

<b>DECISION-MAKER:</b>	SCRUTINY INQUIRY PANEL
<b>SUBJECT:</b>	ACCESSIBLE SOUTHAMPTON – ACCESSIBILITY TO PUBLIC FACILITIES AND SERVICES
<b>DATE OF DECISION:</b>	24 FEBRUARY 2022
<b>REPORT OF:</b>	SERVICE DIRECTOR – LEGAL AND BUSINESS OPERATIONS

<b><u>CONTACT DETAILS</u></b>			
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<b>STATEMENT OF CONFIDENTIALITY</b>
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None

<b>BRIEF SUMMARY</b>
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In accordance with the inquiry plan, for the fifth meeting of the ‘Accessible Southampton Inquiry’ the Panel will be considering the following issues:

- Accessibility to public facilities and services

<b>RECOMMENDATIONS:</b>
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|  | (i) | The Panel is recommended to consider the comments made by the invited guests and use the information provided as evidence in the review. |
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<b>REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS</b>
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| 1. | To enable the Panel to compile a file of evidence in order to formulate findings and recommendations at the end of the review process. |
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<b>ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND REJECTED</b>
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| 2. | None. |
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<b>DETAIL (Including consultation carried out)</b>
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| 3. | For the final evidence gathering meeting of the inquiry the Panel will be considering accessibility to public facilities and services. For reference 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.          |
| 4. | The Equality Act 2010 prohibits discrimination against all persons on the grounds of the protected characteristics that are specified in the Act. Disability is one of the specified protected characteristics. Protection from discrimination for disabled people applies to disabled people in a range of circumstances, covering the |

	provision of goods, facilities and services, the exercise of public functions, premises, work, education, and associations.
5.	In addition to the legal obligations to individual disabled people, the Council also has a wider Public Sector Equality Duty to actively: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation</li> <li>• Advance equality of opportunity</li> <li>• Foster good relations</li> </ul>
6.	The Duty requires the Council to take into account disabled people's impairments, when making decisions about policies and services, as the law recognises that disabled people's needs may be different from the needs of non-disabled people. This might mean making reasonable adjustments or treating disabled people better than non-disabled people to meet their needs.
7.	Having due regard for advancing equality involves: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Removing or minimising disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics.</li> <li>• Taking steps to meet the needs of people from protected groups where these are different from the needs of other people.</li> <li>• Encouraging people from protected groups to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is disproportionately low.</li> </ul>
8.	For information, attached as Appendix 1, is 'A Guide to Making Reasonable Adjustments and / or Special Considerations for Customers' produced by Sheffield City Council.
9.	At previous meetings of the Inquiry the Panel have been informed about various actions and initiatives undertaken by Southampton City Council to support accessibility to the services and facilities provided by the Council. These will be summarised at the meeting by the Scrutiny Manager.
10.	To ensure that the views of Disabled People are represented, at the start of the meeting the Panel will receive feedback on the key issues raised at the Spectrum CIL convened Accessible Southampton Focus Group meeting. The focus group is scheduled to meet on 17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022 to consider accessibility to public facilities and services in Southampton.
11.	Following the feedback from the meeting of the Accessible Southampton Focus Group, Ann Webster - Lead on Equality and Diversity at Derby City Council, will be delivering a presentation outlining how Derby City Council have sought to ensure that accessibility is considered and integrated into the public services and facilities they provide. Derby City Council are recognised as delivering best practice in this area.
12.	The final contribution to the inquiry evidence log will come from Rebecca Handley, Deputy Executive Director/Operations Director at GO! Southampton - Business Improvement District. At the November meeting Go! Southampton provided the Panel with written evidence on how the organisation was planning to take forward the recommendations within the Spectrum CIL produced access audit. Unfortunately, the meeting coincided with the switching on of the Christmas lights and Rebecca was unable to attend the meeting in person. Following the successful BID ballot, Rebecca has been invited to the meeting to update the Panel on the approach the organisation is planning to take, with partners, to

	tackle opportunities and barriers in the built environment and to inform future developments.
13.	The invited guests will take questions from the Panel relating to the evidence provided. Copies of any presentations will be made available to the Panel.

### RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

#### Capital/Revenue/Property/Other

14.	None
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### LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

#### Statutory power to undertake proposals in the report:

15.	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
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#### Other Legal Implications:

16.	None
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### RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS

17.	None
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### POLICY FRAMEWORK IMPLICATIONS

18.	None
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<b>KEY DECISION?</b>	No
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<b>WARDS/COMMUNITIES AFFECTED:</b>	None
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### SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

#### Appendices

1.	A Guide to Making Reasonable Adjustments and / or Special Considerations for Customers produced by Sheffield City Council
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#### Documents In Members' Rooms

1.	None
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#### Equality Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require an Equality and Safety Impact Assessment (ESIA) to be carried out?	No
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#### Data Protection Impact Assessment

Do the implications/subject of the report require a Data Protection Impact Assessment (DPIA) to be carried out?	No
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#### Other Background documents available for inspection at:

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