

Bath & North East Somerset Council		
MEETING/ DECISION MAKER:	Climate Emergency & Sustainable Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel	
MEETING/ DECISION DATE:	27 June 2022	EXECUTIVE FORWARD PLAN REFERENCE:
TITLE:	City Centre Security Programme Implementation and Security Surveillance Review	
WARD:	All	
AN OPEN PUBLIC ITEM		
List of attachments to this report:		
Please list all the appendices here, clearly indicating any which are exempt and the reasons for exemption		

1 THE ISSUE

- 1.1 The panel has requested an update on the City Centre Security Programme implementation and delivery programme.
- 1.2 In addition, this Report highlights to the Panel the wider strategic approach to security and public safety across Bath and North East Somerset, to aid a greater understanding of the steps being taken ahead of the forthcoming Protect Duty which will increase the responsibility for all local authorities.
- 1.3 This report does not seek to make any recommendations but to present an overview of security and public safety for discussion, before a full report and business case is taken to Cabinet for decision.

2 RECOMMENDATION

The Panel is asked to:

- 2.1 Note the city centre security programme implementation timelines
- 2.2 Note the anticipated legislation and powers with regards to the forthcoming Protect Duty and creation of a Protect & Prepare Board

- 2.3 Give feedback and highlight any concerns or opportunities they wish Officers to take into consideration as we move forward with the Strategic Review of the Council's Security Surveillance project

3 THE REPORT

City Centre Security:

- 3.1 Following a Report to Cabinet in July 2021, approval was given to advertise three Traffic Regulation Orders for Anti-Terrorism purposes to operate:

(1) between 1000 hours and 1800 hours on the following streets:

a) Lower Borough Walls, Stall Street, including Abbeygate Street, Abbey Green, Swallow Street (South), Bath Street and Hot Bath Street

b) York Street; and

c) Cheap Street, Westgate Street, Saw Close, Parsonage Lane and Upper Borough Walls

- with access to the restricted streets also being provided to Blue Badge Holders, carers transporting Blue Badge Holders, and taxi's transporting Blue Badge Holders.

(2) To advertise the TRO between 1800 hours and 2200 hours on York Street, to reflect its proximity to the Roman Baths and to support the increased footfall from Terrace Walk through York Street to the new Clore Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre. The Roman Baths, Clore Learning Centre and World Heritage Centre will, at times, will be open late into the evening

- 3.2 On 1 January 2022, the TRO's in relation to 3.1(1)a and (1)c came into effect. The two TRO's in relation to York Street, were the subject of a Public Inquiry on 26 April 2022, when an objection to the Orders could not be resolved. The public inquiry heard evidence from a number of stakeholders and objectors to the scheme including from Avon and Somerset Police who initiated the proposals.

- 3.3 York Street was subject to a Public Inquiry, with the Inspector's decision received on 8 June, which recommended the TRO's be made. As the Order seeks to restrict access to all vehicles for 12 hours per day, in accordance with the statutory requirements, Secretary of State approval is now being sought. Until such time York Street will remain open.

- 3.4 The streets that are closed are currently managed by temporary barriers and security marshals.

- 3.5 The Council is now moving forward with replacing with a permanent scheme.

- 3.6 This will see a series of sliding PAS 68* rated bollards at the entry points, supported by PAS 68* rated static bollards alongside. Entry will be managed via a video management system, controlled by the Council's CCTV team. Additional static bollards will be installed at other points of entry, eg Southgate Street and New Orchard Street.

*PAS 68 is a publicly available specification (PAS) for impact testing and rating hostile vehicle mitigation products such as bollards, blockers and barriers used for security and counter-terrorism purposes, in line with CPNI guidance

3.7 Pre-trial investigative works were undertaken in 2021 at these locations, to help establish existing cellar locations and the presence of statutory undertakers apparatus.

3.8 A programme of works will now commence in June 2022 and is dependent on the prior diversion of statutory undertakers' equipment at the sliding bollard locations. Works Orders have been issued to the various statutory undertakers and their programmes of work are awaited. Once this initial work has been carried out works will commence on the provision of sliding and static bollards. It is envisaged that this will commence in August 2022 and with all works to be completed by of 31 March 2023.

