

**Budget and Corporate
Scrutiny Management Board**

**Wednesday 7 August, 2019 at 5.45 pm
in Committee Room 2
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Agenda

(Open to Public and Press)

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Members to declare:-
 - (a) any interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting;
 - (b) the existence and nature of any political Party Whip on any matter to be considered at the meeting.
3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 10 July, 2019 as a correct record.
4. Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2019-20.
5. Scrutiny Work Programme 2019-2020.

D Stevens
Interim Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillors L Giles (Chair);

Councillors E M Giles, Moore, Rollins and Singh.

**Agenda prepared by Alex Goddard
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Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

Apologies for Absence

The Board will receive any apologies for absence from the members of the Board.

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

Declaration of Interests

Members to declare:-

- (a) any interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting;
- (b) the existence and nature of any political Party Whip on any matter to be considered at the meeting.

Minutes of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

**10th July, 2019 at 5.45pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor E M Giles (Chair);
Councillors Rollins and Singh.

Apology: Councillor Moore.

In attendance: D Carter (Executive Director – Resources);
R Griffiths (Strategic Finance Manager);
C Davey (Business Partner – Adults);
S Lilley (Business Partner – Finance).

10/19 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th June, 2019 be approved as a correct record.

11/19 **Scrutiny Review**

The Scrutiny Management Board was informed that, in January 2018, a peer review was undertaken by Local Government Association Assessors.

One of the recommendations of the review was that a wholesale governance review be undertaken. This included a review of the Constitution, the overview and scrutiny function and the codes of conduct.

Nationally, it was acknowledged that a number of authorities faced challenges with their Overview and Scrutiny functions, for example a lack of engagement (across the board), difficulties in making an impact or evidencing adding value.

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board – 10th July, 2019

An engagement session was undertaken with Chairs and Vice Chairs last year regarding the proposed Scrutiny Review. Feedback received indicated that those members felt disillusioned and demoralised as there was little opportunity for pre-decision scrutiny, members did not feel valued by the Executive or officers and there was not enough consistency in Scrutiny Board memberships due to annual changes in appointments.

It was proposed for the review of Scrutiny to include:

- knowing the purpose of Scrutiny;
- detailing what good Scrutiny looked like;
- how to conduct good Scrutiny;
- what benefits Scrutiny could bring;
- raising the profile of effective Scrutiny;
- developing a stronger understanding of roles and responsibilities;
- appreciation and understanding of the value that Scrutiny brings;
- actively engaging with, and encouraging the participation of, members, officers, partners and the public;
- understanding how Scrutiny resources were used, and how effectively;
- ensuring Scrutiny made good recommendations which were responded to by the executive and that impact was both measured and felt;
- ensuring there was a strong cultural commitment to enable Scrutiny to succeed and flourish.

It was reported that the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government had published statutory guidance in May 2019. The Centre for Public Scrutiny also produced a refreshed version of its Good Scrutiny Guide in June 2019.

Within the guidance documents there was a strong emphasis on the Scrutiny-Executive relationship. Early and regular engagement between the functions was recognised as critical to Scrutiny's success. This was also echoed in last year's session where Chairs and Vice Chairs felt that effective working relationships were not yet in place and the Executive did not value their efforts.

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board – 10th July, 2019

It was proposed to set up a Scrutiny Review Steering Group made up of three members of the Scrutiny Management Board and three members of the Cabinet as a vehicle to help drive the Scrutiny Review. This would help to promote effective relationships with Scrutiny and create space to have meaningful conversations.

The Steering Group would meet as often as required and would prepare a report to Scrutiny Management Board on recommendations it identified during the review.

The Steering Group may decide that workshops should be undertaken with the Local Government Association or the Centre for Public Scrutiny to identify and share good practice (including the examination of case studies on successful overview and scrutiny arrangements) on a local, regional and national level and to take account of good practice.

Other mechanisms for gathering evidence for the review include speaking to peers, looking at examples where Scrutiny has made a difference and where Scrutiny could add most value.

Resolved that Councillors E M Giles, Rollins and Singh be appointed to the Scrutiny Review Steering Group.

12/9

Financial Outturn 2018-2019

At its meeting on 26th June, 2019 the Cabinet referred the proposals arising from the 2018/19 directorate outturn reports for each service area to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for consideration.

