

## Minutes of the Select Committee for Policy Review

1<sup>st</sup> August 2017 at 6.00 pm  
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

**Present:** Councillor Worsey (Chair);  
Councillors Cherrington, Hickey and Sandars.

**Apologies:** Councillors Edwards, Gill and Dr Jaron.

1/17 **Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 23<sup>rd</sup> November 2016 be confirmed as a correct record.

2/17 **A New Long Term Vision for Sandwell**

The Select Committee received a presentation on the Vision 2030, which had been agreed by the Council at its meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> July 2017.

The vision included ten ambitions; five for People and five for Place. These had been widely consulted upon, shared with the Council's strategic partners and were being built into business planning processes within the authority.

The agreed ambitions were:

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.
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.
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.

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4. Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.
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.
6. We have excellent and affordable public transport that connects us to all local centres and to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands.
7. We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes.
8. Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.
9. Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.
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.

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

- The Council was working, through the four Strategic Partnerships, with key partners to ensure the Vision 2030 was for the borough as a place, not just the local authority as a single organisation.
- The feedback received from the public during the consultation process on the Vision had clearly indicated that people felt a sense of belonging in Sandwell, particularly to the distinctive towns that made up the borough.

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- It was important to encourage higher aspirations amongst the people of Sandwell; these aspirations were reflected across the ambitions.
- The ambitions reflected the importance of the work across the wider West Midlands region and were aligned to ensure that Sandwell, its residents and businesses were well placed to maximise the benefits of inward investment to the region.

The Select Committee agreed that as the Vision was now agreed, it would be useful to undertake a 'health check' of current key policies and strategies of the Council to ensure they remained up to date and supported the ambitions for the borough.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that the Executive Director – Resources undertake an exercise to identify the Council's existing key policy documents;
- (2) that at its meeting on 12<sup>th</sup> September, 2017, the Select Committee for Policy Review design and agree a framework to assess the Council's policies;
- (3) that, subject to (1) and (2) above, the Executive Director – Resources use the assessment framework to assess the Council's key policy documents;
- (4) that the findings of (3) above be used by the Select Committee for Policy Review to determine a work programme for the remainder of the 2017/18 municipal year.

(Meeting ended at 7.01 pm)

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