

## **SECURITY PROTECTED – NOT FOR SHARING**

### **Bath City Centre Security Cabinet Member Briefing**

Following a number of terrorist attacks in the UK and mainland Europe in 2016 and early 2017, The National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) undertook a Counter-Terrorism Security Survey on Bath City Centre in September 2016. The Design & Projects Group, together with officers from other key areas across the Council were tasked with considering 6 possible Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures to protect the public in the most crowded spaces of the city centre, which included the Christmas Market.

Outside of central London, Bath contains some of the highest levels of footfall, which is unsurprising given its World Heritage Status and the number of iconic buildings both old and new within its central core, which attracts large visitor numbers on a regular basis.

The most frequent attack method used has been Vehicle as a Weapon (VAW) and driving into a crowd or group of pedestrians, but Vehicle Borne Improvised Explosive Devices (VBIED) have also been used. Appropriate and considered HVM solutions within the public realm will prevent these types of attack, although Person Borne IED's and layered or individual bladed/ blunt force weapon attacks are less easy to counteract within a HVM strategy. It should be recognised that layered attacks could be nullified if the attack driver is disabled if driven into PAS rated security bollards.

The National Counter-Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO) undertook a Counter-Terrorism Security Survey on Bath City Centre in September 2016; whereby Bath was identified as a 'Crowded Place'; with particular focus on the areas around Bath Abbey and the Roman Baths. NaCTSO consider the risk from terrorists who may seek to target the large crowds of people associated with Bath City Centre in an effort to cause maximum casualties.

The report identified where the City is vulnerable and where the overall risk to the City is raised. By taking action to address these identified vulnerabilities, the likelihood and impact and therefore the risk to the area is reduced.

The impact of terrorism can include death and injury to staff and customers, economic harm and disruption to businesses and reputation and loss of public confidence.

The likelihood of such an attack taking place is based on a combination of threat and vulnerability. There is currently no specific information to suggest that Bath is under increased threat. The current general terrorist threat to the UK is 'Severe' which means that an attack is highly likely. Such an attack could take place anywhere in the UK.

The below statistics show the scale of the threat faced from terrorism in the UK (published date 24th October 2018):

- Currently, the UK has hit a record of 700 live terror investigations (80% Islamist related / 20% Other - including Extreme Right-Wing)
- 23 attacks were stopped in the last 4 years
- Since the Westminster attack in March 2017, 13 Islamist plots have been foiled and 4 Extreme Right-Wing plots have been foiled.

*Research Institute RAND Europe estimated that, for the period 2004-2016, the cost of terrorism to the UK economy was £38.6 billion – the highest in Europe.*

**Manchester Bombing 1996** – 40% of businesses affected by the Manchester bomb never recovered.

**London Bridge** – The closure of Borough Market and denial of access caused by extensive cordons following the London Bridge attack was estimated to cost £1.4 million. This was mainly borne by smaller and medium sized businesses. The local economy took 6-9 months to return to the level it had been prior to the attack.

### **Economic Impact of Tourism for Bath**

On a local level, the value of tourism in **Bath & North East Somerset 2016** (The Economic Impact of Bath and North East Somerset's Visitor Economy 2016, The South West Research Company Ltd, January 2018):

#### **Visits**

4,783,000 Day visits  
1,161,900 Staying visitor trips  
3,410,000 Staying visitor nights

#### **Spend**

£181,350,000 Day visitor spend  
£235,616,000 Staying visitor spend  
£13,600,000 Other related spend

**£430,566,000 total visitor spend**

#### **Employment in the Visitor Economy**

8,830 Estimated actual employment  
6,481 FTE employment  
10% Proportion of all employment in B&NES

The figures below indicate the visitor number for the calendar year 2018 into Bath & North East Somerset Council's Heritage Services:

Roman Baths – 1,191,930  
Fashion Museum – 100,469  
Victoria Art Gallery – 185,486

Heritage Services' turnover in 2018/19 was £23.3m and £22.2m in 2017/18. Our local effect is to lever £105m p.a. into the local economy.

