

# Bath City Centre Security Proposed Permanent Access Restrictions Public consultation



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**Bath & North East  
Somerset Council**

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Improving People's Lives

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# Introduction

## About this document

This document summarises initial draft proposals to permanently strengthen on-street security within Bath city centre's busiest streets and spaces.

To help shape the best possible city centre security scheme, the Council really wants to hear the views of:

- People who live and work within, or visit the city centre.
- Business, cultural and service organisations which support the economy and wellbeing of the city.
- Organisations that help protect our heritage and ensure the city is inclusive and welcoming.

Feedback to this consultation should be provided between 16 November 2020 and 15 January 2021.

To give your feedback [click here](#).

## Further consultation Spring 2021

Your feedback and suggestions will inform any changes and refinements to the final proposals. Traffic Regulation Orders that will be necessary to enforce proposed access controls will be formally advertised for further public comment in Spring 2021.



Bath city centre public life

## A coordinated package of improvements to support Bath city centre recovery

With the help of its partners, Bath & North East Somerset Council continues to work hard to support the economy and community of Bath city centre, particularly now, as we look to the future and recovery from the impacts of Covid-19.

The city centre's streets and public spaces play a vital role in its attractiveness and success. As well as providing access to shops, attractions and homes, they're the setting of our world class heritage and the canvas for the city's vibrant public life.

Covid-19 needed the Council to quickly turn to emergency measures to help Bath re-open safely. In June temporary access restrictions and pavement widening was installed to help social distancing when the Government eased lockdown restrictions. These are planned to be in place up to December 2021, or until social distancing requirements are removed by Government or they are replaced by permanent measures. The Council thanks residents, businesses and service providers for adapting to and supporting these measures at such short notice.

With emergency temporary measures in place the Council is now working with businesses and the Police on a coordinated package of improvements. These will follow and build upon existing and temporary measures to help underpin the city's recovery.





Three key schemes are to be progressed during 2021. Together they will make a significant contribution to city centre safety and security and the quality of its streets and spaces. Each will be progressed with a sequence of consultations in the coming months.

### Three key investments for 2021

#### 1. Bath city centre security improvements

There is an acknowledged threat to the United Kingdom from terrorism and past experience has demonstrated that this particular threat is acute in intensely crowded places.

Counter Terrorism Security Advisors have worked with Bath and North East Somerset Council on ways to protect the city centre and have given their support to a scheme which limits vehicle access during busy times.

This is one of a package of measures we have been working on which is designed to improve overall public safety and further strengthen protection in areas of high footfall.

On 16 November the Council is launching an eight week initial public consultation on its draft proposals with the city's residents, businesses and visitors.

**PUBLIC CONSULTATION  
16 NOVEMBER 2020 – 15 JANUARY 2021**

**This is the focus of this document.  
Find out more below**

#### 2. Kingsmead Square further 'public realm' improvements

Kingsmead Square is an important focus of the city's leisure and evening economy. Proposals aim to make it a safer car free space throughout the day and into the evening.

The existing temporary access restriction will continue, with new street furniture having been installed during October 2020.

- The Kingsmead Square proposals are separate to the City Centre Security proposals and will be subject to a separate consultation on further improvements/ operating hours and whether there should be a permanent access restriction. This separate consultation is planned to take place in early 2021.

