



Appendix D Streetscape Interventions

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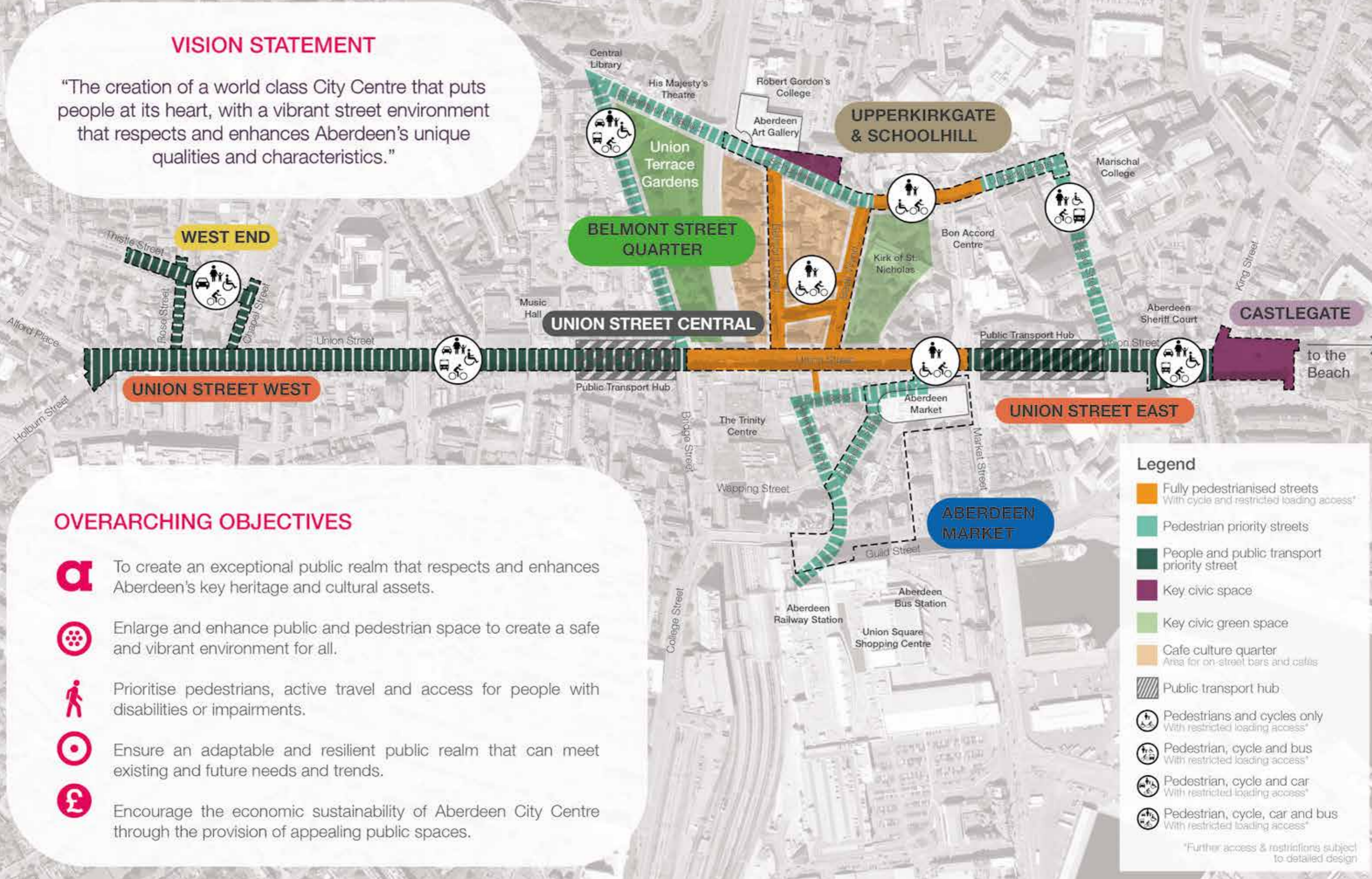
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Strategic Plan

VISION STATEMENT

“The creation of a world class City Centre that puts people at its heart, with a vibrant street environment that respects and enhances Aberdeen’s unique qualities and characteristics.”



OVERARCHING OBJECTIVES

-  To create an exceptional public realm that respects and enhances Aberdeen’s key heritage and cultural assets.
-  Enlarge and enhance public and pedestrian space to create a safe and vibrant environment for all.
-  Prioritise pedestrians, active travel and access for people with disabilities or impairments.
-  Ensure an adaptable and resilient public realm that can meet existing and future needs and trends.
-  Encourage the economic sustainability of Aberdeen City Centre through the provision of appealing public spaces.

Legend

-  Fully pedestrianised streets
With cycle and restricted loading access*
-  Pedestrian priority streets
-  People and public transport priority street
-  Key civic space
-  Key civic green space
-  Cafe culture quarter
Area for on-street bars and cafes
-  Public transport hub
-  Pedestrians and cycles only
With restricted loading access*
-  Pedestrian, cycle and bus
With restricted loading access*
-  Pedestrian, cycle and car
With restricted loading access*
-  Pedestrian, cycle, car and bus
With restricted loading access*

*Further access & restrictions subject to detailed design

Strategic Objectives

WEST END

Key objectives:

- Stimulate the economy by making the area more attractive.
- Enhance the unique character of the area to create a welcoming and comfortable space within which to dwell for extended periods of time.
- Rationalise the carriageways in favour of people and increase the opportunity for spill-out spaces to help animate the area.
- Widen the footpaths where possible, to allow greater and safer spaces for pedestrians, reducing conflicts with other street users.
- Add public seating and spill out spaces to animate the streets and allow places for rest.
- Increase street greening to soften the streetscape in order to enhance the intimate character of the place and to offer shade and shelter.

UNION STREET EAST & WEST

Key objectives:

- Rationalise the street in favour of walking, wheeling and cycling.
- Widen footpaths to allow for safer and more comfortable pedestrian movement.
- Provide designated cycleways where possible to reduce conflict with other street users.
- Incorporate bus hubs in order to improve accessibility to the City Centre.
- Provide plaza spaces adjacent to key buildings, creating focal points along the street, whilst celebrating the city's rich heritage.
- Increase seating and spill-out areas to animate the area and promote business.
- Incorporate street planting to soften the space, adding shade and shelter.

UNION STREET CENTRAL

Key objectives:

- Create a pedestrian friendly focal point at the heart of the City Centre, between Bridge Street and Market Street, that represents the best of Aberdeen.
- Create a safe and welcoming connection between Union Terrace Gardens and the Aberdeen Market.
- Prioritise people movement within the space whilst accommodating servicing requirements.
- Ensure that any proposals are flexible and adaptable in terms of event planning and the future needs of the city.
- Increase seating and spill-out spaces to help animate the space.
- Enrich the public realm through play, public art and lighting.
- Incorporate street planting to soften the space, adding shade and shelter.
- Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where possible

BELMONT STREET QUARTER

Key objectives:

- Enhance the unique characteristics of the area to create a welcoming space and comfortable environment for people to dwell and spend time.
- Curate and formalise the outdoor seating and spill out spaces to help animate the space.
- Incorporate public seating and planting allowing places for rest.
- Improve the pedestrian connection between Union Street Central to the Art Gallery.
- Enrich the public realm through play, public art and lighting.

CASTLEGATE

Key objectives:

- Create an accessible, attractive, and flexible space for day to day use, civic gatherings and events.
- Increase the attractiveness of the area for residents, businesses, and visitors in a bid to stimulate the economy and provide social benefits.
- Improve pedestrian and cycle connectivity, especially to the Beach.
- Increase seating and spill-out spaces to help animate the space.
- Enrich the public realm through play, public art and lighting.
- Incorporate street planting to soften the space, adding shade and shelter.
- Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where possible.

ABERDEEN MARKET & THE GREEN

Key objectives:

- Enhance the unique characteristics of the area to create a welcoming space and comfortable environment for people to dwell and spend time.
- Recognise and build upon the area's reputation for street art.
- Improve pedestrian and cycling connectivity through the Market, recognising its importance as a key link between the Railway and Bus Station and the City Centre.
- Increase seating and spill-out spaces to help animate the space.
- Incorporate street planting to soften the space, adding shade and shelter.
- Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where possible.

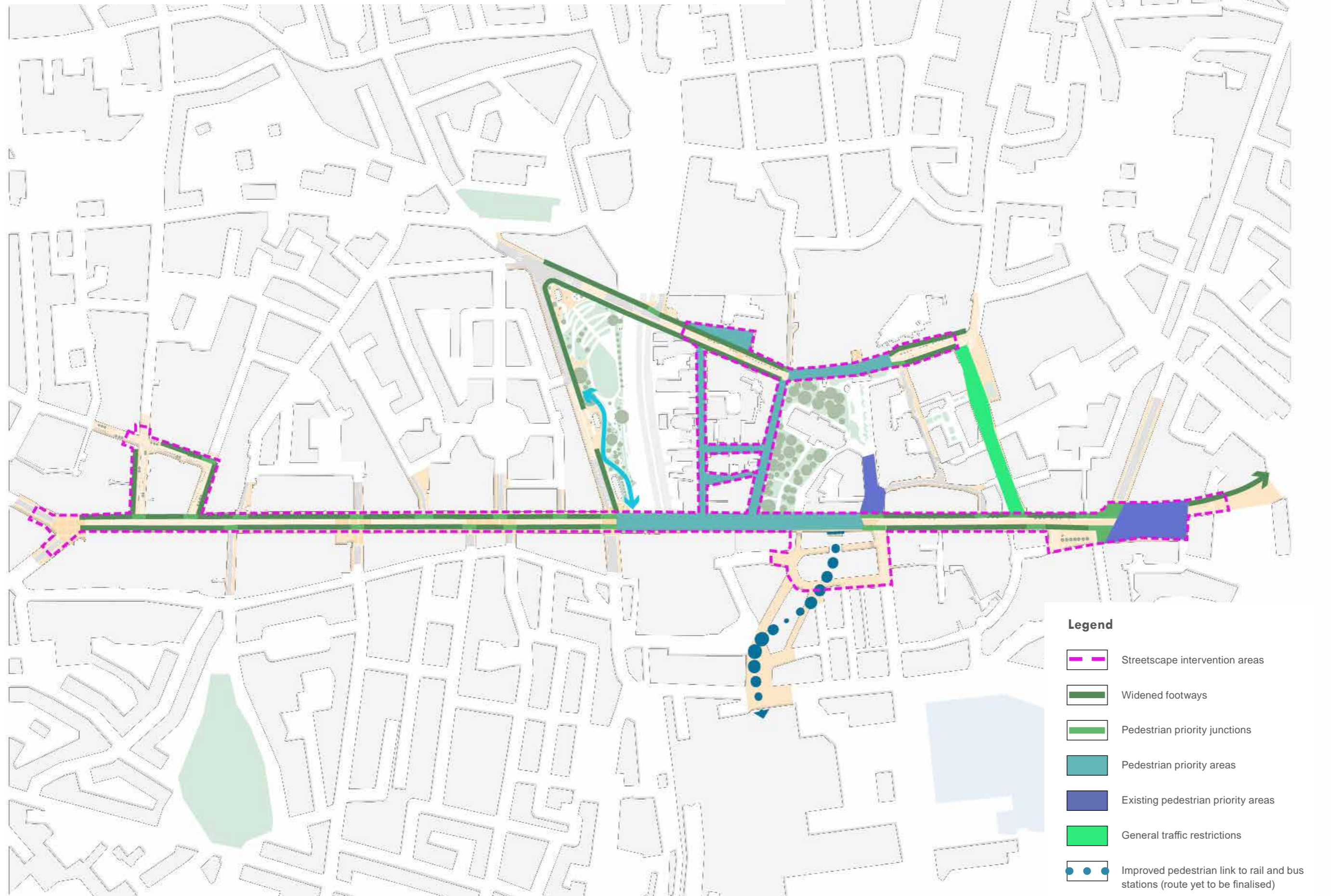
UPPERKIRKGATE & SCHOOLHILL

Key objectives:

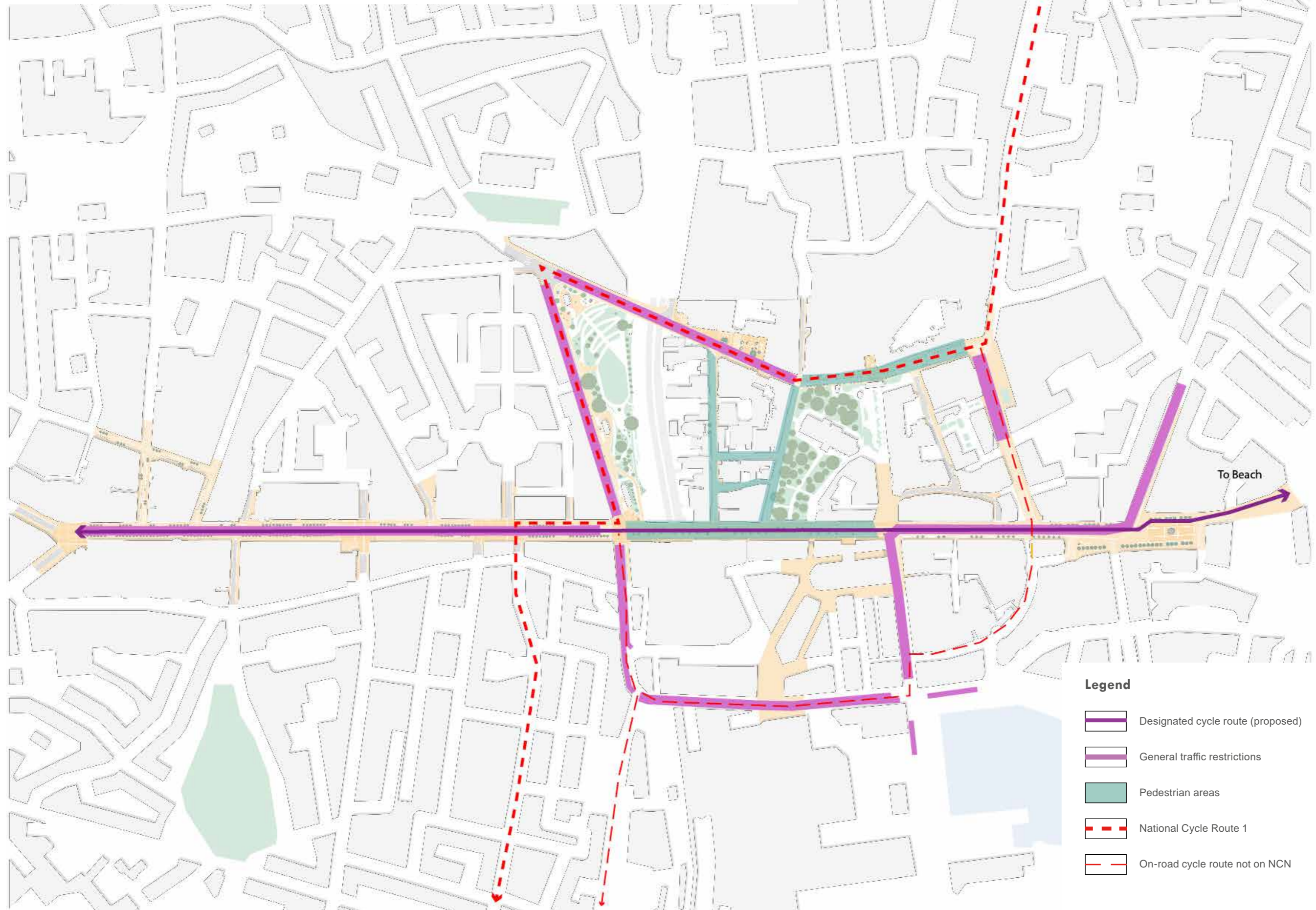
- Rationalise the carriageway in favour of pedestrian movement.
- Widen footpaths where possible to allow for safer and more comfortable pedestrian movement.
- Include seating and spill-out space to animate the area and encourage business.
- Enrich the public realm by incorporating play and public art.
- Incorporate street planting to soften the space, adding shade and shelter.
- Incorporate Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS) where possible.
- Enhance the setting of the Art Gallery and improve the connections through to Union Terrace Gardens.
- Play opportunities and public art, such as the NUART street festival could be introduced.

