

Agenda

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Thursday, 25 November 2021 at 5.45 pm
At Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

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

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Minutes and Notes of Previous Meetings 7 - 24

To approve the minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2021 as a correct record.

To receive the notes of the meeting held on 2 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	Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy	25 - 42
6	Tenant Engagement and Participation	43 - 50
7	Upgrade and Expansion of the CCTV & Concierge Service	51 - 66
8	Cabinet Forward Plan To consider items on the Cabinet Forward Plan	67 - 106
9	Work Programme To consider items on the work programme for upcoming meetings of this scrutiny board	107 - 108

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Distribution

Councillor Mabena (Chair)
Councillors Gavan, Ashman, Fisher, G Gill, Jones, Kausar, Randhawa, Rouf, Singh and V Smith

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Minutes of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

**1 April 2021 at 5:45pm
Online Virtual Meeting**

Present: Councillor Moore (Chair)
Councillors Bostan, Bawa;
Mr Cash (Co-opted member).

Also present: Councillor Allcock (Cabinet Member for Homes).

Officers: Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager – Community Partnerships); Nigel Collumbell (Service Manager – Housing Management); Chris Jones (Project Director) and Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services Manager).

12/21 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Edwards, P Hughes and Sandars.

13/21 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meeting held on 25 February 2021 were agreed as a correct record.

The Chair requested that information in relation to Oldbury library be circulated to members of the Board.



14/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

14/21 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to be considered at the meeting.

15/21 **Tenant Engagement and Participation**

The Service Manager for Housing Management reported that Government had recently introduced the Charter for Social Housing White Paper to improve regulation around consumer standards. This White Paper was part of the government's ongoing response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the Hackett review. The white paper sets out seven key promises to tenants in Social Housing:

- To be safe in your home
- To know how your landlord is performing and hold it to account
- To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly
- To be treated with respect
- To have your voice heard by your landlord
- To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in
- To be supported to take a first step to ownership

The Council had been engaging with Tpas as critical friend to provide guidance on best practice for tenant engagement.

The Business Manager for Community Partnerships outlined the current structures to support tenants' voice, including the Tenants Complaints Panel, Sandwell Community Information & Participation Services (SCIPS) and the Tenant Review Panel (TRP). It was explained that the TRP scrutinised housing services to support services improvement and a member of the TRP, Mr Cash, sat as a member of this scrutiny board.



Further to Minute Number 2/20, a working group which consisted of council officers, residents' associations, SCIPS and member from the TRP, had been established to codesign different engagement models. The officer had worked with Tpas and the working group to draft a circular model on Resident and Leaseholder Proposed Involvement. Consideration was now given to the proposed model which was still subject to further consultation. The model included a new Resident and Leaseholder Scrutiny Panel under the Director of Housing. This panel would include a Councillor Representative to provide political advocacy and collaboration between the Cabinet and Scrutiny.

Consideration was given to the draft terms of reference for the Scrutiny Panel. It outlined the role, purpose and potential membership of the group, a possible recruitment process to encourage diversity and broader representation, as well as a learning and development programme and priority areas for the work plan which would be agreed by members of the group.

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

- Tenant recruitment processes were set to be codesigned with partners and tenants to ensure that tenants were empowered and the panel had broad representation. The engagement work for the process was underway and would continue.
- The Tenant Audit programme on the proposed engagement model acknowledged the Tenant Inspectors Programme, Mr Cash and other tenants had expressed support for Tenant Inspectors.
- The directorate had an ambition to create a welcoming environment for tenants to be engaged for a 3-year tenure on the Panel as well as opportunities for tenants to engage with single issues.



- The role of the co-opted member from the TRP from the Board was valuable and would be continued. The proposed change would include councillor representation on the panel but would not remove the co-opted member from this scrutiny board.

Agreed that the dissolution of the current Tenant and Resident Panel and the proposed new model be supported and considered by the Cabinet.

16/21

Question and Answer Session with the Cabinet Member for Homes

The Scrutiny Board received a presentation from the Cabinet Member for Homes, Cllr Allcock, on his portfolio and the work he would be focussing on in the future.

On the topic of Tenant Engagement and Participation, the Cabinet Member referred to previous item noting that the importance of the work was underpinned by regulatory changes, but it was also crucial to put residents at the heart of council and ensure that the tenants voice was heard.

The Cabinet Member for Homes explained that the pandemic had accelerated work that was already in progress to improve the council's digital offer, including increased options for service users on when and how they access council services. Project work had been across all teams in Housing Management: Home Ownership; Housing Solutions; Income Management; Locals; ASB; Rent Accounting. Face to face Safe checks would be maintained to ensure residents were safe and secure in their properties.

On preventing and reducing homelessness, the Cabinet Member stated that the council was a leading authority in the region. Temporary accommodation numbers were down to approximately 40, 18 months prior they were at a high of 120+.



The average time spent in temporary accommodation was also down from 53 days the start of 2020 to 39 in December 2020.

The Council had taken part in the WMCA Housing First scheme, at the start of the pilot the Council were deemed to be failing in their support for rough sleepers. Through this scheme, 44 rough sleepers had been housed in secure accommodation for a period of 6 months or longer. The council had improved partnerships with private landlords via the Secure and Sustain programme to enable private renters to take on rough sleepers, the programme provided assurances such legal fees to private renters, electric checks and gas safety checks to ensure that the properties were fit for purpose. Council had also been working with St. Basils on the accommodation near Sandwell General Hospital. The Council were also involved in WMCA Change Into Action Programme where residents can donate via the website to local charities that support rough sleepers.

Due to the pandemic, building operations had suspended, the Council had refocused on acquiring properties. 68 properties had been purchased to use as Housing Revenue Account (HRA) stock, which was an investment of £9.3M investment. The Council had a further 145 potential properties to purchase and were interested in pursuing properties that addressed residents acute and specific needs.

The Council had an annual gas servicing rate of 99.56%, 132,000 repairs had been delivered since March 2020, with the average time taken to respond to complaints at 6 days, this was maintained throughout the pandemic. A building safety board had been established to implement the recommendations of the Hackett Review and ensure compliance with building safety Regulations.

The Board noted an update on the Council's asset management and maintenance throughout the pandemic. Where required, the works carried out included: roofs, windows, front and rear doors, new fascia and rainwater goods, external decorations and environmental works.



Work had continued on the Council House New Build Programme – over 354 new units completed, with another 235 units approved and in progress, as well as a new programme being developed to achieve in excess of 600 units in the coming 4/5 years. Information had been pulled together on small sites across the borough that could be developed into new housing sites.

On Private Sector Housing, the Cabinet Member for Homes reported that he had had minimal involvement with the works, however explained that the Council operated a Triage system to ensure a duty officer was available every working day during office hours to deal with requests that are received. The requests came from the contact centre, inhouse or online referrals. The Council received 800 enquiries annually. Inspections were carried out using the Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS) where properties were risk assessed against the 29 hazards criteria. A large number of enquires and requests for assistance related to inadequate heating, damp and mould growth. Licensing was mandatory for all Houses in Multiple Occupation (HMO) which were occupied by 5 or more people in 2 or more households. 160 licenses had been issued. Where the local authority received disrepair notifications which could result in legal proceedings regarding the council's housing stock, the housing team carried out inspections, prepared finding reports and would defend the local authority at court if required. There were 120 cases dealt with annually.

The Cabinet Member for Homes also explained the future planned works for the Council, which included:

- Face to face home checks to sustain tenancies and support building safety requirements.
- Improved security and CCTV to High Rise Blocks. Consultations were set to commence in the summer of 2021.
- A review of New Tenancy Conditions had been completed, with a roll out planned for 2022 next year due to the pandemic
- In commitment to the Housing Allocation Review Cabinet Report (26/2/20) The Housing team were considering Age Designations to improve access to affordable housing for younger people, including care leavers. Consultations were set to commence in the summer of 2021.



- Amendments to the Tenancy Sustainment Programme. This was on hold due to the statutory notice that has to be served to change the conditions, which was not considered appropriate during the pandemic.
- Remodelled services to ensure resources match demand in a post COVID world.
- Asset management and maintenance including High Rise External Improvements, External Improvements and Cyclical Maintenance.
- Neighbourhood Improvements including External refurbishment (including 2-year programme to replace all wooden doors with composite doors).
- External Adaptations to Low Rise Flats.
- Disabled Adaptations.
- Installing carbon neutral heat pumps, thermal insulations etc. to meeting the Councils aim of zero carbon homes.
- Modular Housing and modern methods of construction were being considered.
- Considering delivery options for major council sites – currently in master planning process.
- New housing delivery vehicle options were being developed – this would allow the Council to have the flexibility to build other forms of tenure.
- Negotiating options to purchase new build property off plan directly from developers.
- Bidding for the Homes England Affordable Housing Programme 2021/26.
- Undertaking partnership working with the Housing Solutions team to deliver the Secure and Sustain and Call Before You Serve projects.
- Inspection of all licenced HMOs.
- Implementation of Selective /Additional Licensing (Following Consultation analysis).
- Expanding enforcement of Civil Penalties where landlords fail to comply with statutory notices served.
- New initiatives to assist tackling empty properties.



