

**Economy, Skills,
Transport and Environment
Scrutiny Board**

**Thursday 7 February, 2019 at 5.30 pm
in Committee Room 1
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 8 November, 2018 as a correct record.
4. Notes of the Waste and Recycling Centre Site Visit 21 November 2018.
5. Air Quality Update
6. Employment and Skills Update

Date of next meeting: 7th March 2019

J Britton
Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House

Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillors Rollins (Chair);
Councillors Ashman and Singh (Vice-Chairs);
Councillors Ahmed, Ali, Allcock, Chidley, E M Giles, I Jones, Preece and
Tagger.

**Agenda prepared by Deb Breedon
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Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

Apologies for Absence

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

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny 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 Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

8th November, 2018 at 5.30pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Rollins (Chair);
Councillors Ashman and Singh (Vice-Chairs);
Councillors Ahmed and Chidley.

Apologies: Councillors Ali, Allcock, E M Giles and Preece.

In attendance: Jenna Langford, Regeneration Manager
Alison Knight, Executive Director - Neighbourhoods

15/18 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 27th September, 2018 be approved as a correct record.

16/18 **Growing What We Have Got and Supporting Local Business**

The Executive Director Neighbourhoods and the Regeneration Manager provided a report and presentation relating to the level of support services provided to the Sandwell Business Community by the Regeneration and Growth Team through initiatives including Sandwell Ambassadors.

The Regeneration Manager advised that the Regeneration and Growth Team provided:

- the right support to teams in Sandwell;
- business support and advice;
- location and relocation advice, information about inward investment linked with development ready locations (regeneration funding);
- it recruited businesses;
- it worked with community businesses;
- it informed about jobs and apprenticeships;

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- it engaged with local supply chain;
- it connected into projects.

Think Sandwell was Sandwell Council's initiative to support business in our Borough. The Council gave free expert advice on matters such as accessing finance, recruiting staff, finding premises and forming partnerships so that businesses had the knowledge and contacts they needed to thrive. The brochure of the top 50 fastest growing companies index was circulated at the meeting and discussed by the Board.

Also circulated was 'Development Ready' an approach used to support development in Sandwell that actively sought to market sites to developers and investors to progress regeneration throughout the Borough by preparing a prospectus outlining the potential development requirements. Taking the sites to the potential customers proactively marketing sites in Sandwell.

Sandwell Council had been recognised as Local Planning Authority of the Year in 2014 and the Team continued to perform at a high level and to develop the ways of working to support the customer and improve the service. The Regeneration Manager had recently been recognised for her achievements and was leading the team in developing an APP which was being developed to take forward in 2019 which would integrate with the business planning.

The team priorities moving forward included the following:

- taking forward the 'Regeneration and Inclusive Growth Strategy Action Plan';
- ensure the Borough reaches economic growth targets;
- to truly understand Sandwell strengths and challenges;
- to priorities and focus the work of the team;
- to continuously engage with the business community;
- to consider all things that link into the skills gap;
- to consider ways of keeping channels of continual engagement.

All the team priorities would be planned in line with the development of the team.

The Sandwell Business Ambassadors Programme was currently being reviewed by the Director of Regenerations and Growth. The grant and loan initiatives included the following:

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- support and advice;
- financial support through grants or loans;
- Black Country Transformation Gold/ Sandwell Business £302,000 in grant to support needs.
- Growth – Businesses – minimum £50,000- Maximum £1 million; Sandwell businesses £2 million from the fund;
- The fund was coming to an end. There would be a new programme and a report in December.
- In relation to the grant fund – there would be access to minimum of £45,000 - £50,000 per business (could go over if needed more).
- Current performance was in the report.

When the team was merged it would give us more, taking on the team was a great way to try new things and new initiatives.

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

- Companies were going into schools to advertise career opportunities and to give young people an idea of the type of work they could work towards.
- The Executive Director of Regeneration advised that the same issue had been raised as part of the SHAPE conference recently, that young people were not getting enough advice from schools. She agreed to give further consideration to the issue.
- The Regeneration Manager agreed to give further consideration to matters related to the Business Ambassadors. It was recognised that this was a good area for the Cabinet Member for Regeneration to make recommendations how businesses could link with local schools.
- The Executive Director advised that schools advice was given in sixth form and the Board wondered if the career advice should be something the Board picked up at a future meeting for an update.
- The Regeneration Manager advised that she and Directors from Sandwell Businesses would work together to connect with schools and to promote Sandwell. She advised that a new Chair of the Sandwell Ambassadors would be appointed soon and that details of the refreshed scheme and webpage could be shared with the Scrutiny Board.

The Executive Director agreed that the Business ambassador scheme needed revitalisation. The Board was advised that the business

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Champion was Councillor Mohammed Rouf and that the business support unit was working with Councillor Rouf to meet with the Top 50 companies to discuss how the Council could help. It was confirmed that there were regular meetings that information was reported back. The establishment of the ambassador scheme was complete, the revitalisation may highlight other roles for the private sector to become involved in the work the team were doing to support businesses in Sandwell. There may be a social responsibility role and other roles to be explored, the team wanted to keep it fresh for businesses to keep the momentum going for business ambassadors.

Small businesses had the Think Sandwell site and the Council advertised funding opportunities for all to see. Other funding for planning and land development was also posted and there was real opportunity to synergise and work together.

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

- The Council needed to understand more about where businesses would look at and what more they needed to know about Sandwell.
- Sandwell and the Regeneration Manager had recently won another award with the Federation of Small Business Black Country and Staffordshire. The Council needed to look at how it promoted Sandwell and got the message out to business. Many businesses were not members of the Federation of Small Businesses and would not know of Sandwell's success, the Council needed to use social media to get the message out to small businesses.
- Sandwell Councillors could engage with small businesses in their wards to advise them of the success of the Regeneration Team and to pass on the Teams contact details. The Board agreed that there was a need to spread awareness of the Regeneration Teams success with Small Businesses in Sandwell.

In relation to the Top 50 companies it was indicated that 23 companies related to manufacturing, a few were construction and one related to robotics. In response to a question about creating more opportunities around large projects such as HSE, construction skills and future skills such as robotics the Board was advised as follows:

- Events were run in relation to large projects. One at the start of the year in relation to the Metro. The events coincided with when they could procure, put the bid in etc.
- A framework was being prepared for the work towards the Aquatics centre for the Commonwealth Games 2022 with Waites.

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- A Paper was being prepared relating to bring the Headquarters of an organisation to the Midlands.
- There was a need to look at Artificial Intelligence(AI) and robotics with West Midlands Growth to see what more businesses and Regeneration Team in Sandwell could be doing.

The Executive Director Regeneration advised that a report could be provided to a future meeting to consider the development of an Industrial Strategy including proposals for how we would work with our Partners.

Resolved:

- (1) That a briefing note be circulated to all
- (2) That the Development Ready booklet be refreshed and circulated
- (3) That the link to Think Sandwell be circulated
- (4) That a report relating to the Development of the Industrial Strategy for Sandwell be included in the Work Programme for the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board.

17/18 Review of Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEP)

The Executive Director Regeneration provided a document in relation to the review of the Local Enterprise Partnerships (LEPs) entitled “Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships”. The report asked Members to consider the implications for Sandwell MBC as a member of the Black Country LEP.

