

# OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMISSION

## Agenda Item 95

Brighton & Hove City Council

**Subject:** Report of the Street Access Scrutiny Panel  
**Date of Meeting:** 27 April 2010  
**Report of:** Acting Director of Strategy and Governance  
**Contact Officer:** Name: Tom Hook Tel: 29-111-  
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**Wards Affected:** All

### FOR GENERAL RELEASE

#### 1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The scrutiny panel on street access issues was established following concern that the accessibility of public highways within the city was being reduced.
- 1.2 The panel's report of findings and recommendations are presented here for approval by the Overview and Scrutiny Commission.

#### 2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

That members:

- 2.1 Endorse the scrutiny panel's report.
- 2.2 Agree to refer the report recommendations to the council's Executive and to the appropriate partner organisations.
- 2.3 In line with a recommendation from the report, to add the progress of the recommendations to the Commission's work plan.

#### 3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 3.1 The Street Access scrutiny panel was set up following a letter to the Chief Executive from Councillors Paul Elgood and David Watkins in February 2009.

- 3.2 Having received a detailed officer report, the 21 April 2009 OSC then agreed to establish a panel to consider objects placed on the highway including site visits and to hear a wide range of views and submissions to inform future policy for the city.
- 3.3 The panel comprised Councillor Sven Rufus (Chair) and Councillors Jayne Bennett, Pat Hawkes, Councillor Brian Pidgeon and David Watkins.
- 3.4 The Members focused on traders' items especially advertising boards (A boards), tables and chairs, bicycles and bins receiving evidence from business representatives, disability charities, local resident groups and private residents.
- 3.5 The panel developed 16 recommendations to improve accessibility around the city.

#### **4. CONSULTATION**

- 4.1 Officers, Members and partner organisations have been consulted informally on the findings of the inquiry.

#### **5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:**

##### Financial Implications:

- 5.1 The financial implications of adopting the scrutiny panel's recommendations will be considered by the Council's Executive alongside the relevant budgets.

Officer consulted: Anne Silley Date: 14 April 2010

##### Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The Commission has the necessary power to agree the recommendations in paragraph 2 above. It then falls to the Executive and other bodies to whom the recommendations are directed to decide what action, if any, to take in response.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 14 April 2010

##### Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 There are no equalities implications arising directly from this covering report, but equalities considerations would be taken into account when implementing the recommendations of the scrutiny review. Under

council policy, Equality Impact Assessments (EIA) would be undertaken for any significant policy changes.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 There are no sustainability implications arising directly from this report,

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None identified directly in relation to this report.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None identified directly in relation to this report.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 The recommendations made in this report are in line with the council's priorities on growing the economy, reducing inequality and fair enforcement.

**SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION**

**Appendices:**

1. Report of the Street Access scrutiny Panel, Volume 1.

**Background Documents:**

1. The Panel report Volume 2 contains the evidence presented to the scrutiny Panel.

