

City Centre Masterplan Refresh – update

Nigel McDowell – Senior Planner
Masterplanning, Design & Conservation Team
2022

City Centre Masterplan June 2015



[Aberdeen City Centre Masterplan and Delivery Programme.pdf](#)

CCMP progress...

- Aberdeen Art Gallery
- Music Hall re-opened
- Marischal Square & Broad St developed



CCMP progress...

.... and Union Terrace Gardens and Provost Skene's House reopening...



Covid Pandemic in the city

- Spaces for People Project from June 2020



Covid Pandemic in the city

- Spaces for People Project from June 2020





May – August – Nov 2021

City Centre Masterplan refresh and inclusion of the beach area

- ACC City Growth and Resources Committee of 11th May instructed scoping for 4 project areas:
- West End cluster
- Union St – in locational parts
- Castlegate
- Schoolhill & Upperkirkgate, and in addition...
 - Market
 - Beach

West End



Union Street

- Union St – in locational parts



Union Street



Castlegate



Schoolhill & Upperkirkgate



Aberdeen Market



Aberdeen Beach Masterplan



..... a valued place.



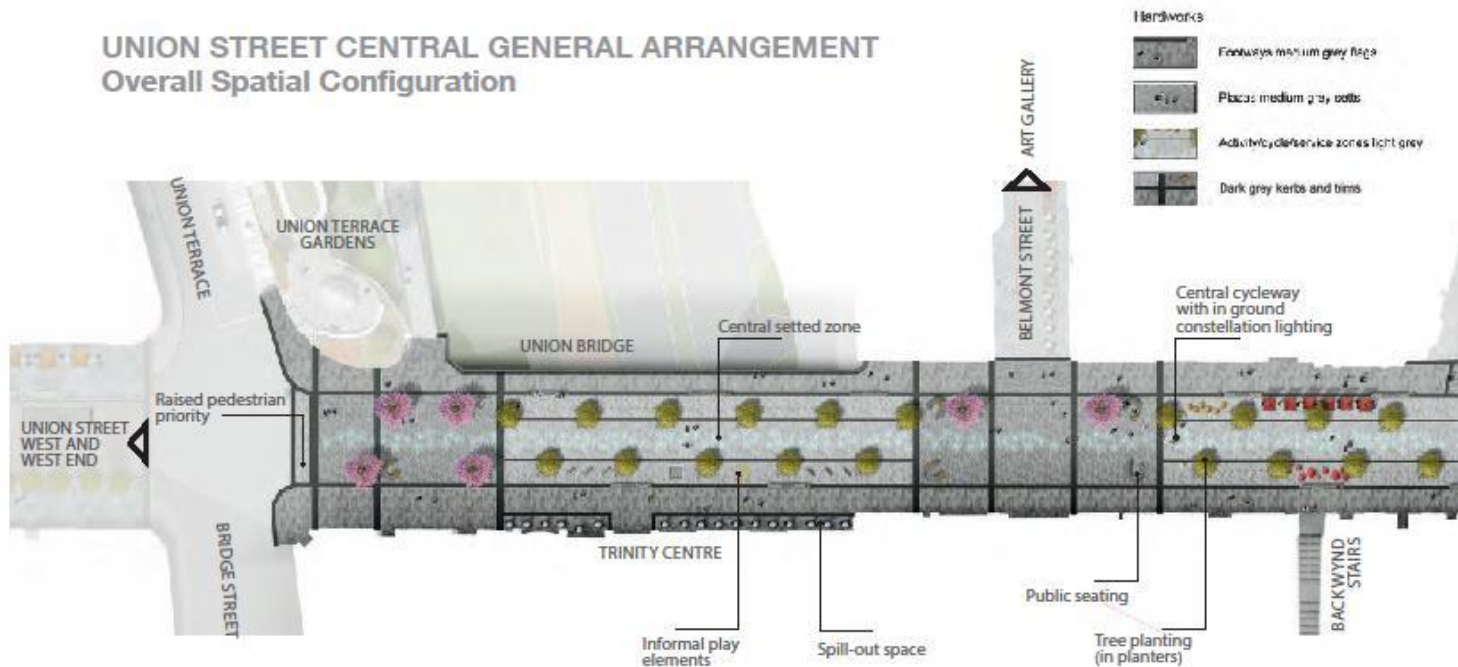


Survey & Engagement

- On-line simulator survey closed 2nd July with nearly 7500 responses
- <https://communityplanningaberdeen.pointsimulator.com/>
- Email box ccmp@aberdeencity.gov.uk
- Hub North engaged by ACC to provide consultants responding to area briefs
- Reporting 'Visioning' exercises to **ACC City Growth and Resources Committee on, 25th August** for direction onward
- Reporting the pedestrianisation of central Union St and bringing forward detailed design for stakeholder engagement and further reporting – **12th November ACC City Growth and Resources Com.**

Developing detail – Union St central

UNION STREET CENTRAL GENERAL ARRANGEMENT Overall Spatial Configuration



Destination



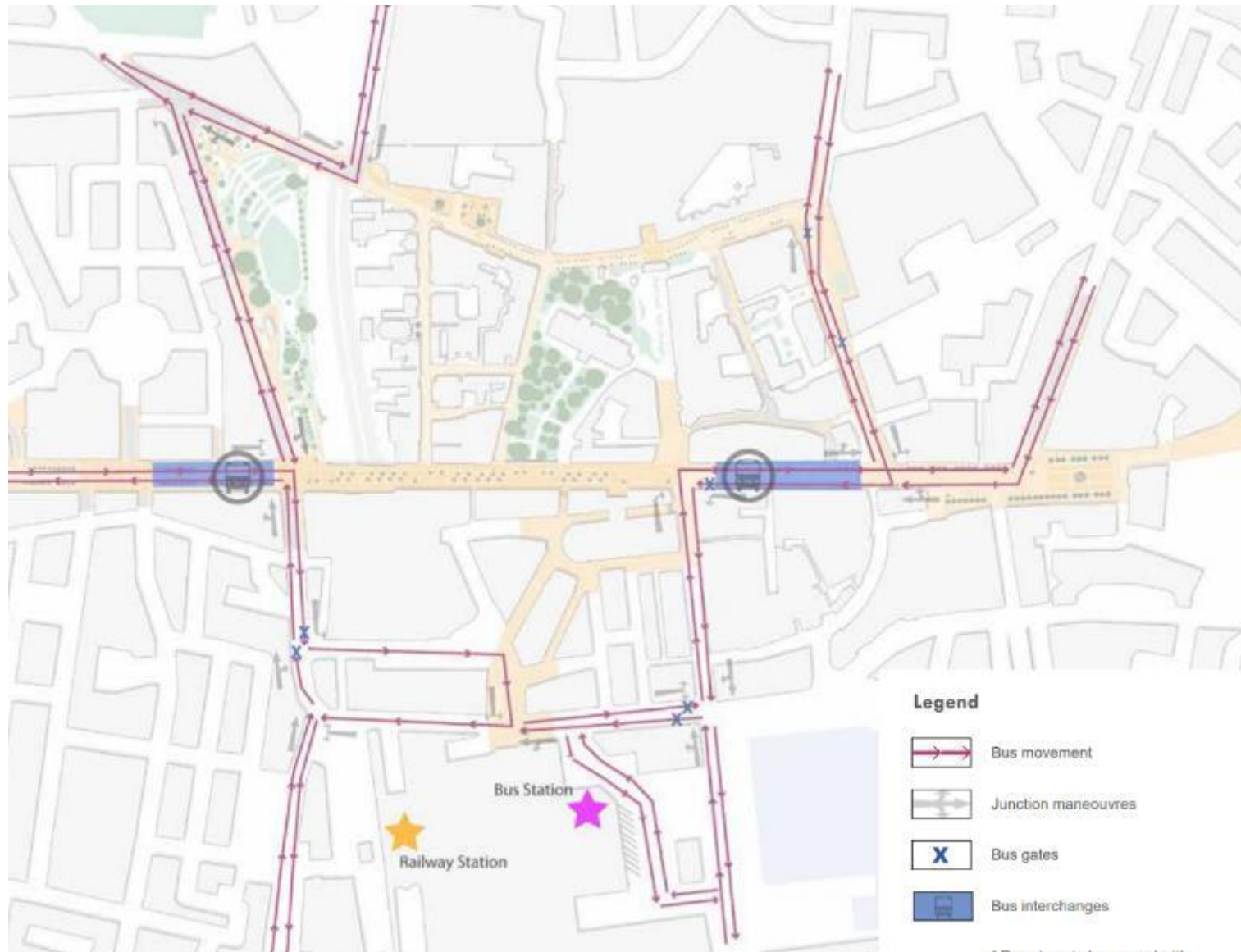
Create one overall unified, flexible, pedestrian priority space within the centre of Union Street.