It was reported that the General Fund balance at the end of 2018/19 was £66.5m. This included £22.2m of target carry forwards and £32.2m of earmarked central items, leaving a free balance of £12.1m which equated to 5% of net General Fund expenditure.

At a directorate level, excluding Public Health and the Housing Revenue Account, the outturn for 2018/19 was a surplus of £10.496m. Including, Public Health and Central Items, the outturn for 2018/19 was a surplus of £14.282m.

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However, Sandwell had experienced an unprecedented increase in demand for children's social care services that had resulted in a year-end deficit of £6.567m for Sandwell Children's Trust. The Cabinet had therefore approved to cover £5m of this deficit from revenue balances, some of which were earmarked for this specific purpose at the start of the year.

At the end of 2017/18, a total of £24.560m was held in earmarked reserves. £1.838m was added to these reserves during 2018/19 leaving a remaining balance of £26.938m at the end of the financial year.

The Cabinet had previously approved the allocation of up to £2.82m of Council Capital as a local contribution towards the proposed improvement works at A4123 Birchley Island/M5 Junction 2 and in June 2019 it was approved to bring forward £1.1m to fund preparatory works.

From the comments and questions by members of the Scrutiny Management Board, the following responses were made and issues highlighted:-

- the Carbon Reduction funding was time limited over the last two financial years. Going forward, £50k had been earmarked for energy efficiency proposals.
- the Key Performance Indicators would be reviewed to ensure that direction of performance was accurately reflected.
- the Sandwell contribution to the Business Rates growth of the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) was based on a pro-rata arrangement between the seven local authorities in the WMCA area. Long-term, the growth element of Business Rates would form the basis of the WMCA's budget.
- Discretionary Housing Payments were awarded on a case by case basis and demand was difficult to predict.
- during 2018/19 the Council had experienced a reduction of housing rent debt levels.

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- funding arrangements for Public Health had not yet been finalised by the government and as yet there had been no indication when the issue would be resolved.

The Scrutiny Management Board commended the officers involved with the production of the report as it was a thorough, clear document.


(Meeting ended at 6.23 pm)

Contact Officer: Alex Goddard Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3178
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[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

REPORT TO BUDGET AND CORPORATE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

07 August 2019

Subject:	Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2019-20
Director:	Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Exempt Information Ref:	The information contained in this report is not exempt from publication.
Contact Officer(s):	Alex Goddard alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board:

1. receives the presentation from the Executive Director - Resources;
2. considers matters for inclusion on the draft work programme 2019-20.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Board is asked to consider its work programme for 2019-20 taking into account where scrutiny can add value, strengthen decision making to enhance services that the Council delivers and aligns to the Vision 2030.

2 IMPLICATION FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

- 2.1 The scrutiny function will support the Sandwell Vision 2030 and focus on the 10 ambitions. Items selected must support and strengthen the Council and its partners' work to achieve Vision 2030.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The relevant Director(s) have been invited to attend the meeting to provide the Board with an overview of the services, key issues and priorities relevant to the Board's terms of reference.

3.2 A list of outstanding items from the 2018-19 work programme, items identified during the year for scrutiny and pre-decision items and any suggestions received from the public are included at Appendix 1 for the Board to consider for inclusion in the work programme for 2019-20.

3.3 To assist members in this the Sandwell Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool is attached at Appendix 2. This Tool can help determine priorities for each topic and provide members with a structured method of creating a focussed work programme.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 In accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules, each Scrutiny Board is responsible for developing and agreeing its own work programme.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 The Scrutiny page on the Council's website includes an online form that invites the public to send their suggestions, or suggest a topic, of what they would like the scrutiny boards to look into. This is available year-round and advises the public that all suggestions will be passed on to members for consideration.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not determine a work programme then the opportunity to review policies and services will not be realised meaning that improvements, savings and income generation possibilities may be missed.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The Scrutiny function is directly supported by the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officers within the Council's Law and Governance directorate. Additional technical expertise and evidence on specific matters will be provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.

