

# Agenda

## Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

**Wednesday, 9 February 2022 at 5.45 pm**  
**At Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury,**  
**B69 3DB**

**This agenda gives notice of items to be considered in private as required by Regulations 5 (4) and (5) of The Local Authorities (Executive Arrangements) (Meetings and Access to Information) (England) Regulations 2012.**

**1 Apologies for Absence**

**2 Declarations of Interest**

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

**3 Minutes**

5 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021

**4 Additional Items of Business**

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



- |    |   |         |
|----|---|---------|
| 5  | <b>Emergency Active Travel Fund 2020</b>  | 15 - 24 |
|    | To consider a report on the Emergency Active Travel Fund 2020.  |         |
| 6  | <b>2022 Mowing Season - Sandwell MBC</b>  | 25 - 28 |
|    | To consider a report on the 2022 Mowing Season – Sandwell MBC   |         |
| 7  | <b>Update on Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough Review</b>   |         |
|    | Standing item to consider the update on Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough Review.   |         |
| 8  | <b>Scrutiny Action Tracker</b>  | 29 - 32 |
|    | Standing item to consider any actions arising from the Scrutiny Action Tracker.   |         |
| 9  | <b>Cabinet Forward Plan</b>   | 33 - 66 |
|    | Standing item to consider the scrutiny of items on the Cabinet Forward Plan.  |         |
| 10 | <b>Work Programme</b>   | 67 - 80 |
|    | Standing item to consider the work programme of the Board.  |         |
| 11 | <b>Exclusion of the Public and Press</b>  |         |
|    | That the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting. This is to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to the financial and business affairs of any person, including the authority holding that information. |         |

To consider a report on the Levelling Up Fund's long list of projects.

**Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL**

**Interim Chief Executive**

Sandwell Council House

Freeth Street

Oldbury

West Midlands

**Distribution**

Councillor Moore (Chair)

Councillors Abrahams, M Gill, S Gill, Henlan, Hughes, Jalil, Kaur, Owen, C Padda and Rollins

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## Minutes of Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

**Monday 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021 at 5.45pm  
in the Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

**Present:** Councillor Moore (Chair);  
Councillors M Gill, S Gill, Hughes, Jalil, Kaur, Owen, C  
Padda and Rollins.

**Also present:** Councillor I Padda (Cabinet Member for Regeneration  
and Growth)

**Officers:** Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration and Growth)  
and Gary Charlton (Waste and Fleet Service Manager).

**32/21 Apologies for Absence**

Apologies were received from Councillor Abrahams (Vice-Chair).

**33/21 Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting

**34/21 Minutes**

**Resolved** that the minutes of the meeting held on 30  
September 2021 are confirmed as a correct record.

35/21 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no additional items of business to consider.

36/21 **Fleet Management Overview**

The Board received an overview of the Council's Fleet Services.

Fleet Services provided two core services - maintenance, which included the Council's fleet, contractors and the general public; and vehicle and asset replacement for the Council. There was a designated MOT test facility at the Waterfall Lane depot. The service was also approved to carry out insurance repairs.

The Council's current fleet comprised of 508 vehicles and 725 items of plant. A further 154 vehicles were maintained on behalf of third parties, which included Serco, Sandwell Children's Trust, Community Transport, Staffordshire & West Midlands Community Rehabilitation Services.

As part of a rolling asset replacement programme, an indicative replacement/disposal date was provided, taking into account the anticipated life of the vehicle, and maintenance costs. Assets were normally disposed of at auction. After a review of need by the service area, replacement vehicles were normally funded through prudential borrowing, which would be recovered via the monthly hire rate over the life of the vehicle or item of plant. Each service area was responsible for determining its own vehicle needs, whilst Fleet Services facilitated the procurement.

The majority of the Council's owned fleet was currently diesel or petrol. Following the government's announcement that petrol and diesel vehicles would no longer be available to purchase from 2030, the type of vehicle offered through Fleet Services over the next 5 years would change to electric. The electric vehicle market was constantly evolving, with better vehicles being released by manufacturers each year

however, there was still limited market availability for vehicles over 7.5 tonnes.

All internal fleet services vehicles had been converted to electric. To support change within the Council's internal fleet dependent departments, Fleet Services had purchased a pool of electric vehicles for service/business units to trial. The limited number of electric charging points across the Borough and on Council owned sites remained a barrier to full conversion. However, there was still time for the Council to begin the necessary infrastructure changes.

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

- Fleet Services did not hold information on vehicle usage, however it was expected that individual service areas would.
- Waterfall Lane was currently operating at capacity. To develop the commercial aspect of the service further, a larger site would be required, which was currently being considered.
- Fleet Services would be looking at the number and type of assets across the Council to establish whether best use was being made of all assets.
- With the migration from petrol and diesel vehicles to electric vehicles by 2030, services managers had started investing in training the mechanics to preparation to the changes. Whilst the majority of maintenance and servicing should remain the same, upskilling would be required to appropriately manage heavy the loads of electricity.
- The Serco site at Shidas Lane was currently being assessed to establish whether an electricity sub-station could be built there.
- Fleet Services currently procured vehicles via the Government's framework, which was the most cost effective route. However, the second hand market for electric vehicles was developing slowly.

- The types and specifications of vehicles required varied greatly across the Council, depending on the service need.
- Presently there were no bicycles in the fleet, however, this could be looked at for officers making short journeys.
- Hydrogen and hybrid vehicles had also been considered as alternative options, but this was largely dependent on marketplace availability and having the means to maintain them.

Members requested a further report with a detailed breakdown of the Council's fleet and plant, further information on service capacity and data on vehicle usage from the Council, along with an outline of the preliminary work undertaken to identify a suitable alternative location for the services currently provided from Waterfall Lane depot.

**Resolved** that a further report is submitted to a future meeting of the Board with a detailed breakdown of the Council's fleet and plant, further information on service capacity and data on vehicle usage, along with an outline of the preliminary work undertaken to identify a suitable alternative location for the services currently provided from Waterfall Lane depot.

## 37/21 **Levelling Up Fund**

The Board received an overview of the government's Levelling Up Fund (LUF). The LUF was a competitive fund, distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection. £4.8 billion was available for England over the next four years (up to 2024-25). Funding was targeted towards places with the most significant need, as measured by an index taking into account the need for economic recovery and growth; improved transport connectivity; and regeneration.

The first round of the Fund had launched in March 2021, and sought proposals that supported high priority projects that would make a visible impact in local areas, focusing on



transport investments, regeneration and town centre investment and cultural investment.

The Board noted the key aspects of the Fund:-

- Schemes were required to have a net zero element.
- Local authorities could bid for up to £20m per constituency for non-transport related projects or £50m for transport related schemes.
- Match funding of 10% was required.
- Business cases had to be supported by the relevant member of parliament (MP).
- With the exception of major transport schemes, which needed to be spent by the end of March 2025, funding needed to be spent by 31 March 2024. This applied to all current and future rounds.
- The Council had received capacity funding of £125,000 to support the preparation of business cases.

