

DECISION-MAKER:	OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE		
SUBJECT:	ACCESSIBLE CITY - SCRUTINY INQUIRY TERMS OF REFERENCE		
DATE OF DECISION:	9 SEPTEMBER 2021		
REPORT OF:	SERVICE DIRECTOR - LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS		
<u>CONTACT DETAILS</u>			
Executive Director	Title	Deputy Chief Executive	
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STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY			
None			
BRIEF SUMMARY			
It is the role of the Overview and Scrutiny Management Committee (OSMC) to determine the scrutiny inquiry programme. This report requests that the OSMC agrees the outline terms of reference for a scrutiny inquiry focussing on identifying opportunities for improving the accessibility of Southampton. The draft outline terms of reference for the proposed inquiry are still being developed and will be presented to the Committee at the meeting.			
RECOMMENDATIONS:			
	(i)	That the Committee consider and approve the draft terms of reference for the scrutiny inquiry.	
	(ii)	That authority is delegated to the Service Director - Legal and Business Operations, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, to finalise the inquiry plan.	
REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS			
1.	To enable the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel to commence the scrutiny inquiry.		
ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED			
2.	None.		
DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)			
3.	In the UK 14.1 million people are living with a disability, that is over 1 in 5 of the population. It is a number that has continued to rise as people are living longer and treatments and technology in healthcare improve. ¹		

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/statistics/family-resources-survey-financial-year-2019-to-2020>

4.	If national data is extrapolated to reflect the city's population, over 50,000 residents of Southampton are living with a disability.
5.	<p>The Government has recently published a National Disability Strategy. The vision outlined within the strategy is to <i>transform the everyday lives of disabled people</i>.² The Foreword from the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions and Minister for Disabled People states that:</p> <p><i>'Whoever you are, wherever you live, whatever your background, whether or not you have a disability – either visible or hidden – everyone should be able to participate fully, safely and free from prejudice in everyday life, enjoying all the freedoms and opportunities that entails.'</i></p>
6.	<p>In recognition that everybody should be able to participate fully in everyday life, the European Union has been running an Access City Award since 2010. The scheme recognises that people with disabilities and older people may not be able to take a full and active part in the community and will be left out if cities are not accessible. If buses do not have ramps, people in wheelchairs will not be able to take them to go to work. If information is not easy to read, people with intellectual disabilities and other people may not be able to read and understand it.</p>
7.	<p>The Access City Award scheme identifies an accessible city to be one where all people can live in it and use all things and services without problems. For example, a city is accessible when all people can easily:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • get the bus or the metro to go to work; • use ticket machines to buy a ticket; • go around the streets or get in public buildings like hospitals and town halls; • access markets, festivals and other outdoor events; • get information in ways that they can read and understand.³
8.	<p>The criteria used for the EU Accessible City Awards are as follows:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> a) Accessibility to the built environment and public spaces b) Accessibility to transportation and related infrastructures c) Accessibility to information and communication, including information and communication technologies d) Accessibility to public facilities and services.⁴
9.	<p>Across the UK and Europe there are examples of local approaches that are improving the accessibility of cities and transforming the lives of residents. Therefore, in recognition of the importance of the issue in Southampton, the opportunities arising from the National Disability Strategy, and, the opportunity to learn from other areas, the Chair of the OSMC, in consultation with the Executive has recommended a review focussing on improving the accessibility of Southampton as an appropriate subject for a scrutiny inquiry.</p>

²https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/1006098/National-Disability-Strategy_web-accessible-pdf.pdf

³ <https://op.europa.eu/s/pDUr>

⁴ <https://op.europa.eu/s/pDUr>

10.	Draft terms of reference for the inquiry are currently being developed by the Scrutiny Manager, in consultation with the Chair and relevant officers. The draft terms of reference will be circulated to the Committee at the meeting. Members are invited to comment on the document and suggest amendments.
11.	The outline inquiry plan is still in development and will be subject to the availability of consultees and needs to be flexible to enable the inquiry to respond to developments. It is therefore recommended that authority is delegated to the Service Director – Legal and Business Operations, in consultation with the Chair of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel, to finalise the inquiry plan.
12.	The final report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Inquiry Panel will be considered by the OSMC prior to Cabinet to ensure that the review has met the agreed outline terms of reference set by this Committee.
RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Capital/Revenue</u>	
13.	There are no additional financial implications arising from the approval of the recommendations.
<u>Property/Other</u>	
14.	None.
LEGAL IMPLICATIONS	
<u>Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:</u>	
15.	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>	
16.	None
RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS	
17.	None.
POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS	
18.	A strategic goal within Connected Southampton 2040 – The Council’s Local Transport Strategy is as follows: <i>‘A System for Everyone - making Southampton an attractive and liveable place to improve the people’s quality of life, so that everyone is safe, and has inclusive access to transport regardless of their circumstances.’</i>
KEY DECISION	No
WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:	None directly as a result of this report
<u>SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION</u>	
Appendices	
1.	None
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	