7.2 The strategic resource implications of the topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to members on a case by case basis.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees.
- 8.2 Further powers relating to overview and scrutiny are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Localism Act 2011, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 Equality implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to members on a case by case basis.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 Data protection implications of any topics included on the work programme for the Board will be reported to members at the relevant time.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 Any crime and disorder impacts of scrutiny work programme items will be reported to members on a case by case basis.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 Sustainability of proposals will be addressed within reports for each identified topic for consideration by the Scrutiny Board.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

- 13.1 These will be included in reports for each item of work.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

- 14.1 Any impact on Council managed land or property will be detailed in reports for each topic throughout the year.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 To ensure effective and efficient use of resources the Scrutiny Board is requested to determine items for the work programme for 2019-20.

15.2 This draft work programme will then be submitted to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for approval in accordance with the Council's Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 All relevant papers are included in the appendices to this report.

17 APPENDICES:

Appendix 1 – List of items identified during 2018-19.

Appendix 2 – Sandwell Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool.

Surjit Tour

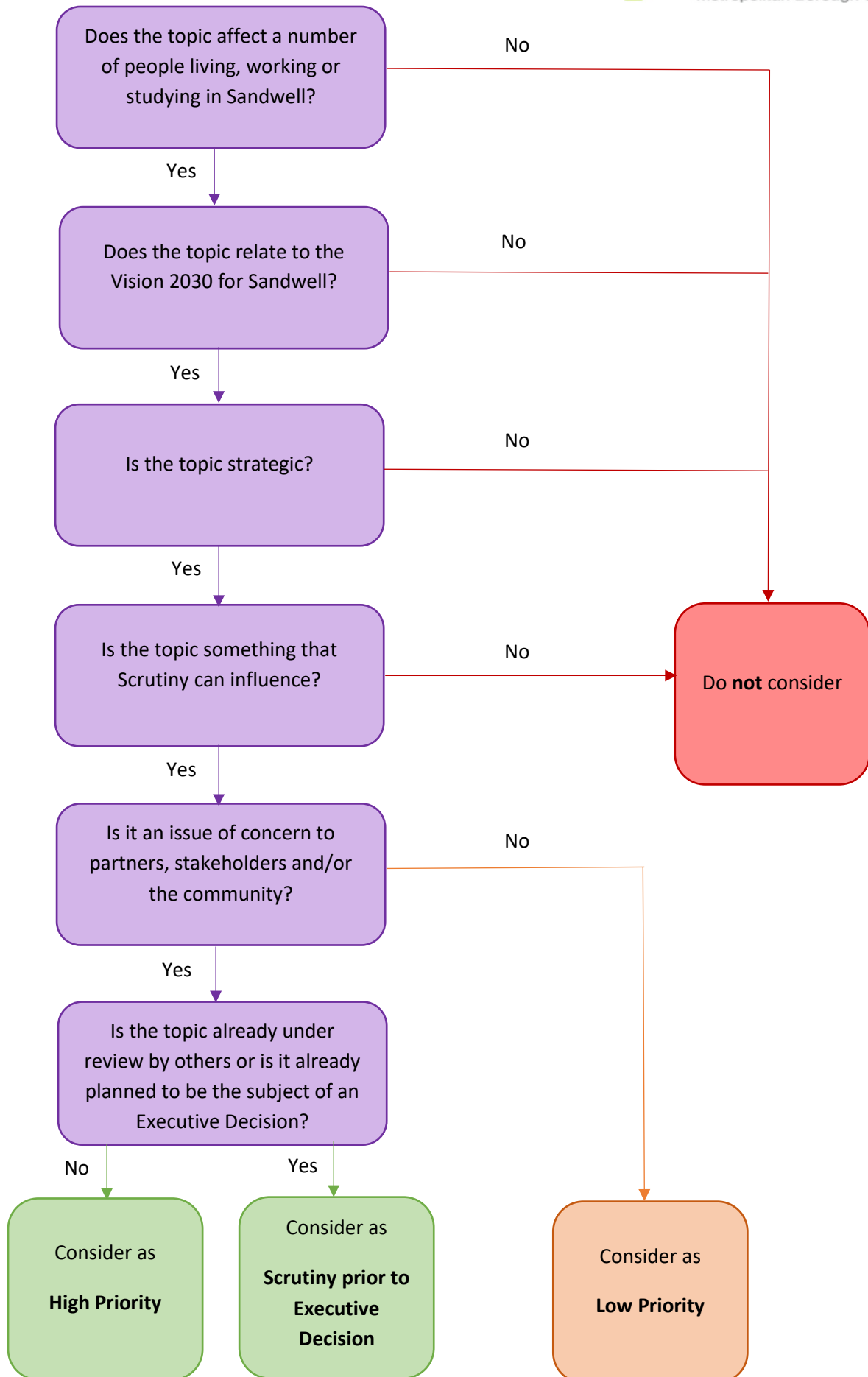
Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Potential items from 2019-20 Work Programme