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

- Further information on the allocated affordable homes within the Council's property portfolio would be brought to a future meeting.
- Sandwell was a leading authority in the WMCA for supporting rough sleepers and the Council were considering further collaborative working with WMCA and funding from the Government to provide further support after the pandemic. As a Council there was funding available to continue supporting rough sleepers in the short-term.
- A Council owned property development company was being scoped with Savills, the Cabinet Member for Homes referenced the Bird report and noted that social housing could be socially engineered and would allow the Council to control the market, creating affordable homes. This scheme would be brought back to Cabinet in late summer/early autumn 2021.
- There were 1300 empty properties across the borough, at present Council policy dictates that those purchasing empty properties must pay council tax increases dependent on the length of the time the property has been vacant e.g.
 - o Any property which has been empty and unfurnished for **two years or more** will be charged an additional 100% on its Council Tax bill. This will mean that you will be liable for **double** the normal Council Tax amount.
 - o Any property empty and unfurnished for **five years or more** will be charged an additional 200% on its Council Tax bill. This means that you will be liable for **three times** the normal Council Tax amount.
 - o From April 2021, any property empty and unfurnished for **ten years or more** will be charged an additional 300% on its Council Tax bill.



This means that you will be liable for **four times** the normal Council Tax amount.

The current policy also meant that leaseholds could allow for properties to get into a state of disrepair, with the Council having to pay for works to ensure that the property was liveable. The Cabinet Member for Homes noted that a review of this policy needed and must be tackled in a more affirmative way.

- Rogue Landlords were being tackled by selective licensing and enforcements. When COVID restrictions were lifted the Council aimed to work with Landlords to educate and promote improvement. The Cabinet Member for Homes was in support of enforcement against Rogue Landlords and need to be considered further in the future
- The Age Destination policy was under review and would be brought back to this scrutiny board in the future.
- The council had encountered problems with developers, the plan to build 600 homes was ambitious and the team hadn't been able to fulfil all properties. The scale of production and costs associated with more modern methods of constructions such as modular housing were an issue. Build time could be as little as 72 hours, however due to the high costs associated there had been resistance. Other authorities had noted a reduction of snagging costs at £8million, however this saving would not go back into the pockets of residents but the housing developers. The Council were in discussion with Hadley Industries for a pilot scheme and development project which would allow for the Council further understand modular construction methods including how to maintain and develop the properties. The Cabinet Member for Homes also noted that residents would have to learn how to maintain and internally update homes due to the methods and materials used.



Update on Sandwell Aquatics Centre

The Project Director for the Sandwell aquatics centre introduced the item and shared drone footage as well as images to show the progress on the project. This Scrutiny Board last received an update on the Aquatics Centre in November 2020 (Minute No. 28/20). Although there had been inclement weather (high winds and freezing temperatures) in the period since the last report, work had continued positively on the Aquatics Centre project and it remained on target to be handed over to the Birmingham 2022 Organising Committee on time.

The Project Director explained that since the last update, the following had been started/completed:

- All pool tanks had been measured and pressure tested to ensure that the dimensions were correct and that there were no leaks – all three pools had passed these tests;
- The dive tower and associated springboard plinths had been installed;
- The primary steel frame for the building had been completed;
- The cladding to the front section of the building and the eastern elevation was complete and had also progressed well on the western elevation;
- Work had commenced on the roof for the building and the roof liner sheets are 75% complete;
- Curtain walling was complete on the front section of the building, with some glazing in place, and was progressing well on the western elevation;
- Masonry work had commenced and was progressing well internal to the building; and
- First fix M&E works had commenced and were progressing well.

Work had also been completed 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 project was to support sustainable and active travel, and to maintain traffic flow in the area. The works which had now been completed were as follows:



- Dog Kennel Lane and Bristnall Hall Road – two new zebra crossings;
- Manor Road / Holly Lane – traffic island to signalised junction with pedestrian crossings and advance stop areas for cyclists;
- Manor Road / Londonderry 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.

Final designs were being developed for highways works phase two which would include improvements to Queens Road / Londonderry Lane Island and also environmental improvements to Londonderry Road. These designs would be finalised in April 2021 prior to being consulted on shortly after the Games.

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

- Delays in Birmingham had been well publicised, however from a Sandwell the perspective, the project was on target to passed on the Organising Committee on time. Other main capital projects were also on track to be completed in time and the Games would be going ahead as planned. The Project Officer noted the challenges faced by COVID and weather conditions and highlighted the achievements of all authorities working on the Games
- Progress had been made on developing legacy outcomes to make most of the opportunity. A set of outcomes had been drafted by the authority to cover a legacy physical activity, wellbeing and sport, as well as voluntary and third sector engagement in the borough. A working group set up with a view to launch a legacy plan at the one year to go mark, ahead of the Games.



The Council had been working with Swim England to ensure a sustained legacy of diving in Sandwell and the West Midlands. Swim England had appointed a Diving Development Officer for the midlands, a draft Diving Strategy had been drafted and the Council were working with Sports England, the Department for Culture Media and Sport and OCS to ensure that the Aquatics Centre of the strategy.

Agreed that the Director of Regeneration provide a further report to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board on the Sandwell Aquatics Centre.

Meeting ended at 7:48pm

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Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk



Notes of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

2 September 2021 at 5:45pm
Online Virtual Meeting

Present: Councillor Mabena (Chair)
Councillors Randhawa and Ashman;

Officers: Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing); Neville Rowe (Housing Strategy and Research Manager); Alex Goddard (Democratic Services Officer); Gabrielle Evans (Democratic Services Officer).

Quorum was not obtained at the commencement of the meeting. In accordance with the Council's Procedure Rules (Standing Orders) in Part 4 of the Constitution which can be found [here](#), the meeting continued for the purpose of examining the business before it, at the discretion of the Chair of the board.

18/21 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Carmichael, Fisher, Gavan, G Gill, Kausar, Rouf and K Singh.

19/21 Minutes

The minutes of the meeting held on 1 April 2021 were received.



20/21 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interests made at the meeting.

21/21 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to be considered at the meeting.

22/21 **Review of Property Age Designation**

The Director for Housing and the Housing Strategy & Research Manager presented the report to the board.

It was explained that the current volume of age designated properties acted as a disproportionate barrier for residents seeking to access affordable housing and impeded the Council's ability to carry out its statutory functions, in particular regarding Care Experienced Young People, those who fell within the requirements set out in the Homelessness Reduction Act 2017 and those seeking to move on from supported housing provision.

Removing the 25 years plus age designations from the properties would help in part to address the above, particularly in one bedroom properties where currently around 60% (3,018/4,883) were excluded from anyone below the age of 25. It was explained that on 26 February 2020 the Cabinet approved a Housing Allocations Policy Review (Minute Number 51/20 refers) which instructed officers to commence a review of the age designations currently applied to approximately half of the Council's flatted accommodation. This in part was triggered by responses to the Housing Allocations Policy Review survey, where 74% of housing applicants who completed the survey (630 in total) either strongly agreed or agreed that more flats should be available to people under the age of 40.

Excluding properties with a 50 plus age designation, in Sandwell just over half of the Council's stock portfolio of one and two bedroom flats were affected by either a 25 plus, a 35 plus or a 40



plus age designation. Set against the customer base of applicants where 70% are below the age of 40, this situation did not support the principles of inclusion and left a significant imbalance between the supply and the demand for social housing.

(Councillor Ashman joined the meeting at 6:06pm)

In June officers began exploring the review of the 25 plus age designations. By reducing the age restriction to applicants who were 18 years plus on these units would return 827 flats back into general needs and would increase the one-bedroom unit stock access for the 18 to 25 age group from 38% to 49%. Because of the already wide age variance of many of these blocks the impact of bringing them into general needs would not have a significant impact on the overall average age of head of household.

On 21 July 2021, consultation notices were sent to 827 properties seeking views and opinions on the proposal to remove the 25-plus age restriction from their block. In total 41 responses were received, representing a 5% response rate. The majority of the responses opposed the removal of the age designation, all based on the concern that removing the restriction would lead to increased incidents of anti-social behaviour (ASB) together with community cohesion strains brought about by a clash of lifestyles.

Sample data indicated that in reality, there was no significant difference in incidents of ASB in age restricted blocks and in other local authorities reports of ASB had actually decreased.

Officers confirmed that if the removal of the age designations went ahead, any issues would be monitored and managed sensitively. To achieve this and in line with current policy to facilitate tenancy sustainability all applicants were assessed for any support needs required to maintain their tenancy. Options included the provision of floating support together with support from the Welfare Rights Team if required.

It was explained that the age profile of tenants in flats would only change gradually as it was dependent on empty properties becoming available in the blocks.

Post tenancy checks were also completed and scheduled based on a risk assessment, with a scheduled programme of regular



visits to new tenants planned throughout the year and each tenant had a named neighbourhood officer to refer to.

