

Public Document Pack

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

Thursday, 13th July, 2023
at 5.30 pm

PLEASE NOTE TIME OF MEETING

Council Chamber, Civic Centre,
Southampton

This meeting is open to the public

Members

Councillor Blackman (Chair)
Councillor Letts (Vice-Chair)
Councillor Y Frampton
Councillor Galton
Councillor Moulton
Councillor Dr Paffey
Councillor Quadir
Councillor Rayment
Councillor Every

Appointed Members

Catherine Hobbs, Roman Catholic Church
Francis Otieno, Primary Parent Governor
Rob Sanders, Church of England

Contacts

Emily Goodwin
Democratic Support Officer
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Mark Pirnie
Scrutiny Manager
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PUBLIC INFORMATION

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee holds the Executive to account, exercises the call-in process, and sets and monitors standards for scrutiny. It formulates a programme of scrutiny inquiries and appoints Scrutiny Panels to undertake them. Members of the Executive cannot serve on this Committee.

Role of Overview and Scrutiny

Overview and Scrutiny includes the following three functions:

- Holding the Executive to account by questioning and evaluating the Executive's actions, both before and after decisions taken.
- Developing and reviewing Council policies, including the Policy Framework and Budget Strategy.
- Making reports and recommendations on any aspect of Council business and other matters that affect the City and its citizens.

Overview and Scrutiny can ask the Executive to reconsider a decision, but they do not have the power to change the decision themselves.

Southampton: Corporate Plan 2022-2030 sets out the four key outcomes:

- Communities, culture & homes - Celebrating the diversity of cultures within Southampton; enhancing our cultural and historical offer and using these to help transform our communities.
- Green City - Providing a sustainable, clean, healthy and safe environment for everyone. Nurturing green spaces and embracing our waterfront.
- Place shaping - Delivering a city for future generations. Using data, insight and vision to meet the current and future needs of the city.
- Wellbeing - Start well, live well, age well, die well; working with other partners and other services to make sure that customers get the right help at the right time

Procedure / Public Representations

At the discretion of the Chair, members of the public may address the meeting on any report included on the agenda in which they have a relevant interest. Any member of the public wishing to address the meeting should advise the Democratic Support Officer (DSO) whose contact details are on the front sheet of the agenda.

Access is available for disabled people.

Please contact the Democratic Support Officer who will help to make any necessary arrangements.

Fire Procedure: -

In the event of a fire or other emergency a continuous alarm will sound, and you will be advised by Council officers what action to take.

Mobile Telephones: - Please switch your mobile telephones to silent whilst in the meeting

Use of Social Media: - The Council supports the video or audio recording of meetings open to the public, for either live or subsequent broadcast. However, if, in the Chair's opinion, a person filming or recording a meeting or taking photographs is interrupting proceedings or causing a disturbance, under the Council's Standing Orders the person can be ordered to stop their activity, or to leave the meeting. By entering the meeting room, you are consenting to being recorded and to the use of those images and recordings for broadcasting and or/training purposes. The meeting may be recorded by the press or members of the public. Any person or organisation filming, recording, or broadcasting any meeting of the Council is responsible for any claims or other liability resulting from them doing so. Details of the Council's Guidance on the recording of meetings is available on the Council's website.

Smoking Policy: - The Council operates a no-smoking policy in all civic buildings.

Dates of Meetings for the Municipal Year:

| 2022 | 2023 |
|-------------|-------------|
| 9 June | 12 January |
| 14 July | 2 February |
| 11 August | 9 March |
| 8 September | 13 April |
| 13 October | |
| 10 November | |
| 15 December | |

CONDUCT OF MEETING

TERMS OF REFERENCE

The general role and terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee, together with those for all Scrutiny Panels, are set out in Part 2 (Article 6) of the Council’s Constitution, and their particular roles are set out in Part 4 (Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules – paragraph 5) of the Constitution.

RULES OF PROCEDURE

The meeting is governed by the Council Procedure Rules and the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules as set out in Part 4 of the Constitution.

BUSINESS TO BE DISCUSSED

Only those items listed on the attached agenda may be considered at this meeting.

QUORUM

The minimum number of appointed Members required to be in attendance to hold the meeting is 4.

DISCLOSURE OF INTERESTS

Members are required to disclose, in accordance with the Members’ Code of Conduct, **both** the existence **and** nature of any “Disclosable Pecuniary Interest” or “Other Interest” they may have in relation to matters for consideration on this Agenda.

DISCLOSABLE PECUNIARY INTERESTS

A Member must regard himself or herself as having a Disclosable Pecuniary Interest in any matter that they or their spouse, partner, a person they are living with as husband or wife, or a person with whom they are living as if they were a civil partner in relation to:

- (i) Any employment, office, trade, profession or vocation carried on for profit or gain.
- (ii) Sponsorship:

Any payment or provision of any other financial benefit (other than from Southampton City Council) made or provided within the relevant period in respect of any expense incurred by you in carrying out duties as a member, or towards your election expenses. This includes any payment or financial benefit from a trade union within the meaning of the Trade Union and Labour Relations (Consolidation) Act 1992.

- (iii) Any contract which is made between you / your spouse etc (or a body in which the you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest) and Southampton City Council under which goods or services are to be provided or works are to be executed, and which has not been fully discharged.
- (iv) Any beneficial interest in land which is within the area of Southampton.
- (v) Any license (held alone or jointly with others) to occupy land in the area of Southampton for a month or longer.
- (vi) Any tenancy where (to your knowledge) the landlord is Southampton City Council and the tenant is a body in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interests.
- (vii) Any beneficial interest in securities of a body where that body (to your knowledge) has a place of business or land in the area of Southampton, and either:
- a) the total nominal value of the securities exceeds £25,000 or one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that body, or
 - b) if the share capital of that body is of more than one class, the total nominal value of the shares of any one class in which you / your spouse etc has a beneficial interest that exceeds one hundredth of the total issued share capital of that class.

Other Interests

A Member must regard himself or herself as having an, 'Other Interest' in any membership of, or occupation of a position of general control or management in:

- Any public authority or body exercising functions of a public nature
- Any body directed to charitable purposes
- Any body whose principal purpose includes the influence of public opinion or policy

Principles of Decision Making

All decisions of the Council will be made in accordance with the following principles:-

- proportionality (i.e. the action must be proportionate to the desired outcome);
- due consultation and the taking of professional advice from officers;
- respect for human rights;
- a presumption in favour of openness, accountability and transparency;
- setting out what options have been considered;
- setting out reasons for the decision; and
- clarity of aims and desired outcomes.

