

**Safer Neighbourhoods and
Active Communities
Scrutiny Board**

**Thursday 27 July, 2017 at 5.00 pm
in Committee Room 2, at 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 note the minutes of the meetings of the:
 - (a) former Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector Scrutiny Board held on 10 April, 2017;
 - (b) former Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board held on 12 April, 2017;
 - (c) former Housing Scrutiny Board held on 26 April, 2017.
4. Director's Presentation of Key Issues and Priorities.
5. Work Programme 2017/2018.

J Britton
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillor Edis (Chair);
Councillor Goult (Vice-Chair);
Councillor Hevican (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Allcock, Bawa, Ashman, Hadley, Phillips, R Price, Underhill and White;
Mr M Babb (Co-opted member).

Agenda prepared by Alex Goddard
Democratic Services Unit - Tel: 0121 569 3178
E-mail: alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

This document is available in large print on request to the above telephone number. The document is also available electronically on the Committee Management Information System which can be accessed from the Council's web site on www.sandwell.gov.uk

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board**Apologies for Absence**

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

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities 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 Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector Scrutiny Board

10th April 2017 at 5.30pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Ahmed (Chair);
Councillor Hevican (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Frear, EM Giles and Hickey.

Apology: Councillor Philips.

Also present: Max Cookson (Waste and Transport Manager);
Chris Jones (Manager – Sport & Leisure Strategy
and Development).

6/17

Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th February, 2017 be approved as a correct record.

7/17

Update on Black Patch Park, Smethwick

The Board received an update on Black Patch Park in Smethwick from the Council's Waste and Transport Manager.

The park had been subject to considerable amounts of fly-tipping and unauthorised encampments over a number of years. While the Council had installed fencing around part of the park's perimeter to address fly-tipping, the park was still a target for unauthorised encampments. These encampments caused extensive damage to the park which cost the Council considerable amounts to clean up and put right. This also prevented the local community from making proper use of the park and prevented the Council from developing longer-term plans for improvements to Black Patch Park.

Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector
Scrutiny Board – 10th April 2017

The Cabinet had agreed in March to construct a 'temporary transit site' within the borough. This would help reduce the number of unauthorised encampments as well as reducing the length of time and the impact of such encampments. Planning permission was to be sought for the site in May 2017.

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

- in addition to the fencing erected at the park, a number of other measures had been installed to deter unauthorised encampments, including concrete blocks;
- as the Black Patch area was highly industrialised, it was attractive to fly-tippers due to the low level of natural surveillance;
- it was acknowledged that the Black Patch area had a long-standing historic link to the local Roma community;
- due to the proximity of the park to the Sandwell-Birmingham border, it might be useful to talk to Birmingham City Council about any future improvements at the park;
- if Planning Committee approved the temporary transit site, the Parks Service would plan preparatory work at the park to grass and trees to support whatever future improvements agreed for the park;
- there was an active Friends of Black Patch Park group which should be engaged during the development of any proposals for improvements at the park.

The Board thanked the officer for attending the meeting.

Resolved that the Cabinet Members for Leisure and Regeneration and Economic Investment be requested to consider meeting with representatives of community groups in the Black Patch area of Smethwick to discuss proposals for that area and what they could mean for Black Patch Park.

Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector
Scrutiny Board – 10th April 2017

8/17

Evaluation of the Summer Activities Programme

The Board received a presentation on the evaluation of the 2016 Summer Activities Programme that was commissioned by the Council and delivered by a number of local organisations across the six towns.

A “one off” programme registration scheme was utilised, where participants could register online or on site by completing a paper registration form. Once a participant had registered, they could attend any session at any of the parks included in the programme. In total, 5985 participants registered to be able to attend sessions, an increase of 2211 from the 2015 programme.

The programme was delivered from sites in each of Sandwell’s six towns. In 2016, the sites were:-

Oldbury – Barnford Park;
Rowley Regis – Britannia Park;
Smethwick – Victoria Park;
Tipton – Jubilee Park;
Wednesbury – Brunswick Park;
West Bromwich – Sandwell Valley.