3.9 Works on the sliding and static bollards will be phased to ensure we maintain access to the city streets for pedestrians, cyclists and vehicles which are exempt from the access restrictions. However, it should be noted that diversion routes will be in place in some locations during construction:

Works to be Undertaken	Timescales
Statutory Undertakers diversion of equipment (cables/pipes)	Commence late June/July 2022 Up to 6 Weeks at each location (phased) – Statutory Undertaker work programmes awaited
Advanced Ducting for video management system	Commence late June/ July 2022
Installation of sliding/static bollards	Commence August 2022 8 weeks at each location (phased)
Completion	31 March 2023

3.10 Due to the unique nature of the city and highway construction, there are a number of challenges within the programme. These include working above existing vaults and cellars, working in close proximity to statutory undertakers apparatus and maintaining access to the restricted streets for exempt vehicles. A full risk assessment of all elements of the construction has been completed and the overall RAG rating remains Red due to the complexity of the project.

3.11 To inform and engage with all parties during the construction phase of the work, a comprehensive communications plan has been drawn up, which includes:

- (1) Business and Residents Pre-Engagement Meetings and Webinars
- (2) On site points of contact with both contractors and council officers

- (3) Website updates, including regular e:newsletters
 - (4) Direct communication to Blue Badge holders, for those whose details we hold
- 3.12 Governance for the Project is managed through the City Centre Security Project Board, chaired by the Director of Place Management, alongside the Cabinet Members for Transport and Resources.
- 3.13 The Police have asked the Council to consider a wider ATTRO, and we will discuss any next steps on this proposal once we have delivered the current ATTRO

Protect Duty:

- 3.14 The government's counter-terrorism strategy is called CONTEST. The Council is a member of the Avon & Somerset CONTEST Board. CONTEST has 4 strategic frameworks:
- (1) **Pursue:** to stop terrorist attacks;
 - (2) **Prevent:** to stop people becoming terrorists or supporting terrorism;
 - (3) **Protect:** to strengthen our protection against a terrorist attack; and
 - (4) **Prepare:** to mitigate the impact of a terrorist attack.
- 3.15 As set out by Ministers as part of the consultation on the Protect Duty:

"The United Kingdom has suffered a number of recent low-sophistication terror attacks at public spaces, in addition to the devastation of larger-scale atrocities such as that at the Manchester Arena. The targeting of such locations is usually an individual choice which cannot always be anticipated. Attacks could potentially occur at any location, and preventing them can prove challenging, highlighting the Government's decision to consider what more could be done to improve public protection.

There is currently no legislative requirement for organisations to consider or employ security measures at the vast majority of public places. Many organisations choose to implement their own security measures, ranging from the consideration of risk assessments leading to a range of emergency plans and procedures being in place, undertaking staff training and awareness raising, and employing security systems, processes and measures to mitigate threats. Whilst all such efforts are welcome and encouraged, the proposed Protect Duty would aim to create a culture of security, with a consistency of application and a greater certainty of effect."

- 3.16 The proposals target venues, organisations, businesses, local authorities, public authorities and individuals who own or operate at publicly accessible locations.
- 3.17 In anticipation of Protect Duty receiving Royal Assent and become Law over the next 12 to 18 months, a Bath & North East Somerset Protect & Prepare Board is being created to ensure that this authority is best placed to fulfil the requirements of the new legislation. The objectives of the Board will be:

- (1) Management of Publicly Accessible Locations (PALs) in partnership with private and public sector bodies
 - (2) Ensuring the responsibilities under the new Protect Duty can be discharged
 - (3) Identifying and managing emerging threats and important areas of public safety & security
 - (4) To provide a joined-up approach to security consistent with current national guidance and standards to keep our communities safe and feeling safe
 - (5) To enhance and support protective security and preparedness at publicly accessible locations within Bath & North East Somerset, improving capability and ability to respond to current and emerging threats
- 3.18 Members of the Board will be drawn from Avon & Somerset Police, Counter-Terrorism Policing South West, the Council and strategic partners across Bath and North East Somerset.