Once Stage One was completed as outlined in the report, Stage Two of the review could commence, supported by the learning gained from Stage One.

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

- The Neighbourhood team would work in local areas to ensure that tenancies would start on the right footing and assess the risk that tenants may pose or be put in. The Council also made sure that tenants understood the terms of their tenancy agreement to prevent any issues.
- There was a need to promote community cohesion those tenants with different lifestyles and the Council would take a proactive and positive approach to building relations between tenants and consider the make-up of tenants in each block.
- There were residents who had been on the housing register for 2-3 years that hadn't been in touch to update the Council on changes to their lifestyle or needs. Officers had begun home visits to seek missing intelligence and work in a multi-agency way to find out more about the needs of residents. It was noted that rent arrears were a good indicator of a change in lifestyle. The intelligence gathering was also key to residents with disabilities who may be at risk of fire safety hazards.
- The consultation window was three weeks long. Most responses were received in the first week, by the third week there weren't any further responses. Officers noted that it was sent out during a holiday season and some residents may have been away, however no further postal or email responses were received after the closing date.
- There were 300 void properties at any one time. This was due to churn of tenancies and the need to refurbish properties and was not considered to be a high number of void properties.
- It was not uncommon to receive zero bids on a 40+ property however for the same property that wasn't age restricted, the Council would expect upwards of 60 bids.



- Most local authorities had their age designation policy under review or had already removed it.

The members present supported in principle the proposals to take the current review of the Council's age restricted housing stock forward to help make best use of existing stock and to ensure compliance with equality duties.

Meeting ended at 6:21pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk



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Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

25 November 2021

Subject:	Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24
Director:	Interim Director of Borough Economy, Nicholas Austin
Contact Officer:	Maryrose Lappin Domestic Abuse Team Manager maryrose_lappin@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board considers and comments upon the draft Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 placed a new statutory duty for local authorities to provide specialist support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation and includes a requirement for each local authority to produce a safe accommodation strategy by 5 January 2022.
- 2.2 Final [Statutory guidance](#) on the new duty for local authorities was issued by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) on 1 October 2021.
- 2.3 Under the duty, local authorities are required to:
- assess the need for victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation services in their areas;
 - produce a strategy to detail how they will respond to the duty;
 - commission support to victims and children in safe accommodation



- appoint a domestic abuse local partnership board for the purposes of providing advice to the authority about the exercise of the authority's functions;
- report back annually to central government that they have met these obligations.

- 2.4 Sandwell Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) were already responsible for the development, co-ordination and delivery of the local domestic abuse strategy. DASP has been established as the new statutory board and the terms of reference have been updated to reflect the new requirements and responsibilities.
- 2.5 Linxs Consultancy were commissioned to undertake a full domestic abuse needs assessment and develop a new domestic abuse strategy for Sandwell. The first phase of this work has focussed on the production of a safe accommodation needs assessment which has informed the Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24 (Appendix 1), to comply with the timescales required by the new statutory duty. Work on the wider needs assessment and strategy is continuing and it is intended that the full strategy will also be presented to Cabinet in early 2022. This work is being overseen by a multi-agency task and finish group which reports to the DASP.
- 2.6 The Safe Accommodation Strategy in Appendix 1 outlines the key points and recommendations from the needs assessment and how these will be addressed. The needs assessment has incorporated a range of data from partners; stakeholders feedback and feedback from domestic abuse victims-survivors.
- 2.7 The draft safe accommodation strategy was widely consulted on across SMBC and DASP partners and was published on the council's website on 25 October 2021 to comply with the statutory requirement to publish a draft strategy by that date. The final safe accommodation strategy is required for publication by 5 January 2022.
- 2.8 An implementation plan will be developed to underpin the delivery of the safe accommodation strategy which will be regularly monitored by DASP.



2.9 New Burdens Funding has been allocated to the council to support the delivery of the new safe accommodation duty and proposals for this are currently being developed.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Best start in life for children and young people - The draft safe accommodation strategy outlines commitments to provide specialist support to children residing in safe accommodation who have experienced domestic abuse.</p>
	<p>People live well and age well - The draft safe accommodation strategy outlines commitments to provide specialist support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing in safe accommodation who have experienced domestic abuse.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities - The draft safe accommodation strategy outlines commitments to provide specialist support to vulnerable victims and their families residing in safe accommodation and help them to cope and recover from domestic abuse.</p>

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 included a new statutory duty on local authorities for the provision of specialist support for victims of domestic abuse in safe accommodation from April 2021. This duty requires that a safe accommodation needs assessment is undertaken which informs a safe accommodation strategy.

4.2 Safe accommodation is defined in the statutory guidance. This identifies that safe accommodation is classified as being refuge accommodation; specialist safe accommodation (i.e. dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs); dispersed accommodation (safe self-contained and semi-independent accommodation); sanctuary schemes providing target hardening of properties along with specialist support and move-on and / or second stage accommodation.

4.3 Specialist support for victims is also defined in the statutory guidance to include:

- Advocacy support
- Domestic abuse prevention advice



- Specialist support for victims designed specifically for victims with relevant protected characteristics or with additional and / or complex needs
 - Children’s support
 - Housing-related support
 - Advice service
 - Counselling and therapy
- This list of support is not an exhaustive list and other relevant support services can be put in place (based on victims’ needs).

4.4 Work has been completed on the needs assessment which has informed the draft Safe Accommodation Strategy which is contained in Appendix 1. There has been wide consultation during the development of the needs assessment and strategy, which has been overseen by a multi-agency task and finish group and approved by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership.

4.5 The safe accommodation needs assessment has identified that the existing safe accommodation system in Sandwell is highly effective. The range of accommodation types and levels of support provided by Black Country Women’s Aid (BCWA) mean that survivors are routinely accepted regardless of the level of risk or complexity of presenting needs. There is also good outcome tracking for those who are declined a space in accommodation.

4.6 However, the needs assessment also identifies a number of issues and gaps which the safe accommodation strategy aims to address, and the following strategy themes are identified:

1. Improving the survivors’ recovery journey;
2. Enhancing the ability for survivors to stay in their own home;
3. Developing a more responsive and cohesive system.

4.7 The strategy commits to address these and outlines specific commitments including the need for: children’s support; psychologically-informed interventions for adults and children in safe accommodation; dedicated sanctuary provision for adults and children; and the need for resettlement and floating support for victims and children leaving refuge. It is proposed to address the additional needs identified by the needs



assessment using New Burdens funding and work is underway on proposals for this.

5 Implications

<p>Resources:</p>	<p>The delivery of the safe accommodation strategy will be funded via Sandwell’s New Burdens grant funding. This funding is intended to cover revenue expenditure relating to the functions set out in the new statutory duty on Tier 1 Local Authorities in Part 4 of the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act, relating to the provision of support to victims of domestic abuse and their children residing within safe accommodation.</p> <p>Government has indicated they will announce specific funding allocations after the 2021 autumn spending review for 2022-23 onwards.</p> <p>At the time of writing, these are yet to be confirmed.</p>
<p>Legal and Governance:</p>	<p>Final Statutory guidance on the new duty for local authorities was issued by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) on 1 October 2021.</p> <p>DLUHC requires that a final domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy is published by 5 January 2022.</p> <p>The guidance relates to the functions under the Part 4 of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This guidance states that local authorities should also ensure they meet existing statutory requirements including (but not limited to) those set out in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Equality Act 2010 • Human Rights Act 1998 • Housing Act 1996 • Homelessness Act 2002 • Crime and Disorder Act 1998 <p>The guidance indicates that the Part 4 duties are separate to local authority housing duties under the Housing Act 1996 and Homelessness Act 2002 and</p>



	<p>does not place a requirement on authorities to provide domestic abuse victims with accommodation. However, local authorities must still comply with their duties under homelessness law in line with Chapter 8 of the Homelessness code of guidance for local authorities.</p> <p>The guidance states that local authorities should also consider their Part 4 duties alongside the following guidance:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improving access to social housing for victims of domestic abuse in refuges or other types of temporary accommodations: statutory guidance on social housing allocations for local authorities in England. • Homelessness Code of Guidance • Keeping Children Safe in Education: Statutory guidance for schools and colleges • Working together to safeguard children: A guide to inter-agency working to safeguard and promote the welfare of children • Violence against women and girls (including men and boys): national statement of expectations
Risk:	<p>The recommendations from this report will mitigate the risk of specialist support to vulnerable victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation not being available during 2021-2024. It will also mitigate the risk of SMBC not fulfilling the statutory duty for local authorities outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.</p>
Equality:	<p>An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of Cabinet report process which has identified no adverse impacts or issues of concern for protected groups.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	<p>The safe accommodation strategy would aim:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To increase the safety of victims and children • To improve the physical and mental health and wellbeing of victims • To improve children’s safety • To regain/retain victims’ stability, resilience and autonomy
Social Value	<p>The safe accommodation strategy outlines commitments to provide specialist support for victims of domestic</p>



	abuse and their children in safe accommodation. It will assist in addressing the significant issue of domestic abuse. It also aims to increase and improve the safety and wellbeing of adult and child victims, enabling them to cope and recover from the impact of domestic abuse and thus generating social value.
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6 Appendices

Appendix 1 - Final draft domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy 2021-2024.