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

- wherever possible, organisations local to each town were commissioned. While this was not always possible, all providers were from Sandwell;
- multi-sports proved the most consistently popular activity. This included football, cricket, rounders, basketball and more. Such sessions were often tailored to participant group size and the preferences of the participants in attendance;
- 56% of participants were male, with most attendees being between 0 and 12 years of age. Participation amongst young people aged 13+ was considerably lower;
- most participants were from Sandwell (78%); the remainder came from Birmingham, Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector
Scrutiny Board – 10th April 2017

- most of the attendees at each town's programme were from wards local to the park where activities were delivered. Sandwell Valley attracted participants from across Sandwell and the wider West Midlands. This was possibly due to the Valley's status as a regional visitor attraction – young people may have been attending the site with their family and then opted to join in with an activity being delivered by the programme;
- the Youth Parliament had been consulted on the types of activities to offer through the programme;
- discussions were ongoing about what activities programme might be operated this year.

The Board thanked the officer for attending the meeting.

(The meeting ended at 6.30pm)

Contact Officer: Alex Goddard Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3178
--

Minutes of the Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board

12th April, 2017 at 5.00 pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Crompton (Chair);
Councillor Ashman (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Allcock, Downing and White.

Apology: Councillor P Hughes.

In Attendance: Julia Bridgett, Contract Manager;
Max Cookson, Waste and Transport Manager;
Stephen Gabriel, Strategic Manager;
Mark Peniket, General Manager, Community Safety and Estate Services.

4/17 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting of the held on 8th February, 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

5/17 **Cleaner Environments – Flytipping**

The Contract Manager outlined the report relating to flytipping in Sandwell, she highlighted that the incidents and the public's awareness and/or experience of flytipping were on the rise.

The Board was advised that the tonnage of flytipped waste disposed of in 2016/17 was estimated to have increased by around 30% compared to 2015/16 and the number of requests for flytipping removal had also increased compared to 2015/16.

The Board was advised of a number of local factors that influenced the amount of flytipping in Sandwell and as a result of the impact on local communities a group of officers led by Public Health had

formed a group to tackle the issue of flytipping in the Borough. The Board was advised that the group had produced a draft strategy to be reviewed by the Cabinet Member for Public Health. The draft strategy was based on identifying flytipping issues and key sites, developing a package of resources and actions needed to rectify these issues plus targeted enforcement activities and a communication campaign.

The Contract Manager advised that approximately 40% of reports of flytipping were made using the online form on the customer portal and when flytips on Council owned land were received the Waste Client Team referred the matter to the relevant department. The Portal Development Team had started to collate data relating to the Portal and would over the next few years be able to see what trends were occurring.

In response to questions the Board was advised that approximately 40% of flytipping removal requests related to private land. Board was advised that if the flytipping takes place on land cleansed by SERCO, the Councils contractor for waste services, they were required to remove the flytip within 24 hours; if the flytip request related to privately owned land Environmental Health was notified; and if flytipping had taken place on private land the landowner advised about their responsibility for clearing their own land.

In response to points raised relating to prosecution of offenders the Board was advised that if an incident was reported verbally to the department or SERCO many offences were just dealt with and not always added to the portal. The Board considered the importance of formally recording all incidences of flytipping on the portal to track the number, frequency and location of the incident. If there was any evidence of where the flytipping had come from such as names, addresses or business addresses, this should also be recorded.

Officers highlighted the importance of establishing patterns of flytipping to target hotspots and identify future interventions such as mobile CCTV technology and special operations. The evidence collated would also measure performance of the contract in response and number of incidents more effectively.

The Board agreed that more joined up thinking was needed to ensure that photograph evidence was taken and that a search of material was conducted before any evidence was removed from the site. It was suggested that email responses to reports of flytipping

should highlight the need for the incident to be logged and any evidence be added to the portal log.

In response to questions about removal of hazardous waste that had been discarded the Strategic Waste Manager advised that if the hazardous waste was on SERCO contract land it would be removed in under four hours; normal waste would be removed in 24 hours. He advised that if the hazardous waste was on Housing owned land it would be referred to the Housing Team to deal with and that no timelines were known for this action to take place. He advised that once passed to a private owner to remove hazardous waste they would have to engage a specialist to advise and remove the hazardous waste; the timeline for this action was not known.

