

Scrutiny review scoping proposal

1 What is the review?

Sustainable Freight

2 What outcomes could realistically be achieved? Which agency does the review seek to influence?

Outcomes

That the Council has a coherent and realistic plan to deliver Sustainable Freight that dovetails with existing strategies and plans, including the Air Quality Action Plan, Movement Plan, and Climate Emergency Action Plan.

That the energy, skills and experience of local groups delivering and advocating for Sustainable Freight are well utilised.

That TfL/ GLA plans to support Sustainable Freight are understood and that these bodies are lobbied effectively to support the Council's plans.

Agencies and partners

The review seeks principally to influence the Council, as well, potentially, as others such as TfL/ GLA to a lesser extent.

3 When should the review be carried out/completed? i.e. does the review need to take place before/after a certain time?

By the end of the administrative year.

4 What format would suit this review? (eg full investigation, q&a with executive member/partners, public meeting, one-off session)

Full investigation

5 What are some of the key issues that you would like the review to look at?

- Plans to ensure the Council's internal fleet of vehicles is zero or low emissions
- Plans to ensure that the Council's goods and services move around the borough in a way that minimises emissions
- How the Council ensures that the goods and services it procures are delivered by Sustainable Freight
- How Planning Policy, Highways and TfL are delivering the transport and road infrastructure required support Sustainable Freight
- How local organisations can work with the Council in encouraging and facilitating local businesses to use Sustainable Freight
- How large and small business are making the switch and what can be done to catalyse this
- How the Council and Business Improvement Districts can deliver Nests to enable hubs to receive, and then deliver the 'last mile' of online shopping by e cargo bikes.
- Encouraging and enabling citizens to make the switch to Sustainable Freight – for example opting for "click and collect" rather than door-to-door delivery.
- Establishing the principle source and destination of freight moving around the borough

6 Who would you like to receive evidence and advice from during the review?

The following council departments and units:

- Fleet Services
- Planning Policy
- Highways
- Procurement
- Environmental Protection (Air Quality)
- Climate Emergency

Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency and Sustainable Development

TfL / GLA

Companies and community groups providing or advocating sustainable freight, including

- Peddle My Wheels, OurBike scheme
- PeddleMe

7 Any suggestions for background information? Are you aware of any best practice on this topic?

Previous recommendations made on Air Quality are summarised in the attached appendix one.

Leeds have pioneered the switch to electric vehicles:

<https://takeclimateaction.uk/climate-action/how-leeds-making-all-council-vehicles-electric>

Council Air Quality Action Plans

The current Air Quality Action Plan 2017 - 2022 and includes 'a freight consolidation solution for Southwark' see section 4 points 4.2- 4.5 – with specific actions for Procurement and Environmental Protection.

The Draft Air Quality Action Plan, for the period 2023 – 2027 . Two of its seven themes are relevant to 'sustainable freight':

- *Delivery servicing and freight: Goods and service vehicles are usually diesel powered and have high NO₂ emissions. Low emission logistics requires alternatively fuelled vehicles to combat air pollution from this source;*
- *Borough fleet actions: Southwark's fleet includes light and heavy duty diesel-fuelled vehicles such as mini buses and refuse collection vehicles with high primary NO₂ emissions. Southwark can review its own fleet procurement to lead by example;*

The current and draft Air Quality Action Plan will be used to frame the review and a session October, with the following departments, who have all been involved in drawing up current plans contained in the Draft Air Quality Action plans will be invited to attend on 11 October including :

- Fleet Services
- Procurement
- Environmental Protection
- Planning Policy
- Highways
- Climate Emergency

The council's Movement Plan is being refreshed

<https://www.southwark.gov.uk/planning-and-building-control/planning-policy-and-transport-policy/transport-policy/policy-and-guidance-documents/movement-plan>

8 What approaches could be useful for gathering evidence? What can be done outside committee meetings?

e.g. verbal or written submissions, site visits, mystery-shopping, service observation, meeting with stakeholders, survey, consultation event