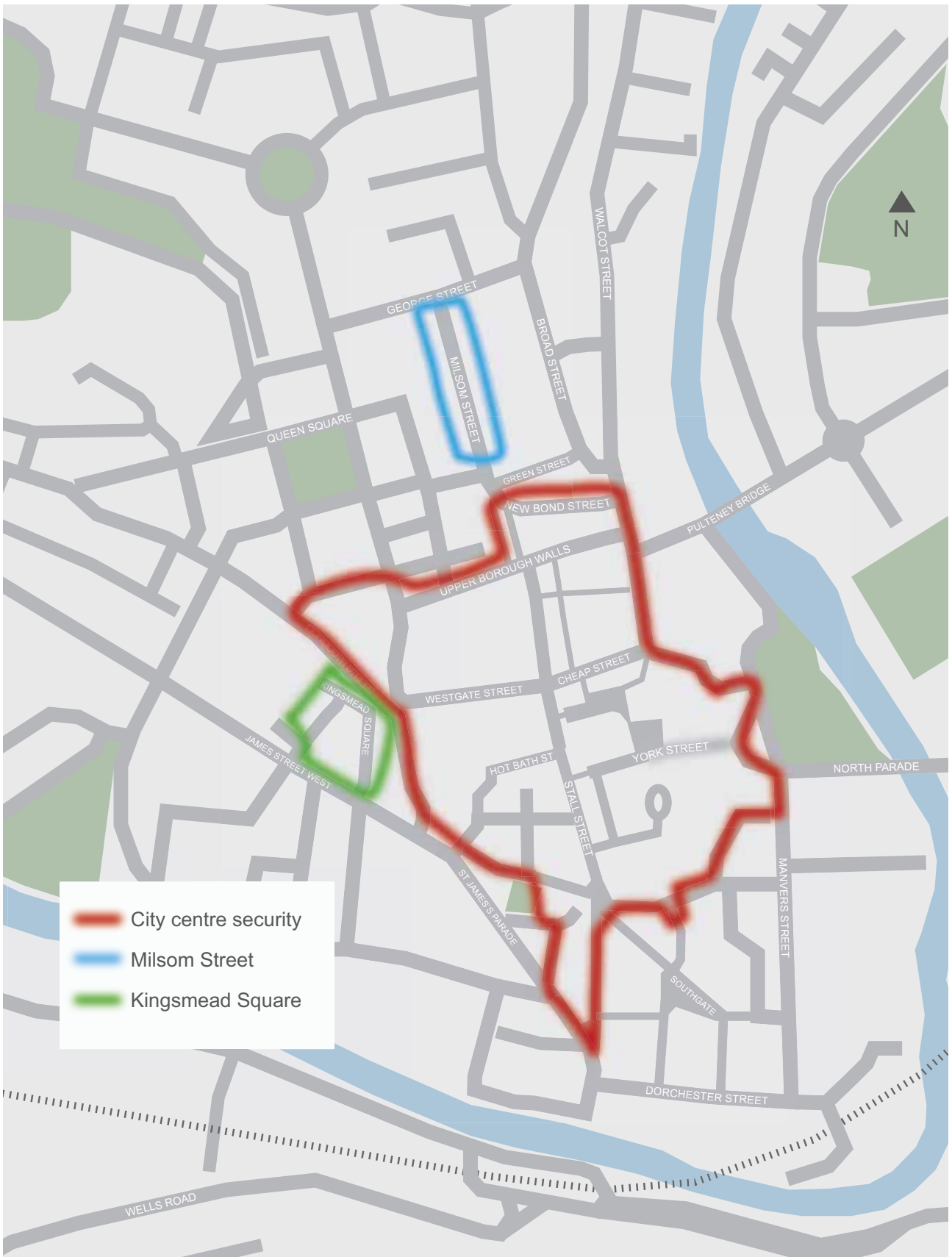
#### 3. Milsom Street: permanent bus gate and access restrictions

Milsom Street is the heart of the "top of the town". But it has suffered from changes in shopping and now from Covid-19 impacts. The Council will be working hard with partners to build a new successful future for the quarter.

The existing temporary "bus gate" will remain in place whilst consultation is undertaken on whether this should become permanent. It is now managed by Automatic Number Plate Recognition (ANPR) camera.

- Any proposals for Milsom Street will be distinct from the City Centre Security scheme and will be subject to separate business and public consultation.

**Together they will make a significant contribution to city centre safety and security and the quality of its streets and spaces.**



Plan of city centre priority schemes

# Context and objectives

## Bath security today

Safe and welcoming streets are the heart of a city's economic success.

Sadly, safety and security now must include prevention of terrorism. The Council and Police work together to protect people, livelihoods and the heritage of Bath city centre from this ongoing threat.

Since 2016, the partnership has provided a network of security. This has included:

- local and national intelligence
- City centre CCTV monitoring
- Staff and steward training
- Vehicle access restrictions with concrete barriers to protect the city's most crowded places against the risk of a vehicle based terrorist attack

There is an acknowledged threat to the United Kingdom from terrorism and past experience has demonstrated that this particular threat is acute in intensely crowded places.

The current national threat level is "severe", meaning an attack in the UK is highly likely, although this is not based on a specific threat. City centre security therefore must remain a very important factor in supporting successful recovery.

## Prevention and protection from hostile vehicles

Prevention and protection from hostile vehicles is the focus of the proposed security improvement measures.