Sandwell had not submitted any businesses cases in round 1 due to the need to focus officer resources on issues relating to the £67.5m Towns Fund Programme. Some neighbouring authorities had been successful however. The West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) had also submitted a bid for £50m to upgrade the Metro Depot at Wednesbury, however, the outcome was not yet known.

Sandwell was able to bid for either three projects up to £20m, or two £20m projects and a major transport scheme of up to £50m. Although the criteria and deadlines had not yet been announced for Round 2, officers were drawing together a long list of proposed projects for discussion and engagement with members.

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

- The capacity funding would be used to recruit a manager and a support post to co-ordinate the development of round 2 bids.

- The Combined Authority had assigned a link transport officer to support the development of a transport based bid.
- Engagement on the proposed bids would be council-wide, however, MP support was required in writing so individual briefings with MPs would be taking place.
- In regard to the 10% contribution match funding, it was likely that the government would require cash as opposed to land donation.

Members felt that the town for a should be used as a mechanism for consultation on the proposed bids. The Board requested a further report on the long list of bids.

**Resolved:-**

- (1) that a report on the longlist of proposed Levelling Up Fund projects be submitted to a future meeting of the Board;
- (2) that town fora be used as a mechanism for consulting councillors on the proposed bids.

**38/21 Update on Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough Review**

It was reported that two inquiry sessions had taken place which included an examination of the Serco contract and hearing evidence from Litterwatch, along with GMB and Unite trades unions. A further session was scheduled for Unite and senior management from Serco to attend.

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

**39/21 Scrutiny Action Tracker**

The Board noted progress on previous actions and recommendations.

40/21 **Cabinet Forward Plan**

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

41/21 **Work Programme**

The Board noted its work programme for 2021/22.

**Resolved** that the following items be added to the Board's work programme for 2021/22:-

- Levelling Up Fund: long list of projects
- Activities of community transport
- Options for efficiency savings in Fleet Services
- Grass Cutting Programme

42/21 **Exclusion of the Public and Press**

**Resolved** that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to the financial and business affairs of any person, including the authority holding that information.

43/21 **Towns Fund – Programme Update (Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre)**

Further to Minute No. 31/21 (of the meeting held on 30 September 2021) the Board considered a business case for a bid for Towns Fund funding for the development of a Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre in Sandwell, on the site of the former Shaftesbury House in West Bromwich.

The project would deliver an education centre with a new adult and young people's offer around civil engineering, advanced manufacturing and construction. The centre would

provide learning opportunities for approximately 400 students every year, including apprenticeships and T Levels. The Centre would also provide training and support for 50-70 small businesses.

Construction was West Bromwich's highest growth sector, seeing a growth of 1000 jobs (+80%) since 2013 and the town had a heritage of construction and engineering. However, these skills were not appropriately catered for by existing education facilities and engagement with businesses indicated this had been a major limiting factor to further growth. Engagement with local engineering and construction employers demonstrated a clear demand for improved and modernised facilities to meet changing advanced manufacturing and construction techniques, whilst still providing 'traditional' skills to meet replacement demand.

The project was in line with government objectives to provide greater access to adult education by working with both employed and unemployed adults and young people including NEETs.

As well as securing the revenue funding to operate the facility, Sandwell College would also secure additional funding from the Skills Funding Agency. Additionally, Sandwell College was already in discussions with the Department of Education about a potential expansion.

Members welcomed the proposal and the redevelopment of Shaftsbury House.

The proposal had been approved by the Towns Fund Superboard and the Cabinet would be considering the proposal at its meeting on 24 November 2021.

44/21

**Towns Fund – Programme Update (Urban Greening Project)**

Further to Minute No. 31/21 (of the meeting held on 30 September 2021) the Board considered a business case for a bid for Towns Fund funding for an urban greening project.

The project aimed to implement new and enhance existing green spaces to improve the appearance of the town centre, complementing planned infrastructure works and establishing a path from West Bromwich centre to Sandwell Valley. The project sought to improve the overall connectivity and aesthetic of the town. Furthermore, the project would include the delivery of a Cultural Programme which would be a key component in improving the physical and mental wellbeing of people.

It had the potential to link to the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games Delivery and Legacy mode workstreams through the provision of new signage along the route. It would also provide a link to the Commonwealth Games Live site proposed at Sandwell Valley.

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

- The Director of Regeneration and Growth would explore the suggestion of creating bee gardens on bus shelters.
- It was suggested that the business cases would benefit from a section dedicated to climate change considerations.
- Members expressed concern at the level of maintenance required for such a project.
- Members felt that the Council's approach to cycling infrastructure was poor.
- There would be Towns Funds projects coming forward relating to walking and cycling infrastructure.

The proposal had been approved by the Towns Fund Superboard and the Cabinet would be considering the proposal at its meeting on 24 November 2021.

Meeting ended at 7:36pm

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## Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

<b>Subject:</b>	Emergency Active Travel Fund 2020
<b>Director:</b>	Director, Spatial Planning and Growth Tony McGovern
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Strategic Planning and Transportation Manager Andy Miller – <a href="mailto:andy_miller@sandwell.gov.uk">andy_miller@sandwell.gov.uk</a>



### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board notes, and where appropriate comments on, the content of the report.

### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 To enable the Board to have a greater understanding of the projects funded through the Government’s Emergency Active Travel Fund (EATF), their impact and the longer-term proposals.

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

	<p><i>People live well and age well</i> Generally - The provision of a safe and convenient network of walking and cycling routes helps address the health impacts of inactivity.</p> <p>Specifically – the EATF projects were aimed at assisting with social distancing and the need to provide safe active travel as part of the response to the Covid-19 pandemic.</p>
	<p><i>A connected and accessible Sandwell</i></p>



	<p>At every level; National, Metropolitan and Local, the cycling network contributes to the provision of a high-quality transport system linking homes and communities to jobs and facilities. More locally, improvements to pedestrian links and the general pedestrian environment assists with linking people to local facilities thus reducing the need for unnecessary car journeys.</p>
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## 4 Context and Key Issues

### Background

- 4.1 The Emergency Active Travel Fund was announced by Government in May 2020 as part of its preparations for the lifting of the first period of Covid-19 restrictions later that year and to encourage a greener, more sustainable return to economic and social activity.
- 4.2 £250m was allocated nationally with the funding being channelled through Local Transport Authorities. The first tranche of funding was to be used to fully implement schemes by 7<sup>th</sup> September 2021. Proposals were to be submitted to DfT for appraisal in June 2021.
- 4.3 The Government stipulated that Tranche 1 of the fund had to be used for temporary measures only, such as the reallocation of parking bays to footway to enable social distancing, the provision of ‘pop up’ cycle lanes and temporary bus lanes.
- 4.4 In the West Midlands, the WMCA (through TfWM) was allocated £3.851m as part of Tranche 1. This funded 57 separate schemes across the seven metropolitan authorities of which four were in Sandwell. Combined the value of these projects amounted to £296,602 which included £55,000 (c£13k per project) of revenue to cover fees, surveys, operational monitoring, and evaluation etc.
- 4.5 Tranche 2 funding from what is now known as the Active Travel Fund or ATF was dependent on authorities being able to demonstrate successful delivery of DfT objectives using Tranche 1 funding.
- 4.6 Further projects in Bearwood, Blackheath, Wednesbury and a joint scheme with Dudley on the A4123 are included in Tranche 2. These projects are based on the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan





approved by Cabinet in January 2020. They will be permanent proposals with delivery underway by 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022.

