

Agenda Cabinet

**Wednesday, 20 July 2022 at 3.30 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 (Pages 9 - 52)

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 22 June, 2022 as a correct record.

4 Additional Items of Business

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

5 Leader's Announcements

To consider any announcements by the Leader of the



Council.

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| 6 | Brandhall - Options (Pages 53 - 484) To consider options in relation to the Brandhall site, Oldbury. | Regeneration & Growth |
| 7 | Review of Parking Charges Policy (Pages 485 - 506) To review parking charges policy for council car parks in the borough. | Environment Services |
| 8 | Land at Cranford Street, Smethwick - Compulsory Purchase Order (Pages 507 - 518) To approve the Compulsory Purchase Order of land at Cranford Street, Smethwick. | Regeneration & Growth |
| 9 | Civica Contract Award and Upgrade to CX System (Pages 519 - 536) To award a contract for 'Civica Cx Case Management System'. | Communities |
| 10 | Award of Contract for Local Welfare Provision (Pages 537 - 542) To award a contract for Local Welfare Provision. | Finance & Resources |
| 11 | Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter, Policy and Guidance (Pages 543 - 564) To approve the implementation of a Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter and its accompanying policy and guidance. | Finance & Resources |
| 12 | Health Checks Service (Pages 565 - 586) To agree to tender the Health Checks contract for a prime provider to deliver the Health Checks Service. | Adult Social Care & Health |
| 13 | School Condition Report 2022 (Pages 587 - 598) To approve the allocation of School Condition grant | Children & Education |

funding for cyclical maintenance of local authority maintained schools.

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| 14 | Outcome of the Review of Generic Advocacy Service (Pages 599 - 620) | Adult Social Care & Health |
| | To approve the decommissioning of the Generic Advocacy Service from 1 October 2022. | |
| 15 | Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan (Pages 621 - 666) | Adult Social Care & Health |
| | To approve the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and the Action Plan. | |
| 16 | Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2022 (Pages 667 - 704) | Regeneration & Growth |
| | To agree for Sandwell Council to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement. | |
| 17 | Smethwick Enterprise Centre - declaration surplus to requirements (Pages 705 - 712) | Regeneration & Growth |
| | To declare Smethwick Enterprise Centre surplus to requirements. | |
| 18 | Appointment of contractor - Sandwell Urban Bike Park Project (Pages 713 - 718) | Tourism & Culture |
| | To appoint a contractor to deliver the Sandwell Urban Bike Park project. | |
| 19 | Designation of Nature Conservation Sites (Pages 719 - 730) | Regeneration & Growth |
| | To give approval for three locations to be designated as 'Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation' (SLINC). | |
| 20 | Governance Improvement Plan Progress (Pages 731 - 774) | Leader |
| | To receive details of progress and the risk register in relation to the Governance Improvement Plan. | |

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| 21 | <p>Authority to procure accommodation-based support services for victims of domestic abuse (Pages 775 - 804)</p> <p>To agree to procure new accommodation-based support services for victims of domestic violence and abuse.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care & Health</p> |
| 22 | <p>Provision of accommodation-based housing related support for adults at risk of homelessness (Pages 805 - 822)</p> <p>To approve the direct award of four short-term contracts for accommodation-based housing related support for adults at risk of becoming homeless.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care & Health</p> |
| 23 | <p>Award of Minor Adaptation / Handyperson Service 2023-2026 (Pages 823 - 828)</p> <p>To authorise the Director of Adult Social Care to award the contract for the supply of Minor Adaptations and Handypersons Service 2023-2026.</p> | <p>Adult Social Care & Health</p> |
| 24 | <p>Procurement of an Adult Weight Management Service (Pages 829 - 848)</p> <p>To procure a weight management service for adults.</p> | <p>Adults Social Care & Health</p> |
| 25 | <p>Sandwell Museums Accreditation - Submission to Arts Council England (Pages 849 - 856)</p> <p>To agree to the Sandwell Museums Service submitting a case to the Arts Council England with regards to achieving full accreditation status as part of national Museums Accreditation Scheme.</p> | <p>Leisure & Tourism</p> |
| 26 | <p>Award of Contracts for Post-16 High Needs Education Provision (Pages 857 - 880)</p> <p>To approve an exemption from the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the Council to enter into individual contracts with Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) approved institutions for post-16 high needs provision.</p> | <p>Children & Education</p> |

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| 27 | Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service Contract (Pages 881 - 896) | Children & Education |
| | To award a contract for the provision of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) following a tender process. | |
| 28 | 2021/2022 Financial Outturn (Pages 897 - 936) | Finance & Resources |
| | To consider the 2021/2022 Financial Outturn Report. | |
| 29 | Exclusion of the Public and Press | |
| | 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. | |
| 30 | Fair Cost of Care and other Adult Social Care Market Pressures (Pages 937 - 962) | Adult Social Care & Health |
| | To consider proposals in relation to Fair Cost of Care and other Adult Social Care market pressures. (Exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). | |
| 31 | Queens Square Shopping Centre - Lease Assignment (Pages 963 - 972) | Regeneration & Growth |
| | To consider options in relation to the lease assignment of Queens Square Shopping Centre, West Bromwich. (Exempt information relating to the financial or business affairs of any particular person (including the authority holding that information)). | |

Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL
Managing Director Commissioner
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Carmichael (Chair)
Councillors Ahmed, Hackett, Hartwell, Hughes, Millard, Padda, Piper and
Rollins

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Minutes of Cabinet

**Wednesday 22 June at 3.30pm
at Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House**

Present: Councillor Carmichael (Chair);
Councillors Piper, Ahmed, Hartwell, Hughes, Padda
and Rollins.

In attendance: Councillors Fenton, E M Giles and Shackleton.

Also present: Kim Bromley-Derry (Managing Director Commissioner),
Simone Hines (Director of Finance), Surjit Tour
(Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring
Officer), Alice Davey (Director of Borough Economy),
Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration and
Growth), Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing),
Lisa McNally (Director of Public Health),
Elaine Newsome (Service Manager – Democracy),
Matthew Huggins (Interim Service Manager Parks and
Grounds), Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services
Manager).

118/22 **Leader's Announcements**

The Leader made reference to the matters to be considered at the meeting of the Cabinet and the impact to the residents of Sandwell:-

- the Covid Recovery Fund used Fairer Sandwell Principles to provide support where it was most required; the Drug Strategy Grant built on the Council's excellent work by allocating an additional £0.5m on top of current services; the Black Country Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan, which supported people in making healthy choices and help keep Sandwell air

clean; the Green Spaces Strategy; and how the Council would provide its leisure services.

- the Towns Fund Programme proposed £63.6m of investment across the borough and bids for round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund as part of investing in Sandwell;
- the Black Country Plan; new council homes in Smethwick, West Bromwich and Rowley Regis; more new homes with the LHC Framework Alliance in West Bromwich, Rowley Regis and Tipton; and looking into the future with the Council House build programme;
- underpinning this, Cabinet would be making decisions on print services and planning contract to ensure best value for money and resources were used efficiently;
- preparation for the Commonwealth Games.

119/22 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Hackett, E M Giles, Millard and Moore.

120/22 **Declarations of Interest**

The Chair declared a pecuniary interest in Minute No.141/22 (Management Options Appraisal – Leisure).

121/22 **Minutes**

The minutes of the meetings held on 18 May and 1 June 2022 were approved as a correct record.

122/22 **Additional Items of Business**

There were no additional items of business.

New Homelessness and Rough Sleeping

Approval was sought for the refreshed Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022.

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board asked whether it was anticipated that Sandwell Council would provide more of this type of accommodation in other parts of the borough and if tenants received support and guidance about employment and financial issues.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Housing stated that Sandwell would continue to maximise the use of its own stock for the provision of temporary accommodation, but the ambition was to reduce the use of temporary accommodation by increasing sustainable housing options, this included the development of new Council properties, single property acquisitions and appropriation/conversion of unused Council assets into the council stock. Incentives and support was also offered to private landlords to increase the availability of affordable good quality private rented accommodation.

The Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board enquired about the key performance indicators in place to monitor the effectiveness of the strategy and to ensure regular contact with service users.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Housing stated that there were a range of prevention tools and measures both in place and in development, this included:-

- Communication and education – inform the residents of Sandwell of the help that was available to them should they be struggling to pay their rent or mortgage and the importance of approaching us for support as early as possible. This would include access to advice on income maximisation, including pathways to work and / benefit entitlement.

- Homelessness prevention fund – resource available to help prevent homelessness which could be used in a variety of ways including but not limited to helping people with short term rent arrears, or helping people secure a new home by paying for deposit and other set up costs.
- Better partnerships with private rented sector landlords – “Call Before You Serve” was a project that supported landlords who were considering evicting their tenants. Sandwell would help landlords work with their tenants to sustain their tenancies. Work was also underway with landlords to incentivise them in offering affordable properties to homeless households, increasing the range of housing options available.
- Support for people with mental health and drug and alcohol related issues – the Council had secured funding to provide a mental health and drug and alcohol support worker specifically to support homeless clients who present with these complex issues.
- Improved partnership working with internal and external partners – Sandwell were working with partners to ensure that they contact us when they were working with households whose are at risk of becoming homelessness now or in the future.

Reason for Decision

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local authorities to produce a homelessness review and a homelessness strategy, on a maximum five-year cycle, that set out the strategic direction that the local authority would take to tackle homelessness. The Council last adopted a homelessness strategy in April 2018 and in partnership with Sandwell’s Homelessness Partnership, officers had produced a revised and refreshed strategy to provide this strategic direction from 2022-2027.

Alternative Options Considered

There were no alternative options. The Council was obliged under law to have a Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy.

Agreed:-

- (1) that details of the progress made to date in reviewing the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy be received;
- (2) that the refreshed Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy 2022, be approved.

124/22 **COVID Recovery Fund**

Approval was sought for use of the remaining COVID-19 funding to deliver COVID recovery related projects based on our Fairer Sandwell principles, subject to ensuring £2m of funding was retained for a COVID resilience fund in the event of further COVID restrictions.

Approval was also sought to the use of £8m of COVID funding during 2022/23 to 2024/25 to deliver the proposals and a £1m COVID Community Fund to which the voluntary and community sector can bid for funding to deliver their own COVID recovery projects.

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board asked whether it was possible to be kept updated on the outcomes of the Covid Recovery Fund.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources stated that progress reports would be brought back to Cabinet on the COVID Recovery Fund and Leadership Team were also exploring other priorities where COVID funding may be appropriate, linked to the Corporate Plan and Fairer Sandwell Principles.

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board also enquired about the gym/play equipment in local parks that required replacing or repairing. The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources stated that there was a separate item on the agenda on the Council's Green Spaces Strategy which set out the Council's priorities and funding strategy for this service.

The Local Community Fund was also a way for Councillors to seek funding for specific projects.

Reason for Decision

During the COVID pandemic, all local authorities were given additional funding from central government to mitigate the spend pressures and loss of income caused by COVID restrictions, and to support the Public Health activities needed to contain the spread of the virus.

The Council was required to report on how it was spent and the COVID pressures that the funding was used for. Given the improved level of COVID infection and impact nationally, it was recommended that the remaining funding was used towards a COVID Recovery Strategy to focus on services where there was either a backlog of work due to the impact of the pandemic or where residents/businesses required extra support to recover from the longer-term impact of COVID. It was also suggested that a proportion was set aside as a contingency for any further restrictions should a new variant emerge.

Alternative Options Considered

The alternative options were to approve the proposals or to ask for amended proposals to be presented at a future Cabinet meeting.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to the use of the remaining COVID-19 funding to deliver COVID recovery related projects based on our Fairer Sandwell principles, subject to ensuring £2m of funding is retained for a COVID resilience fund in the event of further COVID restrictions;
- (2) that approval be given to the use of £8m of COVID funding during 2022/23 to 2024/25 to deliver the proposals set out in Appendix A, as now submitted;

- (3) that approval be given to a £1m COVID Community Fund to which the voluntary and community sector can bid for funding to deliver their own COVID recovery projects;
- (4) that subject to Resolution (3) above, the Director of Business Strategy and Change, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, be authorised to implement the COVID Community Fund scheme;
- (5) that the Director of Finance, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, be authorised to agree further spend proposals from the COVID Recovery earmarked reserve.

125/22 **Towns Fund – Inclusion in Capital Programme and Assurance Framework**

Approval was sought for the sum of £63.6m for the Towns Fund Programme to be included in the Capital Programme across 2022-2026 with £26.8m being included for 2022/23.

It was also proposed to approve the Towns Fund Assurance Framework to enable the Accountable Body to deliver the programme successfully.

Reasons for Decision

Sandwell Council was the Accountable Body for the Towns Fund Programme and as such, was responsible for discharging its responsibilities in the management of the programme.

Alternative Options

Failure to have key processes and procedures for the Towns Fund Programme could impact on future funding allocations being released.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to the Towns Fund Programme of £63.6m to be included in the Capital Programme across 2022-2026 with £26.8m being included for 2022/23;
- (2) that details of the roles and responsibilities of the Section 151 Officer and Accountable Body in managing the Towns Fund Programme be received;
- (3) that approval be given to the Towns Fund Assurance Framework to enable the Accountable Body to deliver the programme successfully;
- (4) that in connection with Resolution (3) above, the Towns Fund Programme Manager, in consultation with the Director of Regeneration & Growth, Section 151 Officer and Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, be authorised to make any amendments to the Framework subject to updated government guidance or council procedures.

126/22 **Draft Black Country Plan: Consultation on Additional Housing Sites and amendment to the Local Development Scheme**

Approval was sought for Regulation 18 consultation on the additional sites identified in Walsall for the Black Country Plan (BCP) and to seek approval for the updated Local Development Scheme (LDS) and timeline 2022.

Reasons for Decision

Authorisation was sought to consult on those additional suitable housing sites in Walsall for the Draft Plan version of the Black Country Plan.

The next stage was the production of a Regulation 19 plan. By including the sites in the Regulation 19 BC Plan, officers would be closer to meeting the housing need of the Black Country for the period up to 2039. This gave a more robust and sound Plan.

Whilst the additional sites only lay in Walsall, similar reports were being taken to the respective Cabinets meetings of Dudley, Walsall and City of Wolverhampton.

For these reasons it was recommended that approval to consult on the additional sites identified in Walsall be accepted.

Alternative Options Considered

If a consultation was not conducted on the additional Walsall sites, the BCP could be found unsound at Examination In Public by the Planning Inspector.

Preparation of a LDS was a requirement of the Planning Compulsory Purchase Act 2004. As such there was no alternative to its preparation.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to an additional Regulation 18 consultation to include in the Black Country Plan the additional Walsall sites;
- (2) that approval be given to the approach to the consultation as set out in Appendix B and the Sustainability Appraisal Report as now submitted;
- (3) that approval be given to update the Sandwell Local Development Scheme 2021 and updated timeline set out in Appendices C & D;
- (4) that the Director for Regeneration and Growth be authorised to make any necessary minor amendments to the Draft Plan and other consultation documents prior to the

commencement of the Regulation 18 consultation process;

- (5) that the Director for Regeneration and Growth be authorised to make minor changes to the Local Development Scheme that may be required prior to making it available to the public, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Growth.

127/22 **Award of Corporate Hybrid Print and Mail Contract**

Approval was sought for the Director of Business Strategy and Change, in consultation with the Director of Finance – Section 151 Officer and the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, be authorised to award a contract for corporate Hybrid Print and Mail Services, via the ESPO Framework Agreement RM6017-19 Postal Goods, Services and Solutions for a 5 year period commencing on 1 September 2022 with an option to extend for up to a further 2 years.

Reasons for Decision

The report sought approval to award a contract for corporate Hybrid Print and Mail Services following a compliant procurement process.

Implementation of a Hybrid Print and Mail solution would deliver a number of benefits to the Council:

- Fully supports and enables the Council's Workplace Vision Programme and Smart Working Policy
- Reduces storage requirements (paper, envelopes etc)
- Achieves contractual savings (Multi-Functional Devices, Central Print, peripherals)
- Achieves financial savings through reduced mail charges as providers prepare the mail to a high standard which removes several of the preparation stages normally carried out by Royal Mail
- Improves document quality and consistency – control letterheads, stationery and attachments and achieve high quality and consistent production of documents

- Can control and restrict the use of expensive print and mail options such as colour printing and first-class mail
- Production of detailed management information about what we print which can be used to identify opportunities for on-line notifications, reducing postage costs further.

The estimated cashable savings that would be achieved upon successful implementation of Hybrid Print and Mail were over £220,000 per annum. Savings would increase further as we use the intelligence about what was printed to identify opportunities for online/digital notifications.

Alternative Options Considered

The Council could continue with the current printing arrangements where most of the printing and dispatch is done from Council Offices. This option would not realise any of the benefits outlined. The Council would also incur additional expense in the future as machinery in the Central Print Unit would need to be replaced.

Agreed:-

- (1) that the Director of Business Strategy and Change and the Director of Finance - Section 151 Officer, in consultation with Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources, be authorised to award a contract for corporate Hybrid Print and Mail Services, via the ESPO Framework Agreement RM6017-19 Postal Goods, Services and Solutions for a 5 year period commencing on 1 September 2022 with an option to extend for up to a further 2 years;
- (2) that the Director Law and Governance – Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute any documentation necessary to enable the action referred to in Resolution (1) above.

Drug Strategy Grant: Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant

Approval was sought for the Director of Public Health to distribute the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) grant conditions.

Approval was also sought for the Director of Public Health to be authorised to have final sign off on the distribution of the funds over the grant period covering the following financial

Reasons for Recommendations

Sandwell's allocated SSMTRG amount for the 2022/23 period was £532,036.

The funding must be spent on interventions that aimed to achieve the Drug Strategy ambition to reduce drug and alcohol related deaths and harms. The Strategy therefore required that local areas rebuild and reinvest into local support systems towards "a world class drug treatment and recovery system". Monies could only be spent on provisions that fit within OHIDs menu of interventions.

Cabinet approval had already been secured to vary the existing Cranstoun contract to accommodate SSMTRG provisions up to a maximum value of £280,066 and to procure future treatment services including use of SSMTRG within those future contract provisions (given the current Cranstoun contract would expire on 31 January 2023 therefore ending before the SSMTRG grant term period).

Therefore, it was proposed to secure approval to use the remaining and any future SSMTRG (the monies not already covered by previous Cabinet approvals) as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) grant conditions.

Alternative Options

The alternative option was to not approve distribution of the SSMTRG as required by OHID and not utilise the additional funding but simply return the monies to government.

This would mean that the local treatment population would not benefit from the potential quality and capacity improvements that the monies could afford.

Agreed:-

- (1) that the Director of Public Health be authorised to distribute the Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment and Recovery Grant (SSMTRG) as required by Office for Health Improvement & Disparities (OHID) grant conditions;
- (2) that the Director of Public Health be authorised to have final sign off on the distribution of the funds over the grant period covering the following financial years: 2022/23, 2023/24 and 2024/25.

129/22 **Permission to consult on the Black Country Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan**

Approval was sought for the public consultation of the Black Country Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board asked whether Councillors were involved in the consultations relating to the Plan, particularly in the ward and towns they represented.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth gave assurance that all ward members would be consulted along with the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board going forward,

Reasons for Decision

The West Midlands Combined Authority had developed a LCWIP that identified and enabled a plan to develop strategic cycling and walking networks throughout the West Midlands up to 2028. Subsequently, Sandwell developed an LCWIP that identified and enabled a plan to develop strategic cycling and walking networks throughout Sandwell up to 2030.

The West Midlands had secured £1.05bn funding to expand the regions tram, train, bus, walking and cycle networks and drive a green transport revolution. The funding came from the government's City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement (CRSTS), which would kickstart a wide range of projects including walking and cycling Infrastructure in a move to decarbonise the region's transport system, create new jobs and opportunities for local people and bolster the fight against climate change.

Alternative Options Considered

For each scheme within the BCLCWIP, the options considered and the reasons for the recommended option would be set out in the individual approval reports as they are submitted to the Cabinet Member for Environment.

Agreed that approval be given to the public consultation of the Black Country Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan.

130/22 **Disposal of Grafton Lodge, Grafton Road, Oldbury**

Approval was sought to declare Grafton Lodge, Grafton Road, Oldbury, the former Adult Services led care home, surplus to all Council use.

It was proposed that the site should be advertised on the open market for sale including to all the Registered Providers who are active or interested in being active in Sandwell.

The proposal to redevelop the site for residential purposes would be subject to a selection criterion with percentage weighting to price, tenure mix, and any other required factors. It may also be necessary to consider managing the development outputs via a restrictive covenant.

An external valuation has been undertaken by Lambert Smith Hampton dated 6 January 2022. If the site were sold for re-use as a care home the value would be in the region of £630k. If the site was sold and redeveloped for housing, then the current market value would be in the region of £600k.

Both valuations were approximately in line with the council's current holding value as at the 31 March 2020 of £644k.

The Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board questioned whether the option to lease out to a private provider was explored and if the option of building Council housing on the site was considered.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth stated he would undertake to provide a response to this query and would report back to the member.

Reasons for decision

Disposal of the property is sought to provide much needed housing within Sandwell. Disposal and subsequent redevelopment would also remove the ongoing management costs associated with an empty building.

The former care home and current site have been declared surplus to both Adult Services requirements and wider council service provision.

Alternative options considered

To retain the asset in the General Fund. The building was currently surplus to General Fund needs. There was an opportunity to make better use of this asset and remove ongoing revenue and maintenance costs.

Subject to no realistic bids being received or bids not meeting the set criterion, via the open market exercise, the asset could be considered for appropriation into the Housing Revenue Account. It would then support housing development, possibly modular build to deliver 100% affordable housing on the site. These homes would be part of SMBC stock. This option had been considered initially. However, by considering disposal on the open market for a developer or registered landlord to deliver the scheme the council would look to obtain a sizable capital receipt whilst still providing affordable housing helping to meet housing targets for the area. In the event of no suitable bids being received this option can be reconsidered.

Agreed:-

- (1) that Grafton Lodge, Grafton Road, Oldbury B68 8BJ, the former Adult Services led care home, as shown on site plan SAM/20100/007, be declared surplus to all council use;
- (2) that the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to dispose of the site, on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration & Growth, in consultation with the Director of Housing and Director of Finance;
- (3) that subject to Resolution (1) above, the Director of Regeneration and Growth, in consultation with the Director of Housing and the Director of Finance, be authorised to prepare sale particulars and subsequently dispose, in accordance with any statutory regulations and the Council's Procurement and Financial Regulations, the site to a Developer or a Registered Provider to develop, a suitable housing scheme; to enter into or execute under seal any financial or conditional agreement in relation to the delivery of a suitable scheme on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Finance;
- (4) that subject to Resolution (2) above, the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in relation to the disposal and/or development agreement, licence, undertaking, any consents or applications required for Planning or Highways appertaining to the delivery of the scheme and any other agreements with the procured developer(s) or Registered Provider(s) as may be deemed necessary to facilitate development of the site with a housing scheme on terms and conditions

to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration and Growth;

- (5) to agree that the property referred to in Resolution (1) above, may be sold at below market value to secure a higher level of affordable housing, if in the opinion of officers, the most advantageous bid received is on this basis.