Protection from hostile vehicles is provided through coordinated activities and measures including:

- Access restrictions and controlled gateways to control vehicles entering crowded places

### What is a hostile vehicle?

- A weapon, driven to harm people.
- Containing a bomb parked near a target
- Containing a bomb, driven at a target
- A "Trojan" vehicle, concealing terrorists

- Re-enforced street furniture to prevent hostile vehicles being driven into restricted areas

## Improving and strengthening city centre security

The acknowledged threat to the United Kingdom from terrorism, as well as past experience, has demonstrated that the particular threat of hostile vehicles is acute in intensely crowded places like city centres.

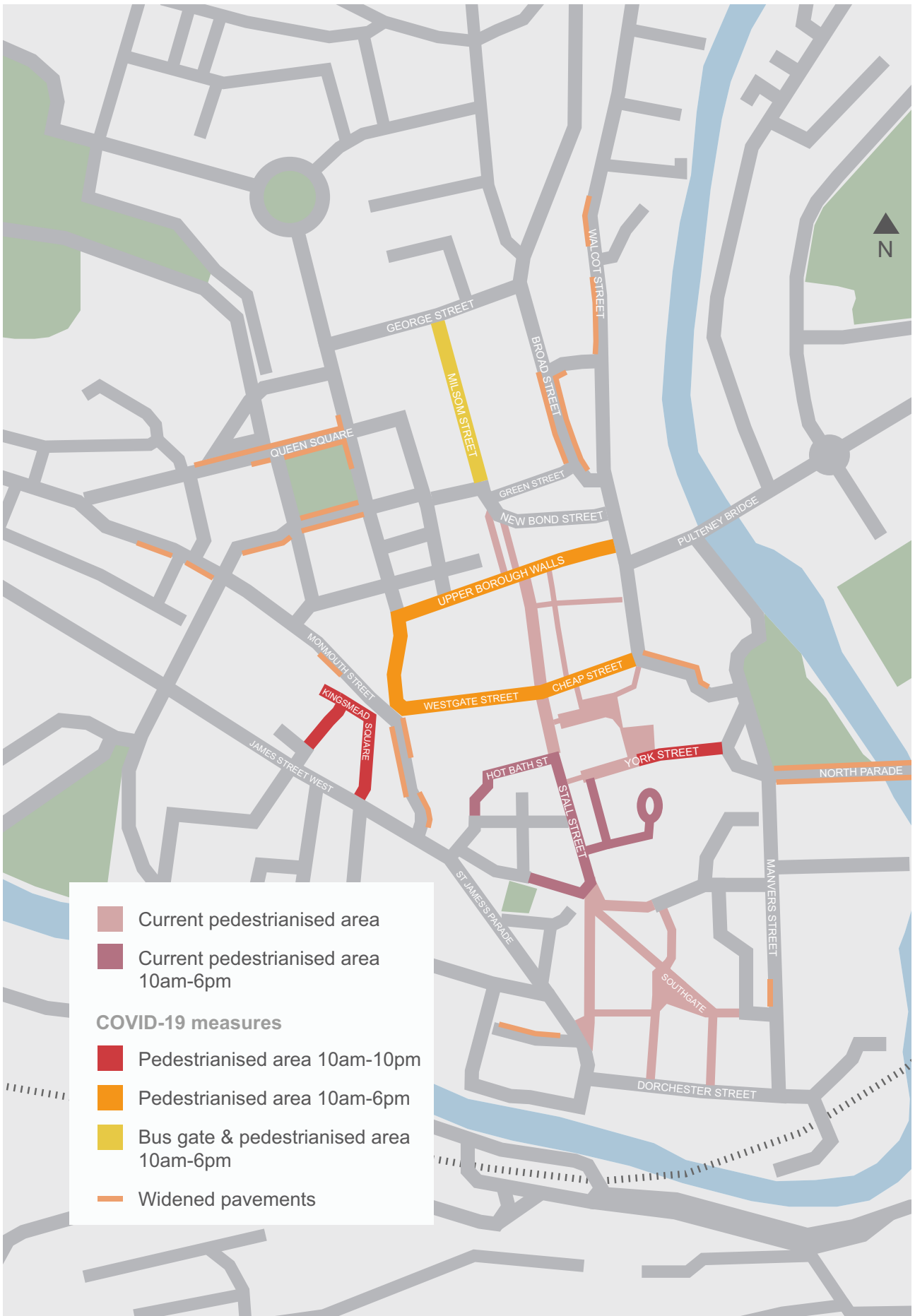
Counter Terrorism Security Advisors have worked with Bath and North East Somerset Council on ways to protect the city centre and have given their support to a scheme which limits vehicle access during busy times.

