and visit. The effect of this is that the streetscape becomes an attractive option for events. This, in turn, creates “crowded places” which have been shown to be potential targets for attack. It is therefore essential that, in continuing to attract residents and visitors into to the city, the Council ensures that people can enjoy relatively safe environments.
- 4.2 This report recommends that all planning for city centre public realm going forward includes the recommendations of the working group looking into HVM measures at key sites in the city centre.
- 4.3 Locations for permanent fixtures should be kept under review in line with emerging proposals for City Centre Transformation (CCT) in order to develop the most flexible, secure and efficient layout for HVM measures and to avoid remedial work associated with planned changes to street and movement priorities. This includes projects such as:
 - 4.3.1 George Street and First New Town;
 - 4.3.2 Meadows to George Street;
 - 4.3.3 Picardy Place; and
 - 4.3.4 City Centre East-West Cycle Link.
- 4.4 Other locations will considered as required (e.g. Grassmarket, Cowgate and Festival Square/Lothian Road).
- 4.5 In addition to the work undertaken on land which the Council is responsible for, it is proposed to engage with developers for sites outwith the Council’s responsibilities Where development is taking place that is out-with Council ownership then Council officers should try to engage with the developer at as early a stage as possible in the design to ensure that the need for HVM measures is considered.
- 4.6 The working group have heard that it would be desirable 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.
- 4.7 Recognising that the barriers will be visible in prominent locations of historic significance for key periods within the year, measures should be located with consideration to surrounding built and natural features, and where possible include bespoke elements and paint finishes. Bespoke designs should be inter-changeable with any of the potential locations proposed.

- 4.8 In this respect, the use of combinations of demountable bollards, gates and gate posts in socketed systems would provide the desired security benefits but also minimise the disruption to surfacing of wide cordons of bollards. The Hyde Park example in Appendix 2 could work well in an historic setting.
- 4.9 The Council will still retain the ability to deploy the portable, temporary assets which can be used to protect one-off events in areas without permanent protection.

5. Next Steps

- 5.1 It is proposed that the working group progress final designs and costs for the six priority areas, including instructions for full surveys of utility services and other subterranean issues (construction, archaeology etc).
- 5.2 Preparation of a business case for the purchase of appropriate HVM measures for the city (based on the design and locations identified).
- 5.3 Continued engagement with partner organisations to investigate the suitability of locations for mitigation within their property and to seek funding partnerships where appropriate.
- 5.4 A briefing for Ward Councillors and community stakeholders in affected wards will be arranged by the end November 2019.
- 5.5 The Working Group will 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, E.I.C.C. etc.

6. Financial impact

- 6.1 The full cost of the installations is not known at this time. Further work must be done on the type and exact positions of the recommended measures, utility relocation etc. alongside potential funding sources with partnerships to be investigated. Some utility surveys have been carried out as part of current public realm road works.
- 6.2 The work undertaken to date indicates that costs are likely to be substantial given the nature of the likely interventions. Indications to date are in the realm of £2-3m. The business case to be developed will include detailed financial costs.

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.

8. Background reading/external references

8.1 None.

9. Appendices

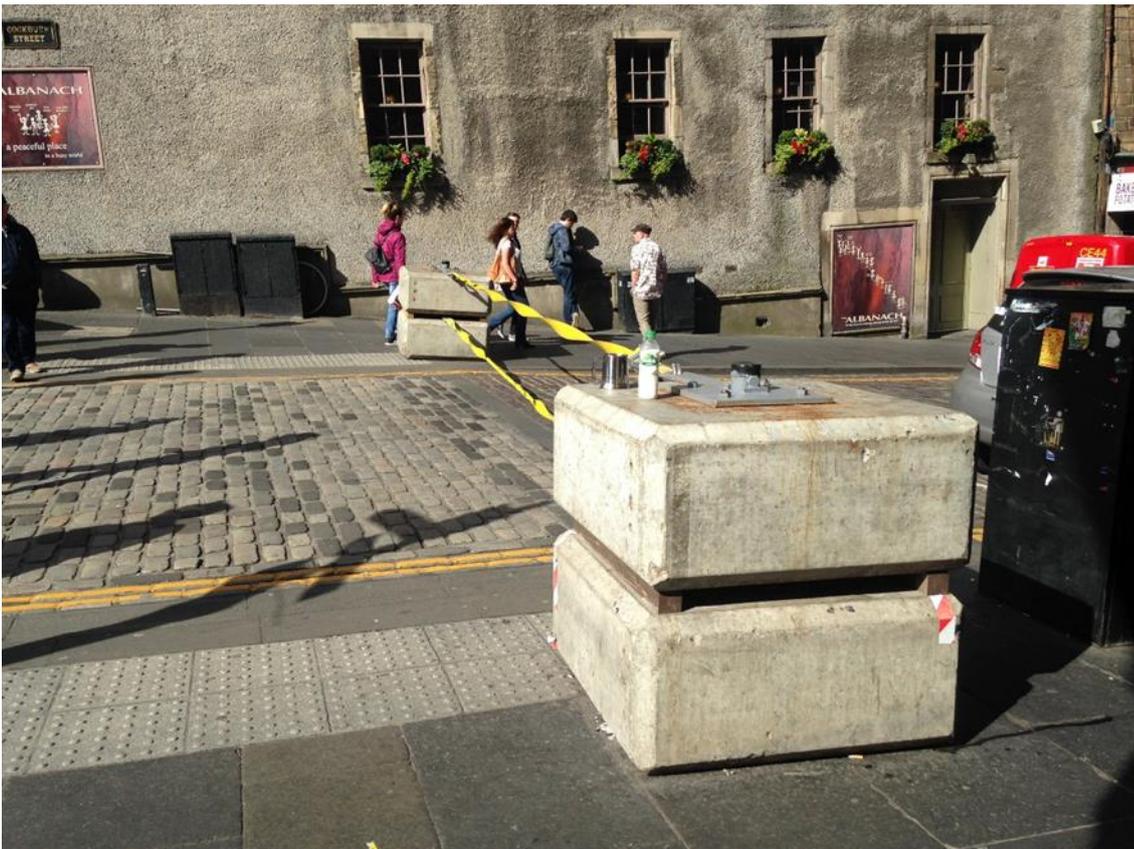
9.1 Appendix 1 – Council Barrier Asset Locations and Examples

9.2 Appendix 2 - Hyde Park barrier installation

Appendix 1 Council Barrier Asset Locations and Examples

Locations of temporary asset deployment

- George Street - summer and winter Festivals;
- George Square - summer Festival;
- Bristo Square - summer Festival;
- Holyrood Palace - Royal Week/Garden Party;
- Virgin Festival Fireworks; and
- Start points of large on-street marches and parades.





Appendix 2 - Hyde Park barrier installation