Operational Plan

Pedestrian/wheeled improvements

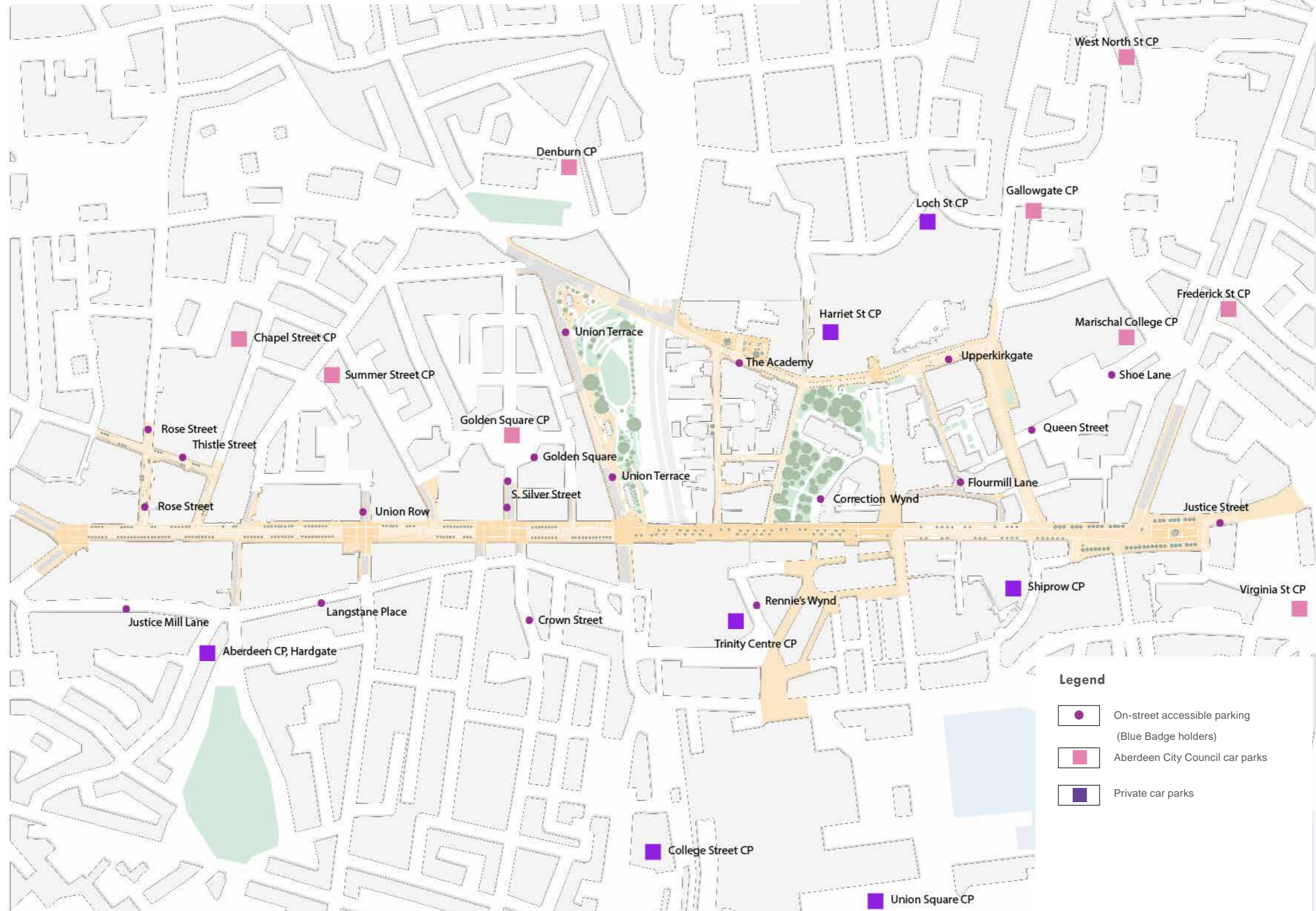


Operational Plan Cycling



Operational Plan

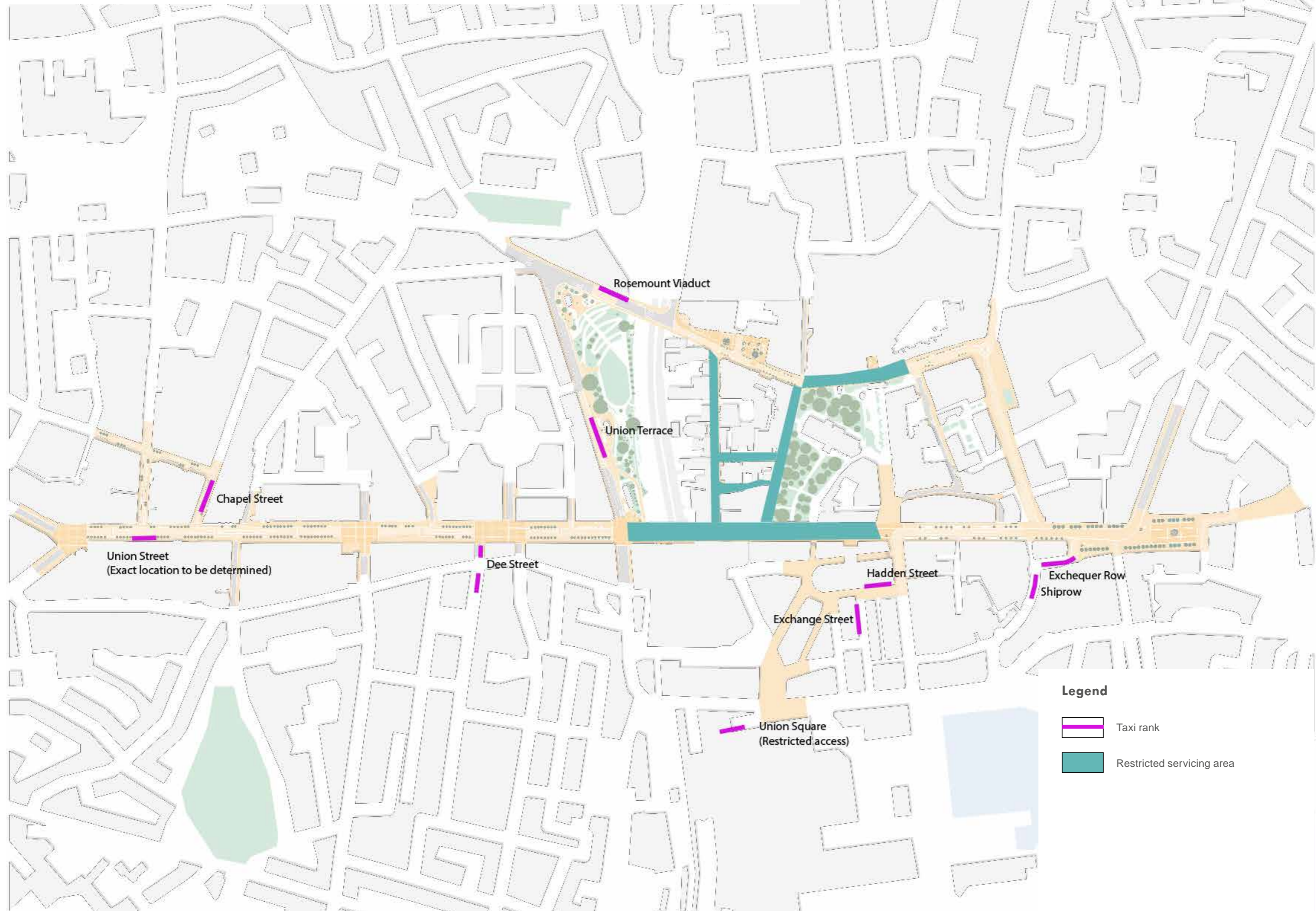
Accessible parking provision



Legend

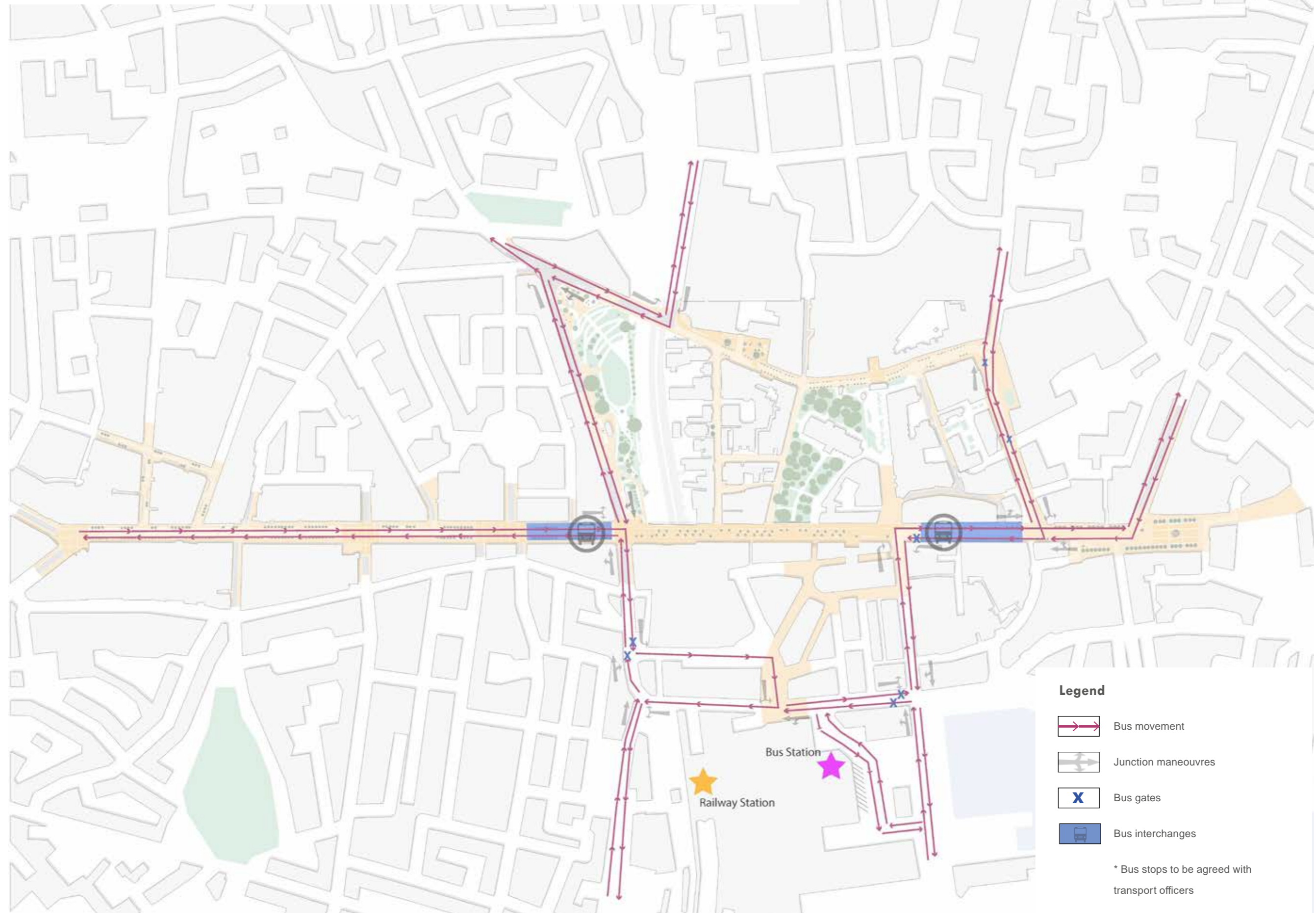
- On-street accessible parking (Blue Badge holders)
- Aberdeen City Council car parks
- Private car parks

Operational Plan Taxis



Operational Plan

Bus movements



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Engagement Overview

Young People Engagement

In order to engage with a broad range of children and young people, two separate engagement activities were undertaken targeting different age groups, to ask them about their ideas for the City.

The overall themes from all of the young people engagement suggest an affinity for green spaces, areas to sit, walk and play, a safe and clean City and plenty of colour to enliven the streets.

Youth Engagement

The first activity targeted young people aged 12-25. A pack was developed that could be distributed in person to high schools or youth groups, as well as a supporting online survey. A printed leaflet contained information about both the City and the beach. Participants could either write and draw on two postcards contained in the pack, one for each location, or scan a QR code to complete their feedback online. The team received 119 postcards and 79 online surveys, totalling 198 responses.

There are slight differences in priorities between the online and postcard methodologies, with the online survey responses tending to focus on places to sit, parks and greenery, and safety. The postcard results favoured places for children to play, shops, and street art / colourful spaces.

Although the exercise was not directly targeted to capture different age groups, responses suggest that the postcards tended to be completed by participants at the younger end of the age range while the online feedback often came from older participants.

Primary Schools

The second activity comprised a series of interactive group sessions with Primary 6 pupils across the City, between 30 September and 7 October 2021. Six schools participated in the City discussions.

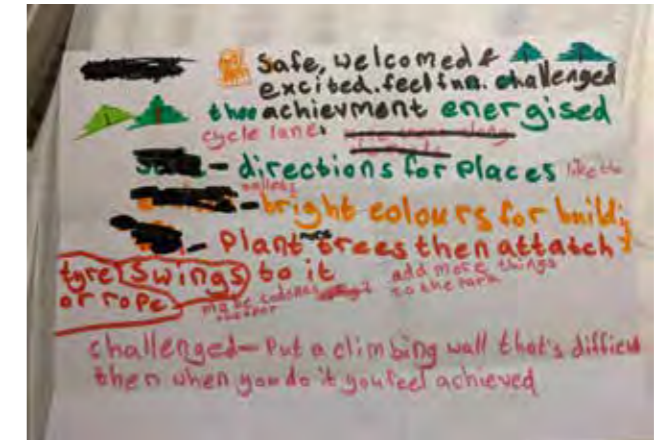
These sessions were facilitated by a specialist, however the design team joined the sessions to hear the children's feedback and witness their enthusiasm in collaborating to shape the vision for Union Street.

Despite the varied range of ideas and proposals, there was a communality of themes that were brought up and appeared fairly consistently throughout the sessions.

The children felt that the creation of a child-friendly, safe and sustainable environment was a key consideration for the designs moving forward.

The discussions were generally pedestrian, and people focussed with very little consideration given to vehicles.

Enlivenment and activation of the spaces was considered to be of paramount importance, felt could be delivered by increasing opportunities for play and colour within the streets.



Examples of pupil's inputs



Examples of youth engagement's inputs

Business Engagement

Businesses in the City were consulted to understand more about their priorities, challenges and day to day activities. This took the form of both face to face consultation and an online survey, which could be accessed by scanning the QR code on a flyer.

The online survey received a total of 57 responses. Please note that not every question was mandatory, therefore some were answered by fewer than 57 people. The number of businesses responding to a question is shown in the 'Base' below each chart.

The consultant team arranged to meet a number of key business stakeholders in Aberdeen on Friday 1 and Saturday 2 October to gain feedback on the Spaces for People temporary interventions and to obtain further information with respect to a number of key topics. Nine businesses were consulted, out of 22 invited to participate.

It should be noted that many of the observations and comments received as part of the 1-1 business consultation exercise were made in respect to the temporary changes within the city which have been implemented to allow for the 'Spaces for People' initiatives to be deployed. Businesses were generally mindful of the fact that interventions forming part of any permanent improvements to the city centre public realm would be duly considered within the wider strategic transport assessments currently being progressed.

With respect to the Spaces for People interventions, consultees generally felt that these had been good for the City, particularly during the pandemic. Particular concerns were however raised with respect to the rerouting of buses within the City as it was felt that this made it much more difficult for people to access the city centre.

In relation to the temporary pedestrianisation of Union Street Central, it was generally felt that ensuring appropriate access for people by bus and taxi and providing for blue badge parking requires to be fully incorporated into any future permanent proposals for the space.

General Public Engagement

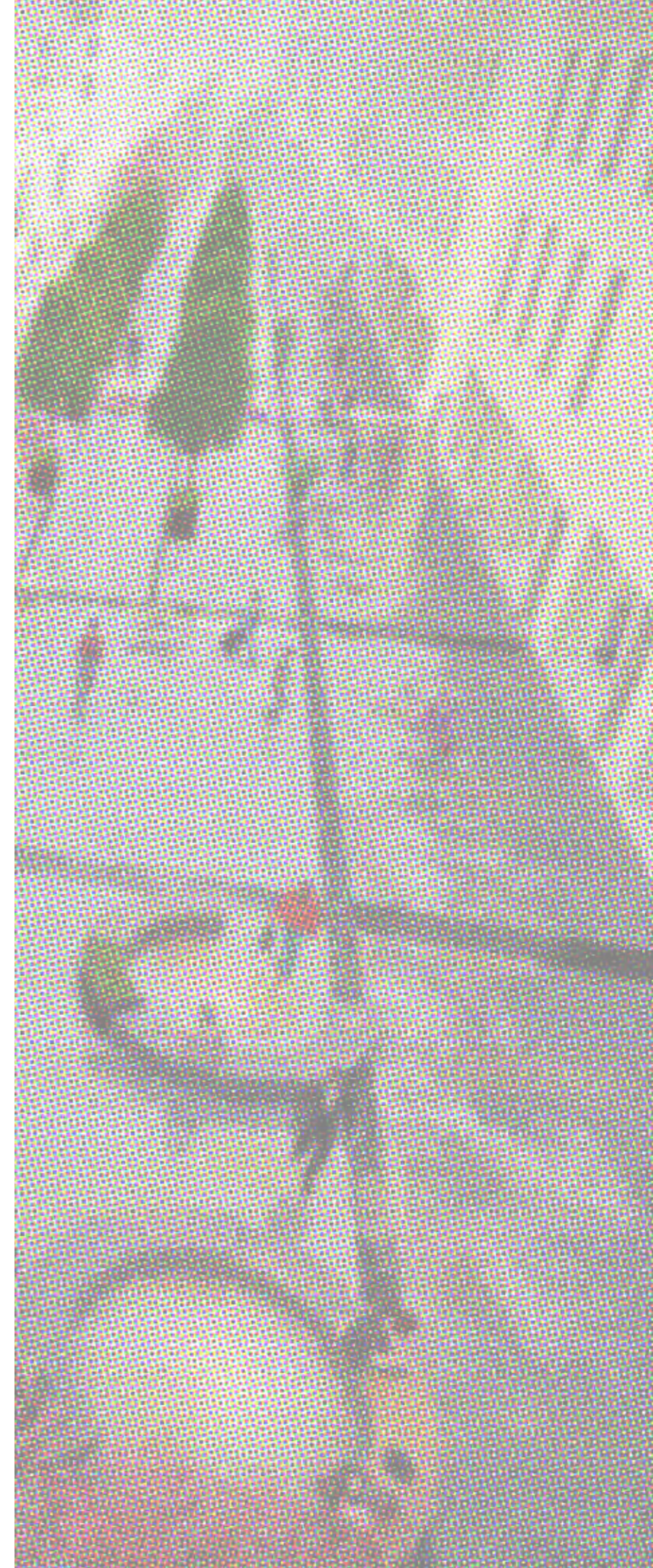
Interviews were conducted with the general public (on-street surveys) in September 2021 by a specialist fieldwork agency. A total of 780 interviews were conducted.

This survey was the third of three waves (the first carried out in December 2020 and May 2021), tracking public perceptions of the Spaces for People measures and their travel habits during the COVID-19 pandemic. The survey site list changed for September 2021 compared with the first two surveys. Rosemount was dropped due to the removal of its Spaces for People interventions and Chapel, Thistle and Rose Streets consolidated into one site. This allowed Castlegate, Belmont Street and Upper Kirkgate to be added instead.

Overall the findings show broad support for the interventions but some have worked better than others. People feel safer cycling and walking in the city centre but are finding parking a struggle to access high street businesses.



Union Street Central



Union Street Central

Key moves

A Flexible Design

The proposals for Union Street Central have been designed as to allow for the maximum degree of flexibility within the streetscape as to ensure that they are adaptable to current and future needs of the City of Aberdeen.

As such, fixed elements of furniture have been minimised allowing the space to be potentially reconfigured for larger events such as the Tour of Britain cycling event, or the temporary provision of bus routes within this section Union Street should it be required.

Rationalised Carriageway

Through the proposal it is intended that general traffic and buses will be removed from the central section of Union Street creating a piazza or new civic square at the very heart of Aberdeen.

Except for emergency vehicle and servicing access (within set hours), it is envisaged that this space will be primarily pedestrianised as to ensure that the opportunities for walking, play, active travel or simply sitting with friends and watching the world go by may be maximised.

Clearly delineated zones within the streetscape are proposed as to help ensure conflicts between different users are minimised.

Unobstructed, widened footways are proposed to allow for unimpeded access to and within the area. Clear demarcation between the footways and the central zone within the street are included within the proposals.

The central zone within the street is made up of 3 clearly defined zones, each approximately 4m wide. The two outermost zones operate on a day-to-day basis as an extension of the public realm, with the central zone defined as a leisure cycleway.

Additional crossing points are incorporated along the length of the street allowing for unhindered access across the street.

A series of secondary plaza spaces are proposed along the street at key locations such as, Belmont Street, outside Smiths Screen and Aberdeen Market, creating a unique setting to these important features.

Seating and Spillover Space

Opportunities for public seating have been maximised within the proposals. These include the incorporation of timber topped linear benches placed at regular intervals along the length of Union Street Central. In addition to this, playful elements of street furniture and seating are proposed at key locations. These elements combine to allow for a multitude of opportunities for people to dwell and spend time within the space.

It is proposed that café and restaurant spill-out space adjacent to footways only be permitted where space allows, i.e. where space ensure that a minimum 4m wide footway is maintained.

Clearly delineated areas within the extended public realm within the central zone and the plaza space associated with the Aberdeen Market may be utilised as additional spill out space where appropriate during the day.

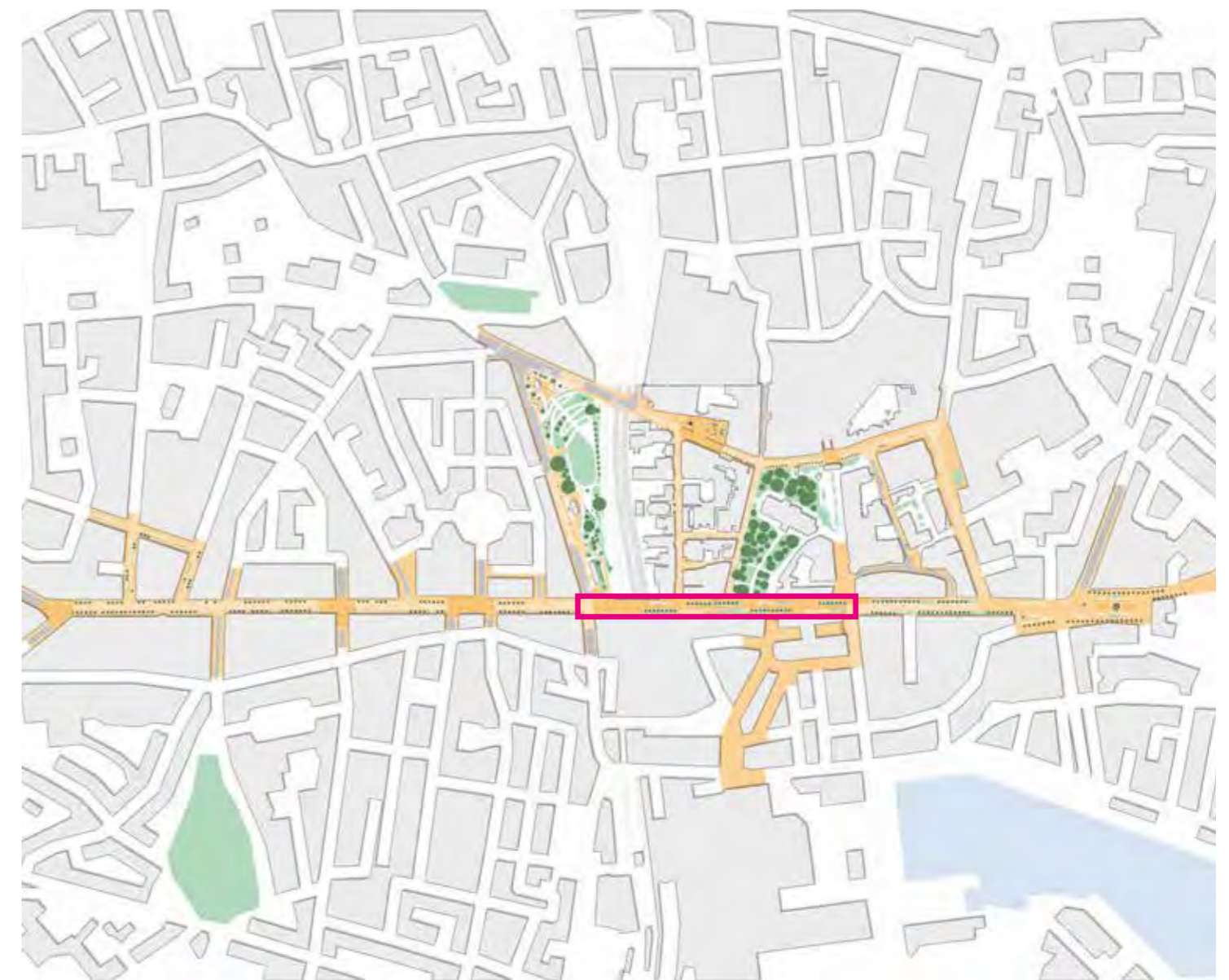
Enriched Public Realm

The proposals seek to create an enriched public realm through maximising the opportunities for the inclusion of elements of play art and feature lighting.

Engagement with respect to the development of the proposals has recently been undertaken with children, youths and young adults. Key findings of this engagement identified the lack of play opportunities, vibrancy and colour and greenspace within the city centre, and as such the proposals seek to incorporate some of these elements, where appropriate.

Proposals include the introduction of incidental play, planting, art and lighting within the space, further enhancing the activity and bringing further animation to the public realm.

The proposals seek to create a direct synergy with the Union Terrace Gardens currently being delivered, further adding to the overall vibrancy within city centre, creating a unique city centre destination.



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.

Planting is generally positioned as to clearly delineate different zones within the overall streetscape such as the cycleway and adjacent extended pedestrian areas.

In addition, the proposals are further augmented and enhance through the including of additional planting at key locations within the proposals.

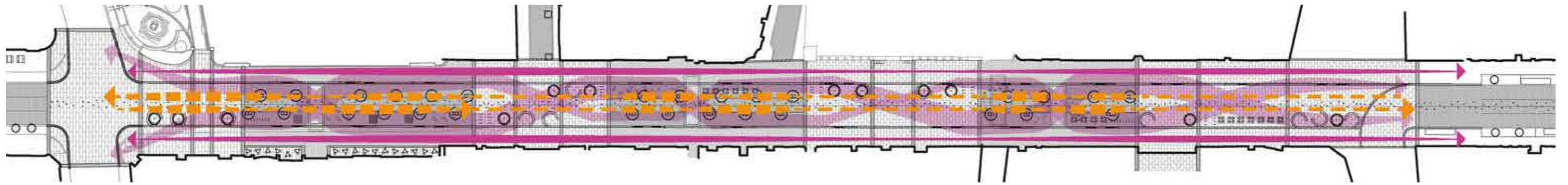
Tree species and planting generally will be carefully selected as to ensure that they are suitable for an urban environment and that ongoing maintenance requirements are kept to a minimum.