The Executive Director explained that the Black Country Consortium (BCC) had been formed in the 1990’s. The BCC set up the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership (LEP) and Sandwell MBC was a member along with the other 3 Black Country local authorities. The BCC was set up before the West Midlands Combined Authority had been established in 2016 and was Chaired by Stuart Towe.

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

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- Walsall MBC was the accountable body for the BC LEP, the City of Wolverhampton has responsibility for some matters and Sandwell MBC has responsibility for some things;
- The LEP has had responsibility for £9 billion funding that has gone to LEPs including European funding.
- The Government review of LEPs was to make sure that the LEP organisation could carry out the Industrial Strategy.
- There were a number of areas that were in more than one LP area. This was common across LEPs, but not in the Black Country LEPs.
- There were 14 LEPs where boundaries overlap in the country.

The LEP review paper made clear that the longer-term aspirations of Government was to have a LEP geography that mirrored the WMCA which would mean LEPs merging.

The report set out ministerial outcomes under five headings:

- Roles and responsibility
- Leadership and organisational capacity
- Accountability and performance
- Geography
- Mayoral Combined Authority.

The following points were highlighted from the report:

- In the BC LEP gender balance was an issue on the LEP Board, by 2020 it would be balanced.
- The Government wanted the LEPs to be properly constituted.
- A decision had to be made and submitted about the geography and boundary of the BC LEP. The WMCA would be setting out the issues in a report to discuss the matter.
- The WMCA geography was co-terminus geographically with Birmingham, Coventry and Solihull. The key issue may be whether Government would be asking the West Midlands to consider merging the LEPs.
- The danger highlighted by the Board was that the LEP in the West Midlands could become very Birmingham centric.
- £20 million of funding had been made available and LEPs have been asked for their views on the potential merge.
- The BC LEP had advised that it wanted to remain as a separate LEP.
- A report would be shared at Sandwell leaders meeting in November 2018.

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

- Other LEPs in the West Midlands such as Solihull had also expressed the wish to maintain their economic geographies in particular in relation to housing etc; Stoke and Staffordshire had expressed the wish to see change; Birmingham wanted to keep them separate.
- Concerns from the Board that historically the Black Country had to compete for funding with Birmingham and a consensus that the Black Country would be better served by the BC LEP not a WMCA LEP.
- Members of the Board strongly identified with the need for the Black Country LEP Members to maintain their identity, particularly Sandwell with the proximity to Birmingham.
- The Members welcomed the recommendations for improvements for accountability. When the Government Select Committee had reviewed scrutiny there had been questions raised about how LEPs were scrutinised and feedback about the need for more openness and answerability of LEPs to scrutiny.
- LEPs were working with monitoring to try to approve accountability but the Board were advised that the arrangements in place for BC LEP for getting funding approved were already robust and an Advisory Board was in place to oversee the rigorous process.
- It was suggested that it was the scrutiny element that comes back to Scrutiny Board that needed to be strengthened.
- Further down the line scrutiny would look at what was being duplicated in LEP and WMCA.
- In relation to developing Local Industrial Strategies, the LEPs would set out a collective and shared strategic course for the long-term and aim to agree a strategy by early 2020.
- The WMCA were working with the LEP towards developing a way forward but it was only day 5 into the process and very early days.
- There would be a report back to the Scrutiny Board next autumn with an update about how the four areas could benchmark themselves in the four areas and this would be added to next year's work programme.

The Board agreed to issue the following statement:

The Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Board welcomed the aimed improvements in diversity and accountability outlined in the

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‘Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Strategy’ and agreed that the Black Country and Sandwell best serviced by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

Members thanked the Executive Director Regeneration for the report and responses to questions.

Resolved:

- (1) That the Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships report be received;
- (2) That the Board agreed to issue the following statement:

The Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Board welcomed the aimed improvements in diversity and accountability outlined in the ‘Strengthened Local Enterprise Partnerships Strategy’ and agreed that the Black Country and Sandwell best serviced by the Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

(Meeting ended at 18:45 pm)

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| <p>Contact Officer: Deb Breedon Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3896</p> |
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ECONOMY SKILLS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT

SCRUTINY BOARD

WASTE AND RECYCLING CENTRE SITE VISIT

21 November 2018

Sandwell Integrated Waste and Cleansing Contract – Serco Site Visit

Attending Cllr Ahmed
Cllr Allcock
Cllr Ashman
Cllr Chidley
Cllr Singh
Julia Bridgett
John Mason
Gary Smith
Dawn Shaw
Steve Wilkes
Neil Cox
Deb Breedon

Presentation – Waste Contract – In Cab Technology

Officers provided a presentation to the Scrutiny Board Members and gave an overview of the in-cab system.

Members found the systems to be quite engaging from an operational point of view. Firmstep was the Council portal, they found that from the portal to interfaces to the Whitespace system messages could be instantaneously sent while they were out on the round. Crews went out on their rounds at 6.30am.

In relation to the system:

- The lists were alphabetical rather than in route order.
- The lists indicated to the operator which houses were assisted, which addresses specific actions/arrangements existed.
- Routes were classed 1- 4 depending on type of road. This dictated collection arrangements i.e. single or double-sided collections. Not to collect after 9am as by school etc.
- The operator could pick up the house number, add detail and submit the entry, adding detail or reasons why an action had or had not taken place.
- If the bins were not put out the operator could record that detail. If there was contamination in a recycling bin they could record the detail and take a photograph. They would have to circle a reason why the bin had not been emptied on a sticker and leave that on the bin.

In response to questions:

- The refuse collectors considered around 100 kilos is the maximum weight for a refuse bin. However, it was more of an assessment as to whether the refuse collector could not move the refuse bin or if the collection truck lifting equipment could not pick it up. However, as each crew had three crew it was rare that the operators could not move the bins between them.
- If a resident complained that the bin had not been emptied the log could be viewed by them 'My Sandwell' could show the log but the photos could not be viewed because Firmstep on able to do this yet.
- In relation to MySandwell if a Councillor put an enquiry in to waste management relating to litter it would be best if they sorted it by putting an enquiry for a litter pick. Glass could be removed quickly under the 'dangerous litter' request process under 'Report it' on the SMBC website.
- Many people seemed not to understand the reasons why their recycling was contaminated, the need to mark the reason why on the labels and circle the labels and to have more discussions about the issue with plastics and polystyrene, meat trays etc. The need to recognise what was a hard plastic and what was a recyclable plastic.

Officers completed the demonstration of how the system worked, the process for issuing a notice where contaminated waste had been identified; and where excess waste had resulted, how the householder was advised that they would have to store the waste for next collection or get it to the waste disposal site. The Board was advised that the Council would not go back out and collect where contaminated waste had been the issue.

Members considered that some residents claimed that they did not know when the collection dates were. Officers indicated that the majority of residents know the date to put bins out and put things in the right bins. It was highlighted that on occasions when bins were put out overnight passers-by or neighbours may put things in other people's bins that caused the contamination and that there was very little that could be done about these rare instances.

Although the instances of contaminated waste and non-collection of waste were annoying for waste collectors and residents the knock-on effect of contaminated waste not being properly disposed of may be fly tipping, excess black bag waste on the street and or tipped elsewhere in the Borough. The longer-term impact on the Council was additional costs, to clean-up tipped waste. Although flytipping tonnages remain fairly consistent within a range over a number of years.

Officers advised that 'Waste Awareness Officers' go out into communities and make people aware of what people should put in the recycle bins, what plastic they should recycle and what they should not. There were certain requirements from the contractors that needed to be met, the Members considered that there was nothing wrong with containerisation. There was a recycling hotline was available to help anyone in need of help or advise was available on the Council Website.