7. Background Papers

Final [Statutory guidance](#) on the new duty for local authorities was issued by the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) on 1 October 2021.



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Sandwell Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy - 2021-2024

Final Draft – October 2021



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Foreword

Domestic abuse is a serious issue in Sandwell. It has a devastating impact upon the victim, children, families and the wider community, regardless of race, geography or social background. It is recognised that domestic abuse has a detrimental effect on the safety, security, health and wellbeing of both adults and children. Access to safe accommodation is vital to providing an opportunity for victims of domestic abuse and their families to escape their abuser and have a chance to live a life without fear.

The Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP) and Sandwell MBC has a pivotal role in bringing together partner organisations and agencies in a coordinated and planned way to address domestic abuse. This strategy outlines how Sandwell MBC will work with partners to meet the new statutory requirements set out by government within the Domestic Abuse Act to provide specialist support to domestic abuse victims and their children in safe accommodation. We will work to ensure that all victims/survivors are supported to remain safe in their own home if they wish, or access alternative safe accommodation and support.

Currently we are working with our partners on a wider domestic abuse needs assessment to inform a new Domestic Abuse Strategy for Sandwell, which will be published in February 2022. Supported safe accommodation is part of a range of specialist support and advice services that we offer in Sandwell to enable victims, children and their families to cope and recover from domestic abuse.

Councillor Bob Piper, Cabinet Member for Community Safety, Sandwell MBC

**Nicholas Austin, Chair of Sandwell Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership & SMBC
Interim Director of Borough Economy**



Introduction

This strategy has been compiled in response to the new statutory duty to produce a safe accommodation strategy from the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Act also places a duty on Sandwell Council to support survivors of domestic abuse and their children in refuges or other safe accommodation. Additional New Burdens funding has been provided by central government to cater for this new duty. Safe accommodation is classified as being refuge accommodation, specialist safe accommodation (i.e. dedicated specialist support to victims with relevant protected characteristics and/or complex needs), dispersed accommodation (safe self-contained and semi-independent accommodation), sanctuary schemes providing target hardening of properties along with specialist support and move-on and / or second stage accommodation. These safe accommodation types are also the only types of accommodation that would be covered by the New Burdens funding.

In addition to these two duties, in relation to the provision of safe accommodation for survivors of domestic abuse and producing the safe accommodation strategy, the Act also outlines the requirement for support services to include a range of services namely: advocacy, prevention, advice, specialist support for both adults and children, counselling and therapy.

An enhanced definition of domestic abuse has been outlined which relates both to coercive control and including children witnessing domestic abuse. It should be noted, however, that specialist services have long recognised coercive control and have responded to it.

Scope

This safe accommodation chapter has been produced in advance of the comprehensive domestic abuse strategy for Sandwell. This will be published in early 2022 and will incorporate this chapter within it. This schedule has been followed in order to meet the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) deadline for production.

This strategy, and the comprehensive domestic abuse strategy to follow, has been produced following a detailed safe accommodation needs assessment. The needs assessment process is still continuing to inform the comprehensive domestic abuse strategy.

The needs assessment, undertaken for us by Linxs Consultancy Limited, was compiled after a data collection and analysis programme (based upon the DLUHC guidance), analysis of current services and a wide-ranging consultation programme. These consultations placed at the heart receiving the testimonies of survivors of domestic abuse. We thank all those survivors who took part in this exercise acknowledging their courage and openness in providing their experiences. Representatives from a variety of organisations have also provided their views and opinions.



Data and Issue Summary

The needs assessment contains a comprehensive analysis of the material gathered. Some of the most notable findings are outlined here. These have informed the thematic areas which we will focus upon.

- The existing safe accommodation system in Sandwell is highly effective. The range of accommodation types and levels of support provided by Black Country Women's Aid (hereafter BCWA) mean that survivors are routinely accepted regardless of level of risk or complexity of presenting needs. There is also good outcome tracking for those who are declined a space in accommodation. System effectiveness has been enhanced by the appointment of a dedicated Housing IDVA (Independent Domestic Abuse Advisor) and procedural changes bringing faster resettlement. The average length of stay was 122 days in safe accommodation in 2020/21, compared with 160 days in the preceding year.
- One tangible gap where the service could be enhanced concerns children's therapy and support. For the past six years an advocate funded by Children in Need has provided support for young people in refuge and community services, working with the survivor and child in parallel as the most effective engagement model. This funding period has now expired.
- Counselling is also not currently available to safe accommodation survivors unless there is a history of sexual abuse or violence. A recent short-term uplift in early 2021 through the Ministry of Justice enabled counselling to be offered to domestic abuse survivors across the domestic abuse provider's accommodation and community services. There were 95 immediate referrals, highlighting the level of unmet need.
- The experience of clients consulted who were in out of area safe accommodation was markedly more negative than those in Sandwell. There were a number of survivors who were critical of either the lack of information or communication that they had received from Housing Solutions and indeed regional refuge staff. The time taken to achieve resettlement for out of area survivors consulted was also noticeably longer compared with those in Sandwell safe accommodation. A new systems approach to extend the immediate direct offer system to out of area presentations is yet to be fully embedded into practice.
- The commissioning perspective is that sufficient units are currently being commissioned to meet demand. This is borne out by the fact that since 2019/20 there have been less than 10 survivors per annum placed in temporary accommodation (rather than refuge) following a homeless presentation. The number of referrals declined due to no space being available in safe accommodation has also fallen significantly, with a 50% reduction when comparing 2020/21 with the previous time period.
- A first available void policy (prioritisation for local residents) has also been successful, with Sandwell residents now more likely to receive safe accommodation within the Borough. However, there has also been a surprising decline in the overall number of referrals for safe accommodation made in relation to Sandwell residents. In 2018/19, 52.0% of all referrals, and 50.0% of accepted clients came from Sandwell. By 2020/21 these figures have fallen to 33.3% and 31.3% respectively. This could be a product of the concerted levels of investment into community services (or a local consequence of the pandemic). Nevertheless, further investigation will be carried out, especially given the fact that domestic abuse homeless



presentations to the Local Authority have increased in each of the last three years (with the 2020/21 figure of 276 almost twice as high as the level recorded in 2018/19).

- The demographics for the safe accommodation referral profile show that there have only been 11 referrals made for male survivors (just 1 accepted) in the past three years for safe accommodation, and all of these cases were in 2018/19. Similarly, there have been just 5 homeless presentations from male survivors in the past three years, representing a mere 0.8% of the total number of applicants.
- Demographic information relating to sexual identity shows 2% of referrals (2.2% accepted) were from LGBT survivors.
- The needs assessment examined the ethnicity profile for both the safe accommodation referral and homeless presentations datasets. The proportion of referrals and presentations for survivors from Asian, Black, Mixed and Other White backgrounds are in excess of the respective Sandwell population profile proportions, indicating that ethnicity is not an overall barrier to accessing safe accommodation locally.
- The use of temporary accommodation for domestic abuse survivors is problematic due to the lack of wraparound support, suitability assessments and safety measures in place. Domestic abuse workers provided examples where their clients had felt intensely isolated in temporary accommodation, leading to them deciding to return to the perpetrator and representing a missed opportunity to break the domestic abuse cycle.
- As part of a Sandwell Council Housing Solutions redesign, the bulk of temporary accommodation (for non-domestic abuse presentations) is to be located in specific managed units. This should ensure there is capacity in the remaining dispersed units of stock for any domestic abuse survivors still needing short-term temporary accommodation. However, the inclusion of dedicated domestic abuse support as part of their housing plan should also be considered essential.
- There is currently no dedicated Sanctuary service. However, Sandwell Council does offer a target hardening service for domestic abuse survivors delivered by Neighbourhood Officers in conjunction with the Building Surveying Team and Neighbourhood Repairs Officers. The service is tenure neutral and can also be provided to owner-occupiers, private rented accommodation and housing association properties. Between April 2019 and June 2021 there have been 84 properties 'target hardened', with works including enhanced security to entry doors, windows and gates, repaired fencing and external lighting installation. However, the tenure neutral aspect of this service appears to be not widely known, especially outside of the Local Authority. Indeed, there were two survivors consulted who stated they had been advised by their domestic abuse support workers that they were not eligible for target hardening.
- Once a survivor leaves refuge the specialist domestic abuse provider is not commissioned to provide any continued resettlement support. This lack of an interface or continuity of care at a crucial point in a client journey was described as an issue by a number of survivors who had left, or indeed were about to leave, safe accommodation.
- There is flexibility within the safe accommodation service's commission to subsidise or offer rent-free periods for working survivors to make refuge affordable as they are not in receipt of housing benefit. Nevertheless, working survivors interviewed indicated that they had been informed by various agency representatives that they would be unable to access safe accommodation, revealing a significant procedural barrier to support.