131/22 **Council new build homes on land at West End Avenue, Smethwick**

Approval was sought to develop land at West End Avenue, Smethwick with new council housing for affordable rent, subject to planning permission.

Reasons for recommendations

The site was located within the West Smethwick area on land off West End Avenue, Smethwick, approximately 1km to the North West of Smethwick town centre.

The Council was able to develop this site with circa 11 homes, subject to planning permission, as part of the new strategic approach to provide more and better housing in the borough.

Alternative options considered

Option A – Dispose of the site on the open market.

Option B – Work in partnership with a Registered Provider Partner with the assistance of Homes England to build new affordable home for rent.

Option C – Leave the site undeveloped.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to develop approximately 3002.3 m2 of land at West End Avenue Smethwick with new council housing for affordable rent, subject to planning permission, as shown for identification purposes only at Appendix E as now submitted;

- (2) that the Director of Finance be authorised to allocate adequate resources from the Council's Housing Revenue Account to deliver the scheme and to utilise grant funding offered by Homes England, under the extended Homes England Strategic Partnership 1 Programme 2016 to 2021 to assist with the delivery of the project;
- (3) that in connection with Resolution (1) and (2) above, approval be given to authorise the necessary steps for the delivery of the proposed project, including:
 - (a) the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing be authorised to prepare tendering documentation and subsequently procure, in accordance with any statutory regulations and the Council's Procurement and Financial Regulations;
 - (b) execute any requirements in accordance with the Homes England Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) framework including appointing a contractor(s) to develop, on behalf of the Council, the proposed housing scheme; to enter into or execute under seal any financial agreement in relation to the Homes England grant on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Finance;
 - (c) that any necessary exemptions are made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to b above to proceed;
 - (d) subject to a, b and c above, the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in

relation to award of the contract and/or development/partnership agreement, Homes England developer status, licence, undertaking, framework joining agreement, any consents or applications required for Planning or Highways appertaining to the delivery of the scheme and any other agreements with the procured contractor(s) and with the Homes England, as may be deemed necessary to facilitate development of the site with a housing scheme as described in below on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration and Growth;

- (e) the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Housing and the Director of Finance be authorised to accept a tender of up to 10% above the approved estimated costs as a contingency to mitigate uncertain market conditions and inflationary cost uplifts.
- (f) subject to the practical completion of each property, the Director of Housing be authorised to manage and let the properties built in accordance with the Council's housing allocation policy.
- (g) that the following action points identified within the financial appraisal of the funding application by Strategic Finance, be implemented to reduce the risk to the Council:
 - that Cabinet consider the alternatives and are satisfied that the proposal to construct the new build homes will meet the Council's objectives in the most appropriate manner.
 - that a process is developed to prioritise the development of sites against pre-determined criteria and

alternative options for achieving the Council's housing objectives within each locality.

132/22 **Council new build homes on land at Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich**

Approval was sought to develop land at Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich with new council housing for affordable rent, subject to planning permission.

Reasons for Recommendations

The site was located within the Greets Green area on land off Whitgreave Street, approximately 2km to the West of West Bromwich town centre.

The Council was able to develop this site with circa 6 homes, subject to planning permission, as part of the new strategic approach to provide more and better housing in the borough.

Alternative options considered

Option A – Dispose of the site on the open market.

Option B – Work in partnership with a Registered Provider Partner with the assistance of Home England to build new affordable homes for rent.

Option C – Leave the site undeveloped.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to develop approximately 2355 m² of land at Whitgreave Street, West Bromwich with new council housing for affordable rent, subject to planning permission, as shown for identification purposes only at Appendix F, as now submitted;
- (2) that the Director of Finance be authorised to allocate adequate resources from the Council's Housing Revenue Account to deliver the scheme and to utilise grant funding offered by Homes England, under the extended Homes England

Strategic Partnership 1 Programme 2016 to 2021 to assist with the delivery of the project;

- (3) that in connection with Resolution (1) and (2) above, approval be given to authorise the necessary steps for the delivery of the proposed project, including:
 - (a) the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing be authorised to prepare tendering documentation and subsequently procure, in accordance with any statutory regulations and the Council's Procurement and Financial Regulations;
 - (b) execute any requirements in accordance with the Homes England Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) framework including appointing a contractor(s) to develop, on behalf of the Council, the proposed housing scheme; to enter into or execute under seal any financial agreement in relation to the Homes England grant on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Finance;
 - (c) that any necessary exemptions are made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to b above to proceed;
 - (d) subject to a, b and c above, the Director – Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in relation to award of the contract and/or development/partnership agreement, Homes England developer status, licence, undertaking, framework joining agreement, any consents or applications required for Planning or Highways appertaining to the delivery of

the scheme and any other agreements with the procured contractor(s) and with the Homes England, as may be deemed necessary to facilitate development of the site with a housing scheme as described in below on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration and Growth;

- (e) the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Housing and the Director of Finance be authorised to accept a tender of up to 10% above the approved estimated costs as a contingency to mitigate uncertain market conditions and inflationary cost uplifts.
- (f) subject to the practical completion of each property, the Director of Housing be authorised to manage and let the properties built in accordance with the Council's housing allocation policy;
- (g) that the following action points identified within the financial appraisal of the funding application by Strategic Finance, be implemented to reduce the risk to the Council:
 - that Cabinet consider the alternatives and are satisfied that the proposal to construct the new build homes will meet the Council's objectives in the most appropriate manner.
 - that a process is developed to prioritise the development of sites against pre-determined criteria and alternative options for achieving the Council's housing objectives within each locality.
 - that the planned use of Right to Buy receipts is reviewed prior to the submission of a 'firm scheme' to

Homes England to ensure that the project secures the most appropriate and financially advantageous source of funding.

- That the relocation of the electricity sub-station and related lease are completed as a matter of urgency to ensure no delays to project timescales.

133/22 **Proposed West Bromwich Definitive Map and Statement for Public Rights of Way**

Approval was sought to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Growth and the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to make representations to the Secretary of State requesting formal abandonment of the West Bromwich Draft Map under Section 55 (1)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 and take the necessary steps, under this legislation, to create the West Bromwich Definitive Map and Statement.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Council proposed to abandon the draft map and statement under the 1949 Act and commence the creation of a new Definitive Map & Statement under the 1981 Act. To do this, the Council was required to make an application to the Secretary of State seeking a direction to abandon the survey carried out under the 1949 Act in relation to West Bromwich in its entirety. If the Secretary of State approved the abandonment under section 55, the Council would be required to prepare a new draft map and statement for the West Bromwich area in accordance with the 1981 Act.

The abandonment process and subsequent creation of the definitive map and statement for the West Bromwich area would allow the Council to comply with its statutory duty of having a Definitive Map and Statement and keeping it up-to-date and under continuous review as required by the 1981 Act. Furthermore, once the West Bromwich Definitive Map and Statement was confirmed, the Council could consolidate

the nine separate maps into a single Sandwell Definitive Map and Statement.

The Definitive Map and Statement would also give much greater certainty for property search enquiries in the West Bromwich area. The map would also allow a more robust method of managing the public right of way network, particularly where issues were raised in relation to lack of maintenance or obstructed routes. The Definitive Map would also allow formal map modification to remove routes that had been legally stopped up or diverted. Current legislation did not allow formal modification of a draft map.

Alternative options considered

In September 2016, members were briefed on the West Bromwich draft map and statement situation.

In November 2016, advice was sought from a leading PRow Barrister on this alternative approach and how best to proceed. The advice from the Barrister stated that the principal risk of the alternative approach was the significant delay in preparing the Definitive Map for West Bromwich. This was because the Council would continue to be in breach of its statutory duty as it would be neither completing the process of preparing its Definitive Map under the 1949 Act, nor would it be abandoning that process and proceeding to prepare a Definitive Map under the 1981 Act. Instead, pursuing the extinguishment/diversion of obstructed highways was undertaken using legislation entirely separate from that of preparing the Definitive Map. Consequently, whilst pursuing the stopping up and diversion orders, the Council would not be actively preparing its Definitive Map and so would continue to be in breach of its statutory duty, with no real defence against judicial review.

In addition, the advice identified that stopping up and diversion of highway must be held in the public domain, with newspaper advertising and site notices (with plans) inviting comments. Therefore, the issue of property blight could be raised by the public at any time for any stopping up or diversion application. This risk was heightened by the number of individual routes to be stopped up.

Until the Council formally abandoned the survey undertaken under the 1949 Act, it was under a statutory duty to either complete the process of preparing the Definitive Map, or to abandon the survey and create a new Definitive Map under the 1981 Act – and to do so as soon as reasonably practicable.

Agreed:

- (1) that the Director of Regeneration and Growth and the Director Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to make representations to the Secretary of State requesting formal abandonment of the West Bromwich Draft Map under section 55 (1)(b) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981;
- (2) that the Director of Regeneration and Growth and the Director Law & Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to take the necessary steps under section 55 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 to create the West Bromwich Definitive Map and Statement;
- (3) that the Director of Regeneration and Growth be authorised to procure external support to carry out this work as required.

134/22 **Council new build homes on land at Higham's Close, Rowley Regis**

Approval was sought to appropriate land at Higham's Close, Rowley Regis from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account for housing purposes with the accounts being adjusted accordingly and to develop the site with circa 6 new affordable rent council houses, subject to planning permission.

Reasons for Recommendations

The site was historically an area of mineworking for coal within the vicinity of Scotwell Colliery to the North-West. The Colliery became disused and was replaced with residential development.

The Council was able to develop this site with circa 6 homes, subject to planning permission as part of the new strategic approach to provide more and better housing in the borough.

Alternative options considered

Option A – Dispose of the site on the open market

Option B – Work in partnership with a Registered Provider Partner with the assistance of Homes England to build new affordable homes for rent.

Option C – Leave the site undeveloped.

Agreed:

- (1) that approval be given to appropriate approximately 1961.7 m² of land at Higham's Close, Rowley Regis from the General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account for housing purposes with the accounts being adjusted accordingly and to develop the site with circa 6 new affordable rent council houses, subject to planning permission, as shown for identification purposes only at Appendix G, as now submitted;
- (2) that the Director of Finance be authorised to allocate adequate resources from the Council's Housing Revenue Account and the Right to Buy one for one receipts to deliver the scheme;
- (3) that in connection with Resolution (1) and (2) above, approval be given to authorise the necessary steps for the delivery of the proposed project, including:
 - (a) the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance

and the Director of Housing be authorised to prepare tendering documentation and subsequently procure, in accordance with any statutory regulations and the Council's Procurement and Financial Regulations;

- (b) execute any requirements in accordance with the Homes England Delivery Partner Dynamic Purchasing System (DPS) framework including appointing a contractor(s) to develop, on behalf of the Council, the proposed housing scheme; to enter into or execute under seal any financial agreement in relation to the Homes England grant on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Finance;
- (c) that any necessary exemptions are made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to b above to proceed;
- (d) subject to a, b and c above, the Director – Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in relation to award of the contract and/or development/partnership agreement, Homes England developer status, licence, undertaking, framework joining agreement, any consents or applications required for Planning or Highways appertaining to the delivery of the scheme and any other agreements with the procured contractor(s) and with the Homes England, as may be deemed necessary to facilitate development of the site with a housing scheme as described in below on terms and conditions to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration and Growth;

- (e) the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Housing and the Director of Finance be authorised to accept a tender of up to 10% above the approved estimated costs as a contingency to mitigate uncertain market conditions and inflationary cost uplifts;
- (f) subject to the practical completion of each property, the Director of Housing be authorised to manage and let the properties built in accordance with the Council's housing allocation policy;
- (g) that the following action points identified within the financial appraisal of the funding application by Strategic Finance, be implemented to reduce the risk to the Council:
 - that Cabinet consider the alternatives and are satisfied that the proposal to construct the new build homes will meet the Council's objectives in the most appropriate manner.
 - that a process is developed to prioritise the development of sites against pre-determined criteria and alternative options for achieving the Council's housing objectives within each locality.
 - that the site is appropriated from the Council's General Fund to the Housing Revenue Account and the corresponding adjustment to the Capital Financing Requirement made to reflect the appropriation.

Planning, Building Consultancy, Land Charges and Associated Computer Systems Contract Renewal

Approval was sought to authorise the Director of Regeneration and Growth to enter into a contract with Idox Software Limited for the provision of a Hosted Managed Service for the provision of a Planning, Building Consultancy and Local Land Charges Database, Document Management System and a Public Access module ICT system, for a 5 year period from 6 October 2022 to 5 October 2027 at a cost of £133,000 (ex VAT) per annum.

The Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board questioned whether safeguards had been put in place to ensure that procurement exercises were conducted in future.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth stated that this was not the only contract that would have experienced this due to staffing issues over the last few years, however comments would be taken on board.

Reasons for Recommendations

A new contract with Idox Software Limited was preferred on the basis that:

- the new 5-year proposal from Idox at £132,283 per annum is very much close to the existing yearly contract value of £129,000.
- any alternative proposal to migrate will incur yet unidentified additional costs and require additional staff resources with potential service disruption.
- continued provision of the existing hosted service to ensure service delivery under legislative guidelines for Planning, Building Consultancy and Local Land Charges.

Alternative options considered

Go out to full OJEU tender which would involve extending the existing contract to cover the time to tender, award and implement any alternative system. It was anticipated that a procurement exercise in line with OJEU legislation would take around 12 – 18 months from the invitation to tender to the implementation of a new system.

Agreed that the Director of Regeneration and Growth be authorised to enter into a contract with Idox Software Limited for the provision of a Hosted Managed Service for the provision of a Planning, Building Consultancy and Local Land Charges Database, Document Management System and a Public Access module ICT system, for a 5 year period 6 October 2022 to 5 October 2027 at a cost of £133,000 (ex VAT) per annum.

136/22 **Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020**

Approval was sought to authorise the Director of Borough Economy to exercise the statutory provisions of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020 and to revise the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (executive side).

Reasons for Recommendations

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act provided temporary measures to make provisions for the delivery of the Commonwealth Games and ensure no unauthorised association with the Games. This also meant that only those individuals, businesses or organisations that had been authorised by the Organising Committee could associate themselves and their brand with the Games.

The Birmingham Games Act 2020 was new legislation and authorisation would be needed to carry out responsibilities as a host authority during the Commonwealth Games period.

The local authority can authorise officers to act in order that the Council could be compliant with any provisions of the Act.

Alternative options considered

None. The Council was required to appoint in accordance with the legislation.

Agreed:

- (1) that the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to exercise the statutory provisions of the Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020;
- (2) that the Director of Law and Governance be authorised to revise the Scheme of Delegation to Officers (executive side) in the Council's Constitution with the inclusion of the following within the Director of Borough Economy: -

The Birmingham Commonwealth Games Act 2020

To act and authorise others to act on his/her behalf under the Council's functions under the provisions of the Commonwealth Games Act 2020.

137/22 **Council house new build programme – approval of sites and amendment to funding sources**

Approval was sought to approve the allocation of sites for the Council New Build programme for the provision of new Council affordable rent housing accommodation in order to meet the external funding requirements for Homes England grant and Right to Buy 1-4-1 replacement generated from the sale of HRA dwellings under Right to Buy.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth highlighted that the report was one of five reports on the agenda on social housing and commended officers for moving forward with this issue.

Reasons for Recommendations

The proposals would realign the Council's short term new build programme in order to meet the council's contractual requirements with Homes England and also contribute to ensuring Right to Buy 1-4-1 receipts are utilised within the required time periods. The Council would continue to complete feasibility works on any future new build

opportunities as part of a pipeline programme to ensure availability of sites for future Right to Buy 1-4-1 receipts and other funding opportunities. If any sites encountered issues that would prevent delivery within the designated timescale other sites will be substituted, if available. This would be monitored to ensure the most appropriate use of funding for each scheme.

Alternative options considered

Option A – Dispose of the sites on the open market or to Registered Provider

Option B – Develop the sites utilising other funding sources

Both Option A and Option B had the potential of having a long term detrimental effect on the Council being able to access Homes England Grant funding as a Developer Partner should the contracted timescales of the Strategic Partnerships 1 programme not be met. For this reason, both of these options have been discounted.

138/22 **Green Spaces Strategy – Implementation and Business Plan 2022/23**

Approval was sought to approve the Green Spaces Strategy Implementation and Business Plan 2022-25.

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board questioned whether repair of playground equipment would be a priority of the Strategy.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism gave assurance that the focus of 2022/23 would be on those priority works to resolve current health and safety or significant community impacts in parks and playgrounds.

The Chair of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board asked whether funding would be available to the nature reserves that were not well known in the borough.

In response, the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism stated that officers were currently reviewing the designation of nature reserves, therefore this would ensure that the sites mentioned would be captured within the Strategy.

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board commended officers responsible for the greenery added to roundabouts around Sandwell. However, concerns with the continual change of officers who were responsible for green spaces in Sandwell. In response, the Cabinet Member stated that there were some vacancies in the Parks team which were currently being recruited to. It was advised that all issues should be reported via the Portal to ensure the correct team were aware of it.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources thanked officers and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism for the report and noted the number of green flag park in the borough. It was also highlighted that there were lots of green spaces that were underdeveloped, often in deprived areas, therefore this should form part of the public health strategy.

The Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth commended officers for the work undertaken forming the Green Spaces Strategy.

Reasons for Recommendations

The Green Spaces Strategy Implementation and Business Plan set out a clear programme of activity and direction for the service for the next three years. Specifically, the completion of the following objectives (detailed outputs within the Green Spaces Strategy).

Alternative options considered

An alternative option would be to not approve the Green Spaces Strategy Implementation and Business Plan 2022-25, which would, however, be detrimental in terms of lack of improvement programme for green spaces in Sandwell for the next 3 years.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to the Green Spaces Strategy Implementation and Business Plan 2022-25 as now submitted;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, approval be given to the planned programme of works for 2022/23 as now submitted;
- (3) that approval be given to pilot income generation initiatives in green spaces, as specified within the Green Spaces Strategy;
- (4) that approval be given to the Governance Arrangements, as set out within the Green Spaces Strategy;
- (5) that approval be given to the proposed new ways of working with Friends Groups, and the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism be authorised to approve the final agreement with Friends Groups following consultation;
- (6) that the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to develop additional programme of works for green spaces in-year (2022/23), if funding becomes available for additional works, in consultation with the Cabinet Member;
- (7) that the Director of Borough Economy authorise – through the Service Manager – emergency works for green spaces, as required for health and safety reasons.

139/22 **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:-

Minute No 139/22, 140/22 and 141/22 - any individual or information which is likely to reveal the identity of an individual and;

141/22 - information relating to any consultations or negotiations, or contemplated consultations or negotiations, in connection with any labour relations matter arising between the authority or a Minister of the Crown and employees of, or office holders under, the authority.

140/22 **Provision of new council homes on 3 sites to be delivered via LHC Framework Alliance Contract**

Approval was sought to the development of three sites across Sandwell with new affordable rent council housing, subject to planning permission being obtained.

Reasons for recommendations

This project would design/deliver circa 30 new Council-owned affordable rented properties on a maximum of three council-owned sites which subject to design and planning requirements could include houses, bungalows and apartments.

Alternative options considered

Option A – deliver the schemes through the in-house design team and procure a development contractor through the traditional route

Option B – Develop the sites utilising other funding sources

Both Option A and Option B had the potential of having a long term detrimental effect on the Council being able to access Homes England Grant funding as a Developer Partner should the contracted timescales not be met.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to design and develop three sites across Sandwell with new affordable rent council housing, subject to planning permission being obtained, at Harvest Road, Rowley Regis, Coppice Street, West Bromwich and Railway Street, Tipton;
- (2) that the Director of Finance be authorised to allocate adequate resources from the Council's Housing Revenue Account, subject to being satisfied that the proposal provides value for money, to deliver the scheme designs and enable the agreed Homes England delivery programme to be met utilising grant funding offered under the extended Homes England Strategic Partnership 1 Programme 2016 to 2021;
- (3) that approval be given to authorise the steps necessary for the delivery of the proposed projects, including:
 - (a) subject to (2) above, the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing be authorised to prepare tendering documentation and subsequently procure, in accordance with any statutory regulations and the Council's Procurement and Financial Regulations to use the LHC Framework Alliance procurement route to undertake the Design and development documents to RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) stage 4 level;

- (b) subject to a) above, the Director – Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in relation to award of the contract for the Design RIBA stage 4 of three sites and/or development/partnership agreement, any consents or applications required for Planning or Highways appertaining to the delivery of the schemes and any other agreements with the procured contractor(s), as may be deemed necessary to facilitate development of the sites with housing schemes to RIBA stage 4;

- (c) that subject to receiving the necessary Strategic Investment Unit appraisal approval mark of 65 or above for each individual site, the Director of Regeneration and Growth in consultation with the Director of Finance and the Director of Housing be authorised to accept the Financial closure offer for the construction of Council new build properties, in accordance with any statutory regulations and the Council's the Director – Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into or execute under seal any documentation in relation to award of the contract for the development of each of the individual sites and/or development/partnership agreement, any consents or applications required for Planning or Highways appertaining to the delivery of the schemes and any other agreements with the procured contractor(s), as may be deemed necessary to facilitate development of the sites with housing schemes on terms and conditions to be agreed and implemented by the Director of Regeneration and Growth.

Approval of bids from Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council to Round 2 of Levelling Up Fund

Approval was sought for the four priority bids for submission into Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund.

Authorisation was also sought to establish an Assurance Panel for the purposes of assuring Levelling Up Fund bid proposals.

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board stated that members of the Board were briefed on the proposals for the Youth Facility in West Bromwich and welcomed the proposals. The Chair highlighted that all Councillors were not engaged in the consultation process and scrutiny was denied an opportunity to discuss Sandwell's youth offer. It was asked whether further consultation in relation to youth services would involve members in future.

In response, the Cabinet Member of Regeneration and Growth stated that the timescales for officers for the business cases were extremely tight. Various projects were brought to the Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board. Furthermore, prior to submission, project information was provided at a town level. Despite this, officers were working to improve the consultation process.

The Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board questioned why consultation took place after projects were formed and whether projects would reflect residents' views. In response, it was reported that that officers had attended all town meetings. Timescales meant that officers had four months to put together the priorities and business cases. Further to this, another challenge was reconciling MP's views with Councillor's views to agree on the priority. While there would be a significant amount of opportunity to engage with Councillors in shaping the details of the proposals, it was accepted that the consultation process could be improved in the future. The process set by Government entailed MP's signing off the bids which made it difficult for officers to engage in a consultation process. Going forward, Sandwell needed to be ahead of

timescales for the next round of bids to ensure the full process could be conducted.