In relation to 'assisted bin collection' the following was explained:

- The bins could be registered for assisted collection for up to three years.
- The criteria asked for your infirmity or disability.

The iPad was situated in a cradle in the cab, the communication for crew was essential to keep the round moving and the base informed of the current situation and of interruptions to service. The crew could see where bins were in or out and where there had been weeks where the bins had not been used, this could raise safeguarding concerns, where the relevant services could be notified. The Council where possible

encourage bin numbering, to avoid lost or misplaced bins. Some people put postcodes on the bins.

There was a discussion about food waste and food bins. It was reported that the food bin collection service was operating at approximately 18% participation. Members were advised that the food collection rate had always been low but that it had dropped and was now something that should be looked at in more detail.

Members agreed that a report relating to the future of organic food waste and the use of the anaerobic waste site should be brought to a future meeting.

Site Visit to the Hub

Members received a guided tour of the Eagle Transfer site to see the transfer facility.



There was opportunity to see the extent of the contamination discussed at the meeting and to see and hear about operations and the facilities on site.



Litter Watch

At the end of the site visit Members met with members of the Litter Watch Team who were SERCO and Sandwell Council funded. The 'Love where you live' groups get groups of people together to collect litter where they live – Councillor Cherrington had championed a litter picking project to get groups to keep their areas clean.

The litter picking teams spread the message by social media, target leafletting, through neighbourhood groups, job centres and schools.


Contact number 0121 557 6970

Actions to refer to Scrutiny Board:

1. That a report be requested to a future meeting relating to the domestic food waste collection service.
2. Agreed that Members note the recent campaign to remind people what should put in the recycle bins and what plastic they should recycle to reduce the amount of contaminated waste. How we can better inform people how to separate waste and plastics.

REPORT TO ECONOMY SKILLS TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

07 February 2019

| | |
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| Subject: | Air Quality in Sandwell |
| Cabinet Portfolio: | Councillor Elaine Costigan - Cabinet Member for Public Health and Protection |
| Director: | Director – Prevention and Protection – Stuart Lackenby stuart_lackenby@sandell.gov.uk |
| Contribution towards Vision 2030: |  |
| Contact Officer(s): | Richard Norton – Environmental Health Manager richard_norton@sandwell.gov.uk |

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board:

1. Consider the update relating to air pollution in Sandwell and note the progress update in relation to Air Quality the draft Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP) 2018 – 2023 and the public consultation process.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

The Scrutiny Board received a report relating to Air Quality on [20 November 2017](#), minutes of the meeting can be viewed on the same link.

The Board has requested a progress report. Officers will attend the meeting and deliver a presentation on the work undertaken to develop a revised Air Quality Action Plan which reflects recent developments in relation to the national plan for tackling nitrogen dioxide and the proposed Clean Air Zone in Birmingham.



Stuart Lackenby
Director – Prevention and Protection

Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

Air Quality In Sandwell

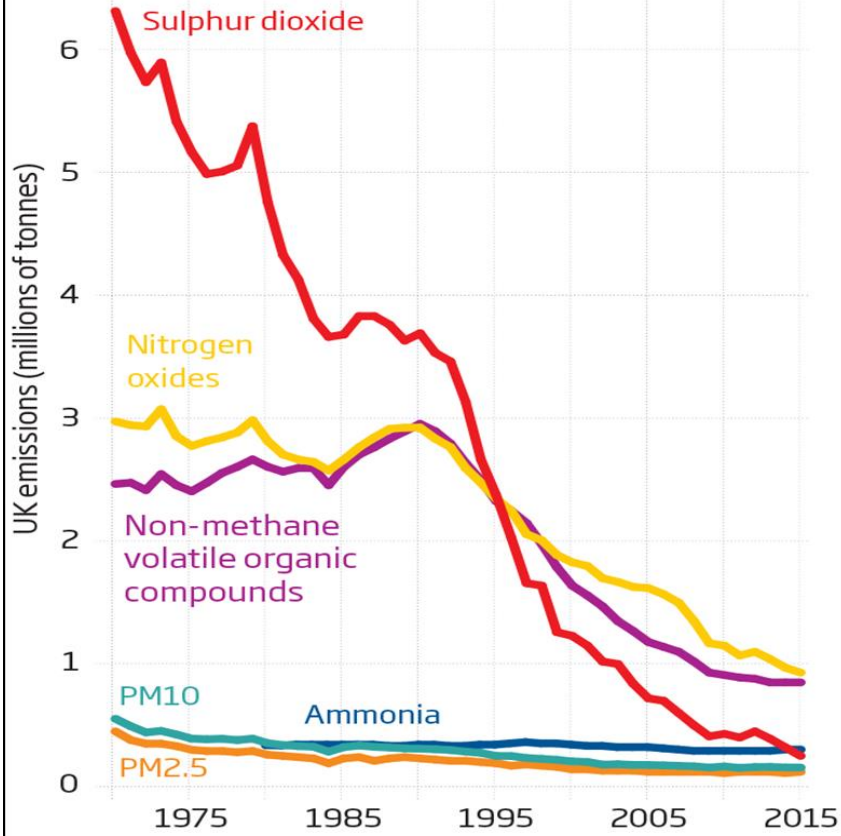


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National Picture

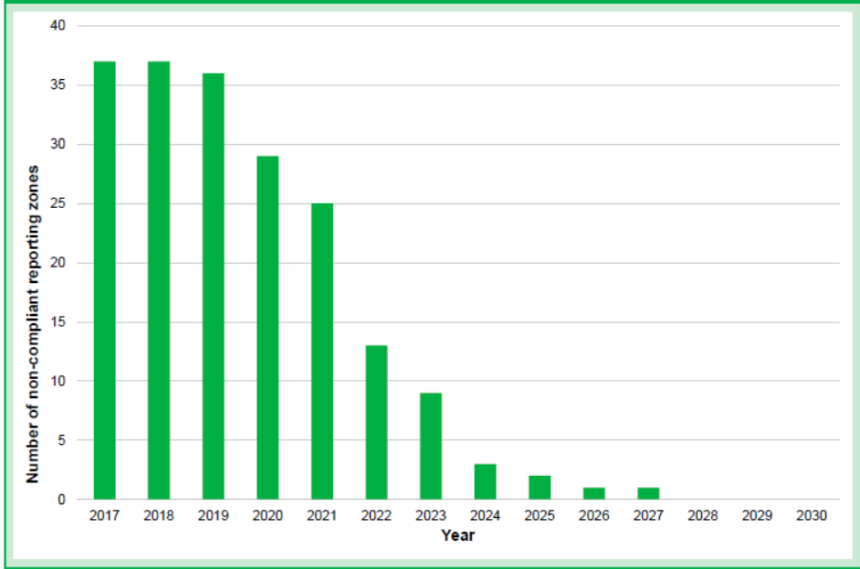
Emissions of harmful pollutants are dropping in the UK



