

Minutes of the Select Committee for Policy Review

**3rd January 2018 at 6.00 pm
at the Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

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

Apology: Councillor Hickey.

1/18 **Minutes**

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 12th
September 2017 be confirmed as a correct record.

2/18 **Framework for Policy Assessment**

Further to Minute No. 4/17, the Select Committee considered the completed framework for policy assessment which had been undertaken to provide information on which a prioritised work programme could be developed. Members discussed the policies and strategies that they felt could be usefully supported through review by the Select Committee at this stage.

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

- There was an opportunity to assist the development of the draft Digital Strategy.
- While the Housing Strategy was not due for revision until 2023, important factors such as the West Midlands Combined Authority had come into being since the Strategy was approved.
- The recent announcement that Birmingham had been awarded

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the hosting of the Commonwealth Games in 2022, which Sandwell had supported, would have an impact on the Council's strategies. This needed to be explored.

- Sustainability needed to be considered throughout all key policies and strategies.
- It was important for Sandwell to be well placed to take advantage of emerging opportunities, for example those arising from the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Select Committee for Policy Review consider the following key policies and strategies in further detail :-
 - (a) Digital Strategy (in February 2018);
 - (b) Housing Strategy (in March 2018).
- (2) that further information be provided to the Select Committee on the impact of the Commonwealth Games being hosted in Birmingham in 2022 on the Council's policies and strategies.

(Meeting ended at 6.38 pm)

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