
REPORT 2
(1215/52/IM)

COURTENAY PRECINCT PROGRAMME UPDATE

1. Purpose of Report

To update Councillors on the Courtenay Precinct work programme, specifically:

- The upgrade of street lighting
- Improvement of the Closed Circuit Television (CCTV) Network.
- The feasibility and costs associated with a staffed kiosk in Courtenay Place.

2. Executive Summary

Following consideration by Councillors of a report on Courtenay Place, officers have been implementing the recommendations of that report. It is anticipated that street lighting will be upgraded by November 2008 with a proposal that existing lanterns will be used for decorative purposes only and high quality lanterns will be installed to complement the decorative lanterns and ensure enhanced levels of visibility.

Work is also underway to have further closed circuit television cameras installed by the end of the year in the central city including in the Courtenay Place precinct.

Councillors also asked for consideration be given to the feasibility and cost of a staffed kiosk in Courtenay Place, during the hours of 10pm to 6am, Thursday through Saturday. Police are unable to resource such a kiosk and already have a staffed base in Cuba Street to which the Council contributes funding. It is considered that additional Walkwise resources and other inter-agency work will meet a similar need to a staffed kiosk. Therefore it is proposed that no further work be carried out on this proposal

3. Recommendations

It is recommended that the Committee:

1. *Receive the information.*
2. *Note that the lighting proposal will significantly improve lighting for pedestrians and improve pedestrian safety in key risk areas of the Courtenay Precinct.*

3. *Note that implementation of the lighting plan is expected to be completed before November 2008.*
4. *Note that the proposed installation of closed circuit television across the central city aims to improve community safety and perceptions of safety and assist Police with identifying and prosecuting offenders.*
5. *Note that the proposed closed circuit television across the central city is expected to be completed by November 2008.*
6. *Note that proceeding with the proposed work programmes is subject to approval of existing budget requests in the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan.*
7. *Note that officers have explored the possibility of establishing a staffed kiosk in Courtenay Place and have identified other options that are responsive to the needs of the area.*
8. *Note that work is underway with agencies to reduce alcohol related harm, improve safety and address youth related concerns.*
9. *Note that the draft Annual Plan provides for additional Walkwise staff to patrol the Courtenay Place area.*

4. Background

The Courtenay Precinct includes Courtenay Place, Allen and Blair Streets, Kent and Cambridge Terraces between Courtenay Place and Wakefield Street (Embassy Theatre area), the east side of Taranaki Street between Courtenay Place and Wakefield Street, Tory Street from Holland Street to Wakefield Street, and Holland Street.

On 6 March 2008 the Committee agreed to an integrated set of solutions to deliver on a five-year vision to:

- address alcohol-related issues
- Improve safety
- Support diverse activity and the 24-hour economy.

The Committee agreed to officers undertaking further work on twelve initiatives arising from the Courtenay Place project, including:

- Installation of CCTV across the central city to improve surveillance at hot-spots with live monitoring during peak times.
- Improved street lighting for pedestrians in the Courtenay precinct area.
- A report on the feasibility and cost of a staffed kiosk in Courtenay Place, during the hours of 10pm to 6am, Thursday through Saturday

Both the lighting and CCTV projects were assigned a high priority status. Funding is proposed in the current Draft Annual Plan for those initiatives as follows:

- CCTV – OPEX \$140,000 and CAPEX \$107,000. The estimated costs are for an eight-camera system. Four of these cameras would be located in the Courtenay precinct.
- Lighting – CAPEX \$150,000 (Courtenay Place) and CAPEX \$50,000 (Allen and Blair Streets)

There was no provision for funding for a kiosk or for staff in the 2008/09 draft Annual Plan.

The cluster of projects is now known as the Courtenay Precinct work programme. Some of the projects will impact across the whole central city.

5. Discussion

5.1 CCTV

Wellington City Council first piloted CCTV as a safety measure in 2003 in the Cuba/ Manners Street area. Following that pilot Council agreed to permanently place CCTV at Cuba and Manners Streets.

CCTV is one tool to assist in reducing violence, disorder and reducing alcohol related harm but acts as a deterrent for some disorder only if it is one of a range of safety measures. Police occasionally access footage to assist in the apprehension of offenders.

Currently there are no CCTV cameras in the Courtenay Place area that have a specific focus on city safety. The area has high volumes of pedestrian traffic especially at night and also has the highest levels of reported violence and disorder.

An independent review of CCTV in the city has been completed. The review identified criteria to inform appropriate locations for cameras including pedestrian traffic, identified hot spots and information from users of the area.