This is one of a package of measures we have been working on which is designed to improve overall public safety and further strengthen protection in areas of high footfall.

We believe these will create a welcoming, safe and secure environment that will be a big factor in supporting the city's recovery and future success.

This document contains details of the draft 2021 access restriction and security proposals. It will enable local businesses, residents and members of the public to learn more about the scheme. It should be read before providing your feedback.

## City centre security must remain a very important factor in supporting successful recovery



Plan of existing access restrictions and temporary Covid-19 measures in city centre

# Proposed city centre improvements scheme

## Guiding principles

Access restrictions and street furniture will help protect the heart of Bath World Heritage Site, maintain a safe and accessible environment and create opportunities for public life.

The suite of street furniture is currently being developed with the Council's heritage and urban design experts in liaison with Bath Preservation Trust and the Bath World Heritage Site Manager.

The scheme design will be informed by six key criteria contained in Government guidance on the design of hostile vehicle mitigation. The proposed scheme combines:

### 1 Proportionate measures to manage threats

The proposals for 10.00am to 6.00pm are restricted to those considered absolutely necessary to manage the risk from terrorism informed by the Police and the Centre for the Protection of National Infrastructure (CPNI), with the 6.00pm to 10.00am restrictions maintaining safety within the streets and supporting the daytime proposals.

### 2 Ensuring an accessible environment

New equipment will be positioned and designed to maintain pedestrian access for all people.

The Council is also commissioning an independent pan-disability study that will inform the scheme's approach to accessible design. It will engage with key stakeholders to inform the schemes approach to accessibility.

### 3 Design to protect Bath's heritage

The security scheme will ensure it:

- (i) Minimises impact on historic fabric above or below ground
- (ii) Minimises visual impact on heritage setting
- (iii) Improves opportunities to enjoy the city

### 4 Avoiding street clutter

New security equipment will add to and replace existing temporary equipment and integrate security measures within a suite of multi-functional furniture.

### 5 Design with maintenance in mind

B&NES Council has committed both capital and revenue funding to enable a high quality of specification that is maintained to a high standard.

### 6 Future proofed and flexible to counter developing threats

Access restrictions will be designed and reviewed to ensure measures can remain proportionate to and effective in protecting people from threat levels informed by the police.

**To maintain security, restrictions must be in place seven days a week and will be enforced all year.**



### Summary

The proposed scheme combines:

- Vehicle access restrictions within the city centre's most crowded streets
- Strengthened secure vehicle access points controlled/operated by the Council's CCTV control room
- New purpose-designed reinforced static and sliding protective bollards and furniture

Working with the Police, the Council proposes access restrictions that seek to provide appropriately improved security whilst continuing to allow the city's businesses and service providers a viable level of vehicle access.

### Area and streets covered

The streets covered within the City Centre Security scheme have been defined as those that are regularly sufficiently crowded to justify use of access restriction traffic regulation orders and protection from the risk of terrorist attack by robust street furniture.

The streets:

- Cheap Street and Westgate Street,
- Stall Street,
- Lower Borough Walls
- Bath Street & Hot Bath Street
- York Street
- Swallow Street
- Saw Close
- Upper Borough Walls

### Restricted access periods

To maintain security, restrictions must be in place seven days a week and will be enforced all year.