The Strategic Manager advised that development of a rapid response team was being considered however this would not have an impact on removal of materials from private land as the Council cannot access the land without the permission of the land owner and the landowner has to be given opportunity to remove the waste either way there would be a cost implication of the flytipping for the landowner. He confirmed that Section 215 untidy land notices were issued for the land owner to clean up the site.

The Board discussed large amounts of flytipping that were blight on the area and the time taken for an Environment Agency (EA) emergency notice to be enforced. The Board heard that officers had the power to take the landowner to court for the fine to be agreed but it would take years and the waste could remain for many years following the court case; this depended on what waste was stored on the site, such as oil.

The Board asked for clarification of the difference responses for domestic flytipping and industrial flytipping and was advised that the Environment Agency only deal with permitted premises and that a lot had been passed to the Local Authority.

There was an increase in advertising for removal of waste from businesses and homes. Officers highlighted the need to make the residents aware that they had a duty of care to ensure that any waste removal operators should hold a valid waste transfer licence for the driver to conduct his business and that the waste should be disposed of at a properly permitted site. The householder should check the waste transfer licence and could be responsible for any fines relating to flytipping should the materials be disposed of

illegally and the flytipping was linked back to them.

The Board was advised that the actions of unlicensed operators should be made publically known, the Board highlighted that many residents would not knowingly engage in unauthorised waste transfers and risk being fined.

In response to questions about use of mobile CCTV cameras the Board was advised that there was use of mobile cameras but there was a need to be more astute about where to place them to protect and make best use of the resource.

The Board highlighted the need to make the public aware of the issues highlighted and for officers to be vigilant and to carry out operations to check vehicles, check carrier's licences and for waste management licence.

The Board considered that waste removal operators technically were carrying out work for hire or reward and therefore would require a carrier's licence and waste management licence. Any business using unlicensed services for trade waste, that was disposed of illegally, would be accountable. The Board indicated that the Council needed to strengthen enforcement actions and increase the number of fixed penalty tickets issued.

The Board questioned whether the change in opening times to the Household Recycling Centre at Oldbury had had an impact on the levels of flytipping of household waste in Sandwell and was advised that it was difficult to correlate flytipping to these changes.

The Contract Manager indicated that some flytipping removal requests did not specify the difference between side waste and flytipping. Side waste was black bin bags placed on the pavement next to ordinary domestic bins, when the bins were full. The Board felt it was necessary to differentiate between side waste and flytipping in future statistical information.

The Board was advised that there would be a communications campaign to raise public awareness about waste removal operators, flytipping, a number of operations to challenge unlicensed waste removal operators and how to report instances of flytipping using the council portal.

The Board was advised that the Cabinet Member – Public Health

would be considering a report and proposals relating to regulatory and leisure services working more closely and the resources necessary to create a specific team to respond to reports of flytipping in Sandwell.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Cabinet Member – Public Health raise public awareness of their responsibility in relation to waste removal contractors they employed as follows:
 - check that they held a valid waste carriers licence and disposed of the waste at a permitted site;
 - be aware of their responsibility for any fines resulting from offences should they not exercise their householder duty of care.
- (2) that the Director – Prevention and Protection inform all councillors and officers of the need to use the Portal to record all instances of flytipping and to provide any photographic evidence and witness details for officers to log and initiate appropriate action.

6/17

Updates from the Chair and Vice-Chair

CCTV Centre visits

The Service Manager Neighbourhoods provided a monitoring report relating to the recommendations approved by Cabinet 22 February 2017.

The Board was advised that external assistance had been engaged to scope out the expansion of the CCTV and Concierge Service across 27 blocks and that work had commenced prepare technical assistance in preparing the tender documents for the provision.

At its meeting on 19th April, 2017 the Cabinet was to consider a recommendation of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board to consider the use of £3.2 million underspend from the Housing Revenue Account to fund the expansion of CCTV and Concierge services in high rise housing stock.

The Board was advised that no further investigations of alternative funding solutions for monitoring and maintenance of the CCTV camera's in Town Centres had taken place, but that the recommendations would be pursued with an investigation towards further income generation in relation to alarm receiving at the CCTV Centre.