Potential items suggested or arising during 2018-19:


- Council's Contact Centre and related digital workstreams
- Outcomes of the review of traded services

The Scrutiny Management Board also considers a number of budget-related monitoring reports throughout each year.



REPORT TO BUDGET AND CORPORATE SCRUTINY MANAGEMENT BOARD

07 August 2019

Subject:	Scrutiny Work Programme 2019-2020
Director:	Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Suky Suthi-Nagra Democratic Services Manager suky_suthinagra@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board:

1. Consider the work programme for 2019-20 for the Scrutiny Boards as proposed by each Board.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board contains within its terms of reference responsibility for approving an overview and scrutiny work programme. Attached to this report at Appendix 1 are the work programmes proposed by the Scrutiny Boards for consideration by the Management Board.

2 IMPLICATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S VISION

- 2.1 The focus of the Council's overview and scrutiny function is aligned to support Sandwell's Vision 2030 and the 10 ambitions it contains. All items selected for inclusion in the work programme must support and strengthen the Council and its partners' work to achieve Vision 2030.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Management Board is responsible for agreeing the annual work programme for the Council's overview and scrutiny function. Members are invited to discuss the proposals for individual Scrutiny Boards as set out in Appendix 1.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Boards were established by Council at its annual meeting on 21 May 2019. The Boards have held initial meetings to discuss their proposals for work programmes. This report draws together the proposed programmes into an annual overview and scrutiny work programme for consideration by the Scrutiny Management Board.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 The Scrutiny page on the Council's website includes an online form that invites the public to send their suggestions, or suggest a topic, of what they would like the scrutiny boards to look into. This is available all year and advises the public that all suggestions will be passed on to members for consideration.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 If the Scrutiny Management Board does not agree a work programme for the overview and scrutiny function, then the opportunity to review policies and services will not be realised meaning that improvements, savings and income generation possibilities may be missed.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The Scrutiny function is directly supported by the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officers. Additional technical expertise and evidence on specific matters will be provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.
- 7.2 The strategic resource implications of the topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to members on a case by case basis.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees.

8.2 Further powers relating to overview and scrutiny are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Localism Act 2011, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Where appropriate, individual work items will include assessments of equality impacts and will be included in the evidence base for reviews and work items of individual Scrutiny Boards.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 Impacts on data protection and information governance will be considered as appropriate during individual work items.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 The Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board is responsible for crime and disorder matters within the overview and scrutiny function.

11.2 Risk assessments will be included in the evidence base for individual scrutiny reviews as appropriate.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 Sustainability matters will be addressed as appropriate during individual work items.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 Health and wellbeing implications will be included in the evidence base for individual scrutiny reviews as appropriate.

13.2 Social value considerations will be reported to members as part of individual reviews and work items.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 Any impacts on Council-managed property or land will be included in the evidence base for individual items within the scrutiny work programme.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board is the overarching scrutiny body with responsibility for considering and agreeing an annual work programme for the overview and scrutiny function. The Management Board is now invited to give consideration to the proposals from individual Scrutiny Boards.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.



17 APPENDICES:



Appendix 1 - proposed work programmes as submitted by the Scrutiny Boards.

