

**Safer Neighbourhoods and
Active Communities
Scrutiny Board**

**Thursday 21 September, 2017 at 5 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 confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 27 July 2017 as a correct record.
4. Review of Income Generation Opportunities for the Council's Culture and Leisure Facilities.

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
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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 Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

**27th July, 2017 at 5.00pm
at Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor Edis (Chair);
Councillor Goult (Vice-Chair);
Councillors Allcock, Ashman, Phillips, R Price,
Underhill and White.

Apologies: Councillors Hadley and Hevican.

In Attendance: A Ali (Interim Director – Neighbourhoods).

1/17 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the following meetings be noted:-

- (1) former Leisure, Culture and the Third Sector Scrutiny Board held on 10 April, 2017;
- (2) former Community Safety, Highways and Environment Scrutiny Board held on 12 April, 2017;
- (3) former Housing Scrutiny Board held on 26 April, 2017.

2/17 Director's Presentation of Key Issues and Priorities

The Interim Director – Neighbourhoods attended the meeting and presented to the Board on the services within the Neighbourhoods Directorate, which included:-

- Housing services;
- Community services;
- Community safety;
- Libraries, museums and culture;
- Parks and leisure;
- Customer services.

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The presentation set out the key issues facing the services within the Directorate and the focus over the next 6 months and for the longer term.

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

- The Service Manager level posts within the Directorate were almost all now filled; interviews for the remaining post were imminent.
- The Government's 1% rent reductions for council tenants had impacted on business planning and investment possibilities. The Council had carefully planned for the reduction in income to minimise its impact.
- Rowley Regis and Oldbury had already had Universal Credit introduced. This would be rolled out to the other towns of Sandwell. Other parts of the country had already been converted to Universal Credit and it was reported that other councils had experienced increases in arrears following its introduction.
- Age restrictions on council-owned housing were being reviewed and would be brought to the Board for consideration.
- Although there would always be a need for face to face contact for certain members of the community, the move to a 'digital by default' method of contact was reflective of changes in how people prefer to access services (for example banking, shopping, entertainment). It was acknowledged that cost of equipment and access to the internet could be a barrier for some people, as could a lack of the necessary digital skills.
- A third of the Council's apprenticeships were hosted by the Neighbourhoods Directorate. With an ageing workforce it was important for experienced members of staff to be able to share their knowledge and experience; workplace apprenticeships provided such an opportunity.
- In 2016 abandon rates for calls to the Council's contact centre were up to 35%, since a service redesign took place and training programmes for staff were introduced, this had reduced to approximately 5-8%.

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- Following the tragic fire at Grenfell Tower, London, the Council had reviewed the panelling used on its blocks of flatted accommodation. At its meeting on 26th July, the Cabinet had received a report on replacement aluminium panels on four such blocks.

The Board thanked the Director for attending the meeting.

3/17 Work Programme 2017/18

The Board was asked to consider its work programme for 2017/2018 and the establishment of any working groups as a vehicle to deliver the work programme.

Following a review of the Council's governance structure, at its meeting on 16th May, 2017 the Council had established four scrutiny boards and a scrutiny management board - Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board - to deliver Sandwell's scrutiny function. The Council had also appointed two vice-chairs to each scrutiny board, who would take the lead on a topic from within their respective Board's terms of reference, reporting back to the Board on the findings of that work.

As well as reflecting the Council's 2030 Vision, work programmes were to reflect local needs and priorities. Suggestions had therefore been sought from the public and partners via the Council's social media platforms and newsletters and the Board noted the suggestions received in respect of its terms of reference. Some of these suggestions would be included within reviews undertaken by either the Board or by the two Vice-Chair led working groups.

In addition, at its meeting on 7th July, 2017, the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, during its consideration of the Financial Outturns for 2016/17 asked the Board to review the Council's approach to generating income from the museums and libraries services. Members felt that this review should also include wider leisure and culture facilities.

