

# Agenda

## Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

**Monday, 8 November 2021 at 5.45 pm**  
**At Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury,**  
**B69 3DB**

**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 for Absence**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**2 Declarations of Interest**

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

**3 Minutes**

5 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 30 September 2021.

**4 Additional Items of Business**

To determine whether there are any additional items of business to be considered as a matter of urgency.



- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 5  | <b>Fleet Management Overview</b>  | 15 - 22 |
|    | To consider a report on the Council's Fleet Management Plan.  |         |
| 6  | <b>Levelling Up Fund</b>  | 23 - 32 |
|    | To consider a report on the Levelling Up Fund.  |         |
| 7  | <b>Update on Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough Review</b>   |         |
|    | Standing item to consider the update on Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough Review.   |         |
| 8  | <b>Scrutiny Action Tracker</b>  | 33 - 34 |
|    | Standing item to consider any actions arising from the Scrutiny Action Tracker.   |         |
| 9  | <b>Cabinet Forward Plan</b>   | 35 - 70 |
|    | Standing item to consider the scrutiny of items on the Cabinet Forward Plan.  |         |
| 10 | <b>Work Programme</b>   | 71 - 74 |
|    | To consider the items on the work programme for upcoming Board meetings.  |         |
| 11 | <b>Exclusion of the Public and Press</b>  |         |
|    | That the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting. This is to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to the financial and business affairs of any person, including the authority holding that information. |         |

- 12 **Towns Fund - Programme Update (Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre)** 75 - 124

To consider a report on the contents of the Full Business Case for the Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering project.

- 13 **Towns Fund - Programme Update (Urban Greening)** 125 - 174

To consider the contents of the Full Business Case for Urban Greening.

**Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL**  
**Interim Chief Executive**  
Sandwell Council House  
Freeth Street  
Oldbury  
West Midlands

**Distribution**

Councillor Moore (Chair)  
Councillors Abrahams, M Gill, S Gill, Henlan, Hughes, Jalil, Kaur, Owen,  
C Padda and Rollins

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## Minutes of Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

**Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> September 2021 at 5.45pm  
in the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Moore (Chair);  
Councillors Abrahams (Vice-Chair); S Gill, Jalil, Kaur, Millar  
Owen and C Padda.

**Also present:** Councillors Bostan (Cabinet Member for Environment)

**Officers:** Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration and Growth),  
Oliver Ford (Transportation Planning Officer), Stephnie  
Hancock (Senior Democratic Services Officer), Andy Miller  
(Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager), Elizabeth  
Stephens (Environmental Health Officer) Andy Thorpe  
(Healthy Urban Development Officer).

### 20/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Rollins.

### 21/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting



## 22/21 Minutes

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 22 July 2021 are confirmed as a correct record.

## 23/21 Additional Item of Business

There were no additional items of business to consider.

## 24/21 Sandwell's Air Quality Action Plan – progress report

Further to Minute No. 9/21 (of the meeting held on 25<sup>th</sup> March 2021), the Board received an update on the implementation of Sandwell's Air Quality Action Plan (AQAP).

Following the adoption of the Plan by the Council and its acceptance by DEFRA's Local Air Quality Management team, several actions had taken place since the last report to the Board:

- Monitoring and reporting
- Specific projects
- Promotional activities
- Briefing for elected members.

### Monitoring and Reporting

Particular air pollutants were regularly monitored to assess levels of pollution across Sandwell and to prioritise pollutants which had been identified to have the highest risk of breaching the air quality objectives. Various aspects of the monitoring programme had been completed over the last six months, including the continuous monitoring of nitrogen dioxide levels using diffusion tubes and a full dataset was being achieved, and the renewal and modernisation of equipment at four permanent air monitoring stations to allow for accurate and reliable monitoring of pollution levels.

Additionally, low cost air quality monitors (Zephyrs), which were capable of monitoring various types of air pollution, had been purchased to enable air quality projects to take place at specific locations. Currently, 13 of the planned 21 monitors were in location, eight were located next to faith centres, two monitors had



been located at potential air pollution hotspots in Smethwick and another in Wednesbury, and one monitor had also been co-located next to a permanent monitoring station site for calibration purposes. Air pollution monitoring data from across Sandwell was published in an Annual Status Report (ASR) which is submitted to DEFRA.

### Specific Projects

- There were plans in place to declare the whole of Sandwell as a Smoke Control Area (SCA). SCAs were designed to reduce the emission of smoke from chimneys by requiring the use of either authorised fuel or by using DEFRA “exempt appliances”, for example certain burners and stoves.
- The Council had been awarded Air Quality Grant funding by DEFRA to pursue a project designed to improve and increase awareness of air quality issues by engaging with faith leaders and their communities. The two-year project involved eight faith centres in year one and another eight centres in year two. Engagement with faith centres had been successful, and air quality monitoring units and display equipment had been located at each centre. Creation of the bespoke web-based dashboard to report air quality data in real-time on the display equipment was almost complete. Ongoing support would be provided to each centre to ensure that they receive adequate help and advice and that interest in the project was maintained through the year.
- Work was being undertaken with the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to address emissions from fleet vehicles and business mileage.
- The most effective ways to influence and improve low and ultra-low emission vehicle use in Sandwell’s taxi fleet were being explored. A survey was being devised by the Energy Saving Trust (EST) to gauge opinions about electric vehicles (EV) from taxi and private hire drivers.
- The Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle (ULEV) Strategy was being coordinated by Sandwell officers. The Strategy aimed to accelerate the uptake of ULEVs across the area in anticipation of a nationwide 2030 ban on the sale of petrol and diesel vehicles.



- A recent bid for funding for the installation of 37 double EVCPs (74 in total) across the borough had been successful and further on the proposals would be brought to a future meeting.