## The Projects

### 4.7 **SAN001 - Oldbury Town Centre to National Cycle Network Route (NCNR) 81**

A two-way cycle route with light segregation was implemented between Oldbury Town Centre and Sandwell and Dudley railway station using bolt-down NCLDD cycle lane defenders. This cycle route continues to NCNR 81 and canal access off Bromford Road. McKean Road was temporarily restricted to access only (except for pedestrian and cyclists) to provide space for pedestrians adjacent to the station entrance and to facilitate social distancing. A temporary crossing point on the southern side of the station was also installed.

Cost: £73,708

### 4.8 **SAN001A - Oldbury Town Centre**

A series of modifications were made in Oldbury Town Centre. Birmingham Street was re-designated as one-way with the other lane reallocated to pedestrians to widen the narrow lengths of footway outside retail businesses and bus stops using temporary barriers to allow social distancing. Parking spaces were temporarily suspended along some sections, crossing points improved which included the installation of a Tiger Crossing, and additional cycle parking was installed within Oldbury Town Centre. A new part permanent/part temporary (using water filled barriers) cycle route from the A457 into Oldbury Town Centre was created alongside new signage to communicate social distancing measures.

Cost: £91,104

### 4.9 **SAN002 - Smethwick Town Centre**

The High Street was re-designated as one-way between Fenton Street and the junction with lower High Street using Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders (ETRO's) with the other lane reallocated to pedestrians to widen the narrow lengths of footway outside retail businesses and bus stops using temporary barriers to allows social distancing. Bus shelters were suspended with replacement bus stops and an experimental bus



lane provided on Tollhouse Way instead to assist in bus journey times. Wide paths were provided from the bus stops to the High Street with additional signage installed to communicate social distancing measures.

Cost: £67,121

#### 4.10 **SAN002A - Smethwick Rolfe St Station to Galton Bridge Station pop-up cycle lane A457**

A two-way pop-up cycle lane was implemented on the A457 Tollhouse Way from Smethwick Rolfe St Station to Smethwick Galton Bridge Station with new cycle parking installed adjacent to Rolfe St Station. This linked the two stations and to the Toucan crossing leading to Smethwick High Street.

Cost: £64,667

### **Consultation, Monitoring & Evaluation**

- 4.11 The conditions attached to the EATF funding and the speed at which the works were required to be implemented meant that it was not possible to carry out the normal range of consultation activity usually associated with traffic management projects. The changes were authorised through Experimental Traffic Regulation Orders which allow for the schemes to be installed and then feedback sought on their operation.
- 4.12 The proposed measures were advertised in the Express and Star on Monday 29th June 2020 and in addition, over 1000 letters were delivered directly to residents and businesses on Friday 26th June 2020 regarding the proposals. To support this, Sandwell also ran a notification campaign regarding the measures on both its Twitter and Facebook social media pages as well as through communications via Transport for West Midlands (TfWM). This was over and above the minimum advertising requirements required as part of the new emergency regulations.
- 4.13 The locations were inspected regularly during their operation. Camera surveys were carried out to ascertain the impact on queue lengths, pedestrians and cycle movements, bus journey time information provided by bus operators, feedback from members of the public, residents and businesses through consultation letters and questionnaires k, feedback



from Sandwell MBC social media platforms and monitoring and evaluation information from stakeholders such as Transport for West Midlands and National Express West Midlands. In addition, posters were placed on local lighting columns inviting residents to ‘have your say’ using a designated email address.

- 4.14 The ‘pop-up’ cycle lane on Tollhouse saw little use. Traffic levels rose much higher and far more quickly than anticipated following the lifting of the first lockdown resulting in congestion on this section the A457. The cones used to segregate it were being regularly moved to enable emergency vehicle access and the general response to the initiative was negative. Therefore, the decision was taken in October 2020 to remove the lane and return the carriageway to normal operation.
- 4.15 In contrast to Smethwick, whilst there was some negative feedback in Oldbury to the way-way operation on Birmingham Street, there was little impact in terms of congestion.

### Current situation

- 4.16 On 30<sup>th</sup> July 2021, Transport Minister Chris Heaton-Morris wrote to all local transport and highway authorities reminding them that active travel measures funded through EATF and the subsequent ATF should not be “*prematurely removed*” and that where removal is proposed this should only be done following robust consultation and with proper evidence as to why they are being removed. The letter went on to state that “*Premature removal of schemes carries implications for the management of the public money used in these schemes and for the Government's future funding relationship with the authorities responsible.*”
- 4.17 The temporary pop-up cycle lane (**SAN0002A**) on the A457 was removed prior to this letter in October 2020 for the reasons stated above. This was felt justified as Sandwell was successful in bidding for £4.62m of funding through the Government’s Towns Fund initiative to provide a high quality permanent off-road two-way cycle route adjacent to the A457 between Galton Bridge Station and the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital at Grove Lane. This route forms part of the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Implementation Plan approved by Cabinet in January 2020. The first phase of this project, from Galton Bridge to Rolfe Street was completed in Summer 2021. Further phases will be delivered by 2024.



- 4.18 The experimental bus lane that formed part of **SAN002** was also removed on 1<sup>st</sup> December 2020 following discussions with National Express West Midlands who operate the services that used it. The relocated bus stops have remained on Tollhouse Way and bus services continued to operate on the A457 westbound throughout 2021. These bus stops have been accommodated in the permanent cycleway scheme implemented through the Smethwick Town Deal.
- 4.19 The remaining projects were kept in place until Autumn 2021 as concern remained over the need to enable social distancing in Smethwick High Street and Oldbury Town Centre and the uncertain direction that the ongoing pandemic would take and what measure around social distancing may still be required.
- 4.20 However, with the Government's removal of legal restrictions and the withdrawal of the requirement to implement social distancing measures on 19<sup>th</sup> July, discussions took place with the Cabinet Member for Environment over the future of the remaining EATF measures. A decision was taken to consult on their removal in line with the Transport Minister's letter. Letters and questionnaires were sent to all the relevant ward members and to John Spellar MP in early September. Around 2000 letters were then hand delivered across the two areas on 17<sup>th</sup> September to ensure everyone received the paperwork.
- 4.21 The results of the feedback in both locations indicated that there was a strong majority in favour of removing the experimental highway works. Consequently, the Cabinet Member for Environment made the decision to remove the experimental one-way systems and return High Street, Smethwick and Birmingham Street, Oldbury to their original two-way layouts. In addition, the temporary closure of McKean Road by Sandwell & Dudley station would also be removed. The cycle defenders in Bromford lane had previously been removed leaving a mandatory line-marked cycle lane in place.
- 4.22 The remaining measures were removed by contractors between 2<sup>nd</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> November 2021.