The review identified the sites in Courtenay Place and other parts of the CBD where cameras will most likely have an impact on improving community safety. An additional report has been prepared to set the specifications for the camera equipment and sites to assist in obtaining the best option available. The identified locations will also have the greatest impact on reducing alcohol related harm, violence and disorder in the city.

Proposed solution and work programme

Specifications for cameras have been identified which will inform the tender process for equipment. The specification is clear that cameras meet a wide application and provide opportunities to enhance performance in the future.

The project will be implemented within the proposed budgets currently contained in the draft Annual Plan (\$140,000 capex and \$107,000 opex for 2008/09).

It is proposed that the cameras will be installed and operational by November 2008

5.2 Lighting

Insufficient lighting levels and excessive glare have been identified as the primary reasons for pedestrian achieving low night vision in Courtney Place, Allen St and Blair St.

Pursuant to the Standards New Zealand publication "AS/NZS1158.3.1:2005 Lighting for roads and public spaces" and "HB436 risk management, subcategory P6" light technical parameters were selected as appropriate performance criteria to test the existing and proposed lighting against.

5.2.1 Process and analysis undertaken to identify and compare solutions

Following discussions with Urban Design, representatives of the Disability Reference Group (DRG) and also street lighting designers - Cuttle Consultants Ltd, three street lighting design options were identified. Further analysis indicated that two of those options were not feasible. An analysis of all three options is attached as Appendix 1.

Officers recommend that the existing lanterns be used for decorative purposes with the installation of high quality lanterns to meet the needs of pedestrians. The existing and new lanterns will be installed on the existing Courtenay Place poles and new standard street lighting poles. The existing lanterns will be rendered inoperative, serving an aesthetic decorative function only and ensuring that they no longer detrimentally affect CCTV lighting needs.

Because of problems with pole location, the lighting designer Cuttle Consultants Ltd developed an entirely new lighting layout using Philips Iridium Cosmoplis lighting fixtures and CSP Oclyte poles. This option has multiple advantages including, optimum pedestrian-use visual provision, enhanced safety, energy efficient, environmentally friendly light fitting manufacture (ISO4000), minimum disruption to residents, businesses, pedestrian and vehicular traffic during installation and maintenance, reduction of visual clutter, higher lighting quality and rationalisation of poles. This option also meets CCTV requirements.

5.2.2 Proposed solution and work programme

Standard street lighting poles that are commonly on Wellington roads will be used for the lighting upgrade of Courtenay Place. A range of good quality lighting fixtures will be used that provide a high quality light output that will be superior to any other Wellington streets. Energy efficient lamps that produce a white light will be used.

The total estimated cost of the proposal is \$320,000. This is approximately \$120,000 above the original \$200,000 budget provided for in the DAP. However, we have had discussions with Land Transport New Zealand (LTNZ) to fund the difference, provided the project is capped at \$320,000. LTNZ funding

would address the shortfall. The remaining required funding would be sourced from existing Capex budgets.

The required ordering lead times are expected to be between 12 and 16 weeks for some items of equipment required for this project. Installation is expected to take 4 to 8 weeks but cabling installation will start prior to equipment arriving so that final completion will occur prior to December 2008. Equipment orders will be placed once funding is approved in the 2008/09 Annual Plan deliberations.

The cost of removal of redundant existing poles has not been included in the estimates for the upgrade options. However it is expected that all redundant poles will be removed within one year of the completion of this project with the costs covered from existing projects. Removal of redundant decorative poles and fixtures will occur in consultation with Urban Design.

Representatives of the DRG have been consulted and are supportive of the proposal. The DRG raised a range of issues, in particular, the need to ensure that the street lighting design achieved uniformity of lighting for sign language users, while also preventing unnecessary glare. The proposal meets the requirements of the "AS/NZS 1158 Lighting for Roads and Public Spaces" and specifically addresses the need to reduce glare, improves vertical and horizontal lighting for pedestrian visibility and ensures uniformity of lighting.

5.3 Feasibility and cost of a staffed kiosk in Courtenay Place, during the hours of 10pm to 6am, Thursday through Saturday.

Councillors asked that officers investigate the feasibility and cost of a staffed kiosk in Courtenay Place. Such a kiosk is supported by a group of Licensed Premise operators from the Courtenay Place area.