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 and to tonally and visually reflect to streetscape works associated with the Union Terrace Gardens project.

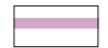
Wherever possible, indigenous stone will be specified for use within hard landscaped areas, reducing transportation requirements whilst supporting a circular economy and in particular investment within the local Scottish stone industries.

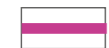
Union Street Central Movement and access

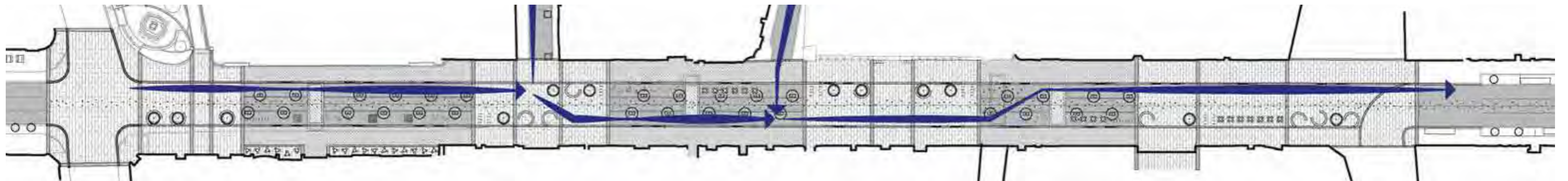


Cycling and Pedestrian Movement

 Cycleway (two-way)

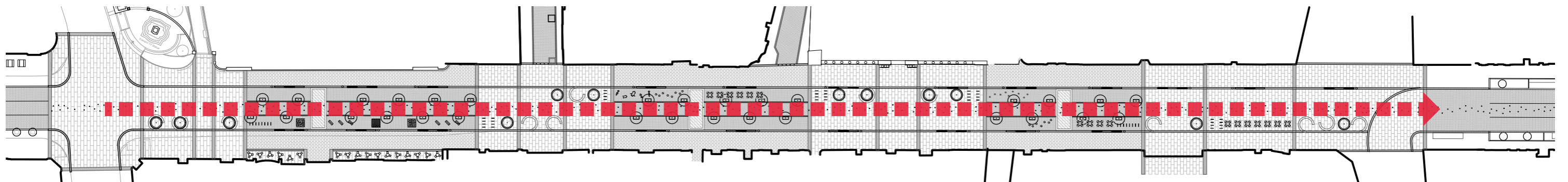
 General pedestrian flow

 Main pedestrian movement




Servicing and Emergency Vehicle Route

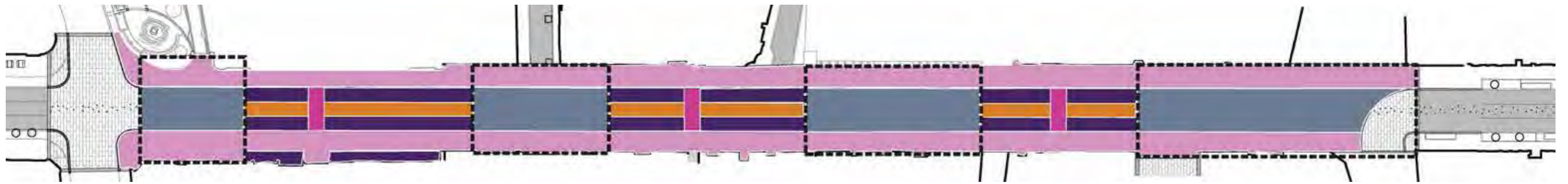
 Servicing Route (One-way eastbound)



Bus Route in Emergency Event

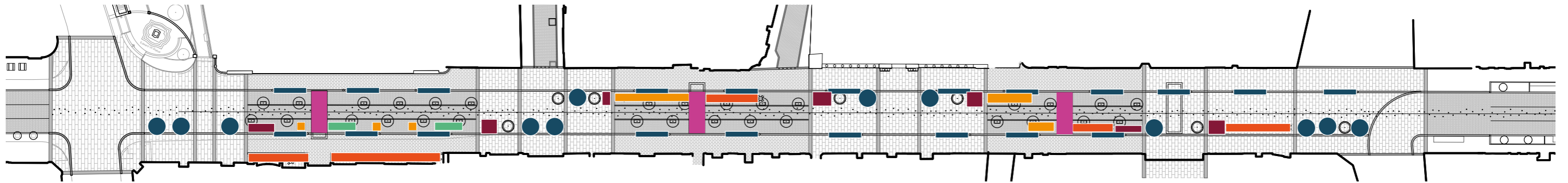
 Indicative diversion route for bus services in case of emergency or breakdown
(4m wide corridor, one way, subject to vehicular tracking)

Union Street Central Zoning and use



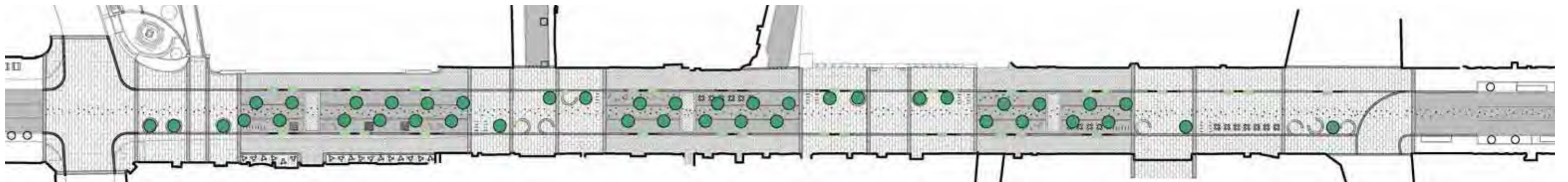
Zoning

- Pedestrian Footways
- Extended Pedestrian Zone (For Seating & Spillout)
- Plazas at Key Moments
- Informal At Grade Crossings
- Cycleway



Uses

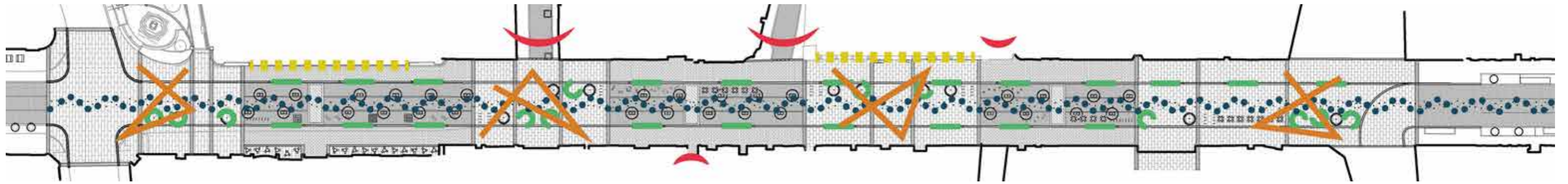
- Art (interactive panels)
- Play Zone
- External Dining
- Art (colourful informal crossings)
- Seating Elements (Flexible)
- Cycle Stands



Green Infrastructure

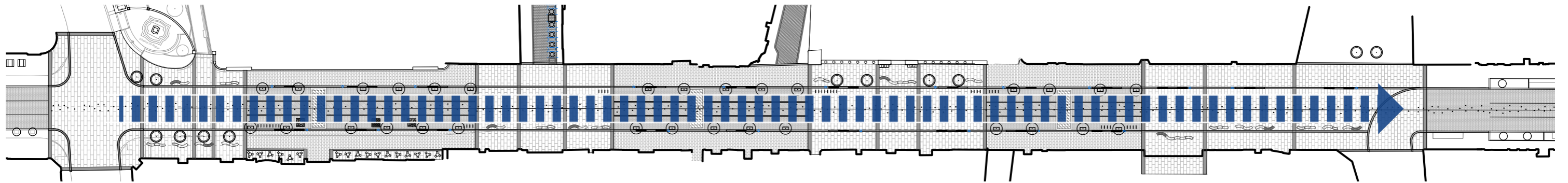
- Proposed Trees in Planters (Moveable)
- Seasonal Planting within seating elements

Union Street Central Events and lighting



Lighting Strategy

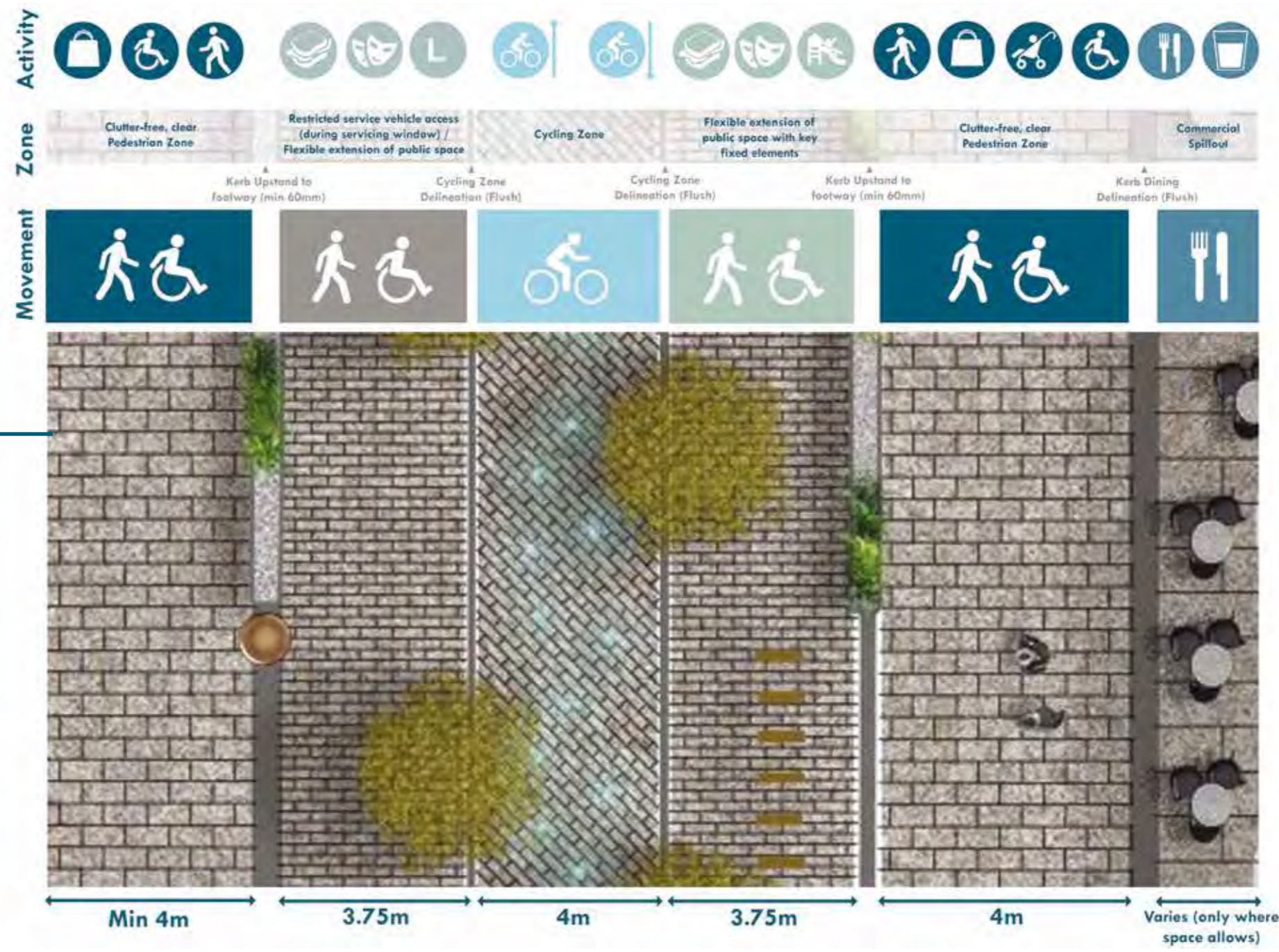
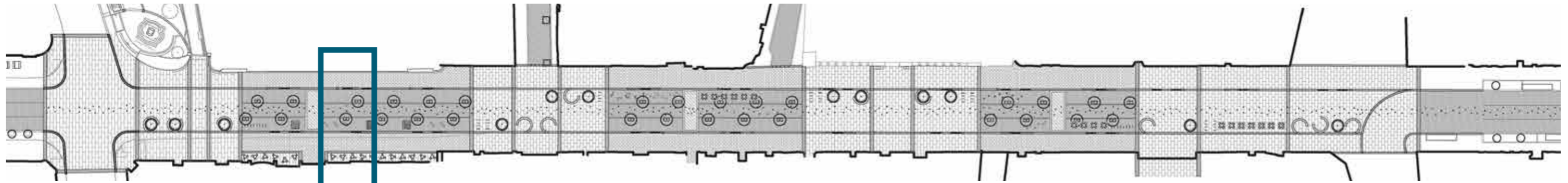
- Accent Lighting (to key buildings, structures and monuments)
- Supplementary Feature Lighting (to street furniture)
- Sentinel Lighting at Key Nodes (street entrances and steps)
- In Ground Constellation Lighting (to cycleway)
- Iconic Feature Lighting (at plazas)



Big Event / Parade Strategy

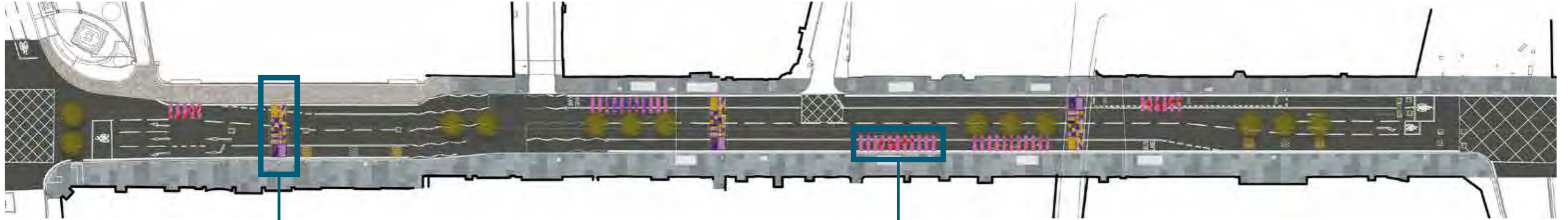
- 8m wide unobstructed corridor (street furniture temporarily moved to the edge when required)

Union Street Central Street zoning plan



Union Street Central

Early interventions plan



Colourful crossing points

Introduction of artist-designed crossing points to bring vibrancy and colour to the street. The crossings could be installed temporarily using thermoplastic materials, giving an indication of the future permanent proposals. Located at three key locations, outside the Trinity Centre entrance and at the top of the steps leading to The Green and Correction Wynd.



© Camille Walala, crossing, London Design Festival, Southwalk Street



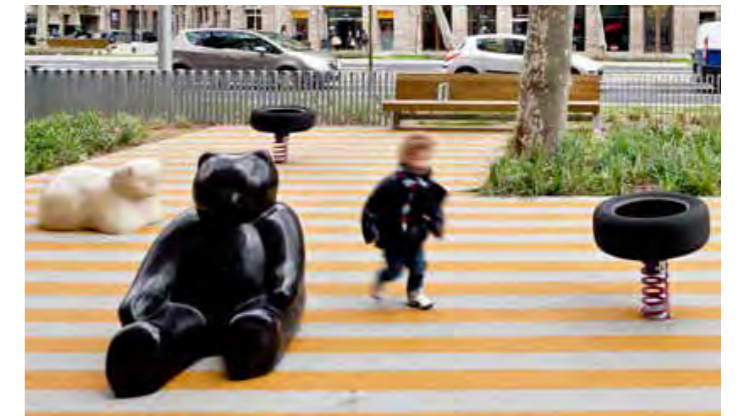
© Morag Myerscough, Love at First Sight, Aberdeen

Sculptural Play

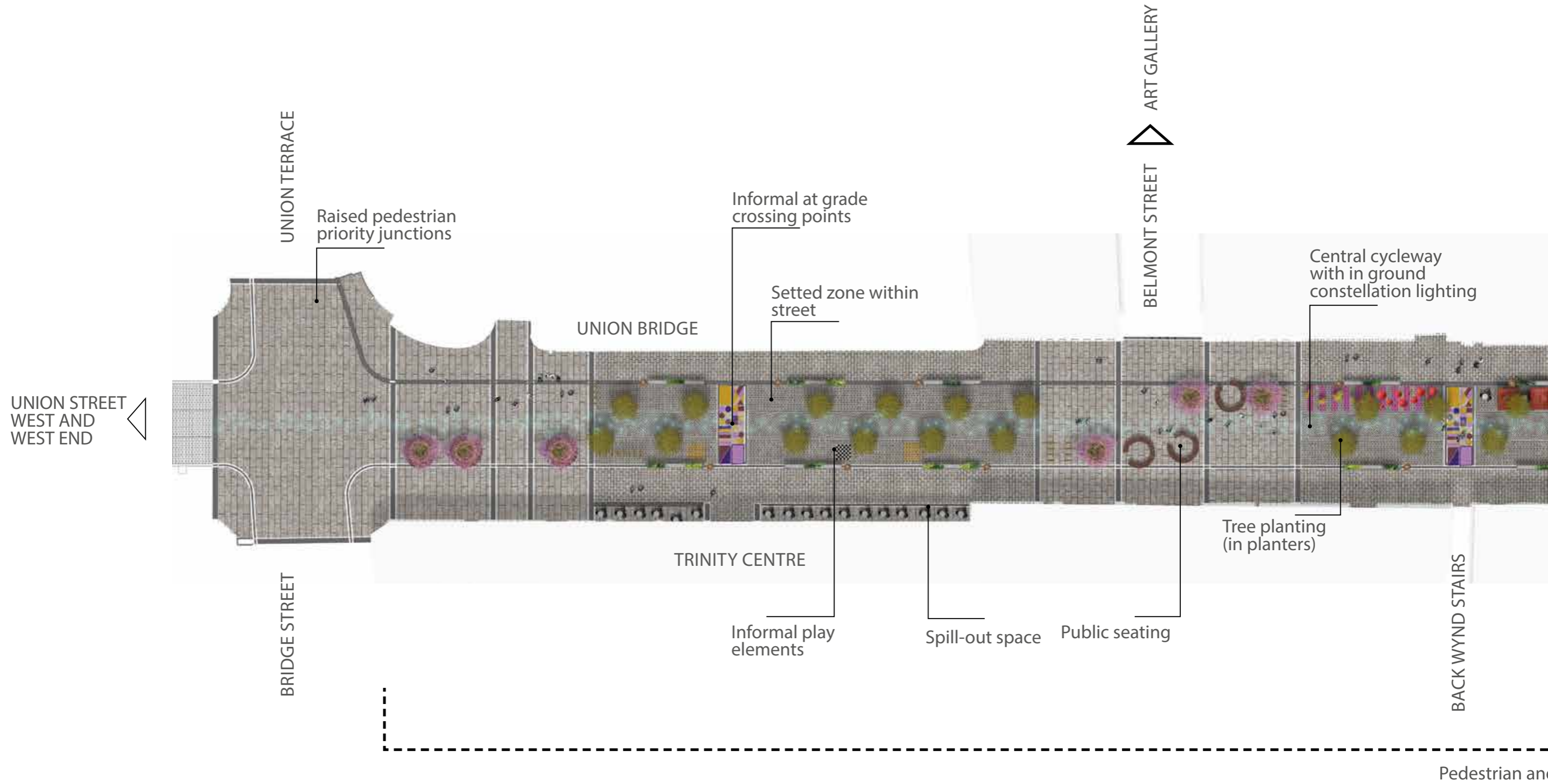
Introduction of a series of play interventions along the street, tying in with UNICEF Child Friendly City Initiative to maximise interest and opportunities for active, creative play. The play could be a combination of ground-scape patterns and fixed sculptural elements to give an indication of the future permanent proposals.