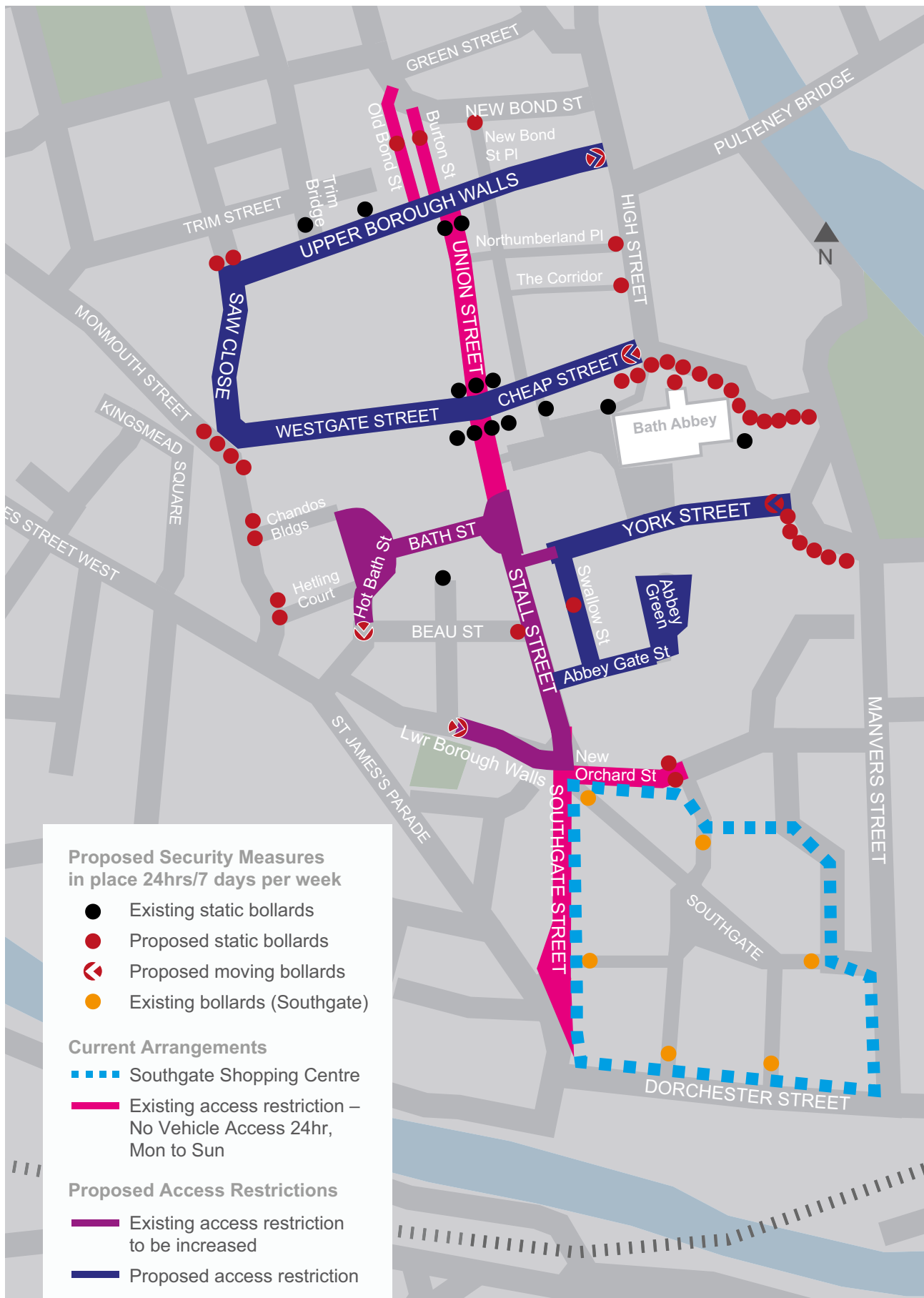
Pedestrian and cyclist access and emergency service attendance will not be affected by the access restrictions at any time.

Between 10am and 6pm restrictions will only allow controlled access by authorised vehicles including construction and maintenance vehicles. These restrictions are similar to the current temporary access restriction measures.

Between 6pm and 10am, it will be necessary to introduce new limited and controlled access to maintain street safety and to support security. This will enable access for street cleaning and refuse collection as well as managed access for business deliveries and delivery of larger goods to residential addresses.

At all times, it will be necessary to prevent opportunities to leave vehicles within the protected area. This requires removing all general vehicle access and car parking, including for residents and people who hold blue badge parking permits. The scheme will create more safe pedestrian space, but the Council recognizes removing parking affects disabled people and those with mobility issues.

Spaces for blue badge holders are available at Southgate and Council car parks, and the Council is also undertaking a pan-disability study in relation to the city centre access restrictions currently proposed, with a view to further mitigating the impacts on the disabled and those with mobility issues.



Bath city centre security proposed access restrictions

### Access restriction exemptions

#### Unrestricted access at all times

- Emergency services responding on a blue light
- Utility vehicles
- Pedestrians and cyclist access not affected

#### Daytime

10am – 6pm, 365 days

CCTV Controlled Authorised Access only for:

- Construction vehicles
- Highway cleaning and maintenance
- Bank and building society cash in transit
- Residential moves
- Large theatre and film equipment
- Royal Mail
- Temporary events e.g. Christmas Market

#### Night-time

6pm – 10am, 365 days

CCTV Controlled Limited Access for:

- Shop and business deliveries/collections
- Market traders
- Theatre equipment
- Waste collections
- B&NES Parks service maintenance
- Home delivery for larger items (e.g. white goods)

