

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Agenda

Thursday 26 November 2020 at 5.45pm

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This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.

- 1. Apologies**
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 2. Minutes**
To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1 October 2020 as a correct record.
- 3. Declarations of Interest**
 - (a) To receive any declarations of interest from members relating to any item on the agenda, in accordance with the provisions of the Code of Conduct and/or S106 of the Local Government Finance Act 1992.
 - (b) To receive any declarations of the existence and nature of any political Party Whip on any matter to be considered at the meeting.
- 4. Additional Items of Business**
To determine whether there are any additional items of business arising which should be considered at the meeting as a matter of urgency.

Public Items

- 5. Discussion with Deputy Leader**
To discuss with the Deputy Leader topics in her portfolio that are within this Board's terms of reference.
- 6. Appointment to the Building Safety Board**
To appoint a participating observer to the Building Safety Board to provide a scrutiny perspective to the work of that body.
- 7. Sandwell Aquatics Centre Update**
To consider an update on the Sandwell Aquatics Centre.

David Stevens
Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution:

Councillors Moore (Chair);

Councillor P M Hughes (Vice-Chair);

Councillors Akhter, Bawa, Bostan, Edwards, M Gill, S Jones, Padda, Sandars and M Yaseen.

Co-opted Member:-

Mr J Cash

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Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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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

Thursday 1 October 2020 at 5.45pm

Present: Councillor Moore (Chair)
Councillors Akhter, Bawa, Bostan, Edwards, M Gill and S Jones.

Officers: Alison Knight (Executive Director – Neighbourhoods);
Alan Caddick (Director – Housing and Communities);
Nigel Columbell (Service Manager – Housing Management Services);
Karl Robinson (Business Manager – Housing Solutions).

14/20 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors P M Hughes, M Y Hussain and Sandars and Mr J Cash.

15/20 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests declared at the meeting.

16/20 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 9 July 2020 were agreed as a correct record.

Reset and Recovery – Phase 1 Findings

The Executive Director – Neighbourhoods presented to the Board the findings of the Communities working group which formed part of the Council's Reset and Recovery Framework.

The working group had considered a range of evidence and the experience in Sandwell was similar to the national situation. A number of key areas had been considered including:-

- mental health;
- food insecurity, digital exclusion and financial hardship;
- social stress;
- Black Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME);
- young people;
- volunteering and the Voluntary/Community Sector.

A series of town member workshops had been held, with the views of councillors sought. These had reflected the findings from other evidence sources.

When considering areas with a prevalence of factors that increased risk such as population age, overcrowding, multiple deprivation and people from BAME backgrounds, it was possible to identify areas of Sandwell with potentially increased risk to COVID-19 including West Bromwich, Smethwick, central Wednesbury and parts of Tipton.

The working group had concluded that COVID-19 had exacerbated existing weaknesses in Sandwell's community relating to underlying poverty and deprivation. It was recognised that the Council needed to do something different to address these underlying vulnerabilities and to do this effectively it was important to ensure:-

- engagement was done in the right way and was culturally sensitive;
- changes in the Council's organisation to do things more corporately;
- resources were more focused in areas of most need;
- clear measures of success.

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

- A range of methods had been used throughout the COVID-19 situation to communicate important information and guidance to the public. This had included social media, websites, partners in the third sector and use of channels such as community radio stations. It was important to continue to improve the way in which the Council communicated with the borough's communities.
- A key area of work was to revisit the Corporate Plan whilst reflecting the impact of, and the need to recover from, the COVID-19 pandemic. It was suggested that this could be brought to a future scrutiny meeting in due course.
- It was important to recognise that it was not just a Council response to COVID-19, but a whole system response involving partners and the voluntary sector. Members agreed, but noted that many organisations looked to local authorities to provide the leadership and co-ordination role.
- Volunteering had seen an increase during the pandemic and the vital role of volunteers was acknowledged, but members were of the view that this shouldn't be a reason for the Council or the Government to reduce other support.
- The Food Hub, that had been required as part of the initial lockdown response to COVID-19, had functioned well. Whilst this area of activity was ending, the Council was able to bring the service back quickly in the event that circumstances require it to return.
- A number of meetings had been held with community leaders and faith leaders across Sandwell but it was acknowledged that this may not have covered all places of worship.
- Guidance had been made available in a number of community languages and people who could speak community languages had supported the Council's Track and Trace activity to help better communicate with residents.