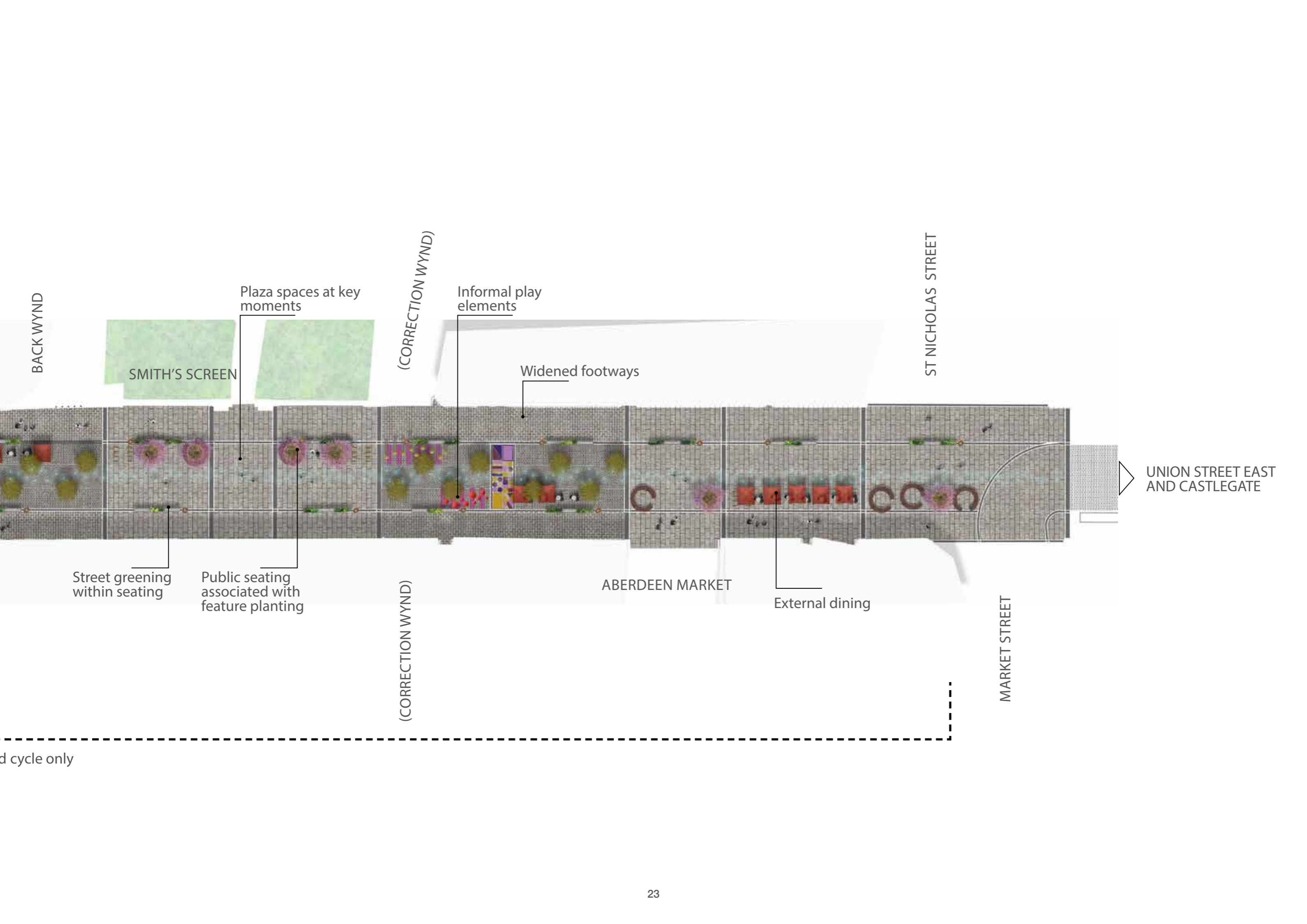


© AntoninFourneau, Water Light Graffiti, Poitiers (LED lights that light up when in contact with water). © Quentin Chevrier/DigitalArti Artlab



Union Street Central





Union Street Central



Visualisation beside Union Terrace Gardens looking east along Union Street

Union Street Central



Bird's eye view at corner of Belmont Street and Union Street Central

Union Street Central



Visualisation looking west along Union Street Central

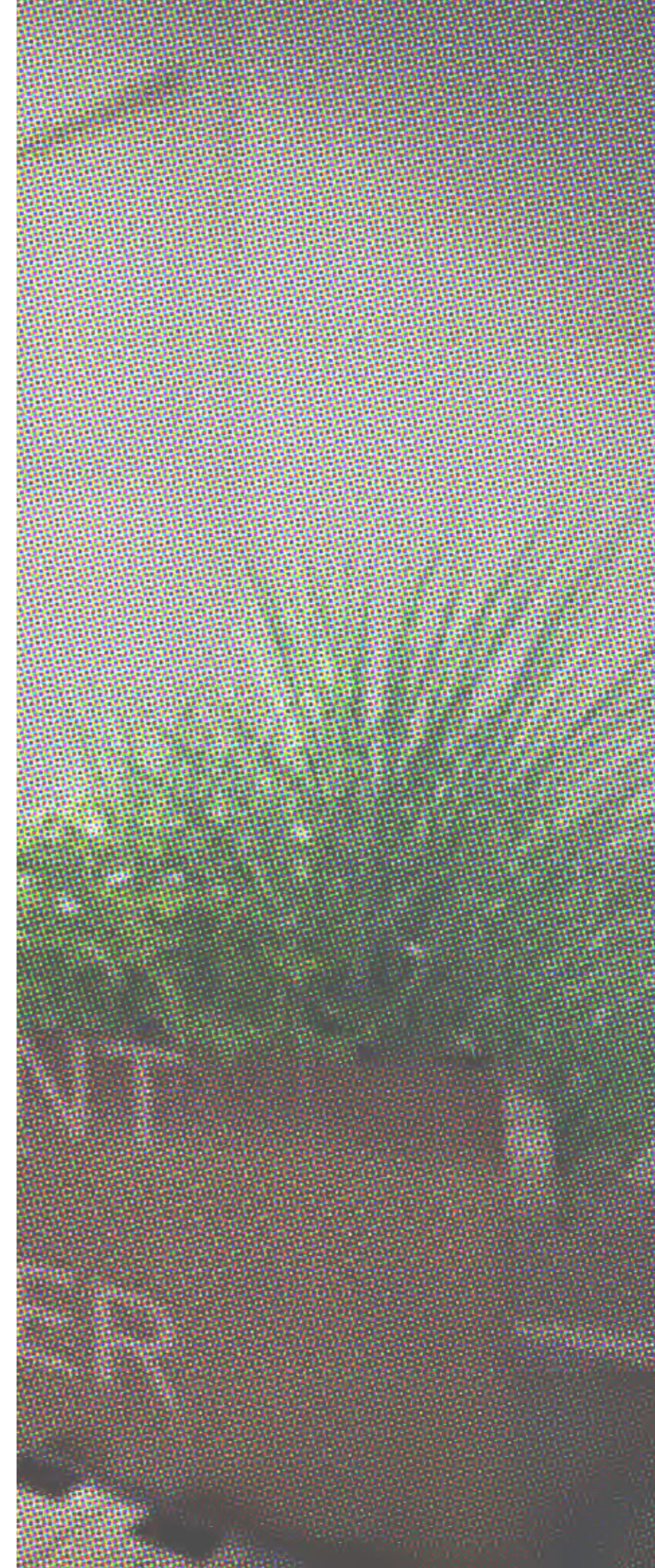
Union Street Central



Visualisation outside Aberdeen Market



Belmont Street Quarter



Belmont Street Quarter

Key moves

Rationalised Carriageway

Within the Belmont Street Quarter, the proposals seek to rationalise the carriageway as to allow for the permanent introduction of external spill-out spaces for cafés, restaurants and bars along with public seating opportunities whilst allowing for servicing and emergency vehicle access to be maintained.

The proposals have been carefully considered as to ensure unimpeded footways are maintained throughout the area.

Seating and Spillover Space

The proposals introduce public seating areas at key locations within the streetscape which allow for people to rest, dwell or take their lunch, whilst taking in the unique character and atmosphere of the area.

The spill-out spaces have been carefully curated within the streets as to ensure that a degree of uniformity in keeping with the historic nature of the area is maintained throughout.

Whilst creating a consistent and robust framework for on-street café culture, the proposals allow for a degree of individuality to be incorporated within each of the external dining zones. The canvas partitions delineating the external spill-out zones from the carriageway may be embellished with individual operators branding where appropriate.

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 city centre.

In addition, the introduction of a plaza space outside the Aberdeen Art Gallery will allow appropriate activities to spill out onto the street. This may include the provision of external café space and civic and cultural activities associated with this key public building which will add to the animation of the external environment.

Enriched Public Realm

The proposals allow for the incorporation of play, public art, and feature lighting at key locations within the area. These proposals which will be developed at the next stage of the project may include for the provision of interpretation panels conveying the unique local history of the area.

Street Greening

Street greening within the proposals is very much limited to the zones associated with the public seating and café spill-out areas.

Planting is contained within planters delineating operational zones, bringing a degree of seasonality to the area further enhancing the overall appeal of the area.

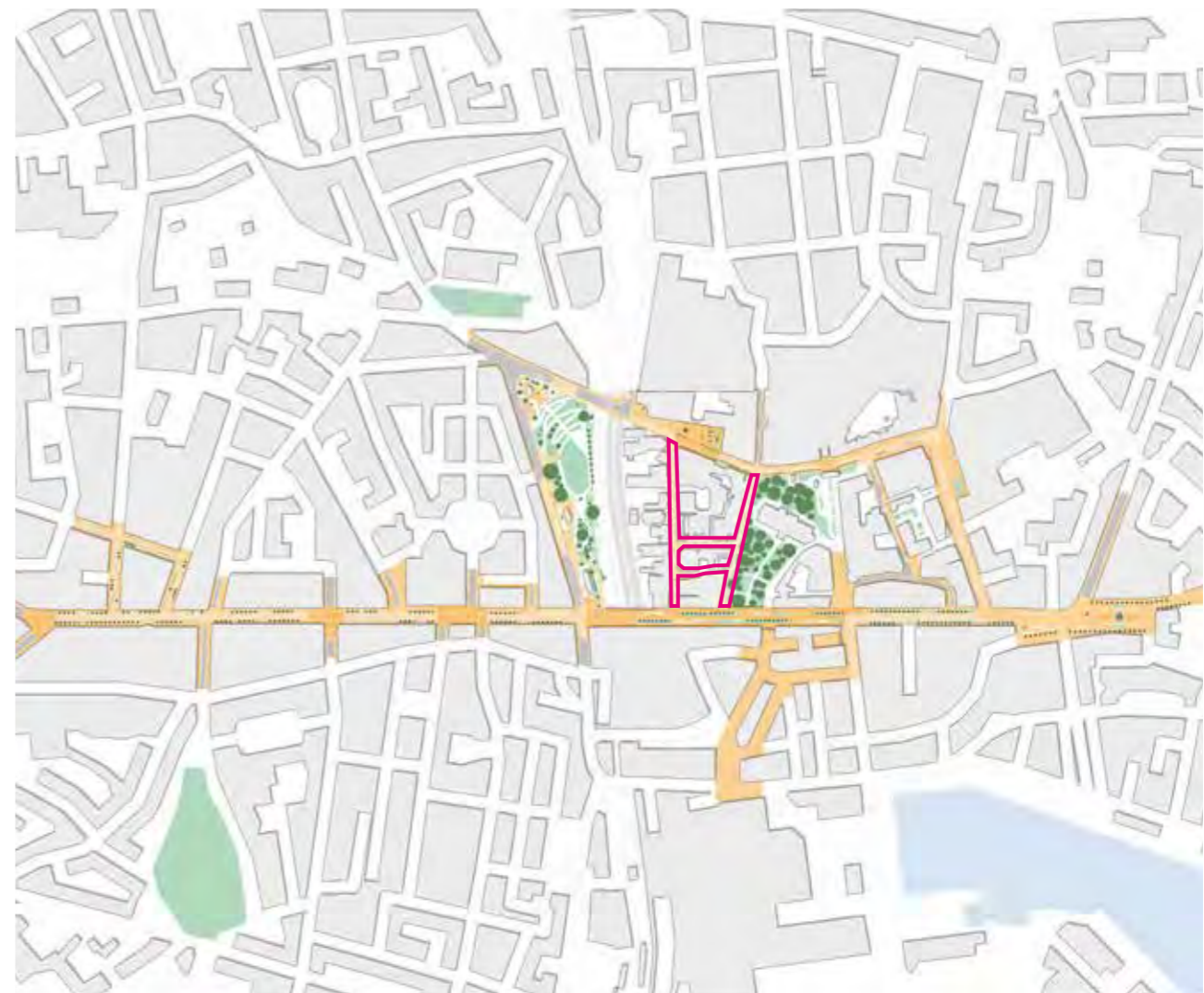
Proposed shrub and herbaceous planting will be carefully selected as to ensure that they are suitable for an urban environment and that ongoing maintenance requirements are kept to a minimum.

Material Palette

The existing streetscape within the Belmont Quarter is generally of a very high quality and the current proposals seek to retain it in its entirety.

Minor repairs such as the replacement of broken slabs, repointing etc will be undertaken where necessary.

Proposed planters and other elements of street furniture will be designed as a 'kit of parts' as to ensure an overall integrity is maintained throughout the streets. Planters will be specified as to ensure a commonality in language between works recently completed at the Art Gallery and currently under way within Union Terrace Gardens.





SCHOOLHILL

BELMONT STREET

Public seating & planting

Existing streetscape retained

BACK WYND

Commercial spill out & public seating

Existing trees

Commercial spill out & public seating

Commercial spill out

Street greening

Moveable bollards

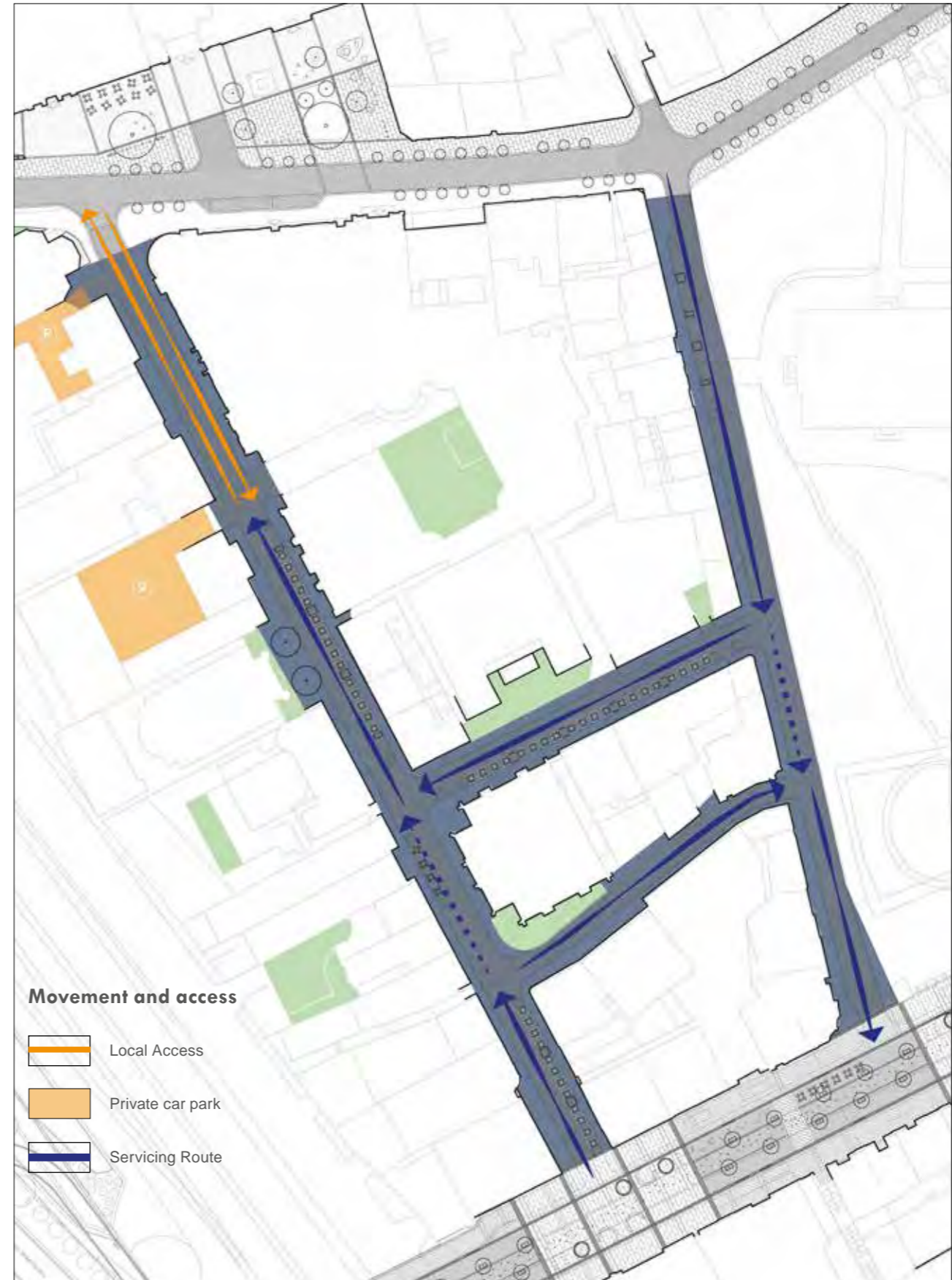
Commercial spill out

Moveable bollards

UNION STREET CENTRAL

Belmont Street Quarter

Zoning, movement and access





Belmont Street Quarter



BELMONT STREET

LITTLE BELMONT STREET

Spill out space

Public seating areas

Spill out space

Public seating areas

Existing footways remain clear and unobstructed

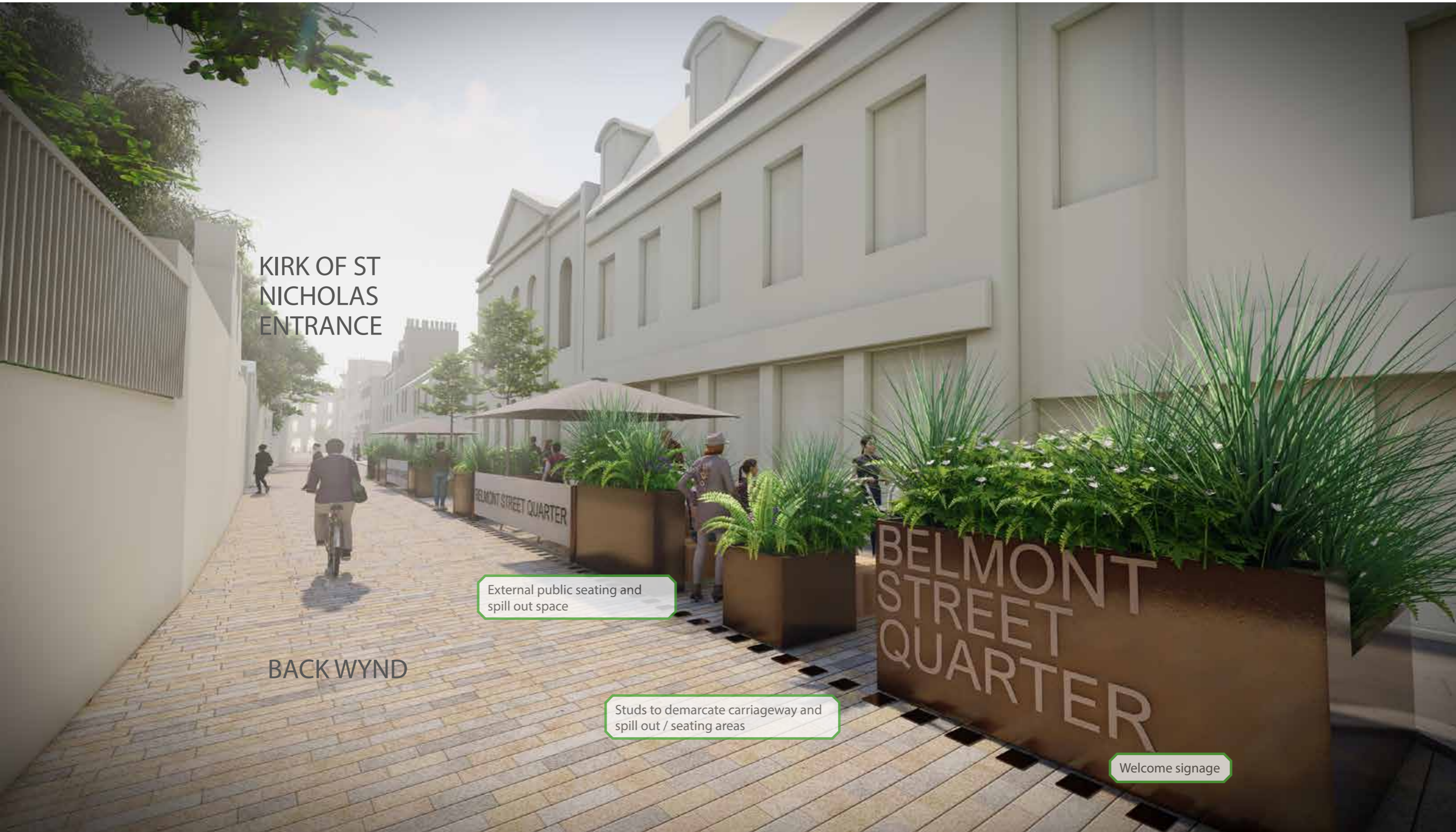
Bird's eye view at corner of Belmont Street and Little Belmont Street

Belmont Street Quarter



Visualisation looking along Belmont Street towards Union Street

Belmont Street Quarter



KIRK OF ST
NICHOLAS
ENTRANCE

BACK WYND

External public seating and
spill out space

Studs to demarcate carriageway and
spill out / seating areas

Welcome signage

Visualisation looking along Back Wynd towards Union Street

Belmont Street Quarter



Visualisation looking along Little Belmont Street towards Back Wynd



Market Public Realm



Market Public Realm

Project Brief, Key Characteristics, Opportunities and Challenges

Key Characteristics

- The Merchant Quarter generally retains much medieval character, reflected in the very tall buildings around The Green and the narrow streets and alleys surrounding it.
- Whilst retaining historical character and feel, the area has also forged a strong new identity as a centre for high quality street art.
- Street art projects have been sensitively sited to bring cohesion to disparate elements within the area, as well as to bring colour, life and contemporary cultural interest.
- A scattering of active frontages can be seen throughout the Merchant Quarter, most definitive of the area being traditional pubs, independent retailers and restaurants. There is also a larger proportion of residential ground floor use than can be seen in other parts of the study area.
- The materiality of the groundscape within the Merchant Quarter is generally high quality and consistent, in mostly excellent condition, with some relatively small areas requiring repair or upgrade. Setts, flags and kerbs are often older than those elsewhere in the city centre, with consequent additional wear.

Opportunities

- The Merchant Quarter presents an opportunity to travel from the transport hubs to the east end of the city centre, encountering fewest potential difficulties.
- Enhancement of distinctive character-working with West End, Schoolhill intervention areas to create pockets of unique character within the city centre- here working especially with street art concepts
- Space for events
- Increase street greening in association with sustainable drainage features
- Introduction fo robust wayfinding and pedestrian crossing strategy to encourage through footfall.