### Future arrangements

- 4.23 The projects in High Street, Smethwick and Birmingham Street, Oldbury were specifically aimed at creating space for social distancing by



temporarily reallocating carriageway as footways. This was a clear response to the pandemic and in accordance with Government advice at the time of their implementation. Both projects created inconvenience for motorists although the scheme in Smethwick resulted in a greater level of complaints, mainly from business owners who had previously been able to park immediately outside of their premises. It should however be recognised that the measures did not actually lead to a reduction in available parking; the biggest impact was on the regular illegal parking that takes place on the opposite side of the road which with the narrowed carriageway caused obstructions.

- 4.24 There remains a significant issue with narrow footways and regular footway obstruction on High Street, Smethwick. The need for further traffic management and pedestrian improvements in the town centre will be kept under review and options for permanent arrangements which may include some one-way operation will be presented to Cabinet for consultation in the future. These will be influenced by ongoing public health advice where appropriate.
- 4.25 It had been understood that NXWM would continue to operate its services eastbound on High Street and westbound on the A457 following the removal of one-way operation on High Street as this has been found to be beneficial for journey time reliability. However, towards the end of December 2021, NXWM indicated that it had reconsidered this and is now intended to revert to operating two-way on High Street.
- 4.26 With regards to the two projects aimed at encouraging cycling it is clear that these were of limited success. Both projects were on routes already identified, consulted on and approved as part of Sandwell's Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (SCWIP). The aim for all of the routes in the SCWIP is to create wherever possible, segregated cycle lanes.
- 4.27 Whilst there was no requirement to carry out counts as part of the funding agreement, the anecdotal evidence suggests that the pop-up lane in Smethwick did little to encourage new cyclists, whilst experienced cyclists were happy to use the normal carriageway. Had greater funding been available, it would have been possible to run the pop-up lane to Birmingham boundary which might have improved its appeal. The ongoing implementation of the segregated route from Oldbury town centre to Birmingham city centre which this section forms part of will provide a high



quality route fully in accordance with the Governments advice note LTN 1/20 which is now a condition of future funding allocations.

4.28 Unlike the A457, the project on Bromford Lane was designed to reinforce existing on-carriageway line-marked cycle lanes. The use of cycle defenders is common throughout the country but the regular damage experienced here suggests that their use in this location was inappropriate. Design work is currently underway to replace the line-marked cycle lanes on Bromford lane with a permanent, predominantly segregated and LTN 1/20 compliant, route which would link to the existing facilities on Kelvin way and through the Lyng linking to West Bromwich town centre. Funding for this will be sought from future rounds of the Government’s Active Travel Fund. Full consultation will take place with ward members, frontagers and cycle groups prior to implementation.

## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	<p>Funding for all EATF Trance 1 projects was provided by the Department for Transport to the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA).</p> <p>Sandwell was allocated £0.297m (£0.242m Capital &amp; £0.056m Revenue). This was fully spent.</p>
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	<p>The measures were implemented to reallocate road space and provide sustainable transport routes under the Traffic Management Act 2004 and new statutory guidance, issued in May 2020, associated with network management in response to COVID-19.</p> <p>The new statutory guidance under the Traffic Management Act 2004 supports the Traffic Orders Procedure (Coronavirus) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2020 came into force on 23 May 2020 and amended the following regulations until the 30 April 2021;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Road Traffic (Temporary Restrictions) Procedure Regulations 1992</li> <li>• The Local Authorities’ Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996</li> </ul>



	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Secretary of State's Traffic Order (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1990</li> </ul> <p>The amendments speeded up making emergency traffic orders that may be needed to, for example, widen pavements or install cycle lanes. The main change was to the means of advertising the order, which could be via digital means. A second order was still needed to be published for information for 14 days later in a newspaper, where these were available, or via digital media.</p> <p>The public sector equality duty still applied, and in making any changes to their road networks, authorities must consider the needs of disabled people and those with other protected characteristics. Accessibility requirements apply to temporary measures as they do to permanent ones.</p> <p>The proposals were implemented using Experimental Traffic Orders made under section 9 and section 10 of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984</p> <p>Experimental orders are used in situations that need monitoring and reviewing before deciding on whether a permanent traffic regulation order should be made. ETRO can last no more than eighteen months before they are abandoned or made permanent. There is no public consultation required prior to the making of an experimental order, however there is a 6-month public consultation period from the date of making the order, that allows representations to be submitted based on the experience of the traffic scheme in operation. After that period, the scheme may be modified or varied in which case there will be a further 6 months consultation period. The ETRO can be revoked if it fails to achieve its stated objective or can be made into a permanent traffic regulation order.</p>
<b>Risk:</b>	The measures were designed facilitate the observance of social distancing to mitigate the spread of the Covid-19 virus and save lives.



<b>Equality:</b>	The proposals benefited all communities and protected groups so do not raise any issues that would require an Equality Impact Assessment
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	More space to facilitate social distancing for pedestrians on high streets helped limit the spread of the Covid-19 virus and save lives. The proposals also supported increased walking and cycling in preference to the use of the private car. An increase in the use of these active travel modes together with an associated improvement in air quality from reduced car use contributes to improved health and wellbeing.
<b>Social Value</b>	There were no Social Value implications arising from the implementation of these measures.





## Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

9<sup>th</sup> February 2022

<b>Subject:</b>	2022 Mowing Season – Sandwell MBC
<b>Director:</b>	Alice Davey Director Borough Economy
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Matthew Huggins, Interim Service Manager, Parks, Grounds, Events & Sandwell Valley

### 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon 2022 Mowing Season – Sandwell MBC that outlines:
  - 1.1.1 The Mowing Season delivery dates for 22/23
  - 1.1.2 The resources allocated to the effective delivery of the 22/23 Mowing Season.
  - 1.1.3 The plan to monitor the delivery of the Mowing Season through the implementation and use of PSS Live software for 22/23.