- Respondents representing the refuge provider stated that there is a lack of collaborative working once a survivor enters safe accommodation with the statutory agencies having fulfilled their responsibilities, leaving the specialist provider responsible for all their needs moving forward.
- Other supported accommodation providers (e.g. teenage pregnancy) were consulted as part of the needs assessment. Representatives stated that they all had domestic abuse survivors to a greater or lesser extent, either historic or current. They further indicated that in many cases, domestic abuse was not recorded within the referral information, and was only discovered through later conversations between worker and client. However, the extent to which providers subsequently proactively helped survivors to obtain specialist domestic abuse support varied considerably. Indeed, current commissioning specifications for supported accommodation providers do not include mandatory domestic abuse training for staff.

Thematic Areas

Based on this analysis the following will be the three themes that we will focus our activity upon. These themes will be delivered via a range of actions and initiatives that were also contained in the needs assessment. The themes are:

1. Improving the survivors' recovery journey;
2. Enhancing the ability for survivors to stay in their own home;
3. Developing a more responsive and cohesive system.

To make a start on delivering these themes we will use the recommendations from the safe accommodation chapter of the needs assessment. These recommendations have been translated into the three themes as follows.

1. Improving the survivors' recovery journey

We will:

- Address the gap in relation to children's support in safe accommodation. New Burdens funding will be used for two posts in 2021/22 but longer-term planning will be undertaken to ensure sustainability.
- Develop an offer for a therapeutic resource or more psychologically informed services (e.g. a visiting clinical psychologist) that can be accessed in safe accommodation or through the resettlement period in a timely manner.
- Commission a dedicated domestic abuse service to support resettlement for survivors, preserving specialist support throughout the safe accommodation journey. The resettlement service could also be used to support other specific cohorts, such as teenage



parents leaving supported accommodation and survivors who have presented as homeless who have been rapidly moved to a new permanent tenancy.

- Explore further the service offer and its marketing for male victims. There is an absolute paucity of male referrals for safe accommodation and homelessness presentations for domestic abuse. The forthcoming launch of the Black Country Women's Aid 'Ask Marc' male service should improve accessibility of services and provide greater awareness of the availability of dispersed safe accommodation. This should be bolstered though a combined communications initiative between Black Country Women's Aid and Sandwell Council/Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership.
- Develop a domestic abuse specialist service to provide wraparound support for any domestic abuse survivors in short-term temporary accommodation, bringing a continuity of care through to refuge and resettlement.

2. Enhancing the ability for survivors to stay in their own home

We will:

- Support survivors to stay in their own homes and provide enhanced security and feelings of safety for survivors moving to new properties by working towards the instigation of a full Sanctuary scheme. The current scheme, despite being tenure neutral, does not appear to be well known outside of Local Authority departments. A Sanctuary scheme would also bring an even more holistic service for survivors than is currently in place, combining physical security with safety planning and integrated support from a specialist domestic abuse provider.
- Undertake a review, where necessary, of policies, practice and procedures relating to the rehousing of perpetrators. This will have the aim of establishing a more robust case management system to make rehousing a more viable option.

3. Developing a more responsive and cohesive system

We will:

- Use the Sandwell Council Housing Solutions redesign and training regime to foster a culture of enhanced and open conversations with survivors to remove ambiguity from the system and promote transparency concerning processes and housing outcomes. This is due to a number of survivors feeling uncertain and insecure about the bidding and direct offer processes despite the proactive Housing IDVA role.
- Introduce additional Housing staff to maximise communications with survivors and system efficiency. This will be particularly beneficial in preserving dialogue and support for survivors in out-of-area refuges.
- Continue to develop ownership by asking all agencies with a role in recovery to systematically review their processes. It is crucial for an effective recovery journey that safe



accommodation becomes a 'process' for multi-disciplinary support for survivors, rather than being seen as an end-point where other agencies' duties of care are discharged. All partners will reaffirm their commitment to developing the best outcomes for individuals.

- Raise standards and consistency of the process for accessing support and working with survivors of domestic abuse for supported accommodation providers. This will include mandating domestic abuse training within the commissioning of supported accommodation providers. This will increase staff knowledge of referral pathways and enable them to support domestic abuse disclosures more proactively.
- Use our Council's Domestic Abuse Team to co-ordinate communication work with partners to ensure there is awareness of the safe accommodation available and the nature of support offered, addressing the decline in the overall number of referrals for Sandwell residents.
- Remove the barrier preventing working survivors from entering safe accommodation. We will produce a clear position statement for all relevant agencies in Sandwell detailing how working/homeowner survivors can access safe accommodation provision.

Progress against these thematic areas and individual actions will be overseen by the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership along with any sub-groups or short-life groups that are formed. A detailed implementation plan outlining timescales and responsibilities for implementing these actions is also available and will be updated periodically.

New Burdens funding

Sandwell MBC has received £841,812 New Burdens funding in 2021-22 to support the implementation of the statutory domestic abuse duty. Central government has indicated its commitment to providing funding in future years to support the implementation, but at the time of publication, specific allocations are yet to be announced. New Burdens funding will be used to respond to the areas highlighted in the domestic abuse needs assessment and will be invested in:

- The provision of holistic, specialist support to adults and children living in domestic abuse refuge in Sandwell, including support for complex needs; children & family support; and provision of psychologically-informed therapeutic interventions in refuge
- Specialist community-based support to victims in safe accommodation outside refuge (including floating support & re-settlement of victims leaving refuge; support to victims in sanctuary and other safe accommodation)
- Officer and costs to support the implementation of the statutory duty and the New Burdens funding programme development and management



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Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

25 November 2021

Subject:	Tenant Engagement and Participation
Director:	Director of Housing Gillian Douglas
Contact Officer:	Housing Services Manager - Nigel Collumbell Nigel_collumbell@sandwell.gov.uk Business Manager – Community Partnerships - Manny Sehmbi Manny_sehmbi@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 Consider the update on the review of Tenant Engagement and Participation.
- 1.2 Chair of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board to consider involvement within the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group Induction Programme.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The review of Tenant Engagement and Participation will reflect changes in legislation and regulatory standards.



2.2 A review of Tenant Engagement and Participation reflects good practice, but in addition there is an increase in expectations due to changes in the following:

- Regulator of Social Housing
- Housing Ombudsman
- National Housing Federation’s Code of Governance
- Building and Fire Safety Bill
- Regulatory Standards (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulatory-standards>)

2.3 The Regulatory Standards outline specific expectations and outcomes that providers are expected to achieve. Registered providers’ boards and local authorities are responsible for meeting the relevant standards and determining how this is done. The Regulatory Framework encompasses a tenant involvement standard.

2.4 The proposed new tenant scrutiny model will not only reflect the above but also reflect good practice as outlined in Successful Scrutiny of Council Tenant and the National Tenant Engagement Standards, as outlined by TPAS (Tenant Participation Advisory Services)

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>Strong resilient communities Through strengthening tenant engagement and participation, it will enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Stronger relationship between the council and tenants ○ Enhanced information and communication ○ An opportunity for tenants to develop ○ Develop a greater sense of place within the community
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods Through involving tenants in housing services through a more coproduced approach will enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Improvement to services for tenants ○ Better value for money ○ Improved customer experience and satisfaction ○ Better customer loyalty



4 Background:

- 4.1 The Charter for Social Housing Residents Social Housing White Paper 2020, where 'Government is re-booting consumer regulation to ensure landlords adopt the right behaviours and can be held to account for their actions by tenants. This is the Heart of the White Paper.' –*Jane Everton, Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government*
- 4.2 This White Paper is the follow up to the Green Paper - A New Deal for Social Housing, that was published in August 2018 and is part of the government's ongoing response to the Grenfell Tower tragedy and the Hackett review.
- 4.3 The White Paper highlights the need for transparency, openness and accountability, and outlines 7 key promises to tenants in social housing, these are:
- To be safe in your home
 - To know how your landlord is performing and hold it to account
 - To have your complaints dealt with promptly and fairly
 - To be treated with respect
 - To have your voice heard by your landlord
 - To have a good quality home and neighbourhood to live in
 - To be supported to take a first step to ownership
- 4.4 The updated (TPAS) National Engagement Standards reflect Regulatory requirements as discussed in 2.3, with clear principles and actions for social landlords to adapt to continuously improve the way residents are involved in shaping & improving services. The TPAs Standards can be used as a framework, to guide our work against the backdrop of the political & regulatory changes ahead
- 4.5 In May 2018 Dame Judith Hackett published a report into building regulation and fire safety, and one of the key recommendations covers the need to reassert the role and voice of residents ensuring residents have access to key information about their building and its safety measures. Hence the empowerment of tenants and their involvement of such developments is key.