### Promotional activities

- Clean Air Day had taken place on 17 June 2021. This was the UK's largest air pollution campaign which aimed to engage people through social media. This year Clean Air Day had benefitted from national promotional work.
- Sandwell's "Great Big Green Week", was held between 18 September and 26th September 2021, helped to progress awareness and action for Air Quality and Climate Change.
- Sustainable Travel awareness was ongoing through the Council's collaboration with Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) in relation to the Government funded Active Travel Fund (ATF) project. This also included engagement with schools and workplaces to encourage walking and cycling, improvements to Sandwell's cycling network, promotion of car sharing, the e-scooter trial in West Bromwich, and the promotion of walking through the national 'Go Jauntly' web application.

Elected members had been engaged in many events to increase awareness of air quality issues.

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

- The launch of a website had allowed Sandwell residents to check their nearest air quality monitor to check the air quality levels in their area.
- Officers were collating a list of faith centres interested in participating next year's programme. Officers emphasised the importance of equality, therefore were seeking to involve faith centres from across the Borough.
- Members highlighted the importance of engaging with schools and including them in similar future projects.
- Speed limit reductions on the M5 had been implemented as a result of recommendations from a member working group. Concerns around the location of the M6 toll section and its



impact on air pollution due to congestion had been raised at the Combined Authority.

- Sandwell's car sharing scheme, Lift Share, was part of a national programme.
- Transport for West Midlands was submitting a bid to the Air Quality Grant for a number of buses to be retrofitted to comply with Euro 6 standard. Many bus providers were currently engaged with replacing their fleets.
- The Cabinet Member had raised concerns about the re-location of older buses to Sandwell routes due to their bigger carbon footprints. Assurances had been given by the West Midlands Mayor that they would be replaced with electric buses.
- A Bus Service Improvement Plan would be required to bid for funding to move to an all-electric fleet. Sandwell's plan was due to be submitted to DEFRA in October.
- The Council's fleet vehicles were replaced every 7 years. A report would be presented to the next meeting on the fleet management and replacement plan.
- Sandwell's biggest emission source was from refuse collection vehicles. Officers were trying to obtain data from Serco on its fleet emissions.
- New planning regulations now required new developments to include infrastructure for electric vehicles.

### **Resolved:-**

- (1) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board on the Council's proposals in relation to the successful funding bid for the installation of electric vehicle charging points across the borough;
- (2) that the Council increases its lobbying activity with external stakeholders to ensure that it receives its fair share of funding towards improvements to highways infrastructure to support electric vehicles;
- (3) that a report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board on the Council's fleet management plan and proposals to replace its fleet with electric vehicles.



Further to Minute No. 102/20 of the Cabinet (meeting held on 18 November 2020) the Board considered a report on the current e-Scooter Trial taking place in West Bromwich.

West Bromwich was chosen as the location for the trial based on its high footfall; low speed roads (due to West Bromwich's 20mph zone); transport links (in particular West Midlands Metro and West Bromwich Bus Station); day time population (estimated pre-Covid at approximately 13,600) and size (just over one square mile). 50 Voi scooters were operational in the trial zone.

The trial had been extended to March 2022, which would allow the Council to assess the operation of e-scooters in a fully open town centre environment, as opposed to what had primarily been a partially open down centre due to lockdown.

The speed limit and operating hours had been increased, which brought the West Bromwich trial into line with regional and national trails, which would improve the quality of the data collected from the trial.

Scooters were one of the new forms of transport emerging as technology, cost effective manufacturing and batteries improved. In a wider initiative to promote walking and cycling as part of a green and healthy recovery from COVID 19, the Secretary of State for Transport had announced the acceleration of twelve-month E-Scooter trials planned for 2021.

Scooter parking would continue to be 'dockless'. Apart from defined 'no park zones', users would be able to leave their scooters wherever their trip ended as long as it followed parking standards. Parking docks or incentivised parking zones (IPZs) may be installed by Voi based on where trips naturally began and ended within the extended the trial zone.

Users were be able to book and pay for the E-Scooters using Voi's smartphone app. Users would pay a basic rate of 20p per minute, or £12 per hour.

Since the trial began in December 2019, the West Bromwich trial zone had seen:



- 85,591km travelled.
- 1,614 total users.
- 0.7 average rides per vehicle per day.
- 0 Serious injuries (self reported, broken bones etc.).
- 4 slight injuries (self reported, falling off scooter, bruises, cuts).
- Average of 5 reports of pavement riding per week.

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

- Use of illegal e-scooters continued and the majority of serious accidents, including the recently reported death in Wolverhampton, had occurred due to illegal and inappropriate use.
- Users were required to register a driving licence to use e-scooters as part of the trial.
- Voi's model of e-scooter included a GPS tracking device which recorded where the e-Scooter was located - if a scooter was to leave the trial zone or enter a 'no ride zone' as reported by GPS, the engine would cut out.
- The trial would enable officers to identify issues and gather sufficient data to report back to the Department for Transport and allow Sandwell to have a say in discussions around potential legalisation.
- The e-scooters' speed was currently limited to 10mph.
- The Council could halt the trial at any point.
- The trial had been positive so far. The use of e-scooters was part of the wider conversation about sustainable transportation to reduce emissions.
- Members felt that the cost of the scooters was unaffordable for many.
- The area of the trial zone would not be extended due to concerns around the safety of the highways in the extension area.

The Board would maintain oversight of the trial.

26/21

## Update on Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough Review



It was reported that data was currently being collated for members prior to the first meeting of the working group taking place.

The Chair highlighted the efforts of the frontline staff during the pandemic and emphasised that the inquiry would focus on the wider management and performance of the contract.

The working group currently included Councillors Abrahams, Jalil, Kaur, Moore and C Padda. Councillors Millar and S Gill also indicated that they would like to participate in the review.