Surjit Tour




Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board – Work Programme 2018/19

Meeting	Proposed Items	Ambitions	Notes
24 June 2019	Work Programming		
22 July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Education – Child health 		
Site Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Visit to the Children's Trust 		
23 September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sandwell Children's Trust: 2018/19 Annual Review, 2019/20 refreshed Improvement Plan and 2019/20 Quarter 1 performance report. – Invite Cabinet Member to present her work priorities. – Childcare Sufficiency Report. 		
Site Visit	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Primrose PRU – to be scheduled when schools re-open in September 		







11 November 2018	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Regional Adoption Agency performance report. – SHAPE Programme – invite young people to scrutiny – Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) – Alternative Provision - Pupil Referral Units 	 	
6 January 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – To be confirmed 		
9 March 2020	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Sandwell Children’s Trust 		

Priorities emerging to be scoped and scheduled:

Item	Children’s Services	Education	Comment
Invite Cabinet Member for Best Start in Life to present her work priorities	 		
School admissions			Overview and data
Play and Youth Services			Update report
Sexual Health and Healthy Relationships in schools			
Child Poverty			Data sets
Childhood Obesity			Update report
Mental Health in schools			HASC looking at CAMHS

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board – Work Programme 2018/19

The Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board met on 12 June 2018 and considered its work programme. The detail and timetabling of each individual item is ongoing.












Meeting	Proposed Items	Ambitions	Notes
11 June 2019	Work Programming		
18 July 2019	West Bromwich Indoor Market Inclusive Economy	   	
TBA	Work groups prioritisation and item brief sessions: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Economy Skills <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ NEETS (19-26 years) ○ Schools connecting with business – Regeneration and Transport <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Parking Charges ○ Metro Stations 		
26 September 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Cabinet response – Food Waste – Connexions Sandwell Guarantee – Cycle strategy & Infrastructure (pre- decision scrutiny) 	 	
7 November 2019	– To be confirmed		
6 February 2020	– To be confirmed		
5 March 2020	– To be confirmed		

Priorities emerging to be scoped and scheduled:

Item	Priority	Comment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Car parking and car park charges in Sandwell. – A4123 Birchley Island/M5 Junction 2 – impact on local businesses, public during the development. Green waste strategy – WMCA Industrial Strategy and a Local Industrial Strategy. – Common wealth games and the A34 Scott Arms work – Transport – Metro extensions – Transport – Sprint Hybrid vehicle (Sprint) – Street lighting update on the roll out of street lighting – Business Ambassador programme – Think Sandwell launch – Birchley Island – – Canals – LAC care leavers into employment (Good practice at Leeds Council). – Housing developments – How the regeneration and skills agenda fit with the affordable housing and housing shortage. – Upskilling parents and school readiness, family learning. 		

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|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">– Opening up discussions between schools and businesses.– Connexions Sandwell Guarantee – the funding comes to an end this year -there will be a total in the Autumn. | | |
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Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board – Work Programme 2018/19

Meeting	Proposed Items	Ambitions	Notes
17 June 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Work Programme 2019-20 – Harmonisation of Treatment Policies – Minor Surgery and Non-Obstetric Ultrasound (NOUS) Services – Re-establish Joint working arrangements with Birmingham City Council 	  	
29 July 2019	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> – Tackling Loneliness and Isolation – Social Prescribing – Reconfiguration of Inpatients Respiratory Medicine SWBH NHS – Systems Changes SWBH NHS 	  	
16 September 2019	Commissioning Intentions – Operating Plan- CCG Implications of the Green Paper for Adult Social Care Public Health spending	  	
18 November 2019	– To be confirmed		
20 January 2020	Harmonisation of Treatment Policies CCG Minor Surgery and Non-Obstetric Ultra-sound Scan (NOUS) Services listening Exercise Engagement	 	
25 March 2019	– To be confirmed		

The following matters are yet to be scheduled/scoped:-

- Partners and services contributing to tackling social isolation
- Deprivation of Liberty Protection Services (DOLS)
- Transforming Care Partnerships
- Continuing health service
- Mental Health
- Health inequalities
- Smoking and vaping
- Substantial variations from health partners
- Progress on H&S Partnerships
- Physical activity
- Transient site update.

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board – Work Programme 2019/20

Meeting	Proposed Items	Ambitions	Notes
4 July 2019	Playing Pitch Strategy Work Programming	 Potentially all	Pre-decision scrutiny
1 August 2019	Tenancy Conditions Review	   	
3 October 2019	Sandwell Aquatics Centre Commonwealth Games Legacy	   	Pre-decision scrutiny
21 November 2019	To be determined – the Scrutiny Board agreed a flexible approach to its work programme.		
30 January 2020	To be determined – the Scrutiny Board agreed a flexible approach to its work programme.		