### 2 Context and Key Issues

#### 2.1 Mowing Season – Summary

- The mowing season is an in-house service provided by the Ground's team.
- The mowing season runs from 28<sup>th</sup> March to 28<sup>th</sup> October.
- Mowing is split into three groups, with the following outputs (Table 1):

Mowing Type	Description	Outputs	Plots	Sq. Metres
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<b>Amenity Mowing (Cut and Drop)</b>	Mow/Strim Grass Plots – no collection of clippings	Ave: every 4 weeks / min. 7 times per season	2,472	3,704,759
<b>Prestige Mowing – Cut and Drop</b>	Increased Frequency – Mow/Strim Grass Plots – no collection of clippings	Ave: every 2 weeks / min. 14 times per season	77	99,273
<b>Prestige Mowing – Cut and Collected</b>	Increased Frequency – Mow/Strim Grass Plots – clippings collected and disposed	Ave: every 2 weeks / min 14 times per season	121	282,759

## 2.2 Mowing Season – Resources

- Amenity Mowing’: 8 gangs comprising of 4 staff each.
- Prestige Mowing (no cuttings): 2 ‘gangs’ comprising of 2 staff each.
- Prestige Mowing (cuttings collected): 1 ‘gang’ comprising of 3 staff.
- Total Staff: 39 full time equivalents from 28<sup>th</sup> March – 28<sup>th</sup> October.
  - 22 full time staff
  - 17 fixed term seasonal workers

## 2.3 Mowing Season – Key Issues

- **Expectations:** the resources allocated to the delivery of the outputs in table 1 are fit for purpose for the frequencies / min times per season per plot. The service experiences some additional demand for requests to mow plots outside of these frequencies – i.e. when weather increases the growth time of grass.

**Mitigation:** the mowing season outputs and planned delivery dates will be made available to elected Members and the public on [Sandwell.gov.uk](http://Sandwell.gov.uk).



- **Equipment breakdowns:** the mowing equipment is an ageing resource, and 2021 saw an increase in the number of breakdowns.

**Mitigation:** Grounds are working with Fleet to ensure parts are procured in advance to speed up repair turnaround time. A fleet replacement programme to update with new equipment where needed is also in progress.

- **Monitoring:** our current systems for monitoring are 'paper based' and updated on excel. This does not give clear oversight of time taken to complete each site, immediate updates on schedule delivery, or audit trails of quality (pictures).

**Mitigation:** we will be implementing PSS Live for the start of 2022 mowing season – a performance and tracking system for grounds and parks, which will give real time updates on delivery, performance monitoring on time and quality, and allow the service to use this data for more specific communications to the public on their scheduled mowing for open spaces in their area.

### 3 Appendices

No Appendices.

### 4 Background Papers

No background papers.



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**Overview and Scrutiny - Recommendation and Action Tracker**

O&S - Overview and Scrutiny. DM - Decision Maker. CM - Cabinet Member.

**Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board**

Title Recommendation(s)/Action(s)	O&S date	DM date	Responsible CM/Officer	Activity Log	Other Comments
Street Naming and Numbering Policy		29.9.21		Scrutiny Board consulted by email 12.7.21	
West Bromwich E Scooter Trial Zone Extension		29.9.21		Scrutiny Board consulted by email 10.8.21	
Draft Black Country Plan	22.7.21		Tammy Stokes/Andy Miller	Interim Director of Regeneration and Growth undertakes targeted consultation with those residents directly affected by the proposals set out in the Draft Black Country Plan to build on Green Belt land in Charlemont & Grove Vale, Great Barr with Yew Tree and Newton wards.	
Local Transport Plan (Movement for Growth) Review Green Paper	22.7.21		Tammy Stokes/Andy Miller	Further update (date TBA) on Local Transport Plan (Movement for Growth) Review Green Paper	
Electric Vehicle Charging Points	30.9.21		Andy Miller/Oliver Ford	Report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board on the Council's proposals in relation to the successful funding bid for the installation of	



Sandwell Air Quality Action Plan	30.9.21		That the Council increases its lobbying activity with external stakeholders to ensure that it receives its fair share of funding towards improvements to highways infrastructure to support electric vehicles
Fleet Management Plan	30.9.21	Gary Charlton	That report be submitted to the next meeting of the Board on the Council's fleet management plan and proposals to replace its fleet with electric vehicles.  Director Regeneration and Growth to provide members with a list of all proposed schemes along with timescales
Town Fund Programme Update	30.9.21	Tony McGovern	
Detailed breakdown of the Council's fleet and plant	8.11.21	Gary Charlton	Further report is submitted to a future meeting of the Board with a detailed breakdown of the Council's fleet and plant, further information on service capacity and data on vehicle usage, along with an outline of the preliminary work undertaken to identify a suitable alternative location for the services currently provided from Waterfall Lane depot.



Levelling Up Fund - Longlist

8.11.21

Tony McGovern

A report on the longlist of proposed Levelling Up Fund projects is to be considered at the Board meeting on 9th February 2022

Levelling Up Fund

8.11.21

Tony McGovern

That town fora be used as a mechanism for consulting councillors on the proposed bids for use of Levelling Up Funds.

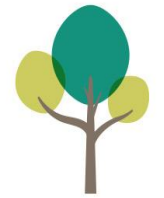


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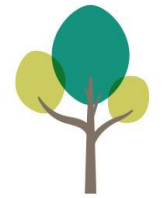


The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive in public session:-

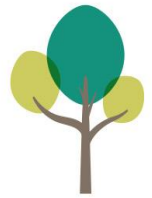
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
1	<p><b>Re-commissioning Sandwell Drug &amp; Alcohol Adult Treatment Services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mary Bailey</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>9 February 2022</p>		



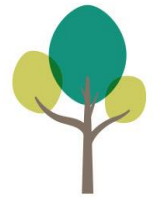
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
2	<p><b>High Needs Block Funding Allocation</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Moira Tallents</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	9 February 2022	N/A	Report
3	<p><b>Appointment of a Director to Sandwell Children’s Trust Ltd</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mandip S. Chahal</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	9 February 2022	N/A	



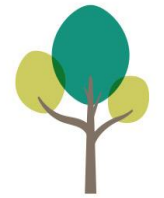
Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
4	<p><b>Horticultural Products and Tools 2021 – 2025</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Tim Pitt</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	9 February 2022	N/A	
5	<p><b>Approval to proceed with Sandwell Urban Bike Park project</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	9 February 2022	No	<p>Cabinet report</p> <p>Project programme</p>



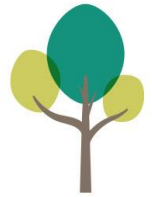
Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
6	<p><b>SLT Business Plan 2021-24</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	9 February 2022 (private item)		<p>Cabinet report</p> <p>SLT Business Plan 2021-24</p>
7	<p><b>Approve use of Highway Surfacing and Associated Works Contract</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/Mathew Burling</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	9 February 2022	N/A	



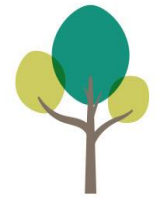
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
8	<p><b>Revocation of Highway Improvement Lines – A41 Birmingham Road, West Bromwich</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Andy Miller</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	9 February 2022		



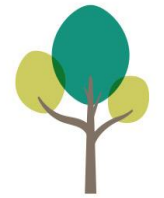
Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
9	<p><b>Provision of 18 new council homes at Beaver Road, Tipton</b></p> <p>Contact: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	9 February 2022		
10	<p><b>Use of commuted sums to deliver affordable housing for young people</b></p> <p>Contact: Nigel Collumbell</p> <p>Director – Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	February 2022		