- The Council had sought to engage with people who had entered rent arrears as a result of COVID-19 in different ways and had not looked at enforcement. The Board was advised that whilst rates of arrears had increased, it was not significantly so.

18/20

COVID-19 Reset and Recovery – Neighbourhoods

Further to Minute No. 13/20, the Board received a presentation from the Director – Housing and Communities updating members on the reset and recovery work by the Neighbourhoods directorate in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic.

Within the Neighbourhoods directorate a range of services had already restarted or increased their activities. These included:-

- Grounds Maintenance – all services back to normal working;
- Housing Repairs – service has returned to essential repairs due to local restrictions being in place;
- CCTV and Concierge Services – all services back to normal working;
- Sandwell Valley Phases 1 and 2 – recommencement of services and increase in activities;
- Parks – play areas reopened with signage to explain to users what is expected of them;
- Estate Services and Caretaking – all services back to normal;
- Urban Forestry – all services back to normal;
- Lightwoods House – services reopened, including the restaurant;
- Leisure Centres – both Sandwell Leisure Trust and Places Leisure had restarted services in a restricted way;
- Libraries and Museums – West Bromwich Central Library had reopened on a limited basis. Main libraries in other towns would follow over the coming weeks and months. Consideration was being given to how smaller libraries would operate.

The Board was informed that remaining events this year had been cancelled. This included the annual Bonfire at Dartmouth Park, Christmas at the Valley and Christmas Lights switch-on events.

Officers were looking at how events could be held virtually as an alternative.

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

- Whilst the Council was not seeking enforcement on housing arrears during COVID-19, it still retained enforcement for cases where it was required.
- There was expected to be an increase in demand for services as a result of private landlords evicting tenants following the end of the previous ban on evictions.
- Whilst there would not be any Christmas light switch-on events this year, the lights would still be installed and operate during the festive period as they were well liked by local traders and communities.
- Members requested clarity on arrangements for operating their advice surgeries for their constituents.
- The Council had used the closure of offices to renovate the One Stop Shop.
- Opening of other offices, such as Locals, had to be done whilst mitigating risk to both the public and officers. It was highlighted that people could still pay bills in person at Post Offices and other pay points locally.
- Before the pandemic services were already in the process of being redesigned to encourage digital contact, whilst being mindful of some people's need for face to face services.

Resolved that the Director – Homes and Communities circulate the restart programme for libraries to councillors.

Homelessness Update

Further to Minute No. 13/20 the Board received an update on the Council's activities around homelessness.

An outline of the challenges pre-COVID-19 was presented, which included national drivers such as welfare reform and the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 as well as local challenges including high levels of temporary accommodation use and a high homelessness demand in comparison to the size of the Council.

In order to meet the additional challenges posed by the pandemic, the homelessness-related response to COVID-19 was focussed on six key areas of activity:-

- Planning;
- Rough Sleepers;
- Hospital discharge;
- Asylum and immigration;
- Domestic Abuse;
- Temporary accommodation.

Whilst COVID-19 had presented many challenges, the service had been able to achieve a number of positive outcomes including reduction in the case backlog increases in engagements from rough sleepers and housing more rough sleepers during the period. Use of temporary accommodation was down and use of Bed and Breakfast accommodation was at its lowest level in two years.

The Board was informed that relationship building with private landlords was ongoing and included pre-emptive work with all parties in cases of arrears due to COVID-19. The service was also working with private landlords to develop an incentive model – 'Secure and Sustain'.

It was noted that there would be a continued drive to prevention through early intervention to stop people becoming homeless in the first place.

Members noted the progress made to date on addressing homelessness and rough sleeping. The Board placed on record its thanks to the team for their hard work.

20/20

Work Programme

The Board noted its schedule of meetings until the annual meeting in 2021. Topics for the next meeting had been programmed and included the findings of the consultant's report into Leisure in Sandwell and an update on the Commonwealth Games Aquatic Centre. It was suggested that the relevant Cabinet Member could be invited to the meeting also, to give a general update on matters in their portfolio.

