Design and access statement.

Ref. 099047

Address. 2 -22 Pascal Street.

1. Site context.

The area around the proposed site is likely to include households that comprise single people renting and sharing flats or terraced houses. The accommodation is small, often only one or two bedrooms. Around 35% of the population is black or Asian. Both minorities occur in broadly equal proportion across this type.

2. Community Involvement.

The gating scheme was initiated by contact from a local resident, with Private Sector Housing, to request an alley gating pack, which was subsequently provided to the tenant.

The local resident who contacted Private Sector Housing was responsible for obtaining a consent form and completed crime questionnaires, for as many of the local participants to be included in the gated area, as were available at the time. When this exercise was completed a formal application was made to Private Sector Housing for the alleyway to be restricted to local participants only.

Officers from Private Sector Housing alley gating team then visited the site. This was in order to assess the practicality of restricting access to the alleyway/s using approved construction methods and standard security components. The standard components for this scheme have received approval from Greater Manchester Police for their effective security provision and suitability for use on schemes of this type.

The residents were then fully appraised with regard to the design, extent and possible duration of works for the proposed scheme.

Initial consultation with the Highways and Development was then undertaken. During this consultation Highways and Development were advised of the descriptive site conditions which prevail and are unique to these particular alleyways. Their initial reaction to the intended scheme was obtained, along with advice on which statutory instrument would govern the procedures, i.e. Section 129a of the Highways Act 1980, or Section 16 of the Highways Act 1980.

The tenure of occupied properties, affected by the installation, was then identified via the land registry. Information was also obtained regarding the adopted status of the areas involved in this closure. Witness statements were obtained from residents affected by the scheme and crime statistics obtained from the Crime and Disorder section of Manchester City Council.

At this juncture letters were then sent out to all statutory undertakers, telecom operators and all emergency services. Communications were also provided to all local councillors and civic societies.

Approval was then requested from Highways and Development, in addition at the time, all comments and objections were also provided. A delegated powers report was received by Private Sector Housing following approval from the Head of Engineering Services. This report required comments on Engineering Services and consultation with ward members, the Chief Constable, Chief Fire Officer, NHS and all relevant Utility Companies and Civic Societies. Any objections raised and lodged were assessed by the Director of Housing Services in conjunction with the Lead Member before the report was signed.

3. Evaluation of Site Assessment and Consultation.

From the site evaluation and consultation it can be seen that there are a number of problems with anti-social behaviour in the area. It is felt that these problems may be assisted by the introduction of an alley gating scheme.

4. Outline of Design.

It is intended to place / install a single metal gate including a side panel and overhang barrier to the alleyway at the side of 2 Pascal Street. This is to be done in order to restrict access to residents only via a suited key system.

5. Outline of Access.

The existing paving and road finishes are not subject to any works, but any damages will be repaired to match existing as close as possible. The present finishes to these alleyways may present some difficulties for people with disabilities.

The gating arrangements have been designed to present as few problems as possible for people with disabilities, as far as practicable.