4.6 The Council has developed the Vision 2030 and the Sandwell Plan which impacts on communities and residents of Sandwell and supports the need to engage and empower tenants and residents within their community. In addition, the current impact of COVID on our communities reinforces the need to engage with our communities in local service design and delivery.

4.7 All the above reinforces the need to continue to support and develop tenant involvement and participation and strengthen the tenants voice within the Council and wider neighbourhoods. As well as legal and statutory reasons for the review, as well as the fact that the Regulatory Standards recommend a review is undertaken every 3 years.

5 Current Structure:

5.1 The Council has a Tenant Complaints Panel. This group forms part of the Council's complaints procedure, which provides the opportunity for tenants who make an appeal and to be given the option to be heard by a group of their peers.

5.2 SCIPS (Sandwell Community Information and Participation Service) plays an important role in supporting tenants in Sandwell, to be involved and to influence decisions affecting their homes and neighbourhoods. The Council have renewed the grant agreement for a further 3 years, taking the agreement to the 31st March 2023.

5.3 The Council supports the Tenant Review Panel (TRP), which is made up of tenants and a leaseholder, with a role to support service improvement and to scrutinise elements of housing services. A representative of this group sits on the councils Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.

5.4 The TRP is made up of 9 tenants and 1 leaseholder but currently has 4 vacancies and has been the case for some considerable time. The role of the group is to work on behalf of tenants and leaseholders to drive forward continuous improvement in the delivery of the Council's Housing Services, through providing challenge and scrutiny of services. In addition, the group is currently not meeting.



6 Activity to Date:

6.1 Initially this review was brought to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny (SNAC) on the 30th January 2020 for discussion but also requesting a member of the group be part of the working group. Below is a summary of activity that has taken place to date:

- Initial discussions took place with Cabinet Member for Homes, SNAC and Tenant Review Panel (TRP)
- Established a working group to explore and codesign different models and structures
- Consultation with existing engagement & participation structures
- TPAs engaged as Critical Friend
- Feedback to Working Group on Consultation and presentation from TPAs on good practice models
- Following above discussions draft Terms of Reference and Engagement Model presented to the Working Group
- Update provided to Cabinet Member for Homes and TRP
- Cabinet workshop took place on 10.03.21
- Cabinet approval on the 24th May 2021

6.2 At the Cabinet meeting on the 24th May 2021 the following was approved:

- The Tenant Review Panel be disbanded
- The new Tenant & Leaseholder Scrutiny Group be established, and approval was given to the associated governance arrangements and terms of reference
- The new Tenant Involvement Model
- The Councillor Representative to the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group confirmed as Chair of Safer and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.

6.3 Following approval from Cabinet, the Tenant Engagement and Participation Working Group have set up an Implementation Group. The group have undertaken the recruitment and selection process to recruit to the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group.



7 Recruitment & Selection Process:

- 7.1 The recruitment and selection has been codesigned with tenant and leaseholders. This includes the job description and person specification, selection criteria, marketing approach and interview process.
- 7.2 The recruitment and selection panel is made up of the Housing Service Manager, Nigel Collumbell, the Chair of SCIPs and a representative from TPAs (Tenant and Participatory Advisory Services). With the involvement of TPAs enables us to demonstrate transparency and a professionalism towards the process.
- 7.3 A key aspect to the process has been to encourage a broad range of representation as well as supporting to get the right people involved. The following actions have been undertaken as part of the process:
- Posters, emails to stakeholders, conversations with partners to raise awareness and encourage applications
 - Articles in newsletters such as SCIPS and SCVO
 - Drop in sessions in each of the Towns, during day and evening and virtual drop ins, to encourage involvement but also opportunity to ask questions
- 7.4 The deadline for applications to be submitted was 29th October and 53 applications have been received. Early indications shows a representation from across all 6 Towns, but also a diverse range of applicants.
- 7.5 The recruitment panel will undertake scoring and agree which candidates are to be shortlisted for interview, using the agreed scoring criteria.
- 7.6 The interviews are planned to take place on the 1st December. It was agreed through the codesign process that the interviews would be delivered as a workshop with table-based discussions. The candidates will be given questions and scenarios to discuss and the recruitment panel will score through observation. Scores from this activity and from the application selection process will be collated, and the highest scoring candidates will be selected to be part of the Scrutiny group.



8 Next Steps:

- 8.1 The Implementation Group will continue to work to support the development of the Scrutiny Group and to develop further detail behind the Tenant Involvement Model
- 8.2 As part of the Induction programme for the successful candidates, we would look to involve the Chair of SNAC within the sessions, to develop relationships as well as encourage joint working between the structures.

9 Alternative Options

- 9.1 If the Board does not consider the update then the chance to have any input to the Review may be missed.

10 Implications

Resources:	Financial, staffing, land/building implications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no specific implications arising from this report.
Legal and Governance:	Legal implications including regulations/law under which proposals are required/permitted and constitutional provisions <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • These are set out in The Charter for Social Housing Residents Social Housing White Paper (https://www.tpas.org.uk/the-white-paper) • These are set out in the Regulatory Standards (https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulatory-standards).
Risk:	Risk implications, including any mitigating measures planned/taken, health and safety, insurance implications <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no specific implications arising from this report.
Equality:	Implications for equality (all aspects and characteristics) including how meeting Equality Duty, equality impact assessments <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The review will develop refreshed and strengthened methods of tenant involvement, engagement and participation which will help to address inequalities and challenge the stigmatisation of tenants.
Health and Wellbeing:	Implications of the proposals on health and wellbeing of our communities <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no specific implications arising from this report
Social Value	Implications for social value and how the proposals are meeting this (for e.g. employment of local traders, young people) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • There are no specific implications arising from this report



11. Background Papers

- The Charter for Social Housing Residents White Paper – November 2020 <https://www.tpas.org.uk/the-white-paper>
- Successful Scrutiny for Council Tenants – TPAs 2020
- The National Tenant Engagement Standards – TPAs 2020
- Regulatory Standards - <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/regulatory-standards>
- Green Paper, A New Deal for Social Housing 2018
- Responses to the Grenfell Fire and Report from Dame Hackitt (May 2018)



Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

25th November 2021

Subject:	Upgrade and Expansion of the CCTV & Concierge Service
Director:	Gillian Douglas Director of Housing
Contact Officer:	CCTV Control Room Manager - Jason Flannagan Jason_flannagan@sandwell.gov.uk Service Manager Housing Management - Nigel Collumbell Nigel_collumbell@sandwell.gov.uk

1. Recommendation

- 1.1 That the Safer Neighbourhood and Active Communities Scrutiny Board consider and comment on the proposals relating to the Upgrade and Expansion of the Council's CCTV & Concierge Service

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 On 18th October 2017 Cabinet approved the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – Housing Investment Programme report. The report set out a refreshed 10-year HRA investment plan to enable the delivery of new build projects, continue investment into existing stock and communal spaces in our neighbourhoods. The report contained an allocation of £1.2 million to help prevent crime and anti-social behaviour by extending our coverage of CCTV.
- 2.3 Resident consultation on the planned proposals relating to the Upgrade and Expansion of the Council's CCTV & Concierge Service will be



completed in November 2021 and the phased planning to implement these proposals is now underway.

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

	Best start in life for children and young people: Making our buildings safer for families including children and young people
	People live well and age well: Supporting vulnerable people through the CCTV and concierge service
	Strong resilient communities: Tackling crime and ASB through improved monitoring and intervention services
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods: Improving our CCTV and concierge coverage, protecting our assets, bringing our high-rise homes up to an equitable standard of service for all tenants.
	A strong and inclusive economy: Social value in contract utilising local workforce where possible
	A connected and accessible Sandwell: Concierge services represent an additional customer access route into the council

Context and Key Issues

4. Background

- 4.1 On 18th October 2017 Cabinet approved the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) – Housing Investment Programme report. The report set out a refreshed 10-year HRA investment plan to enable the delivery of new build projects, continue investment into existing stock and communal spaces in our neighbourhoods. The report contained an allocation of £1.2 million to help prevent crime and anti-social behaviour by extending our coverage of CCTV.



5. Current Service

- 5.1 The current service provides a 24-hour 365-days a year CCTV and Concierge service to approximately 50% of our high-rise estates. Residents without access to these services have regularly requested such provision which would bring parity of service delivery across all our high-rise estate enabling all tenants to benefit from the following:
- Intercoms and door entry systems linked directly to our Control Room.
 - Remote controlled access to all high-rise blocks, monitoring of visitors and restricting access to unwanted callers.
 - A 24-hour service that links tenants properties to our control room operators via intercom handsets in their flat which can be used to report repair's, ASB and crime, building safety concerns or any other general enquiries relating to their block of flats.
 - CCTV monitoring for flatted estates including internal cameras covering ground floor communal spaces, lifts, entrances and surrounding areas.
- 5.2 These services make significant contributions to ensuring community safety and perceptions of safety for residents, not least some of the most vulnerable residents who live in our homes. Over the past year we have dealt with 101,647 intercom calls via our concierge service, providing additional support and advice to tenants and issuing immediate warnings to those identified as acting in an anti-social manner both within communal areas and outside our blocks. CCTV footage has also enabled other sanctions to be taken against identified individuals where this has been necessary.
- 5.3 Residents have regularly requested that these services be expanded across all blocks and we are now in a position to respond proactively to this request alongside upgrading and futureproofing our existing provision.
- 5.4 The CCTV & Concierge Service generates income through service charges and the opportunity to expand the services to the remaining high-rise blocks across the borough will help recover some of the costs associated with the upgrade and ensure it remains largely self-financing moving forward.
- 5.5 Currently tenants pay a service charge of £8.57 a week consisting of:



- £3.69 for CCTV
- £3.18 for Concierge service
- £1.70 for secure door entry provision

5.6 When all high-rise blocks receive the service the increase in number of tenants paying a service charge will reduce individual payments to approximately £6.87 per week or £357 per year. These charges are covered by Housing Benefit and the Housing Costs element of Universal Credit for those in receipt of it.