In exercising discretion, the decision maker must:

- understand the law that regulates the decision making power and gives effect to it. The decision-maker must direct itself properly in law;
- take into account all relevant matters (those matters which the law requires the authority as a matter of legal obligation to take into account);
- leave out of account irrelevant considerations;
- act for a proper purpose, exercising its powers for the public good;
- not reach a decision which no authority acting reasonably could reach, (also known as the "rationality" or "taking leave of your senses" principle);
- comply with the rule that local government finance is to be conducted on an annual basis. Save to the extent authorised by Parliament, 'live now, pay later' and forward funding are unlawful; and
- act with procedural propriety in accordance with the rules of fairness.

AGENDA

1 APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)

To note any changes in membership of the Panel made in accordance with Council Procedure Rule 4.3.

2 DISCLOSURE OF PERSONAL AND PECUNIARY INTERESTS

In accordance with the Localism Act 2011, and the Council's Code of Conduct, Members to disclose any personal or pecuniary interests in any matter included on the agenda for this meeting.

NOTE: Members are reminded that, where applicable, they must complete the appropriate form recording details of any such interests and hand it to the Democratic Support Officer.

3 DECLARATIONS OF SCRUTINY INTEREST

Members are invited to declare any prior participation in any decision taken by a Committee, Sub-Committee, or Panel of the Council on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

4 DECLARATION OF PARTY POLITICAL WHIP

Members are invited to declare the application of any party political whip on any matter on the agenda and being scrutinised at this meeting.

5 STATEMENT FROM THE CHAIR

6 MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)

(Pages 1 - 2)

To approve and sign as a correct record the Minutes of the meetings held on 8 June 2023 and to deal with any matters arising, attached.

7 FORWARD PLAN - MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE (Pages 3 - 8)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive.

8 ACCESSIBLE SOUTHAMPTON INQUIRY - PROGRESS UPDATE (Pages 9 - 34)

Report providing an update on the progress made delivering the recommendations from the Accessible Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry.

9 MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE

(Pages 35 - 40)

Report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings.

Wednesday, 5 July 2023

Director – Legal, Governance and HR

SOUTHAMPTON CITY COUNCIL
OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE
MINUTES OF THE MEETING HELD ON 8 JUNE 2023

- Present: Councillors Blackman (Chair), Galton, Letts, Moulton, Quadir, M Bunday, A Frampton, Lambert and Mrs Mintoff
Appointed Members: Rob Sanders
- Apologies: Councillors Y Frampton, Dr Paffey, Rayment and Evemy
Appointed Members: Catherine Hobbs and Francis Otieno
- Also in attendance: Councillor Keogh - Cabinet Member for Transport and District Regeneration

1. **APOLOGIES AND CHANGES IN PANEL MEMBERSHIP (IF ANY)**

It was noted that following receipt of the temporary resignation of Councillors Y Frampton, Dr Paffey, Rayment and Evemy from the Committee, the Monitoring Officer, acting under delegated powers, had appointed Councillors A Frampton, Lambert, Mintoff and M Bunday to replace them for the purposes of this meeting.

2. **ELECTION OF VICE-CHAIR**

RESOLVED that:

- (i) Councillor Letts be elected as Vice-Chair for the Municipal Year 2023/2024 and
- (ii) as part of the next Annual Review of the Council's Constitution, consideration is given to specifying that the role of Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee Vice-Chair should, by convention, be undertaken by a member of the opposition.

3. **MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING (INCLUDING MATTERS ARISING)**

RESOLVED: that the minutes for the Committee meeting on 13 April 2023 and the final meeting of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel – Protecting, Preserving and Promoting the River Itchen in Southampton on the 20 April 2023 be approved and signed as a correct record.

4. **DRAFT GREEN INFRASTRUCTURE AND BIODIVERSITY STRATEGIES**

The Committee considered the report of the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport recommending that the Committee review and provide feedback on the draft Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategies prior to external consultation in July 2023

Councillor Keogh - Cabinet Member for Transport and District Regeneration, Lindsay McCulloch – Natural Environment Manager, Steve Guppy – Sustainability Manager, Samantha Munslow – Ecologist, Ian Collins, Director of Environment and Councillor Barbour were present and with the consent of the Chair addressed the meeting.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) Reflecting the ongoing impact of climate change, consideration is given to the reviewing the wording within the Executive Summary of the draft Biodiversity Strategy to provide clarity to the term 'halt the decline of biodiversity in Southampton.'
- 2) As the strategies are developed, work is undertaken to refine the targets and metrics against which success will be measured.
- 3) With the recent events relating to the Outdoor Sports Centre in mind, the Council reviews its approach to Governance to ensure that strategies, policies and projects are compatible.
- 4) To accompany the final versions of the draft strategies, a list is published outlining practical actions that residents can undertake to help improve biodiversity and the green infrastructure in Southampton.
- 5) To support decision making, a guide, that is updated regularly, is produced for developers and residents that outlines the most suitable plants and habitats that will deliver the optimal impact on biodiversity and the green infrastructure in Southampton.
- 6) To help deliver the Council's Green Grid ambitions, the Executive encourages the master-planning exercises for the city centre to have reference to the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategies.
- 7) The Committee recommended that Cabinet, when determining their response to the recommendations within the River Itchen Inquiry, considers incorporating the appropriate findings within the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategies and further develops our approach with respect to waterways.

5. **SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL - PROTECTING, PRESERVING AND PROMOTING THE RIVER ITCHEN IN SOUTHAMPTON**

The Committee noted the report of the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel 2022/23, recommending that the Committee consider and approve the final report of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel and forward it to the Executive for consideration and further action.

RESOLVED that:

- 1) The Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee considered and approved the final report of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel and forward it to the Executive for consideration and further action; and
- 2) Delegated authority to the Chair of the Committee to approve any minor amendments arising from considerations raised at the Committee's meeting on 8 June 2023

6. **MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE**

The Committee noted the report of the Scrutiny Manager enabling the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings

Agenda Item 7

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|--|---|--|---------------------------|
| DECISION-MAKER: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | | |
| SUBJECT: | FORWARD PLAN | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 13 JULY 2023 | | |
| REPORT OF: | SCRUTINY MANAGER | | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Corporate Services | |
| | Name: | Mel Creighton | Tel: 023 8083 3528 |
| | E-mail | Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Author: | Title | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | Name: | Mark Pirnie | Tel: 023 8083 3886 |
| | E-mail | Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk | |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| None | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to examine the content of the Forward Plan and to discuss issues of interest or concern with the Executive to ensure that forthcoming decisions made by the Executive benefit local residents. | | | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: | | | |
| | (i) | That the Committee discuss the items listed in paragraph 3 of the report to highlight any matters which Members feel should be taken into account by the Executive when reaching a decision. | |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| 1. | To enable Members to identify any matters which they feel Cabinet should take into account when reaching a decision. | | |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | | | |
| 2. | None. | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |
| 3. | The Council's Forward Plan for Executive Decisions from 18 July 2023 has been published. The following issues were identified for discussion with the Decision Maker: | | |
| | Portfolio | Decision | Requested By |
| | Finance & Change | Medium Term Financial Strategy Update | Cllr Blackman |
| 4. | Briefing papers responding to the items identified by members of the Committee are appended to this report. Members are invited to use the paper to explore the issues with the decision maker. | | |