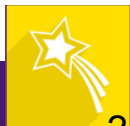
SOURCE: DEFRA

Nitrogen Dioxide

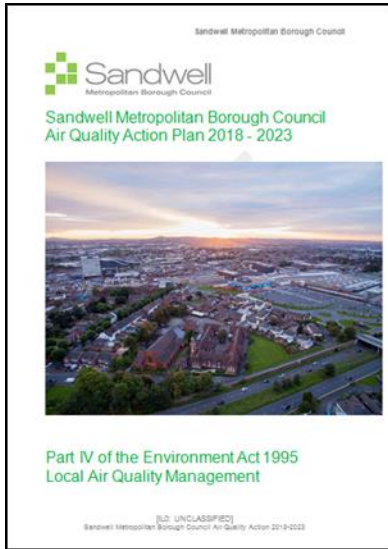
Figure Ex.1 The estimated number of reporting zones projected to be non-compliant without further action



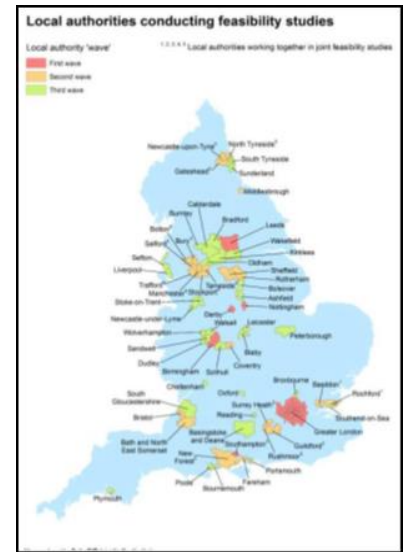
- UK emissions of nitrogen dioxide have fallen by 70% since 1970
- 80% of nitrogen dioxide concentrations are from petrol and diesel Vehicles.
- Largely the reduction in emissions has been associated with the introduction of cleaner engines.



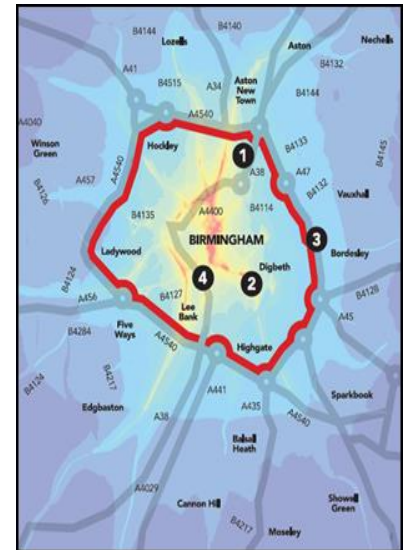
Air Quality in Sandwell



Air Quality Action Plan



Ministerial Direction 2018



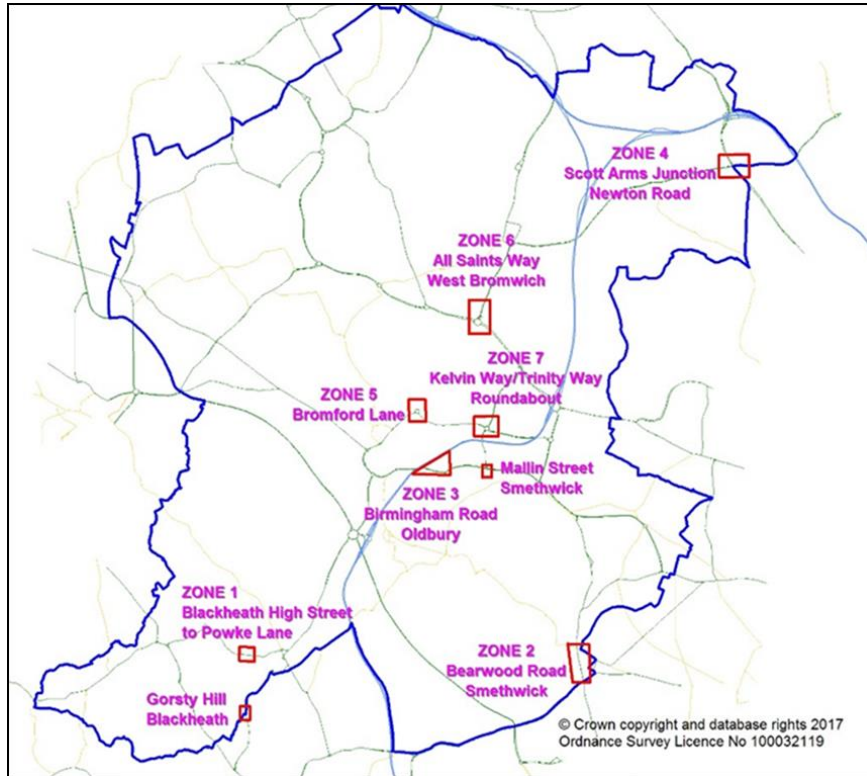
Clean Air Zone 2020

Sandwell Picture shows similar improvement to that of the National
 Main local issues;
 Transport Infrastructure, Industry and Logistics and Vehicle Age



Air Quality Action Plan

7 main Hot Spot Zones based on local monitoring and **exposure**.

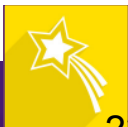


Suggested interventions based on national guidance;

- Traffic smoothing
- Promotion of Public Transport
- Engage with Transport West Midlands to continue the retrofit programme of buses
- Active Travel
- Planning requirements to reduce future exposure
- Supporting business travel plans
- Updating the Councils fleet vehicles
- Licensed Vehicle requirements

67 Consultation Responses

- Supported suggested interventions
- National scrappage scheme



Ministerial Direction

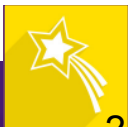
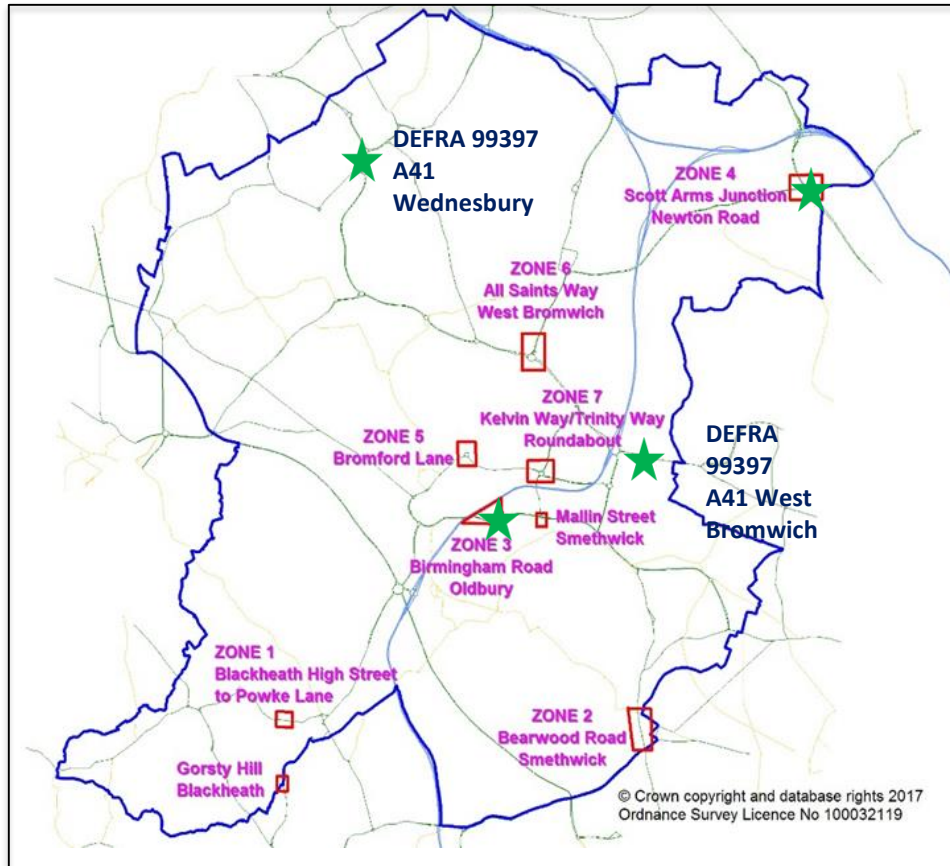
4 main Hot Spot Zones identified by DEFRA based on national modelling. ★

Sandwell are one of 33 Councils to receive a direction to undertake a Targeted Feasibility study on Nitrogen Dioxide reduction as a result of Client Earth Court Case.