5.7 1150 households will benefit from these proposals and current figures indicate that 58% do not currently receive benefits. However our consultation has continued to show support for the proposals by the majority of tenants whether in receipt of benefits or not.

Forward Plan

5.8 We are currently consulting with tenants in the blocks that do not benefit from these services at this time. Initial responses have been very positive with 90% stating that they believe they will benefit from the services offered, 78% are satisfied with the additional costs and 69% of those who will need to fund these costs themselves are happy to cover this. The survey will continue until the end of November 2021 and a full evaluation will be undertaken.

5.9 In view of the initial responses we anticipate strong support for the introduction of this service but will listen to and respond to any concerns raised as part of the consultation process and try and minimise any anxiety amongst residents.

5.10 This is a significant project which we are planning to deliver in 3 distinct phases as set out below:

- **Phase 1 - Network infrastructure upgrades**

This will enable the expansion of the service but will also realise shorter term savings with the installation of new networks, eliminating the need for current expensive fibre networks. Phase 1 can proceed without further consultation as budgets have already



been approved to deliver this work. This will lay the foundation for the block expansion and also secure the future of the control room by upgrading and future proofing our existing systems which are approaching the end of their current maintainable life cycle.

- **Phase 2 - Renewal of video management and recording systems**

As above, this will not only enable the expansion of the service but will also address the obsolescence of existing recording systems in the coming years. At present we have maintenance cover for existing hardware systems in place that is unlikely to be supported beyond 2023. This phase is also budgeted for and will future proof our systems both for expansion and ongoing service delivery.

- **Phase 3 - Expansion and Introduction of CCTV and Concierge services to high rise stock previously not receiving this service**

This will see the installation of CCTV cameras monitored and recorded at Roway Lane as well as updating door entry systems that will see them networked to Roway Lane control room providing tenants with a 24- hour concierge service. This phase will require Cabinet approval and will be informed by the current tenant consultation. The full list of 23 blocks that will benefit from this expansion are contained in Appendix 1.

5.11 The total costs for delivering each of the 3 phases is budgeted as £1.1m which is within the resources allocated in the HRA Capital Improvement Programme. The new service charges will generate £387k pa income which will contribute towards the future maintenance and management of the systems.

5.12 The costs are fully budgeted from within the existing Housing Revenue Account (HRA) capital improvement budgets.

Procurement

5.13 In order to comply with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, it is intended to go out to the market via an open



tender inclusive of all 3 phases of the scheme. This will enable the procurement of a contractor to deliver these works with each phase awarded as a separate lot.

- 5.14 Advice will be taken from the Council's Procurement and Legal Services to ensure that The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules are complied with.

Resident Consultation

- 5.16 Consultation to identify how much support there is for these plans has already commenced. A short survey was sent to all residents who will benefit from these changes via text message and email. The full results are still being collated but initial findings indicate broad support across all of the blocks for the introduction of these additional services.

Where concerns have been raised we are working with Sandwell Community Information & Participation Service (SCIPS) who advocate for Sandwell council tenants to understand and mitigate these.

Once we have fully evaluated the responses and confirmed support for the proposals as currently anticipated, we will notify tenants of the outcome and give them four weeks-notice of changes to their service charges aligned with the new provision going live.

Specifically, in relation to leaseholders, we have a statutory obligation to consult with them on the appointment of contractors and they have a statutory right to challenge this. This consultation will take place following statutory guidance.

6. Implications

Resources:	The proposed budget for the provision of upgrading and expanding SMBC's CCTV & Concierge Service is £1.2m and will be funded from within the approved HRA Capital Improvement budget which was approved by Cabinet in October 2017.
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Legal and Governance:	The contracts for the delivery of these works will be awarded in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and Public Contract Regulations 2015.
Risk:	There is a clear risk involved in not undertaking the Network infrastructure upgrades as the current equipment is not maintainable after 2023. This will effectively mean a loss of service to existing customers and remove the option of expansion to new customers as planned.
Equality:	The proposals will bring parity across our high- rise stock for CCTV and Concierge services. This will be particularly beneficial to vulnerable residents such as the elderly and those with disabilities. Additional security and CCTV services are also helpful in tackling criminal activity such as hate crime and supporting the council to reduce violence against women and girls.
Health and Wellbeing:	The proposals will help to make residents safer and feel safer, thus having a positive impact on their Health and Wellbeing
Social Value	Social Value will be achieved through the inclusion of an Employment and Skills Plan (ESP) contained within the formal contract with the successful contractor(s) delivering the works. The plan will include contractual performance indicators such as work experience placements and apprenticeships, in addition to school engagement and community activities.

7. Appendices

- 7.1 Appendix 1 Blocks Benefitting from Expansion Proposals
Appendix 2 Equality Impact Assessment

8. Background Papers



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Appendix 1 Blocks Benefitting from Expansion Proposals

Allen House (1-36)	West Road	West Bromwich
Astbury Court (1-48)	Hereford Road	Oldbury
Boulton House (1-36)	Spon Lane	West Bromwich
Bowater House (1-36)	Bromford Lane	West Bromwich
Braybrooke House (356-422)	Bromford Lane	West Bromwich
Brookview	Stanhope Road	Smethwick
Farley Street (97-128)	Farley Street	Tipton
Hamstead House (1-82)	Coniston Crescent	West Bromwich
Heronville House (60-118)	Sedgley Road East	Tipton
Holly Court (9-40)	Acacia Avenue	West Bromwich
Horton Street (1-32)	Horton Street	Tipton
Kynaston House (1-41)	Rydding Lane	West Bromwich
Lawrence Court (1-48)	Aldridge Road	Oldbury
Marmion House (1-36)	Dial Lane	West Bromwich
Oak Court (1-34)	Acacia Avenue	West Bromwich
Paget House (120-178)	Sedgley Road East	Tipton
Russel House (1-81)	Holyhead Road	Wednesbury
Scott House (1-36)	Enerdale Road	West Bromwich
St Clements House (1-36)	Hallam Street	West Bromwich
St Marys House (1-64)	Summer Street	West Bromwich
Thompson Gardens	Hales Lane	Smethwick
Wimberger House (1-36)	Hallam Street	West Bromwich
Wyrley House (180-238)	Sedgley Road East	Tipton

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Equality Impact Assessment

Please complete this template using the [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance document](#)

Version 4: January 2019

Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available)	Upgrade and Expansion of SMBC CCTV & Concierge Service
Directorate and Service Area	Housing
Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA	Jason Flannagan
Contact Details	Jason_Flannagan1@sandwell.gov.uk
Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA	Jonathan Rawlins Tessa Mitchell Tom Hogan Jim Brennan
Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed	N/A
Date EIA completed	21/10/21
Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director	
Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA	Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing
Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member	

See [Equality Impact Assessment Guidance](#) for key prompts that must be addressed for all questions

**1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required
(Please provide as much information as possible)**

To offer Sandwell Council's CCTV and Concierge services to tenants that do not receive it, currently half of our high-rise blocks.

The expansion has historically been supported by tenants and residents and previous proposals have been agreed in principal and budgets have been identified and set aside.

We are now looking to progress these proposals in a bid to bring parity of services to all our high-rise tenants.

2. Evidence used/considered

Resident consultation
Consideration of current equipment becoming obsolete

3. Consultation

Consultation to identify how much support there is for these plans has already commenced. A short survey was sent to all residents who will benefit from these changes via text message and email. The full results are still being collated but initial findings results indicate broad support across all of the blocks for the introduction of these additional services

Where concerns have been raised we are working with SCIPS to understand and mitigate these.

4. Assess likely impact

This expansion will increase community safety across all our high-rise estates and ensure parity of service for all tenants.

4a. Use the table to show:

- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a negative impact on any of the equality strands (protected characteristics), that is it could disadvantage them or if there is no impact, please note the evidence and/or reasons for this.
- Where you think that the strategy, project or policy could have a positive impact on any of the groups or contribute to promoting equality, equal opportunities or improving relationships within equality characteristics.