In relation to the third recommendation, the allocations policy did take account of vulnerable persons who would qualify under one of the reasonable preference categories for a flat, which would normally secure a property in any event with CCTV provision.

The Board thanked officers for progressing the actions and would continue to monitor the recommendations and outcomes.

Domestic Abuse Advocates work stream

The Chair reported the findings of the Domestic Abuse Advocates work stream which met on the 2nd March 2017 to draw conclusions and draft recommendations.

Cabinet 19 April 2017 would consider the recommendation previously made by this Board that the Director - Children's Services be requested to continue funding for five Domestic Abuse Advisors pro-rata until such time that the outcome of the Domestic Abuse Advocates Impact Assessment had been fully considered.

The work stream group considered the findings of the impact assessment and evidence previously gathered. The Board proposed and agreed the following recommendations:

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director – Prevention and Protection give consideration to making better use of the work of the Domestic Abuse Advocates in safeguarding matters, working with families who are at risk or victims of domestic abuse or violence;
- (2) that the Director – Prevention and Protection carry out a Council evaluation at the end of 2017-18 to establish the

effectiveness of Domestic Abuse Advocates;

- (3) that, dependent on the outcome of an evaluation, the Cabinet investigate potential sustainable funding solutions to maintain the support provided by Domestic Abuse Advocates from April 2018.

Drugs and Alcohol work stream

The Vice-Chair provided a brief update relating to the drugs, alcohol and mental health in young people work stream.

The focus for the work stream was connecting with young people through mentoring and support in schools. The drugs Education, Counselling and Confidential Advice (DECCA) team had provided details of the Project 12 initiative which was starting in schools.

The Vice-Chair highlighted the importance of drawing from the experiences of young people who had recovered from drugs and alcohol problems and the impact it had on them their friends and families.

Further evidence would be required from parents of young people who had been through addictions with drugs and alcohol mentoring; supporting parents of young people who currently had drug and alcohol problems and organisations that work with young offenders in relation to reduction of drugs and alcohol dependencies.

(Meeting ended at 6:05 pm)

Contact Officer: Deb Breedon Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3896

Minutes of the Housing Scrutiny Board

26th April, 2017 at 5.00 pm
at Jack Judge House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor P Hughes (Chair);
Councillor Edis (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Preece, Shaeen and Tranter.
Mr M Babb (Co-opted Member).

Apology: Councillor B Price.

13/17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 13th December 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

14/17 Update on Town Workshops

Further to Minute No. 7/16 (29th September, 2016) the Board noted that workshops had taken place in Smethwick, Tipton and Wednesbury so far. The purpose of the workshops was to discuss a range of housing issues in the towns.

The workshops had been attended by both members and officers and had been well received. The Board noted the specific issues raised within each town and the following key themes, which had been raised in all three of the towns: -

- Age restrictions were causing delays in letting properties, and consequently rental losses.
- The requirement to prove that a person had lived in Sandwell for at least five years or had a close connection to be eligible for a Council property was having a negative impact on demand, causing higher void losses.

Housing Scrutiny Board – 26th April, 2017

- There was a lack of large family houses and also a lack of two bedroom houses across the borough.
- The number of houses of multiple occupation was on the increase.

Members expressed particular concern at the impact that age restrictions on flats was having on letting vacant properties and the detrimental effect on the Council's rental income. It was reported that the City of Wolverhampton Council had discontinued the use of age restrictions and had not seen any increase in anti-social behaviour levels as a result.

The Board also discussed the idea of the introduction of a sixth priority band for the Council's housing register, which would be open to people who were unable to provide proof that they had lived in or had a connection to the borough for five years. This would assist in addressing demand issues for flatted accommodation and reduce financial losses from void properties.

A member of the public present at the meeting asked what the Council was doing to address issues of under-occupation. The General Manager-Housing Services reported that the Council was currently focussing on under-occupied four bedroom houses. Whilst the Council was unable to force people to move, there were options available to incentivise and support people to. He added that properties in the Council's high rise blocks were of an excellent standard, with 24 hour security, and needed to be promoted better.