Strategic Security Surveillance Review:

- 3.19 The Council manages c400 CCTV Surveillance Cameras across both the corporate property estate, transport and public space cameras; with 40 of these located within Bath's Heritage sites.
- 3.20 The cameras enable the Council to improve the safety and protection of our communities, whilst ensuring we do this within our statutory framework and legal compliance, in addition to our own organisational priorities and policies.
- 3.21 All public space cameras; streets, parks, car parks, park & ride, traffic, plus our key corporate sites are monitored centrally within the CCTV hub
- 3.22 In July 2021, a Cross-Party motion was passed on the Safety for Women and Girls in Public Places:
- 1) Believes everyone should have the right to be safe from violence and harassment on our streets
 - 2) Recognises that the killing of Sarah Everard has, again, brought the issue of behaviour towards women and girls and their safety to the forefront
 - 3) Acknowledges it's not just women who are at risk but that any individual may be vulnerable to attack for various reasons.
 - 4) **The Motion called for:**
Council departments and other bodies responsible for public spaces e.g. housing associations, parish councils, transport providers, to improve the security of public spaces by encouraging them to review lighting (in streets, car parks and parks) CCTV provision and other pertinent means to improve safety.
- 3.23 There is additional growing demand from Police, Members, partner agencies and the public for increased surveillance for public safety, as well as emerging significant new multi-million-pound projects and sites requiring CCTV, across Council Services and public spaces.
- 3.24 The Council has undertaken a comprehensive security surveillance review, and will include:

- (1) Security Surveillance Strategy, to scope the future vision of a safer community
 - (2) Undertake a feasibility and options appraisal:
 - a) of the Council's CCTV VMS System, ahead of procurement for new supplier
 - b) for a fully costed business case for an aspirational centralised 24/7 security surveillance hub, which has the ability to flex with future demand, with incident room capacity
- 3.25 A governance structure has been set up, feeding into the Preparing for the Future and Delivering for Residents Programme Board.
- 3.26 Early stakeholder engagement has started with internal services, as well as key strategic partners, including:
- (1) Avon & Somerset Police
 - (2) Avon Fire & Rescue
 - (3) Bath Business Improvement District
 - (4) SouthGate Shopping Centre
 - (5) Transport Hubs
 - (6) Keynsham, Radstock and Midsomer Norton Town Councils
- 3.27 The Strategy and Business Case will be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn for consideration.
- 3.28 Investment in upgrading of our security surveillance systems will commence, prior to The Protect Duty becoming Law as our commitment to improving security and safety for residents and visitors.

4 STATUTORY CONSIDERATIONS

- 4.1 The statutory framework for the Security Surveillance Review will include:
- (1) Surveillance Camera Commissioner's Code of Practice (currently under review)
 - (2) Protection of Freedoms Act 2012
 - (3) Regulation of Investigatory Powers Act 2002
 - (4) Data Protection Act 2018
 - (5) Crime & Disorder Act 1998/Criminal Procedures & Investigation Act 1996
 - (6) Article 8 of the Human Rights Act
 - (7) Equality Act 2010

5 RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS (FINANCE, PROPERTY, PEOPLE)

- 5.1 The total City Centre Security Budget is £3,300K, spend to date £806K.
- 5.2 Total capital budget for £550k for the procurement, upgrade and replacement of the CCTV VMS system.
- 5.3 A fully costed business case and recommendations for a potential new Security Surveillance Hub will be presented to Cabinet in the Autumn.

6 RISK MANAGEMENT

- 6.1 A risk assessment related to the issues in this report has not been undertaken as the report is for information purposes and not seeking to make a recommendation

7 EQUALITIES

- 7.1 This report is intended to provide the Panel with information for discussion and does not make any recommendations therefore an EIA has not been carried out.
- 7.2 All individual elements of the approach to improving security with Bath and North East Somerset will be subject to an EIA where appropriate. Consideration of any additional needs of residents and visitors is embedded within scheme design principles and wider policy setting processes.
- 7.3 Significant engagement and adjustment was made to the City Centre Security proposals in light of the engagement with disability groups and individuals and an independent audit, resulting in significant changes to the original proposals. This includes the ability for Blue Badge Holders to enter Cheap Street and improvements to footways and crossing areas.

8 CLIMATE CHANGE

- 8.1 The City Centre Security Scheme is not predicated on achieving climate neutrality by 2030. However, the work being undertaken is likely assist in achieving carbon neutrality by 2030 for the following reasons:
- (1) Reduction in general car parking within the restricted streets may encourage visitors to use more sustainable forms of accessing the City Centre, such as by public transport, walking or cycling
 - (2) The changes required for deliveries may encourage businesses to consider more sustainable forms of deliveries, eg 'Last Mile Delivery', Cargo Bike Deliveries, etc

9 OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 9.1 None

10 CONSULTATION

- 10.1 This report has been cleared by the relevant officers in finance and legal services

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Background papers	E3278 - Bath City Centre Security Cabinet Report – July 2022
Please contact the report author if you need to access this report in an alternative format	