## 27/21 **Scrutiny Action Tracker**

The Board noted progress on previous actions and recommendations.

## 28/21 **Work Programme**

The Board noted its work programme for 2021/22.

In reference to Minute No. 24/21 (above), items would be added on the following: \_

- Proposals in relation to the successful funding bid for the installation of electric vehicle charging points across the borough.
- Fleet management plan and proposals to replace its fleet with electric vehicles

## 29/21 **Cabinet Forward Plan**

The Board noted the Cabinet forward plan for the period September 2021 to January 2022.

## 30/21 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved** that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local



Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to the financial and business affairs of any person, including the authority holding that information.

31/21 **Towns Fund Programme Update**

The Board received a report and outline of the current position on the Towns Fund Programme.

Meeting ended at 7:34pm

Contact: [democratic\\_services@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk)



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## Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

8<sup>th</sup> November 2021, 5.45pm Council Chamber

<b>Subject:</b>	Fleet Management Overview
<b>Director:</b>	Interim Director of Borough Economy, Nicholas Austin
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Waste and Fleet Service Manager Gary Charlton <a href="mailto:Gary_Charlton@sandwell.gov.uk">Gary_Charlton@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the following service update.

### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Update report, no recommendations.

### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people Vehicles supporting children's and young people's services are maintained through fleet services.
	People live well and age well Provides the maintenance to grounds maintenance fleet which provide accessible open spaces for people to exercise and improve their mental health.
	Strong resilient communities Supports the services delivering in the heart of our communities.
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods Vehicles supporting housing services are maintained through fleet services.



	A strong and inclusive economy Fleet services supports local business in maintaining their vehicles.
	A connected and accessible Sandwell Fleet services supports taxi licensing requirements.

## 4 Context and Key Issues

### Description of Service

4.1 Fleet Services is based at the Waterfall Lane depot, Cradley heath. The depot contains 3 workshops and services/repairs in excess of 30 vehicles on a daily basis. The maintenance section employs 13 Technicians, 2 apprentice technicians, 4 vehicle inspectors, 2 workshop support staff and 3 store persons working on a rotating shift pattern which allow the facility to open from 6am – 6pm Monday to Friday, 362 days a year.

4.2 A further 9 staff are employed in the service to support both vehicle maintenance and fleet management functions which include, vehicle safety, fleet regulation, transport stores, technical and transport reception / administrative roles, management and supervision.

4.3 Fleet services provides to two main functions, firstly maintenance whether that be the Council's existing fleet, contractors or the general public. Secondly a vehicle and asset replacement program of the Councils vehicle stock.

4.4 The current fleet size for the Council is 1191 vehicles & plant (full list in Appendix A). A further 154 vehicles are maintained on behalf of 3<sup>rd</sup> parties.

### Regulatory Requirements

4.5 The Authority manages the Fleet for the Council through a statutory undertaking to VOSA (Vehicle Operator Services Agency) which it allows to discharge the 'Operating Licence'. The Operating Licence is needed to operate any goods carrying vehicles over 3500kg (Gross Vehicle Weight) and is governed by stringent legal requirements of which the Council must adhere to in terms of: -

- Standard and frequency of vehicle safety inspections as agreed with VOSA



- Good Repute
- Vehicle operating centres and hours of operation
- Loading / overloading
- Drivers hours compliance

#### Authorised Testing Facility

4.6 Fleet Services are a designated MOT test facility for a wide variety of vehicles ranging from cars up to private buses. It undertakes Class 4, Class 7 and Class 5 MOT tests. The test centre carry's out approximately 3000 tests pa. The MOT station not only provides MOT testing facilities for the Councils fleet but provides a commercial service for the general public and is regarded as impartial because it is Council owned.

4.7 There are 8 nominated testers available within Fleet Services who provide cover for all shift patterns worked and this ensures any fleet vehicle MOT test can be carried out at any point during workshop opening hours.

#### Maintenance Services

4.8 Fleet service provides the maintenance and MOT testing for all internal Council's departments, including schools and taxi licensing. The services offered to internal departments include;

- Vehicle & plant procurement
- Vehicle/plant routine maintenance e.g. servicing, safety checking, MOT Testing
- Vehicle ad hoc repairs e.g. damage rectification, vehicle modifications, accident damage repairs
- Vehicle/plant Disposal
- Fleet Management e.g. compliance, recording keeping both computerised and manual, vehicle taxation, vehicle insurance claim management, Operator's licence holder, service scheduling, report writing, MOT Test Centre management
- Stores service e.g. supply of vehicle consumables, oil, antifreeze, screen wash, etc.
- Additional hired vehicle provision for all ad hoc vehicle requirements
- 24-hour breakdown service
- Taxi testing to licensing requirements including annual inspection which includes MOT Test and interim safety inspections



## External Customers

- 4.9 Fleet service provides varying maintenance contracts and solutions for 3<sup>rd</sup> parties such as Serco, Fleet Size 93 vehicles, Sandwell Children's Trust, Fleet Size 13 vehicles, Community Transport, Fleet Size 16 vehicles, Staffordshire & West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Services, Fleet Size 5 vehicles. Various schools, 27 vehicles. The type of services supplied to these 3<sup>rd</sup> parties is the same as those offered to the Council's internal customers.

## Other services

- 4.10 Fleet services also undertake warranty repairs to Serco vehicles on behalf of Geesink Norba, Scarab & Dennis Eagle. The service provides a commercial garage facility for general public use in regards vehicle repairs and servicing. The service is also approved to carry out insurance work and accident damage repairs.