Reasons for recommendations

The Levelling Up Fund Guidance stated that bid submissions were to be compliant with the HM Treasury Green Book (2020), which entailed projects having a Full Business Case (FBC) which address five cases; Strategic, Economic, Commercial, Financial and Management.

Under the proposed LUF Assurance Panel model, the Strategic Investment Unit would undertake a review of the financial case of each bid, on the basis that the Full Business Cases had been prepared by a specialist consultant. That specialist consultant would be required to present the Full Businesses Cases to the Assurance Panel for consideration. Should the panel accept the proposal, they would then have delegated authority from Cabinet to submit those bid proposals.

Alternative options considered

The alternative option would be to keep the existing assurance arrangements contained within the Financial Regulations, but this would create a risk that the submission deadline of noon 6 July 2022 would not be achieved. The LUF investments were critical to addressing a range of issues and delivering real improvements in the Borough.

Agreed:-

- (1) that approval be given to the following four priority bids for submission into Round 2 of the Levelling Up Fund:
 - Tipton Town Centre, Tipton (West Bromwich West)
 - Haden Hill Leisure Centre, Rowley Regis (Halesowen & Rowley Regis)
 - Grove Lane, Smethwick (Warley)
 - Youth Provision Facility, West Bromwich (West Bromwich East;

- (2) that the Director of Finance be authorised to allocate adequate resources from the Council's Housing Revenue Account, subject to being satisfied that the proposal provides value for money, to deliver the scheme designs and enable the agreed Homes England delivery programme to be met utilising grant funding offered under the extended Homes England Strategic Partnership 1 Programme 2016 to 2021;
- (3) that the Director of Finance be authorised to sign and submit the Levelling Up funding applications and any necessary ancillary documentation for the maximum value of £80m;
- (4) that approval be given to make an exemption from the Council's Financial Regulations to enable Resolution (1) and (2) above;
- (5) that the Director of Finance be authorised to identify the minimum 10% match funding contribution to the Levelling Up Fund programme up to the maximum value of £8,000,000 through a combination of funding sources, including Council-owned assets and Prudential Borrowing;
- (6) that the Director of Law & Governance be authorised to enter into or execute under seal funding agreements or necessary ancillary documentation for the receipt of the funding, on terms to be agreed in collaboration with the Director of Regeneration & Growth and the Director of Finance;
- (7) that the Director of Finance in consultation with the Director of Housing and the Director of Regeneration & Growth be authorised to appropriate assets from the HRA to the General Fund, or vice versa, that fall within the scope of the bids in order to meet the match funding

contribution for the Levelling Up Fund and adjust the accounts accordingly.

[Councillor Carmichael left the room at this point. Councillor Piper subsequently took the Chair]

142/22 **Management Options Appraisal – Leisure**

Consideration was given to management options for the provision of leisure facilities in Sandwell.

In response to a question raised by the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board, the Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism stated contract management and performance would be a priority. Furthermore, the vision was not only to compete with other local authorities, but also with the private sector.

The Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources that the Council's role was not only to monitor the performance of the contract with performance indicators as part of the contract, but the Council also sought to offer a holistic leisure facility.

Reasons for recommendations

The recommendation sought to implement a sustainable management solution in the long term based on the detailed appraisal of the management options, and to provide a solid evidence basis to enable the Council to make a well-informed decision with the benefit of a clear audit trail.

The recommendation supported an appropriate sports and leisure facility management solution able to support and to address the holistic leisure needs of Sandwell residents.

Alternative options considered

Option 1 - In House Leisure Services for the future operation of this portfolio of the Council's leisure facilities;

Option 2 - Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) for the future operation of this portfolio of the Council's leisure facilities;

Option 3 - External Provision for the future operation of this portfolio of the Council's leisure facilities.

Having considered all three options, it was deemed that option 2 should be progressed.

Agreed that the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to undertake detailed preparation in liaison with the Director of Finance and the Cabinet Member for Culture and Tourism to progress Option 2: 'Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) for the future operation of this portfolio of the Council's leisure facilities.

Meeting ended at 5.01pm.

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Brandhall - Options |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Hughes - Cabinet Member for Regeneration & Growth |
| Director: | Tony McGovern, Director Regeneration & Growth |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Tammy Stokes tammy_stokes@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Cabinet determines the preferred option for the Brandhall site, Oldbury from the options below;

Option 1a - No change

Option 1b - Development of a new public park

Option 2 - Provision of land for a new primary school and development of a new public park

Option 3 - Provision of land for a new primary school, a new public park and development of circa 190 residential dwellings

Option 4 - Provision of land for a new primary school, a new public park and development of circa 360 residential dwellings

- 1.2 That should Cabinet determine the preferred option to be Option 1b, 2, 3, or 4 then the Director of Finance in conjunction with the Director of Regeneration and Growth be authorised to identify the best option to fund the preferred option including the submission of any external funding applications and any required market testing as may be necessary.



- 1.3 That subject to 1.2 above and once more detailed costs are available, a further report be bought back to Cabinet setting out the funding strategy for the preferred option and seeking approval for inclusion into the Capital Programme.
- 1.4 That should Cabinet determine the preferred option be option 2, 3, or 4 delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Growth to submit a planning application or applications in line with the preferred option.
- 1.5 That should Cabinet determine the preferred option to be option 2, 3, or 4 then delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Growth and the Director of Finance to allocate a minimum of £2.5m of Community Infrastructure Levy Funding from the 80% Main CIL fund towards the capital cost of the replacement of Causeway Green Primary School.
- 1.6 That should Cabinet determine the preferred option to be Options 2, 3 or 4, then the Director of Children and Education submit a further report to Cabinet setting out full proposals for a capital scheme to provide a replacement primary school at Brandhall for Causeway Green Primary School.
- 1.7 That should Cabinet determine the preferred option be option 2, 3, or 4 delegated authority be given to the Director of Regeneration and Growth to take necessary steps (including publication of necessary statutory notices under S.122(2A) of the Local Government Act 1972 (and consideration of any objections received) related to the appropriation of any public open space for Education or Housing purposes [and for the Director of Finance to make the necessary financial adjustments, with regard to the appropriation], and authorises the appropriation of the public open space for Education and/or Housing purposes.
- 1.8 That should Cabinet determine the preferred option to be Options 3 or 4 then reserves from Regeneration and Growth Directorate be allocated for resources to project manage the delivery of the preferred option.




- 1.9 That should Cabinet determine the preferred option to be Option 3 or 4 then approval be given to add this to the Council’s approved regeneration Pipeline as a new project.
- 1.10 That in relation to the proposed Site of Importance for Nature Conservation Cabinet either;
 - a. Approves the designation of land at Brandhall as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) in accordance with the recommendation of the Local Sites Partnership.
 - b. Approves the designation of land at Brandhall as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) excluding any land required for development to deliver the preferred option determined under recommendation 1.1 above.
 - c. Does not approve the designation of land at Brandhall as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC).


2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 It is considered appropriate to provide an opportunity for members to reconsider options (including a do-nothing option) for the future of the Brandhall site given the outcomes of the public consultation and the additional technical and financial information gathered to date (set out in detail below).
- 2.2 The Local Sites Partnership (LSP) have recommended to the Council that the Brandhall site be designated at as a Site for Local Importance for Nature Conservation. Members are required to determine whether to accept in full, in part, or not at all the recommendation from the LSP. Further details are set out in the report below.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>Objective B9 within the Corporate Plan (2021 – 2025) is: We will provide enough good school places that offer families choice and confidence that their children can experience high quality education and achieve good outcomes.</p> |
|---|--|



| | |
|---|--|
| | <p>Whilst the provision of a new school on Brandhall will not increase pupil places it will create a high quality educational facility that will support high quality education and better outcomes for children.</p> |
|  | <p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <p>Objective H1 within the Corporate Plan (2021-2025) is: We will deliver much needed new homes across the borough, especially affordable homes, on our own land and other viable sites in order to help meet the demand for affordable housing in our communities</p> <p>Options 3 and 4 would deliver new housing including a minimum 25% affordable.</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Background

- 4.2 On 27th May 2020, Cabinet authorised the closure of Brandhall Golf Course and club house (minute 36/20 refers). At that meeting, Cabinet also authorised the development of a masterplan for the site and club house.
- 4.3 The Cabinet decision was taken following public consultation held between 7th November and 19th December 2019, the results of which were noted by Cabinet (minute 36/20 refers).
- 4.4 As part of the 2019 public consultation three future development options were presented and survey respondents were asked to state which option they preferred.
- 4.5 The options presented at that time comprised differing arrangements of residential parcels, a school and open space. The main differentiator between the options was the size of the open space provided, which ranged from 4.5 hectares in Option 1, 6 hectares in Option 2 and 8.5 hectares in Option 3. The 2019 option drawings are shown in Appendix



A. Most respondents stated that they preferred the option with the largest park and fewest houses:

- Option 1: 40 respondents (7.9%)
- Option 2: 40 respondents (7.9%)
- Option 3: 428 respondents (84.3%)

- 4.6 In accordance with Cabinet’s delegation on 27th May 2020 (minute 36/20 refers), work progressed to gather information required to inform a masterplan based around the spatial principles of Option 3. Specialist consultants AECOM were appointed to support the Council with this work.
- 4.7 As part of the masterplan development process further public consultation was held in November 2021. The public consultation material is included in Appendix B.
- 4.8 The results of the public consultation are set out in detail below and the full consultation report is appended to this report (Appendix C).
- 4.9 It is considered appropriate to provide an opportunity for members to reconsider options (including a do-nothing option) for the future of the site given the outcomes of the public consultation and the additional technical information gathered to date (which is set out in detail below).
- 4.10 Therefore, the purpose of this report is to provide Cabinet with as much relevant information as possible, at this point in time, to enable an informed decision on the preferred option for the Brandhall site as well as considering associated matters around the designation of the Brandhall site as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) which is considered in more detail below.

4.11 **Strategic Needs**

- 4.12 This section of the report sets out the strategic needs of the council that could be supported through development of the Brandhall Site.



4.13 *Educational Needs*

- 4.14 The existing Causeway Green Primary School is a community maintained, two form entry school (420 places) with a Nursery. It is one of the poorest condition schools in the Borough (a photographic condition survey is included in Appendix D).
- 4.15 The original school building was an early example of a system build type, known as 'Hills'. The school opened in 1954 and its construction consists of concrete panelled walls and ceiling slabs. The build-type is renowned for poor insulation, internal condensation and failure of the concrete panelling. Due to the nature of construction, a number of Hills-type school buildings in the Borough have over the past 20-25 years been demolished, replaced, or where possible, received major remediation work to extend the lifespan of the building. For similar school buildings: prior to the replacement buildings at both Abbey Infant and Yew Tree Primary Schools, significant structural sections had to be propped up pending redevelopment. The concrete sections had degraded to an unsafe state requiring temporary support, and George Betts Primary Academy will shortly undergo a complete replacement build through the DfE School Rebuilding Programme, a national programme targeting school buildings requiring replacement due to poor condition.
- 4.16 The existing Causeway Green Primary School is located on an incline, with the playing field situated at the upper tier. The site has experienced significant flooding problems for some years, with remedial drainage works completed as far as possible in an attempt to address the issues. In late May 2018, when flash storms occurred, the school buildings were flooded since the drainage system could not manage the overflow of rainwater. The school was closed for the summer term requiring decant of staff and pupils to a number of alternative locations. Due to the location of the individual teaching blocks on site optimum mitigation measures have been hampered as the design of a drainage system that could be deployed is limited. Subsequent rainstorms have presented similar problems although the school has not experienced a flood.



- 4.17 The school was originally identified for replacement in 2014, when the level of repair and maintenance undertaken to the building fabric proved the Hills Construction was time expired. At that time the school building was uneconomic to retain, however that year, the Department for Education (DfE) did not select the school for a building replacement through its Priority Schools Building Programme, and the Authority had insufficient capital resources to fund a replacement scheme. There was no option but to continue to maintain the current asset to ensure the school could remain open to pupils.
- 4.18 Appendix D provides a recent assessment of the current condition of the existing school building. In line with the Delegation of Funding to Schools the elements of repair identified are the responsibility of the school's Governing Board, who have taken the option to buy-back in to the Authority's School Repair Account to manage and fund reactive and planned maintenance works. Due to competing demands for condition spend, works would continue to be prioritised along with all other schools entitled to receive School Condition funded projects. Although certain works such as staff toilets are treated as improvements, for which the school receives Devolved Formula Capital to fund, there is of course an optimum limit the school would wish to spend on improvements when its buildings are being considered for long term replacement.
- 4.19 In relation to school places, latest projections indicate that the Oldbury area will have 14% surplus places in the primary sector from 2024/25 onwards, with a Borough surplus of 10%, and in the secondary sector, at Year 7, a local surplus of 3%, and a Borough wide surplus of 5%. The following year with an indicated fall in numbers on roll, a 10% surplus in secondary places is projected. Housing developments are naturally delivered on an incremental basis, and once housing units are confirmed for a development a pupil yield can be calculated to project the need for school places. Based on current surplus projections there is no indicator to suggest that additional primary school places should be provided through a rebuild of the school. Cabinet will be aware from its meeting on 13 April 2022 (Minute 86/22 refers), that the School Organisation Plan that will be presented for adoption this year will provide a strategic steer on



school place planning and help to identify any shortfall of places that may arise through additional housing development.

4.20 Three of the revised development options (set out below from paragraph 4.100) for the Brandhall site include a school. The proposal is to rebuild the school with the same Published Admission Number of 420, with a Nursery. Latest projections indicate that the Oldbury area will have a sufficient surplus of primary school places to meet demand generated from new housing in the area, which would not require the school to increase its pupil capacity. Similar projections are indicated for the secondary school sector.

4.21 Current estimates indicate that the Authority would need to secure a capital budget in the region of £10m to replace Causeway Green School and allow sufficient contingency in view of rising inflation over the past 18 months.

4.22 The funding strategy for delivering a replacement school would require a blend of funding. £5m could be made available from existing School Condition resources, which are provided to the Council from the Department for Education (DfE). A minimum of £2.5m could be set aside from the Community Infrastructure Levy which are contributions made to the Council through a set levy on new development to facilitate the development of new infrastructure. A further £2.5m of funding would need to be identified in line with recommendation 1.6 above.

4.23 *Strategic Housing Needs*

4.24 There is a significant shortfall of housing supply across Sandwell. The table below sets out Local Housing Need against housing delivery for the past 4 years. It shows housing delivery in the Borough over four financial years 2017/18 to 2020/21. The borough meets approximately half its housing needs; at an average of 47.5% per annum over the four years. This totals a cumulative net deficit in overall housing supply of 2,936 homes between 2017 and 2021.

| |
|---|
| Sandwell MBC – Housing Delivery against Housing Need (all types) |
|---|



| Year | Local Housing Need | Total new homes delivered | Deficit | % of LHN delivered |
|--------------|--------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------|
| 2017/18 | 1,325 | 692 | 633 | 52% |
| 2018/19 | 1,447 | 625 | 625 | 57% |
| 2019/20 | 1,351 | 501 | 850 | 37% |
| 2020/21 | 1,488 | 660 | 828 | 44% |
| Total | 5,611 | 2,478 | 2,936 (cumulative) | 47.5% (average) |

4.25 A Strategic Housing Market Assessment was completed in 2021 for the Black Country which assessed the affordable housing requirement for Sandwell to be 343 dwellings per annum. This is an increase from 244 in previous years.

4.26 As shown in the table below, on average over the last four years (2017/18 to 2020/21), Sandwell has delivered 49% of its affordable housing needs. On average, 120 new affordable homes were delivered per annum over the last four years against a need of 244 homes per annum.

| Sandwell MBC – Housing Delivery against Housing Need (Affordable Homes - all types) | | | | | |
|--|----------------------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------|-----------------------------|--------------------------|
| Year | Social Housing Need (2017) | Social Housing Need (2021) | Total new Affordable homes delivered | Deficit | % of SHN delivered |
| 2017/18 | 244 | | 117 | 127 | 48% |
| 2018/19 | 244 | | 93 | 151 | 38% |
| 2019/20 | 244 | | 107 | 137 | 44% |
| 2020/21 | 244 | | 162 | 82 | 66% |
| 2021/22 | | 343 | | | |
| Total | 976 | | 479 (cumulative) | 497 (cumulative) | 49% (average) |

4.27 There were 9,800 households on the social housing register as of August 2021. 35% of these are transfer requests within the council house stock leaving 65% (6,380 households) waiting for a Council home. In June 2022, the number of households on the social housing register had increased by a further 2,670 households to 12,470.



- 4.28 Longer term future housing need is 27,873 new homes by 2039. Sites have been identified in the Draft Black Country plan for 9,498 new homes (the Brandhall site is included in the Draft version as having the possibility of providing circa 560 new homes based on a dwelling per hectare calculation) giving a shortfall of 18,375 homes to be met outside of Sandwell.
- 4.29 The data above demonstrates that Sandwell is not currently meeting its housing need for both market and affordable housing. Providing housing on the Brandhall site would support housing need in the Borough. A minimum of 25% of any housing delivered on the site would be affordable housing and would benefit local people through; the Council having nomination rights from the social housing register and/ or through the provision of council homes, and by providing First Homes (30% discount on market prices to support first time buyers to take the first step on to the homeownership ladder).
- 4.30 *Open Space Needs*
- 4.31 The current adopted planning policy for Community Open Space aims to provide 2 hectares of Community Open Space per 1000 population.
- 4.32 Old Warley Ward currently has 0.86 ha of unrestricted open space per 1000 population. This is significantly below the target of 2 hectares per 1000 population.
- 4.33 The Brandhall site is not allocated Community Open Space, as being a former golf course, the site has restricted access only (via two public rights of way). Therefore, it is not included in above calculations for open space or included in the Green Space Strategy.
- 4.34 Any development option which includes the provision of accessible open space will increase the amount of unrestricted open space within the Old Warley Ward. Option 1a (set out below) would not support additional unrestricted open space as this option proposes to keep the site as it is now (i.e. restricted access).

4.35 **Public Consultation (2021)**



4.36 In 2021, to inform the development of the masterplan, the council and its consultants AECOM carried out two forms of consultation; early stakeholder engagement and wider community consultation.

4.37 AECOM facilitated virtual workshops with key local stakeholders, between Thursday 10th June 2021 and Wednesday 23rd June 2021.

4.38 In total, 19 stakeholders accepted an invitation to attend the workshops, which included ward councillors, cabinet members and key community stakeholders (such as local headteachers). The purpose of these workshops was to ensure that key stakeholders had an early opportunity to provide feedback and direction on the draft vision and initial masterplan options. The early feedback received in these sessions enabled the design team to respond to stakeholder concerns and understand their priorities and future aspirations for the site. A brief summary of feedback provided can be found below:

- Stakeholders placed greatest value on the provision of a large amount of high-quality green space. Consensus across the workshops indicated stakeholders would prefer to see large, consolidated green space, rather than it being dispersed around the site.
- The workshop sessions showed that a key topic of concern was the inclusion of both social housing and affordable housing as part of the scheme. Stakeholders indicated there should be a mix of housing types and tenures across the site, and they should not be exclusive of the community that exists in the surrounding areas.
- The location of the school was also highlighted by stakeholders, who argued the school should be located in the north-west corner of the site rather than to the east, or further south. Attendees believed the alternative locations suggested would cause problems with congestion and pupil catchment areas of existing local schools.
- Stakeholders also indicated that they would like to see the development of high-quality community space. Stakeholders said they would like facilities to cater to all members of the community including the elderly, families and young people. Recurring suggestions included a café/pub, a local shop, allotments, an orchard, outdoor exercise equipment and a skate park.
- It was clear from feedback that the majority of stakeholders who attended believed that this project could be a success, but it was



essential to consult with the wider local community as early as possible.

4.39 A public consultation was held by SMBC between Monday 1st November 2021 and Sunday 28th November 2021. The consultation material can be found in Appendix B. The consultation closed at 23:59 on Sunday 28th November. In total 497 consultation responses were received and full details of the feedback received is provided within AECOM's Consultation Report (Appendix C). A summary of some of the key themes which emerged from the consultation responses is provided below:

- Some respondents were opposed to any kind of development being built on site, whether this be housing or other constructed development. This included a large number of concerns regarding climate and ecological impacts on flora and fauna through the removal of green space. In addition, there were concerns regarding the potential historical importance of the site. Some respondents called for the site to be made more accessible and preserved as a green space.
- While there were comments that opposed any development of the Site, there was support from many respondents for the inclusion of community facilities within the proposals (including community hub / local park / community café / sports facilities).
- There was some support for the proposed Brandhall Village Vision, although some felt that this should be separate to the development and that plans for the site contradict some of the visions themes.
- Some respondents noted that while they were against the building of houses, they would support proposals to build a new school, although it was mentioned by some that this was less preferable to developing and upgrading existing schools in their original location.
- Many comments were received that opposed the building of homes on the site. Some of the key themes relating to this include wanting to preserve the green space; building houses on the site would remove their access to green space due to the lack of alternative green open space; and that it would put pressure on local services.
- While there were many comments opposing the development of housing on the site, there was some support for housing that was affordable. Other comments related to support for proposals that



included sustainable development options, with the consensus being that if housing is to be built, it should be sustainable.

- Some respondents who live on the outskirts of the site had concerns that their privacy would be reduced and also that their property values would reduce through the potential visual impact and loss of views.
- Some respondents called for the site to have less development and a greater proportion of open green space.
- Some respondents preferred the option for higher density housing in a smaller area, in order to preserve more of the green space. Others indicated a preference for lower density housing.
- Many comments indicated that developing the green space could impact on mental and physical wellbeing and have the potential to increase anti-social behaviour.
- Another major theme that emerged from the data was respondents concerns for how the proposed development would impact flooding and drainage issues associated with the Site.
- Other key transport related themes included concerns regarding increased traffic, parking requirements, potential for increase in road accidents and associated traffic pollution.

4.40 Technical Consideration

4.41 This section of the report sets out the site specific technical considerations and details the findings of technical reports that have been commissioned to date.

4.42 *The site*

4.43 The predominantly greenfield site is set within the south-west of Sandwell, in a largely residential area located between the A4123, which links Wolverhampton to Birmingham, and the M5 motorway. With a gross area of approximately 36ha, comprising a former clubhouse, golf course and an existing public open space (Parson's Hill Park).