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| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 5. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 6. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 7. | The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000. |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | |
| 8. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 9. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 10. | The details for the items identified in paragraph 3 are set out in the Executive decision making report issued prior to the decision being taken. |
| KEY DECISION | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | None directly as a result of this report |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | Briefing Paper – Medium Term Financial Strategy Update |
| Documents In Members' Rooms | |
| 1. | None |
| Equality Impact Assessment | |
| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out? | Identified in Executive report |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | |
| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out? | Identified in Executive report |
| Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: | |

| Title of Background Paper(s) | Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable) |
|------------------------------|--|
| 1. | None |

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL STRATEGY UPDATE
DATE: 13 JULY 2023
RECIPIENT: OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

At a meeting on 18 July 2023 Cabinet will consider a report of the Cabinet Member for Finance and Change providing an update on the Council's Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS). The Cabinet report and appendices will be published on 10 July 2023.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

- The Cabinet report on an updated MTFS will be published on 10 July 2023. The MTFS provides a financial framework within which financial stability can be achieved and sustained in the medium term to deliver the Council's key strategic priorities and sustainable services.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL/RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS:

- Details will be set out in the Executive decision making report published on 10 July 2023 - [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 18th July, 2023, 4.30 pm | Southampton City Council](#).

Appendices/Supporting Information:

- Details will be set out in the Executive decision making report published on 10 July 2023 - [Agenda for Cabinet on Tuesday, 18th July, 2023, 4.30 pm | Southampton City Council](#).

| | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| Further Information Available From: | Name: | Steve Harrison – Head of Financial Planning and Management |
| | Tel: | 023 8083 4153 |
| | E-mail: | Steve.harrison@southampton.gov.uk |

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Agenda Item 8

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|---|--|--|---------------------------|
| DECISION-MAKER: | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | | |
| SUBJECT: | ACCESSIBLE SOUTHAMPTON INQUIRY – PROGRESS UPDATE | | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | 13 JULY 2023 | | |
| REPORT OF: | SCRUTINY MANAGER | | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Corporate Services | |
| | Name: | Mel Creighton | Tel: 023 8083 3528 |
| | E-mail | Mel.creighton@southampton.gov.uk | |
| Author: | Title | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | Name: | Mark Pirnie | Tel: 023 8083 3886 |
| | E-mail | Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk | |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| N/A | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| <p>The Accessible Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry was undertaken by the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel from October 2021 to April 2022. The remit of the inquiry was to identify whether the physical infrastructure of the city creates barriers for disabled people to access all that Southampton has to offer, and if so, to determine what we can do as a city to address this.</p> <p>The Inquiry Panel final report was presented to Cabinet in June 2022 and a response to the recommendations was approved by Cabinet in October 2022.</p> <p>The Chair has requested that the Committee receive an update outlining the progress made by the Executive delivering the agreed actions to make Southampton a more accessible city.</p> | | | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: | | | |
| | (i) | That the Committee considers the Accessible Southampton Inquiry progress update briefing attached as Appendix 2. | |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| 1. | To enable the Committee to undertake their role with regards to scrutinising the implementation of approved scrutiny inquiry recommendations. | | |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | | | |
| 2. | None. | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |
| 3. | In 2021/22 the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel conducted an inquiry focussing on opportunities to improve the accessibility of Southampton. The final report Accessible Southampton Inquiry - (southampton.gov.uk) was presented to Cabinet in June 2022 and a response to the Inquiry Panel's | | |

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| | recommendations, attached as Appendix 1, was approved by Cabinet in October 2022. |
| 4. | A key role of this Committee is to monitor the implementation by the Executive of the Inquiry Panel's recommendations. Given that over six months have passed since Cabinet approved their response, the Chair requested a progress update to be considered by the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee at the 13 July 2023 meeting. |
| 5. | Attached as Appendix 2 is the requested progress update. The Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport will be in attendance to present the update and respond to questions raised. |
| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 6. | Detailed in the attached appendices. |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 7. | Detailed in the attached appendices. |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 8. | The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000. |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | |
| 9. | None |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 10. | None. |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 11. | Adopting the recommendations from the Accessible Southampton Scrutiny Inquiry is an objective outlined in the 2022-2030 Corporate Plan. |
| KEY DECISION | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | None directly as a result of this report |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | Accessible Southampton Action Plan – Approved by Cabinet in October 2022 |
| 2. | Accessible Southampton Inquiry – Progress update |
| Documents In Members' Rooms | |
| 1. | None |
| Equality Impact Assessment | |
| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out? | No |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | |

| | | |
|--|---|--|
| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out? | | No |
| Other Background Documents Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: | | |
| Title of Background Paper(s) | | Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable) |
| 1. | Accessible Southampton Inquiry - Final report Accessible Southampton Inquiry - (southampton.gov.uk) | |
| 2. | Accessible Southampton Inquiry – Conclusions and Recommendations Conclusion Recommendations.pdf (southampton.gov.uk) | |

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Accessibility Scrutiny Inquiry Review & Action Plan - October 2022

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Overview:

The Scrutiny Inquiry Panel undertook the inquiry over 5 evidence gathering meetings. At the start of each meeting the Panel received presentation summarising feedback from an Accessible Southampton focus group meeting attended by disabled people.

The focus group, convened by Spectrum CIL, considered the issues to be discussed at the subsequent Inquiry Panel meeting.

Objectives:

- a. To identify whether the **physical infrastructure of the city creates barriers for disabled people** to access all Southampton has to offer.
- b. To **identify good practice** being employed to improve the accessibility of towns and cities elsewhere.
- c. To **identify what initiatives and approaches could work well in Southampton** to improve the accessibility of the city.

Scrutiny Panel considered the principles of inclusive design as being:

- Inclusive – so everyone can use it safely, easily and with dignity
- Responsive – taking account of what people say they need/want
- Flexible – so different people can use it in different ways
- Convenient – All can use it without too much effort or separation
- Accommodating for all people, regardless of their age, gender, mobility, ethnicity or circumstances
- Welcoming – with no disabling barriers that might exclude some people
- Realistic – offering more than one solution to help balance everyone's needs and recognising that one solution may not work for all.