The Board noted that those tenants under-occupying properties who were in receipt of benefits could accrue arrears as a result of the under-occupancy penalty. The Board was informed that all tenants subject to the under-occupancy penalty were offered the opportunity to move before the penalty was introduced. Those who had declined to move and accrued arrears as a result were dealt with in accordance with the Council's usual arrears procedure. The Board endorsed this approach and recommended that the Interim Director – Neighbourhoods actively pursue such cases and the Cabinet Member make a policy statement to support this stance.

Workshops in Oldbury, Rowley Regis and West Bromwich would be held in due course and a summary of the key issues from all six towns would be used as a basis for consultation with the public and the Tenant Review Panel.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Interim Director – Neighbourhoods be requested to take action to actively pursue and take appropriate action against tenants who have continued to under-occupy Council properties, despite being offered opportunities to move, and are in rent arrears as a consequence of the under-occupancy penalty;
- (2) that in connection with recommendation (1) above the Cabinet Member for Housing be requested to make a policy statement to endorse the action of the Interim Director – Neighbourhoods in relation to rent arrears connected to the under-occupancy penalty.

15/17

Impact of Welfare Reform in Sandwell

The Board received a presentation on the implementation of the welfare reform measures that the Government planned to introduce and the Council's efforts to prepare residents to minimise the impact of the changes. The progress of each of the welfare reform measures was noted.

The Board discussed the implementation of Universal Credit in Sandwell, which had been phased in for new claimants from 2015 but would be fully implemented for all claimants from July, 2018. 68% of tenants would be affected and in some cases the amount of Universal Credit they could claim would not be equal to what they claimed under the previous benefits regime. In addition, there was an eight-week delay in processing claims, and no payment for the first seven days, therefore many tenants could immediately find themselves in arrears. It was noted that pilot authorities had seen an increase in rent arrears by 40%. For those claimants deemed to be vulnerable the arrears team could arrange for the rental element of Universal Credit to be paid directly to their landlord. The Board noted that the Department for Work and Pensions had not defined "vulnerable" in this context. Job Centre Plus had referred around 33 residents to the Sandwell Financial Services Hub, however, there was no follow up information on what support they had been able to access. The Chair reported that funding for the Hub was due to come to an end and requested that the future sustainability of the Hub be looked at to ensure that it remained as a provision to support residents.

Housing Scrutiny Board – 26th April, 2017

The Board noted a working example of how a family with three children would lose around £60 a week as a consequence of the freeze on working age benefits. The Board also noted that grandparents taking care of their grandchildren would be negatively affected, despite the fact that they would be saving the public sector money on foster care fees. Those people who chose to pursue a Special Guardianship Order could claim some benefits which minimised the impact, however not all relative carers chose to do this. Members felt that the Council should take a pro-active approach in identifying relative carers that would be affected and provide appropriate advice on Special Guardianship.

An Officer Working Group had been established in 2011 to co-ordinate the Council's response by planning and delivering support to those affected. All directorates were represented on the Group and information was shared across services to ensure best use of resources. The Council's response had been pro-active and, using data provided by the Department for Work and Pensions, all affected private tenants and Council tenants had been contacted to advise them of the changes and their impact. Neighbourhoods staff had received training to provide appropriate advice and support, including signposting to other agencies. The Group had also briefed to members. In many cases advice and support was all that the Council could provide, given the stringent nature of the changes.

Future priorities for the Working Group included expanding its work with external partners, understanding repeat users of local welfare provision and discretionary housing payments to plan support in response to need. A web based support portal – “BetterOff Sandwell” – was due to be launched to complement face to face advice services. It was hoped that directing people to web based support services would ensure that resources for face to face support could be directed to those in the most need.

Members welcomed the informative presentation and thanked officers for their enthusiasm and commitment in helping those in need.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Executive Director-Resources be requested to investigate and clarify the financial sustainability of the Sandwell Financial Services Hub to ensure that it

Housing Scrutiny Board – 26th April, 2017

remains available as a source of advice and support for residents;

- (2) that the Director-Children and Families and the Executive Director-Resources be requested to identify relative carers who do not have Special Guardianship Orders and provide appropriate advice to ensure that they are not adversely affected by welfare reform.

16/17 Thanks

The Chair thanked members and officers for their support in conducting the business of the Board in 2016/2017.