4.44 *Movement and Access*



- 4.45 The site is bounded to the north and south by residential streets (including Ferndale Road, Tame Road and Queensway), the west by the M5 Motorway and Wolverhampton Road (A4123). Two public rights of way (PROW) cross the site (orientated roughly in an east-west direction) and provide public access through the site (which is, otherwise, not open to public access).
- 4.46 The area surrounding the site comprises a comprehensive network of well-lit public footways that provide access to key local destinations within Brandhall and surrounding areas. Signalised pedestrian crossing facilities comprising dropped kerbs and tactile paving are in place in close proximity to the site, thereby providing good pedestrian and cycle access to and from the site, including across the A4123 Wolverhampton Road, Queensway and Tame Road. The site is well served by a range of educational establishments, retail, community, education and health facilities in close proximity, all within the maximum recommended walking and cycling distances.
- 4.47 Several high frequency bus services operate in close proximity to the site. The closest high frequency bus stops are located on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road, with further services operating on Tame Road. Rowley Regis rail station is located an approximate approximately 1.25km (19 minute) walking journey northwest of the site. Langley Green and Old Hill rail stations are located approximately 2.1km north and 2.9km west of the development site, respectively. These are situated on the same rail line and offer the same rail connections as Rowley Regis rail station.
- 4.48 A full Transport Assessment would need to be prepared as part of any future planning application (depending on the preferred option) to assess the traffic impacts of the development and set out any mitigation for any traffic impacts identified. However, a Transport Summary Technical Note has been commissioned to understand potential baseline issues and this is included at Appendix E.

4.49 *Ecology*

- 4.50 A Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) (May 2021) was prepared by AECOM to assess the ecological constraints in connection with developing the Brandhall Site with the preferred scheme from the 2019 consultation (new school, 8.5 hectares of open space, and a housing scheme). The report considered the ecological constraints across the



entire Brandhall site and club house. The full report is contained at Appendix F.

4.51 The report sets out that the purpose of the PEAR is to provide a high-level ecological appraisal of the site, specifically to identify;

- baseline conditions and determine the presence of Important Ecological Features (or those that could be present), as far as is possible;
- potential ecological constraints to the Scheme and make initial recommendations to avoid impacts on Important Ecological Features, where possible;
- any requirements for mitigation, where possible, including mitigation measures that will be required and those that may be required (depending on results of further surveys or final scheme design);
- to establish any requirements for more detailed surveys; and,
- any opportunities offered by the Scheme to deliver biodiversity enhancements.

4.52 In addition, a Bat Survey Report was prepared which incorporates findings from bat emergence / re-entry surveys, activity surveys and hibernation surveys undertaken between April 2021 and January 2022. This report is included at Appendix G.

4.53 The Site mainly comprises amenity grassland, belts of broadleaved semi-natural woodland, drainage features and two minor watercourses. The report recommends that new development should seek to retain and protect broadleaved semi-natural woodland (particularly mature pedunculate oak) given that it is a habitat of principal importance. Any removal of woodland should be replaced to ensure that there is no net loss of this habitat at the site.

4.54 An existing Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) is located to the northern end of the site to the east of the Brandhall Brook and is an outcrop of a calcareous conglomerate. The report recommends this existing SLINC should be protected and where possible local improvements made.



- 4.55 The River Tame Wildlife Corridor falls within the site and consists of Semi-natural habitats alongside the M5 motorway that facilitate wildlife movement north and south of the former Brandhall Golf Course.
- 4.56 No record of great crested newt within 2km of the site was returned. Two pools within the site appear to provide suitable breeding habitat for great crested newts (GCN). However, GCN eDNA was not detected in water samples taken from these pools which indicates that this species is likely to be absent. Furthermore, the grassland surrounding the pools has been subject to regular mowing to maintain a sward height of approximately 50mm, which provides sub-optimal terrestrial habitat for GCN.
- 4.57 There are no records of reptiles within 2km of the site and due to the regular mowing, the short grass provides sub-optimal habitat for reptile and there are no features considered suitable to support breeding populations on site.
- 4.58 In total, records of 11 notable bird species within 2km of the site were returned including 8 species of principal importance, 6 species on the Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC4) Red List (skylark, starling, song thrush, mistle thrush, bullfinch and linnet) and 5 species on the BoCC4 Amber List (mallard, stock dove, kestrel and bullfinch). All of these species are relatively common in England (though some are declining). During four visits to the site between 1 April and 13 April 2021, a total of 28 common bird species associated with broadleaved woodland, mature trees and hedgerows were recorded nesting at the site. This includes five notable species, which comprise a few pairs each of: stock dove, starling, song thrush, mistle thrush and bullfinch.
- 4.59 Four recent records of badger (*Meles meles*) within 2km of the site were returned. The closest of these records is approximately 600m south of the site boundary. It is possible that badgers visit the site, however, no sign of their presence was recorded.
- 4.60 No recent record of hedgehog was returned. It is possible that hedgehogs visit the site, but no sign of their presence was recorded.
- 4.61 No recent record of protected or otherwise notable terrestrial invertebrates was returned for the site. It is likely that a range of common terrestrial invertebrates occur at the site, particularly species that are typically associated with pedunculate oak. There is opportunity to enhance the retained habitat through the provision of boxes for notable species, free-draining banks with southerly aspects to attract ground burrowing insects and flower-rich grassland.



- 4.62 In total, 29 trees were found to have bat roost suitability which were subject to tree climbing inspection on 26 April 2021. No bats were recorded during these inspection surveys. Of these 29 trees, 4 can be considered as having high potential for bat roosting, 10 have moderate potential and 15 have low potential. Bat emergence/re-entry surveys were carried out on 14 trees with high (4) and moderate (10) roost potential to help determine if they support bat roosts and assess whether those trees are a constraint to development of the site. Bat activity survey visits were also undertaken because foraging habitat (belts of broadleaved woodland and two minor watercourses) of moderate suitability is present within the site. All trees with high and moderate roost potential were also subject to a hibernation inspection survey during January 2022. The outcome of these surveys recommended that the confirmed roost and the remaining 12 trees with high and moderate bat roost potential are retained. If trees supporting bat roosts need to be removed as part of any development proposals, then it would be necessary to apply and obtain a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence from Natural England to ensure that the development's legal obligations can be met. The loss of a roost would need to be compensated appropriately. In addition, it is recommended that as part of the development the watercourses and woodland belts are protected to maintain the commuting routes across the site from residential areas to the north and south-east. It is also recommended that retained woodland belts and watercourses are enhanced and ponds created to provide a better foraging resource for bats at the site.
- 4.63 At the public consultation, a local resident explained that there are a number of important fungi species present upon the site (including the rare Pink waxcap and Oldrose bolete). A walkover was undertaken in March 2022 by AECOM ecologists and the local resident to understand the potential location of these species. Due to the time of year that the walkover took place there was no evidence of these species found during the visit (as these species are only evident in the autumn), and therefore a further survey will be required during the appropriate season to confirm the presence and location of fungi. During the visit, the local resident identified two areas where these species have previously been recorded (to the north of the rock outcrop and to the centre of the site) and these locations fall within areas that are proposed to be retained as green space across all options.

4.64 *Heritage*



- 4.65 An Archaeological Desk Based Assessment has been undertaken and the report is included in Appendix H.
- 4.66 There are five assets recorded in the Heritage Environment Record (HER) within 500m of the site, all of which are non-designated assets, and three of which lie within the site itself. These assets comprise ridge and furrow across the golf course (MBL3192) as well as the sites of Brand Hall manor house (MBL2704) and a chapel at Chapel Croft (MBL2996), both of which lie at the south-eastern end of the site.
- 4.67 During a site visit, there were no above ground indications of a building at the site of the Chapel Croft field. A modern compound is located at the southern end of the site where this feature is thought to be, although there is potential for sub-surface deposits. There are also no above ground remains of Brand Hall, as the area to the south of the site has been built over by modern houses, although it is possible for remains associated with the hall to survive within the site. The ridge and furrow was not visible during the site visit due to the long grass, although it is visible on aerial photographs and satellite imaging. This indicates that there is potential for previously unrecorded remains to survive within the site.
- 4.68 The only prehistoric asset in the study area is a lithic scatter at the northern edge (MBL2840). Although there is limited evidence from within this area, the undeveloped nature of the site suggests the possibility that early archaeological remains may survive within the site boundary.
- 4.69 There is one built heritage asset within 500m of the site, a locally listed post-medieval public house located at the north-eastern edge of the study area (DSD646). There is not thought to be any impact to the building or any changes to its setting from proposed development of the site.
- 4.70 Further assessment of potential impacts upon the archaeological resource within the site will be required if development is proposed. A programme of geophysical (magnetometer) survey followed by trial trenching will be required at the site in order to understand the archaeological potential and, in particular, to identify the presence of remains associated with Ridge and Furrow, the former Brand Hall and the chapel in the south-eastern corner of the site.

4.71 *Air Quality*



- 4.72 A site-specific air quality monitoring report has been prepared to inform the option development and this is included in Appendix I.
- 4.73 The site exists entirely within the borough-wide air quality management area (AQMA) which SMBC declared in 2005 for exceedance of the annual mean air quality strategy (AQS) objective value for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂). AECOM conducted three months of monitoring for NO₂ between May and August 2021, which concluded that The NO₂ concentrations obtained as part of this survey are close to or exceeding the objective value in a number of locations and they are consistent with what would be expected for an urban area which is within an AQMA.
- 4.74 Long-term monitoring data from SMBC, shows that there is a general trend whereby concentrations of NO₂ are decreasing at a local level. It would be expected that sites around the development would experience a similar trend. It is likely that by the time a development is operational, NO₂ concentrations would have improved at the sites surveyed. Notwithstanding, it is recommended that a detailed air quality assessment is conducted for any option where development takes place to ensure the site is suitable for its intended use and to establish whether the development may lead to likely significant effects in the wider area.
- 4.75 With consideration to the survey results for the two on site locations, it is recommended that a suitable buffer (at this stage this is assumed to be 40m) from the M5 to any proposed sensitive location (e.g., residential property) is retained to protect health for any development brought forward.
- 4.76 *Topography*
- 4.77 A topographical survey of the site was undertaken by Brunel Surveys Ltd in April 2021. The topography of the site ranges from 200m Above Ordnance Datum to 170m Above Ordnance Datum gradually sloping upwards from south to north. There are gentle undulations across the site, including flood risk embankments and artificial features created for the golf course. The site has gentle slopes rising either side of Brandhall Brook which is located north-south through the site.
- 4.78 *Utilities*
- 4.79 A number of utilities are located within the site including:
- Overhead electrical lines which run adjacent to the entire western site boundary (parallel to the M5) including a single transmission tower. National Grid confirmed that a 15m stand-off zone around the



National Grid towers is required for access and maintenances. Another, 30m stand-off zone is also required, within which any conductive materials are to be adequately earthed. There must be vertical clearance of at least 7.3 metres between the conductors of an overhead line at maximum sag and the ground and at least 5.3m above any structure someone could stand on according to Electrical Networks Association TS 43-8 referenced in the Third-party guidance for working near National Grid Electricity Transmission equipment.

- HV (11kV) underground cables are located within the east site boundary near the A4123 Wolverhampton Road and Queensway, underneath Parson's Hill Park. A 5m standoff either side of the cables is advised by Western Power Distribution.
- A Local High Pressure (LHP) gas main is located within the western part of the site, running parallel to the M5 motorway. Easements for the LHP mains owned by Cadent Gas are 12.2 metres total width, which assumes the mains are made of steel. If the pipe construction of the pipe is different (as is common with older mains), the easement may be greater.
- Information provided by Severn Trent Water (STW) shows two foul water pipes are located within the site – one running centrally through the site (in proximity to Brandhall Brook) and one near the eastern site boundary. The development enquiry response from STW states that the 300mm sewer has a 5-metre easement (2.5 metres each side).
- Information provided by STW shows two surface water pipes and a culvert are located within the site boundary. The first enters the south-eastern site boundary on Queensway and terminates after approximately 60 metres where it outfalls into a small watercourse that runs northwards through the site. The second enters the east site boundary from Brandhall Lane and terminates after approximately 70 metres as it outfalls into a culvert. The culvert is approximately 115 metres long, of which 100 metres is within the site boundary.

4.80 South Staffs Water (SSW) own water mains and apparatus along roads adjacent to the site but outside of the site boundary which will not cause any constraints to future development.

4.81 In addition, BT, Telnet NRTS, Virgin Media and Vodafone all own apparatus in the vicinity of the site, but outside of the site boundary and it is not envisaged that this infrastructure will constitute a constraint to future development.



4.82 *Water and Flooding*

4.83 A Surface Water Drainage Technical Note (Appendix J) and a Stage 1 Flood Investigation Report (Appendix K) have been prepared. The purpose of the Flood Investigation Report is to understand the likely causes and sources of existing flooding reported within the Golf Course Site, in the Brook Road Area, and in the Wolverhampton Road area that were reported as part of the November 2021 public consultation. The findings from this report could inform the development of potential flood alleviation measures to reduce the existing flood risk. As this would address existing flooding rather than any potential impact on flooding from any development on the Brandhall site it is not material to the options set out below. The potential future flood alleviation measures identified in the Flood Investigation Report are separate to the proposed development options within the Brandhall Site and would go beyond the planning policy requirement of demonstrating that any proposed development on the Brandhall Site would not increase flood risk. Importantly, the surface water drainage technical note (Appendix J) demonstrates how surface water runoff arising from the development options could be restricted to the greenfield runoff rate so as not to increase the risk of flooding off-site. This would be achieved by creating a number of Sustainable Urban Drainage solutions such as new ponds.

The Brandhall Brook (denoted as Main River on the EA Flood Map for Planning) runs from south to north through the site. There are several smaller informal tributaries and ditches within the site which discharge into the Brandhall Brook, as well as two offline attenuation ponds. A larger tributary joins the Brandhall Brook at the northern end of the Golf Course Site from Wolverhampton Road in the east.

- 4.84 There is an existing Flood Storage Area in the north of the site and two existing offline attenuation ponds within the Site to the west of the Brandhall Brook.
- 4.85 EA Flood Zone mapping shows that the majority of the site is located in Flood Zone 1 (<0.1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)). There are areas of Flood Zone 2 (0.1% AEP) and Flood Zone 3 associated with the Brandhall Brook in the centre of the site.
- 4.86 Within the site, there are elements of the Brandhall Brook which are culverted. There are opportunities to open up culverts within the site and integrate Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SuDS) for habitat creation and increased biodiversity.



4.87 Noise

- 4.88 As part of AECOM's initial masterplanning work, preliminary noise modelling (for external sound levels) has been undertaken to provide a high-level understanding of potential noise mitigation measures that may be required. Although high level in nature, this initial acoustic noise modelling provides an insight into the potential constraints in terms of ambient sound levels which may impact future development.
- 4.89 From the guidance in the Professional Practice Guidance (ProPG) which focusses on noise sensitive development (produced by the Institute of Acoustics (IOA), the Association of Noise Consultants (ANC) and the Chartered Institute of Environmental Health (CIEH)), areas of external sound levels of up to 50 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ would be considered as negligible risk, with level up to 60 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ considered low risk. Within the low risk areas, the use of site layout, and acoustic screening from buildings may be required to achieve levels below 50 or 55 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ or lower in garden areas. Areas above 60 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ are considered medium or high risk in ProPG. Whilst this does not of itself prevent residential development, at these higher sound levels, more detailed consideration of site layout and building design will be required to achieve acceptable acoustic conditions.
- 4.90 An acoustic model has been developed in SoundPLAN (version 8.2). This includes traffic data provided and processed by the project transport team for the M45 and A4123. Data for both roads included 18-hour AAWT traffic flow, percentage heavy vehicles and average speed, and were obtained for periods prior to the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. The acoustic model included the current ground topography, but does not currently account for screening from existing buildings.
- 4.91 The model shows that with no acoustic mitigation in place, no parts of the site fall below 50dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$, and only a small section through the middle of the site falls below 55dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$.
- 4.92 A number of potential mitigation measures was modelled to show how the predicted sound levels could be modified, including:
- A 4m high acoustic barrier among the western site boundary - Whilst this predicted small reductions in sound level immediately behind the barrier, its effectiveness was significantly limited by the topography, meaning that, particularly at the southern end of the site, the ground level at the base of the barrier was significantly below the carriageway height of the M5.



- A 6m high combination of a landscaped bund and acoustic barrier within the site – which significantly increased areas of the site within 50-55 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$ band.
- A 4m barrier located adjacent to the M5 Motorway – which significantly reduced sound levels across the site but would be subject to agreement from National Highways and utilities companies.

4.93 Even with the application of the above principles, it is likely that some garden areas could exceed the Local Authorities preferred value of 50 dB $L_{Aeq,16hr}$, and meeting the specification for internal sound levels in the most exposed properties could require closed windows with alternative forms of ventilation.

4.94 It should be noted that the findings of this initial noise modelling are preliminary and further technical work will be required as the preferred option is developed to confirm potential impacts and necessary mitigation measures.

4.95 *Ground Conditions*

4.96 Generally, a very low to low risk has been identified with respect to human health from potential contaminated soils and groundwater. The risks from ground gas (from off-site landfill sources) and from asbestos (localised sources of the former hostel and infilled land on site) were considered to be moderate/low. A low risk has been identified with respect to the risk to controlled waters from contaminated soils and leachate. A medium hazard potential from the following geotechnical constraints was identified; site topography, soft/compressible deposits (low bearing capacity and high settlement), high groundwater table, Made Ground (where present), utilities, geological faulting, shallow bedrock and earthworks.

4.97 Although, the surrounding area was known to have been bombed during WW2 and thus a UXO risk is present, the pre-desk study undertaken by Zetica recommended that a detailed desk study, whilst always prudent, is not considered essential in this instance.

4.98 The site is in an intermediate probability radon area (1 to 3% of homes are estimated to be at or above the Action Level). No radon protective measures are necessary in the construction of new dwellings or extensions.

4.99 It is recommended that a geotechnical and geo-environmental investigation is undertaken at the site. The investigation will allow a



quantitative assessment as to whether any of the potential risks identified in this study are present and are of material concern to the development.

4.100 Revised Masterplan Options

4.101 This section of the report sets out the five new options for the Brandhall site which is subject to the recommendation in 1.1 above.

4.102 Following the feedback received from the public consultation, it was considered necessary to reconsider the masterplan options to take account of concerns regarding not only the potential scale of the development, but also the principle of development. In addition, since the preparation of the options presented at public consultation, a number of additional technical studies have been completed as outlined above. This provided greater understanding with regards to potential constraints including drainage, trees, ecology, heritage and noise.

4.103 Therefore 5 new options have been developed for consideration by Cabinet.

- **Option 1a No change** - Essentially retaining the site in its current form and use as a largely inaccessible green space (aside from the two existing Public Rights of Way).
- **Option 1b Development of a new public park** – This option would again propose no development on the site and include landscaping works to upgrade the space to provide an accessible new public park.
- **Option 2 Provision of land for a new primary school and development of a new public park** – This option would set aside land for a new replacement two-form entry primary school together with the upgrading of the remaining site area to become a new public park.
- **Option 3 Provision of land for a new primary school, a new public park and development of circa 190 residential dwellings** – In addition to the provision of land for a new replacement primary school, this option would incorporate development of circa 190 new residential units, with the remainder of the site upgraded to provide a new public park.



- **Option 4 Provision of land for a new primary school, a new public park and development of circa 360 residential dwellings -**
In addition to the provision of land for a new replacement primary school, this option would incorporate development of circa 360 new residential units, with the remainder of the site upgraded to provide a new public park.

4.104 These five options are set out in more detail below and look to explore potential land uses, spatial composition and character. All options except 1a have capital and revenue implications for the Council and sources of funding will need to be explored. This is likely to include a combination of external funding bids, capital receipts generation and prudential borrowing, subject to borrowing costs being affordable.

4.105 OPTION 1A – NO CHANGE

4.106 As illustrated by Figure 1a below, this option essentially retains the site in its current form comprising:

- The former clubhouse (closed and boarded up) and existing car park located to the northern extent of the site;
- Parson’s Hill Park located to the eastern end of the site, a public park comprising a multi-use games area and amenity grassland;
- Two existing public rights of way (PRoW) cross the former golf course providing the only public access into and across the green space. This provides east-west access across the site and therefore this is currently no way to access and cross the site in a north-south direction;
- Green space which incorporates, woodland tree belts, uneven grass terrain, existing bunkers and short pathways which were associated with the golf course. In addition, there is Brandhall Brook which runs centrally through the green space, together with a number of existing ponds and a water storage area located to the northern end of the site.

4.107 Although the site is largely not accessible to the public, it is documented that the green spaces within the site are being accessed by the public and there are potential ongoing risks (and potential cost implications) associated with the uneven ground, ponds, boarded up former club house, watercourse, bunkers, trees, anti-social behaviour and overhead powerlines (located along the western edge) which may require mitigation to ensure that the site is safe.





4.108 The indicative development outputs from Option 1a is shown in the table below. It shows that Option 1a would result in 35.19ha of largely inaccessible green infrastructure and 1.47ha of Community Open Space at the existing Parsons Hill Park.

Option 1a Indicative Development Outputs.

| Area of Green Infrastructure / Open Space (Ha) | Area set aside for Education (Ha) | Area for Residential Area (Ha) | Former Club House & Existing Car Park (Ha) |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 35.19 (Largely inaccessible) | 0 | 0 | 0.48 |
| 1.47 (Parsons Hill Park) | | | |

4.109 Given that there is no change to the site from its current form, this option does not support current housing need or requirement to provide a new primary school. In addition, as the site is largely inaccessible, it fails to provide the high-quality open space or enhanced biodiversity envisaged within the masterplan vision (the masterplan vision is included in Appendix B). However, it could be suggested that this option could support wider sustainability and climate objectives and takes into account the views of local people who would like the space to remain undeveloped, although the majority of the site would remain technically inaccessible.

4.110 OPTION 1B – DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PUBLIC PARK

4.111 As per Option 1a and as illustrated by Figure 1b below, Option 1b proposes no new development on the site, retaining the existing green spaces including Parson’s Hill Park. However, unlike the previous option, this option proposes external works to upgrade the currently inaccessible green space to create a new public park.