Access City Award

Inquiry was conducted using the 4 key accessibility criteria used by the Access City Award. The Access City Award is a prize given by the EU every year to cities that work hard to be accessible:

- a. The built environment and public spaces
- b. Transportation and related infrastructures
- c. Information and communication, including information and communication technologies (ICT)

- d. Public facilities and services. such as transport access.

The following are key application criteria that an applicant city has to demonstrate:

- a. The actions implemented or planned are part of a coherent strategy or policy framework, rather than just ad hoc projects.
- b. Accessibility must be mainstreamed in the city's policies and its regulations.
- c. There is a corporate commitment to accessibility at a high level within the authority.
- d. Appropriate resources are allocated to implement these policies.

Any applicant city also needs to demonstrate clear involvement of disabled people and their representative organisations in planning, implementation and maintenance in city policies and initiatives.

Inquiry Theme 1: Accessibility to the built environment and public spaces

- Access City Award includes the following issues under this heading - City centre design, streets and pavements, parks, squares, monuments and open spaces. Feedback was provided to the Inquiry Panel - areas of concern with regards to the design of the city and accessibility were classified into the following areas -
 - City Design – Getting around the city
 - Buildings and Spaces – Retail & Public
 - Buildings and Spaces – Homes
 - Accessible Toilets
 - Planning and Building Control

General Observations:

The Accessible Southampton Focus group identified the primary concerns in the built environment, with lack of reporting mechanism for access issues or maintenance needs:

- Street furniture e.g. bins, benches, signage on pavement
- Sudden changes in width or height of the pavement, shortage of dropped kerbs e.g Hill Lane between Atherley Bowling Club and Taunton's College
- Pavement not defined from road space e.g. around Central Station
- Poor quality surface with cracked pavement
- Poorly phased traffic lights/pedestrian crossings
- Lack of accessible signposting and signage
- Crowded/noisy city centre space

Perception from disabled residents is that access requirements are routinely ignored by developers, and these are not actively policed by planners – there needs to be a much more proactive to insist that good access is proactively built into the design phase of new developments.

Recommendations:

- There is scope for planning policy as it relates to accessibility to be updated and reset - higher standards can be applied by the Council subject to planning conditions and policy, most developers will work to minimum accessibility standards unless required to do otherwise.

Accessibility Forum Review and Action Plan

- Local Plan refreshment provides an opportunity to secure higher accessibility standards for future developments which require planning permission and opportunity to add to the existing policy to include embedding an accessibility checklist.
- Development standards should include requiring all new housing development to meet the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion
- Refresh of the Streetscape Toolkit – incorporate accessibility in the Council’s highways design standards moving forward.
- Work in partnership with Go! Southampton to deliver their ambition for Southampton to be an accessible and inclusive city through Accessible City workstream in partnership with Spectrum.

| Rec No. | Action | Responsible Service Area | Service Area Comments/Output | Proposed Outputs/estimated timescales | Resources needed | Proposed Response |
|--------------|---|--------------------------|---|---|-------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 Page 18 | <p>Enshrine the principles of accessibility and inclusion within the Southampton City Vision Local Plan –</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requiring all new development to meet the highest standards of accessibility and inclusion. • Requiring all new housing to be at least accessible or adaptable housing, with a minimum of 10% wheelchair accessible. • Consider children and parents views and insights, especially of those children with a special educational need and disability (Child Friendly) | Strategic Planning | Will be both an ‘Accessible and Inclusive Design’ and ‘Space Standards’ policy in the new Southampton City Vision (SCV) Local Plan to address these bullet points. The latter will require a proportion of new housing development to be accessible to people with reduced mobility and wheelchair users either on completion or with only limited adaptations required in the future. The policy proposes applying increased standards to developments of 10 or more and 50 or more homes. The proportion and threshold will be determined after further work is undertaken including a viability assessment. No percentage is yet identified. | Draft policy with option ready for end of October consultation. | Low for policy drafting | Accept |
| 2 | Embed an accessibility checklist within existing planning policy for | Strategic Planning | Will be writing a new accessibility policy for the new SCV Local Plan. At this stage we can include the | Draft policy with option ready for end | Low for policy drafting | Accept |

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|---------|---|------------------------------------|---|---|---|-----------------------|
| | inclusion into Southampton Vision Local Plan | | option to require an accessibility checklist to be submitted to support applications but the content of such will need expert knowledge which we don't have in house. This task is therefore partially dependent on the outcome of the above task of employing an Access Officer. | of October consultation. Decision on checklist to be taken in 2023 and next steps dependent on above task. | Medium for application of accessibility checklist as expert knowledge not currently available in house. | |
| 3 | Work with Go! Southampton and the city centre BID area to support their inclusive premises initiative developed in tandem with Spectrum CIL | Go! Southampton | Meeting to be arranged with new Go! CX to establish a way forward with resources available. Work with Child Friendly ambassador organisations such as West Quay and GO! Southampton to ensure children's voices, including those with a disability are incorporated into design activity | Autumn 2022 meeting to scope | Initial scoping – Low – further resource tbc. | Accept |
| Page 19 | Changing Places toilets - Council should apply for funding if the Government announces a new round of grants to develop the provision of Changing Places to support publicly accessible facilities. | Property Services City Services | Property Services are responsible for the maintenance of existing SCC toilet facilities and City Services the day-to-day cleansing. Beyond maintenance and cleansing of existing facilities there is not a SCC lead service, programme or budget for future programme of enhancements to toilet facilities. | TBC | Service area responsibilities need confirming and resource identified to lead programme of enhancements and capital and rev budgets supported by future external funding opportunities. | Requires further work |

Inquiry Theme 2: Accessibility to transportation and related infrastructures

- The EU Access City Award criteria includes the following issues under this heading - measures related to the car parks, airports, railway stations and bus stations, taxis, trains, buses and trams, proximity, interconnectivity of public transport and journey information availability.
- Feedback was provided to the Inquiry Panel - areas of concern with regards to the transport were classified into the following areas:
 - Transport modes – buses, trains, ferries and taxis
 - Parking provision
 - Shopmobility services
 - Signage

General Observations:

- Infrastructure, provision and end to end journeys can be designed with accessibility in mind, thereby removing barriers and enabling everyone to access the various modes of transport available. Public transport should include all, segregated transport can be expensive and exclusionary.
- Good access should be built in at the design phase. Ask disabled people as co-production is cost effective.
- Consider the whole experience - Booking / tickets, getting to the public transport destination, interchanges of multi-modal trips e.g. car-taxi-bus-train. It doesn't matter how good/bad provision is if customer service is wrong.
- Proper consideration of pedestrians, particularly those who have impaired senses, when designing scheme layout at bus stops, train stations etc.