#### CCTV Controlled 24 Hour Access Restrictions

No Vehicle Access for:

- Residential vehicles
- Residential deliveries for small items such as food deliveries or small parcels
- General car parking
- Blue badge holders
- Taxis and hackney carriages

### Providing alternative car parking and drop off facilities

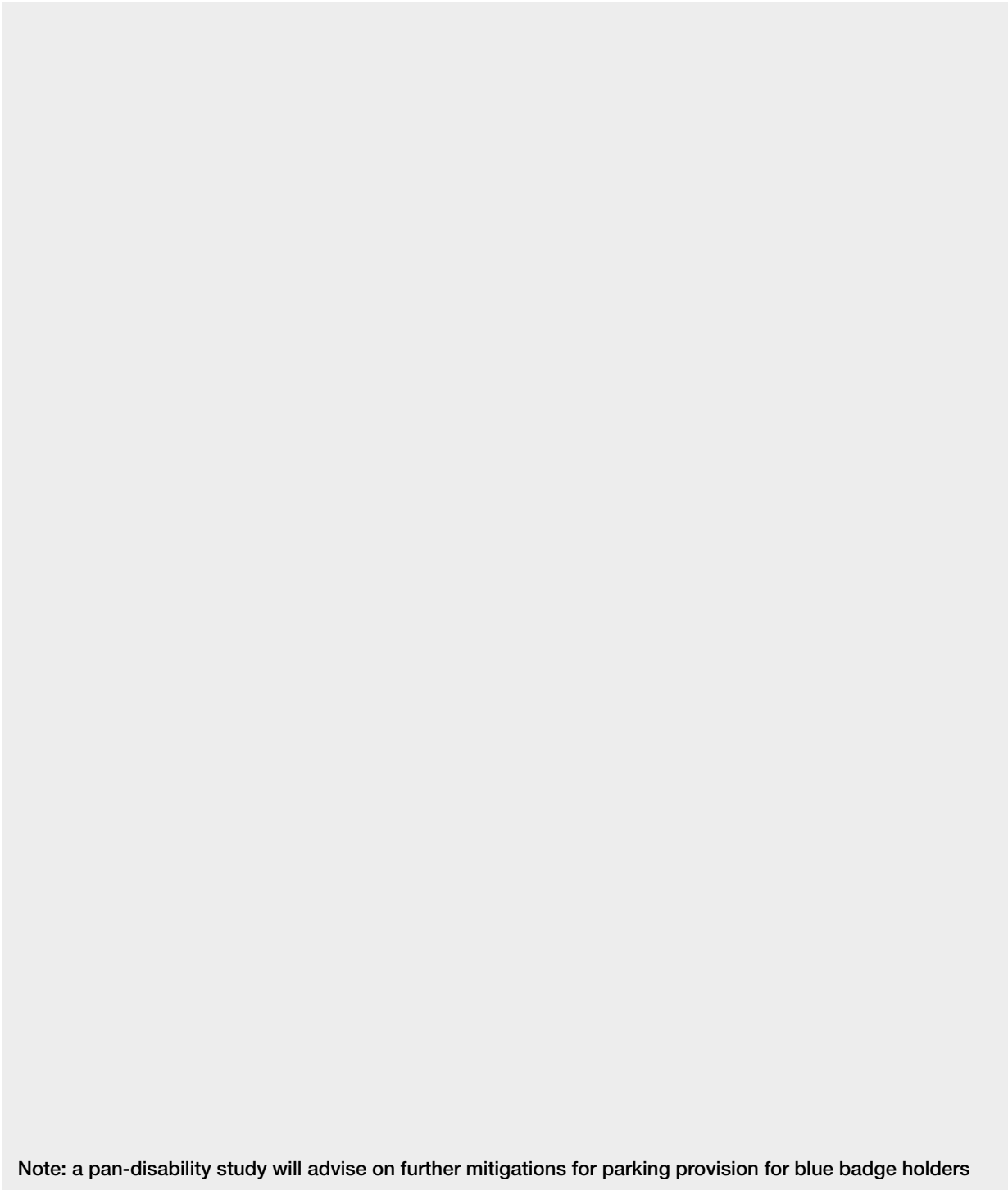
Achieving the higher levels of security in the city centre through restricting vehicle access will create a significantly safer, more spacious and welcoming environment for everyone. This is particularly important whilst social distancing continues to be necessary.