The Board also requested that other Cabinet Members with portfolios relevant to the terms of reference of the Board be invited to give similar updates at other meetings.

The Chair also informed members that it was intended to arrange an additional meeting in late February or early March 2021.

Meeting ended at 7.36pm

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.

REPORT TO

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY BOARD

26 November 2020

Subject:	Discussion with the Deputy Leader
Director:	Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Alex Goddard alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:

1. Consider and comment upon the information presented by the Deputy Leader;
2. Identify any recommendations it wishes to make.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board has asked the Deputy Leader, who also holds the portfolio for Safer Communities, to attend the meeting to discuss matters relating to her portfolio that are within the Board's terms of reference.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The Safer Communities portfolio contributes to a number of ambitions within Vision 2030:-

Ambition 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.

Ambition 5 – Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

Ambition 8 – Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

Ambition 10 – Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Scrutiny Board has requested the Deputy Leader to attend the meeting to discuss matters relating to her portfolio that are within the Board's terms of reference.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 The Deputy Leader will attend the meeting to discuss with the Scrutiny Board matters relating to her portfolio.
- 4.2 The Deputy Leader also has responsibility within the Cabinet for the strategic delivery of Ambition 5 in collaboration with partners across Sandwell and the wider region.
- 4.3 Key areas of the Deputy Leader's portfolio that relate to the terms of reference of the Scrutiny Board include:-

Community Safety;
Emergency planning and civil resilience;
Sports and leisure;
Policy direction for countryside management, nature reserves, parks, green spaces and visitors' centres.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

- 5.1 No consultation was required in relation to this report.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 6.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not consider the information presented to it then potential recommendations and actions to improve services would be missed.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific strategic resources implications arising from this report.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no specific legal or governance considerations arising from this report.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 No equality impact assessment is required for this report.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 No data protection impact assessment is required for this report.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

11.1 There are no specific crime and disorder implications arising from this report, although individual subject matters discussed at the meeting may relate to crime and disorder.

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 There are no specific sustainability issues associated with this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 There are no specific health and wellbeing implications, although individual subject matters discussed at the meeting may have an impact on wellbeing.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There are no specific implications for Council-managed property or land.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Board is invited to consider the information presented to it and determine if there are any recommendations it wishes to make.

16 BACKGROUND PAPERS

16.1 None.

Surjit Tour

Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

REPORT TO

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY BOARD

26 November 2020

Subject:	Appointment to the Building Safety Board
Director:	Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer – Surjit Tour
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Alex Goddard alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:

1. Confirm the appointment of Councillor Bostan to the Building Safety Board as a participating observer for the remainder of the current municipal year.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Cabinet Member for Homes has asked the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board to consider appointing one of its members to the Building Safety Board as a participating Observer.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The Building Safety Board contributes to a number of ambitions within Vision 2030:-

Ambition 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.

Ambition 5 – Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.

Ambition 8 – Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

Ambition 10 – Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

3.1 The Building Safety Board is responsible for reviewing Sandwell's approach to safety in High Risk Residential Buildings and fire prevention measures in the wider Council portfolio. The Board includes representation from both Council service areas and West Midlands Fire Service.

3.2 The terms of reference for the Board are attached as Appendix 1.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

4.1 The Cabinet Member for Homes approached the Scrutiny Board about the possibility of appointing a participating observer to the Building Safety Board.

4.2 At the Chair's request all voting members of the Scrutiny Board were contacted to see if they were interested in taking up the appointment. Councillor Bostan expressed his interest in the role and the Scrutiny Board is now asked to confirm his appointment.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 No consultation was required in relation to this report.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

6.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not appoint a member to act as a participating observer then the opportunity to provide an overview and scrutiny perspective to the Building Safety Board will be lost.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 There are no specific strategic resources implications arising from this report.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no specific legal or governance considerations arising from this report.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 No equality impact assessment is required for this report.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 No data protection impact assessment is required for this report.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

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

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 There are no specific sustainability issues associated with this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 There are no specific health and wellbeing implications.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There are no specific implications for Council-managed property or land from this report, but the work of the Building Safety Board will include matters relating to Council-managed properties.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Board is invited to appoint Councillor Bostan as a participating observer to the Building Safety Board.

