

CRIME AND SECURITY

A safe, secure environment promotes wellbeing and enhances lifestyle for residents and visitor-experience alike. In today's environment all towns, crowded places and development projects need to take account of the risks of crime and terrorism. It is incumbent on planners, designers and project teams to address these risks and ensure that projects designed to enhance the town, do not inadvertently compromise the safety, security and the well-being of residents, or adversely affect the attractiveness and ultimately the economic stability of the area.

Towns and cities face a range of criminality from violent crime to graffiti, nuisance crime to anti-social behaviour or civil unrest, and ultimately serious and organised crime, all of which can create fear and stress among local citizens. Our youth communities can be particularly vulnerable and can get caught up in criminal activities including drugs, county lines and sex industries.

These criminal aspects can have major impact on quality of life for residents and workers, while deterring outside visitors from the town centres. In these economically uncertain and socially stressful times, there is always the risk of additional criminal behaviour, along with the over-hanging threat of protest activity or civil unrest.

Towns also have the responsibility to keep their residents, workers and visitors safe from terrorist attack, and, since the Manchester Arena bombing, there is increasing pressure on crowded areas to have plans and protective measures in place. New legislation is on its way in the shape of Martyn's Law, and while the exact proposals are as yet uncertain, it is thought that they will include requirements for:

- those responsible for all spaces and places to which the public have access to seek terrorism advice and training
- the conduct of vulnerability assessments in respect their operating places and spaces
- those places to mitigate the risks created by the vulnerabilities
- those places to have a counter-terrorism plan
- local authorities to plan for the threat of terrorism

All the following sectors are designated as Crowded Places by the National Counter Terrorism Security Office (NaCTSO):

Cinemas and theatres
Hotels and restaurants
Places of worship
Transport hubs

Commercial centres
Major events
Retail
Visitor attractions

Health sector
Night-time economy
Stadia and arenas

Increasingly, the focus on protection is in the 'grey spaces' between these specific locations. This is because recent attacks have occurred outside the perimeters of venues where it is difficult to establish who has responsibility.

In the post-Covid-19 era, many towns are looking at ways of developing outdoor events for markets or to enable pubs and restaurants to open their doors to an open-air environment. Ensuring that this is done safely and that those who are enjoying these spaces – or those who are just spending more time queuing outside – are not increasingly vulnerable to risks such as pickpocketing or vehicle attack is vital.

Of course, protection against terrorist attack is also protection against the criminal; awareness and training of staff around hostile reconnaissance, hostile behaviour and attack planning is just as pertinent for criminal behaviour as it is for terrorist behaviour.

Much of the protection can be designed into the built environment, reducing the need for costly add-ons and clumsy features. Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design (CPTED) includes using the environment to provide natural surveillance to deter crime or to slow traffic to deter vehicle attacks, both of which can achieve much in the protection of citizens.

Critical to all of this is that towns understand the risks that they own and so can focus their attention on relevant mitigations in an intelligent and proportionate way.

Using our expertise gained in managing security risks, we have developed tools to manage Covid-19 recovery. This includes evaluating mitigation measures to ensure that measures and investment are targeted in the most effective way possible, taking account of the unique local circumstances each town will face.

The tool provides a systematic way to evaluate Covid-19 and other public health risks in a simple, easy to use format. It works like a typical Threat, Vulnerability Risk Assessment (TVRA) tool, but is specifically designed for pandemics. Additionally, it allows the user to determine the most effective mitigation measures for any particular environment. The tool includes detailed options for measures and has input from industry leaders and Arup's epidemiologist.

As part of the Towns Fund Delivery Partner, crime and security experts can offer help and advice in a number of areas.

Living and working in the open air – protecting outside business operations post-Covid-19

In the Covid-19 era there is greater emphasis on operating outside as much as possible, whether from open air bars and cafes or just from queuing to access indoor facilities. While protecting against the spread of Covid-19, these changes can lead to exposure in other areas, specifically terror attacks. Having people outside leaves them more vulnerable to attacks such as Vehicle as a Weapon (VAW) attack or knife attack. However, there are many things that can be done to offer protection and reassurance in order to promote business and wellbeing in these difficult times.