Ensuring sufficient levels of security and safety are maintained throughout the day and night within the restricted area will however require prevention of general private vehicle access and removal of all on-street car parking within the secured streets. This must include car parking spaces for blue badge holders and car access for drop-offs close to venues.

The Council recognizes this reduces the current quality of parking for disabled and mobility impaired people. This cannot be replaced within the security zone.

Spaces for blue badge holders are available at Southgate and Council car parks, and the Council is also commissioning an independent pan-disability study in relation to the city centre access restrictions currently proposed. This will engage with stakeholders to help identify a package of measures to mitigate the impacts on the disabled community and those with mobility issues.

**Achieving the higher levels of security in the city centre through restricting vehicle access will create a significantly safer, more spacious and welcoming environment for everyone.**



**Note: a pan-disability study will advise on further mitigations for parking provision for blue badge holders**

City centre spaces for blue badge holders



# Delivering the scheme

## Tools to deliver the scheme

The Council will combine two tools to put the proposed city centre security measures in place and then enforce their access restriction and protection.

- Traffic Regulation Orders
- Reinforced Street Furniture with CCTV Access Controls

## Traffic Regulation Orders

Councils and the Police have responsibilities and powers to keep our streets accessible and safe for everyone. Controlling when vehicles can access streets or park is part of the toolkit they have to achieve this. **Traffic Regulation Orders** (TROs) are the formal legislation used to enforce vehicle access, street parking and loading.

Government has recently created additional anti-terrorism Traffic Regulation Order powers to enable the Police and Councils to prevent access to a street or area where and when the Police recommend the need for added security demands. These new powers are proposed to be used to protect Bath city centre.

## Traffic Regulation Orders proposed

### Traffic Regulation Order Restrictions 10.00am to 6.00pm:

Traffic Regulation Orders utilising anti-terrorism powers are used to protect people in specific streets when the Police judge them sufficiently crowded on a daily basis. This must be restricted to the times when they are usually crowded.

The Police consider this applies to the streets around the Abbey between 10am and 6pm seven days a week, all year and has recommended that permanent restrictions are enforced here.

A Traffic Regulation Order for the purpose of preventing or reducing damage connected with terrorism is therefore proposed for the hours 10.00am to 6.00pm.

### Traffic Regulation Order Restrictions 6.00pm to 10.00am:

In support of the 10.00am to 6.00pm proposed restrictions, Traffic Regulation Orders are also proposed for the period 6.00pm to 10.00am for the purposes of avoiding danger to persons or other traffic using the road and for preventing damage to the road or to any building on or near the road.

## How are Traffic Regulation Orders Made?

All TROs, including those powers relating to anti-terrorism measures, must be decided through a formal process established by highways legislation and managed by the local authority. The proposed changes will be formally advertised by the Council for 21 days. In this time a member of the public or affected party may lodge an objection to the proposals. Any duly made objection must be considered by the local authority, in its determining of whether to “seal” or confirm the TRO.

## Initial eight week consultation

To enable views to inform and shape the best possible scheme before it is formally advertised, the Council has committed to this initial eight week period of public consultation. This includes an opportunity to view and comment on proposals at:

[www.bathnes.gov.uk/citycentresecurity](http://www.bathnes.gov.uk/citycentresecurity)

# Purpose -designed reinforced street furniture

Access restrictions and crowded streets and spaces in many cities are now protected by purpose-designed strengthened suites of permanent street furniture. This can incorporate:

## Moving “vehicle access” bollards

To enforce access restrictions and resist hostile vehicles, moving bollard gateways will be installed at entrances into restricted streets. To avoid damage to Bath’s underground cellars and heritage, the scheme is proposing the use of a sliding bollard system which does not require deep foundations.

## Static street furniture

Protection of Bath’s city core crowded pedestrian streets and public spaces will be enhanced using a suite of purpose designed street furniture.

Proposed locations of equipment are shown on proposal plans.

Equipment also may include:

- Bollards
- Cycle stands

Detailed designs are currently being considered in collaboration with the Council’s Design and Heritage teams and Heritage stakeholders.