4.112 The design of the proposed new park has not been determined at this stage and could be influenced by local public consultation to understand what facilities / characteristics would be popular. For the purposes of

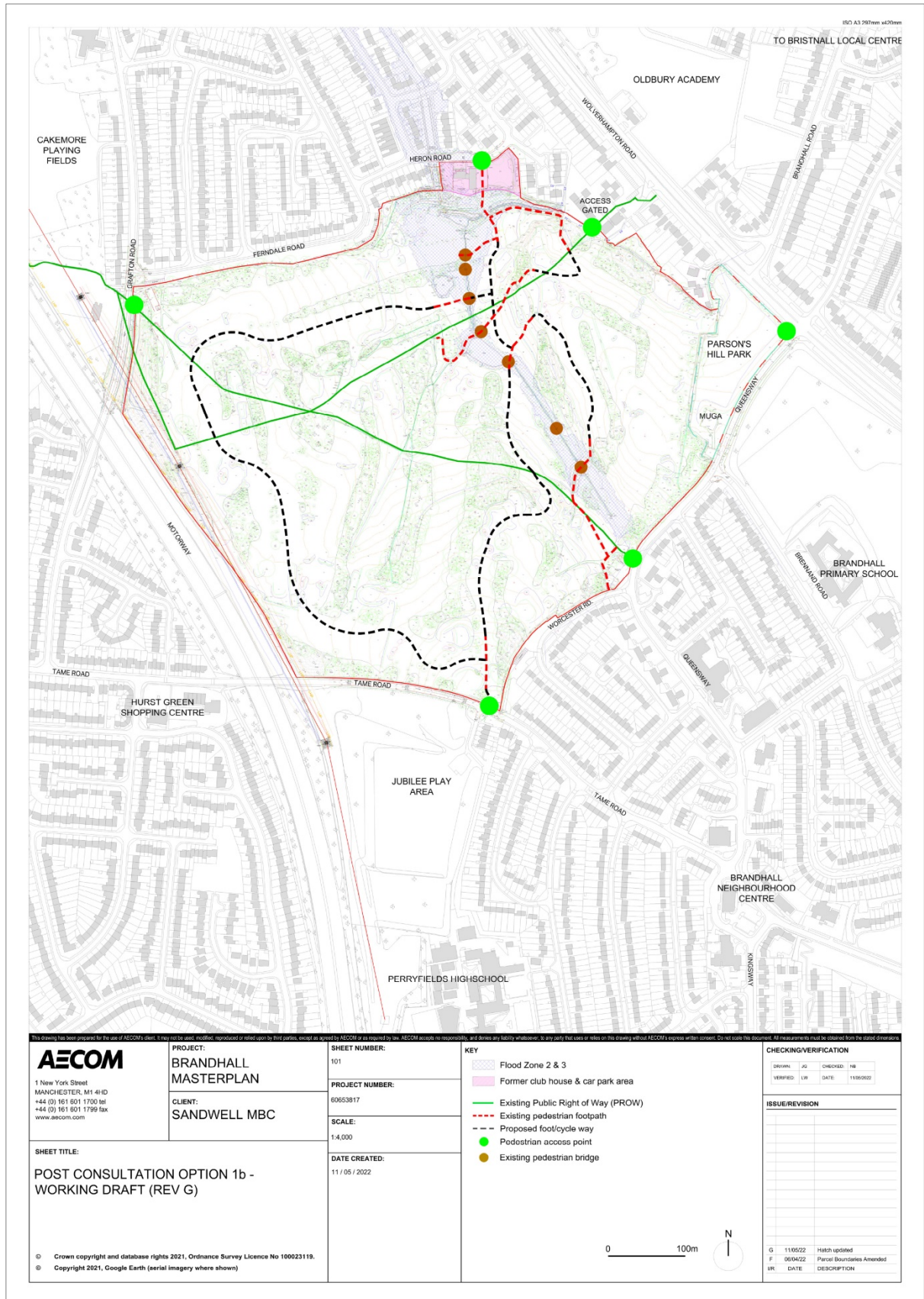


providing high level costs, it has been envisaged that the new park could comprise:

- The creation of new accessible pedestrian and cycle routes through the park, (complementing the existing PRow) providing improved access to the surrounding locality and also creating circular routes to improve amenity and encourage healthy living;
- Installing new benches, litter bins and pedestrian gates, to encourage people to use the site and discourage anti-social behaviour;
- Making the site safe by filling in existing bunkers and ensuring that potential dangers around the site are protected / fenced;
- Upgrading areas of the existing green space to incorporate new play areas, hardstanding and landscaping to improve biodiversity;
- Demolition of the former clubhouse to the north of the site, to provide a cleared site for future development (potential community use); and
- Repairs and demarcation of the existing car park to provide parking spaces for users of the public park.



Figure 1b – Option 1b Development of a new public park



4.113 The indicative development outputs from Option 1b is shown in the table below. It shows that with Option 1b the development outputs would be a new 35.19-hectare public park plus the retention of the 1.47-hectare Parsons Hill Park.

| Area of Green Infrastructure / Open Space (Ha) | Area set aside for Education (Ha) | Area for Residential Area (Ha) | Former Club House & Existing Car Park (Ha) |
|--|-----------------------------------|--------------------------------|--|
| 35.19 (new public park) | 0 | 0 | 0.48 |
| 1.47 (Parsons Hill Park) | | | |

4.114 Given that there is no development proposed, this option does not support the council's strategic objectives around housing need or the requirement to provide a new primary school. Creating a new publicly accessible park would provide high quality open space and opportunities to enhance biodiversity. It would also support sustainability and climate objectives set out within the masterplan principles and take into account the views of local people who would like the space to remain undeveloped, but also accessible.



4.115 OPTION 2 PROVISION OF LAND FOR A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL AND DEVELOPMENT OF A NEW PUBLIC PARK

4.116 As illustrated by Figure 2 below, Option 2 proposes the construction of a new two-form entry primary school to replace the aging Causeway Green school. Within this option, the remainder of the site would be upgraded to provide a new public park, together with the retention of Parson's Hill Park.

4.117 *Design Concept and response to technical considerations*

4.118 Proposed New School

4.119 Feedback from public consultation and key stakeholders (on the previous options) indicated that the proposed new replacement school would be best located to the north-western part of the site, as this would be closest to the existing catchment of Causeway Green Primary School (which it will be replacing) and avoid potential traffic associated with Wolverhampton Road and the adjacent Brandhall Primary School. Although there is no designated catchment area for local primary schools, relocation of the school to Brandhall will inevitably lead to some changes to demography of children attending the school in the future.

4.120 Therefore, Option 2 provides a 2.68Ha parcel to the south of Ferndale Road in the north-west corner of the site, with the potential vehicular access for the school located to the eastern end of the parcel to ensure sufficient distance is maintained from Grafton Road to reduce any potential impact of blocking back of traffic. However, it should be noted that further optioneering and discussions with the Local Highways Authority will be required to confirm the preferred access and drop-off arrangements.

4.121 At this time, the form and layout of the school buildings and external areas have not been determined. Therefore, the potential impact on existing trees within the parcel cannot be confirmed. In addition, the potential size of impermeable areas has had to be assumed at this stage in order to provide an indicative drainage strategy for surface water. This has indicated that due to the topography of the site, a new drainage pond will be required to the western end of the parcel, together with a larger pond located to the east of the parcel within the new public park.



As recommended within the air quality monitoring report (AECOM), a buffer from the western edge of the site is maintained due to the proximity of the motorway.

4.122 Should this option progress, the design of the school should look to retain key existing trees (where possible) and mitigate against potential ecological impacts.

4.123 New Public Park

4.124 As previously, the design of the proposed new park has not been determined at this stage and could be influenced by local public consultation to understand what facilities / characteristics would be popular. For the purposes of providing high level costs, it has been envisaged that the new park could comprise:

- The creation of new accessible pedestrian and cycle routes through the park, (complementing the existing PRow) providing improved access to the surrounding locality and the proposed new school, whilst also creating circular routes to improve amenity and encourage healthy living;
- Installing new benches, litter bins and pedestrian gates, to encourage people to use the site and discourage anti-social behaviour;
- Making the site safe by filling in existing bunkers and ensuring that potential dangers around the site are protected / fenced;
- Upgrading areas of the existing green space to incorporate new play areas, hardstanding and landscaping to improve biodiversity;
- Demolition of the former clubhouse to the north of the site, to provide a cleared site for future development (potential community use); and
- Repairs and demarcation of the existing car park to provide parking spaces for users of the public park.



4.125 The indicative development outputs from Option 2 is shown in the table below. It shows that with Option 2 the development outputs would be a new slightly smaller, 32.0-hectare public park plus the retention of the 1.47-hectare Parsons Hill Park. 2.68 hectares of land would be set aside for the replacement school.

| Area of Green Infrastructure / Open Space (Ha) | Area set aside for Education Use (Ha) | Area for Residential Use (Ha) | Former Club House & Existing Car Park (Ha) |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------|--|
| 32.01 (new public park) 1.47 (Parsons Hill Park) | 2.68 plus associated infrastructure | 0 | 0.48 |

4.126 Given that there is no residential development proposed, this option does not address the current housing need in Sandwell. This option would provide opportunity to deliver a new school, create a new publicly accessible park (providing high quality open space and opportunities to enhance biodiversity) and would also meet the sustainability and climate objectives set out within the masterplan principles. Whilst it would take into account the views of local people who would prefer no residential development on site, it would not accord with the views of people who would prefer to retain the entire site as green space, although the increased accessibility would meet many consultation respondents' aspirations for the site.

4.127 OPTION 3: PROVISION OF LAND FOR A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, A NEW PUBLIC PARK, AND DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCA 190 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS

4.128 As illustrated by Figure 3 below, Option 3 proposes the construction of a new two form entry primary school, circa 190 residential dwellings, the retention of Parson's Hill Park and the remainder of the site upgraded to provide a new public park.

4.129 Design Concept and response to technical considerations

4.130 Proposed New School



4.131 As explained above, feedback from public consultation and key stakeholders (on the previous options) indicated that the proposed new school would be best located to the north-western part of the site, as this would be closest to the existing catchment of Causeway Green Primary School (which it will be replacing) and avoid potential traffic associated with Wolverhampton Road and the adjacent Brandhall Primary School.

4.132 Therefore, this option again provides a 2.68Ha parcel to the south of Ferndale Road in the north-west corner of the site, with the potential vehicular access for the school located to the eastern end of the parcel to ensure sufficient distance is maintained from Grafton Road to reduce any potential impact of blocking back of traffic. As noted previously, further optioneering and discussions with the Local Highways Authority will be required to confirm the preferred access and drop-off arrangements.

4.133 As above with Option 2, the form and layout of the school buildings and external areas have not been determined, therefore, the potential impact on existing trees within the parcel cannot be confirmed. In addition, the potential size of impermeable areas has had to be assumed at this stage in order to provide an indicative drainage strategy for surface water. This has indicated that due to the topography of the site, a new drainage pond will be required to the western end of the parcel, together with a larger pond located to the east of the parcel within the new public park.

4.134 Should this option progress, the design of the school should look to retain key existing trees (where possible) and mitigate against potential ecological impacts.

4.135 New Residential Development

4.136 This option introduces a limited amount of residential development onto the site, in the form of two parcels:

- R1 – A larger parcel (3.29Ha) to the north-eastern edge of the site; and
- R2 – A smaller parcel (1.80Ha) to the south-eastern edge of the site.

4.137 Feedback from key stakeholders (on the previous options) indicated that it would be preferable to have a consolidated area of parkland, rather than a series of linear corridors. Therefore, in this option, the residential parcels wrap around the eastern end of the proposed new park creating a significant centralised park and helping to discourage anti-social behaviour by providing frontage and overlooking onto the green space.



- 4.138 Each of the parcels has been positioned to work with the rolling topography of the site, avoid existing utilities and to try to limit the amount of tree loss by avoiding some of the more significant woodland belts to the centre and north-west of the site. In addition, the parcels provide a generous stand-off from Brandhall Brook, avoiding areas within Flood Zones 2 and 3 and providing opportunities to open up some of the currently culverted elements. This also provides opportunity to introduce new sustainable drainage measures and new landscaping to aid habitat creation and boost biodiversity.
- 4.139 Due to the proximity of the motorway, initial noise modelling suggests that mitigation will be required in order to reduce sound levels across the site. Whilst further detailed studies will be required to confirm the optimum location, height and form of an acoustic barrier, Option 3 illustrates how an acoustic barrier (a combination of a landscaped bund and acoustic barrier) could be located to follow the highest points in the western part of the site. Not only would this potentially reduce sounds levels to the east, but the addition of a landscape bund would help to reduce the visual dominance of the motorway and potentially create a naturalised wildlife corridor to the west of the bund. While this solution is included to demonstrate a more easily deliverable outcome, further discussions with National Highways will be required to confirm the potential for delivering a more efficient noise mitigation solution immediately adjacent to the motorway, a solution which has been used on other stretches of the M5 to the north and south of the Brandhall site.
- 4.140 Parcel R1 is situated overlooking Parson's Hill Park and Brandhall Brook, and it is anticipated that future development would be outward facing to provide positive frontage onto these spaces rather than back gardens. With its access potentially taken from Queensway, it is envisaged that the primary street would run through the centre of the parcel with an attractive tree lined character, which also reduces vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. The parcel steps back from the existing SLINC to the northern end of the site and the tree to the eastern edge (near Parson's Hill Park) which is assessed to have high bat roost potential.
- 4.141 Parcel R2 is a smaller parcel positioned to the south-west, overlooking Brandhall Brook and the new public park. It is envisaged that future development would again be outward facing to positively address these open spaces. With access potentially taken from Worcester Road, tree lined primary streets are anticipated to be located within the centre of the parcel to minimise vehicle impacts on the park. The parcel looks to step back from Worcester Road and the junction with Queensway in order to



retain the existing hedgerow and also avoid areas associated with the former site of Brand Hall and the former Chapel Site. It should be noted that there is potential for ridge and furrow to be present across the site and further surveys will be required to confirm potentially sensitive areas.

4.142 Pedestrian and cycle routes within the parcels will link to those within the proposed park and create a network of walkable neighbourhoods, providing convenient routes to local amenities, facilities, adjacent communities and transport links, whilst also providing opportunities for leisure and wellbeing.

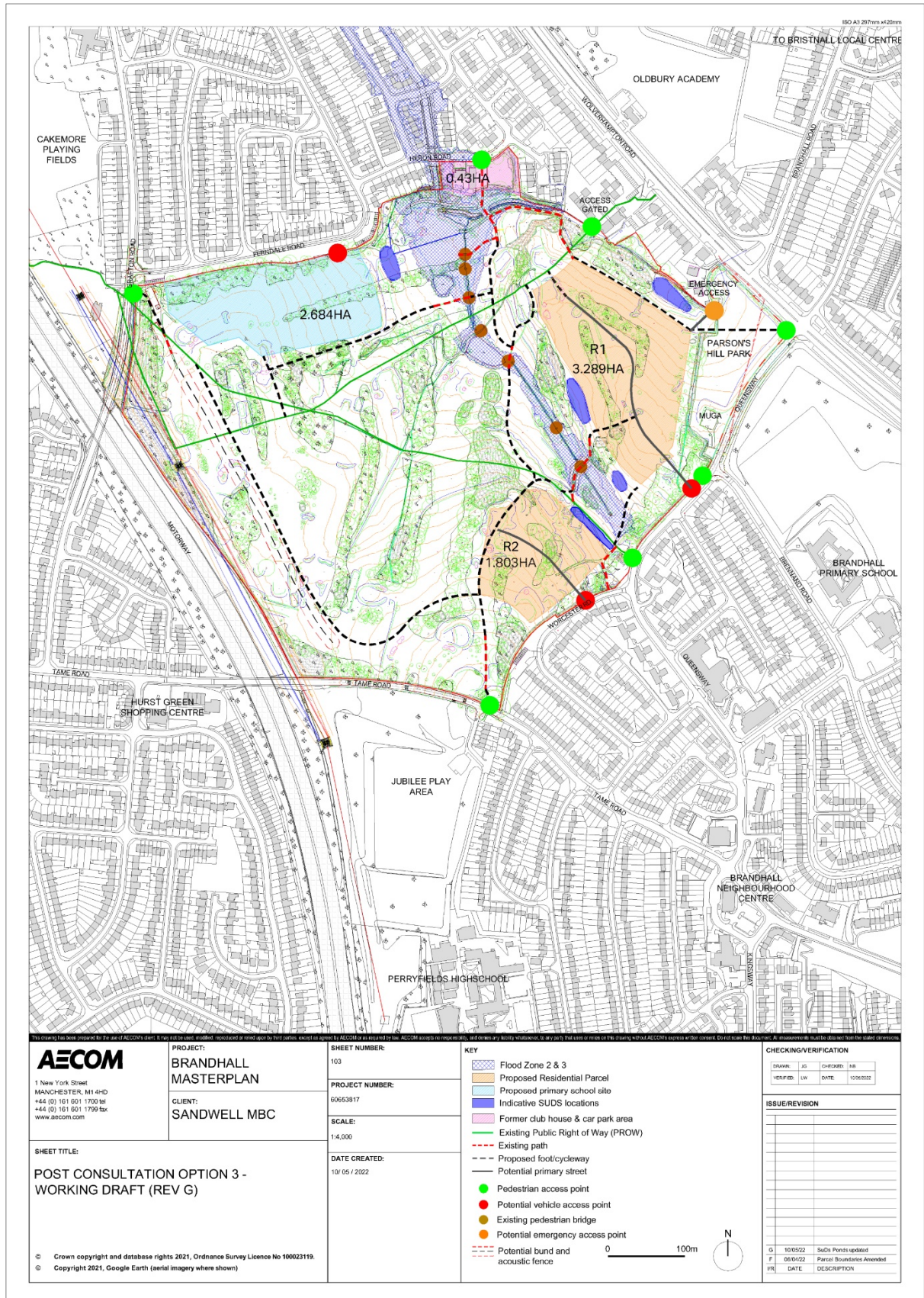
4.143 New Public Park

4.144 As set out previously, the design of the proposed new park has not been determined at this stage and could be influenced by local public consultation to understand what facilities / characteristics would be popular. For the purposes of providing high level costs, it has been envisaged that the new park could comprise:

- The creation of new accessible pedestrian and cycle routes through the park, (complementing the existing PRow) providing improved access to the surrounding locality and the proposed new school, whilst also creating circular routes to improve amenity and encourage healthy living;
- Installing new benches, litter bins and pedestrian gates, to encourage people to use the site and discourage anti-social behaviour;
- Making the site safe by filling in existing bunkers and ensuring that potential dangers around the site are protected / fenced;
- Upgrading areas of the existing green space to incorporate new play areas, hardstanding and landscaping to improve biodiversity;
- Demolition of the former clubhouse to the north of the site, to provide a cleared site for future development (potential community use); and
- Repairs and demarcation of the existing car park to provide parking spaces for users of the public park.



Figure 3: Option 3 Provision of land for a new primary school, a new public park and development of circa 190 residential dwellings



4.145 The indicative development outputs from Option 3 is shown in the tables below. It shows that Option 3 would deliver a new public park of circa 26.14-hectares plus the retention of 1.47-hectare Parsons Hill Park. 2.68-hectares would be set aside for a new school. Circa 5.09-hectares would be set aside for residential use allowing for the delivery of circa 190 new homes of which 48 would be affordable.

| Area of Green Infrastructure / Open Space (Ha) | Area set aside for Education Use (Ha) | Area for Residential Use (Ha) | Former Club House & Existing Car Park (Ha) |
|---|---------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| 26.41 (new public park) 1.47 (Parsons Hill Park) | 2.68 | 5.09 plus associated infrastructure | 0.48 |

Indicative residential units:

| Parcel No. | Gross Parcel Area (Ha) | Average Density | Potential Number of units (rounded) | Potential Number of units OPTION 3 |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| R1 | 3.29 | 37 | 120 | 190 |
| R2 | 1.80 | 39 | 70 | |

Indicative residential development mix:

| Dwelling Type | % of mix | Potential No. of units | Average Dwelling Size (Sq. M) | Average Dwelling Size (Sq. Ft) |
|------------------------|--------------|------------------------|-------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Apartments (2 Bedroom) | 12.6% | 24 | 58 (plus 6 sqm balcony) | 625 |
| 2 Bedroom House | 17.9% | 34 | 75 | 807 |
| 3 Bedroom House | 57.9% | 110 | 95 | 1,020 |
| 4 Bedroom House | 11.6% | 22 | 120 | 1,290 |
| | Total | 190 | | |
| | | 48 | Affordable Housing (25%) | |
| | | 142 | Market Housing (75%) | |



4.146 Although option 3 proposes a limited element of residential development (including 25% affordable homes), it does not maximise the opportunity to significantly address the current housing need in Sandwell. As with Option 2, this option would provide opportunity to deliver a new school and create a new publicly accessible park (which would provide high quality open space and opportunities to enhance biodiversity). Given the significant size of the park, and the low carbon ambitions associated with the proposed school and residential development, there is opportunity to meet the sustainability and climate objectives set out in the masterplan principles. Whilst there were a number of people who welcomed the potential delivery of new affordable homes, the development of a school and also indicated that a smaller residential development may be acceptable, this option would not accord with the views of local people who would prefer to retain the entire site as green space, albeit one that is accessible.



4.147 **OPTION 4: PROVISION OF LAND FOR A NEW PRIMARY SCHOOL, A NEW PUBLIC PARK, AND DEVELOPMENT OF CIRCA 360 RESIDENTIAL DWELLINGS.**

As illustrated by Figure 4 below, Option 4 proposes the construction of a new two form entry primary school, circa 360 residential dwellings, the retention of Parson's Hill Park and the remainder of the site upgraded to provide a new public park.

4.148 Design Concept and response to technical considerations

4.149 Proposed New School

- 4.150 As set out previously, feedback from public consultation and key stakeholders (on the previous options) indicated that the proposed new school would be best located to the north-western part of the site, as this would be closest to the existing catchment of the school, and avoid potential traffic associated with Wolverhampton Road and the adjacent Brandhall Primary School.
- 4.151 Therefore, this option again provides a 2.68Ha parcel to the south of Ferndale Road in the north-west corner of the site, with the potential vehicular access for the school located to the eastern end of the parcel to ensure sufficient distance is maintained from Grafton Road to reduce any potential impact of blocking back of traffic. As noted previously, further optioneering and discussions with the Local Highways Authority will be required to confirm the preferred access and drop-off arrangements.
- 4.152 As before, the form and layout of the school buildings and external areas have not been determined, therefore, the potential impact on existing trees within the parcel cannot be confirmed. In addition, the potential size of impermeable areas has had to be assumed at this stage in order to provide an indicative drainage strategy for surface water. This has indicated that due to the topography of the site, a new drainage pond will be required to the western end of the parcel, together with a larger pond located to the east of the parcel within the new public park.
- 4.153 Should this option progress, the design of the school should look to retain key existing trees (where possible) and mitigate against potential ecological impacts.



4.154 New Residential Development

4.155 Building on Option 3, this option introduces further residential development onto the site, comprising:

- R1 – The largest of the parcels (3.29Ha) to the north-eastern edge of the site;
- R2 – A smaller parcel (1.80Ha) to the south-eastern edge of the site;
- R3 – Located to the west of R2 to the south of the site (2.12Ha); and
- R4 – A triangular parcel (1.87Ha) located to the west of the site.

4.156 Feedback from key stakeholders (on the previous options) indicated that it would be preferable to have a consolidated area of parkland, rather than a series of linear corridors. Therefore, this option again wraps residential parcels around the proposed new park creating a substantial centralised park and helping to discourage anti-social behaviour by providing frontage and overlooking onto the green space.