All 4 Sandwell sites modelled to be compliant by 2020 without additional intervention. DEFRA funded Targeted Feasibility Study found no additional interventions possible at 2 of these sites

All aspects of the Direction have been met on 2 remaining sites in consultation with Cabinet Member – interventions:

- Continue the retrofit programme of buses – with TfWM
- Traffic smoothing



Birmingham Clean Air Zone



Birmingham City Council have been directed to introduce of a Clean Air Zone.

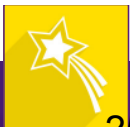
Requirement from DEFRA due to high levels of Nitrogen Dioxide.

Introduces a daily fine for non compliant (Generally older vehicles) when travelling in the Zone.

Sandwell response to public consultation included concerns about:

- Shift of traffic to Sandwell to avoid the Zone.
- Availability of parking for park and ride schemes
- Allocation of older buses
- Impact on Sandwell's air Quality

Discussions now taking place with BCC regarding access to mitigation funding.



Suggested approach and next steps

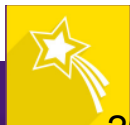
In consultation with Members Produce a single Air Quality Action Plan that:

1. Improves Air Quality locally to reduce the number of Hot Spot Zones
2. Meets the requirements of the Ministerial Direction including additional sites identified by Defra from updated Pollution Climate Mapping data
3. Sets out Mitigations against the impact of the Birmingham Clean Air Zone

Multi agency Air Quality working group established

Proposed Time Scales:

1. Implementation of measures from Targeted feasibility Study – Jan 2019
2. Consultation with Birmingham on Clean Air Zone mitigation – Feb 2019
3. Presentation to Leaders meeting of Draft Single Air Quality Action Plan and local consultation with Ward members – March 2019
4. Air Quality Action Plan presented to cabinet – April 2019 for approval



REPORT TO ECONOMY, SKILLS, TRANSPORT AND ENVIRONMENT SCRUTINY BOARD

07 February 2019

| | |
|--|---|
| Subject: | Skills in Sandwell |
| Cabinet Portfolio: | Councillor Paul Moore - Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Investment |
| Director: | Director – Education, Skills and Employment – Chris Ward |
| Contribution towards Vision 2030: |  |
| Contact Officer(s): | Kelly Thomas – Employment and Skills Manager kelly_thomas@sandwell.gov.uk |

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board:

1. Consider the following, which is summarised herein:
 - To provide data and a summary of the current skills position in Sandwell including changes to the Adult Education budget.
 - To include an update on the Sandwell Adult Family Learning (SAFL) service.
2. Make any comments and recommendations as necessary.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide an update on skills in Sandwell including the changes to the Adult Education budget.
- 1.2 To provide a performance update for the Sandwell Adult Family Learning (SAFL) team.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR SANDWELL'S VISION

2.1 3. Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.

1. Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Adult Education budget (AEB) has now been devolved to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) with funding commencing this academic year (July 2019).

3.2 The devolved AEB provides funding for adults (those aged 19+), for residents of West Midlands constituent member areas. In 2016/17, this represented £126m delivered through colleges, local authorities and training providers.

3.3 The Department for Education (DfE) will confirm the full allocation for the 2019/20 year in January 2019 with a yearly allocation thereafter.

3.4 Within Sandwell the aim is to align the AEB to meet the objectives set out within the Regional Skills plan, Vision 2030 and Strategic Economic plan. This includes a greater focus on helping people into employment and delivering higher level skills in priority sectors.

3.5 Sandwell Adult Family Learning (SAFL) is an internal service within the Council which delivers training as part of the Adult Education budget and community learning funding.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 Current statistical information is attached as Appendix 1-4:

Appendix 1 - Percentage of Working Age Population by Qualification Level in 2017

Appendix 2 - current overview of skills levels in Sandwell including comparison with the Black Country and England

Appendix 3 - skills gaps, summary tables taken from Employer Skills Survey 2017

Further information will become available on sector specific skills gaps and levels – which are currently in development by the WMCA in partnership with the Black Country Consortium

Appendix 4 - Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Performance Data 2017-2018 (End of Year)

4.2 **The Future of the Adult Education Budget**

The AEB allocation will be based on actual spend on residents within the 2017/18 academic year. Sandwell's spend on residents in 2016/17 was £10,358,654.

Colleges and local authorities within the WMCA area who currently receive a grant from AEB will continue to do so at their existing levels. The remainder of the funds will be repatriated to the WMCA area to be commissioned from January 2019 onwards. This should lead to more local delivery with increased potential for Council support and influence on the use of funds.

4.3 **Adult Education Budget in Sandwell**

Sandwell are well represented at regional groups to assist the shaping of the funds for the future including involvement in commissioning and aligning the use of funds to meet local needs and objectives.

4.4 Sandwell will have a tender specification to commission AEB funds which is being created by WMCA in partnership with Sandwell Council officers. Local providers have been informed of the opportunity to bid for funding.

4.5 Grant providers are also being asked to complete 3 year plans on how they will develop their provision to meet local area needs and future business requirements.

4.6 Officers will work with local providers to improve collaborative working between providers to enhance the customer journey and provide a wider range of support between funding streams and provision.

4.7 Maximising the use of the funds in this way should contribute towards improving skills in Sandwell, upskilling residents who are economically inactive or in work and focus on achieving sustainable employment outcomes. This contributes towards Sandwell's Vision 2030 and the inclusive growth agenda.

- 4.8 **Sandwell Adult Family Learning (SAFL)**
Sandwell Adult Family Learning are Sandwell Council's Adult Education service and currently receive an AEB allocation and funding for community learning.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 There is no consultation associated with this report.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 There are no alternative options.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 The allocation of grant funding for Sandwell Adult Family Learning is unaffected by changes to the Adult Education budget.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

- 8.1 There are no specific legal and governance requirements regarding the information provided.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 9.1 There are no equality implications arising from this report.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

- 10.1 The information contained herein does not include any personal data and is publicly available.

- 10.2 There are no data protection issues from this report.

10 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

- 11.1 There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

- 12.1 Update reports on the information herein will be available at a frequency required by Scrutiny.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 There are no specific health and wellbeing implications in the information provided.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There are no implications on any council managed property or land in relation to this report.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The information provided summarises the current position for skills in Sandwell, including the changes to the Adult Education budget and current performance for the Sandwell Adult family learning service.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

17 APPENDICES:

1-4 below.