Resolved, that, subject to the approval of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board:-

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- (1) a Housing Scrutiny Working Group be established comprising Councillors Hevican (Vice-Chair), Ashman, Phillips, R Price and Underhill, with the co-opted member from the Tenant Review Panel, to undertake a review of private rented housing in Sandwell;
- (2) a Crime and Anti-Social Behaviour Scrutiny Working Group be established comprising Councillor Goult (Vice-Chair) and Councillors Allcock, Bawa, Edis, Hadley and White to undertake reviews of anti-social behaviour with vehicles and 101 responses;
- (3) the following items be placed on the Board's work programme for consideration in 2017/2018:-
 - (a) Review of income generation opportunities of the borough's leisure and culture facilities;
 - (b) Meeting with the Chair of the Safer Sandwell Partnership Local Police and Crime Board;
 - (c) Universal Credit – impact on the borough and how the Council supports vulnerable people;
 - (d) The Council's response to the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017.

(Meeting ended at 6.35pm)

<p>Contact Officer: Alex Goddard Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3178</p>

REPORT TO SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY BOARD

21 September 2017

Subject:	Review of Income Generation Opportunities for the Council's Culture and Leisure Facilities
Cabinet Portfolio:	Councillor Richard Marshall - Cabinet Member for Leisure Councillor Syeda Khatun - Cabinet Member for Neighbourhoods and Communities
Director:	Director – Homes and Communities – Alan Caddick
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Alex Goddard, Scrutiny Officer alexander_goddard@sanwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:

1. Receive and consider the scene-setting information on the existing leisure and culture facilities in the borough;
2. Discuss and agree a scoping document for the review of Income Generation Opportunities for the Council's Culture and Leisure Facilities.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To provide the Board with an overview of the Council's leisure and culture facilities.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR THE COUNCIL'S VISION

- 2.1 The review will directly support the Council's ambition to make our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families. The opportunities to support this ambition will be explored in more depth throughout the life of the review.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 At its meeting on 27 July 2017 the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities decided to undertake a review of income generation opportunities for the Council's culture and leisure facilities.
- 3.2 The Council has re-established a Select Committee for Leisure Provision which will soon conclude work relating to sport and swimming in Sandwell. It is therefore important to ensure that the review by the Board focus on other leisure and culture facilities.
- 3.3 There is an ongoing project about Community Hubs which will involve various types of facility and service in Sandwell; a presentation on this will be given by officers at the meeting.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Information on the Council's leisure and culture facilities is attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.2 The Board is invited to discuss and agree a scoping document for the review to set out what it wishes to consider and what evidence it wishes to seek to assist it in identifying income generation opportunities that may exist through the Council's leisure and culture facilities.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 The Board will be invited to consider how it intends to engage with customers and other stakeholders as part of the scoping of the review.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not proceed with the review then it could result in missed opportunities to generate income through our cultural and leisure assets.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 These will be considered in detail as part of the review work.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 These issues will be considered as part of the review.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 Equality matters will be considered during the review work.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 This will be considered as part of the review.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 These issues will be considered as part of the review.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 Increasing income generation opportunities can improve the sustainability of services and facilities, protecting them for future use.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 These will be identified and investigated as part of the review.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 Any impact on the Council owned facilities will be considered as part of the review.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The review presents an opportunity to identify good practice, develop options for improvements and protect services through increased income.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

17 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – the Council's leisure and culture facilities.

Alan Caddick
Director – Homes and Communities

Appendix 1

Council Leisure and Culture Facilities in Sandwell

Please note that this list does not include sports facilities and swimming pools. These have already been the subject of a review by the Select Committee for Leisure Provision since 2016.