4.157 As per the Option 3, each of the parcels has been positioned to work with the rolling topography of the site, avoid existing utilities, retain existing PRow's and to try to limit the amount of tree loss by retaining generous green corridors between the parcels helping to preserve important connections to other green spaces within the site. In addition, parcels R1 and R2 provide a generous stand-off from Brandhall Brook, avoiding areas within Flood Zones 2 and 3 and providing opportunities to open up some of the currently culverted elements. This also provides opportunity to introduce new sustainable drainage measures and new landscaping to aid habitat creation and boost biodiversity.

4.158 Due to the proximity of the motorway, initial noise modelling suggests that mitigation will be required in order to reduce sound levels across the site. Whilst further detailed studies will be required to confirm the optimum location, height and form of an acoustic barrier, Option 4 illustrates how an acoustic barrier (a combination of a landscaped bund and acoustic barrier) could be located to follow the highest points in the western part of the site. Not only would this potentially reduce sound levels to the east, but the addition of a landscape bund would help to reduce the visual dominance of the motorway and potentially create a naturalised wildlife corridor to the west of the bund. As before, this is a useful placeholder solution, subject to further investigations, design development and discussions with National Highways.



- 4.159 As set out previously, parcel R1 is situated overlooking Parson's Hill Park and Brandhall Brook, and it is anticipated that future development would be outward facing to provide positive frontage onto these spaces rather than back gardens. With its access potentially taken from Queensway, it is envisaged that the primary street would run through the centre of the parcel providing an attractive tree lined character, which also reduces vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. The parcel steps back from the existing SLINC to the northern end of the site and the tree to the eastern edge (near Parson's Hill Park) which is assessed to have high bat roost potential. If required, there may be potential to provide an additional emergency access onto Brandhall Lane.
- 4.160 As before, Parcel R2 is a smaller parcel positioned to the south-west, overlooking Brandhall Brook and the new public park. It is envisaged that future development would again be outward facing to positively address these open spaces. The parcel looks to step back from Worcester Road and the junction with Queensway in order to retain the existing hedgerow and also avoid areas associated with the former site of Brand Hall and the former Chapel Site. It should be noted that there is potential for ridge and furrow to be present across the site and further surveys will be required to confirm potentially sensitive areas.
- 4.161 Parcel R3 is located to the west of Parcel R3 and east of Parcel R4. As the central parcel on the tranche of land to the west of the Brandhall Brook, it is envisaged that the main access for this parcel will be taken from the south at Tame Road, with a primary street passing centrally through the parcel before connecting east and west to the parcels R2 and R4, respectively. If required, an additional emergency access could be provided from Worcester Road. Given the parcels being encompassed by surrounding parkland, it will be essential for future development to be outward facing and provide overlooking onto surrounding green spaces. Development has been deliberately set back from the southern end of the site in order to maintain continuous green corridors (aiding the movement of wildlife) across the site and also to step back from potentially sensitive archaeological areas. This will also help to create a positive parkland setting for the development which could respond positively through the utilisation of strong frontage and architecture to help provide a clear sense of place. It is noted that Parcel R3 includes two trees which are noted as having high bat roost potential and a number of other trees which have moderate potential. At this stage the detailed layout of the development has not been confirmed and, therefore, should this option progress it may be desirable to incorporate



small local green spaces into the design so that any sensitive trees can be retained and protected.

- 4.162 Located to the west of Parcel R3, Parcel R4 will need to positively address any acoustic barrier (in this case envisaged to be an acoustic barrier atop a landscaped bund). Within this parcel there is opportunity for the most westerly row of development to form a secondary acoustic barrier, protecting lower density development and gardens to the east by utilising a higher density of development, with minimal gaps between buildings.
- 4.163 It is anticipated that surface water run-off from new development would be attenuated within the site through the use of swales, bio-retention, larger basins and ponds within the green space outside of the development parcels. These would be sized based on greenfield run-off rates and located outside of the flood zone. It is envisaged that any flood mitigation will be landscaped and designed to provide new habitat.
- 4.164 Pedestrian and cycle routes within the parcels will link to those within the proposed park and create a neighbourhood, providing convenient routes to local amenities, facilities, adjacent communities and transport links, whilst also providing opportunities for leisure and wellbeing.

4.165 New Public Park

4.166 As set out previously, the design of the proposed new park has not been determined at this stage and could be influenced by local public consultation to understand what facilities / characteristics would be popular. For the purposes of providing high level costs, it has been envisaged that the new park could comprise:

- The creation of new accessible pedestrian and cycle routes through the park, (complementing the existing PRow) providing improved access to the surrounding locality and the proposed new school, whilst also creating circular routes to improve amenity and encourage healthy living;
- Installing new benches, litter bins and pedestrian gates, to encourage people to use the site and discourage anti-social behaviour;
- Making the site safe by filling in existing bunkers and ensuring that potential dangers around the site are protected / fenced;
- Upgrading areas of the existing green space to incorporate new play areas, hardstanding and landscaping to improve biodiversity;



- Demolition of the former clubhouse to the north of the site, to provide a cleared site for future development (potential community use); and
- Repairs and demarcation of the existing car park to provide parking spaces for users of the public park.



4.167 The indicative development outputs from Option 4 are illustrated in the tables below. They show that Option 4 would deliver a new public park of circa 21.92-hectares plus the retention of 1.47-hectare Parsons Hill Park. 2.68-hectares would be set aside for a new school. Circa 9.09-hectares would be set aside for residential use allowing for the delivery of circa 360 new homes of which 90 would be affordable.

| Area of Green Infrastructure / Open Space (Ha) | Area set aside for Education Use (Ha) | Area for Residential Use (Ha) | Former Club House & Existing Car Park (Ha) |
|---|---------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|--|
| 21.92 (new public park) 1.47 (Parsons Hill Park) | 2.68 | 9.09Ha plus associated infrastructure | 0.48 |

Indicative residential units:

| Parcel No. | Gross Parcel Area (Ha) | Average Density | Potential Number of units (rounded) | Potential Number of units OPTION 4 |
|------------|------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| R1 | 3.29 | 37 | 120 | 360 |
| R2 | 1.80 | 39 | 70 | |
| R3 | 2.12 | 40 | 85 | |
| R4 | 1.87 | 45 | 85 | |

Indicative residential development mix:

| Dwelling Type | % of mix | No. of units Affordable 25%, Market 75%,) | Average Dwelling Size (Sq M) | Average Dwelling Size (Sq Ft) |
|------------------------|--------------|---|--|-------------------------------|
| Apartments (2 Bedroom) | 16.7% | 60 | 58 (plus 6 sqm balcony) | 625 |
| 2 Bedroom House | 23.3% | 84 | 75 | 807 |
| 3 Bedroom House | 47.5% | 171 | 95 | 1,020 |
| 4 Bedroom House | 12.5% | 45 | 120 | 1,290 |
| | Total | 360 90 270 | Affordable Housing (25%) Market Housing (75%) | |



4.168 Although this option provides less residential development than the initial options which were taken to public consultation in November 2021, it provides opportunity to address the current housing need in Sandwell and provide 25% affordable homes. As with previous options, Option 4 would provide opportunity to deliver a new school and create a new publicly accessible park (which would provide high quality open space and opportunities to enhance biodiversity). Despite the level of residential development, there is still opportunity to deliver a substantial new public park which would be significantly larger than the space envisaged in the original concept options consulted upon in 2019.

4.169 Given the significant size of the park, and the low carbon ambitions associated with the proposed school and residential development, there is opportunity to support the sustainability and climate objectives set out within the masterplan principles. Whilst there were a number of people who welcomed the potential delivery of new affordable homes and the development of a school, a large number of responses indicated that the site should remain undeveloped, but with increased accessibility.

4.170 SITE OF LOCAL IMPORTANCE FOR NATURE CONSERVATION

4.171 There is an existing Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) in the north-east corner of the Brandhall Site which is designated due to its local geological importance – an outcrop of a calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. Its location is identified in Appendix L. This existing SLINC area is retained as green space across all of the development options for the Brandhall site.

4.172 The wider Brandhall site is included in the Draft Black Country Plan as a potential future housing allocation. As part of the Black Country Plan process the Council are reviewing those sites proposed for new land-use allocations for their ecological and geological value. Given the development options being prepared for the Brandhall site a review of this site was prioritised within the programme.

4.173 Sandwell Council commissioned the Birmingham and Black Country Wildlife Trust (BBCWT) to assess the entire Brandhall site for its



ecological and geological importance and provide a Local Site Assessment Report (Appendix M).

4.174 Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs) are non-statutory designated sites of borough importance and designated by the Local Authority. SLINCs do not receive statutory protection but are protected in line with local policy.

4.175 The general process is the Local Site Assessment Report, once received from the BBCWT, is submitted by the Council to the Local Sites Partnership (LSP) for the report to be endorsed. The LSP is a group that consists of the four Black Country Authorities, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham and the Black Country Wildlife Trust, EcoRecord, Geodiversity, Natural England, The Environment Agency and botanists. The LSP is responsible for endorsing the findings of the Site Assessment Report and where designation is recommended, putting them forward for designation by the appropriate Local Authorities. In Sandwell, this is achieved through a resolution of the Cabinet. Cabinet has the power to determine whether or not to approve the designation of the site as a SLINC. If approved the site is designated immediately and the relevant policies of the local plan apply.

4.176 Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) are designations applied to sites that are considered locally important in relation to their ecological or geological value. These sites do not meet the criteria to be considered Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) but are still important in the locality.

4.177 A Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) designation, unlike Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) designations, is not a 'hard constraint'. This means that development on a SLINC is permissible subject to the strategic benefits outweighing the impact on the SLINC and appropriate mitigation measures being implemented. Policy ENV1 of the extant Black Country Core Strategy states the following;

Development within the Black Country will safeguard nature conservation, inside and outside its boundaries by ensuring that:

- Development is not permitted where it would harm internationally (Special Areas of Conservation), nationally (Sites of Special Scientific Interest and National Nature Reserves) or regionally (Local Nature Reserve and Sites of Importance for Nature



Conservation) designated nature conservation sites;

- **Locally designated nature conservation sites (Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation), important habitats and geological features are protected from development proposals which could negatively impact upon them;**

- The movement of wildlife within the Black Country and its adjoining areas, through both linear habitats (e.g. wildlife corridors) and the wider urban matrix (e.g. stepping stone sites) is not impeded by development;

- Species which are legally protected, in decline, are rare within the Black Country or which are covered by national, regional or local Biodiversity Action Plans will not be harmed by development.

Adequate information must be submitted with planning applications for proposals which may affect any designated site or any important habitat, species or geological feature to ensure that the likely impacts of the proposal can be fully assessed. Without this there will be a presumption against granting permission. Where, exceptionally, the strategic benefits of a development clearly outweigh the importance of a local nature conservation site, species, habitat or geological feature, damage must be minimised. Any remaining impacts, including any reduction in area, must be fully mitigated. Compensation will only be accepted in exceptional circumstances. A mitigation strategy must accompany relevant planning applications.

Current designated nature conservation sites including Local Nature Reserves will be carried forward from existing Proposals Maps, subject to additions and changes arising from further studies. Local Authorities will look to designate additional nature conservation sites as necessary in conjunction with the Local Sites Partnership and consequently sites may receive new, or increased, protection over the Plan period.

All appropriate development should positively contribute to the natural environment of the Black Country by:

- **Extending nature conservation sites;**
- **Improving wildlife movement; and/or**
- **Restoring or creating habitats / geological features which actively contribute to the implementation of Biodiversity Action Plans (BAPs) and/or Geodiversity Action Plans (GAPs) at a**



national, regional or local level. Details of how improvements (which are appropriate to the location and scale) will contribute to the natural environment, and their ongoing management for the benefit of biodiversity and geodiversity will be expected to accompany planning applications. Local authorities will provide additional guidance on this in Local Development Documents.

4.178 The BBCWT Local Site Assessment Report (Appendix M) recommends that the Brandhall Site (excluding Parsons Park) is allocated as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation. The BBCWT are not required to consider strategic need of local communities for housing or educational infrastructure as part of its assessment – it is solely focused on ecology assessment.

4.179 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report commissioned by the council (Appendix F) recommends potential mitigations and improvements to the Brandhall site that could be made to mitigate the impact of development and improve the quality and diversity of the remaining habitats on the site.

4.180 Cabinet are required to determine whether to designate the Brandhall site as a SLINC in line with the recommendation of the LSP. This would designate the entire site, including areas suggested for development in options 2, 3, and 4 as a SLINC. Any future planning application would need to demonstrate appropriate justification for development and mitigate any impact on the SLINC in accordance with planning policy. Cabinet could determine to partially designate the site as a SLINC excluding any development land in option 2, 3, or 4, given the strategic needs of the Council to deliver housing and new educational facilities. The remainder of the site would be become a SLINC and would be subject to relevant planning policy. Cabinet could also decide not to designate any of the Brandhall site as a SLINC.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 The options for consideration are set out above.

6 Implications

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Resources: | Option 1b, 2, 3, and 4 requires additional revenue for park maintenance and capital funding to deliver the option (based on the high-level viability work carried |
|-------------------|---|



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| | <p>out to date). The source of this funding has not been identified and further work is required to determine potential funding sources in line with recommendation 1.2.</p> <p>It is proposed to use £2.5m of 80% Main Fund CIL funding to support the delivery of the school in option 2, 3 and 4 in line with recommendation 1.5.</p> <p>In August 2020, £380,000 revenue funding was allocated via the (internal) Land Regeneration Fund (£250,000) and the Housing Revenue Account (£130,000) to enable the delivery of a masterplan for the Brandhall site and submit a planning application.</p> <p>Resources are not in place to manage the delivery of the option 3 and 4 and therefore additional capacity will be required in line with recommendation 1.8. It is recommended that additional capacity is funded from reserves already identified within Regeneration and Growth to support capital projects.</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>The Site is owned by Sandwell Council, and registered with the Land Registry under title number WM954576.</p> <p>A title investigation has been undertaken, including a review of the Council's pre-registration deeds and documents, and part of the Site is affected by a Deed of Dedication, dated 15 July 1997 made between the Council (1) National Urban Forestry Unit (2) and The Millennium Commission (3) under which the Council covenants not for a period of 99 years to part with possession of the property affected by that Deed, without the consent of NUFU and the Commission, nor without such consent change the use of the land. The Deed of Dedication only affects part of the site, and includes a provision allowing the Council to dispose of the Site (after 25 years), provided replacement areas are dedicated by the Council.</p> |



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| | <p>NUFU (or its successor body) and the Millennium Commission will therefore be consulted to confirm the replacement areas proposed by the Council are agreed.</p> <p>The Site was previously subject to a lease to Sandwell Leisure Trust, pursuant to the overarching agreement between the Council and SLT. On 5 August 2021, a Deed of Variation was agreed with SLT, removing the Site from the agreement with SLT, and terminating the lease. The lease to SLT had not been registered with the Land Registry.</p> <p>The Clubhouse, situated on part of the Site, was previously subject to a lease to the Brandhall Golf Club, however, the lease has expired, and property has been vacated by the Golf Club. Any rights pursuant to that lease have now expired, and the Council has exclusive possession of the Clubhouse.</p> <p>Any change of use, or disposal of public open space is subject to certain legal restrictions, and will be followed, as necessary, at the relevant time.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <p>Should option 2, 3, or 4 be preferred a planning decision will be required this decision will sit with the council's planning committee. There is a risk that should planning permission be granted the application could be called in by the Secretary of State for determination.</p> <p>The financial information contained in the report are estimates and therefore could be subject to change.</p> <p>Further investigations are required (such as the Fungi report and an update to the PEAR) which could identify constraints not currently identified.</p> |



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | Judicial Review of any decision of Cabinet could be pursued if the grounds for Judicial Review are met. |
| Equality: | <p>The Brandhall site (other than Parsons Park) currently has restricted access, and other than two public rights of way, is not publicly accessible. The creation of a public park would ensure the open space is physically accessible for people with disabilities.</p> <p>The creation of a new replacement school provides the opportunity to improve the learning environment for children. The new site and building for a replacement primary school would be fully compliant and accessible to all users.</p> |
| Health and Wellbeing: | <p>The Brandhall site (other than Parsons Park) currently has restricted access, and other than two public rights of way, is not publicly accessible. Creating a new public park will support increased access and will include new facilities to encourage greater use of the greenspace.</p> <p>The area allocation in option 2, 3, and 4, of 2.68 Ha for a new school facility includes external space for dedicated playing field provision for team sports, which will offer the wider opportunity for community use.</p> |
| Social Value | Construction jobs and apprenticeships will be created through any residential or new educational provision. There will also be secondary spend within the local economy. |

7. Appendices

Appendix A: 2019 High Level Indicative Options

Appendix B – Brandhall Village Consultation Boards November 2021

Appendix C – Brandhall Village Consultation Outcomes Report (April 2022)

Appendix D – Causeway Green Primary – Photographic Condition Assessment 24.05.2022

Appendix E – Brandhall Transport Summary Technical Note (May 2022)



Appendix F – Brandhall Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (May 2021)

Appendix G – Brandhall Bat Survey Report (Feb 2022)

Appendix H - Brandhall Village Desk-Based Assessment (Archaeology) (June 2022)

Appendix I - Brandhall Flood Investigation Report (May 2022)

Appendix J – Brandhall Urban Village – Technical Note – Drainage Strategy (May 2022).

Appendix K – Brandhall Flood Investigation Report (May 2022).

Appendix L – Brandhall existing SLINC location

Appendix M – Brandhall Local Site Assessment Report

8. Background Papers

Cabinet reports



By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Appendix A: 2019 High Level Indicative Options

High level indicative options that formed part of the consultation held between 7th November and 19th December 2019.



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Introduction

Hello and welcome to our public consultation for the former Brandhall Golf Course, which is shown in the plan opposite. Following Cabinet's decision to close the golf course in May 2020, we are now moving forward to develop a masterplan that will guide the future development of Brandhall Village - a new high quality and sustainable community.



We have appointed AECOM to prepare the masterplan for Brandhall Village which could deliver:

- A large public park
- Space for a new primary school
- Routes to walk and cycle
- New areas for wildlife and
- New homes for local people

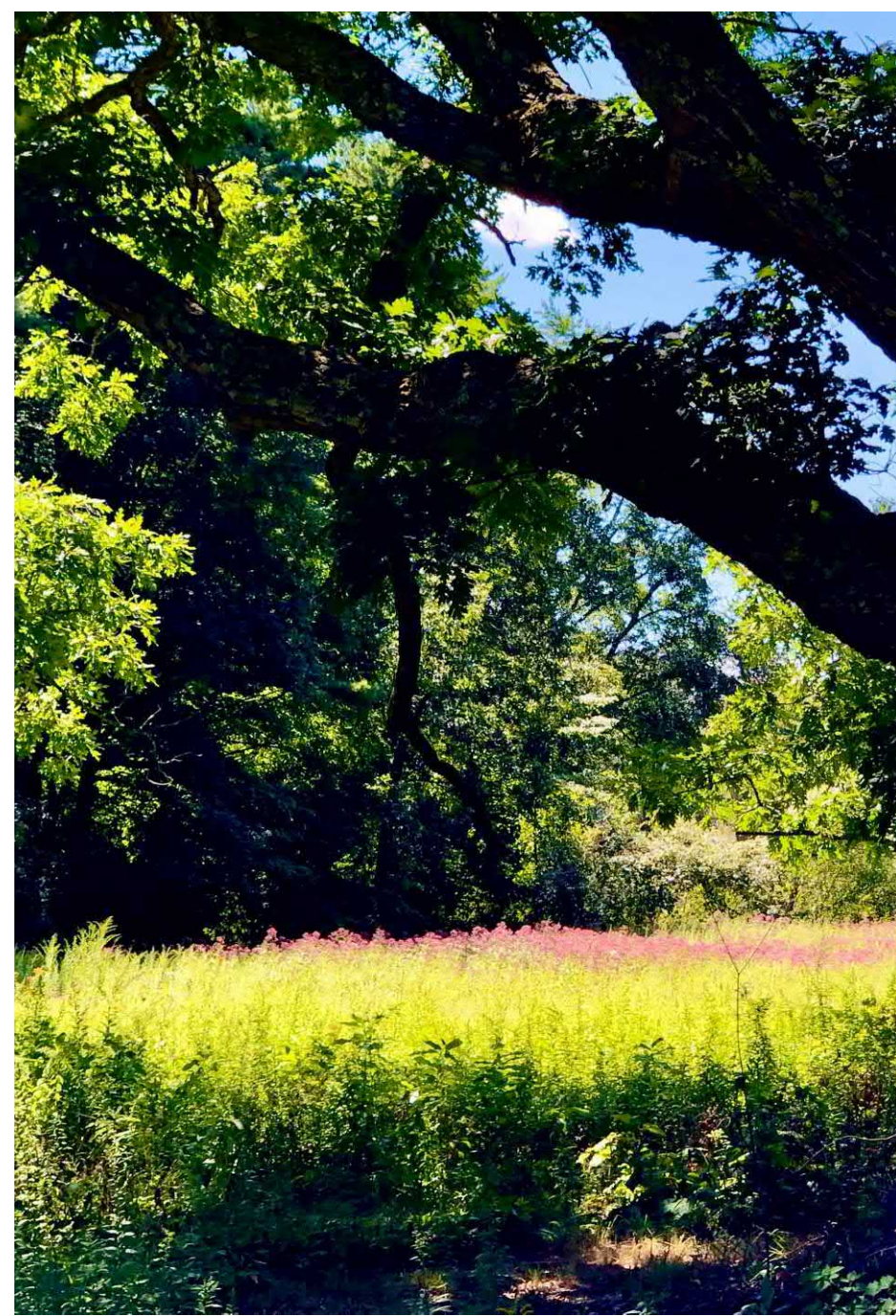
The masterplan will set out a clear vision for Brandhall Village, and ensure that as future development comes forward it aligns with the agreed development principles.

We are at the early stages of developing the masterplan and the purpose of this consultation is to share our ambitions, draft vision and masterplan options.

This consultation offers you an opportunity to share your views and influence the masterplan development.



Above image: Existing aerial of the former Brandhall Golf Course



What benefits will Brandhall Village bring to the Local Community?

We understand that this is a very important site for the local community. Our key priority is to make sure the masterplan responds positively to your concerns, priorities and aspirations for the site. We believe that the development of Brandhall Village has the potential to bring significant benefits to local people, including:

- **Creating significant new public open space** - As a former golf course, the site is not fully accessible to the public. This means local people are not able to use this green space as they would other local parks. Creating the first major new public park in Sandwell's 47-year history will provide opportunity to incorporate new facilities, play areas and natural green spaces which local people can enjoy. This will require significant investment and by developing part of the site, we can deliver and maintain the park and its facilities.
- **Ensuring education provision** - Causeway Green Primary School is aging and recent flooding issues have caused significant disruption to education. There is opportunity to deliver a brand new primary school at Brandhall Village which will replace the existing school and provide new learning facilities.
- **Creating new routes that promote active**

travel - The majority of the site is not accessible, with just two existing rights of way providing access across the site (east-west). Development of Brandhall Village will provide opportunity to integrate new fully accessible connections which will help promote walking, running and cycling.