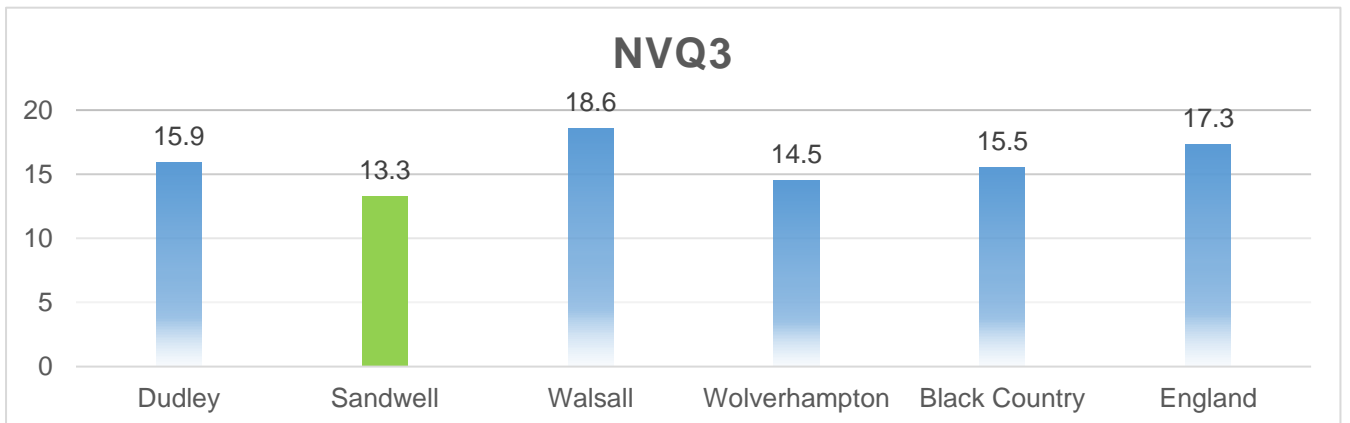
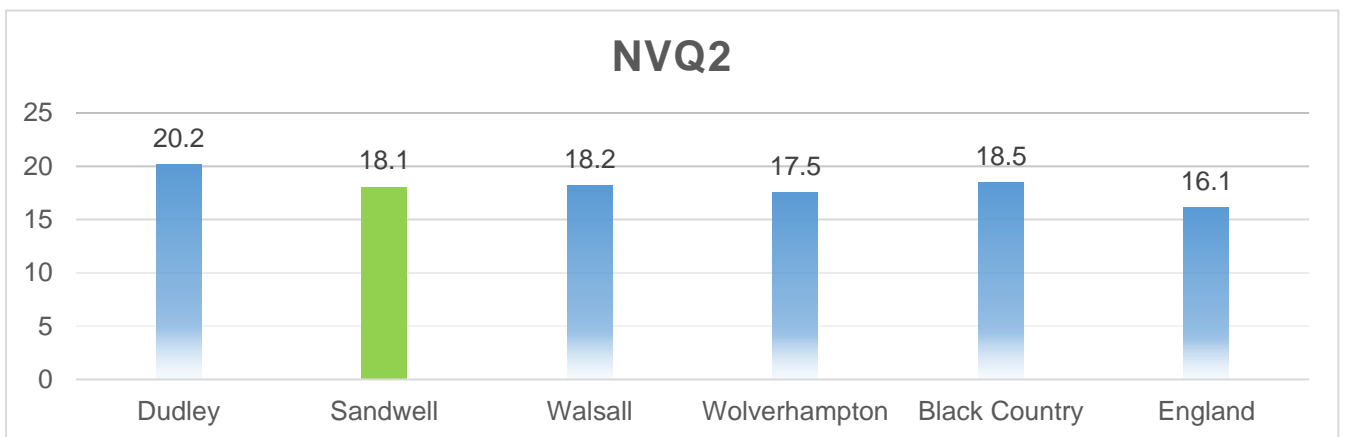
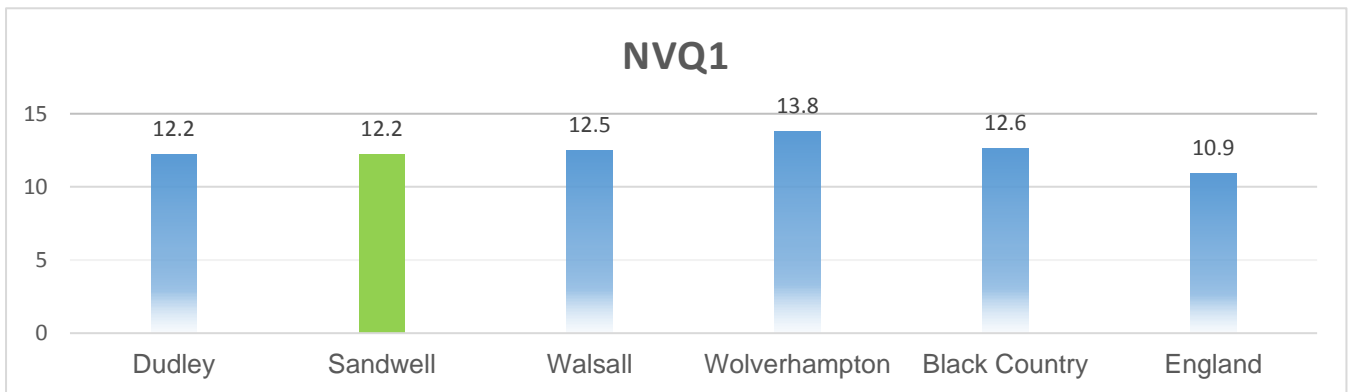
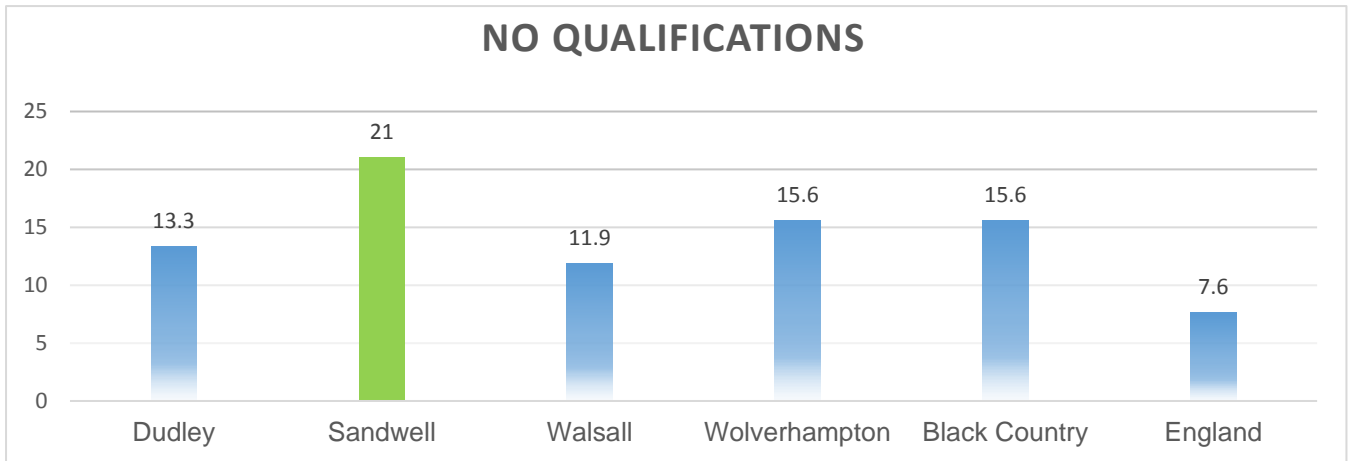


