Council	Agenda Item 33
21 October 2010	Brighton & Hove City Council

Subject:		**Overview & Scrutiny Report: Street Access Issues**		
Date of Meeting:		**21 October 2010**		
Report of:		**The Acting Director of Strategy & Governance**		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Tom Hook	Tel:	29-1110
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Wards Affected:	All			

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

1.1 The Council's Constitution requires reports from overview & scrutiny panels, together with the Executive response to these reports, to be submitted to Full Council for information.

1.2 This report presents the Overview and Scrutiny Commission (OSC) scrutiny panel report on "Street Access Issues" (**Appendix 1**) and the responses to the recommendations from the Licensing Committee and Environment Cabinet Member Meeting (**Appendix 2**).

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 That Member's note the OSC scrutiny panel report on Street Access Issues (**Appendix 1**) and the responses to the recommendations from the Licensing Committee and Cabinet Member Meeting (**Appendix 2**).

3. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

3.1 Chaired by Councillor Sven Rufus the panel comprised Councillors David Watkins, Jayne Bennett, Pat Hawkes and Brian Pidgeon.

3.2 This scrutiny review was established following concern over how accessible public highways within the city are. It sought to take into account and balance the competing needs of different groups of highway users. Evidence was heard from disability advocacy groups, residents associations, business associations and private residents.

Members also undertook site visits to areas identified as hotspots around the city.

3.3 Public highways allow people to move around the Brighton and Hove, they also however are used to display goods, provide external seating, and advertise products and services; the council and other public bodies place signs and other infrastructure on the highway, and residents use the highway to store waste, park and secure bicycles.

3.4 The council seeks to ensure that public highways are used in a manner that maximises the benefit to the most number of users. However in the busiest areas of the city competing interests can come into conflict. It is the council's responsibility to manage these interests to prevent this from happening.

3.5 This review has focused on traders' items especially advertising boards (A boards), tables and chairs, bicycles and bins. The panel developed 16 recommendations to improve accessibility around the city.

3.6 The scrutiny panel report was endorsed by OSC at its April meeting and the response to the recommendations was agreed at Licensing Committee and Environment Cabinet Member Meeting in July.

4. CONSULTATION

4.1 No formal consultation has been undertaken in relation to this report. The Scrutiny Review undertook extensive consultation with interested parties.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

5.1 As this report is to note only there are no direct financial implications, however members should be aware of the implications outlined in the appended reports.

Legal Implications:

5.2 As indicated in paragraphs 1.1 and 2.1 above, and in accordance with the council's procedure rules on overview and scrutiny, this report is purely for Council to note. There are no further legal implications arising directly from the report.

Lawyer consulted: Oliver Dixon Date: 07 October 2010

Equalities Implications:

5.3 None specific to this report for information. Please see the implications on the attached report to Cabinet.

Sustainability Implications:

5.4 None specific to this report for information. Please see the implications on the attached report to Cabinet.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

5.5 None specific to this report for information. Please see the implications on the attached report to Cabinet.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

5.6 None specific to this report for information. Please see the implications on the attached report to Cabinet.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

5.7 None specific to this report for information. Please see the implications on the attached report to Cabinet.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Report of OSC into Street Access Issues
2. The Executive Response

Documents in Members' Rooms:

None

Background Documents:

The Council's Constitution