Rhythm and Symmetry



Clear and consistent approach to hierarchy of subspaces within the overall public space.

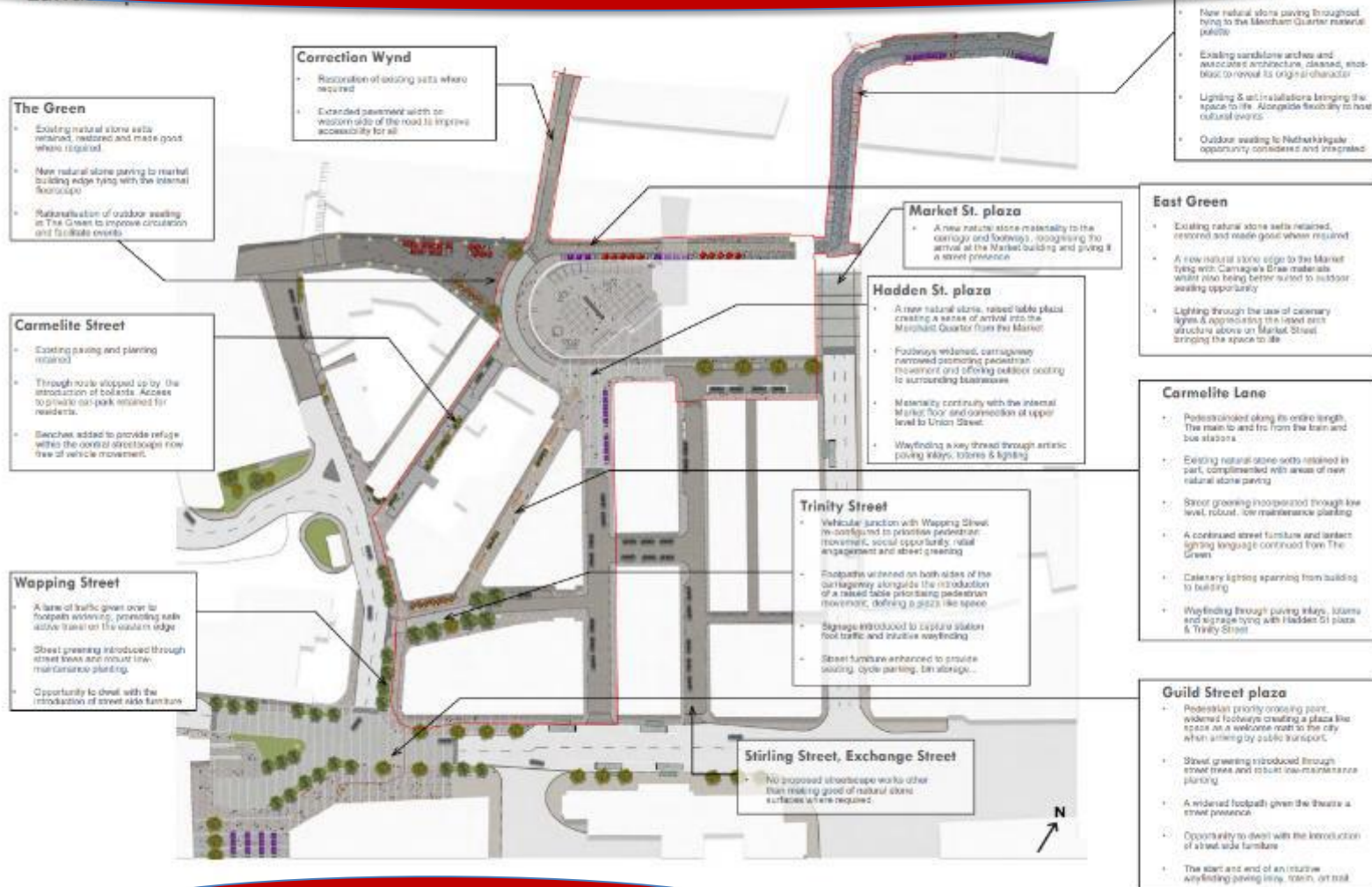
Developing detail – Union St central



Developing detail - Market



Developing detail - Market



Developing detail – Belmont St

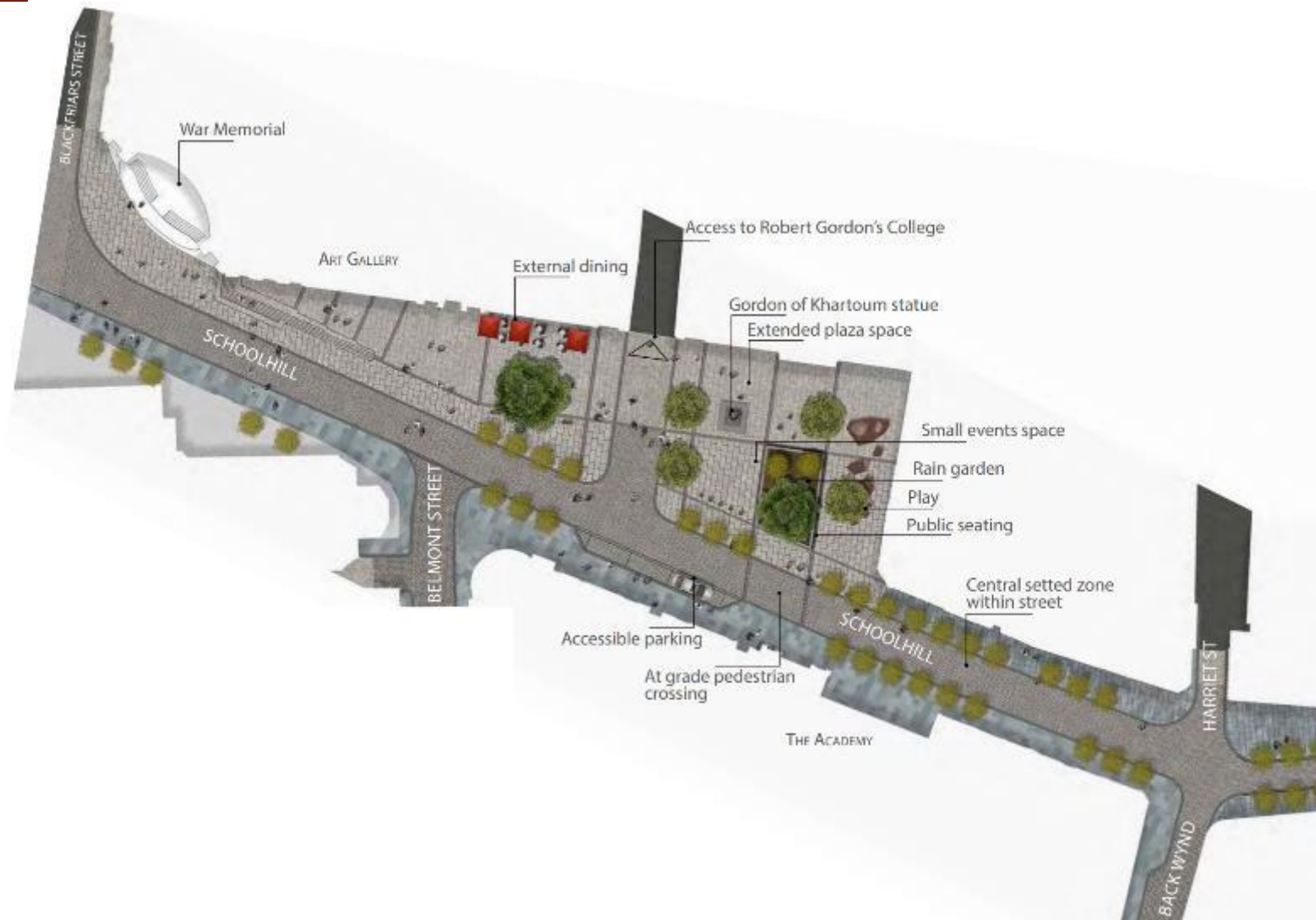
Zoning, movement and access



Developing detail – Belmont St



Developing detail – Schoolhill



Developing detail – West End

West End Key moves

Rationalised Carriageway

The proposals seek to reappropriate carriageway space within Rose Street, Thistle Street and Chapel Street as to better respond to and service the needs of the area.

Clear, unobstructed footways will be maintained, whilst space from the carriageways will be allocated to flexible 'service zones' either side of these. These flexible zones within the streetscape are designed to potentially accommodate café spill-out areas, disabled parking, taxi ranks and elements street greening where appropriate.

The apportioning of the space within the 'service zone' will be further considered through appropriate engagement during the next stages of the project.