## Fleet Replacement

- 4.11 The council currently operates a vehicle and asset replacement program. This is the most efficient and cost-effective way of maintaining a fleet, each individual item procured is given a replacement/disposal date. Replacement vehicles will normally be funded through a prudential borrowing, which will be recovered via the monthly hire rate over the life of the vehicle or item of plant. This is designed on several factors which include cost of the item, useful life of the item and maintenance costs.
- 4.12 Each vehicle/asset that is procured is assigned a birth file, maintenance file and asset/fleet number. This is recorded electronically on the council's fleet database and paper files are created. When the predetermined life of the asset is due to expire, a consultation period begins between the section that lease the asset along with Fleet Services, it is then determined if the business still requires the vehicle/asset, or, the nature of the business has changed, and the vehicle/asset are no longer either appropriate or required.
- 4.13 If the vehicle/asset are still required by the section then Fleet Services will order a replacement and dispose of the old vehicle/asset through auction, depending on who owns the budget of the vehicle/asset will depend on where the proceeds of the auction will populate.



## Electrification of Fleet

- 4.14 The government has announced that petrol and diesel vehicles will no longer be available to purchase in 2030. The majority of the Councils owned fleet is diesel or petrol. Over the next 5 years the type of fleet offered to business units will change to Electric Vehicles (EV). The electric vehicle market is constantly evolving, with better vehicles being released by manufacturers each year however, there is still limited market availability for suitable vehicles over 7.5 tonnes. To support change within the Councils internal fleet dependent departments. Fleet services have purchased a pool of EV vans and cars for service/business units to trial.
- 4.15 A barrier to a full conversion to EV is the limited number EV charging points across the Borough and on Council owned sites. Time is available for the Council to begin the necessary infrastructure changes which are needed to move the Councils Fleet requirements to EV.

## 5 Implications

The report is to give members an overview of Fleet Services functions.

<b>Resources:</b>	For the 2020/21 financial year Fleet Services approved expenditure budget was £4,929,756 and generated an income of £ £5,931,890
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	All works undertaken at the workshop are performed to manufacturers standard, MOT's conform to VOSA standards.
<b>Risk:</b>	The location of the Waterfall Lane site near to residential properties limits its ability to be used 24/7. A larger site would be required in order to expand the business and generate more income.
<b>Equality:</b>	The site is open for public use, is DDA compliant and provides charges comparable to that of local garage enterprises.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	Ensuring that competent maintenance is carried out on the Councils fleet of vehicles ensures that our vehicle emissions are kept to legal limits.
<b>Social Value</b>	The service continued to operate throughout the COVID lockdowns providing mandatory servicing to both council and external stakeholders vehicles undertaking front line community functions.



## 6 Appendices

Appendix A (Fleet list)

## 7. Background Papers

None.



## **Appendix A**

<b>Service Area</b>	<b>Number of Vehicles</b>
AIDS & ADAPTION	6
ASSET MGMT	2
BCPNHS ADULT MH	1
BCPNHS CRISIS	1
BCPNHS EARLY	2
BCPNHS PRIMARY	1
BCPNHS ROWLEY	1
BCPNHS SMETH	1
BCPNHS WEDNES	1
CALL OUT	1
CEMETERIES & CR	132
CLEAN & CARE	34
COMMUNITY ALARM	3
CPIP	20
CURATORS	2
DARTMOUTH PARK	8
ELECTRICAL	2
EP TEAM	13
ESTATE MAINT	55
FLEET SERVICES	79
GAS SERVICES	46
GREEN GOLF	2
GREEN TREES	8
GROUNDS	401
HIGHWAYS MAINT	27
HIGHWAYS STREET	6
HIGHWAYS WINTER	10
HOME LOANS 1	8
IPTU	18
LIBRARIES	2
LIBRARIES SPECI	2
MALTHOUSE OPC	7
MANIFOLDIA ECH	1
MAYORAL POOL VE	1
MEALS ON WHEELS	4
MEMORIAL MANAGE	3
NON HOUSING	13
NORTH	63
OPERATIONS	2
PAINT	8
PARKING ENFORCE	2
PARKS	6
PARKS EVENTS	4
PLANNED CYCLIC	5
PLANNING & SUPP	4
PLAS GWYNANT	5

PLAY STRATEGY	1
REG SERV	1
S.T.A.R	20
SANDWELL VALLEY	55
SCHOOL CROSSING	1
SHARED	8
SOUTH	55
TAXI LICENSING	2
VOIDS	21
WALKER GRANGE	2
YOUNG PEOPLES	2
<b>Grand Total</b>	<b>1191</b>

## Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

8 November 2021

<b>Subject:</b>	Levelling Up Fund
<b>Director:</b>	Tony McGovern Director Regeneration and Growth <a href="mailto:Tony_McGovern@sandwell.gov.uk">Tony_McGovern@sandwell.gov.uk</a>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Tammy Stokes Service Manager Spatial Planning and Growth <a href="mailto:Tammy_stokes@sandwell.gov.uk">Tammy_stokes@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board notes the information in the report regarding the Levelling Up Fund (LUF)
- 1.2 That a further report is considered by ESTE Scrutiny Board prior to any submission to the LUF.

### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The council are at initial stages of developing a submission to the LUF and as such detailed information is not yet available to share with Scrutiny.



### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods – investment to bring forward underutilised sites will help support additional housing provision particularly in town centres.
	A strong and inclusive economy – investment through the LUF will provide opportunities for job creation, skills and employment, as well as opportunities for the local supply chain supporting the economy.
	A connected and accessible Sandwell – investment into transport and connectivity will improve accessibility for Sandwell residents to services and jobs.