Protected Characteristic	Positive Impact	Negative Impact	No Impact	Reason and evidence (Provide details of specific groups affected even for no impact and where negative impact has been identified what mitigating actions can we take?)
	✓	✓	✓	
Age	✓			Provision of Concierge and CCTV services will enhance safety and security for our more elderly and vulnerable tenants.
Disability	✓			Likewise as above these developments will provide additional security, reassurance and support for disabled tenants.
Gender reassignment	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.
Marriage and civil partnership	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.

Pregnancy and maternity	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.
Race	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.
Religion or belief	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.
Sex	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.
Sexual orientation	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.
Other	✓			As above, these services will provide additional security and support tenant safety.

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? No

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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>Information Governance Records Retention</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
2	<p>Sandwell Health Inequalities Programme: Grant funding for Sandwell Consortium CIC to deliver interventions to address health inequalities</p> <p>Contact Officer: Anna Blennerhassett & 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
3	<p>Model Schools Pay Policy 2021/22 - Attached and Unattached</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
4	<p>B2022 Commonwealth Games Live Site</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jane Lillystone/Chris Jones</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Interim Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	24 November 2021	No	Cabinet Report
5	<p>On Street Residential Charging Scheme – Acceptance of Funds</p> <p>Contact Officer: Oliver Ford</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	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
6	Q2 Budget Monitoring Contact Officer: Rebecca Maher Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	24 November 2021		
7	Refurbishment of Darley House 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
8	<p>Hire of Scaffold & Portable Towers</p> <p>Contact Officer: Steve Piddock</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	<p>Housing (Cllr Ahmed)</p>	<p>24 November 2021</p>		<p>Report</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>The Redevelopment of the Carrington Road/ School Road Area, Friar Park - Acceptance of Tender and change of funding source</p> <p>Contact Officer: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	24 November 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
10	<p>Supply of Door Furniture and Associated Items</p> <p>Contact Officer: Steve Piddock</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing</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
11	<p>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 2</p> <p>Tranche 2 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Bromwich Urban Greening • West Bromwich Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre <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
12	Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract Contact Officer: Hannah Soetendal Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care	Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)	15 December 2021 (Private Item)		
13	High Needs Block Funding Consultation Contact Officer: Moira Tallents Director Children and Education	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	15 December 2021	N/A	Report by Director Children and Education



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
14	<p>Determination of Admission Priorities for Sandwell’s Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools 2023/2024</p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	15 December 2021	N/A	<p>Report by</p> <p>Director Children and Education:</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>Appendix 1: Admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools in Sandwell for 2023/24</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
15	<p>SEND Transport – Future Arrangements</p> <p>Contact Officer: Sue Moore</p> <p>Director – Children’s Services</p>	<p>Children and Education (Cllr Simms)</p>	<p>15 December 2021</p>	<p>CSE Scrutiny Board 27 September</p>	
16	<p>Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy 2021-24</p> <p>Contact Officer: Maryrose Lappin</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Community Safety (Cllr Piper)</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
17	<p>B2022 Commonwealth Games – Host Integration Project</p> <p>Contact Officer: Chris Jones</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern</p>	<p>Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)</p>	<p>15 December 2021</p>		<p>Cabinet Report</p>
18	<p>Street Naming, Renaming and Property Numbering Policy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/ Barry Ridgway</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Interim Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Environment (Cllr Bostan)</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
19	<p>Award a Contract Plant Hire Equipment</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
20	<p>Award a Contract for Coated Road Stone and Instant Road Repair Materials</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
21	<p>Direct Award of Contract for eCapture and Webcapture Services</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	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
22	<p>Contract for the provision of a Revenues and Benefits application, a corporate document management solution and scanning and indexing services</p> <p>Contact Officer: Sue Knowles</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	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
23	<p>Housing Revenue Account Business Plan 2021-2051</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>		
24	<p>Draft General Fund Budget Report 2022/23</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>		



	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>Procurement of a Corporate Asset Management System</p> <p>Contact Officer: Simone Hines</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	15 December 2021		
26	<p>Council Tax Base Calculation 2022/23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	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>Business Rates Retention Estimates 2022/23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	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	Council Tax Reduction Scheme 2022/23 Contact Officer: Ian Dunn Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	15 December 2021		
29	Review of council tenant rents and housing related property charges Contact Officer: Nigel Collumbell Director: Director of Housing Gillian Douglas	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
30	<p>Provision of 18 new council homes at Beaver Road, Tipton</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)	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
31	<p>Provision of 15 new council homes at Hawes lane Rowley Regis</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)	15 December 2021		
32	<p>Day to Day Repairs to Housing</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
33	<p>Provision of new council homes via Construction West Midlands Framework- Design stage</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
34	<p>Provision of 10 new council homes at Britannia Road, Rowley Regis – Award of contract through Exemption to Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules</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
35	<p>Provision of new council homes on 4 no sites to be delivered via Construction West Midlands Framework - Design stage</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
36	<p>Additional Licensing (West Bromwich Area) – consultation findings and proposed recommendation</p> <p>Contact Officer: Karl Robinson / Gary Wright</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas - Director of Housing</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
37	<p>West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford/Richard Reeves</p> <p>Director of Regeneration & Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr Padda)	15 December 2021		West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan
38	<p>Appropriation of 148 Tower Road, Tividale</p> <p>Contact Officer: Stefan Hemming</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director – Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	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
39	<p>Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy – Proposed Expansion</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)	12 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
40	<p>School Organisation Plan 2021/2022</p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts Director Children and Education</p> <p>Director of Finance – Simone Hines</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	12 January 2022	tbc	<p>Report by</p> <p>Director Children and Education</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>School Organisation Plan 2021/22</p>



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
41	<p>Schools Funding 2022/2023</p> <p>Contact Officer: Rose Kerr</p> <p>Director: Director of Finance – Simone Hines</p>	<p>Children and Education (Cllr Simms)</p>	<p>12 January 2022</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Report by:</p> <p>Director of Children and Education</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>Source documents</p>
42	<p>Retro-fitting of Sprinklers in high-rise flats</p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas - Director – Housing and Communities</p>	<p>Housing (Cllr Ahmed)</p>	<p>12 January 2022</p>		<p>Report</p>



<p>43</p>	<p>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 3</p> <p>Tranche 3 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Bromwich Retail Diversification Programme • West Bromwich Town Hall Quarter • Smethwick Ron Davis Centre Expansion • Smethwick Midland Met Learning Campus • Smethwick Grove Lane Regeneration • Smethwick Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration • Rowley Regis Canal Connectivity • Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub • Rowley Regis Britannia Park Community Hub and Greenspace Improvements • Rowley Regis Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm • Smethwick Albion Family in the Park 	<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"> West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Cycle and Walking Transport Schemes <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford</p> <p>Director – Tony McGovern, Regeneration and Growth</p>				
<p>44 Domestic Abuse Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Maryrose Lappin</p> <p>Director: Nicholas Austin – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Community Safety (Cllr Piper)	23 February 2022		



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
Revenues and Benefits Policy framework 2022/23		March		
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		



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring		November		
Council Tax Base Calculation		December		
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>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 2</p> <p>Tranche 2 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Bromwich Urban Greening • West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Cycle and Walking Transport Schemes • Rowley Regis Canal Connectivity • Smethwick Albion Family in the Park <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Jenkins Director: Director - Regeneration & 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>SEND Transport – Future Arrangements</p> <p>Contact Officer: Sue Moore</p> <p>Director – Children’s Services</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	24 November 2021	Commercial sensitivity	
<p>Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract</p> <p>Contact Officer: Hannah Soetendal</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)	15 December 2021	Commercial Sensitivity	
<p>Towns Fund Programme: Approval of Full Business Cases for Towns Fund Projects Tranche 3</p>	Inclusive Economic Growth	January 2022 February 2022	Commercial Sensitivity	Towns Fund Heads of Terms Agreements with Government



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Private Item – Reason for Exemption	List of documents to be considered
<p>Tranche 3 Projects: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • West Bromwich Retail Diversification Programme • West Bromwich Town Hall Quarter • Smethwick Midland Met Learning Campus • Smethwick Grove Lane Regeneration • Smethwick Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration • Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub • Rowley Regis Britannia Park Community Hub and Greenspace Improvements • Rowley Regis Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Jenkins</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
Director: Director for Regeneration and Growth				



Work Programme Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

September to December 2021

Meeting Date	Item	Links with Strategic Aims	Notes
2 September 2021	Housing Age Designations Review	 	Director of Housing (Gillian Douglas)
25 November 2021	CCTV Block Expansion	 	Director of Housing (Gillian Douglas)
	Tenant Engagement and Involvement Model	 	Director of Housing (Gillian Douglas)
	Domestic Abuse Strategy		Director of Borough Economy (Nicholas Austin)
9 December 2021	Tenancy Conditions – Consultation Feedback	 	Director of Housing (Gillian Douglas)

Item to be determined in 2022

Digitisation and Customer Journey (Nicky Denston)

Discussion with representatives of the Safer Sandwell Partnership (Chief Supt Ian Green)



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