Recommendations:

- Utilising best practice guidance, and the proposed Southampton Disability Access Forum, ensure that good access is built in at the design phase of transport infrastructure schemes, including parking.
- Through the proposed Disability Access Forum, review signage in Southampton, including the Legible Cities signage, to make it more accessible to disabled people.
- Explore opportunities to move to 100% wheelchair accessible hackney carriages and to increase the number of wheelchair accessible private hire vehicles in Southampton.
- Explore opportunities to establish ShopMobility schemes in Southampton's district centres.

- Plan disability street and car parking provision to accurately reflect disabled people’s needs e.g. proper dropped kerbs, larger spaces for vans and protect disabled parking spaces in the Civic Centre Car Park when planning events in Southampton City Centre.
- Review signage in Southampton, including the Legible Cities signage, to make it more accessible to disabled people – review to be conducted with the input of disabled people.

| Rec No. | Action | Responsible Service Area | Service Area Comments/Output | Proposed Outputs/estimated timescales | Resources needed | Proposed Response |
|---------|--|--------------------------|---|---|--|-------------------|
| 5 | Development of an Inclusive Transport Strategy to sit alongside the Local Transport Plan, the emerging City Vision Local Plan, Cycling Strategy and emerging Walking Strategy. | Integrated Transport | Part of transport policy pipeline to develop an improved inclusive transport policy. To be reviewed if this will be a standalone policy document or imbedded into others. Including a refreshed LTP4 by 2025. | Policy review workshops with Cllrs/ Stakeholders Q4 2022/23. Policy updated including LTP4 refresh by 2025. | Low High – but linked to wider policy commitments. | Accept |
| Page 21 | Establish a Southampton Disability Access Forum to: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Ensure good access is built in at the design phase of transport infrastructure schemes, including parking. - review signage in Southampton, including the Legible Cities signage, to make it more accessible to disabled people. Engage disabled people in the development of Equality Impact Assessments when it is expected that a new policy, development or decision will have an impact on disabled people | Integrated Transport | Currently in process of establish Accessibility Forum to take forward the transport and built environment specific recommendations from the Inquiry. This forum is built on the previous cycle forum, opening up decision making around schemes to include input from people who cycle, walk, use public transport and to actively take into account the needs of people with disabilities, especially if their mobility will be highly impacted by scheme proposals. | Legal advice indicates change from cycle forum to accessibility forum requires Cabinet approval. Cabinet Member for Transport and Regeneration has been briefed on recommendation to bring to Cabinet. Terms of Reference to be brought to 13 September Cabinet for approval. | Medium – initial intensive staff resource but linked to identified consultation requirements around new transport schemes. Resources required will diminish as process is integrated into consultation processes. | Accept |

Accessibility Forum Review and Action Plan

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| 7 | Governance Framework for accessibility improvements, including systems of reporting accessibility issues e.g. broken/lack of dropped curb | Highways Services | Currently proposals surrounding Accessibility Forum will include a mechanism for prioritising installation of infrastructure supporting accessibility dropped kerbs etc. | Timescales for establishing Accessibility Forum are as above | There will be a budget set aside for Accessibility Forum members to manage and dictate how this is allocated. | Accept |
| 8 | <p>Employ a dedicated Access Officer works across the Council and its private sector partners on all aspects of access improvement.</p> <p>The Access Officer would co-ordinates Accessibility Forum, investigates and responds to all access related complaints received by the Council and works with internal and external partners to implement changes to buildings, facilities and practices. This role ensures that accessibility is at the heart of planning.</p> | <p>Stronger Communities</p> <p>Organisational Development</p> | <p>A Diversity & Inclusion Officer is already in post with funding is secured until March 2023. Further funding is linked to progress against Diversity and & Inclusion Action Plan, as well as budget pressures overall, and will be reviewed prior to March 2023.</p> <p>There is currently a permanent role appointed for an externally facing Community Cohesion and Diversity Officer.</p> <p>The Child Friendly Project Officer and Youth Participation Lead will ensure the views of children, including those with SEND are incorporated</p> | <p>Reviewing for internal D&I lead before March 2023</p> | <p>Medium – Permanent position for an outward facing Diversity and Inclusion role in place, but need to identify scope for appointing an Access Officer and what service this sits in.</p> <p>The Child Friendly City accreditation takes the approach that a child friendly city is an accessible city, and under this accreditation the rights of SEND children and their parents need to be incorporated into decision-making – needs proper ownership from all management levels in the council.</p> | <p>Requires further work</p> |

Accessibility Forum Review and Action Plan

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|---------------|--|----------------------------|---|---|---|--------|
| 9 | Refresh of the StreetScape Toolkit | Integrated Transport | <p>The review of the Streetscape toolkit has commenced. Workshops to be established with input from newly established Access Forum.</p> <p>Can workshops also incorporate the Child Friendly City process to formulate what makes a street child friendly. Children, particularly those with disabilities will be consulted building on existing good practice for our Child Friendly Street initiatives.</p> | Workshops in Autumn 2022. Target for March 2023 complete document | Low – resource already in place with Balfour Beatty Living Places | Accept |
| 10 Page 23 | Working with Go! Southampton on the incorporation of the BID for the city centre and its Inclusive City workstream | Go! Southampton | <p>Meeting to be arranged with new Go! CX to establish a way forward with resources available.</p> <p>Work with Child Friendly ambassador organisations such as West Quay and GO:Southampton to ensure children’s voices, including those with a disability are incorporated into design activity</p> | Autumn 2022 meeting to scope | Initial scoping – Low – further resource tbc. | Accept |
| 11 | <p>Communication:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Training for officers on appropriate language to use when communicating with disabled people - Apply inclusive communication principles to all transport related correspondences and consultations. | Customers & Communications | <p>Add subtitles to all council videos</p> <p>Southampton CC Style Guide</p> <p>Officers to take part in Rights Based Training for Children</p> | TBC | Minimal – this work can be done within existing teams. | Accept |

Accessibility Forum Review and Action Plan

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| | Checklist to ensure that engagement meetings for the general public when consulting on public transport schemes are accessible. | | | | | |
|--|---|--|--|--|--|--|

Inquiry Theme 3: Accessibility to information and communication

- The EU Accessible City Award criteria focuses on access to the city authorities' official information and includes the following issues under this heading - measures related to access to the city authorities' official information e.g. accessibility of promotional multimedia information for local authority, advice and citizen feedback procedures on the accessibility of the website, online information provision in arts, culture, entertainment, sport facilities, signage and guidance in public places, outdoor or indoor, tourist information, accessibility of the public information kiosks, provision of assistive technology and inclusive ICT resources for the whole community in public libraries and online centres.