16 APPENDICES

Appendix 1 – Terms of Reference for the Building Safety Board

Surjit Tour

Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

Terms Of Reference

Safety Board

Purpose / role of the board:

The Safety Board will be responsible for reviewing Sandwell's approach to safety in High Risk Residential Buildings (HRRB) and fire prevention measures in the wider council portfolio.

Representation

Cabinet Member for Housing
Chief Executive
Executive Director – Neighbourhoods
Director Regeneration & Growth
Director Housing & Communities
Business Manager Fire Safety & Building Surveying
Strategic Lead Design Manager
Strategic Lead – Strategic Assets & Land.
Service Manager – Asset Management and Maintenance.
WMFS - TBA
Cllr Bostan (observer)

Terms of Reference

Make policy and strategy recommendations to the Cabinet.

Agree strategic decisions on future investment plans in relation to safety in HRRB's and fire prevention in the wider council portfolio.

Review and make recommendations for updates and additions to the fire safety action plan.

Review all fire related incidents to consider whether further preventative interventions should be introduced.

Agree the audit plan annually and receive regular reports on audits undertaken.

Make recommendations to Cabinet and other relevant bodies within SMBC for the appointment of consultants, partner organisations and contractors as necessary to ensure effective delivery and auditing of activities related to safety in HRRB's and the Fire Safety Strategy.

To monitor housing delivery and refurb programme (high rise and low rise flats) with particular reference to managing building safety in those premises.

Outputs and frequency of meetings

Meetings will be quarterly.

The Board will receive regular progress reports from the Fire Safety Core group, West Midlands Fire Service, Government Office and other appointed agencies to inform strategic decisions on future investment plans and help shape policy recommendations made by the Board to Cabinet.

Other internal/external stakeholders will be invited to contribute as and when appropriate.

Terms of Reference
Fire Safety Core Group

Representation

Core membership (service areas)
Asset Management & Maintenance
Housing Management
Facilities Management
Business Excellence
Strategy & Research
Community Safety
CCTV Control Room
Emergency planning
Tourism, Culture and Leisure
SCIPS

Terms of reference

The group will:

Review all fire related incidents to consider whether further preventative interventions should be introduced.

Review and make recommendations to the Safety Board for updates and additions to the fire safety action plan.

Agree the audit plan annually and receive regular reports on audits undertaken.

Make policy and strategy recommendations to the Safety Board.

Outputs and frequency of meetings

Meetings will be quarterly.

The group will provide regular reports on progress, including identifying areas of non-compliance and make recommendations for improvements, to the Safety Board.

REPORT TO

SAFER NEIGHBOURHOODS AND ACTIVE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY BOARD

26 November 2020

Subject:	Sandwell Aquatics Centre Project
Cabinet Portfolio:	Councillor Maria Crompton – Cabinet Member for Safer Communities
Director:	Executive Director - Neighbourhoods Dr. Alison Knight
Contribution towards Vision 2030:	
Contact Officer(s):	Chris Jones Project Director

DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS

That Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:

1. Consider and comment upon the information presented on the progress of the Sandwell Aquatics Centre; and
2. Identify any recommendations it wishes to make.

1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 The Scrutiny Board has requested an update on the progress of the Sandwell Aquatics Centre project that is underway to provide a world-class leisure and sport facility for Sandwell, as well as acting as a host venue for the swimming and diving events at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

2 IMPLICATIONS FOR VISION 2030

- 2.1 The Sandwell Aquatics Centre project contributes to a number of ambitions within Vision 2030:

Ambition 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.

Ambition 2 – Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.

Ambition 8 – Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.

Ambition 10 – Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 A report was presented previously at the meeting of the Board on the 3 October 2019. At this time, enabling works had commenced on site to prepare for main construction to start in January 2020 and final designs for the building had been received.
- 3.2 The previous report was prior to final Cabinet approval for the project which was gained at its meeting on 20 November 2019, final contract close with Wates Construction Limited which occurred on 26 November 2019, and the commencement of main construction works.

4 THE CURRENT POSITION

- 4.1 Following the commencement of the main construction work in January 2020, work has continued positively on the Aquatics Centre project.
- 4.2 Although there has been some impact to the programme due to COVID-19 this has been limited due to a proactive approach by Sandwell Council and Wates Construction Limited and the continuing support of Games partners. This proactive approach led to the site being closed for only 24 hours during Lockdown One to ensure that all appropriate health and safety measures were in place. The site is being managed in line with the Construction Leadership Council's Site Operating Procedures Version 6 and all health and safety arrangements are reviewed on a regular basis.

