

# VILLIERS STREET

## Welcome

### WHERE

Villiers Street, bounded to the east by the River Thames, is home to a concentration of prevalent visitor attractions and historic landmarks. Its location between two prominent transport hubs – the Embankment tube station and Charing Cross station, and the main entrance to the historic Victoria Embankment Gardens (Grade II\* Park and Gardens) makes it a busy through-route, which is lined with retail and office buildings, restaurants and bars.

### WHAT

WSP have been appointed by Westminster City Council and FM Conway to create design proposals to improve the public realm and placemaking; to improve the route for pedestrians by making it more pedestrian friendly, and increase the safety of the street from potentially hostile vehicles.

### VISION

Provide a street that is both visually inviting and pedestrian friendly, supported by enhanced security and the temporary timed closures to improve the look and feel of what is already a heavily used pedestrian space that will only benefit from the investment in the public realm and help to improve the way it is used.





## WHY

- Villiers Street is a narrow street connecting The Strand to the Embankment as well as train and underground stations, particularly Embankment Station and Charing Cross Station - The current layout gives priority to vehicular traffic, which reduces the space available to pedestrians.
- The paving is uneven and worn, with street-clutter taking up valuable space.
- The nearby Victoria Embankment Gardens provides open space for local visitors but access to the garden is not obvious, and suffers from a rise in ground levels, which makes it less visible.
- The Villiers Street project is also being developed to increase protective security and to address public safety concerns, as the area has been identified as a high-risk location for 'vehicle-as-a-weapon' attacks due to the narrow width, the high pedestrian volumes and the uncontrolled vehicle access.



Uneven and worn paving



Proposed high quality footway paving and flush kerb



Uneven and worn paving



Street clutter

## HOW

The proposals are listed below:

- Remove uneven surfaces, and introduce high-quality footway paving in natural materials, and carriageway surfacing for Villiers Street, extending in side streets where required.
- Improved planting and upgraded lighting will enhance the look and feel of Villiers Street, to achieve an overall upgrade to the Public Realm.
- Declutter the footways by removing certain street features, to create wider and less cluttered footways, which will enhance the pedestrian experience.
- Enhance public safety by introducing Hostile Vehicle Mitigation (HVM) measures around the perimeter of the scheme.
- Timed road closures reducing vehicular access to the area.
- Restrict access to Villiers Street for loading vehicles during peak pedestrian utilisation periods, through the removal of marked bays and introduction of dedicated times for access for such activities.

## WHEN

We welcome your views on the proposed scheme, please fill in the questionnaire provided [here](#). Feedback will then be used to further develop the design. This consultation will be followed by a Traffic Order consultation early next year. Subject to Cabinet Member approval, construction would take place within standard Westminster hours and it is likely that roads might need to be closed temporarily (for example, a few days at a time) to facilitate certain works, including resurfacing. We will notify residents and businesses about the works and provide more detail. Construction for the current proposals will take approximately 15 months.