## 4 Context and Key Issues

### 4.1 Purpose of report

- 4.2 To provide an overview of the Levelling Up Fund (LUF), the prospectus for which was launched on 3<sup>rd</sup> March 2021, committing an initial £4.8 billion for England over the next four years (up to 2024-25).
- 4.3 To note that funding will be delivered through local authorities and the amount of funding each area receives will be determined on a competitive basis to ensure value for money. Where appropriate, Government will seek advice from the relevant devolved administrations at the shortlisting stage on projects that will be delivered in their geographical areas, including on deliverability and alignment with existing provision. For Sandwell this would be the West Midlands Combined Authority.
- 4.4 To note that Local authorities can only have one successful bid for each of their allocated number of bids over the lifecycle of the Fund. Local authorities were encouraged in the prospectus to consider whether bids that they wish to submit for the first round of the Fund reflect their local priorities, or if they should wait until later rounds so that they have more time to consider and develop their proposals. The deadline for the first round of the LUF was 18<sup>th</sup> June 2021. In light of the guidance outlined above, Sandwell, along with Dudley and Walsall, did not submit to the first round of funding.



4.5 To note that in order to ensure projects are delivered to programme and budget, Government encourage bids to include a local financial contribution representing at least 10% of total costs. A contribution will be expected from private sector stakeholders, such as developers, if they stand to benefit from a specific project.

#### 4.6 Context, key information and key issues

4.7 The prospectus set out the approach for the first round of the Fund. No further guidance has been published around the second round of funding and therefore this report sets out information from March 2021. It is likely that a large majority of the principles set out in the prospectus will be applicable to the second round of funding, but it should be recognised that there remains potential for change.

4.8 All funding provided from the Fund is to be spent by 31 March 2024, and, exceptionally, into 2024-25 for larger schemes.

4.9 The LUF is a competitive fund, distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection. Funding will be targeted towards places with the most significant need, as measured by an index taking into account the need for economic recovery and growth; improved transport connectivity; and regeneration.

4.10 Using this index, places have been placed into category 1, 2, or 3, with category 1 representing places with the highest levels of identified need. The categories form part of the criteria for assessing bids, and while preference will be given to bids from higher priority areas, the bandings do not represent eligibility criteria, nor the amount or number of bids a place can submit. Sandwell is a Category 1 area.

4.11 Bids should be developed through a holistic approach to their infrastructure needs across transport, regeneration and cultural investment. Applications for funding should clearly demonstrate how proposed investments will support relevant local strategies and their objectives for improving infrastructure, promoting growth, enhancing the natural environment and making their areas more attractive places to live and work. Local areas will also need to show why the proposed investment or set of investments represents the highest value local priorities.



4.12 The first round of the Fund sought proposals which support high priority projects that will make a visible impact in local areas, focusing on three themes:

<p><b>Transport Investments</b></p>	<p>Public transport, active travel, bridge repairs, bus priority lanes, local road improvements and major structural maintenance, and accessibility improvements. Proposals expected for high-impact small, medium and by exception larger local transport schemes to reduce carbon emissions, improve air quality, cut congestion, support economic growth and improve the experience of transport users.</p>
<p><b>Regeneration &amp; Town Centre Investment</b></p>	<p>Building on the Towns Fund framework to upgrade eyesore buildings and dated infrastructure, acquire and regenerate brownfield sites, invest in secure community infrastructure and crime reduction, and bring public services and safe community spaces into town and city centres.</p>
<p><b>Cultural Investment</b></p>	<p>Maintaining, regenerating, or creatively repurposing museums, galleries, visitor attractions (and associated green spaces) and heritage assets as well as creating new community-owned spaces to support the arts and serve as cultural spaces.</p>

4.13 The Government recognises investment local transport projects can play a pivotal role in enhancing local places, by upgrading bus and cycling infrastructure to improve access to jobs whilst supporting cleaner air and greener, healthier travel, targeting local road enhancements at congestion pinch points, and repairing bridges to ensure that communities aren't isolated from key services. Their typically high value for money credentials, well-formulated bids for local transport are likely to score highly on at least the value for money assessment criteria.

4.14 **Potential Key Transportation opportunities** for Sandwell include; investments in new or existing cycling provision; improved priority for local bus services (e.g. bus priority lanes or signal priority at junctions); enhanced public transport facilities, such as bus stops and stations;



accessibility improvements to local transport networks for disabled people; enhancements and upgrades to local road networks (e.g. by passes and junction improvements); structural maintenance works to local roads, including bridges; multi-modal proposals which combine two or more interventions to enhance transport across modes.

- 4.15 The Government recognises changing consumer behaviour made even more apparent by the impact of COVID-19 has had a detrimental impact on town centres. The regeneration pillar of Levelling Up Fund seeks to build on the investments made so far through the Towns Fund to help communities transform derelict, vacant or poorly used sites into vibrant commercial and community hubs that local people can be proud of.
- 4.16 **Potential Key Regeneration opportunities** for Sandwell include clearing derelict or eyesore sites to make way for new developments; site acquisition and remediation of abandoned or brownfield sites, for both commercial and new residential use; improving the public realm including high streets, parks and green spaces, designing out opportunities for crime and anti-social behaviour; creating better connectivity between and within key retail and leisure sites; and putting forward ‘Town Deals’ for individual or groups of smaller towns that did not receive investment from the Towns Fund.
- 4.17 The Government recognises that investment in cultural assets can rejuvenate places, leading to positive economic and social outcomes at a local level and supporting the development of relationships between people and place can have a positive impact on both mental and physical health. Cultural projects are to work in synergy with the regeneration and town centre investment theme of the Fund. Such investments should therefore be driven by an evidenced place-sensitive need or opportunity and have clear outcomes that align with areas’ vision for place-based economic and social development, as well as the health and wellbeing of local people.
- 4.18 Proposed cultural investments should actively complement, rather than duplicate or compete with funding already delivering or set to deliver in their areas i.e. the Heritage High Streets Fund. Where appropriate, the UK Government will seek advice from the devolved administrations as part of bid assessment in their geographic areas on shortlisted projects, regarding alignment with existing provision.