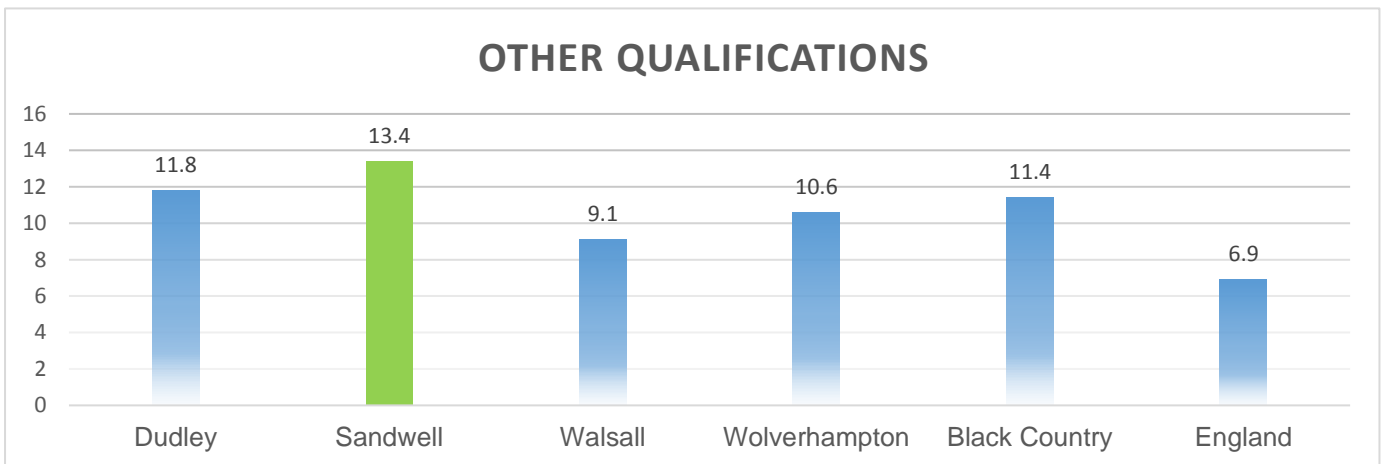
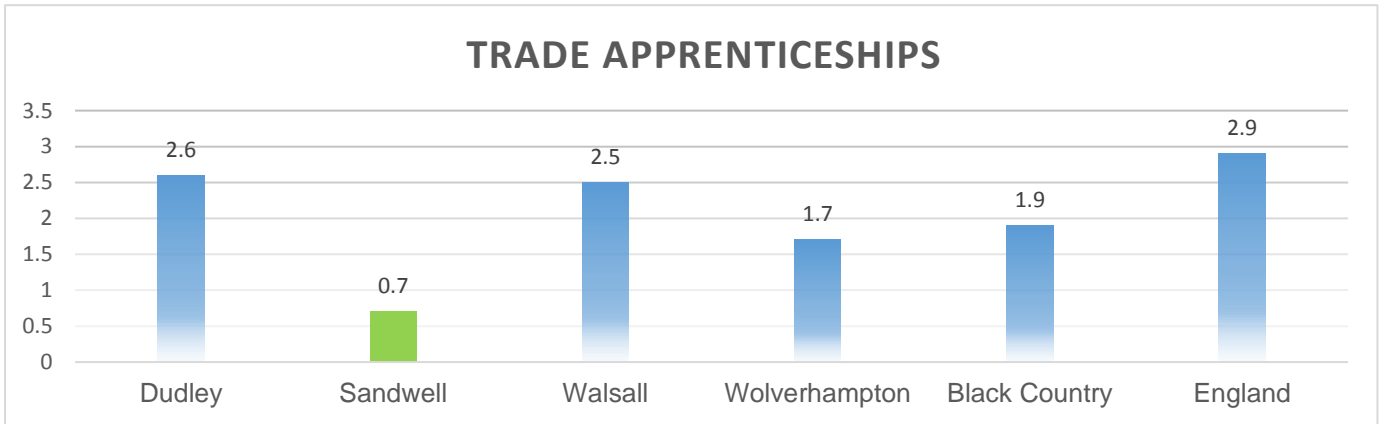
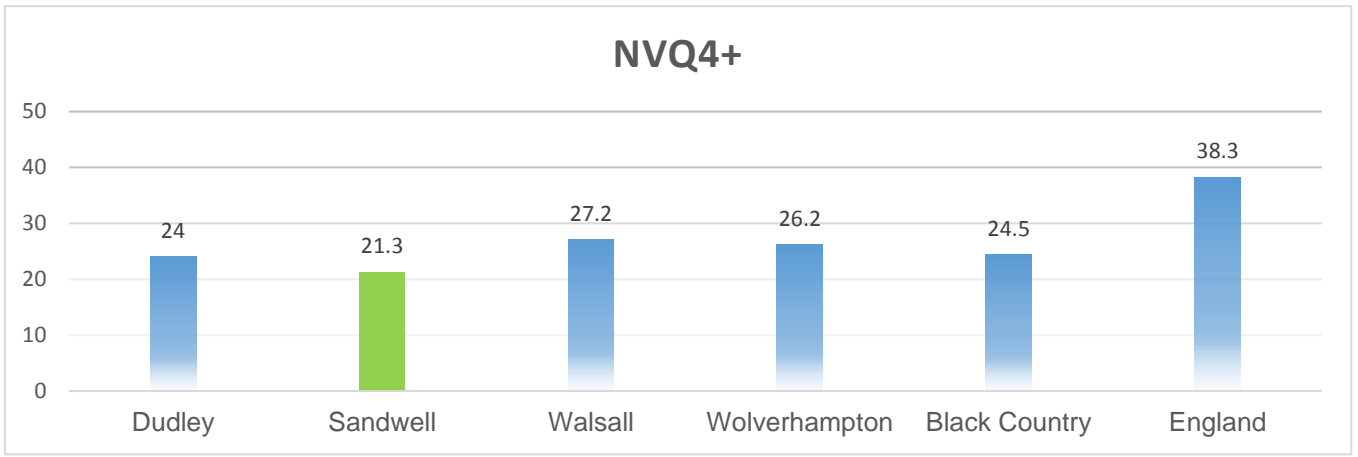
Chris Ward
Director – Education, Skills and Employment

Percentage of Working Age Population by Qualification Level in 2017

| 2017 | Dudley % | Sandwell % | Walsall % | Wolverhampton % | Black Country % | England % |
|------------------------------|-------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|--------------|
| No Qualifications | 13.3 | 21.0 | 11.9 | 15.6 | 15.6 | 7.6 |
| NVQ1 | 12.2 | 12.2 | 12.5 | 13.8 | 12.6 | 10.9 |
| NVQ2 | 20.2 | 18.1 | 18.2 | 17.5 | 18.5 | 16.1 |
| NVQ3 | 15.9 | 13.3 | 18.6 | 14.5 | 15.5 | 17.3 |
| NVQ4+ | 24.0 | 21.3 | 27.2 | 26.2 | 24.5 | 38.3 |
| Trade Apprenticeships | 2.6 | 0.7 | 2.5 | 1.7 | 1.9 | 2.9 |
| Other Qualifications | 11.8 | 13.4 | 9.1 | 10.6 | 11.4 | 6.9 |

**Appendix 2 – Breakdown of Sandwell skills levels
(Jan – Dec 17. ONS Annual Population Survey)**





Skills gaps in Sandwell, summary tables taken from Employer Skills Survey (ESS) 2017

