

**Select Committee for Policy Review**

**Tuesday 12 September, 2017 at 6.00 pm  
in Committee Room 1,  
Oldbury Council House**

**Agenda**

1. Apologies for absence.
2. Members to declare any interest in matters to be discussed at the meeting.
3. To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 1 August, 2017 as a correct record.
4. Framework for Policy Assessment.

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

**Distribution:**

Councillor Worsey (Chair);  
Councillors Cherrington, Dr Jaron, Edwards, Hickey, Gill and Sandars.

**Agenda prepared by Alex Goddard  
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## **Apologies**

To receive any apologies from members

## **Declarations of Interest**

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

## 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)

<p>Contact Officer: Alex Goddard Democratic Services Unit 0121 569 3178</p>
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## REPORT TO SELECT COMMITTEE FOR POLICY REVIEW

**12 September 2017**

<b>Subject:</b>	Framework for Policy Assessment
<b>Director:</b>	Executive Director – Resources – Darren Carter
<b>Contribution towards Vision 2030:</b>	
<b>Exempt Information Ref:</b>	The information contained in this report is not exempt from publication.
<b>Contact Officer(s):</b>	Alex Goddard, Scrutiny Officer alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

### **DECISION RECOMMENDATIONS**

**That the Select Committee for Policy Review:**

1. agrees the list of key Council policies and strategies for assessment;
2. discusses and agrees a framework for assessing current Council policies and strategies;
3. requests the Executive Director – Resources to use the agreed Framework for Policy Assessment to assess and score each of the policies and strategies identified in 1. Above and report the findings to the next meeting of the Select Committee.

#### **1 PURPOSE OF THE REPORT**

- 1.1 At its meeting on 1 August 2017 the Select Committee for Policy Review received an update on the Council’s recently agreed Vision 2030. Following the discussion it was agreed that the Committee would, at its meeting in September, design and agree a framework to assess the Council’s policies. A list of key Council policies and strategies will be presented at the meeting.
- 1.2 The Committee is now invited to discuss the contents of such a framework, which can then be used to score the current Council policies and strategies to assist the Committee in prioritising its programme of work.



## **2 IMPLICATION FOR THE COUNCIL'S AMBITION**

- 2.1 The work of the Select Committee for Policy Review is strongly centred around the Council's ambitions, with the intended outcome of ensuring the authority's key strategies and policies support and reinforce the ambitions.

## **3 BACKGROUND AND MAIN CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Through the development of a framework for policy assessment it will be possible to assess and score key strategy and policy documents to allow the Select Committee to develop a work programme for the remainder of the municipal year. The framework will provide the Committee with an informed method of prioritising its workload.

## **4 THE CURRENT POSITION**

- 4.1 The Council has a range of key strategies and policies. These are typically multi-year documents and as such may not reflect the current Vision or recent developments such as the establishment of the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 4.2 The Committee has been tasked by the Council with reviewing these documents to ensure they support the Vision for the borough.

## **5 CONSULTATION (CUSTOMERS AND OTHER STAKEHOLDERS)**

- 5.1 Consultation on the Council's strategies and policies is undertaken during the review process as each document is refreshed.

## **6 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS**

- 6.1 If the Council does not take the opportunity to ensure its key strategies and policies reflect the Vision and other recent developments then the ambitions set out in the Vision would be undermined through a lack of strategic support.

## **7 STRATEGIC RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**

- 7.1 Any financial or resource-related implications of individual strategies and policies will be investigated and reported when the documents are revised and submitted to the Cabinet.

## **8 LEGAL AND GOVERNANCE CONSIDERATIONS**

- 8.1 The legal and regulatory implications of individual strategies and policies will be considered and reported when each document is revised and submitted for approval to the Cabinet.

## **9 EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 9.1 When each document is reviewed they will be the subject of equality impact assessments to ensure that there is no adverse effect on any disadvantaged or vulnerable groups.

## **10 DATA PROTECTION IMPACT ASSESSMENT**

- 10.1 Robust assessments will be carried out as documents are reviewed to ensure compliance with all relevant legislation, codes and guidance relating to aspects of information governance.

## **11 CRIME AND DISORDER AND RISK ASSESSMENT**

- 11.1 Any crime and disorder or risk matters will be assessed throughout the review process for each key strategy and policy.

## **12 SUSTAINABILITY OF PROPOSALS**

- 12.1 The work of the Select Committee following the development of the Framework will assist the Council to build a refreshed, relevant and sustainable suite of key policies and strategies.

## **13 HEALTH AND WELLBEING IMPLICATIONS (INCLUDING SOCIAL VALUE)**

- 13.1 Any health and wellbeing implications will be assessed throughout the review process for each of the Council's key strategies and policies.

## **14 IMPACT ON ANY COUNCIL MANAGED PROPERTY OR LAND**

- 14.1 Where policies and strategies may have an impact on any Council managed property or land this will be investigated and included in the relevant review process.

**15 CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS**

15.1 In order for the Committee to prioritise its work programme of key policies and strategies it is important for it to agree a Framework for Policy Assessment.

**16 BACKGROUND PAPERS**

None

**17 APPENDICES**

None

**Darren Carter**  
**Executive Director – Resources**