- 4.19 **Potential Key Culture opportunities** for Sandwell include; upgrading and/ or creating new cultural and creative spaces including sports or athletics facilities, museums, arts venues, theatres, libraries, film facilities, prominent landmarks or historical buildings, parks or gardens; new, upgraded or protected community hubs, spaces or assets (and associated green spaces); acquiring and refurbishing key cultural and heritage sites and historic buildings.
- 4.20 The Government's Net Zero and wider environmental ambitions are particularly important with regards to capital and infrastructure projects, which have a visible impact. Therefore, projects should be aligned to and support Net Zero goals: for instance, be based on low or zero carbon best practice; adopt and support innovative clean tech and/or support the growth of green skills and sustainable supply chains.
- 4.21 Bids should also consider how projects can work with the natural environment to achieve project objectives – considering at a minimum the project's impact on natural assets and nature, as well as the resilience of the capital and infrastructure project to potential hazards such as flooding.
- 4.22 Capacity funding of £125,000 has been allocated to local authorities most in need of levelling up in England, including Sandwell. The primary intention is supporting the relevant local authorities to develop their bids for later rounds of the Fund (Second round onwards).
- 4.23 The Fund will focus investment in projects that require up to £20m of funding. However, there is also scope for investing in larger high value transport projects, by exception. Each bid submitted can be for an individual project or a package bid consisting of multiple projects. However, package bids can have up to two or three projects only (*Government website LUF FAQ's, last updated 11<sup>th</sup> June 2021*). Bids for an individual project or package bids can both request up to £20 million of funding. Package bids must demonstrate how their elements align with each other and represent a coherent set of interventions. They can include a mix of projects from the Fund's three investment themes. but any one bid should not include multiple unrelated investments.
- 4.24 Bids will be accepted for larger transport schemes, by exception, such as investments in the road network. Such bids will need to be between £20m and below £50m and can be submitted by any bidding local authority.



However, they will be subject to a more detailed business case process and will need to score highly overall.

- 4.25 Government expect bidding authorities to consult local MPs as part of their bid; though such support from local MPs is not a necessary condition for a successful bid. When considering the weighting given to bids, the expectation is that an MP will back one bid which they see as a priority, and any bid may have priority backing from multiple MPs and local stakeholders.
- 4.26 The number of bids that a local authority in the first category can make will relate to the number of MPs in their area. Accordingly, local authorities can submit one bid for every MP whose constituency lies wholly within their boundary. Every local authority can submit at least one bid. Where an MP's constituency crosses multiple local authorities, one local authority should take responsibility as the lead bidder and local areas should work together to designate that lead bidder. Sandwell has four MPs with one that is split between Rowley Regis and Halesowen.
- 4.27 Bidding authorities should consult a range of local stakeholders across the full geography of a place, these include local businesses, public transport providers, police and emergency services, community representatives, environmental representatives and universities and FE Colleges (FECs). Bids should demonstrate evidence of this overall local engagement as part of their strategic case through stakeholder letters or similar.
- 4.28 It is expected that local authorities submitting multiple bids are to spread these fairly and equitably within the authority boundary and across their full range of constituencies, targeting pockets of deprivation as appropriate.
- 4.29 Once funding awards are decided, relevant local institutions are responsible for their delivery. Further contributions from the Fund will not be provided to meet cost overruns after funding has been agreed.



## 4.30 WMCA Transport LUF Bid

- 4.31 As a Mayoral Combined Authority, WMCA was eligible to submit one bid to the first round of funding of the Government's Levelling Up Fund by 18th June 2021 in the £20m - £50m category. This is in addition to any bids individual Local Authorities make based on parliamentary constituencies. The success or otherwise of the WMCA bid would have no bearing on those individual LA bids.
- 4.32 The WMCA with support from Sandwell, and, following endorsement from West Midlands Leaders submitted a £50m bid for upgrades to the West Midlands Metro Line One depot (at Wednesbury), as an essential "foundation for growth" of the Metro network expansion across the West Midlands.
- 4.33 The £50m comprises £34m for new depot capacity, £12m for traction power upgrades and £4m for supporting further asset renewal, essential maintenance on the existing line. The project is necessary to underpin the current £750m Metro network expansion across the West Midlands with new lines and increased tram fleet.
- 4.34 The bid is being considered by Government and an announcement is awaited. However, if approved this will be £50m investment into facilities at the existing Wednesbury depot improving infrastructure and providing additional employment opportunities for local people.

## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	<p>Significant staff resources will be required to develop the LUF submission and maximise Sandwell's opportunities.</p> <p>The fund is a capital fund and there is a need to ensure 10% match funding contribution. It is likely that some of this may need to be from Council capital if alternatives cannot be secured.</p> <p>£125,000 capacity funding has been received which can be used to help develop the business cases required as part of the submission.</p>
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<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Governance arrangements for the development of the LUF are to be determined. The Council's standard Governance procedures shall apply in relation to the submission of funding bids and the requirements for decisions to be taken at Cabinet.
<b>Risk:</b>	Existing staff resources are heavily focused on delivering the £67.4m Towns Fund. To mitigate additional funding has been secured to appoint temporary additional resources to support this programme. It should be noted that skilled resource in the regeneration field is restricted due to the current demand in this field.
<b>Equality:</b>	Each project will be assessed separately.

## 6 Appendices

None

## 7. Background Papers

Levelling Up Prospectus, March 2021.



