



Environment and Climate Change Committee

14 March 2023

Title	Members' Item <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Councillor Rohit Grover – Streetscape Design in Conservation Areas
Report of	Head of Governance
Wards	All Wards
Status	Public
Urgent	No
Key	No
Enclosures	None
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Summary

A Member's Item has been received for the Environment and Climate Change Committee. The Committee is requested to consider the items and provide instructions.

Officer's Recommendation

That the Environment and Climate Change Committee's instructions in relation to the Members' Items is requested.

1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED

- 1.1 Members of the Committee have requested that the item tabled below is submitted to the Environment and Climate Change Committee for consideration and determination. The

Environment and Climate Change Committee is requested to provide instructions to Officers of the Council as recommended.

Cllr Rohit Grover	Streetscape Design in Conservation Areas <p>The Streetscape Design Guide ('Guide') was approved by the Environment and Climate Change Committee on 21 November 2022. The Guide only applies to 'new infrastructure', and therefore makes no mention of the Council's 18 Conservation Areas where the streetscape is crucially important to their character and appearance, as well as to the perception of Barnet as being a great place to live - a 'destination not a dormitory' as the Leader of the Council may put it.</p> <p>Under the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 local authorities have a statutory duty to ensure that development in conservation areas 'preserves or enhances' the qualities which warranted the original designation. Hence the omission to even mention them in the Guide, or mention any of the detailed design guidance that already exists in some of those Conservation Areas, is at odds with paragraph 2.1 of the relevant Committee Report which states that the streetscape is 'the Council's most valuable group of assets and collectively vital to the economic, social and environmental wellbeing of the Borough, as well as the general image perception'.</p> <p>The detailed design guidance documents that are already in existence for the Council's Conservation Areas are based on national best practice and were prepared by expert local residents, supported by the Council. They are material considerations for all decisions affecting the character and appearance of those areas and provide an ideal template for addressing these issues in detail.</p> <p>Given their importance to our Borough, will the Council commission specific detailed guidance covering all aspects of streetscape works in our Conservation Areas, so that it can deliver the environmental well-being to which it is publicly committed?</p> <p>Also, many boroughs have integrated, multi-disciplinary teams making balanced decisions on these matters guided by very detailed technical design directives which the Guide disregards, such as 'Streets for All - A Guide to the Management of London's Streets'. In line with common best practice, is the Council prepared to set up a multi-disciplinary approach with the necessary conservation / urban design expertise included?</p>
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2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 No recommendations have been made. The Committee is therefore requested to give consideration and provide instruction.

2.2 **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

N/A

3. **POST DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

3.1 Post decision implementation will depend on the decision taken by the Committee.

4. **IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

4.1 **Corporate Priorities and Performance**

4.1.1 As and when issues raised through a Member's Item are progressed, they will need to be evaluated against the Corporate Plan and other relevant policies.

4.2 **Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

4.2.1 None in the context of this report.

4.3 **Legal and Constitutional References**

4.3.1 A Member (including Members appointed as substitutes by Council) will be permitted to have one matter only (with no sub-items) on the agenda for a meeting of a committee or Sub-Committee on which s/he serves. The matter must be relevant to the terms of reference of the committee.

4.3.2 The referral of a motion from Full Council to a committee will not count as a Member's Item for the purposes of this rule.

5. **Social Value**

5.1 **Risk Management**

5.1.1 None in the context of this report.

5.2 **Equalities and Diversity**

5.2.1 Members' Items allow Members of a Committee to bring a wide range of issues to the attention of a Committee in accordance with the Council's Constitution. All of these issues must be considered for their equality and diversity implications.

5.3 **Consultation and Engagement**

5.3.1 None in the context of this report.

6. **ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT**

6.1 None in the context of this report.

7. BACKGROUND PAPERS

7.1 None.