Constraints

- Proposed projects redefining space
- Poor crossing opportunities from transport hubs/Union Square, encouraging people to circumvent the market area

Key Challenges

- Consideration for the greater proportion of residential, particularly ground floor occupants in any plans for increased activation
- Accessibility- some narrow footways within the area
- Wayfinding considering level change up to Union Street



Market Public Realm

Key moves



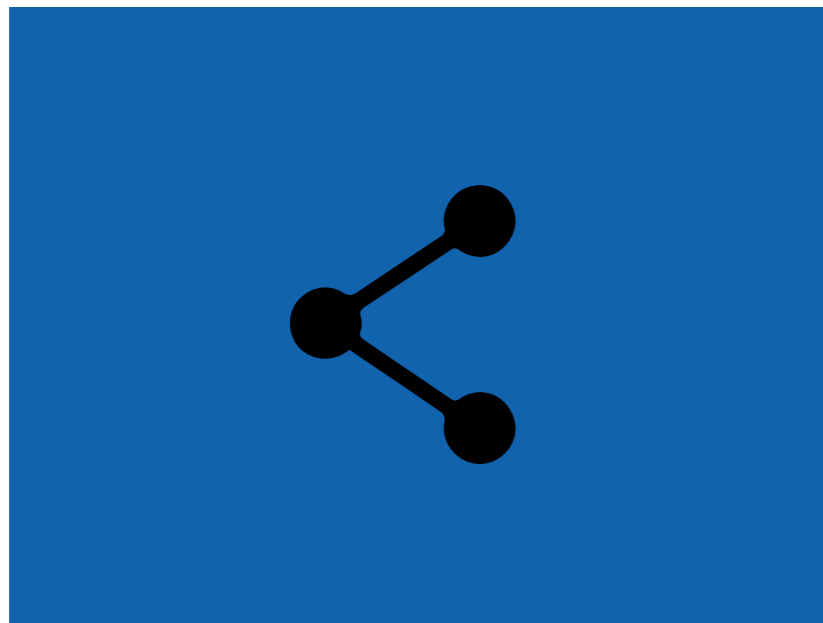
Activation
Increase footfall to the Merchant Quarter/Aberdeen Market and provide flexibility for events to increase activation of this useful and characterful space.



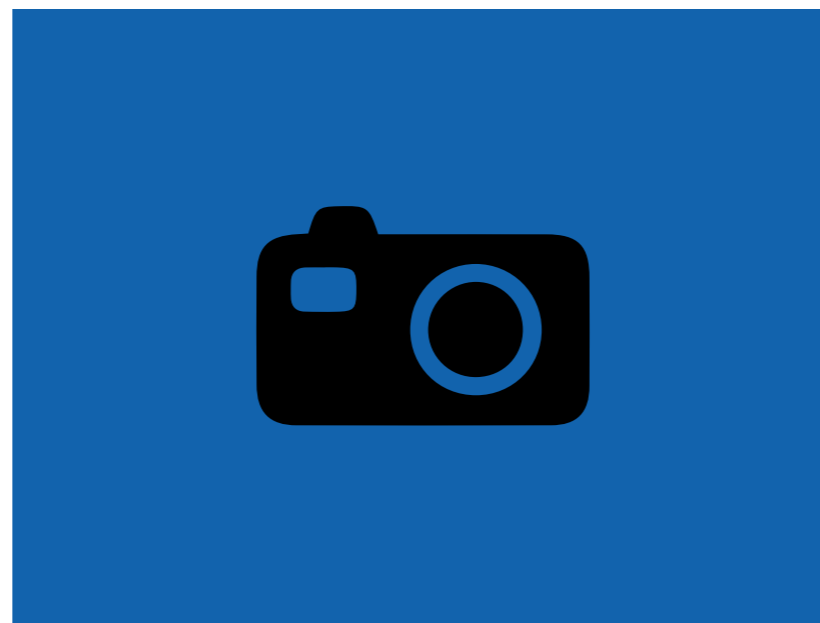
Stimulate the economy
Make the area more attractive to visitors, residents and businesses, stimulating the economy.



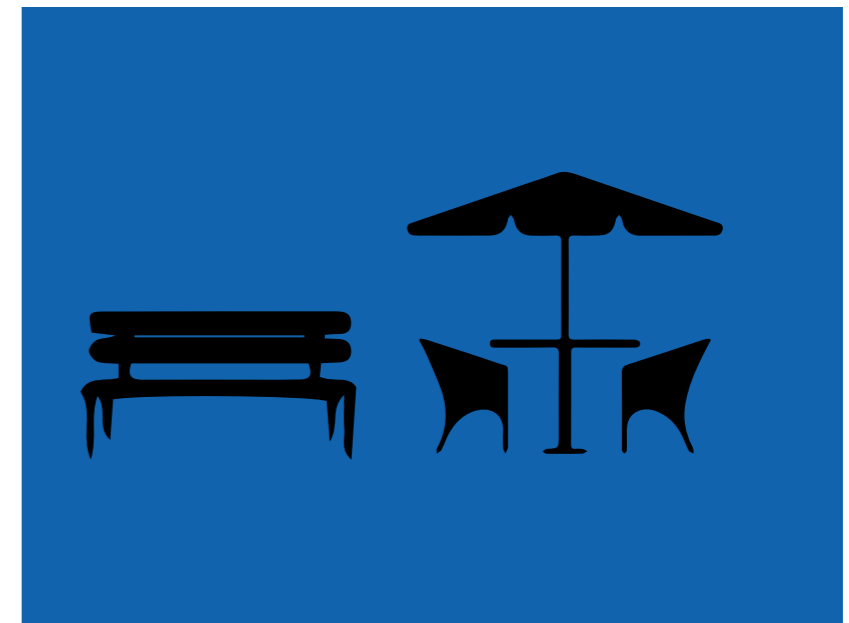
Street Greening
Incorporation of street greening to soften the space, humanise the scale and offer shade and shelter. Incorporating sustainable drainage where possible. Introducing possibilities for seasonality and city/ area branding.



Connectivity
Improve pedestrian and other active travel connectivity between Aberdeen Market and surrounding streets and routes, particularly between the transport hubs and city centre, including a robust wayfinding strategy for the area and improved pedestrian crossing opportunities.



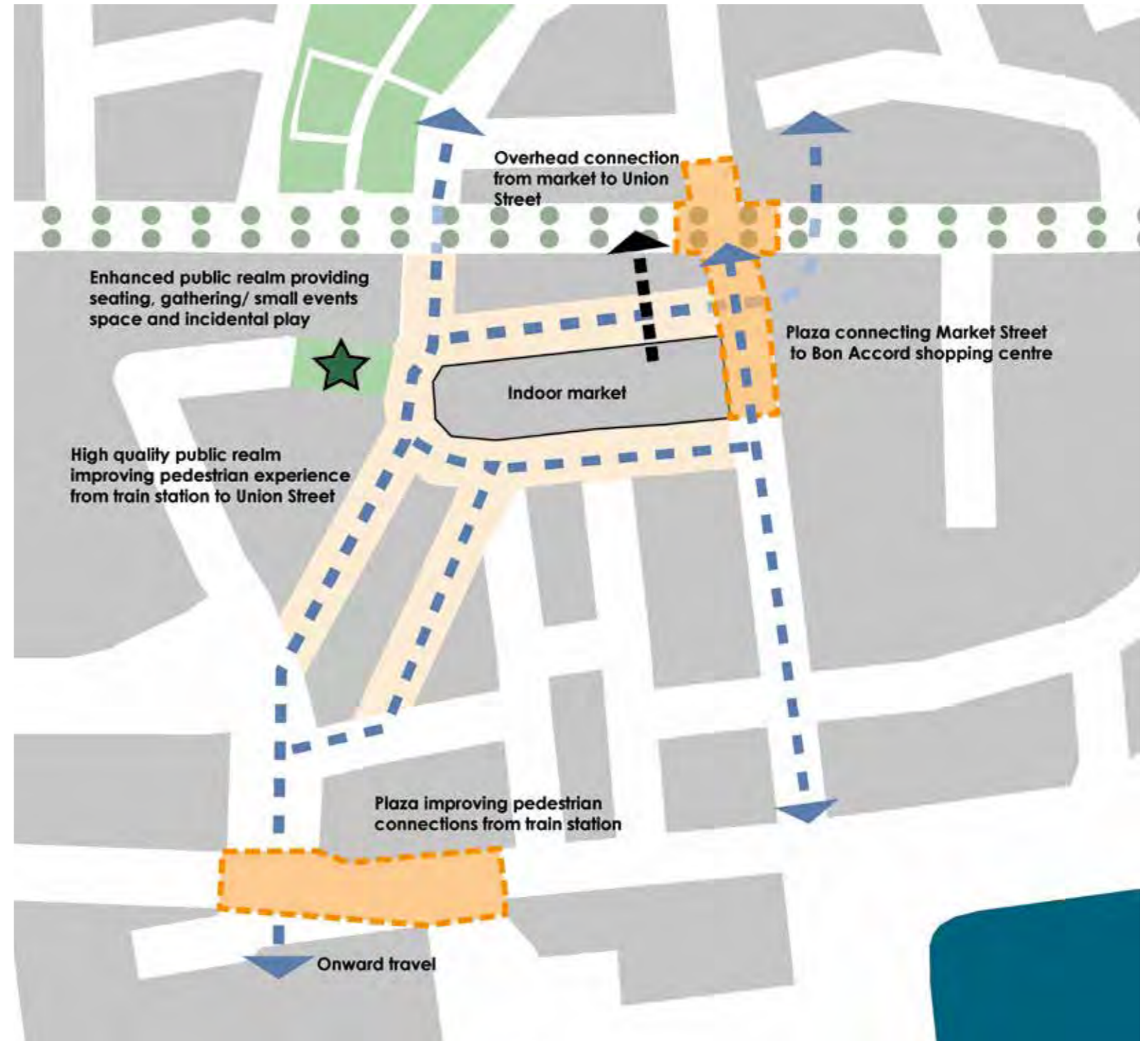
Enhancing Character
Enhancing the character of the area, creating a welcoming and comfortable space within which to dwell for extended periods of time, recognising a destination of unique character within the city centre. In this area, workign particulalry with street art concepts.



Seating and spillout space
Increasing on-street activity to animate the space and encourage business. Increased public seating offering welcoming amenity to all, and opportunities for rest for the less able, encouraging a wide range of visitors to the city centre.

Market Public Realm Strategy

Concept proposals for Aberdeen Market show a low building, referencing the shape of the original brutalist market building, able to be opened up to the air. The vertical connection to the higher Union Street is re-established, with a large opening onto Union Street.

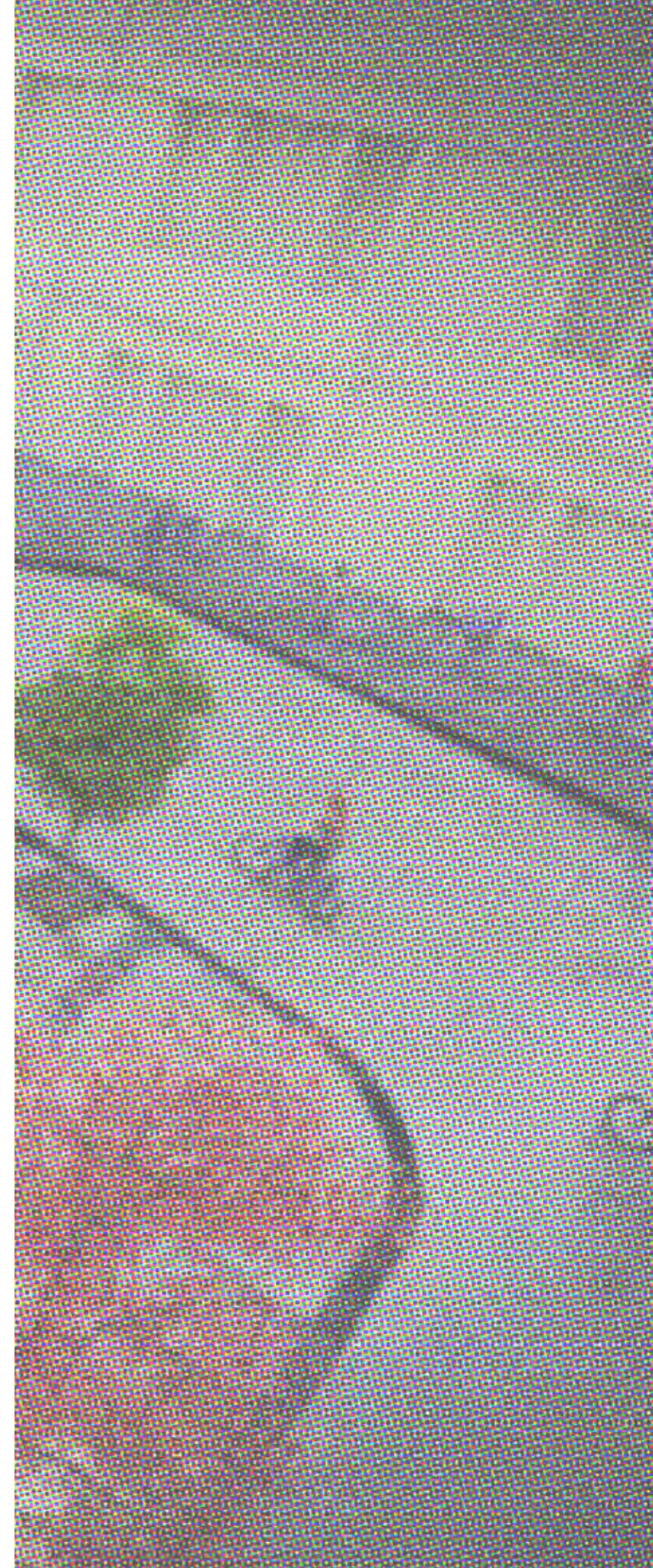


Landscape strategy: Aberdeen Market, Merchant Quarter

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Upperkirkgate & Schoolhill



Upperkirkgate & Schoolhill

Key moves

Rationalised Carriageway

The proposals will see the space within the existing streetscape reappropriated in favour of pedestrians over vehicles. Where possible, carriageways have been reduced in width as to allow footways to be widened, particularly along Upper Kirkgate and for the creation of a plaza space outside the Aberdeen Art Gallery at Schoolhill.

Widened Footpaths

Footpaths have been widened generally to allow greater, safer and more comfortable pedestrian movement in this shopping area. It is proposed that the northern footpath (sunny side of the street) within Upper Kirkgate will be widened significantly which will allow for greater pedestrian movement within the main shopping section of the street. The proposals see an at grade crossing being introduced within this section of the street, connecting both sections of the Bon Accord Centre

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 city centre.

In addition, the introduction of a plaza space outside the Aberdeen Art Gallery will allow appropriate activities to spill out onto the street. This may include the provision of external café space and civic and cultural activities associated with this key public building which will add to the animation of the external environment.

Enriched public realm

The proposals allow for the incorporation of play, public art, and feature lighting at appropriate locations within the area, particularly within the extended plaza space at Schoolhill.

It is intended that these elements will provide additional interest, helping to activate and animate the public realm to draw people of all ages into the space and will encourage them to linger.

Street Greening

Elements of street greening have been carefully incorporated within 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.

Sustainable Urban Drainage

The proposal seeks to introduce a rain garden within extended plaza space outside the Art Gallery at Schoolhill, which it is proposed will help to attenuate rainwater run-off from the surrounding paved areas.

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.

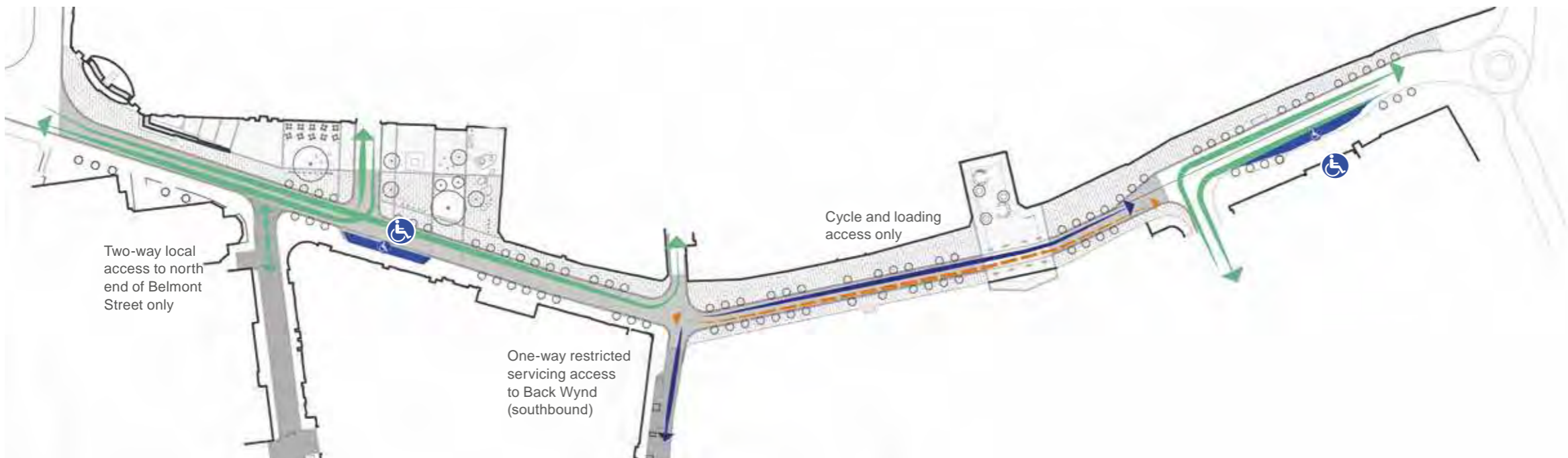
Wherever possible, indigenous stone will be specified for use within hard landscaped areas, reducing transportation requirements whilst supporting a circular economy and in particular investment within the local Scottish stone industries.









Zoning

-  Pedestrian Footways
-  At Grade Crossing Points
-  Pedestrianised Zone (Except for Cycles and Loading)






Movement and Access

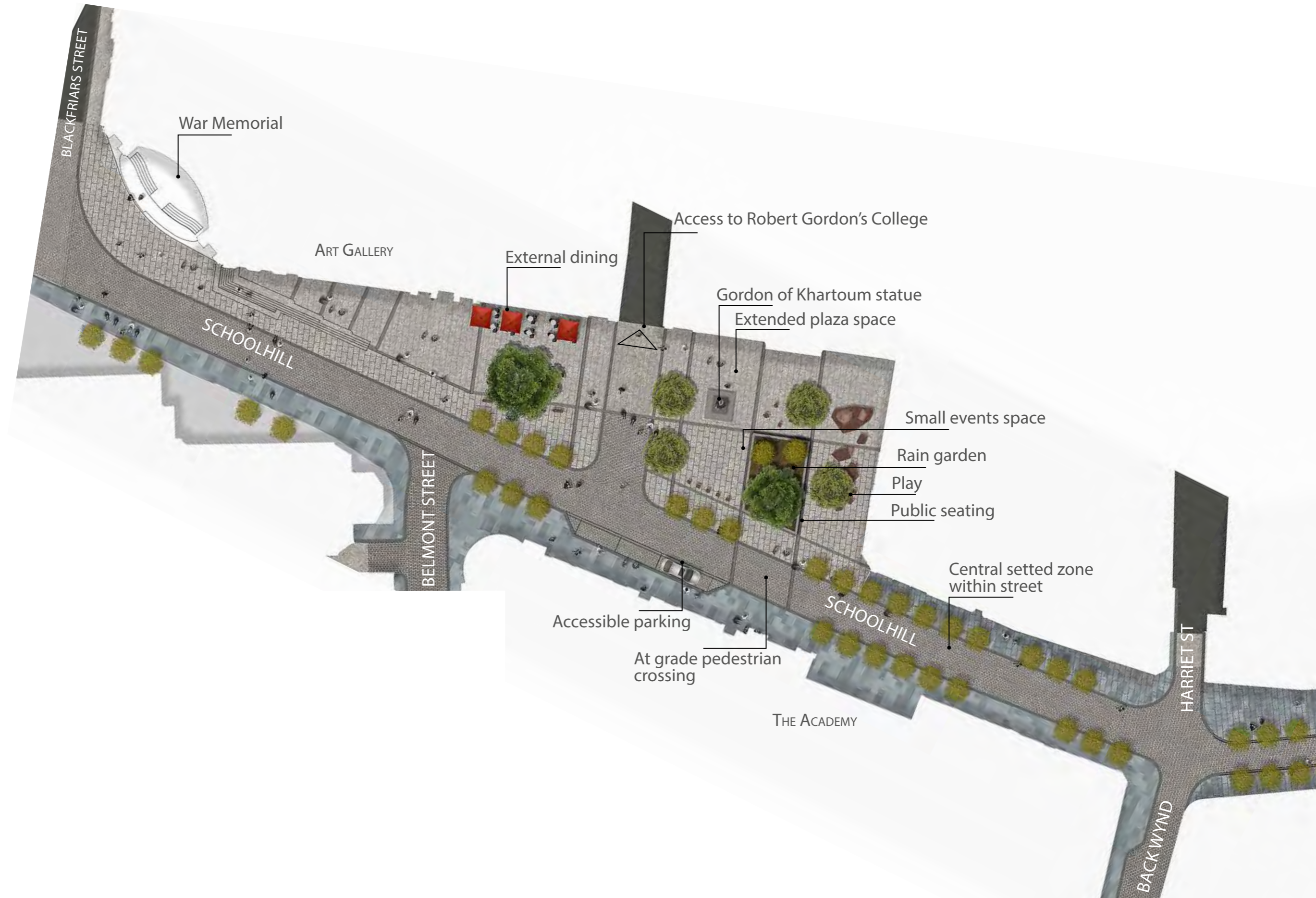
-  Local Access
-  Cycle Access
-  Restricted Servicing Access
-  Accessible Parking (Blue Badge Holders)

