

SCRUTINY REVIEW PANEL

STOCKPORT'S COMMUNAL CORRIDORS: SECURING THE SAFETY, CLEANLINESS AND BIODIVERSITY OF OUR STREETS AND PASSAGEWAYS.

Report of Director of Place Management

Recommendation:

- **To determine the scope of the review and outline any areas which the panel may wish to scrutinise further.**

1. Purpose of report

This report outlines the proposed scope for reviewing the topic of Stockport's Communal Corridors: Securing the safety, cleanliness and biodiversity of our streets and passageways.

1.1

Title of review	Stockport's Communal Corridors: Securing the safety, cleanliness and biodiversity of our streets and passageways.
Lead member	Councillor Wynne
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2. Background to the selection of the topic

- 2.1 There is increasing interest in people's immediate environment and how it contributes to people's wellbeing. In addition, the need to support and improve biodiversity is being recognised including the importance of the public realm in the more urban areas. The importance of street trees is being recognised as contributing to the Climate Change Agenda. A number of residents want to support this agenda and are taking positive action by adopting flower beds, planters and alleyways.

3. Information

- 3.1 The areas of adopted highway are used by pedestrians, cyclists and moving traffic but also support local parking provision, servicing of businesses and the

- businesses may use part of it for outdoor seating or displaying goods. In addition, the utilities utilise the subsurface for their cables and pipes.
- 3.2 There are a significant number of alleyways both adopted and unadopted which may contain utilities and also provide access for bin collections etc.
 - 3.3 There is increasing interest and understanding of the importance of the need for the urban environment to support biodiversity both in the public realm and adjacent gardens and greenspace.
 - 3.4 Street trees are a key component of the public realm and help provide shade and drainage opportunities increasing the highway's resilience but also supporting biodiversity. Sustainable urban drainage concepts are encouraging the creation of rain gardens and tree pits in or adjacent to the highway.

4. Responsibilities and Key Stakeholders

- 4.1 The Council has responsibility for the safety, maintenance and cleanliness of the adopted highway including the areas of grass verges and street trees.
- 4.2 Local residents, groups and businesses including friends of groups support and enhance the local environment.

5. What would be the scope of the Scrutiny Review of this topic?

- 5.1 The importance of the public realm is increasingly being recognised and the review will focus on examining the work undertaken by the Council, the importance of local resident and business contributions to improving the local environment and how these can be facilitated.
- 5.2 It is therefore recommended that the Scrutiny Review of securing the safety, cleanliness and biodiversity of our streets and passageways focuses on:
 - i. Understanding the issues affecting the safety, cleanliness and biodiversity of our streets and passageways.
 - ii. Reviewing the work already being undertaken by key stakeholders,
 - iii. Identifying opportunities to support local residents, groups and businesses improve their local environment,

6. Proposed outline Review plan

Stage	Key activity	Relevant meetings (in bold)/ key dates
Scoping	Scope agreed by Scrutiny Review Panel	5th October 2023
Evidence-gathering	Evidence-gathering phase	23rd November 2023
	Evidence-gathering phase/ final evidence session	5th December 2023
	Verbal update on review progress from panel members to the Scrutiny Committee	

Reporting	Final Inquiry Group report with recommendations completed and signed-off by Panel Chair	7th February 2024
	Report published for Scrutiny Committee	
	Scrutiny Committee consider and agrees report to go forward to decision-makers.	26th February 2024
	Cabinet considers recommendations.	12th March 2024

It is expected that the panel will conclude the work for their review by the end of the municipal year 2023 - 2024. During the review, panel members will formulate a number of recommendations that will go on to be considered by the Communities and Transport Scrutiny Committee, and thereafter, the Cabinet.

Anyone requiring further information should contact:

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