	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><b>Provision of 15 new council homes at Hawes Lane, Rowley Regis</b></p> <p>Contact: Alan Martin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth/Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	February 2022		

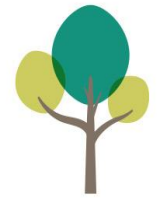


	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
12	<p><b>West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford/ Richard Reeve/Peter Simpson</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration &amp; Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	9 February 2022		West Bromwich Interim Planning Statement/Masterplan

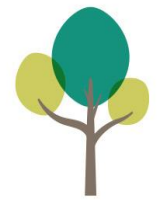




	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
13	<p><b>Smethwick to Birmingham Area Framework and Grove Lane Masterplan</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Hayley Insley</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	9 February 2022		



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><b>Information Governance Records Retention</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Maria Price</p> <p>Director of Law and Governance – Surjit Tour</p>	Leader (Cllr Carmichael)	23 February 2022		<p>The Corporate Retention Policy</p> <p>Email 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
15	<p><b>Sandwell Health Inequalities Programme: Grant funding for Sandwell Consortium CIC to deliver interventions to address health inequalities</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Anna Blennerhasset &amp; Suni Patel</p> <p>Director: Lisa McNally – Director of Public Health</p>	Leader (Cllr Carmichael)	23 February 2022		



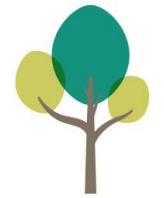
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
16	<p><b>Proposed new cemetery in West Bromwich and revised registration related fees and charges</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Mark Satchwell</p> <p>Director – Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer</p>	<p>Leader (Cllr Carmichael)</p>	<p>23 February 2022</p>		



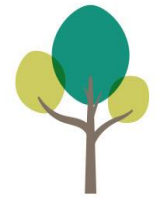
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
17	<p><b>Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Christine Guest</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)	23 February 2022 (private item)		
18	<p><b>Small Sided Spaces Project</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan/Rob Marlow</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)	23 February 2022	N/A	<p>Cabinet Report</p> <p>Appendix re: Scheme background and process</p>



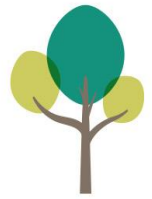
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
19	<p><b>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement and Local Transport Capital Programme 2022/23</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Andy Miller</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 February 2022		



	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><b>Direct Award of Microsoft Server Cloud Enrolment (SCE) License renewal using KCS framework agreement</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Richard Griffiths</p> <p>Director: Neil Cox – Director of Business Strategy and Change</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		

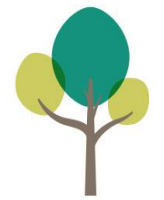


	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
21	<p><b>General Fund and HRA Budget, Capital Programme and Treasury Management Strategy 2022/23</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Simone Hines</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		
22	<p><b>Communications and Corporate Affairs Team</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Clair Norton</p> <p>Director: Neil Cox</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		

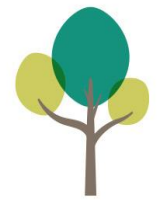




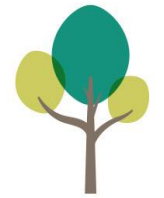
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
23	<p><b>Direct Award of Contract for eCapture and Webcapture Services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance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



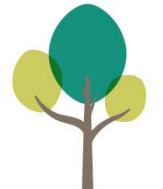
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
24	<p><b>Contract for the provision of a Revenues and Benefits application, a corporate document management solution and scanning and indexing services</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Sue Knowles</p> <p>Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)	23 February 2022		



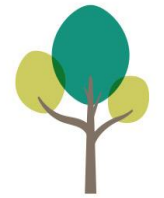
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
25	<p><b>Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund – Wave 1</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	23 February 2022		
26	<p><b>Adoption of revised Council Tenancy Conditions</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Neville Rowe</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	23 February 2022	Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board 9/12/2021	Report setting out the proposed changes to the Council’s Tenancy Conditions



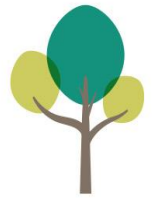
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
27	<p><b>Statement of Community Involvement Update</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Zoe Wilson</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 February 2022		



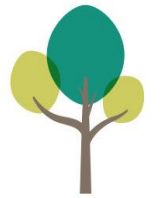
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
28	<p><b>Appropriation of Grafton Lodge, Grafton Road, Oldbury from General Fund into Housing Revenue Account</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Lee Constable</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director – Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 February 2022		



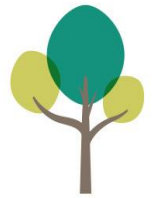
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
29	<p><b>Acquisition of Kings Square Shopping Centre</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Chris Hilton</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 February 2022		
30	<p><b>Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy at Connor Education Centre, West Bromwich</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett, Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022		



Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
31	<p><b>School Organisation Plan 2021/22</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education/Simone Hines – Director of Finance</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022	Tbc	<p>Report</p> <p>Appendices</p> <p>School Organisation Plan 2021/22</p>
32	<p><b>Ormiston Sandwell Community Academy – Proposed Expansion</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Martyn Roberts</p> <p>Director: Michael Jarrett – Director of Children and Education</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022		

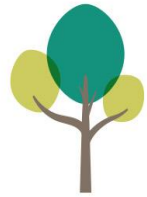


	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
33	<p><b>Children’s Social Care – Social Workers’ Pay</b></p> <p>Contact: Michael Jarrett</p> <p>Director of Children and Education, Michael Jarrett</p>	Children and Education (Cllr Simms)	23 March 2022		Report
34	<p><b>Domestic Abuse Strategy</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Maryrose Lappin</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Community Safety (Cllr Piper)	23 March 2022		

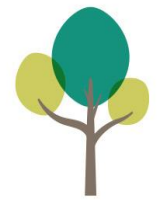




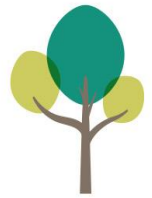
	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
35	<p><b>Street Naming, Renaming and Property Numbering Policy</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Robin Weare/Barry Ridgway</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		
36	<p><b>Corporate Climate Change Action Plan</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Jo Miskin</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Environment (Cllr Bostan)	23 March 2022		



	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
37	<p><b>Memorandum of Understanding between SMBC and Chance Heritage Trust re Heritage related regeneration in the Borough</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Tony McGovern</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 March 2022		



Title/Subject		Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
38	<p><b>Friar Park Residential Development</b></p> <p>Contact Officer – Chris Hilton</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	Regeneration and Growth (Cllr I Padda)	23 March 2022		<p>Site Appraisals and MasterPlan</p> <p>Funding approval for support</p> <p>Approval for informal public consultation</p>
39	<p><b>2022-23 Asset Management and Maintenance investment Programme</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J. Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	13 April 2022		Report