• **Enhancing habitats for wildlife** - We understand that the site provides an important home for wildlife, which are enjoyed by local people. By preparing a masterplan, we can understand and protect important habitats and mitigate any potential impacts - through the enhancement and creation of new habitats.

• **Delivering much needed homes for local people** - Sandwell's housing need is 27,873 homes to be built by 2039 (Government's Housing Need Calculation). Sandwell has sites - including brownfield - which can deliver 9,498 (Draft Black Country Plan), meaning there is a shortfall of 18,375 homes.

Brandhall Village could accommodate much needed new homes with a minimum of 25% of these being affordable homes. The redevelopment of the site provides an opportunity to improve housing options for local people.



Above images: Example images showing the types of spaces that Brandhall Village may include

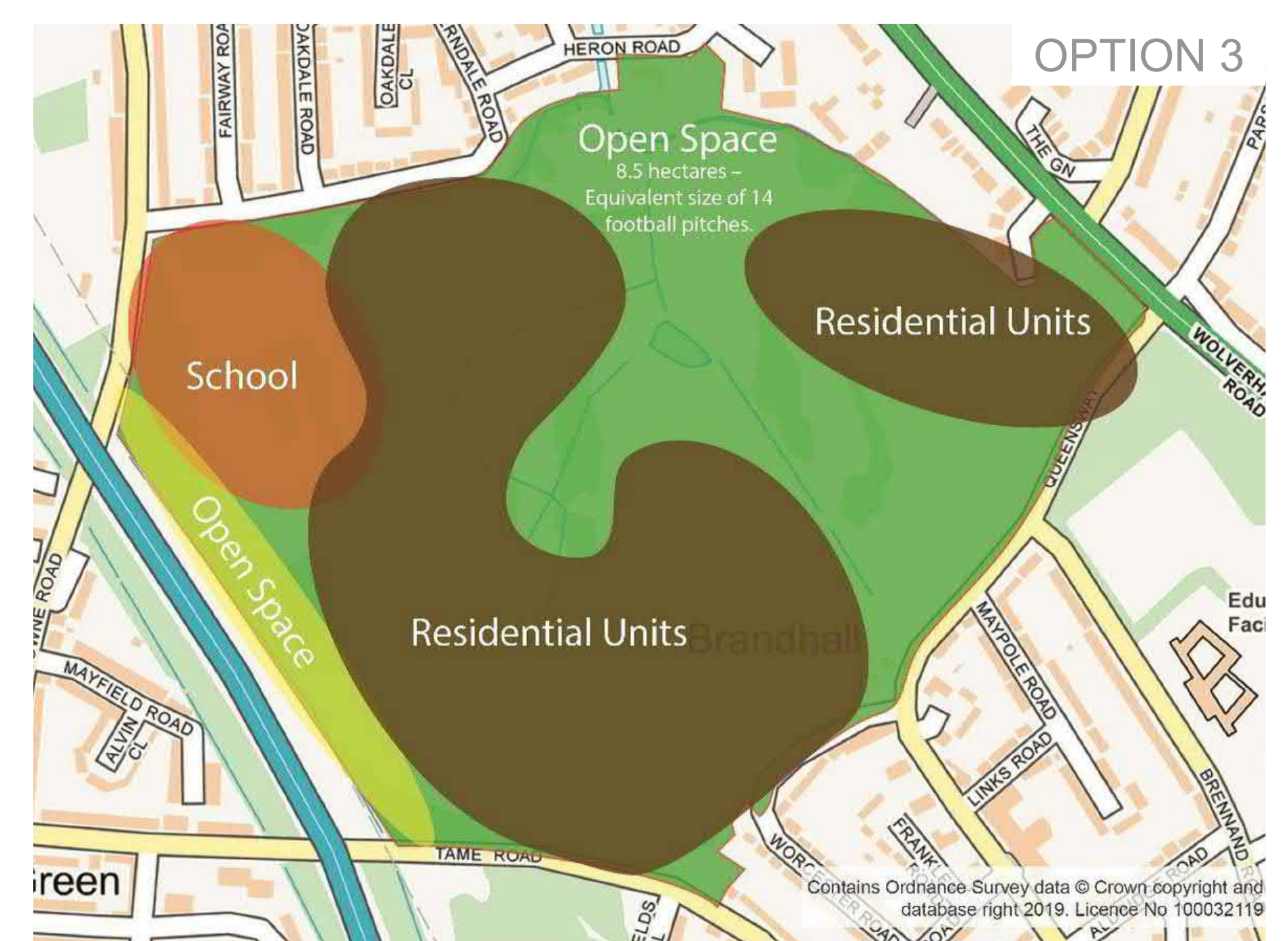
Building on the previous 2019 consultation

In 2019, we carried out a consultation to seek the views of local people on the types of future uses that may be appropriate for the site.

The majority of people said it was important to have a local park (89.5%), good educational facilities (77%) and good quality housing (63.8%).

Three Options were put forward for comment (as shown below) and 84.3% of people preferred Option 3 - which had the largest amount of open space (8.5 hectares).

The new masterplan will therefore be based upon the general principles of Option 3 and recognise the importance of open space.



Above images: The original masterplanning options from the 2019 consultation

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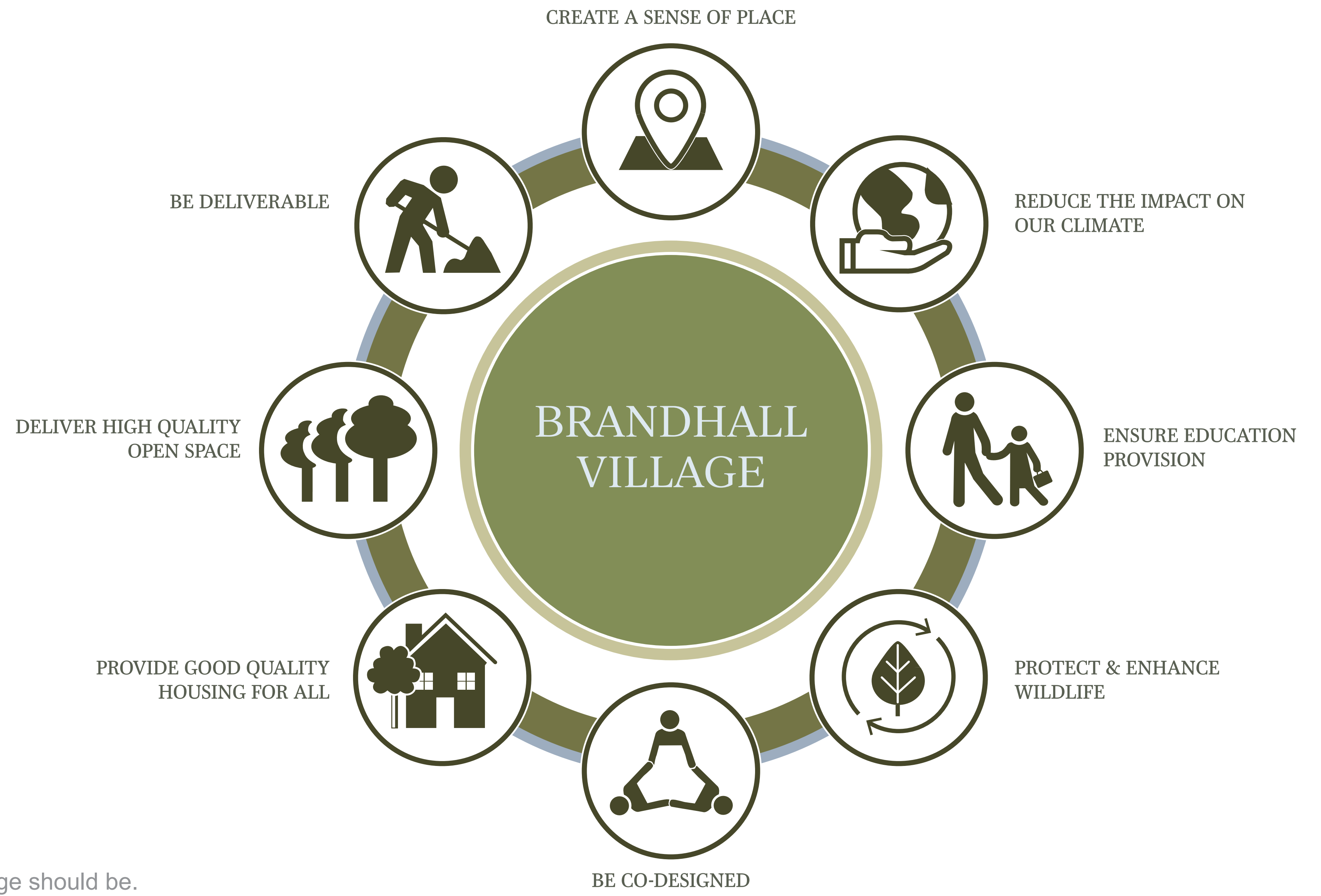


Brandhall Village

Our ambitions

We have set out a number of important principles which the masterplan will achieve. These principles set the level of ambition for Brandhall Village and will help to ensure that we set firm benchmarks for future development:

- 1. Create a sense of place** - where people want to live, grow and stay. People will be proud to live here.
- 2. Reduce the impact on our climate** - to a higher level than standard developments, ensuring energy efficiency and promoting active travel by walking and cycling.
- 3. Ensure education provision** - by setting aside land for a new primary school.
- 4. Enhance Wildlife** - making sure that wildlife and the environment is at the heart of our proposals.
- 5. Be co-designed** - with the local community and stakeholders to take account of your views.
- 6. Provide good quality housing for all** - that is also sustainable regardless of type and tenure.
- 7. Deliver high quality open space** - at the centre of the community.
- 8. Be deliverable** - We have 'Big Plans for a Great Place' and we will need to test the masterplan to ensure that it can be delivered.



Our Draft Vision

Based on the above principles we have created a vision of what we think Brandhall Village should be. However, we want to ensure that this vision is shared and supported by local people at this early stage. Therefore your feedback on the draft vision is extremely important.

Above image: The core principles for Brandhall Village

Resilient & Sustainable

Supporting Healthy Living

A Community For All

Distinct & Characterful

Attractive & Well Planned

A place which people are proud to call home, & be part of a vibrant & thriving community.

Woven around a beautiful & generous parkland setting, Brandhall Village aspires to be an exemplar for quality, healthy living & sustainability.

Above image: The Draft Vision for Brandhall Village

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Brandhall Village

Design considerations

Flood risk and drainage

- There are areas of the site currently at risk of flooding as shown in the plan below.
- There are two potential flood risk zones shown - Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3. Areas in Flood Zone 3 have a higher risk of flooding.
- Generally, areas at risk of flooding are at the lower levels of the site, close to Brandhall Brook.
- New development will need to avoid existing flood zones and consider drainage - providing areas to store and manage water run-off.
- Drainage ponds could be designed to also provide benefits for wildlife.

Habitats and wildlife

- Ecology and tree surveys have been carried out to identify important habitats and wildlife on site and to understand how we can protect them.
- The River Tame Wildlife Corridor crosses the site and acts as a movement route for wildlife.
- Belts of broadleaved semi-natural woodland are located throughout the site.
- There is a 'Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation' within the site which should be protected and enhanced.
- There are opportunities to enhance existing habitats and create new ones.

Utilities and easements

- The plan below sets out what utilities are present within the site, that the masterplan will need to respond to.
- A high pressure gas main and overhead power lines run along the western edge and a foul sewer runs along the watercourse and Parson's Hill Park to the east.
- Easements are areas that must be kept clear of development based on national guidelines.
- The masterplan will consider how close new development can be positioned to each of these features safely.



As a former golf course, much of the land is uneven and can be steep in places. There are also a large number of existing trees.



Western Boundary: Existing utilities will influence future development and we need to take account of noise and air quality issues near the M5.



Parson's Hill Park in the south east corner overlooks Wolverhampton Road and includes a multi use games area.

The motorway (M5)

- The traffic on the M5 motorway generates noise and affects air-quality.
- We are carrying out studies to understand these issues in more detail and understand how they may affect new development.
- These studies will also consider what measures are needed to reduce the impact of noise and air quality on the site.

Public access

- Two public rights of way currently cross the site in an east-west direction.
- The masterplan will consider whether these should be kept in the same place or if they should be diverted to follow a better path.
- The masterplan will look to increase accessibility and connections across the site for walking and cycling.

Neighbouring homes

- There are existing homes around the north, south and eastern edges of the site.
- The majority of homes face the site across a residential street. These may have views towards the site that are partly screened by trees.
- The masterplan should look to retain and enhance boundary vegetation where possible, for wildlife and to maintain a green character.
- A few homes back onto the site and the masterplan will need to consider how to secure these sensitive edges.

Site levels and heritage

- The plan to the right shows the existing site levels. There is a difference of approximately 30m from the highest to the lowest point.
- The masterplan will need to design development, paths and streets that work with the slopes.
- The changes in level, views and existing trees break up the site into areas which have different characters. This should also influence the layout of the development and new park positively.
- There is potential for archaeological assets to be present within the site and the masterplan will need respond sensitively in these locations.

Diagram showing the site levels



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Brandhall Village

Masterplan Option 2

Creating a community

- Community and local services are located to the east near Wolverhampton Road. This includes a small local centre with daily need shops and services which may benefit from passing trade as well as from residents.
- A community facility/cafe and community allotments could also be provided at this location, to promote a sense of community and allow people to grow their own food.
- Due to the proximity of Wolverhampton Road, there may also be potential to provide space for a new pub/micro-brewery here too.
- In this option, land for a new primary school is also provided to the east, close to the local facilities and accessed from Queensway.

Green spaces and wildlife areas

- A large new park is provided, which follows the brook and creates an open space at the centre of the site.
- The green spaces in Option 2 are more concentrated to the centre of the site, with additional green corridors running north-south through the site, linking to Jubilee park and play area.
- Generous green corridors to the eastern, northern and western boundaries are protected and enhanced creating areas for wildlife.
- The former clubhouse is demolished and incorporated into the new park as a play area.

- Parsons Hill Park and its facilities are relocated within the new central park.

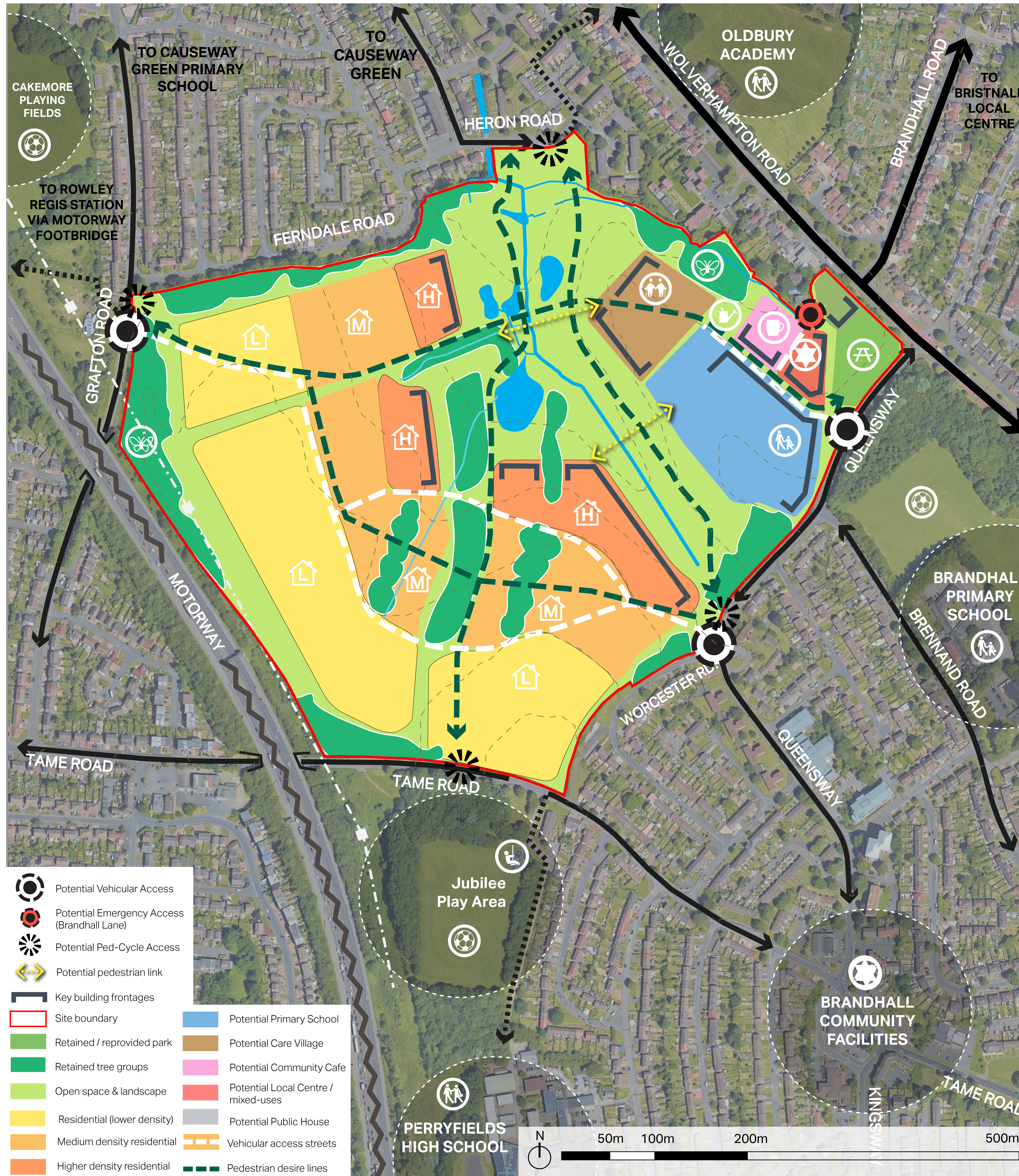
Homes for all

- In this option, homes are mostly located to the south and west of the site.
- The density of new homes reduces to the western and southern edges, whilst higher density development is located along the edge of the new park, providing a defined edge and overlooking.
- Care for older people / assisted living could be provided to the east, with views over the Brook, close to the community facilities.

Walking, cycling and access

- Three vehicle access points are provided (Grafton Road and two on Queensway), plus an emergency access (Brandhall Lane).
- Pedestrian / cycle connections link to the Brandhall community facilities, Jubilee Play Area, Brandhall Primary School, Perryfields High School and Oldbury Academy, encouraging active travel.
- Routes across the site are set out based on site levels and desire lines for pedestrians and cyclists to access the area.
- Main vehicular routes are located within development parcels to reduce vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. They also avoid crossing Brandhall Brook to prevent rat-running.

How it might look...



Above image: Masterplan Option 2

Above images: Example pictures which show the types of uses and spaces Option 2 could include

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Brandhall Village

Masterplan Option 3

Creating a community

- A community cafe/ facility is provided at the centre of the site, within the new park, providing a meeting place for the community.
- Land for a new school is provided next to the community facility on the eastern end of the site.

Green spaces and wildlife areas

- A significant new central park is created which incorporates Brandhall Brook and large belts of existing woodland.
- The former clubhouse is demolished and replaced with new parkland and play area.
- Wide green corridors separate new development, retain tree belts and create attractive cycleways and footpaths.
- This option provides opportunity to create a trail around the edge of the site incorporating wildlife areas, which could include a trim trail to promote exercise and a nature trail to promote learning.
- Parsons Hill Park is maintained in its current location and linked to the new central park.

Homes for all

- In this option, homes wrap around the new central park, with higher density development placed to overlook the brook and

provide a defined edge to the park to ensure it is safe and overlooked.

- There is opportunity to integrate a care for older people / assisted living facility to the south east of the site, close to the new park and a short walk to the existing facilities at Brandhall.
- New homes will overlook green spaces helping to ensure overlooking and prevent anti-social behaviour.

Walking, cycling and access

- Three vehicle access points are provided (Grafton Road, Tame Road and Queensway), plus an additional emergency access (off Brandhall Lane).
- Pedestrian and cycle connections link to Wolverhampton Road, Brandhall Primary School, Jubilee Play Area, Brandhall community facilities, Perryfields High School and Oldbury Academy encouraging active travel.
- This option, maintains the alignment of the existing public rights of way by incorporating them into the new park and green corridors.
- Main vehicular routes are located within development parcels to reduce vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. They also avoid crossing Brandhall Brook to prevent rat-running.

How it might look...



Above image: Masterplan Option 3

Above images: Example pictures which show the types of uses and spaces Option 3 could include

7



Brandhall Village

Masterplan Option 4

Creating a community

- Community facilities in this option are located to the centre and north of the site.
- There is potential to create a small local centre, with daily shops and services located at the centre of the new community.
- Land for a new primary school is located to the south of the site and would be accessed from Tame Road.
- Although the site is fairly sloping, there may opportunity to provide some new sports pitches. These are shown to the west of the school in this option.

Green spaces and wildlife areas

- Rather than a consolidated central green space, this option provides a series of wide linear parks incorporating Brandhall Brook, existing woodland belts and natural boundaries to the west and east. This will create a series of linked green spaces rather than a single large open space.
- The option extends parkland to the northern boundary and assumes that the former club house would be demolished. There is opportunity to provide a new community orchard.
- Within this option, Parson's Hill Park is redeveloped and replacement facilities provided within the parkland, potentially on the site of the former clubhouse.

Homes for all

- Residential uses are distributed throughout the site, with higher density development (like apartments) located adjacent to Queensway.
- Densities of other areas - from medium (like town houses) to lower density development (like detached and semi-detached), with lower densities located towards the western and southern edges.
- Care for older people / assisted living could be provided to the east, with views over the Brook, close to the new local centre.

Walking, cycling and access

- There is opportunity to provide a circular walking route around the perimeter of the site, within a natural landscape setting which could incorporate a foraging trail and natural play areas.
- Pedestrian and cycle access points provide good links to Brandhall Primary School, Wolverhampton Road and Perryfields High School, Jubilee Play Area and Brandhall community facilities.
- Three vehicle access points are provided (Grafton Road, Queensway and Tame Road) plus a further emergency access point on Brandhall Lane.
- Main vehicular routes are located largely within development parcels to reduce vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. They also avoid crossing Brandhall Brook to prevent rat-running.

How it might look...



Above image: Masterplan Option 4

Above images: Example pictures which show the types of uses and spaces Option 4 could include



Next steps

The diagram below provides an understanding of what the next steps are and when they are planned to happen.



How to comment

We would welcome your views on what you have seen and heard in this public consultation to help shape the development of the masterplan.