(Meeting ended at 7.41 pm.)

Contact Officer: Stephnie Hancock Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3189
--

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board**27 July, 2017****Director's Presentation of Key Issues and Priorities**

The Board will receive a presentation from the Interim Director - Neighbourhoods relating to the key issues and priorities for services that fall within the remit of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.

The presentation will inform work programme planning for this Board for 2017-18.

Darren Carter
Executive Director – Resources

Contact Officer
Alex Goddard
Scrutiny Officer
0121 569 3178

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board**27 July, 2017****Work Programme 2017/2018****1. Summary Statement**

- 1.1 The Board is asked to consider its work programme for 2017/2018 and the establishment of any working groups as a vehicle to deliver the work programme.
- 1.2 Setting a work programme is an important stage in the scrutiny process. A well-planned work programme should focus on issues where scrutiny can add value, support the Council's 2030 Vision and enhance the services that the Council delivers.
- 1.3 Following a review of the Council's governance structure, at its meeting on 16 May, 2017 the Council established four scrutiny boards and a scrutiny management board - Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board - to deliver Sandwell's scrutiny function. The diagram at Appendix 1 sets out the structure. The Council appointed two vice-chairs to each scrutiny board, who will take the lead on a topic from within their respective Board's terms of reference, reporting back to the Board the findings of that work.
- 1.4 The Terms of Reference of this Board is attached as Appendix 2.
- 1.5 Officers from Democratic Services have been co-ordinating the gathering of suggested topics for the five scrutiny boards' work programmes for 2017/2018. This process has included:-
 - contacting all councillors seeking their suggestions;
 - contacting directors for suggestions;
 - seeking suggestions from staff via the Council's weekly communication email.
- 1.6 As well as reflecting the Council's 2030 Vision, work programmes should reflect local needs and priorities. Scrutiny welcomes and values suggestions for its work programmes from the public.

Suggestions were therefore also sought from the public via the Council's social media platforms and newsletters. Around 60 suggestions were received.

- 1.7 Appendix 3 sets out the suggestions received from all sources relating to this Board's terms of reference, it includes incomplete reviews from 2016/2017 that are now within the remit of this Board.
- 1.8 The prioritisation tool is attached as Appendix 4, which the Board should utilise in determining its work programme.
- 1.9 The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board has responsibility for approval of work programmes to ensure that there is efficient use of resources and that potential for duplication of effort is reduced.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Board considers the suggestions received from members, partners and the public and, using the Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool, determines its draft work programme for 2017/2018.
- 2.2 That the Board gives consideration to the establishment of working groups to support its two vice-chairs on delivery of their key areas of responsibility.
- 2.3 That the Board submits its draft work programme for 2017/2018 to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for approval.

Darren Carter
Executive Director – Resources

Contact Officer

Alex Goddard
Scrutiny Officer
0121 569 3178

3. Strategic Resource Implications

- 3.1 The Scrutiny function is directly supported by Scrutiny Officers within the Council's Governance service, with technical expertise and evidence on specific matters provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.
- 3.2 The strategic resource implications of the topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to members on a case by case basis.

4. Legal and Statutory Implications

- 4.1 Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees.
- 4.2 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.

5. Implications for the Sandwell Vision 2030

- 5.1 A series of ambitions for Sandwell were developed around key themes identified by the Cabinet. The Sandwell 2030 Vision and 10 ambitions will provide a new vision for Sandwell and subsequently a new Performance Management Framework that replaces the Council's scorecard.
- 5.2 Following consultation and engagement with the public and partners around developing the new vision for Sandwell, the Council will be formally considering and adopting the Sandwell Vision 2030 at its meeting on 18 July, 2017. The vision and the ten ambitions drives both the Council's own business and budget planning process and drives wider partnership activity in Sandwell.
- 5.3 The Council's vision focuses on creating a resilient borough in terms of both Sandwell's people and the place and ambition to:
 - 1. Raise aspirations and resilience
 - 2. Healthier for longer and safer
 - 3. Young people to have skills for the future
 - 4. Raising the quality of schools
 - 5. Lowering crime and ASB
 - 6. Excellent public transport to the region and beyond
 - 7. Major new housing along transport routes and employment sites

8. Create environments in the six towns where people chooses to live
9. Hosting industries of the future
10. National reputation for getting things done

5.4 The ambitions have been factored into work programme planning for 2017/18 and each report will identify the ambition that is relevant to the topic of the report.