Officers investigated whether the Police would staff a kiosk similar to the Cuba Street Police Base. However suitable premises could not be identified and Police advised that they do not have a resource allocation for this role and prefer to place resources through their current tactical assessment process. Police have recently advertised for staff to fill positions in a Community Engagement team which will be focussed on a 'problem solving model.' It is expected that this group will be tasked to address some issues in the city such as improving safety and reducing alcohol related harm. It is expected this approach will identify additional resource requirements in the future. Council currently part funds the Cuba Street base which is used during the day for the central city community constable. Later at night the base is used by operational staff working in the central city and is considered a better location to work from as not all problems occur in the Courtenay Place area.

Given the difficulty in identifying appropriate premises and that the Cuba St Police base is meeting similar needs, officers recommend that no further work is carried out to establish a kiosk. Other related work that also meets similar objectives includes:

- Additional Walkwise staff to patrol the area between 10pm and 6am Thursday – Saturday (provided for in the DAP). This is a pro-active response.
- Council officers are working with Police, Child, Youth and Family and other agencies to identify more opportunities to deal with 'at risk' youth. It is expected a place of safety for this group will be identified and established.
- In conjunction with Courtenay premises, businesses and other agencies, work is underway to establish an alcohol accord aimed at reducing alcohol related harm and improving safety. It specifically addresses the times where disorder is highest.

6. Conclusion

Programmes of work have been developed to deliver within budget on the CCTV and Street Lighting projects for the Courtenay Precinct Programme. Council Officers have identified alternative options to the fully staffed kiosk to deal with reducing alcohol related and improving safety.

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Supporting Information

1) Strategic Fit / Strategic Outcome

This paper is consistent with Council's overall vision of creative Wellington – Innovative Capital and contributes to the following Outcomes; 1 More Liveable, 9 Safer, and 10 Healthier

2) LTCCP/Annual Plan reference and long term financial impact

Funding for this project has been included the 2008/09 Draft Annual Plan

3) Treaty of Waitangi considerations

There are no known considerations at this stage

4) Decision-Making

This is not a significant decision.

5) Consultation

a) General Consultation

The Courtenay Place Project responds to the consultation feedback for the 2007 Footpath Management Policy. Officers have engaged with key stakeholders and the local community in the development of the paper. General and/or targeted consultation will be undertaken as appropriate for individual initiatives.

b) Consultation with Maori

Parts of the precinct are of special significance to mana whenua and they will be invited to contribute to the development of relevant proposals as they are progressed.

6) Legal Implications

No legal advice has been received for this report.

7) Consistency with existing policy

This report recommends certain measures which are consistent with existing WCC policy.

Appendix 1 – Analysis of Street Lighting Design Options

| OPTION A | OPTION B | Recommended Option |
|---|---|---|
| - modify existing decorative fixtures to a CCTV compatible configuration. After investigation the technical information required for this solution could not be provided. | - replace existing decorative fixtures with similar looking CCTV compatible fixtures on existing decorative poles | - install new fixtures and poles (mostly on median island) and alter existing decorative fixtures so they do not interfere with CCTV |
| Cost - NA | Cost - Estimated \$200,000 | Cost - Estimated \$320,000 (assumes LTNZ 58% subsidy available for this project) |
| Safety - NA | Safety - CCTV camera compatible - Due to shading under verandas this option provides for the AS/NZS 1158 Category P7 “Medium” Crime Risk lighting solution on the road (a lower level than Option C P6 category) | Safety - CCTV camera compatible - Pedestrian safety improved due to high quality additional lighting provided on footpaths - Provides for AS/NZS 1158 Category P6 “High” Crime Risk lighting solution on both the road and the footpath. |
| Functionality - NA | Functionality - Energy efficient lighting technologies used but trade off is a small increase in maintenance costs | Functionality - Energy efficient lighting technologies used but trade off is a small increase in maintenance costs |
| Amenity Value - NA | Amenity Value - No significant change from existing (a few new poles will be installed) | <p>Amenity Value –</p> <p>Existing decorative poles and lanterns will remain, in keeping with the character of Courtenay Place but as a decorative function only.</p> <p>Additional Standard Double Outreach Street lighting Poles to be added mainly along the median island in a consistent pattern. The visual appearance of the “standard poles” is not consistent with the existing 34 decorative poles.</p> <p>An increase in the number of poles from 35-45. We will remove all redundant street poles.</p> |

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| <p>Other – N/A</p> | <p>Other - This option is consistent with the DRG requirements as it provides a high level of uniform light on the footpath where their members are most active</p> <p>- Energy efficient - Minimum disruption during installation and maintenance</p> | <p>Other - This option is preferred by the DRG because it provides a high level of uniform light on the footpath where their members are most active</p> <p>- Energy efficient - Minimum disruption during installation and maintenance</p> |
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