General Observations:

Emphasis of the Panel's discussion was on Southampton City Council's information and communication, and accepted that while improvements had been made, there were still some other key areas for improvement. The principles for inclusive and accessible information were identified:

- Information and communication should be written to be understandable to the audience in question
- If information or communication is aimed at the 'general public' then it needs to ensure that it will be accessible and understandable to all
- Consider if all the intended audience will be able to access your chosen communication method
- Use plain English & make it easy for staff to get it right
- Provision of accessible info should not be a cost issue

Recommendations:

- To improve consistency in how the City Council communicates with residents the Council should adopt an accessible information standard. Spectrum CIL has identified information standards that reflect best practice.
- Incorporate an element on the 'language of disability' within the customer service training that is proposed for council staff via the Customer Experience Programme. Guidelines have been developed by Spectrum CIL, to help ensure that Council officers use appropriate language when communicating with disabled people
- Develop a checklist to ensure that meetings for the general public are accessible.
- To make Southampton more accessible, and improve the lives of people with communication difficulties, adopt the standards underpinning the Community Access Symbol and seek to encourage citywide take up and accreditation of the initiative.
- To improve choice, control, independence and inclusivity, work with Go! Southampton and Spectrum CIL on proposals to produce access guides on a city-wide scale for Southampton – best practice identified by Scrutiny was approach in Sheffield.

| Rec No. | Action | Responsible Service Area | Service Area Comments/Output | Proposed Outputs/estimated timescales | Resources needed | Proposed Response |
|---------|---|----------------------------------|--|--|---|-----------------------|
| 12 | <p>Communications:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Adopt an accessible information standard across the council - Apply inclusive communication principles to all correspondences and consultations. <p>Checklist to ensure that meetings for the general public are accessible</p> | Customers & Communications | <p>We will develop an accessible information standard which will cover all communication with the public, electronic, phone, letter and for face-to-face meetings. This standard will seek to cover the use of inclusive communication principles.</p> <p>Once developed and checked by Spectrum and other bodies this will be internally promoted to encourage uptake / compliance.</p> | In place by end of 2022 | Minimal – this work can be done within existing teams. | Accept |
| Page 26 | Work with Spectrum CIL to develop training for officers on appropriate language to use when communicating with disabled people. | Organisational Development (OD). | <p>Rollout of the Customer Experience Programme learning modules can include this, as well as in our induction and Diversity & Inclusion modules.</p> <p>Plain English is a standard we already work to and can be used as a part of the training and accessible information standard</p> | Content relevant for each modules can be created by our OD team with Spectrum CIL, before end 2022. | Low, as OD team can meet with Spectrum CIL in this timeframe and add appropriate content. | Accept |
| 14 | Adopt the standards underpinning the Community Access Symbol and seek to encourage citywide take up and accreditation of the initiative. | Organisational Development. | Need to explore free training offer from Communication Access UK - an initiative developed in partnership by charities that share a vision to improve the lives of people with communication difficulties. | Suggest we explore this in more detail to establish what we would be signing up to and what resources this requires from us to | Medium – no resource allocated to this and we have other accreditations to consider as well | Requires further work |

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|---------|--|-----------------|---|------------------------------|---|----------------------|
| Page 27 | | | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Communication Access UK developed Communication Access Symbol, underpinned by a free training package and standards. - Anyone can sign up to complete the training package. - Organisations will receive accreditation as Communication Accessible once they have committed to deliver the training and adhere to the standards. <p>Organisations will then be placed on a national directory and can display the Communication Access Symbol. Both certificates and accreditation are valid for 12 months and need to be renewed annually.</p> | achieve and renew each year. | | |
| 15 | Work with Go! Southampton and Spectrum produce access guides on a city-wide scale for Southampton. | Go! Southampton | <p>Meeting to be arranged with new Go! CX to establish a way forward with resources available.</p> <p>Work with SEND Children's Forums and schools to help design access guides that are child friendly</p> | Autumn 2022 meeting to scope | Initial scoping – Low – further resource tbc. | Require further work |

Inquiry Theme 4: Accessibility to public facilities and services

- The EU Accessible City Award criteria asks applicant cities to identify how accessibility is considered and integrated in the public services provided within their city.
- There are legal duties that underpin accessibility requirements, but principles considered the Inquiry for accessibility to facilities and services were:
 - Services need to be easy to get to – Publicised in places that reach the target audience; Adjacent car parking and served by public transport; Venue well signposted
 - Buildings need to be accessible for disabled people - Entrance / reception, meeting rooms, toilets, food / drinks
 - Information provided needs to be in accessible formats
 - Staff training & culture - Ensure properly trained staff that understand needs of disabled people.

General Observations

- Panel did not consider in detail the accessibility of specific public buildings or services in the city, but the focus groups identified general issues relating to the accessibility of public facilities and services in Southampton.
- Considerations were made around:
 - **Service information** - Many disabled people do not know what services there are – information directory needs to be updated to be user friendly and accessible.
 - **Accessible public buildings** - access to public buildings was a challenge in Southampton. Facilities are rarely designed to be fully inclusive. Gateway was indicated as fully accessible, but improvements need to be made to council leisure facilities.
 - **Equality Impact Assessments** - The City Council undertakes Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIAs) for all significant proposals and policies/strategies. Feedback from disabled people indicated that the process could be more rigorous, including engaging with disabled people where decisions are likely to impact them.

| Rec No. | Action | Responsible Service Area | Service Area Comments/Output | Proposed Outputs/estimated timescales | Resources needed | |
|---------|--|--------------------------|--|---------------------------------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| 16 | Engage disabled people, potentially through the proposed Southampton Disability Access Forum, in the development of Equality Impact Assessments when it is expected that a new policy, development or decision will have an impact on disabled people. | Growth | <p>For Equality Impact Assessments when relating to transport schemes, these will be developed with input from disability representative groups through the proposed Accessibility Forum.</p> <p>Officers to seek to engage with disabled children’s forums and schools to gain their views</p> | TBC | TBC | Requires further work |
| 17 | Undertake access audits of the City Council’s public buildings and take recommended action to improve the accessibility of the buildings where practical and reasonable. All new public facilities should be fully accessible | Property Services | <p>Testing case will be the proposed redevelopment of the Outdoor Sports Centre facilities, to ensure that all proposals adhere to. This may be dependent on new accessibility policy for the new SCV Local Plan, which as mentioned above, is dependent on expert advice. However, parts of the redevelopment proposals are actively taking accessibility guidance and advice to design to highest standard of use.</p> | TBC | TBC | Requires further work |

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BRIEFING PAPER

SUBJECT: Accessible Southampton Inquiry – Progress Update
DATE: 13 July 2023
RECIPIENT: Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee

THIS IS NOT A DECISION PAPER

SUMMARY:

1. The Council's Scrutiny Inquiry Panel carried out an inquiry on Accessible Southampton in 2021/22. This briefing paper is an outline of the progress the Council has made since the response to the Inquiry recommendations were adopted by Cabinet in October 2022.