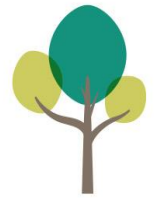


	Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
40	<p><b>Refurbishment of Thorne Close</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: J Rawlins</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director – Housing and Communities</p>	Housing (Cllr Ahmed)	13 April 2022		Report
41	<p><b>Adult Social Care Contributions Policy - Review Proposals</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Kay Murphy</p> <p>Director of Finance – Simone Hines Director of Adult Social Care - Rashpal Bishop</p>	<p>Finance and Resources (Cllr Crompton)</p> <p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	18 May 2022	N/A	<p>Joint report by</p> <p>Director of Finance and Director of Adult Social Care</p> <p>Appendices</p>

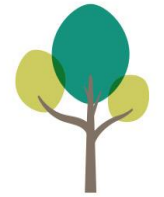


**Annual Programme Reminder (these items are not added automatically)**

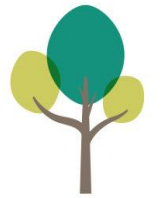
Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Review of Fees and Charges		January		
Determination of Admission Priorities for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools		January/February		
Schools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



Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Local Transport Settlement		March		
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		

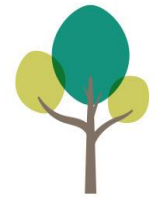


Title/Subject	Cabinet Portfolio Area	Decision Date	Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring		August		
Model Schools Pay Policy		October/November		
Winter Service Operational Plan		October/November		
Road Safety Plan		November		
Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring		November		
Council Tax Base Calculation		December		
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	Reason for Exemption	List of documents to be considered
<p><b>Sandwell and Community Caring Trust Contract</b></p> <p>Contact Officer: Christine Guest</p> <p>Director: Rashpal Bishop – Director of Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Adults, Social Care and Health (Cllr Hartwell)</p>	<p>23 February 2022</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p>	
<p><b>SLT Business Plan 2021-24</b></p> <p>Contact: Gemma Ryan</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Culture and Tourism (Cllr Millard)</p>	<p>9 February 2022</p>	<p>Commercial sensitivity</p>	







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## Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

**9 February 2022**

<b>Subject:</b>	Economy Skills Transport and Environment Work Programme 2021/22
<b>Director:</b>	Director of Law and Governance Surjit Tour
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Senior Democratic Services Officer Stephnie Hancock, <a href="mailto:Stephnie.Hancock@sandwell.gov.uk">Stephnie.Hancock@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

### 1 Recommendations





- 1.1 That the Board receives and comments upon its current work programme for 2021/22.
- 1.2 That the Board notes the direction from the Council to carry out a review of the Strategy Road Safety Plan 2017-22.
- 1.3 That the Board notes the elements of the Governance Review Improvement Plan (in response to the external auditors Value for Money Governance Review) that are relevant to its terms of reference.

### 2 Reasons for Recommendation

- 2.1 It is normal practice for scrutiny boards to receive and review their work programmes at each meeting. This enables boards to prioritise issues and also to respond to emerging priorities. Appendix A refers.
- 2.2 At the Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, concern was expressed by several members about road safety in Sandwell. The Council therefore resolved to ask this Board to conduct a review of the current Strategic Road Safety Plan 2017-2022.

2.3 At the same meeting the Council received a report based on its external auditors Value for Money Governance Review, along with an Improvement Plan to address the findings of the review. One of the Key Lines of Enquiry in the review was the waste service, which links to the work of this Board. In addition, there are elements of the improvement plan that relate to regeneration, which also links to this Board's terms of reference. Appendix B refers.

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

	<p>People live well and age well Road safety is considered to be of the highest importance for the health and wellbeing of residents. Reviewing and submitting recommendations to update the current Strategic Road Safety Plan will ensure that Sandwell is a safe place to live.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities By scrutinising and reviewing the Strategic Road Safety Plan, it will enable the Council to assess its effectiveness currently against recent local road safety priorities to the benefit of the communities being served.</p> <p>It is vital to ensure that the Council is effective in its enforcement powers in terms of waste services and maintenance of Sandwell's street scene. The services benefit whole communities, local neighbourhoods, families and creates a cohesive borough.</p>
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods The scrutiny and effective oversight and management of the waste contract will ensure that residents live in clean neighbourhoods.</p>
	<p>A connected and accessible Sandwell Despite significant progress in road safety provision, it is considered pertinent to continue to develop and consider resident views and update the Strategic Road Safety Plan to also address adaptations to public transport since the adoption of the Plan. This will ensure that transportation in Sandwell is connected and safe.</p>

## 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Sandwell's Strategic Road Safety Plan 2017-2022 published the findings of an in-depth road traffic casualty analysis across the borough and set out the Authority's road safety strategy for that period. Approval was received at Cabinet on 13<sup>th</sup> December 2017 (Minute No. 191/17) to implement the road safety strategy and associated policies to help inform road safety delivery within the borough until 2022.
- 4.2 This Plan complemented the Government's latest road safety statement – *Working Together to Build a Safer Road System* – and embraced their Safe Systems approach in setting out Sandwell's strategy.
- 4.3 During the full Council meeting on 18<sup>th</sup> January 2022, an approved motion was expressed by the Cabinet Member for the Environment that road safety and speed calming measures were to be implemented to ensure the health and well-being of the residents of Sandwell.

It was highlighted that approximately 800 road accidents occur in Sandwell annually which was a 55% reduction since the year 2000, during the same period, accidents resulting in people being killed or seriously injured had reduced by 52% and accidents with child casualties had reduced by 72%. The majority of causes of accidents have been identified as either speeding, congestion or poor pedestrian safety

It was also recognised that despite the work done to improve Sandwell's road safety provision, improvement was still required and it was considered pertinent to address resident concerns and growing challenges in Sandwell including an increasing number of vehicles on the road, climate change, adaptations to public transport and other such imperatives.

Consequently, the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board was called upon to conduct a review into the current Strategic Road Safety Plan and to submit its recommendations to Cabinet for consideration.

4.4 As outlined in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules within the Constitution, scrutiny bodies must respond to requests from the Council and/or the Executive to review particular areas of Council activity, within three months of the request, or at the nearest available programmed meeting where the Proper Officer considers this reasonable.

The scrutiny body must report its findings and any recommendations back to the Executive and/or the Council. The Council and/or Executive must consider the report of the scrutiny body within one month of receiving it, or at the nearest available programmed meeting where the Proper Officer considers this reasonable.

4.5 Appendix B sets out the elements of the Improvement Plan (in response to the external auditors Value for Money Governance Review) that are relevant to this Board’s terms of reference. The Bard may wish to discuss how it will maintain oversight of these actions.

