

## **Scrutiny review scoping proposal**

**1 What is the review?**

Biodiversity

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

The review is mainly aimed at the council but is also seeking to increase collaboration by the council with the community, voluntary sector and, where appropriate, businesses.

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

Completed by the end of the administrative year 2023/24

**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?**

Kerbside strategy and the loss of front gardens (including related issues of pavement channels for EV charging, dropped kerbs and paved front gardens).

Food production and food consumption with reference to:

- Increasing urban food production, which is secure and affordable
- Reducing scope 3 emissions and ecological degradation caused by consumption of food produced from mono-cultures and non-carbon sequestering land use, across the UK and beyond
- Increasing consumption of food produced through agroecology

Southwark Land Commission – presentation and discussion of recommendations

Is the Southwark Nature Action Plan sufficient to address biodiversity or is another strategy warranted.

Planning:

- Biodiversity net gain
- Reducing hard surfaces

Upskilling staff on biodiversity

Does the council requirement to consider the Climate Emergency in reports result in sufficient focus on the ecological and biodiversity emergency ?

Tree management and increasing the canopy.

Addressing biodiversity holistically including soil health, insects, vegetation

Accelerating the phasing out of herbicides/pesticides

Communicating and engaging with residents and communities on the work of the council on biodiversity, and its importance.

Nature corridors ( see <https://southwarknature.org.uk/camberwell-nature-corridors/> and <https://southwarknature.org.uk/elmington-nature-corridor-2023/> )

Increasing the strategic provision of low carbon water supplies ( eg water butts, solar pumps)

Enabling more Community Gardening

Supporting community groups and community action.

Enhancing Streets for People

<https://moderngov.southwark.gov.uk/documents/s115187/Appendix%201%20Streets%20for%20People%20Strategy%202023-2030.pdf>

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

Southwark Biodiversity Partnership:

- [The Conservation Volunteers](#)
- [Team London Bridge](#)
- [Walworth Garden](#)
- [Centre for Wildlife Gardening](#)
- [Surrey Docks Farm](#)
- [Bankside Open Spaces Trust](#)
- [IdVerde](#)
- [Better Bankside](#)
- [GIGL](#)
- [London Wildlife Trust](#)

Southwark Nature Action Volunteers

Oriana's Gardens – work with London Bridge BID etc (tbc) <https://www.orianasgardens.co.uk/projects>

Carolyn Steel :

- Sitopia: How Food Can Save the World
- Urban Farm in Greenwich

George Monbiot

Henry Dimbleby

Pesticide free London.

Initiatives by other London councils (e.g. Lambeth) to reduce use of herbicides/pesticides

Lambeth

<https://www.lambeth.gov.uk/streets-roads-transport/community-weeding-scheme>

Loughborough Farm See: <https://loughboroughjunction.org/home/loughborough-farm-a-patchwork-of-community-growing-spaces>

Pesticide Action Network UK (PAN UK) : Greener Cities: A guide to the plants on our pavements

[Costs-of-going-pesticide-free.pdf \(pan-uk.org\)](#)

PAN-UK has published this excellent guide to the plants which may grow in our pavements [here](#):

[https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/greener\\_cities\\_-\\_a\\_guide\\_to\\_our\\_pavement\\_plants](https://issuu.com/pan-uk/docs/greener_cities_-_a_guide_to_our_pavement_plants)

See page 18 for a discussion of Lambeth's program.

**Evidence that loss of front gardens is environmentally damaging, destroying corridors of biodiversity.** See work the Royal Horticultural Society has done work on ([Geosynthetics - RHS Publishes Report - Why Greening Grey Britain is important?](#))

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

Included above

**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

Commission meeting presentations, outreach visits, roundtable.