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Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

Title Recommendation(s)/Action(s)	O&S date	DM date	Responsible CM/Officer	Activity Log	Other Comments (remove this before publishing)
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Scrutiny Activity Log

Street Naming and Numbering Policy	n/a	29.9.21	Cabinet	Scrutiny Board consulted by email 12.7.21	
West Bromwich E Scooter Trial Zone Extension	n/a	29.9.21	Cabinet	Scrutiny Board consulted by email 10.8.21	



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The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive in public session:-

	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
1	<p><b>Procurement of Best Interest Assessor Services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Suki Sandhu/Karen Emms</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>3 November 2021</p>		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
2	<p><b>Sandwell Residential Education Centres: Charges for the period 1 August 2022-31 July 2023</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Richard Oakes</p> <p>Director: Katharine Willmette - Interim Strategic Director Children and Education/Melanie Barnett – Acting Operational Director Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	3 November 2021	CSE Scrutiny Board 27 September	



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
3	<p><b>Implementation of a Boroughwide Public Space Protection Order relating to Nitrous Oxide (PSPO)</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Tessa Mitchell</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Community Safety (Cllr Piper)</p>	<p>3 November 2021</p>		
4	<p><b>Award a Contract for Road Marking, Specialist Surfacing and Studs</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mathew Burling</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Environment (Cllr Bostan)</p>	<p>3 November 2021</p>		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
5	<p><b>Highway Winter Service Operational Plan 2021/22</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	3 November 2021		
6	<p><b>Corporate Health and Safety Policy</b></p> <p>Contact: Sue Stanhope</p> <p>Director: Sue Stanhope – Interim Director of HR</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	3 November 2021		<p>Report</p> <p>Revised Corporate Health and Safety Policy</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
7	<p><b>Approving Amendments to the Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Driver</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration/Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Regeneration and Growth (Cllr Padda)</p> <p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	3 November 2021	No	<p>Cabinet Report</p> <p>Appendix A - Black Country Executive Joint Committee Collaboration Agreement 2021</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
8	<p><b>Information Governance Records Retention</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Maria Price</p> <p>Director of Law and Governance - Surjit Tour</p>	<p>Leader (Cllr R Singh)</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p>		<p>The Corporate Retention Policy</p> <p>E-mail Retention Policy</p> <p>Information Rights Policy</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
9	<p><b>Sandwell Health Inequalities Programme: Grant funding for Sandwell Consortium CIC to deliver interventions to address health inequalities</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Anna Blennerhassett &amp; Margaret Liburd</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Leader (Cllr R Singh)</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p>		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
10	<b>Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract</b>  Contact Officer: Hannah Soetendal  Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care	Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)	24 November 2021 (Private Item)		
11	<b>SEND Transport – Future Arrangements</b>  Contact Officer: Sue Moore  Director – Children’s Services	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	24 November 2021	CSE Scrutiny Board 27 September	



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
12	<p><b>Model Schools Pay Policy 2021/22 - Attached and Unattached</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: David Briggs</p> <p>Director: Katharine Willmette - Interim Strategic Director Children and Education/Melanie Barnett – Acting Operational Director Children and Education</p>	<p>Children and Education (Cllr Simms)</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p>		<p>Report by:</p> <p>Director, Children and Education</p> <p>Chief Finance Officer</p> <p>Appendices Attached Policy Unattached Policy</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
13	<b>B2022 Commonwealth Games Live Site</b>  Contact Officer: Jane Lillystone/Chris Jones  Director: Nicholas Austin – Interim Director of Borough Economy	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	24 November 2021	No	Cabinet Report
14	<b>B2022 Commonwealth Games – Host Integration Project</b>  Contact Officer: Chris Jones  Director: Tony McGovern	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	24 November 2021		Cabinet Report



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
15	<b>On Street Residential Charging Scheme – Acceptance of Funds</b>  Contact Officer: Oliver Ford  Director: Tony McGovern	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	24 November 2021		
16	<b>Q2 Budget Monitoring</b>  Contact Officer: Rebecca Maher  Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	24 November 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
17	<p><b>Draft General Fund Budget Report 2022/23</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Maher</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p>		
18	<p><b>Direct Award of Contract for eCapture and Webcapture Services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p>		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
19	<p><b>Contract for the provision of a Revenues and Benefits application, a corporate document management solution and scanning and indexing services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Sue Knowles</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	24 November 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
20	<b>Supply of Domestic Ironmongery</b> Contact Officer: Steve Piddock Director: Gillian Douglas - Director of Housing and Communities	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	24 November 2021		Report
21	<b>Refurbishment of Darley House</b> Contact Officer: J Rawlins Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	24 November 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
22	<p><b>Provision of 15 new council homes at Hawes lane Rowley Regis</b></p> <p>Contact: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	24 November 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
23	<p><b>Provision of 18 new council homes at Beaver Road, Tipton</b></p> <p>Contact: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	24 November 2021		Report
24	<p><b>Hire of Scaffold &amp; Portable Towers</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Steve Piddock</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	24 November 2021		Report



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
25	<p><b>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 2</b></p> <p>Tranche 2 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Bromwich Urban Greening</li> <li>• West Bromwich Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre</li> </ul> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford</p> <p>Director – Tony McGovern, Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	24 November 2021 (Private Item)		<p>Towns Fund Heads of Terms Agreements with Government</p> <p>Full Business Case Document</p> <p>Capital Appraisal outcome</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
26	<p><b>Street Naming, Renaming and Property Numbering Policy</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/ Barry Ridgway</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Interim Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	15 December 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
27	<p><b>Award a Contract Plant Hire Equipment</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/ Barry Ridgway</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Interim Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	15 December 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
28	<p><b>Award a Contract for Coated Road Stone and Instant Road Repair Materials</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/Barry Ridgway</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Interim Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	15 December 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
29	<p><b>Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021-2051</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Maher</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	<p>15 December 2021</p>		
30	<p><b>Procurement of a Corporate Asset Management System</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Simone Hines</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p>	<p>15 December 2021</p>		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
31	<p><b>Day to Day Repairs to Housing</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	15 December 2021		Report