Rising bollards in London

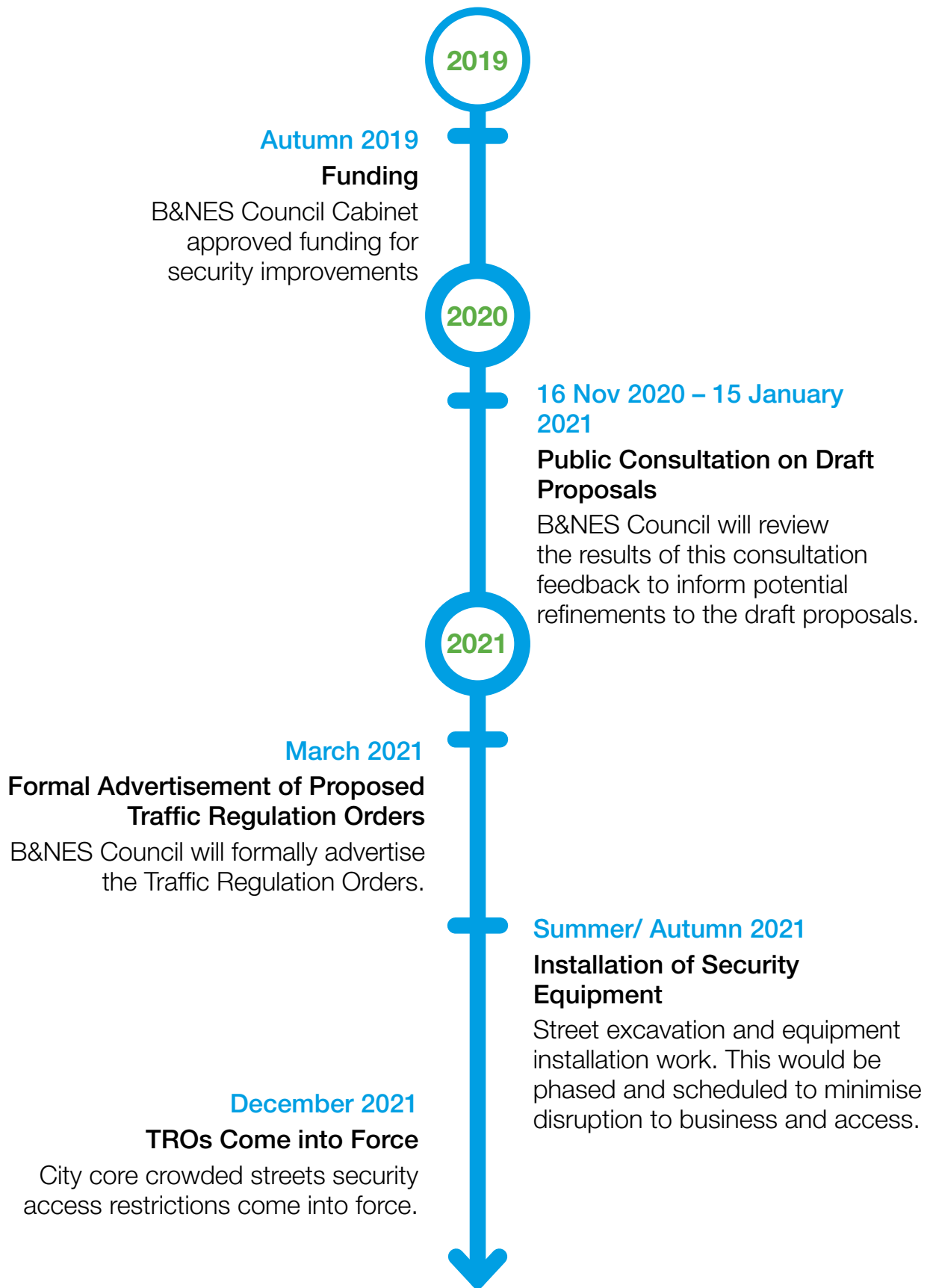


Moving bollards in Southampton



Bollards in London

# Potential timeline



# How to give us your comments

Feedback to this consultation should be provided between 16 November 2020 and 15 January 2021. To give your feedback online **click here**.

## Online

To fill out and submit a feedback form **click here**.

## By post

Information about this consultation is available on request in other languages, audio, Braille, large print or other formats.

To request a hard copy or another format please contact us by email [citycentresecurity@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:citycentresecurity@bathnes.gov.uk) or by telephone on 01225 39 40 41.

These can be returned by post to:

Bath and North East Somerset Council  
Environmental Services  
Lewis House, Manvers Street,  
Bath, BA1 1JG

## By email

[citycentresecurity@bathnes.gov.uk](mailto:citycentresecurity@bathnes.gov.uk)

## Thank you for your time and feedback

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Somerset Council**

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