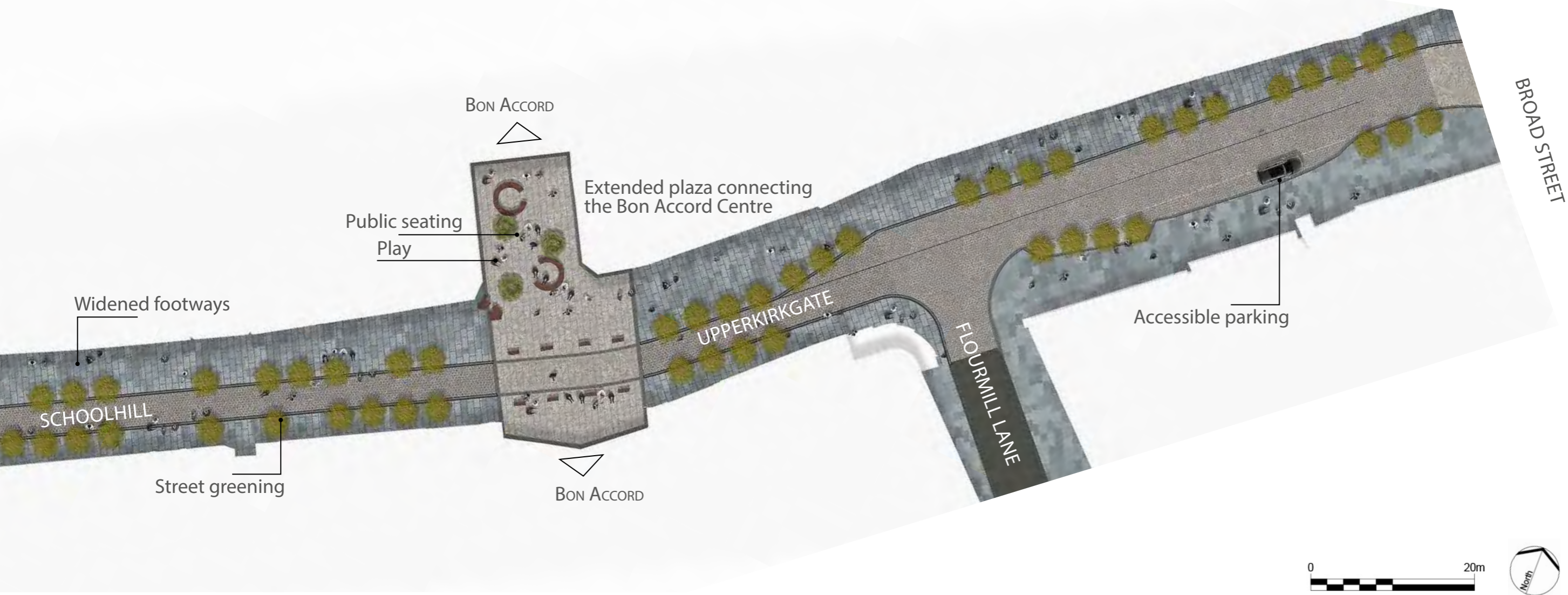


Green Infrastructure

-  Existing Trees
-  Proposed Trees in Hard
-  Rain Garden Planting (SuDS)

Upperkirkgate & Schoolhill





BON ACCORD

Public seating
Play

Extended plaza connecting
the Bon Accord Centre

Widened footways

SCHOOLHILL

Street greening

UPPERKIRKGATE

FLOURMILL LANE

Accessible parking

BROAD STREET

BON ACCORD

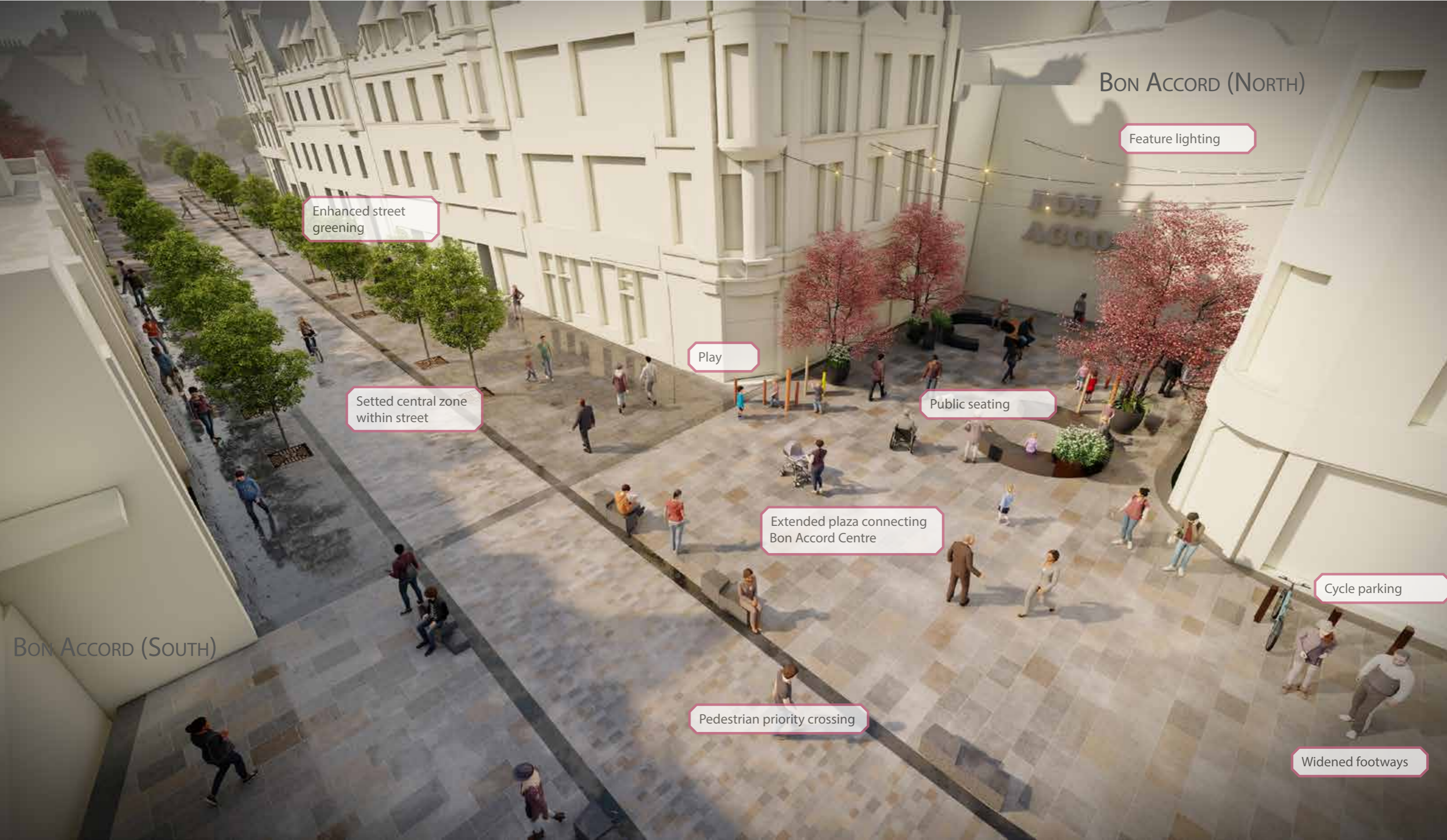


Upperkirkgate & Schoolhill



Bird's eye view from Aberdeen Art Gallery

Upperkirkgate & Schoolhill



Bird's eye view of crossing connecting Bon Accord Centre



Rain garden

Access to Robert Gordon's College

External dining

Spill-out space for gallery and cafe

Visualisation across the plaza at Schoolhill

THE ACADEMY

Street greening

Trees defining space and softening streetscape

Setted central zone within street

Furniture for protection, seating and incidental play



Union Street East



Union Street East

Key moves

Rationalised Carriageway

The proposals will see the space within the existing streetscape reappropriated in favour of pedestrians and public transport whilst still allowing for service vehicle access. Where possible, carriageways have been reduced in width as to allow footways to be widened.

A bus hub is proposed within the western section of Union Street East as to ensure Union Street Central remains readily accessible by public transportation.

Widened Footpaths

Footpaths have been widened generally with the proposals to allow greater, safer and more comfortable pedestrian movement within Union Street East. In addition to this at grade crossing points are proposed to be incorporated at regular intervals along the length of Union Street East.

Seating and Spill-out Space

The proposed reappropriation of space within the street allows for the introduction of public seating at key locations along Union Street East which will offer welcoming amenity to all and opportunities for rest for the less able whilst encouraging a wide range of visitors to the city centre.

It is proposed that café and restaurant spill-out space adjacent to footways only be permitted where space allows, i.e. where space ensures that a minimum 4m wide footway is maintained.

Enriched Public Realm

The proposals allow for the incorporation of play, public art, and feature lighting at key locations along Union Street East. These proposals which will be developed at the next stage of the project will be carefully considered as to ensure a commonality of approach with respect to Union Street West, Central and East

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 planting is generally positioned within a clearly delineated zone creating a green avenue along the street and buffer between the footways and central carriageway. Tree planting positions are currently indicative and exact planting locations will be confirmed during the next stages of the project.

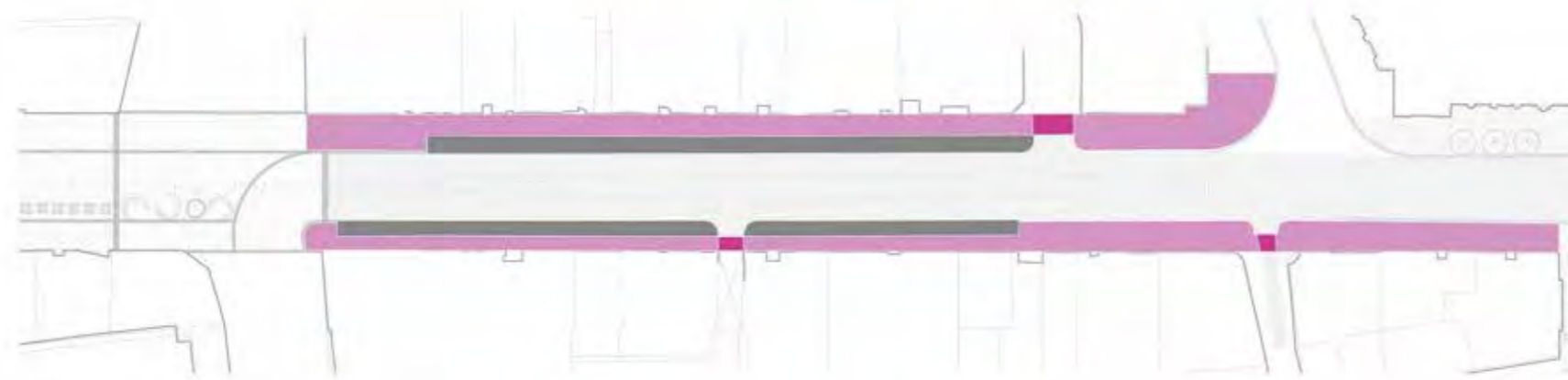
Tree species and planting generally will be carefully selected as to ensure that they are suitable for an urban environment and that ongoing maintenance requirements are kept to a minimum.

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.

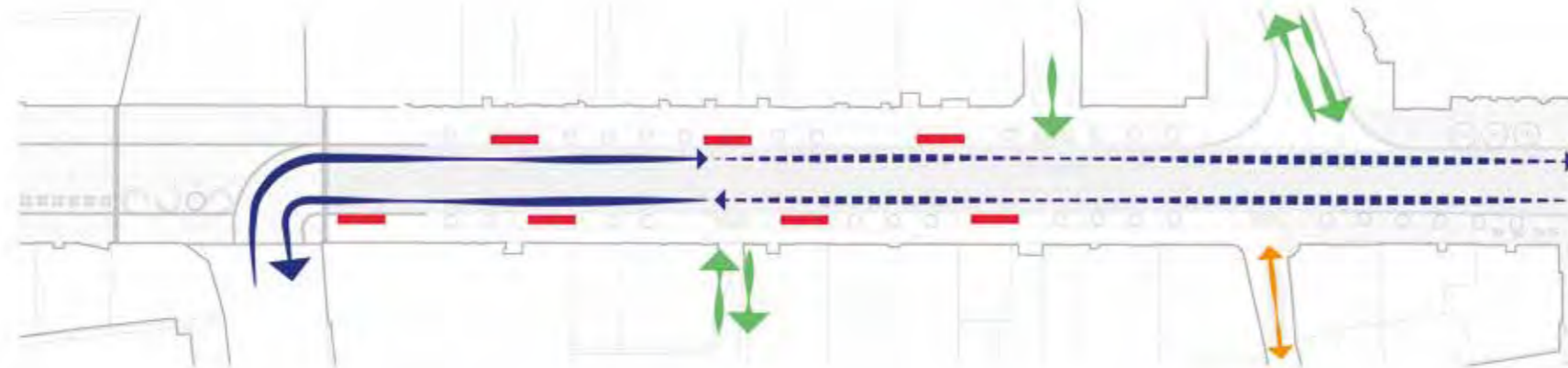
Wherever possible, indigenous stone will be specified for use within hard landscaped areas, reducing transportation requirements whilst supporting a circular economy and in particular investment within the local Scottish stone industries.










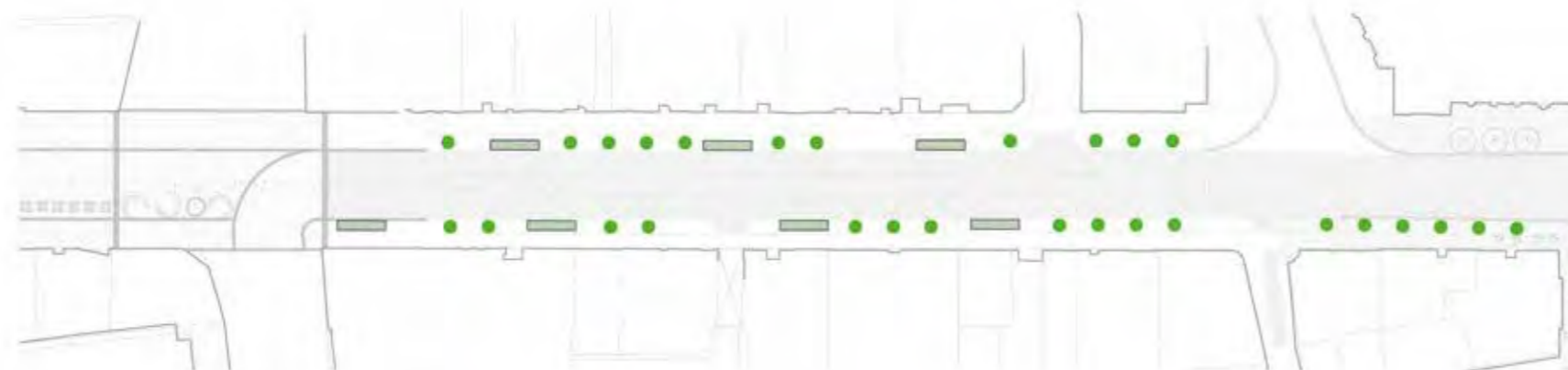
Zoning

-  Pedestrian Footways
-  At Grade Crossing Points
-  Public Transport Hub





Movement and access

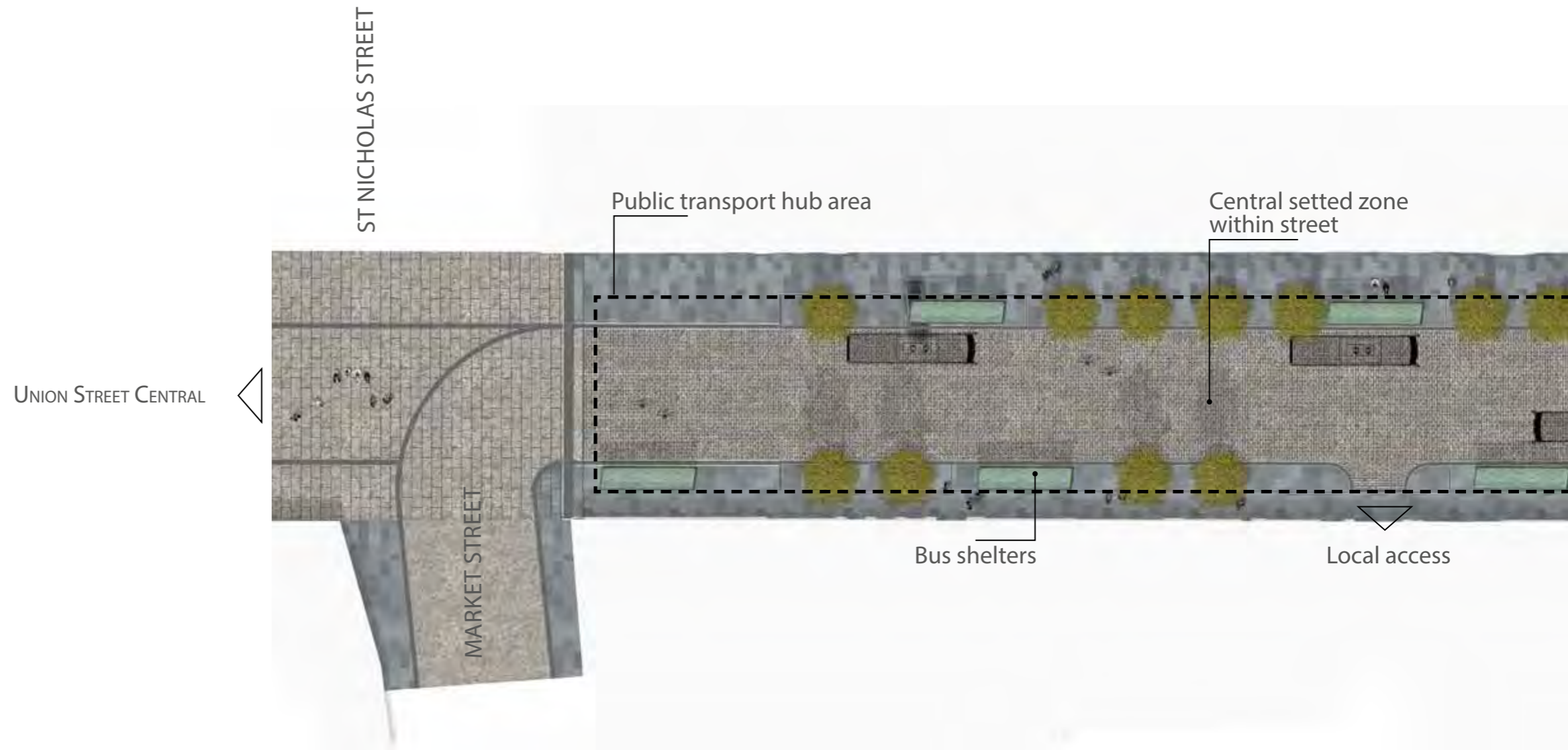
-  Bus Stops (Indicative locations)
-  Bus, Taxi and Cycles (No Local Access)
-  Bus, Taxi, Cycles and Local Access Only
-  Cycleway
-  Local Access

