

Scrutiny review scoping proposal

1 What is the review?

Environmental Health: The health and wellbeing impacts of active travel and improved access to nature and how these can be extended through our borough.

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

Improved opportunities to access active travel and nature for all Southwark residents, regardless of ethnicity, sex, age, disability or socioeconomic circumstances.

The review will investigate the obesogenic environment and associated health inequalities and how active travel and access to nature could help to address these. In particular, explore how improved access to active travel could help Southwark residents build activity into their daily lives in order to reduce the incidence of conditions such as obesity, high blood pressure, diabetes, high cholesterol, heart disease, poor mental health and wellbeing, and other conditions that are frequently linked to a sedentary lifestyle.

The focus will be on people with a Protected Characteristic and experiencing socio-economic disadvantage, particularly people experiencing the below intersections:

- Ethnicity
- Sex
- Age
- Disability
- Socio economic disadvantage

The aim will be to plot a path towards achieving an increase in active travel by gaining an understanding of barriers that exist and how to break them down. The Commission's work will influence the cabinet and updates to the following strategies:

- Streets for People and associated Walking and Cycling Plans

- Air Quality Action Plan
- Healthy Weight Strategy
- Southwark Nature Action Plan (SNAP)
- Green infrastructure Plan (recommended by previous Biodiversity review)

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 March 2025

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?

How active travel can be increased and the obesogenic environment reduced by:

Considering the needs of different demographics and how active travel can be made more appealing and accessible to those experiencing the highest levels of health inequalities, with particular reference to Southwark's Streets for People strategy and the associated walking and cycling plans.

Reduce exposure to pollution and increase access to nature by considering the following:

- How green measures can be further used to reduce exposure to air pollution and improve the attractiveness and health impacts of our streets and wider environment for walking, cycling and other healthy activities, including how these will interact with Nature Corridors.

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

Officer report on Southwark's Healthy Weight strategy.

Officer report on Streets for People and associated Walking and Cycling Plans.

TFL – with reference to infrastructure updates to increase active travel, working relationships, and improvements to cycling safety (with particular reference to safety hotspots)

Parks, Leisure and Biodiversity leads on development and delivery of wildlife corridors and intersection with active travel.

Streets for People and associated Cycling and Walking Plans –

Cabinet Members with other relevant portfolios:

- Councillor Evelyn Akoto: Cabinet Member for Health & Wellbeing
Cllr Akoto's responsibilities include: Public health - including reducing health inequalities
- Councillor Portia Mwangangye: Cabinet Member for Leisure, Parks & Young People. Cllr Mwangangye's responsibilities include:
Biodiversity and trees - tree planting and maintenance; increasing biodiversity and nature
- Councillor James McAsh: Cabinet Member for, Clean Air and Streets
- Councillor John Batteson: Cabinet Member for Climate Emergency, Jobs and Business

Walking, cycling and nature groups such as:

Steppers UK
Wild in the City
Black Trail Runners
Flock Together
Black Girl Hike
Black Cyclists' Network
Cycle Sisters
Women of Colour Cycling Collective
Loud Mobility

Sustrans
Londra Bisiklet Kulubu
Lime Bikes
The Bike Project
London Bike Kitchen
Wheels for well-being
Temi Lateef, My Choice/ Black Riders Association

Update from Dr Ian Mudway , from Imperial , on research into particulates from tyres and brakes.

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

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