#### CITY OF WESTMINSTER - ENVIRONMENT AND CITY MANAGEMENT

#### **DELEGATED AUTHORITY REPORT 7612**

TRAFFIC ORDERS – ROYAL ALBERT HALL (ATTRO)

INTRODUCTION OF ROAD CLOSURES, BUS AND GOODS VEHICLE PROHIBITIONS AND AMENDMENTS TO PARKING PLACES AND WAITING AND LOADING RESTRICTIONS

(Drawing Nos. 70062774-WSP-P02-X-DR-HI-1202-01 and -02 Revs S2-P01 [Existing Layout], -1203-01 and -02 Revs S2-P01 [Proposed Layout] and 70062774-WSP-P02-X-SK-HI-01-01 Rev S2-P01 [Vehicle Tracking])

(Knightsbridge & Belgravia Ward)

# **Background Information**

Westminster City Council, together with the Royal Albert Hall, is proposing to introduce a series of security enhancements in the vicinity of the Royal Albert Hall, as part of the "Royal Albert Hall Protective Security and Public Realm Improvement scheme", for the benefit of patrons and staff at the venue as well as pedestrians and vehicles on the surrounding highways.

Traffic Order consultation on the first tranche of measures affecting the length of Kensington Gore (A315) on the north side of the Royal Albert Hall was carried out during July 2020 and was subsequently approved for implementation on 4<sup>th</sup> August 2020 (ref. 7574).

The second tranche of measures would see a number of hostile vehicle mitigation (HVM) measures and associated parking amendments introduced in the roads on the east and west sides of the Royal Albert Hall. The HVM measures have been endorsed by the Assistant Commissioner of Specialist Operations for the Metropolitan Police Service who has recommended the City Council make an Anti-Terrorism Traffic Regulation Order under section 22C of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 for this purpose.

#### **Proposals**

In order to mitigate the effects of and reduce the likelihood of danger connected with terrorism, it is proposed to:

- (a) close the western arm of Kensington Gore (adjacent to the Royal Albert Hall) to all vehicles between noon and midnight every day;
- (b) prohibit vehicles <u>and</u> pedestrians from entering or proceeding in the length of Kensington Gore referred to in paragraph (a) above, and in the forecourt area which lies on the south-east corner of the Royal Albert Hall at such times as considered necessary by, and at the discretion of the Metropolitan Police;

(The measures referred to in paragraphs (a) and (b) above would be managed through the introduction of security gates and vehicle barriers.)

- (c) prohibit goods vehicles (exceeding a maximum gross weight of 7.5 tonnes) and buses (vehicles constructed to carry more than 8 passengers) from entering or proceeding in:
  - (i) Bremner Road;
  - (ii) Jay Mews, between the northernmost arm of Kensington Gore (A315) and Bremner Road; and
  - (iii) Kensington Gore, all arms except the western arm referred to in paragraph (a) above and the northernmost arm (A315).

To facilitate the introduction of the above security measures, it is proposed to:

- (d) revise the existing parking and waiting / loading restrictions in the vicinity of the Royal Albert Hall as follows:
  - (i) shorten the motorcycle parking bay outside No. 26 Kensington Gore by 6 metres and relocate it to the north-east to south-west arm (at the rear of Beit Hall), replacing 5 metres of single yellow line waiting restrictions;
  - (ii) relocate the two "Blue Badge" disabled parking bays on the west side of the western arm of Kensington Gore to the north-east to south-west arm (at the rear of Beit Hall), replacing two pay-by-phone parking bays (10.5 metres) and 3 metres of double yellow line "at any time" waiting restrictions;
  - (iii) remove the six pay-by-phone parking bays from the west side of the western arm of Kensington Gore;
  - (iv) replace the "Blue Badge" disabled parking bay and six residents' parking bays on the south side of the forecourt area of Kensington Gore which lies on the south-east corner of the Royal Albert Hall with double yellow line "at any time" waiting and loading restrictions; and
  - introduce double yellow line "at any time" waiting and loading restrictions on the west side of the western arm of Kensington Gore (adjacent to the Royal Albert Hall).

The proposals would result in the net loss of one "Blue Badge" disabled persons' parking space, seven motorcycle parking spaces, eight pay-by-phone parking bays and six residents' parking spaces.

The design and implementation of the security measures will be fully funded by the Royal Albert Hall under a Section 278 agreement, while the cost of the highways amendments will be funded by the City Council.

### Recommendation

It is recommended that Traffic Orders are made to facilitate the implementation of the measures described above and shown on Drawing Nos. 70062774-WSP-P02-X-DR-HI-1203-01 and -02 Revs S2-P01.

## **Statement of Reasons**

The Royal Albert Hall Protective Security and Public Realm Improvement scheme includes the introduction of road closures (by means of security gates and vehicle barriers) and bus and heavy goods vehicle prohibitions around this venue in order to improve the safety and comfort of residents, visitors and workers.

The introduction of daily road closures between noon and midnight in the western arm of Kensington Gore is considered necessary because the Royal Albert Hall holds over 400 events annually, all of which attract large crowds. Having regular closure times will provide consistency to the local community and road users during these hours of operation. This length of road may also be closed at the direction of the Metropolitan Police for other planned events or as circumstances dictate in order to mitigate the effects of and reduce the likelihood of danger connected with terrorism.

The removal or relocation of certain parking places from the eastern and western arms of Kensington Gore and the introduction of double yellow line "at any time" waiting and loading restrictions are necessary to ensure these lengths of roads are free of parked vehicles for the purposes of enhanced security for residents and the Royal Albert Hall.

I agree / do not agree to the above recommendation and statement of reasons and give the following authorisations:

- (a) that procedural steps be taken with a view to Traffic Orders being made under sections 6, 22C, 45, 46, 49 and 124 of and Part IV of Schedule 9 to the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984;
- (b) that subject to no objections being received as a result of public notices and consultation, such Traffic Orders be made as proposed; and
- (c) that in the event of objections being received, they be referred to me for consideration and reported to the Cabinet Member(s) if I consider it to be necessary in accordance with City Council procedure, following which I will decide whether or not the Traffic Orders should be made, with or without modification.

Signed	Date		22/12/2020	
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	Programme and Contract Manager			
	City Highways, Environment and City Management			