## 5 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	There are no resource implications associated with this report.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Scrutiny boards are responsible for managing their own work programmes.  As outlined in the Scrutiny Procedure Rules within the Constitution, scrutiny bodies must respond to requests from the Council and/or the Executive to review particular areas of Council activity, within three months of the request, or at the nearest available programmed meeting where the Proper Officer considers this reasonable.
<b>Risk:</b>	There are no risk implications associated with this report.
<b>Equality:</b>	There are no equality implications associated with this report.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	The Strategic Road Safety Plan’s main focus is the reduction of harm and injury on the Borough’s road network with the aim to reduce casualties and improve the safety environment across the council’s asset.

	Effective and efficient waste collection services contribute to the wellbeing, cohesion and resilience of Sandwell's communities.
<b>Social Value</b>	Effective and efficient waste collection services contribute to the wellbeing, cohesion and resilience of Sandwell's communities.

## **6 Appendices**

Appendix A – Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Work Programme

Appendix B - Governance Review Improvement Plan 2022 - Elements Relating to the Terms of Reference of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

## **7. Background Papers**

Governance Review Improvement Plan











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# Work Programme 2021/22

## Economy, Skills Transport and Environment

### Scrutiny Board

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

8 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	Fleet Programme  Levelling Up Fund  Towns Fund Projects	    	Gary Charlton (Waste and Fleet Manager)  Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration & Growth)  Jenna Langford (Regeneration Manager)
9 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Grass Cutting Programme  Emergency Active Travel Fund  Levelling Up Fund: Long List of Projects  Serco Review Final Report	    	Director of Borough Economy  Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Officer)  Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration and Growth)  Chair
10 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Options for Efficiency Savings on Fleet  Towns Fund Business Cases  EVCP Bid	   	Gary Charlton (Waste and Fleet Manager)  Jenna Langford (Regeneration Manager)  Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Officer)

P.T.O.

## Items to be scheduled

- Planning White Paper



- Community Wealth Building and Inclusive Economy Action Plan



## Scrutiny Review

### Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough

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



### Review of the current Strategic Road Safety Plan



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## Governance Review Improvement Plan 2022

## Elements Relating to the Terms of Reference of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

Ref	Action	Responsible Lead	Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Commentary / Progress
S1.3.A	<b>Waste Contract</b> Refocused and strengthened contract management meetings in line with contract requirements: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Waste Board</li> <li>- Strategic Contract Meeting</li> <li>- Operational Contract Meeting               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Fleet Replacement Focused Steering Group</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	Director - Borough Economy	In place	Improvements in reporting of waste collection and street cleansing performance  Quality assurance around delivery of services for waste and street cleansing  Value for money assessed through benchmarking	In place and ongoing.  Would expect to see improvements in reporting performance within six months (June 2022)  Link to I22, I23, I24
S1.3.B	<b>Waste Contract</b> Review of the contract to refocus our communications and contract monitoring in areas of poor performance and to ensure the council receives the full provisions within the contract from Serco		March 2022	Improved performance in recycling rates	Commenced  Link to I23
S1.3.C	<b>Waste Contract</b> Introduction of a more focused framework for contract monitoring		April 2022		Commenced  Link to I23
S1.3.D	<b>Waste Contract</b> To undertake the appointment of a representative to review contractor records, and undertake site visits as required to further enable the		Commission exercise – March 2022		Commenced - An outline of the council's requirements has been drafted during December 2022

Ref	Action	Responsible Lead	Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Commentary / Progress
	Council to monitor the performance of the contract within the market place		Completion – July 2022		
S1.3.E	<b>Waste Contract</b> Resolution of Industrial Relations issues		December 2021	GMB agree that issues addressed and stand down industrial action	Resolved end December 2021
I22	<b>Waste Service</b> The Council should prioritise corporate effort to ensure that the recovery plans are approved and appropriate senior management oversight is given to monitoring their effective delivery.				
S1.3.A	<i>Refocused and strengthened contract management meetings in line with contract requirements</i>				
I22.1	Waste and Recycling Recovery Plan – completion and implementation	Director - Borough Economy	June 2022	Approved by Waste Management Board  Regular monitoring and reporting on progress to WMB  Performance re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints</li> <li>• Enquiries to contact centre</li> <li>• Fly tipping clearance</li> </ul>	Commenced - Agreed plan in place
I22.2	Street Cleansing Recovery Plan – completion and implementation	Director - Borough Economy	June 2022	Approved by Waste Management Board  Regular monitoring and reporting on progress to WMB  Performance re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Complaints</li> </ul>	Plan not yet received from Serco in December 2021  Date of next Waste Management Board is 27 <sup>th</sup> Jan 2022

Ref	Action	Responsible Lead	Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Commentary / Progress
				<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Enquiries to contact centre</li> <li>Fly tipping clearance</li> </ul>	
I22.3	Include key contract performance measures in Corporate Performance Management Framework, as well as Performance re: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Complaints</li> <li>Enquiries to contact centre</li> <li>Fly tipping clearance</li> </ul>	Director – Borough Economy	June 2022	Regular monitoring and reporting of progress	Link to S1.3.C & Link to S2.7
I22.4	Review of Waste Services and the Cleanliness and Appearance of the Borough by the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board	Director - Borough Economy	The Waste Scrutiny Review to be reported to Cabinet in February 2022  Delivery of actions to be undertaken during the period from March to August 2022	Improved performance in street cleansing standards – reduced complaints  Increased monitoring of the Waste & Street Cleansing Contract  Reduced missed collections for waste and recycling  Future Scrutiny review to confirm improvements embedded	Commenced - The review report has been drafted and circulated for consultation during December 2021
I23	<b>Waste Service</b> The Council should ensure robust contract management arrangements are in place, and review the Key Output Targets (KOTs) and work with Serco to ensure they are line with Council expectations and the data is available to allow effective monitoring of contract outcomes.				
S1.3.A	<i>Refocused and strengthened contract management meetings in line with contract requirements</i>				
S1.3.B	<i>Review of the contract to refocus our communications and contract monitoring in areas of poor</i>				

Ref	Action	Responsible Lead	Delivery Date	Measure of Success	Commentary / Progress
	<i>performance and to ensure the council receives the full provisions within the contract from Serco</i>				
S1.3.C	<i>Introduction of a more focused framework for contract monitoring</i>				
I24	<b>Waste Service</b> The Council should ensure that the investments specified in the contract with Serco are made, such as a new vehicle fleet.				
S1.3.A	<i>Refocused and strengthened contract management meetings in line with contract requirements</i>				
I24.1	To manage the delayed Serco Fleet replacement programme in line with the requirements of the contract	Director - Borough Economy	By the proposed revised date of end January 2022	The delayed fleet replacement in line with the contractual requirements in terms of provision of vehicles	A list of replacement vehicles has been provided with delivery due during January 2022
S1.6	Develop and publish Regeneration Pipeline, including dates for delivery, and regularly report on progress	Director - Regeneration & Growth	March 2022	Comprehensive Regeneration Pipeline published to underpin significant regeneration and development in Sandwell in period 2022-2027.	Commenced



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