6. Background Details

6.1 Scrutiny is a member-led function. It is vital that scrutiny members take responsibility for both drawing up and managing their own work programme. The work programme is a working document and should be flexible to respond to new or urgent issues and members can add, remove, and defer items as necessary. A work programme will provide a clear picture to the public and partners of planned scrutiny activity for the year.

6.2 An effective scrutiny work programme should reflect a balance of activities:-

- holding the executive to account
- holding partners to account
- policy review and development
- performance management
- public and community engagement

6.3 Work programmes should be based on sound criteria with a clear rational for each item. The Scrutiny Team has developed the attached Prioritisation Tool to support the Board through the work programming process. The tool has proven to be a sound method for developing a robust work programme and has been requested by and shared with neighbouring authorities.

6.4 In addition to the prioritisation tool a template has been developed to focus each item on the work programme to be signed off by the Chair of the Board. The 'Item Brief' template will identify the following:-

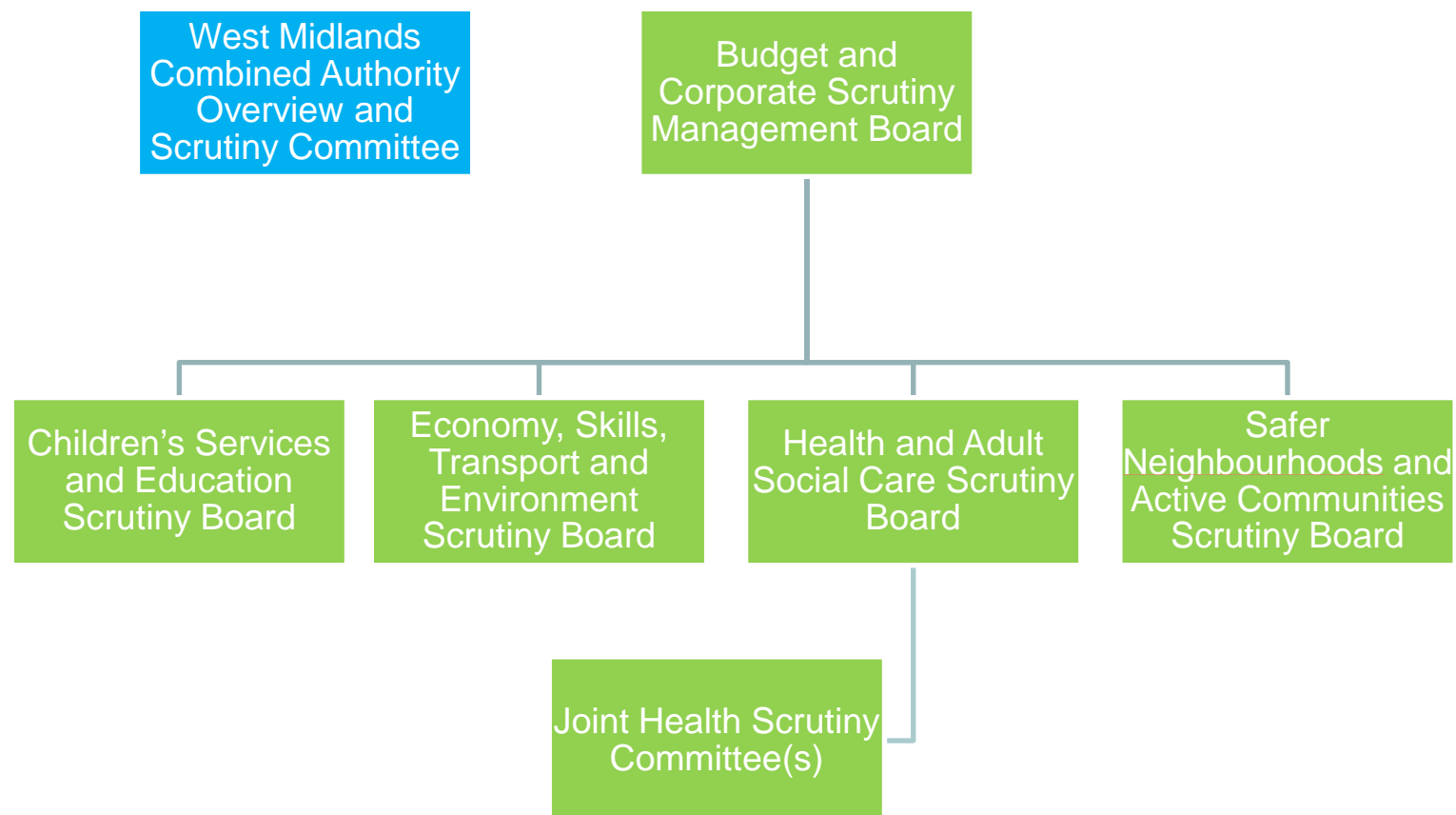
- the reason for and purpose of the item;
- the intended outcome(s);
- links to the Council Vision;
- any specific lines of enquiry requested;
- the lead Director.