BACKGROUND and BRIEFING DETAILS:

2. The Council's Scrutiny Inquiry Panel carried out an inquiry on Accessible Southampton in 2021/22. The set objectives of the inquiry were:
 - a. To identify whether the physical infrastructure of the city creates barriers for disabled people to access all Southampton has to offer.
 - b. To identify good practice being employed to improve the accessibility of towns and cities elsewhere.
 - c. To identify what initiatives and approaches could work well in Southampton to improve the accessibility of the city.
3. The Inquiry made recommendations relating to the following themes:
 - a. To Improve the accessibility of Southampton's built environment
 - b. To improve the accessibility of Southampton's public transport and related infrastructure
 - c. To improve the accessibility of Southampton's information and communication
 - d. To improve the accessibility of Southampton's public facilities and services
 - e. To improve the ownership and culture of accessibility.
4. A progress update for each theme is listed below:

Improve the accessibility of Southampton's built environment

5. A new planning policy has been drafted to be included within the draft Local Plan. The "Accessibility and Inclusive Design" policy aims to address the previous gap in planning policy. It should be noted that whilst drafting the policy, the Council obtained advice on aims and correct terminology from Spectrum before the policy went out to public consultation. The draft policy is now in the Draft Local Plan (Policy DE5). In addition, the Local Plan now has standardised references to disabled people and made it clearer that development should be accessible to, and mindful of the needs of, all people regardless of age or reduced mobility.

BRIEFING PAPER

6. A review has been carried out on Southampton's Streetscape Toolkit. The Toolkit has reviewed the materials and pallet that is used in public spaces, with a view to making a more unified pallet which will take into account the needs of people with mobility issues. The Toolkit will be submitted to the next Accessibility Forum in July for their comment.
7. An Accessibility Forum has been established by the Council, with its first meeting held on 26 January 2023. The Terms of Reference have been adopted for the meeting, with the next meeting to be held in July 2023. A dedicated website and email address has been set up for members of the Forum at <https://www.southampton.gov.uk/travel-transport/local-transport-plan/the-accessibility-forum/>. The Forum was chaired by the Cabinet Member for Transport (now Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport) and had representatives from the Council's Integrated Transport team, Ward Councillors, GO! Southampton and interest groups such as Southampton Sight, Mencap, Spectrum, Carers Partnership Board, Cycle Campaign and Sustrans. A request from the meeting is that for the next meeting more detail is provided on bus operations in the City, including the Council's Bus Service Improvement Plan.
8. The Council has not employed an Access Officer at this time. No available budget provision has been made to create the role within the structure. Management of the Accessibility Forum has been managed within existing staff roles.
9. As part of a wider District Centre improvement project, a review is underway of the Bitterne District Centre toilet block to determine if a changing places toilet can be included in a proposed refurbishment project. The Council will continue to monitor funding opportunities / government grants and apply where appropriate.

To improve the accessibility of Southampton's public transport and related infrastructure

10. The Council's Transport Delivery Team has conducted a site audit with user groups from the Accessibility Forum as part of the Bitterne District Centre improvement project. The site audit has identified targeted measures that will now be taken into detailed design for improvements to connections to the District Centre for disabled people. Works are anticipated to be carried from Spring 2024.
11. The Council has a network of Real Time Information displays at bus stops which show the arrival time of the next bus at a stop. The Council have made adjustments to the font size and brightness of displays following consultation with user groups from the Accessibility Forum.
12. As part of our Bus Service Improvement Plan, a new Enhanced Partnership has been entered into in May 2023 with bus operators and the Council to improve the quality and overall provision of bus services in the city. The Enhanced Partnership outlines roles and responsibilities for the Council and for operators, with an action plan on how to improve satisfaction with local bus services, bus fares and ease of disabled access in the bus network. As part of the Enhance Partnership, a public forum will be established to provide the community input into the bus improvement process which members of the Accessibility Forum will be encouraged to contribute to.

BRIEFING PAPER

13. A Micromobility Equalities Forum has been established, which is a Solent wide partnership to help make the e-scooter and e-bike schemes more accessible. The Forum will meet every three months between members and the two operators Voi and Beryl. The next meeting will be on 5 July 2023. The Forum has actively asked for members that can represent disabled people to provide views on the e-scooter and e-bike programme.

To improve the accessibility of Southampton's Information and communication

14. The Council has met with Rose Road Association on their work to create an access guide for people with mobility issues to access areas in the city centre (for example walking from Central Station to the Cultural Quarter). A project is now underway to incorporate this work into the upcoming Local Cycling and Walking Plan that the Integrated Transport Team is working on which will identify improvements to local walking / cycling which will include an update to a base walking map.

To improve the accessibility of Southampton's public facilities and services

15. As highlighted above, the Council has conducted a joint site audit to feed into the Bitterne District Centre improvement project. A similar audit is planned for the transport improvements associated with the Outdoor Sports Centre project with an inspection in Autumn 2023.

RESOURCE/POLICY/FINANCIAL/LEGAL IMPLICATIONS:

16. The Sustainable Transport (Communities) Lead is currently coordinating the Accessibility Forum, with the Cabinet Member for Environment and Transport the Chair of the Forum.

17. The main policy document that is driving interventions for public transport and the urban realm are from Southampton's Local Transport Plan: Connecting Southampton 2040. Council's draft Local Transport Plan has now been updated to include recommendations from the Inquiry.

18. A budget has been reserved from the Integrated Transport Accessibility budget for small scale interventions that the Accessibility Forum recommends of £50,000 per annum. The next Forum meeting will resolve the projects for 2023/24 spend. The Council is also creating a database of outstanding works which will be used for future funding bids such as Active Travel Fund.