Oldbury

Name	Type of facility	Ward
Bleakhouse Library	Library	Bristnall
Brandhall Library	Library	Old Warley
Langley Library	Library	Langley
Oldbury Library	Library	Oldbury
Rounds Green Library	Library	Langley
Hurst Road Community Centre	Community Centre	Bristnall
Langley Lodge Community Centre	Community Centre	Langley
Barnford Park	Park	Langley
Tividale Park	Park	Oldbury
Langley Park	Park	Langley
Broadwell Park	Park	Langley
Bury Hill Park	Park	Langley

Rowley Regis

Name	Type of facility	Ward
Blackheath Library	Library	Blackheath
Cradley Heath Library	Library	Cradley Heath and Old Hill
Oakham Library	Library	Tividale
Haden Hill House Museum	Historic Building and Museum	Cradley Heath and Old Hill
Brickhouse Community Centre	Community Centre	Rowley
Cradley Heath Community Centre	Community Centre	Rowley
Haden Hill Park	Park	Cradley Heath and Old Hill
Britannia Park	Park	Blackheath
Mary MacArthur Gardens	Park	Cradley Heath and Old Hill

Smethwick

Name	Type of facility	Ward
Smethwick Library	Library	Smethwick
Thimblemill Library	Library	Abbey
Community History and Archive Service (CHAS)	Archives (local history)	Smethwick
Galton Valley Pumping Station	Historic Building and Museum	St Paul's
Lightwoods Park	Park	Abbey
Victoria Park	Park	Soho and Victoria
Warley Woods	Park	Abbey
West Smethwick Park	Park	St Paul's
Black Patch Park	Park	Soho and Victoria
Lewisham Park	Park	St Paul's
Smethwick Hall Park	Park	St Paul's
Harry Mitchell Park	Park	Smethwick

Tipton

Name	Type of facility	Ward
Glebefields Library	Library	Princes End
Great Bridge Library	Library	Great Bridge
Tipton Library	Library	Tipton Green
Tipton Community Heritage Museum	Museum	Tipton Green
Farley Park Community Centre	Community Centre	Great Bridge
St Paul's Community Centre	Community Centre	Tipton Green
Tipton Muslim Community Centre	Community Centres	Tipton Green
Victoria Park	Park	Tipton Green
Laybourne Park	Park	Princes End
Coronation Gardens	Park	Tipton Green
Farley Park	Park	Great Bridge
Jubilee Park	Park	Great Bridge

Wednesbury

Name	Type of facility	Ward
Hill Top Library	Library	Wednesbury South
Wednesbury Library	Library	Wednesbury North
Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery	Museum and Art Gallery	Wednesbury South
Hill Top Community Centre	Community Centre	Wednesbury South
Kenrick Park Community Centre	Community Centre	Wednesbury South
Brunswick Park	Park	Wednesbury North
Hill Top Park	Park	Wednesbury South

West Bromwich

Name	Type of facility	Ward
Central Library	Library	West Bromwich Central
Great Barr Library	Library	Great Barr with Yew Tree
Hamstead Library	Library	Newton
Stone Cross Library	Library	Hateley Heath
Oak House Museum	Historic Building and Museum	Greets Green and Lyng
Manor House Museum	Historic Building and Museum	Hateley Heath
Bishop Asbury Cottage	Historic Building	Charlemont with Grove Vale
Charlemont Community Centre	Community Centre	Charlemont with Grove Vale
Lodge Community Centre	Community Centre	Greets Green and Lyng
Tanhouse Community Centre	Community Centre	Newton
West Bromwich Community Centre	Community Centre	Charlemont with Grove Vale
Yew Tree Community Centre	Community Centre	Great Barr with Yew Tree
Sandwell Park Farm	Historic Building and Museum	West Bromwich Central

West Bromwich continued

Name	Type of facility	Ward
Sandwell Valley Country Park	Country Park	West Bromwich Central
Dartmouth Park	Park	West Bromwich Central
Redhouse Park	Park	Great Barr with Yew Tree
Marl Hole Park	Park	West Bromwich Central
Kenrick Park	Park	West Bromwich Central
Oakwood Park	Park	West Bromwich Central