Developing a counter terrorism security plan for the public realm

It is essential that every town and city has a comprehensive counter terrorism plan. These need to be updated regularly to reflect the current threat and risk and to incorporate unprecedented events, such as Covid-19, which may lead to additional and previously unconsidered threats and vulnerabilities. We can help towns maximise their plans and therefore their town protection plans.

Working together to manage protests safely

Recent events have led to a huge increase in protest activity. This is something that many towns are having to confront without much prior experience. Many towns struggle to consider their main risks and vulnerabilities in this arena and are unsure of best strategies for mitigation. We can help towns have a plan in place so they know how best to predict and combat this problem.

How to understand your risk in your space

To protect against crime and security at any level, a town first needs to understand its risk. Before any organisation can own its risk, it needs to understand the different types of risk it faces, the impacts of those risks, what the vulnerabilities are and the risk cycle. Then, it needs to have a clear idea of how to make detailed assessments of that risk before deciding on how to prioritise and mitigate against it. We can help with a risk-based approach that allows a town to focus attention on those factors that matter most and not waste resources on areas that are not of such high priority.

Protecting crowds against hostile vehicles, including traffic management and your responsibilities

All towns juggle pedestrians and traffic. Added to this challenge is an increasing incidence and risk of Vehicle as a Weapon (VAW) attacks. Understanding how to best manage traffic flow, town operation in respect of road access control and deliveries and how to decide where and when you need to install Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) is a critical part to keeping people in your town centre safe. We can help towns formulate a safe environment free from vehicle-borne terror threats in the most robust and cost-effective way possible as well as help them fully understand their responsibilities when installing HVM measures.

Embedding security into design of new projects including buildings, transport hubs and road layouts

Many see security as an add-on, such as CCTV or Hostile Vehicle Mitigation Bollards. But security is much more than that, and evidence has shown that when a town takes the time to consider security in the initial design, that security will be a lot more robust and a lot more cost-effective than when it is considered at a late stage in development when the opportunity to have the most impact is lost. We can help towns understand the power and benefit of considering security at that earliest stage in design.

Crime Prevention Through Environmental Design to make the environment safer for users

CPTED is a common approach for designing out crime that can make a real difference to a community. Endorsed by the police, it's effects can be wide-reaching and long-term. We can help towns understand some of the common methodologies used within this framework to illustrate the value to their communities.

The power of awareness of risks, methodologies, attack planning, hostile reconnaissance and suspicious behaviour

It has long been understood that terrorists and criminals alike spend a significant amount of time planning attacks. It is during this phase that their suspicious activity could be identified and either deterred or reported. Understanding the power that members of a community can have to identify these suspicious signs, to challenge individuals within a customer service context, or to report them, can achieve overwhelming success in stopping attackers at the planning stages.

We can also help with the development of deterrent communications that can have a significant effect in reassuring the public of the security measures in place while warning the potential attacker that their chances of carrying out a successful attack without being noticed are low.

Contingency or response plans for a range of issues such as Marauding Terrorist Attack

Marauding Terror Attacks (MTA), such as the recent knife attacks in UK public spaces, are often sudden, fast-moving and confused. They can happen anywhere, with no warning and the majority of casualties occur in the first few seconds. It is critical that towns understand the nature of these attacks and have a contingency and response plan in place should one occur. These plans include communication, evacuations, lock downs and safe spaces, emergency grab bags and business continuity plans. We can help towns understand the intricacies of MTA attacks and how they can best prepare themselves, based on the latest research

Covid-19 recovery and risk assessments

Our Covid-19 recovery tool will help towns evaluate mitigation measures to ensure that measures and investment are targeted in the most effective way possible for individual circumstances. The tool provides a systematic way to evaluate Covid-19 and public health risks in a simple, easy to use format. It is a risk assessment tool specifically designed for pandemics.

TERMS & CONDITIONS



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