OPTIONS and TIMESCALES:

19. Ongoing work will be done to address recommendations from the Accessibility Inquiry.

RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

20. Not Applicable

Appendices/Supporting Information:

21. None

BRIEFING PAPER

| | | |
|--|----------------|--|
| Further Information Available From: | Name: | Wade Holmes – Service Manager for Integrated Transport |
| | Tel: | 023 8083 3326 |
| | E-mail: | Wade.Holmes@southampton.gov.uk |

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|---|---|--|---------------------------|
| DECISION-MAKER: | | OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE | |
| SUBJECT: | | MONITORING SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE EXECUTIVE | |
| DATE OF DECISION: | | 13 JULY 2023 | |
| REPORT OF: | | SCRUTINY MANAGER | |
| <u>CONTACT DETAILS</u> | | | |
| Executive Director | Title | Executive Director – Corporate Services | |
| | Name: | Mel Creighton | Tel: 023 8083 3528 |
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| Author: | Title | Scrutiny Manager | |
| | Name: | Mark Pirnie | Tel: 023 8083 3886 |
| | E-mail | Mark.pirnie@southampton.gov.uk | |
| STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY | | | |
| N/A | | | |
| BRIEF SUMMARY | | | |
| This item enables the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee to monitor and track progress on recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings. | | | |
| RECOMMENDATIONS: | | | |
| | (i) | That the Committee considers the responses from the Executive to recommendations from previous meetings and provides feedback. | |
| REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS | | | |
| 1. | To assist the Committee in assessing the impact and consequence of recommendations made at previous meetings. | | |
| ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED | | | |
| 2. | None. | | |
| DETAIL (Including consultation carried out) | | | |
| 3. | Appendix 1 of the report sets out the recommendations made to the Executive at previous meetings of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC). It also contains a summary of action taken by the Executive in response to the recommendations. | | |
| 4. | The progress status for each recommendation is indicated and if the OSMC confirms acceptance of the items marked as completed they will be removed from the list. In cases where action on the recommendation is outstanding or the Committee does not accept the matter has been adequately completed, it will be kept on the list and reported back to the next meeting. It will remain on the list until such time as the Committee accepts the recommendation as completed. Rejected recommendations will only be removed from the list after being reported to the OSMC. | | |

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| RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Capital/Revenue</u> | |
| 5. | None. |
| <u>Property/Other</u> | |
| 6. | None. |
| LEGAL IMPLICATIONS | |
| <u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u> | |
| 7. | The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000. |
| <u>Other Legal Implications:</u> | |
| 8. | None |
| RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS | |
| 9. | None. |
| POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS | |
| 10. | None |
| KEY DECISION | No |
| WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED: | None directly as a result of this report |
| <u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u> | |
| Appendices | |
| 1. | Monitoring Scrutiny Recommendations – 13 July 2023 |
| Documents In Members' Rooms | |
| 1. | None |
| Equality Impact Assessment | |
| Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessments (ESIA) to be carried out? | No |
| Data Protection Impact Assessment | |
| Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out? | No |
| Other Background Documents | |
| Equality Impact Assessment and Other Background documents available for inspection at: | |
| Title of Background Paper(s) | Relevant Paragraph of the Access to Information Procedure Rules / Schedule 12A allowing document to be Exempt/Confidential (if applicable) |
| 1. | None |

Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee: Holding the Executive to Account

Scrutiny Monitoring – 13 July 2023

| Date | Portfolio | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
|----------|-------------------------|--|---|--|-----------------|
| 08/06/23 | Environment & Transport | Draft Green Infrastructure & Biodiversity Strategies | 1) That, reflecting the ongoing impact of climate change, consideration is given to the reviewing the wording within the Executive Summary of the draft Biodiversity Strategy to provide clarity to the term 'halt the decline of biodiversity in Southampton.' | The Vision statement included in the draft Biodiversity Strategy has been reviewed and it can be confirmed that term 'halt the decline' is consistent with the narrative used in the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals , the UK's Environment Bill and the Nature Positive 2030 report, published by the five UK statutory nature agencies. The vision statement, as currently worded, will be included in the draft strategy for the public consultation exercise and then reviewed again, following consideration of the responses received. | Ongoing |
| | | | 2) That, as the strategies are developed, work is undertaken to refine the targets and metrics against which success will be measured. | Both strategies identify the need to develop appropriate performance indicators in order to monitor progress and these will be developed as part of the subsequent action planning. | Ongoing |
| | | | 3) That, with the recent events relating to the Outdoor Sports Centre in mind, the Council reviews its approach to Governance to ensure that strategies, policies and projects are compatible. | This matter is to be referred to the Place Leadership team for further consideration in July, with the expectation that all relevant departments will convene to review the existing process and identify opportunities for improvement and collaborative, cross council working. | Ongoing |
| | | | 4) That, to accompany the final versions of the draft strategies, a list is published outlining practical actions that residents can undertake to help | As part of the Communication Plan, that will promote the consultation exercise, we will use our channels to promote some of the practical steps that residents might want to undertake themselves. This will | Ongoing |

| Date | Portfolio | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
|---------|-----------|-------|---|--|-----------------|
| Page 38 | | | improve biodiversity and the green infrastructure in Southampton. | be based on existing content that has been developed by SCC and our partners the Hampshire and Isle of Wight Wildlife Trust (as part of the Wilder Southampton project). This content will be reviewed, and a fresh campaign will be included in the forward plan for delivery to coincide with the anticipated adoption of the strategies later in 2023. Opportunities for wider community engagement and will be explored in the action planning stage, seeking to identify ideas and projects that can be supported by neighbourhoods, schools and business. | |
| | | | 5) That, to support decision making, a guide, that is updated regularly, is produced for developers and residents that outlines the most suitable plants and habitats that will deliver the optimal impact on biodiversity and the green infrastructure in Southampton. | Guidance is in development that will help inform both SCC projects and developers on the delivery of sustainable green infrastructure. This will include ensuring that opportunities to support biodiversity are optimised. It is anticipated that the first iteration of the guidance can be adopted as a “Public Realm Toolkit” to support the current city centre master planning process and then more widely by incorporating versions into council standard operating procedures and planning policy. Opportunities to account for blue infrastructure are being considered as part of this process. | Ongoing |
| | | | 6) That, to help deliver the Council’s Green Grid ambitions, the Executive encourages the master-planning exercises for the city centre to have reference to the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategies. | Conversations with the Master Planning team in Economic Development are taking place to ensure that green and blue infrastructure are given appropriate weight in the master planning process. The “Public Realm Toolkit” being developed | Ongoing |

| Date | Portfolio | Title | Action proposed | Action Taken | Progress Status |
|------|-----------|-------|--|---|-----------------|
| | | | | will also ensure that, where the green and blue infrastructure is delivered, it is of a suitable quality and the benefits it can offer are fully realised. | |
| | | | 7) The Committee recommended that Cabinet, when determining their response to the recommendations within the River Itchen Inquiry, considers incorporating the appropriate findings within the Green Infrastructure and Biodiversity Strategies and further develops our approach with respect to waterways. | The recommendations within the River Itchen Inquiry will be considered alongside the response to the public consultation for both strategies. Where appropriate, the strategies will be aligned to support those recommendations and the actions that are likely to emerge from them. | |

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