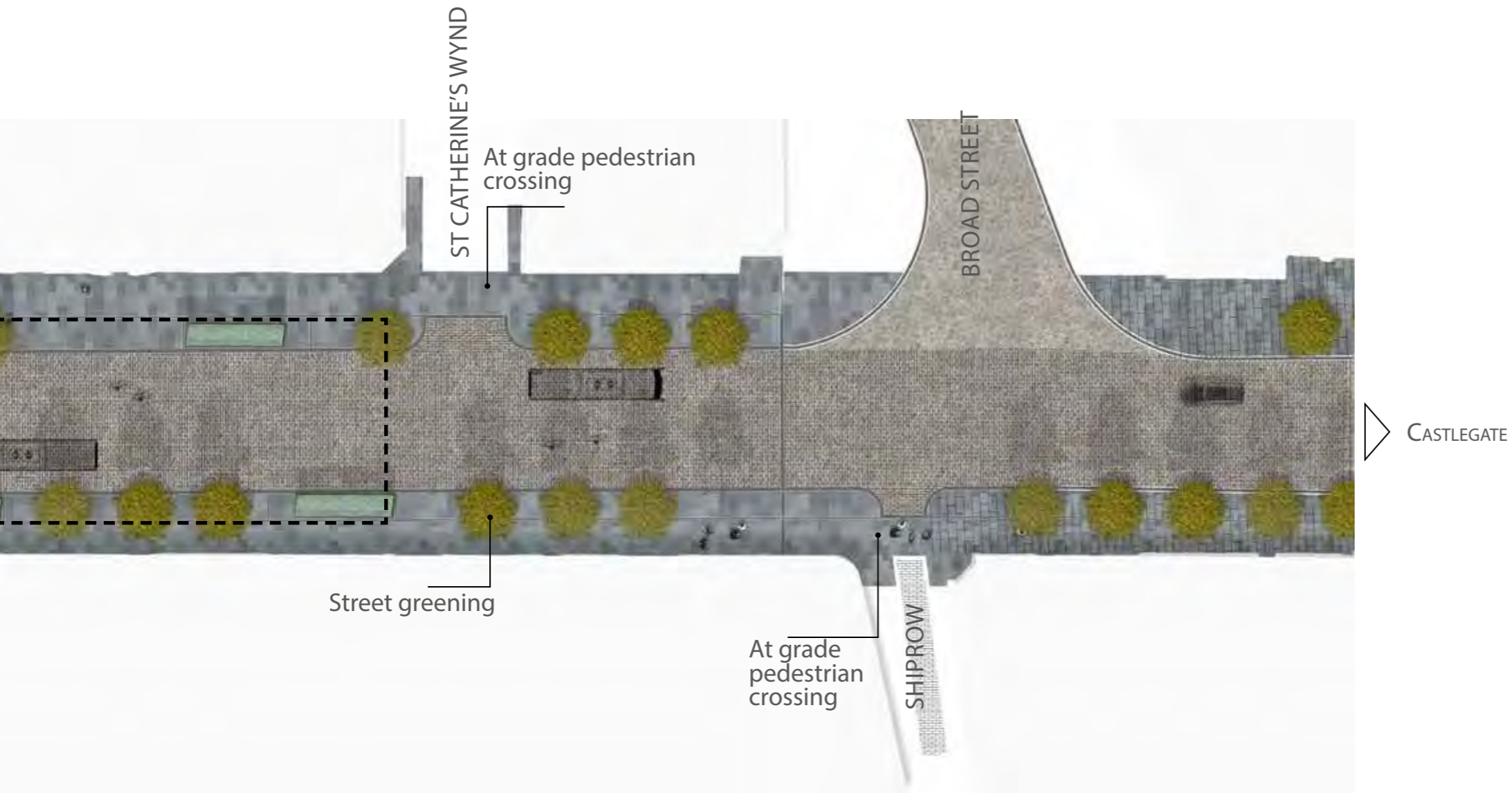


Green Infrastructure

-  Proposed Trees in Hard (Indicative locations)
-  Green Roofs to Bus Shelters

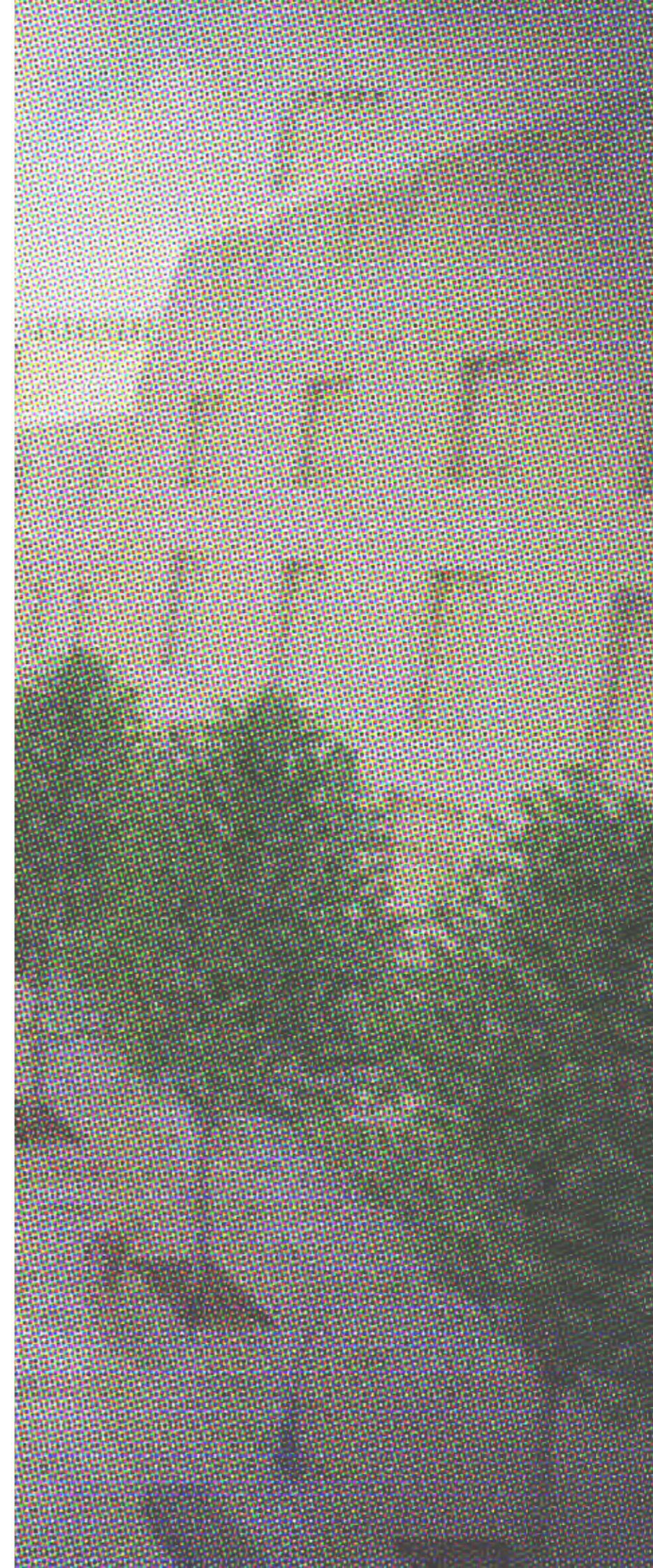
Union Street East







Castlegate



Castlegate

Key moves

Historic Civic Heart of the City

Whilst Castlegate for many years has fulfilled the role of the historic civic heart of Aberdeen, its primacy within the city has become somewhat diluted in recent times. Through the proposals there is an opportunity to re-establish its status and civic value creating a destination within the east end of the city.

The proposals for Castlegate seek to create a flexible space that is more inviting and comfortable for people to occupy on a day to day basis, whilst being able to accommodate larger scale events, pageants and gatherings when required.

A Flexible Design

The proposals for Castlegate have been developed in order to create a clutter free, flexible space at the heart of the square, which forms a setting to the historic Mercat Cross. The square is framed by fixed seating elements, trees, and herbaceous planting which encloses the space, combining to make a welcoming habitable space for people to be in and enjoy.

Seating and Spillover Space

Opportunities for public seating have been maximised within the proposals. These include the provision of long linear benches and associated planting which help frame the central events space within the square whilst encouraging people to dwell and spend time within it.

In addition to this, clearly delineated generous spill-out spaces are proposed immediately adjacent to the ground floor business premises either side of the square.

These interventions combine to introduce a more comfortable human scale within the space whilst assisting with the overall animation of Castlegate.

It is intended that these elements will provide additional interest, helping to activate and animate the public realm to draw people of all ages into the space and encourage them to linger.

Enriched Public Realm

The proposals seek to create an enriched public realm through maximising the opportunities for the inclusion of elements of play, art and feature lighting. These elements will be designed as to ensure that the Castlegate once more becomes an attractive, animated and exciting destination along Union Street as well as a key gateway to the city when approached from the beach.

Street Greening

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

Tree planting is generally positioned to the edges of the space, helping to soften and frame the main square. Additional low-level planting is also proposed as to further enhance the space and create pleasure and delight.

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.

Sustainable Urban Drainage

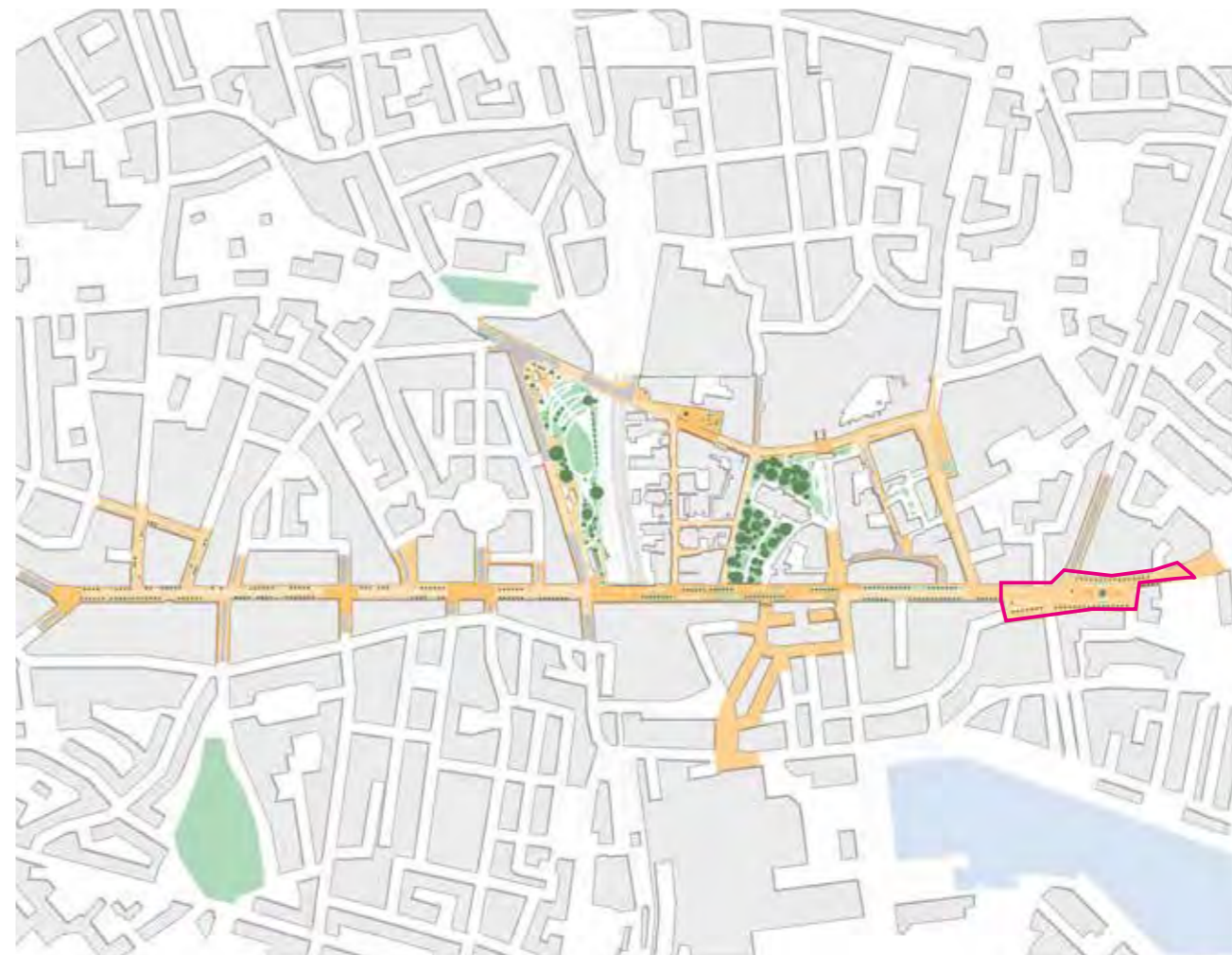
The proposal seeks to introduce rain gardens to the edge of the main square which it is intended will help to attenuate rainwater run-off from the surrounding paved areas.

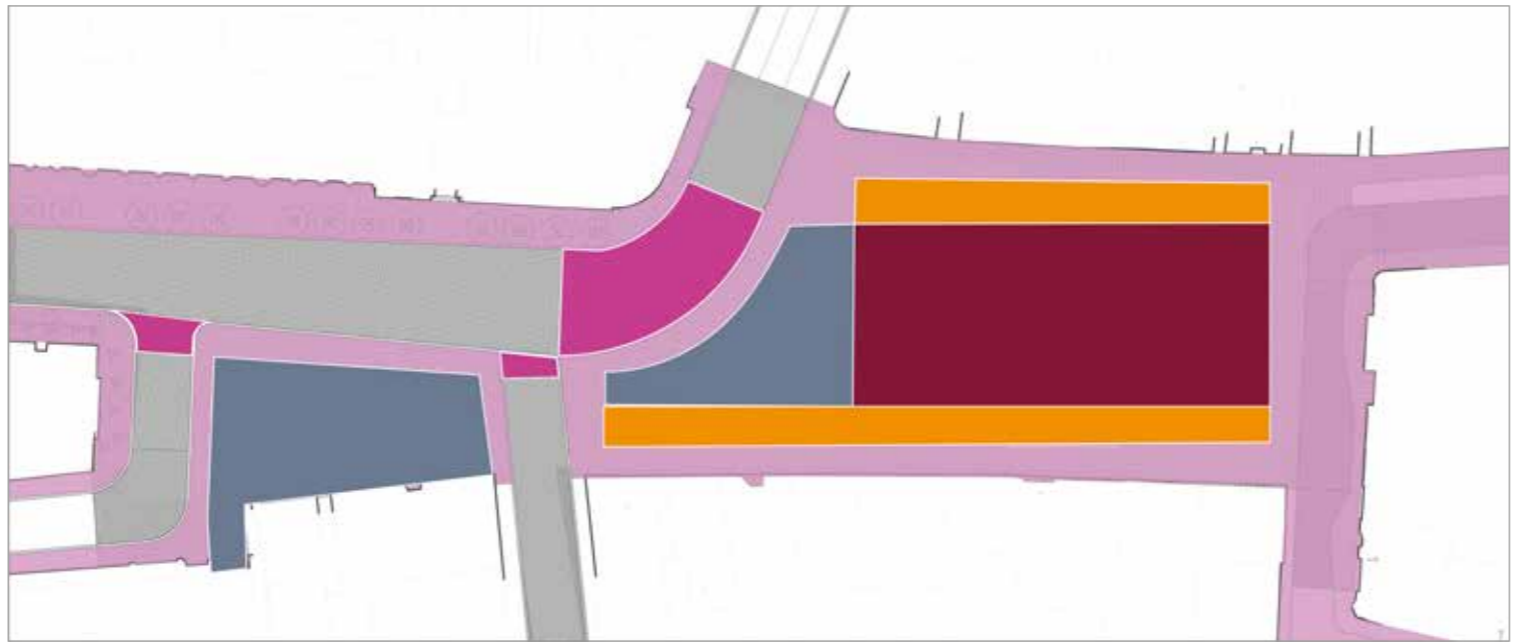
Material Palette

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






In addition, suitable portions of the existing stone paving will carefully uplifted and retained for incorporation within the overall proposals for the space.

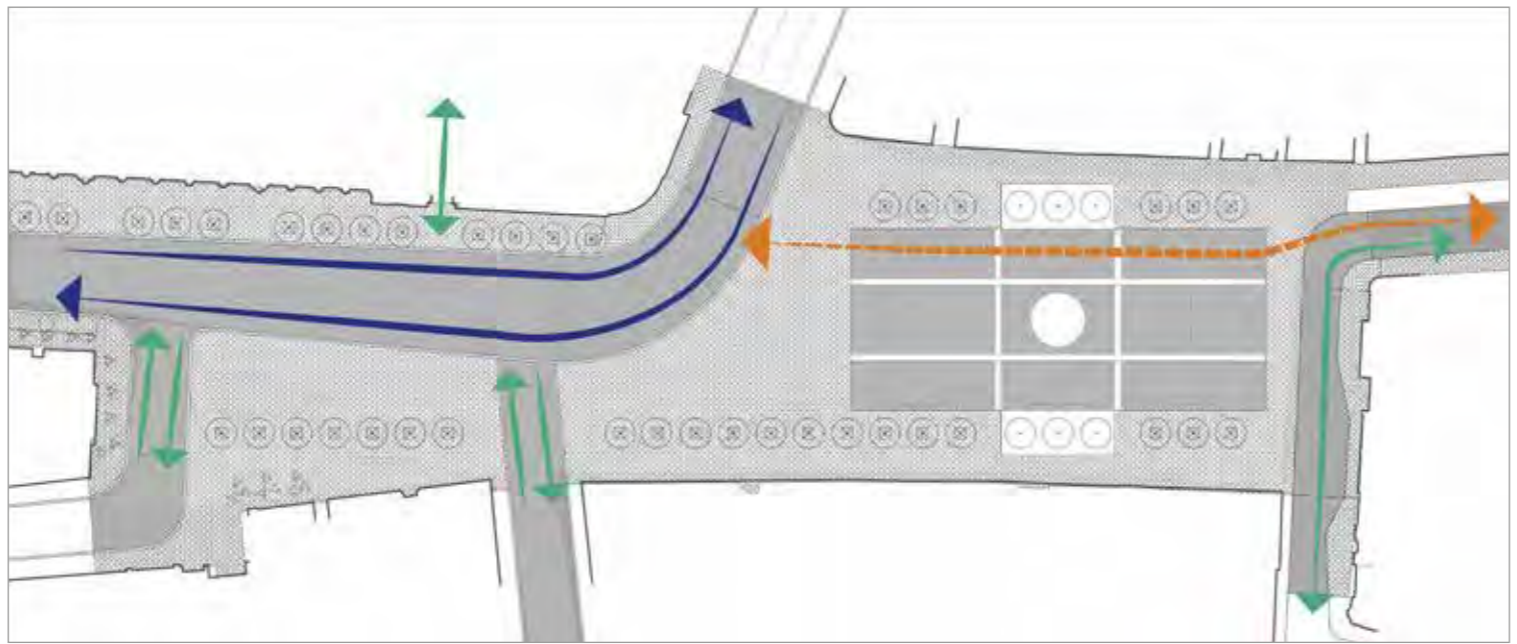
Wherever possible, indigenous stone will be specified for use within hard landscaped areas, reducing transportation requirements whilst supporting a circular economy and in particular investment within the local Scottish stone industries.








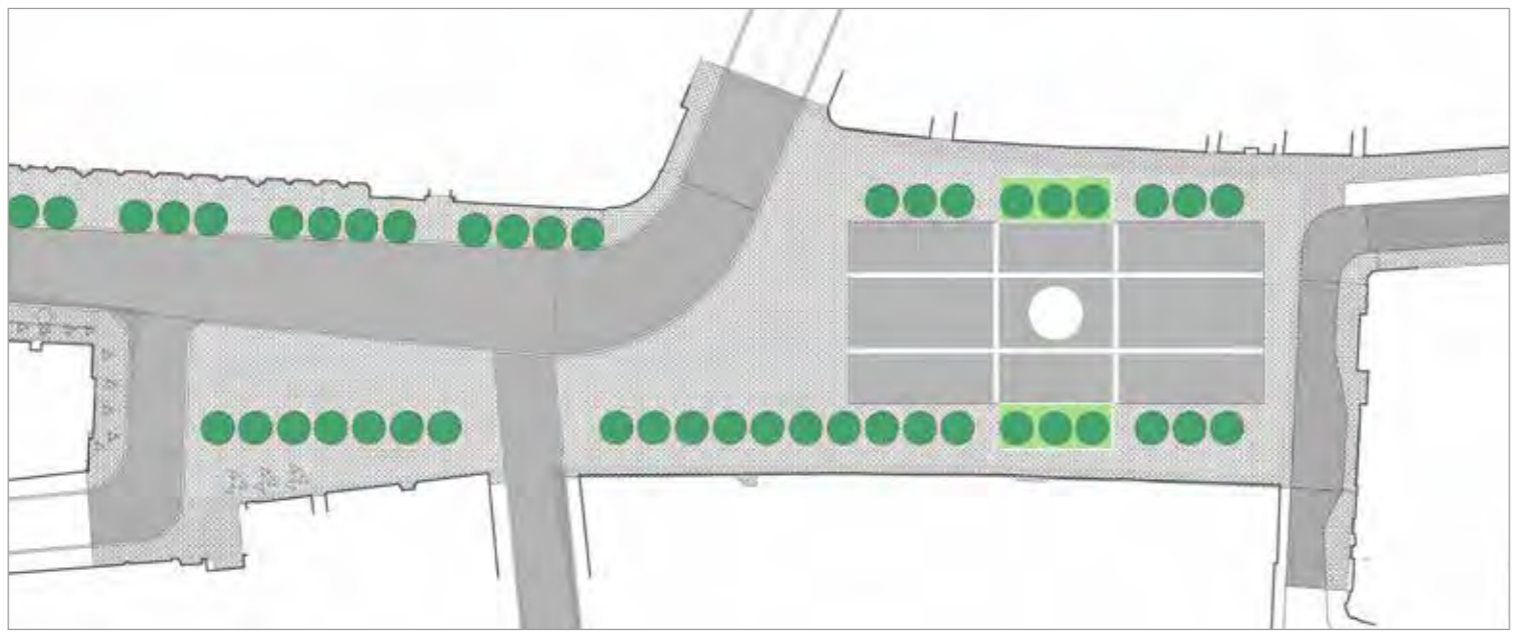
Zoning

-  Pedestrian footways
-  Large events space
-  Smaller events spaces
-  Commercial spillout
-  At grade crossings





Movement and Access

-  Bus, Taxi, Cycles and Local Access Only
-  Cycleway
-  Local Access

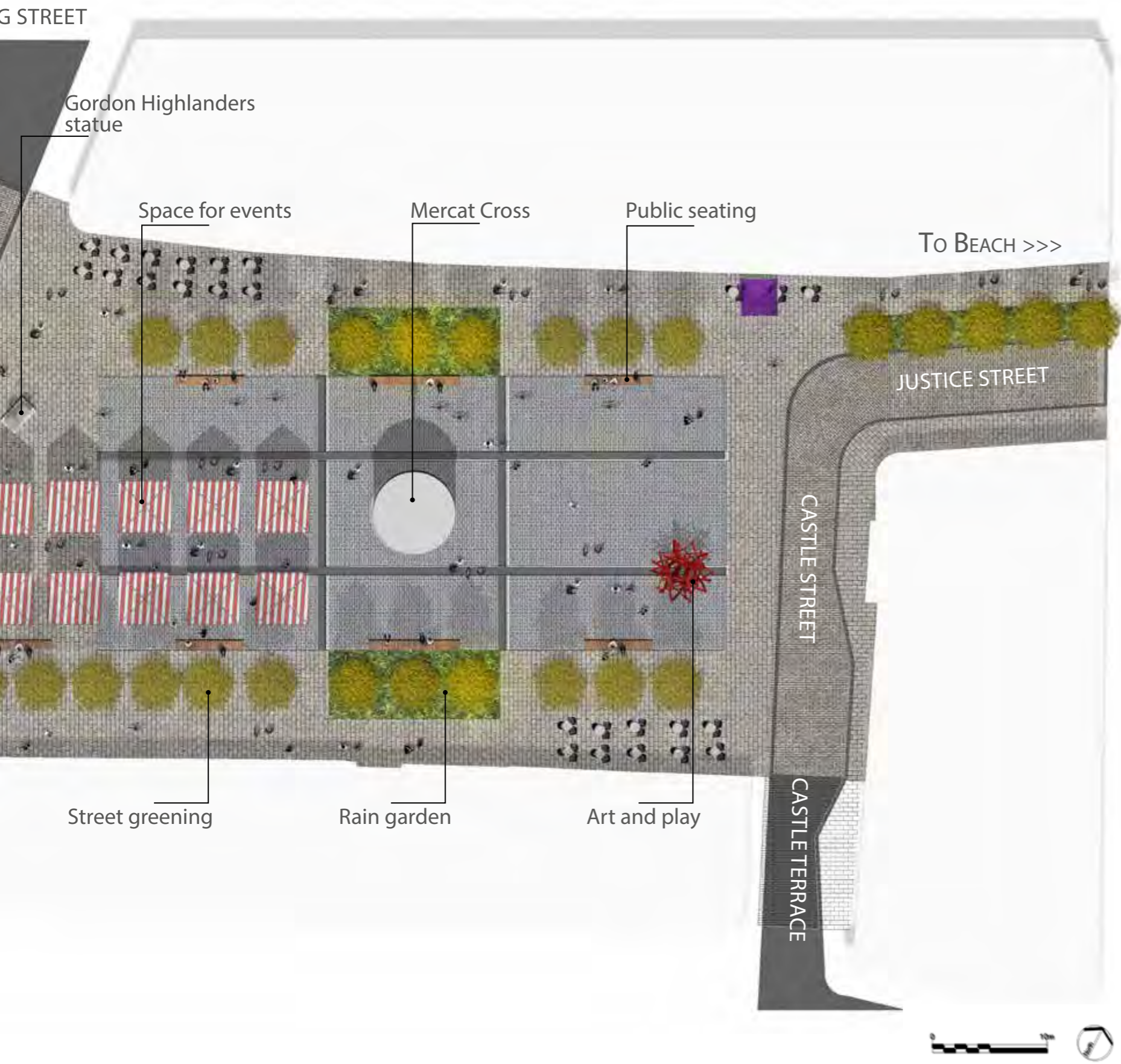


Green Infrastructure

-  Proposed Trees in Hard
-  Rain Garden Planting (SUDs)