(** :no data available)

Skills gaps

| | ENGLAND | REGION | LEP | LEA |
|---|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | England Total | West Midlands Total | Black Country Total | Sandwell Total |
| % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient | 13% | 12% | 15% | 15% |
| Number of skills gaps (absolute figures) | 1060004 | 105914 | 12723 | 3416 |
| Number of skills gaps (number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment) | 4% | 4% | 3% | 3% |

LEA Sector (13 sector grouping)

| | Primary Sector & Utilities | Manufacturing | Construction | Wholesale & Retail | Hotels & restaurants | Transport & Storage | Information & Communications |
|---|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient | ** | 33% | ** | 10% | ** | ** | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (absolute figures) | ** | 595 | ** | 920 | ** | ** | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment) | ** | 3% | ** | 4% | ** | ** | ** |

| | Financial Services | Business Services | Public admin. | Education | Health & social work | Arts & Other Services |
|---|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|----------------------|-----------------------|
| % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient | ** | 22% | ** | ** | 19% | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (absolute figures) | ** | 882 | ** | ** | 310 | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment) | ** | 5% | ** | ** | 2% | ** |

LEA Sector (6 sector groupings)

| | Primary Sector and Utilities | Manufacturing | Construction | Trade, Accommodation and Transport | Business and Other Services | Non-Market Services |
|---|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient | ** | 33% | ** | 8% | 16% | 23% |
| Number of skills gaps (absolute figures) | ** | 595 | ** | 966 | 1231 | 503 |
| Number of skills gaps (number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment) | ** | 3% | ** | 3% | 4% | 2% |

Establishment size

| | 2 to 4 | 5 to 24 | 25 to 49 | 50 to 99 | 100 to 249 | 250+ | 5+ | 25+ | 100+ |
|---|--------|---------|----------|----------|------------|------|------|------|------|
| % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient | 7% | 20% | 24% | 33% | ** | ** | 22% | 28% | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (absolute figures) | 250 | 1090 | 676 | 605 | ** | ** | 3166 | 2077 | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment) | 3% | 4% | 2% | 3% | ** | ** | 3% | 2% | ** |

Establishment type

| | Seeking a profit | Charity / voluntary sector | Local or Central govt funded |
|---|------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient | 15% | 19% | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (absolute figures) | 2697 | 284 | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment) | 3% | 3% | ** |

% staff with L4 qualification or above

| | <20% | 20-80% | >80% |
|---|------|--------|------|
| % of establishments with any staff not fully proficient | 17% | 15% | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (absolute figures) | 2342 | 865 | ** |
| Number of skills gaps (number of staff not fully proficient as a % of employment) | 3% | 3% | ** |

Upskilling

| | ENGLAND | REGION | LEP | LEA |
|--|---------------|---------------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | England Total | West Midlands Total | Black Country Total | Sandwell Total |
| Whether expect need for new skills in next 12 months | 62% | 63% | 61% | 61% |

LEA Sector (13 sector grouping)

| Upskilling | Primary Sector & Utilities | Manufacturing | Construction | Wholesale & Retail | Hotels & restaurants | Transport & Storage | Information & Communications |
|--|----------------------------|---------------|--------------|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------------------|
| Whether expect need for new skills in next 12 months | ** | 71% | ** | 49% | ** | ** | ** |

| | Financial Services | Business Services | Public admin. | Education | Health and social work | Arts & Other services |
|--|--------------------|-------------------|---------------|-----------|------------------------|-----------------------|
| Whether expect need for new skills in next 12 months | ** | ** | ** | ** | 86% | ** |

LEA Sector (6 sector grouping)

| | Primary Sector and Utilities | Manufacturing | Construction | Trade, Accommodation and Transport | Business and Other Services | Non-Market Services |
|--|------------------------------|---------------|--------------|------------------------------------|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| Whether expect need for new skills in next 12 months | ** | 71% | ** | 47% | 70% | 86% |

| | Establishment size | | | | | | | | |
|--|--------------------|---------|----------|----------|------------|------|-----|-----|------|
| | 2 to 4 | 5 to 24 | 25 to 49 | 50 to 99 | 100 to 249 | 250+ | 5+ | 25+ | 100+ |
| Whether expect need for new skills in next 12 months | ** | 65% | 77% | ** | ** | ** | 68% | 75% | ** |

| | Establishment type | | |
|--|--------------------|----------------------------|------------------------------|
| | Seeking a profit | Charity / voluntary sector | Local or Central govt funded |
| Whether expect need for new skills in next 12 months | 57% | ** | ** |

| | % staff with L4 qualification or above | | |
|--|--|--------|------|
| | <20% | 20-80% | >80% |
| Whether expect need for new skills in next 12 months | 58% | 72% | ** |

Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Performance Data 2017-2018—End of Year

ASB Provision

Learner Profile (ASB Funding) 356 Learners, 616 Enrolments

| Employment status | Learner | % |
|--------------------------------------|---------|-------|
| JSA/ESA/UC claimants | 115 | 32.3 |
| Other benefits/another state benefit | 26 | 7.3 |
| Employed | 120 | 33.7 |
| Economically inactive | 42 | 11.7 |
| Equality and Diversity | Learner | % |
| Black and minority ethnic | 230 | 64.6 |
| Female | 272 | 76.4 |
| Male | 84 | 23.5 |
| Disabilities/ learning difficulties | 68 | 19.1 |
| <i>(of which Mental Health - XX)</i> | 9 | 2.5 |
| Age | Learner | % |
| 19-29 years | 69 | 19.3 |
| 30-39 years | 139 | 39.0 |
| 40-49 years | 77 | 21.6 |
| 50-59 years | 57 | 16.0 |
| 60-65 years | 11 | 3.08 |
| Over 65 years | 3 | 0.84 |
| Residence | Learner | % |
| In Sandwell | 304 | 85.39 |
| In 9 most disadvantaged | 178 | 50 |
| In 10% most disadvantaged LSOAs | 60 | 16.85 |

Course/Enrolment Profile (ASB Funding) 78 ASB Courses

| By Level | Enrol | % |
|-----------------------------|---------|-------|
| Entry | 144 | 23.37 |
| Level 1 | 264 | 42.85 |
| Level 2 | 208 | 33.76 |
| Subject Sector Area | Enrol | % |
| Health & Social Care | 11 | 1.8 |
| ICT | 31 | 5 |
| Retail | 17 | 2.8 |
| Social Media | 159 | 25.8 |
| Preparation for Life & Work | 384 | 62.3 |
| Business / Administration | 14 | 2.3 |
| Cluster | Enrol | % |
| East | 95 | 15.42 |
| South | 183 | 29.70 |
| West | 338 | 54.87 |
| Towns | Learner | % |
| Oldbury | 37 | 10.39 |
| Rowley Regis | 8 | 2.24 |
| Smethwick | 89 | 25.0 |
| Tipton | 75 | 21.06 |
| Wednesbury | 20 | 5.61 |
| West Bromwich | 75 | 21.06 |
| Wolverhampton | 12 | 3.37 |
| Birmingham | 13 | 3.65 |
| Dudley | 20 | 5.61 |
| Walsall | 6 | 1.68 |
| Worcestershire | 1 | 0.28 |

Adult Skills Achievement Rate is 92.2%

Adult Skills Retention Rate is 91.2%

