

# A Review of Alley Gating in Hillingdon

<b>Committee name</b>	Residents' Services Select Committee
<b>Officer reporting</b>	Liz Penny – Democratic Services
<b>Papers with report</b>	Scoping Report

## HEADLINES

This item will encompass the second witness session regarding the Committee's review into Alley Gating in Hillingdon.

## RECOMMENDATION:

**That the Residents' Services Select Committee notes the evidence heard at the witness session and seeks clarification as necessary in the context of its review of alley gating in Hillingdon.**

## SUPPORTING INFORMATION

At its meeting on 19 October 2022, the Residents' Services Select Committee elected to undertake a major review of the Council's alley gating scheme. The scoping report for the review was subsequently approved at the Select Committee meeting on 19 January 2023. This review aims to consider ways in which the current alley gating scheme could potentially be improved to better meet the needs of Hillingdon residents. The purpose of the current alley gating scheme is to improve the security of residential properties thereby reducing the opportunity for crime to be committed and decreasing the fear of crime. The scope of the Select Committee's review is limited to the application of alley gates to alleys and paths which are not public rights of way.

At this second witness session, key officers representing the Community Engagement Team, namely Helena Webster and Neil O'Connor, will be in attendance to answer any questions that may arise. Adam Stitson will also be in attendance representing the ASB and Environmental Protection Team and will be able to answer questions and provide information on the likely issues and concerns that lead to an alley gating scheme being implemented. Evidence will also be received from representatives of the Metropolitan Police Service.

## Terms of Reference

The following Terms of Reference were noted for this review, subject to any changes agreed by the Committee:

1. to gain a thorough understanding of the Council's current alley gating scheme and what it entails;
2. to scrutinise a service that was established some 17 years ago and review its effectiveness;
3. to explore ways in which the current alley gating scheme in Hillingdon could be improved in terms of its efficiency and ability to meet the security needs of local residents;
4. to look at other local authorities and housing organisations that have established similar schemes for any best practice;

5. to review the success of older gating schemes in the Borough and explore if there are challenges faced by residents; and
6. subject to the Committee's findings, to make any conclusions, propose actions, service and policy recommendations to the decision-making Cabinet.

**Possible Lines of Enquiry (questions for the Police / ASBET)**

1. Have alley gating schemes led to a reduction in crime?
2. How could the current alley gating scheme be improved?
3. Are you aware of any hotspots in the Borough where alley gates are broken / regularly left unlocked leading to an increase in crime / antisocial behaviour?
4. Do local Police officers patrol known problem areas to offer reassurance to residents / act as a deterrent?
5. What actions are taken by the ASB Team to address residents' concerns prior to implementation of an alley gating scheme?
6. How are residents assisted through the application process - what evidence or complaint data helps to support the schemes?

**How this report benefits Hillingdon residents**

Select Committees directly engage residents in shaping policy and recommendations from the Committees are presented to Cabinet to consider, and ultimately seek to improve the way the Council provides services to residents.

**Financial Implications**

None at this stage.

**Legal Implications**

None at this stage.

**BACKGROUND PAPERS**

NIL.