- 4.3 A delivery plan is in place that has been agreed with all Games partners, including Central Government, Birmingham City Council, and the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee and the project is on target to deliver in line with the timescales required to host the swimming and diving events at the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.
- 4.4 The following works are now complete / have been started:
- All enabling works are complete;
 - Foundation piles are complete;
 - All pool tanks are complete and have been measured to make sure they are the correct size;
 - Reinforced concrete works are continuing in line with the programme;
 - The steel frame for the front section of the building is complete and six steel roof trusses are now in place over the pool hall;
 - Work has commenced on the cladding to the front section of the building; and
 - Manufacture of the dive tower has commenced.
- 4.5 Over the next few months the following actions will happen:
- Pool tanks will be filled and tested for leaks (if any leaks should occur time is built into the programme for rectification);
 - Work will continue on the installation of steel structure and roof trusses;
 - Work will continue on the cladding and work will commence on the roofing;
 - Dive tower will start being installed in December; and
 - Work will commence on masonry.
- 4.6 Work has commenced on phase one of the highways works required to support the delivery of the Aquatics Centre. The focus of all highways works associated with the Aquatics Centre is, whilst of course maintain traffic flow in the area, to support sustainable and active travel. The works included in phase one of the highways works are detailed below and will be complete by the end of March 2021:
- Dog Kennel Lane and Bristnall Hall Road – two new zebra crossings (these new zebra crossings are not required to facilitate the new Aquatics Centre but have been installed following consultation with local residents and traders to improve pedestrian travel in the area);

- Manor Road / Londonderry Lane – traffic island to signalised junction with pedestrian crossings and advance stop areas for cyclists;
- Manor Road / Holly Lane – traffic island to signalised junction with pedestrian crossings and advance stop areas for cyclists;
- Holly Lane / St Pauls Road – Give way junction to signalised junction with pedestrian crossings and advance stop areas for cyclists; and
- Londonderry Lane – Puffin crossing upgrade to toucan crossing and associated cycle path.

4.7 Final designs are being developed for highways works phase two which will include improvements to the Queens Road / Londonderry Lane island and also environmental improvements on Londonderry Road. This will be consulted on early in 2021 and completed by the spring of 2022.

4.8 There is a final phase of highways works, phase three, which focuses on road safety on Londonderry Lane close to the Aquatics Centre. These will be complete by spring 2023 prior to the facility opening to the public.

5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)

5.1 Consultation has been carried out throughout the project so far and has been reported to the Commonwealth Games 2022 – Members Steering Group.

5.2 Prior to lockdown, regular community events were being held at convenient locations to keep residents up to date with progress on the project and what to expect in the coming months.

5.3 As it is currently not possible to hold such events, a regular newsletter will be distributed to residents to keep them up to date with what has happened and what is to be expected on the project.

6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS.

6.1 There are no alternative options associated with this report.

7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS

7.1 The project is on target to be delivered within the funding allocated to it at the meeting of Cabinet on 20 November 2019.

8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS

8.1 There are no specific legal or governance considerations arising from this report.

9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

9.1 No equality impact assessment is required for this report.

10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT

10.1 No data protection impact assessment is required for this report.

11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT

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

12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS

12.1 There are no specific sustainability issues associated with this report.

13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)

13.1 The Sandwell Aquatics Centre will contribute to the leisure offer in the borough, providing a world-class facility for our residents to be active, contributing to healthier lives.

13.2 The benefits created by the construction of the Aquatics Centre are already being felt with local people winning new jobs and gaining valuable skills and experience. An example of this is the 12 local people who are gaining valuable skills whilst working on the project through the West Midlands Combined Authority Construction Gateway scheme. These workers will gain an NVQ Level 2 in carpentry, groundwork, or logistics.

14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND

14.1 There is no impact on any Council managed property or land associated with this report.

15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

15.1 The Board is invited to consider the information presented to it and determine if there are any recommendations it wishes to make.

Dr. Alison Knight
Executive Director – Neighbourhoods