Widened Footpaths

Within the proposals, current footpaths widths are maintained generally and widened where space permits.

In addition to this 'Copenhagen crossings' have been introduced at key junctions within and adjacent to the area including the egress points onto Union Street. These crossings subtly denote to drivers that the area is a space for people to occupy first and foremost.

Seating and Spillover Space

The proposed reappropriation of space within the street allows for the introduction of public seating within the area which will offer welcoming amenity to all and opportunities for rest for the less able whilst encouraging a wide range of visitors to the West End.

The proposals also allow for the provision of external café where appropriate, further animating the public realm.

Enriched Public Realm

In addition to the provision of space for external spill-out areas the proposals seek to further enrich the public realm through the considered placement of planting and feature lighting within the streetscape.

The designs propose the introduction of catenary lighting creating a 'ceiling of lights' over the streets further enhancing the unique qualities of the areas whilst bringing a human scale to the streetscape.

Street Greening

Elements of street greening have been carefully incorporated with the proposals to enhance the seasonality and biodiversity within the area, softening the space generally and afford a degree of shade and shelter.

Tree species and planting generally will be carefully selected as to ensure that they are suitable for an urban environment and that ongoing maintenance requirements are kept to a minimum.

Material Palette

Proven, simple, elegant and robust materials will be selected for use within the public realm in accordance with the ACC Urban Realm Manual.

Wherever possible, indigenous stone will be specified for use within hard landscaped areas, reducing transportation requirements whilst supporting a circular economy and in particular investment within the local Scottish stone industries.



Developing detail – West End





Next Steps....

- **Belmont St Business Case 28th Feb Full Council**
- **Priority Projects update – June Full Council**
- **Online George St area survey 7th Feb – 7th March**
- **detail and stakeholder engagement.....**