Castlegate





Castlegate



View west across Castlegate from Castle Street/ Justice Street

Castlegate



Bus shelter with green roof

Trees defining route to beach

Public seating

Small events and play area

Street greening

Large pedestrian space

View east towards Castlegate from Castle Street/ Exchequer Row



To the beach

TO THE BEACH

Mercat Cross

Public seating

Cycle route

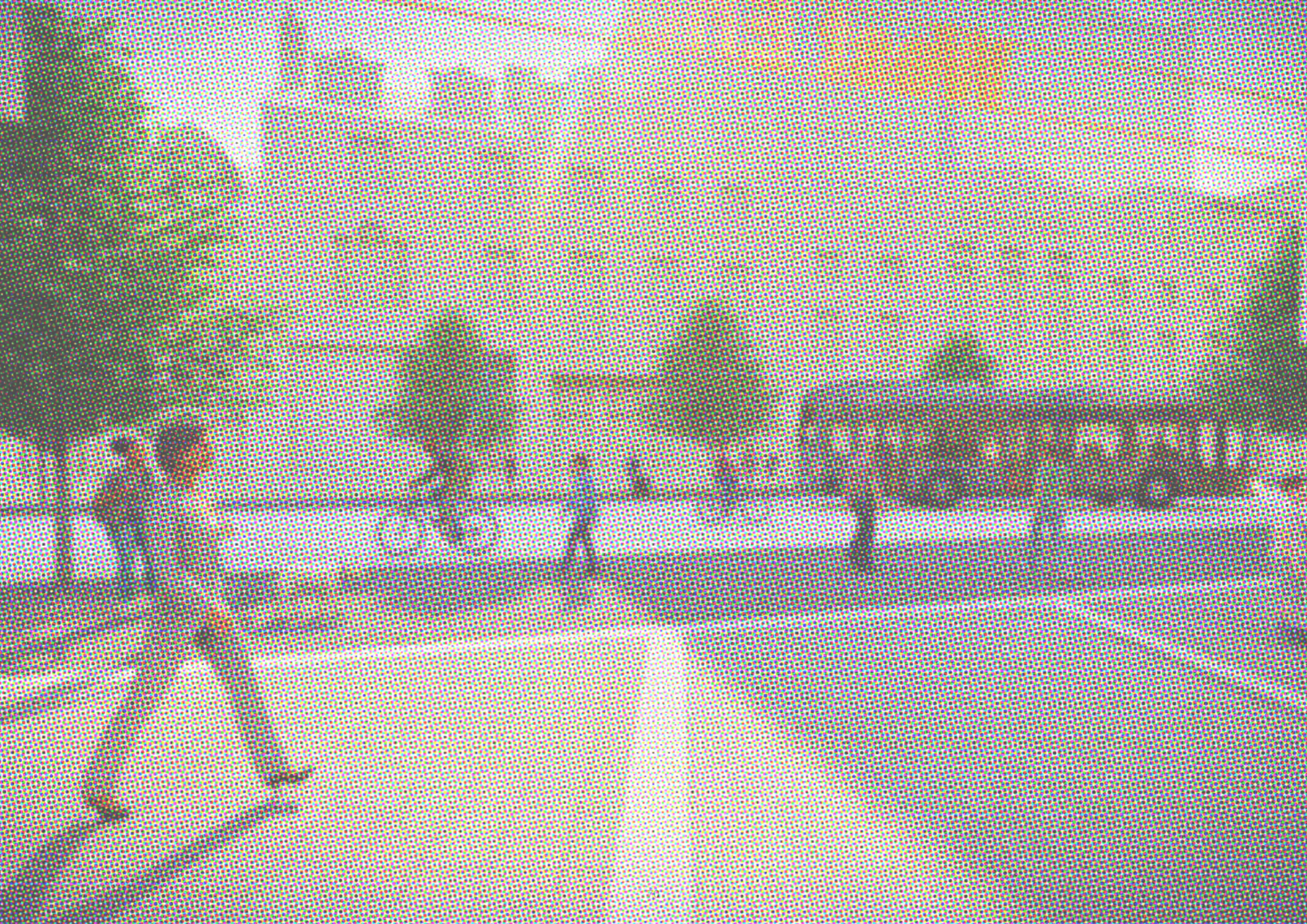
Bird's eye view east across Castlegate from Union Street



Art and play

Rain garden

Street greening



Union Street West



Union Street West

Key moves

Rationalised Carriageway

The proposals will see the space within the existing streetscape reapportioned in favour of pedestrians and public transport whilst still allowing for service vehicle access. Where possible, carriageways have been reduced in width as to allow footways to be widened.

Clutter free plaza spaces are proposed at key locations such as outside the Music Hall within the street.

A bus hub is proposed within the eastern section of Union Street West as to ensure Union Street Central remains readily accessible by public transportation.

Widened Footpaths

Footpaths have been widened generally with the proposals to allow greater, safer and more comfortable pedestrian movement within Union Street West. In addition to this at grade crossing points are proposed to be incorporated at regular intervals along the length of Union Street West.

Seating and Spill-out Space

The proposed reapportioning of space within the street allows for the introduction of public seating at key locations along Union Street West which will offer welcoming amenity to all and opportunities to rest for the less able whilst encouraging a wide range of visitors to the city centre.

It is proposed that café and restaurant spill-out space adjacent to footways only be permitted where space allows, i.e. where space ensures that a minimum 4m wide footway is maintained.

Enriched Public Realm

The proposals allow for the incorporation of play, public art, and feature lighting at key locations along Union Street West. These proposals which will be developed at the next stage of the project will be carefully considered as to ensure a commonality of approach with respect to Union Street West, Central and East

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.

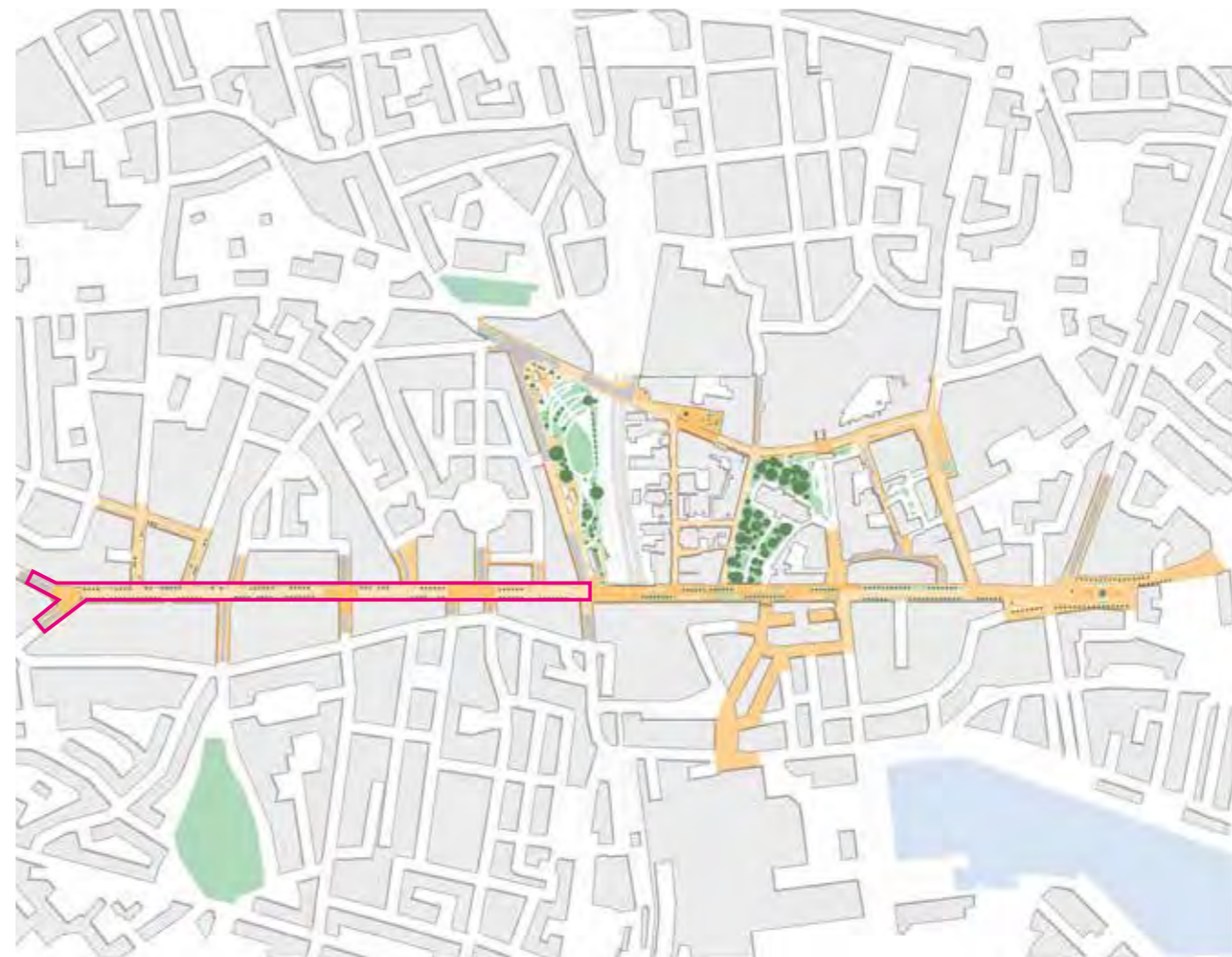
Tree planting is generally positioned within a clearly delineated zone creating a green avenue along the street and buffer between the footways and central carriageway. Tree planting positions are currently indicative and exact planting locations will be confirmed during the next stages of the project.

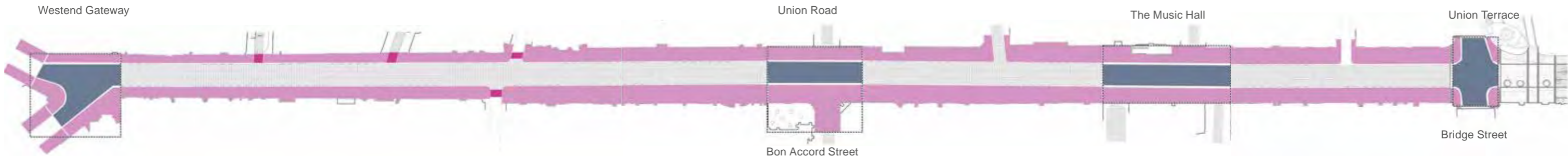
Tree species and planting generally will be carefully selected as to ensure that they are suitable for an urban environment and that ongoing maintenance requirements are kept to a minimum.

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.

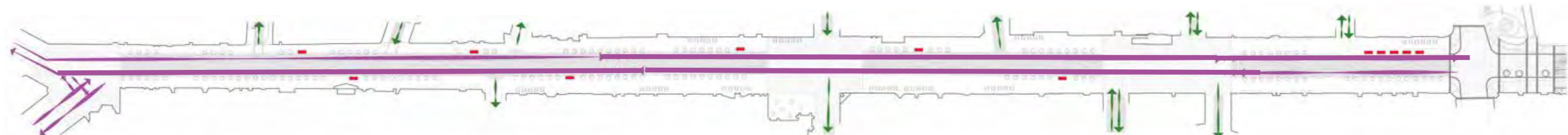
Wherever possible, indigenous stone will be specified for use within hard landscaped areas, reducing transportation requirements whilst supporting a circular economy and in particular investment within the local Scottish stone industries.





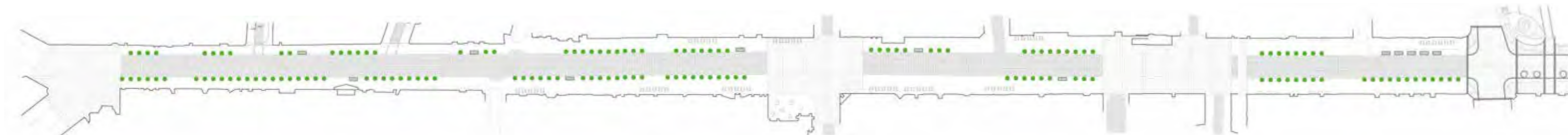
Zoning

- Pedestrian Footways
- At Grade Crossing Points
- Plazas at Key Points



Movement and access

- Bus Stops (Indicative locations)
- General Traffic Restrictions
- General Access



Green Infrastructure

- Green Roofs to Bus Shelters
- Proposed Trees in Hard (Indicative locations)

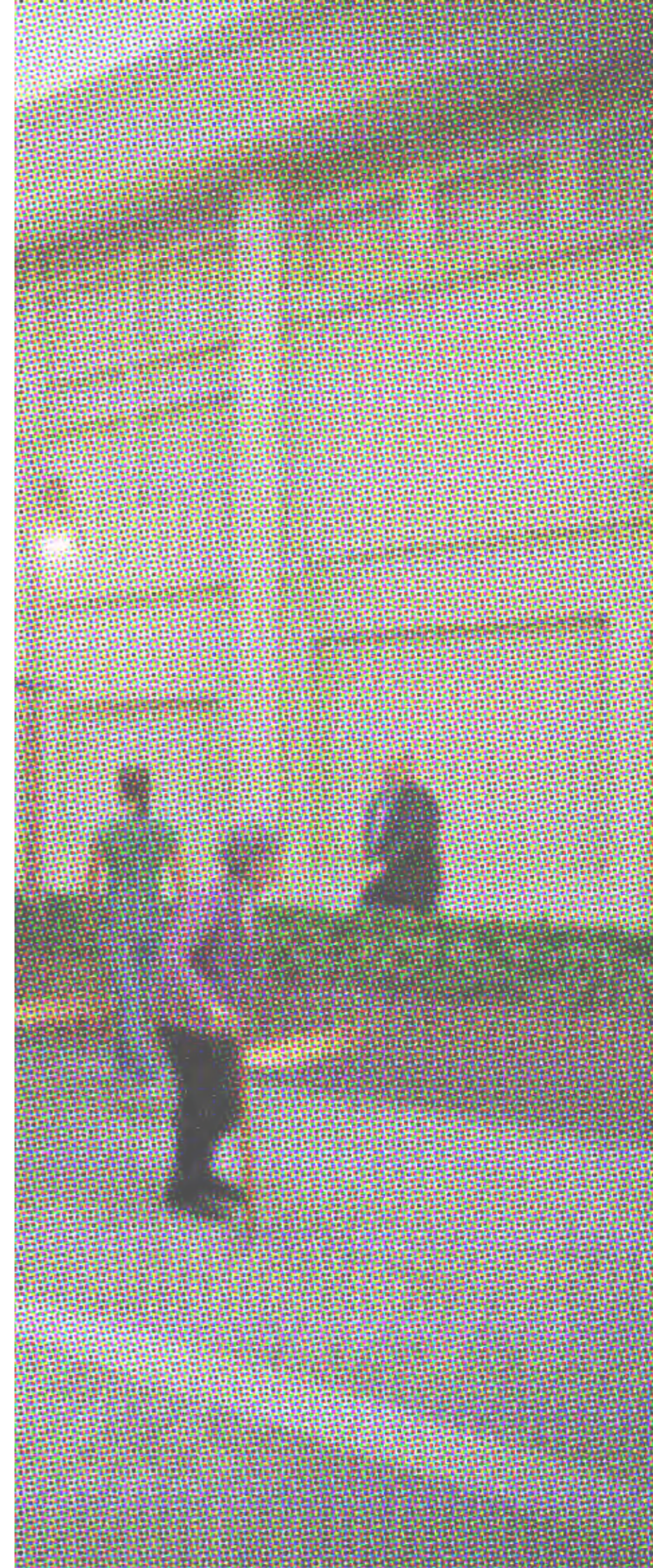
Union Street West







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.












Zoning

-  Pedestrian Footways
-  At Grade Crossing Points
-  Commercial Spill Out
-  Parking/Loading
-  Public Seating

Movement and access

-  General Access
-  Local Access
-  Accessible Parking (Blue Badge Holders)
-  Taxi Rank

Green Infrastructure

-  Proposed Trees in Hard (Fixed)
-  Proposed Trees in Planters (Flexible)
-  Boundary Planting to Delineate Spill Out Areas

West End



Accessible parking

Central setted zone within streets

THISTLE STREET

Street greening

Public seating

THISTLE STREET

Raised pedestrian crossings

CHAPEL STREET

Parking/loading

External dining

ROSE STREET

External dining

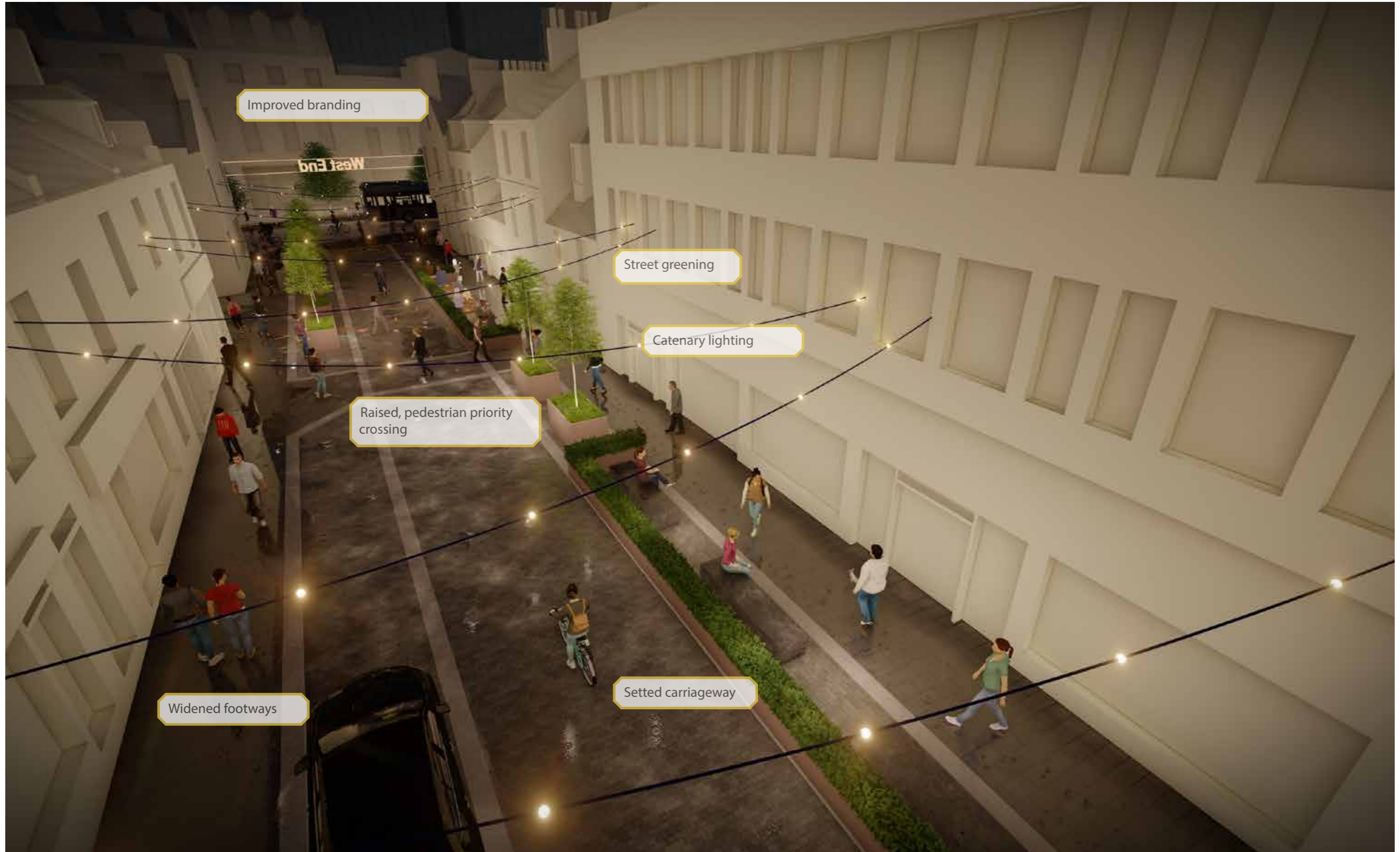
At grade crossing

UNION STREET WEST

Accessible parking

At grade crossing

West End



West End entrance from Union Street to Chapel Street

West End

Catenary lighting

Street greening and sustainable drainage

Widened footway

Public seating

Hedge screen for outdoor seating

Accessible (Blue Badge) parking

Setted carriageway

Visualisation looking east along Thistle Street

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