If Bath was the subject of a terrorist attack, the cost to the local economy would be in the hundreds of thousands and potentially millions, with longer-term reputational damage immeasurable.

### **Permanent HVM Solution for Bath City Centre**

The project is being led by Highways, in conjunction with Emergency Planning and the Environment & Design Team, in consultation with Avon and Somerset Constabulary's Counter-Terrorism Security Advisors and NaCTSO.

The principal priority for this project is reducing the vulnerability of the national infrastructure and ensuring crowded places in the city are safe from terrorism. The **primary** focus is the

area around Bath Abbey, including Abbey Churchyard/ Kingston Parade and all accesses and egresses.

Delivery of other HVM measures required elsewhere within the city centre should be prioritised as follows:-

- Southgate/ Lower Borough Walls/ Henry St/ New Orchard St;
- North Parade/ Pulteney Bridge in collaboration with Bath Rugby;
- Cheap St - Westgate St – Saw Close - Upper Borough Walls combined pedestrianisation

Third party funding opportunities will be sought which will include Grants Funding from public bodies and the private sector.

These proposals adhere to the Council's Transport and Public Realm and Movement Strategies and whilst there is no specific constraint upon delivery, there is likely to be an element of overlap within each area. The HVM will be designed to facilitate and compliment future Public Realm Schemes.

The project must also link in with current live projects in York St and Kingsmead Square to advise and ensure that these respective schemes fund appropriate measures for inclusion with the design proposals.

Dialogue will also commence with potential developers regarding their security arrangements and potential for seeking other funding opportunities.

The Highways Design and Project Group are currently reviewing and costing the most appropriate HVM solution; taking into consideration:

- HVM can be operated either manually (e.g. gated system) or mechanically (e.g. rising bollard) or a combination of both. The suitability of one of these systems will depend upon the sub-surface constraints and challenges the city offers, such as shallow services and underground cellars/ vaults.
- Due to the need for service and emergency access the preferred solution is a mechanical systems such as rising or sliding bollards, these require on-going energy, maintenance, monitoring and technical costs as well as staff resourcing to consider.
- Manual systems such as gates would also require suitable resource to operate and maintain the system.
- The standard restriction period for Lower Borough Walls/ Stall St pedestrian area is 10am-6pm daily, but this period might require an extended period, to account for the night time economy. The same consideration may be required where other pedestrian areas with restricted access are proposed. (Cardiff operate their restrictions 24/7, with vehicle access only permitted between midnight and 10 am)
- The restriction periods may want to be extended to account for events in the city centre

The final design solution will need to be monitored 24/7 via surveillance cameras, including ANPR; with a robust maintenance, repair and response contract in place, with identified revenue budgets to support this.

## **Financial Implications**

Following approval of the Bath City Centre Streetscape - Security PID and supporting Business Case, the February Council Report gave full approval for the current £495k of provisional funding for next financial year. This is made up of £445k of CSB and £50k of CIL.

Part of this funding supports a Project Manager based within Highways Design & Project Team to work with key departments and external partners.

This project will facilitate design work, survey work and data to support a further £2.5m anticipated capital investment.

## **Summary**

1. The project will be delivered by Highways and Traffic under the Capital Programme Governance arrangements. A project manager has been appointed who will work as part of a cross Council Team to continue the process previously commenced work, to support the design and delivery measures for a permanent HVM solution for Bath city centre.
2. The priority areas are Abbey Churchyard and Roman Baths
3. The project team will work to support planning policy changes, particularly to new developments and major city centre schemes, for identifying S106 funding for improved security measures and on-going revenue for maintenance, repair and monitoring (as required)
4. The Team will unblock/support dialogue with private and public developers, in line with new planning policy and seek opportunities for third party funding.
5. Opportunities to improve safety and security as part of existing schemes will be a priority alongside quick wins and the development of project designs for more complex areas (some interventions are highways permitted development while others will require additional consents)