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
32	<p><b>Provision of new council homes via Construction West Midlands Framework- Design stage</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mark Drake/Alan Martin</p> <p>Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	15 December 2021		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
33	<p><b>Provision of 10 new council homes at Britannia Road, Rowley Regis – Award of contract through Exemption to Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	15 December 2021	N/A	Report



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
34	<p><b>Provision of new council homes on 4 no sites to be delivered via Construction West Midlands Framework - Design stage</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mark Drake</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	15 December 2021	N/A	Report



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
35	<p><b>West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford/Richard Reeves</p> <p>Director of Regeneration &amp; Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr Padda)	15 December 2021		West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
36	<p><b>Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy – Proposed Expansion</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Katharine Willmette - Interim Strategic Director Children and Education/Melanie Barnett – Acting Operational Director Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	January 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
37	<p><b>Retro-fitting of Sprinklers in high-rise flats</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas - Director – Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	January 2022		Report



<p><b>38</b></p>	<p><b>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 3</b></p> <p>Tranche 3 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Bromwich Retail Diversification Programme</li> <li>• West Bromwich Town Hall Quarter</li> <li>• Smethwick Ron Davis Centre Expansion</li> <li>• Smethwick Midland Met Learning Campus</li> <li>• Smethwick Grove Lane Regeneration</li> <li>• Smethwick Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Canal Connectivity</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Britannia Park Community Hub and Greenspace Improvements</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm</li> <li>• Smethwick Albion Family in the Park</li> </ul>	<p>Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)</p>	<p>January 2022 February 2022 (Private Item)</p>		<p>Towns Fund Heads of Terms Agreements with Government</p> <p>Full Business Case Document</p> <p>Capital Appraisal outcome</p>
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	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Cycle and Walking Transport Schemes</li> </ul> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford</p> <p>Director – Tony McGovern, Regeneration and Growth</p>				
39	<p><b>Domestic Abuse Strategy</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Maryrose Lappin</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Community Safety (Cllr Piper)	23 February 2021		



**Annual Programme Reminder (these items are not added automatically)**

Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Review of Fees and Charges		January		
Determination of Admission Priorities for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools		January/February		
Schools Funding		December/January		
Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring		February		
Council Finances		February		
Financial Regulations		February		
Business Plans		February		
Highways Asset Management Plan		March		
Local Transport Settlement		March		



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Schools Capital Programme		April to June		
Financial Outturn		May		
Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules		July		
Review of Fees and Charges Sandwell Residential Education Services Centre Charges		May – July		
Childcare Sufficiency Report		July - September		
Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring		August		
Model Schools Pay Policy		October/ November		
Winter Service Operational Plan		October/November		
Road Safety Plan		November		
Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring		November		
Council Tax Base Calculation		December		



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Business Rates Retention Estimates		December		
Council Tax Reduction Scheme		December		



The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive in private session:-

Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Private Item – Reason for Exemption	List of documents to be considered
<p><b>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 2</b></p> <p>Tranche 2 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Bromwich Urban Greening</li> <li>• West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Cycle and Walking Transport Schemes</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Canal Connectivity</li> <li>• Smethwick Albion Family in the Park</li> </ul> <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Jenkins Director: Director - Regeneration &amp; Growth</p>	<p>Inclusive Economic Growth</p>	<p>November 2021</p>	<p>Commercial Sensitivity</p>	<p>Towns Fund Heads of Terms Agreements with Government</p> <p>Full Business Case Document</p> <p>Capital Appraisal outcome</p>



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Private Item – Reason for Exemption	List of documents to be considered
<p><b>Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Hannah Soetendal</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p>	<p>Commercial Sensitivity</p>	
<p><b>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 3</b></p> <p>Tranche 3 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• West Bromwich Retail Diversification Programme</li> <li>• West Bromwich Town Hall Quarter</li> <li>• Smethwick Midland Met Learning Campus</li> </ul>	<p>Inclusive Economic Growth</p>	<p>January 2022 February 2022</p>	<p>Commercial Sensitivity</p>	<p>Towns Fund Heads of Terms Agreements with Government</p> <p>Full Business Case Document</p> <p>Capital Appraisal outcome</p>



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Private Item – Reason for Exemption	List of documents to be considered
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Smethwick Grove Lane Regeneration</li> <li>• Smethwick Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Britannia Park Community Hub and Greenspace Improvements</li> <li>• Rowley Regis Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm</li> </ul> <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Jenkins</p> <p>Director: Director for Regeneration and Growth</p>				



# Work Programme 2021/22

## Economy, Skills Transport and Environment

### Scrutiny Board

Meeting Date	Item	Links with Strategic Aims	Notes
22 July 2021	Draft Black Country Plan		Tammy Stokes - Interim Director of Regeneration and Growth
	Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy		Tammy Stokes - Interim Director of Regeneration and Growth
	Movement for Growth Strategy		Tammy Stokes - Interim Director of Regeneration and Growth
	Waste Services and Cleanliness of the Borough – Review Scoping	 	
30 September 2021	Towns Fund	 	Tammy Stokes
	Air Quality Action Plan Update		Paul Fisher/Andy Thorpe (Public Health)
	E Scooters Trial - Update	 	Andy Miller/Oliver Ford (Strategic Planning & Transportation Officer)

8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Fleet Programme	 	Gary Charlton (Waste and Fleet Manager)
	Levelling Up Fund	 	Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration & Growth)
	Towns Fund Projects		Jenna Langford (Regeneration Manager)
3 <sup>rd</sup> February 2022	Grass Cutting Programme	 	Director of Borough Economy
	EVCP Bid		Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Officer)
	Emergency Active Travel Fund		Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Officer)

P.T.O.

## Items to be scheduled

- Planning White Paper



- Community Wealth Building and Inclusive Economy Action Plan



## Scrutiny Review

### Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough

The review will look at refuse collection services, street cleanliness (including litter, litter bins, dog waste bins), fly tipping, graffiti, the operation of the household waste centre.



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