6.5 In-depth reviews identified for inclusion in the work programme will be subject to the completion and agreement of a 'Scoping Document'. This document is used to set parameters for the review, identify work tasks and to ensure the work remains focussed and on track. The Scoping Document will identify the following:-

- the reason for and purpose of the item;
- the intended outcome(s);
- links to the Council Vision;
- any specific lines of enquiry requested;
- the lead Director and key officers;
- existing data sources relevant to the topic;
- review work programme (reports, visits, workshops, focus groups etc.)

It should be noted that Scoping Documents are living documents and will be revisited throughout the life of the review to ensure it remains relevant, focussed and possible to deliver.

Appendix 1



Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Terms of Reference

As set out in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules contained in Part 4 of the Council's Constitution to scrutinise recommendations, consider referrals under the Call for Action process, and contribute to decision making and policy development through pre-decision scrutiny processes in relation to the following matters:-

- (1) crime and community safety;
- (2) trading standards;
- (3) emergency planning and civil resilience;
- (4) leisure and tourism opportunities in the borough;
- (5) libraries, museums and the Community History and Archive Service;
- (6) the planning and provision of green spaces including parks and local nature reserves;
- (7) voluntary and community sector support;
- (8) partnership working to strengthen the third sector in Sandwell;
- (9) community development;
- (10) strategic housing policy;
- (11) social housing;
- (12) private rented sector rented accommodation;
- (13) homelessness.

In relation to the Council's scrutiny functions as set out in section 19 Police and Justice Act 2006, the Board will:

- (a) scrutinise decisions and actions of the Council and "responsible bodies" (as defined in section 5 Crime and Disorder Act 1998) relating to the performance of crime and disorder functions;

- (b) consider local crime and disorder matters referred to the Board by a councillor;
- (c) make reports and recommendations to the Council and responsible bodies.

The following issues were put forward as part of the public consultation on scrutiny work programmes and the Board is advised to utilise the prioritisation tool attached at appendix 4 to determine which issue it would like to place on its Work Programme for 2017/2018.

- Private Rented Housing
- Markets in Sandwell
- Food Hygiene Inspections
- Problem Neighbours
- Outdoor Entertainment (Fairs etc.) – siting by dwellings causing disturbance
- Dog Fouling (2)
- Housing Overcrowding
- Wednesbury Art Gallery (operation/management of)
- Sports development provision (after March 2018)
- Sandwell's response to the refugee crisis (3)
- Misuse of canal tow paths, motorbikes and ASB (2)
- Acknowledgement/celebration of national and international days
- Opening hours of libraries – evening specifically
- Emergency housing for the homeless

Numbers indicate those suggestions that were received multiple times.

During 2017/2018 the Board, along with the former Housing Scrutiny Board, established a Joint Working Group to carry out a review of the Council's policies on aids and adaptations. As this review was not completed during 2016/2017, and crosses terms of reference of two scrutiny boards, the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board will need to determine which scrutiny board completes the review.

In addition, at its meeting on 7 July, 2017, the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, during its consideration of the Financial Outturns for 2016/17 asked the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board to review the Council's approach to generating income from the museums and libraries service.