Feedback forms are available at:
 Brandhall Library
 Tame Road, Oldbury
 B68 0JT
 to complete and leave in the box provided

Alternatively post the questionnaire to:
 Directorate of Regeneration and Growth,
 Sandwell Council, Council House,
 Oldbury B69 3DE

Go online and visit our virtual consultation and complete a feedback form:
www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall

Please return any comments by
Sunday 28th November 2021

Brandhall Village Masterplan Options - Consultation Report

April 2022

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Prepared for:

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

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1. Introduction

1.1 Purpose of this document

- 1.1.1 This report relates to the development of the Brandhall Village Masterplan (hereafter referred to as the 'Masterplan') which is proposed on the former Brandhall Golf Course site (hereafter referred to as the 'Site') in Brandhall, within the Borough of Sandwell in the West Midlands.
- 1.1.2 This consultation report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). It sets out SMBC's approach to stakeholder engagement and public consultation, providing a description of the activities undertaken to engage and consult with key parties both prior to and during the consultation period.
- 1.1.3 The report also provides a summary of the responses received during the consultation period. As part of this, the report also explains the methodological approach to the analysis of responses to the consultation.

2. Background to the Scheme

2.1 The Scheme context

- 2.1.1 The existing Site measures approximately 37 hectares in size and is located in, Sandwell. It is situated to the east of the M5 and south west of the A4123.
- 2.1.2 The land was formerly a municipal golf course and is currently not fully accessible to the public, except for two public rights of way that run from east to west across the site.
- 2.1.3 Sandwell Council has appointed AECOM to develop a masterplan for Brandhall Village, in consultation with the local community and stakeholders, which will set a clear vision for the site and use the masterplan as a tool to ensure that as future development comes forward, it aligns with the agreed development principles.
- 2.1.4 The Masterplan proposes to develop the site, creating a new high quality and sustainable community. The Masterplan aims to deliver a large public park, space for a new primary school, new homes, enhanced areas for wildlife and new routes to walk and cycle.

2.2 Scheme aims and Objectives

2.2.1 Delivering much needed homes for local people

- 2.2.2 There is a significant need for housing in the Sandwell area, with 27,873 additional homes to be built by 2039, according to the Government's Housing Need Calculation. Brandhall Village could accommodate much-needed homes, with a minimum of 25% of these being affordable.
- 2.2.3 The proposed redevelopment of the Site provides an opportunity to improve housing options for local people.

2.2.4 Ensuring education provision

- 2.2.5 Causeway Green Primary School is aging, and recent flooding issues have caused significant disruption to education for the children who attend the school.
- 2.2.6 Brandhall Village provides an opportunity to deliver a brand-new primary school to replace Causeway Green, providing new learning facilities in the local area.

2.2.7 Creating significant new public open space

- 2.2.8 As a former golf course, the site is not fully accessible to the public, except for the two Public Rights of Way (PRoW) that pass east to west through the site. This means that local people are not able to use the Site as they would other local parks.

2.2.9 The Site provides the opportunity to create the first major new public park in Sandwell's 47-year history. This site also allows for incorporation of new community facilities, play areas and natural green spaces, for local people to enjoy.

2.2.10 Delivering the new park will require significant investment, one way of funding this is through an enabling development of new homes. By bringing forward a mixed use for the site, we can deliver and maintain a park and associated amenities along with much needed affordable homes.

2.2.11 Enhancing habitats for wildlife

2.2.12 Through the careful creation of a masterplan for Brandhall Village, we can retain and protect important existing habitats within the Site and mitigate any potential impacts through the enhancement and creation of new, high quality habitats which promote biodiversity. In addition, the creation of new footways and cycleways through the Site will enable local people to appreciate and enjoy the natural environment, and provide opportunities to learn more about its important wildlife.

2.2.13 Creating new routes that promote active travel

2.2.14 As previously mentioned, the Site as it currently exists is not fully accessible. The only accesses are the two PRoWs which run east-to-west across it.

2.2.15 The development of Brandhall Village will provide an opportunity to create and integrate new accessible connections across the Site to key destinations and the wider transport network. These connections will facilitate and promote active and healthy forms of travel, including walking, running, and cycling.

2.2.16 Through clever design, the Masterplan would look to discourage the use of cars for local journeys, by preventing rat running and providing strong links to public transport and active travel networks.

3. Timeline of Previous Consultation

3.1 Winter 2019 Consultation

- 3.1.1 On 30 October 2019, SMBC's Cabinet resolved to consult on the proposed closure and potential alternative uses of the Brandhall Golf Course site.
- 3.1.2 Early engagement with the media, elected members, local residents and golf club members was undertaken in advance of the Cabinet Report being made available on 22 October 2019. This engagement included:
- A press release provided to media and elected members;
 - Letters to 2,243 local residents;
 - Letters to 318 people with Sandwell Leisure Trust golf course memberships; and
 - A meeting with golf club representatives on 21 October 2019 and 300 letters provided for members.
- 3.1.3 The consultation took place from 7 November 2019 to 19 December 2019. Activity to support the consultation included:
- A press release issued to media and elected members;
 - Letters to golf club and local residents (the same mailing lists as previously used);
 - Posts on SMBC's social media channels and an article in a resident e-newsletter;
 - Three public drop-in sessions at Brandhall Library;
 - An additional drop-in session at the golf club, at the request of golf club representatives; and
 - Responses to general and press enquiries.
- 3.1.4 As part of this consultation, it was proposed that the Site could be used to build a new school (replacement for Causeway Green Primary School), develop a new park and open space for the local community and provide much needed local housing.
- 3.1.5 During this process, SMBC provided three initial, indicative options of how the proposed development options could be provided.
- 3.1.6 A total of 712 responses were received to the consultation and around 100 people attended the public consultation events.
- 3.1.7 The outcome of this consultation found that 84% of responses favoured the indicative proposed development option with the largest park and fewest houses, with 8.5 hectares of the site remaining as green space.
- 3.1.8 On 27 May 2020, following consideration of the consultation and its findings, SMBC's Cabinet approved a recommendation to close Brandhall Golf Course and Club House. As the course was closed due to the coronavirus outbreak, it remained closed and did not reopen. At that meeting Cabinet also authorised the development of a masterplan for the Brandhall Golf Course and Club House.
- 3.1.9 The findings of the Winter 2019 consultation were taken forward and used to develop the four proposed masterplan options presented in the 2021 consultation detailed in this report; all masterplan options retained 25% of the Site as green space.

3.2 Summer 2021 Virtual Workshops

- 3.2.1 SMBC and AECOM organised and facilitated three virtual workshops with key local stakeholders between Thursday 10 June 2021 and Wednesday 23 June 2021.
- 3.2.2 In total 19 stakeholders accepted an invitation to attend the workshops, which included ward councillors, cabinet members and key community stakeholders (such as local headteachers).
- 3.2.3 The purpose of these workshops was to ensure that key stakeholders had an early opportunity to provide feedback and direction on the draft vision and emerging masterplan options.

3.2.4 The early feedback received here enabled the design team to respond to stakeholder concerns, and understand their priorities and future aspirations for the masterplans.

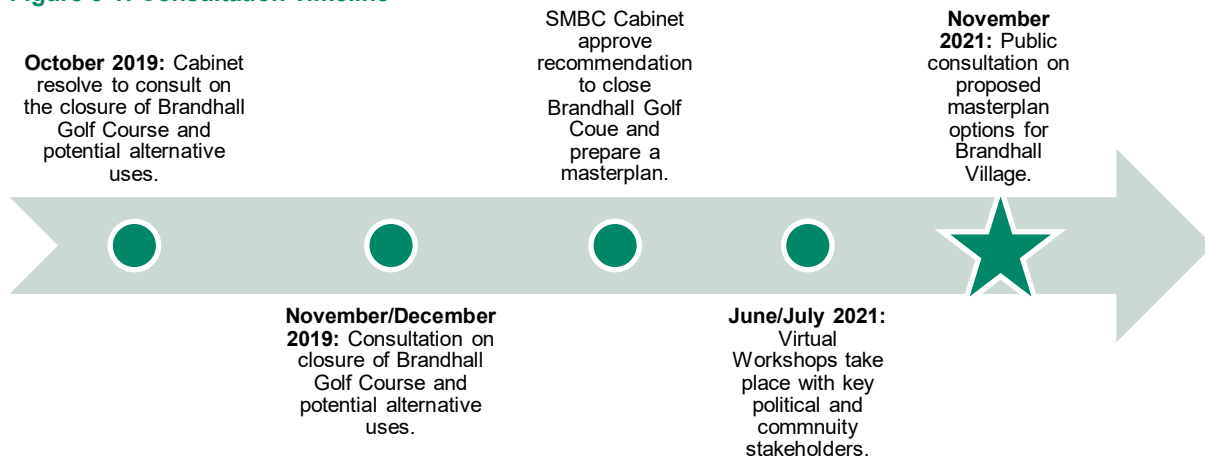
3.2.5 A brief summary of feedback provided can be found below:

- Stakeholders placed greatest value on the provision of a large amount of high-quality green space. Consensus across the workshops indicated stakeholders would prefer to see large, consolidated green space, rather than it being dispersed around the site.
- The workshop sessions showed that a key topic of concern was the inclusion of both social housing and affordable housing as part of the scheme. Stakeholders indicated there should be a mix of housing types and tenures across the site, and they should not be exclusive of the community that exists in the surrounding areas.
- The location of the school was also highlighted by stakeholders, who argued the school should be located in the north west corner of the site rather than to the east, or further south. Attendees believed the alternative locations suggested would cause problems with congestion and pupil catchment areas.
- Stakeholders also indicated that they would like to see the development of high-quality community space. Stakeholders said they would like facilities to cater to all members of the community including the elderly, families and young people. Recurring suggestions included a café/pub, a local shop, allotments, an orchard, outdoor exercise equipment and a skate park.
- It was clear from feedback that the majority of stakeholders believed that this project could be a success, but it was essential to consult with the wider local community as early as possible.

3.3 Timeline

3.3.1 Figure 3-1 below shows a timeline of events (indicated by the green dots) described above, leading to the consultation described in this report (indicated by the green star).

Figure 3-1: Consultation Timeline



4. Methodology

4.1 Approach

- 4.1.1 A public consultation was held by SMBC between Monday 1 November 2021 and Sunday 28 November 2021. The consultation closed at 23:59 on Sunday 28 November.
- 4.1.2 The approach taken to consultation was influenced by the continued effects of the Covid-19 pandemic.
- 4.1.3 Whilst official Covid-19 restrictions were not in place, the approach sought to ensure all participants felt comfortable taking part in the consultation. Therefore, during the consultation period SMBC used a variety of methods to maximise participation from relevant stakeholders and the local community. This included providing residents with easy access to consultation materials and detailed information about the Scheme, through a variety of methods.
- 4.1.4 These methods will be explained in turn throughout this chapter, but a brief summary can be seen in Table 4-1 below.

Table 4-1: Summary of Engagement Methods

| Method of Engagement | Summary |
|---|---|
| Masterplan webpage (https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall) | All consultation materials were uploaded to the Masterplan webpage on Monday 1 November 2021 providing 24/7 access to the consultation materials. |
| Deposit Points | Physical copies of consultation materials were available in Brandhall Library from Monday 1 November 2021. This meant that those who could not access the online were able to view copies of the consultation materials at a local community venue. From Wednesday 17 November 2021, following a request from a local elected member, printed copied of the materials were also made available in two other local libraries, these being Bleakhouse Library and Langley Library. |
| Virtual consultation room | A virtual consultation room was launched on Monday 8 November 2021. |
| Public consultation event | An in-person public consultation event was held on Tuesday 16 November 2021. The event was held in two sessions: 12:00-15:30 and 16:30 – 20:00. |

4.2 Consultation Materials

- 4.2.1 The consultation materials referred to throughout this report are briefly outlined in this sub-section.

Consultation Boards

- 4.2.2 The consultation boards were 8 information boards which detailed information about the consultation, draft vision, emerging masterplan options and the envisaged timeline for development. These can be found in Appendix A (A1) of this document.
- 4.2.3 A summary of the boards can be found in Table 4-2, below.

Table 4-2: Summary of consultation board contents

| Board Title | Summary |
|----------------------------------|---|
| 1 - Introduction | This board introduced the consultation and proposals. It also outlined the previous consultation on the closure of Brandhall Golf Course. |
| 2 – Ambitions | This board gave an overview of the Scheme's wider vision and aims. |
| 3 – Design considerations | This board provided information of the constraints and potential opportunities on the Site. |

| | |
|--------------------------------|--|
| 4 – Masterplan Option 1 | This board gave an overview of Masterplan Option 1. |
| 5 – Masterplan Option 2 | This board gave an overview of Masterplan Option 2. |
| 6 – Masterplan Option 3 | This board gave an overview of Masterplan Option 3. |
| 7 – Masterplan Option 4 | This board gave an overview of Masterplan Option 4. |
| 8 – Next Steps | This panel detailed the next steps for the project and explained how to respond to the consultation. |

Question and Answer (Q&A) Document

- 4.2.4 A Q&A document was available to the public during the consultation period. The Q&As were also posted to the home page of the scheme website.
- 4.2.5 The document was updated throughout the consultation and provided information and answers to frequently asked questions and themes which emerged during the consultation. It was available for consultees to view at their leisure as it could answer immediate questions stakeholders may have had when browsing the consultation boards.
- 4.2.6 The final Q&A document is available in Appendix A (A2) of this document.

Feedback Form

- 4.2.7 An online version of the feedback form was available on the Masterplan webpage and virtual consultation room throughout the consultation. In addition, hard copies of the feedback form were made available at Brandhall Library from Monday 1 November 2021.
- 4.2.8 The feedback form provided consultees the opportunity to engage with the consultation and provide their opinion on different aspects of the Masterplan and emerging options. It contained specific questions on which SMBC were seeking feedback.
- 4.2.9 The questions included a mix of multiple-choice closed questions and open-ended questions, enabling respondents to elaborate on aspects of the Scheme that mattered most to them.
- 4.2.10 Data collected from these questions has been analysed in [section 6](#) of this report enabling SMBC to determine the level of support for various aspects of the scheme and overall sentiment towards the Masterplan.
- 4.2.11 A copy of the feedback form is available in Appendix A (A3) of this document.

4.3 Feedback Mechanisms

- 4.3.1 During the consultation period, people were encouraged to provide feedback in the following ways:
- By completing and submitting the online feedback form available via the Masterplan webpage and Virtual Consultation Room.
 - By completing and handing in a feedback form available at Brandhall Library throughout the consultation period, or at the in-person public consultation event.
 - By submitting a response via email – a dedicated email address was provided on the Masterplan webpage, and consultees were able to send queries and submit their responses to the consultation to this inbox.

4.4 Communications and Publicity

- 4.4.1 In order to publicise the consultation, a range of communications were used to raise awareness about the consultation and encourage participation.

Letters

- 4.4.2 Letters (mailing zone letter) were sent to 2,222 local residents and businesses on the first day of the consultation (Monday 1 November 2021), to notify them of the consultation, advising where they could view the materials and how they could respond and engage during the consultation. The letter

included details of the consultation events. A copy of the letter can be found appended to this report, as Appendix B (B1).

- 4.4.3 The consultation zone used in this consultation is the same as was used in the Winter 2019 consultation regarding the closure of the golf course. The extents of the zone can be seen in Appendix C.

Notifications for key political and community stakeholders

- 4.4.4 In addition to the letter drop, an email was sent to the identified key political and community stakeholders on the 1 November 2021. The mailing zone letter (Appendix B1) was attached to the email. The email can be found in Appendix B (B2) of this report.

Press Releases

- 4.4.5 A press release was issued on Monday 1 November to local media and published on Sandwell MBC's website. This provided readers with information regarding the consultation; it advised where the materials were available and explained how they could respond and engage during the consultation process. It also advertised the in-person consultation event.
- 4.4.6 A second press release was issued on Tuesday 9 November, this provided a reminder about the consultation and advertised the availability of the virtual consultation room.
- 4.4.7 A third press release was issued on Friday 19 November to remind readers that the consultation was still open and encouraged them to participate.
- 4.4.8 The three press releases form Appendix D of this report.

e-newsletters

- 4.4.9 The consultation was featured in three SMBC e-newsletters on 5 November, 12 November and 26 November which are issued to subscribers via email.

Social Media Posts

- 4.4.10 SMBC also used its social media channels to promote the consultation throughout the consultation period.
- 4.4.11 Social media posts were used to remind social media users of in-person events, and to notify stakeholders that Covid-19 measures would be in place at the in-person consultation event.
- 4.4.12 Table 4-3 below details the posts the social media posts by SMBC.

Table 4-3: Summary of social media posts

| Social Media Website | Date | Post | Reactions |
|----------------------|------------|--|-----------------------|
| Twitter (thread) | 02/11/2021 | We're developing masterplan options for a large new public park, much-needed homes and local facilities at the former Brandhall Golf Course in Oldbury, including space to replace Causeway Green Primary School. | 4 retweets 4 likes |
| Twitter (thread) | 09/11/2021 | We've launched a public consultation on masterplan options for Brandhall Village in Oldbury. Visit the virtual consultation room to see how the former golf course could be transformed with a large new public park, much-needed homes & a new replacement primary school. (1/6) | 1 retweet 2 likes |
| Twitter (thread) | 15/11/2021 | There's still time to have your say in our public consultation on masterplan options for Brandhall Village in Oldbury. (THREAD) The easiest way to check out the options and give feedback is from the comfort of your own home through our webpage and virtual consultation room. | 1 retweet 1 like |
| Twitter (thread) | 22/11/2021 | There's still time to have your say on masterplan options for Brandhall Village in Oldbury. (THREAD) Find out how the former golf course could be | 5 likes 1 retweet |

| | | | |
|-----------------|------------|---|---|
| | | transformed with a large new public park, much-needed homes and a new replacement primary school. | 1 quote tweet 1 comment |
| Facebook | 02/11/2021 | <p>We're developing masterplan options for a large new public park, much-needed homes and local facilities at the former Brandhall Golf Course in Oldbury, including space to replace Causeway Green Primary School.</p> <p>We are offering the local community an opportunity to influence key aspects of the masterplan, including how the new Brandhall Village could look and the kinds of open space and any community facilities provided within it.</p> <p>Take part in the public consultation, read answers to some frequently asked questions and have your say by 28 November.</p> <p>Details in comments</p> | 29 likes 8 angry reactions 43 shares 100 comments |
| Facebook | 09/11/2021 | <p>We've launched a public consultation on masterplan options for Brandhall Village in Oldbury.</p> <p>Visit the Brandhall Village virtual consultation room to see how the former golf course could be transformed with a large new public park, much-needed homes and a new replacement primary school.</p> <p>The virtual room provides an easy way to view the exhibition boards and masterplan options, and to give feedback, from the comfort of your own home.</p> <p>We understand that this is a very important site for the local community. Our key priority is to make sure the masterplan responds positively to concerns, priorities and aspirations for the site.</p> <p>Face-to-face drop-in consultation sessions will take place at Brandhall Library in Tame Road, Oldbury, on Tuesday 16 November, from 12pm-3.30pm and from 4.30pm-8pm. This will provide an opportunity to put questions to the project team. Consultation material will be available at Brandhall Library throughout the consultation period.</p> <p>Take part in the public consultation, read answers to some frequently asked questions and have your say by 28 November – links in the comments below.</p> | 9 angry reactions 4 likes 1 sad reaction 4 shares 50 comments |
| Facebook | 15/11/2021 | <p>There's still time to have your say in our public consultation on masterplan options for Brandhall Village in Oldbury.</p> <p>The easiest way to check out the options and give feedback is from the comfort of your own home through our webpage and virtual consultation room.</p> <p>Find out how the former golf course could be transformed with a large new public park, much-needed homes and a new replacement primary school.</p> <p>Links in the comments below.</p> <p>We are also holding two face-to-face drop-in sessions at Brandhall Library, Tame Road, Oldbury, tomorrow (Tuesday), between 12pm and 3.30pm and between 4.30pm and 8pm, where you can see the consultation materials and put questions to the project team. Covid-19 safety measures will be in place, so please bear with us if you have to queue until you can come into the library.</p> <p>Consultation material will also be available at Brandhall Library during library opening times throughout the consultation period, which ends on 28 November.</p> | 2 likes 1 love reaction 4 angry reactions 1 share 28 comments |
| Facebook | 22/11/2021 | <p>There's still time to have your say on masterplan options for Brandhall Village in Oldbury.</p> <p>Find out how the former golf course could be transformed with a large new public park, much-needed homes and a new replacement primary school.</p> <p>We understand that this is a very important site for the local community. Our key priority is to make sure the masterplan responds positively to concerns, priorities and aspirations for the site.</p> <p>Thanks to everyone who attended the face-to-face consultation sessions at Brandhall Library last Tuesday.</p> | 2 likes 2 angry reactions 2 shares 10 comments |

The consultation ends on Sunday (28 November) – there’s a link in the comments below to our Brandhall Village webpage where you can visit the virtual consultation room, check out masterplan options, read answers to some frequently asked questions and have your say.

4.5 Methods of Engagement

Consultation webpage

- 4.5.1 The full suite of consultation materials were published on the consultation webpage (<https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall>) on the consultation launch day, Monday 1 November 2021.
- 4.5.2 All consultation materials were available on the website, which could be accessed by consultees at their convenience.
- 4.5.3 Placing the materials online allowed consultees to browse materials at their leisure, consider them carefully, and refer back to materials and plans when completing the feedback form.
- 4.5.4 A link to the feedback form could also be found on the website, to allow consultees to provide their feedback on the proposals.
- 4.5.5 A link to the virtual consultation room was also located on the website.
- 4.5.6 The website was accessible at all times during the consultation period and provided consultees with the information needed to learn more about the Scheme proposals. It also provided the opportunity to give meaningful feedback and raise questions via the Scheme inbox.
- 4.5.7 The consultation materials were removed from the website the day after the consultation closed, on Monday 29 November 2021.

Deposit Locations

- 4.5.8 To ensure the consultation was as accessible as possible, and to maximise feedback throughout the consultation period, printed A2 copies of the consultation boards were made available to view in Brandhall Library from Monday 1 November 2021
- 4.5.9 Alongside the consultation materials, printed feedback forms were also available at the library, for those who could not, or did not want to complete an online feedback form.
- 4.5.10 Following a suggestion from a local elected member, on Wednesday 17 November 2021 printed copies of the consultation boards were made available at two additional local libraries. One copy of the consultation boards remained in Brandhall Library, and the other two copies were moved to Bleakhouse Library and Langley Library.
- 4.5.11 The materials were available to view at all three libraries until the consultation closed on Sunday 28 November 2021.
- 4.5.12 Provision was made to ensure that the library had a sufficient supply of feedback forms.

Virtual consultation room

- 4.5.13 The virtual consultation room went live on Monday 8 November 2021 and was available until the close of the consultation period on Sunday 28 November 2021. The room was accessible via a link on the consultation website.
- 4.5.14 The virtual room provided a 360-degree visualisation of a traditional event, providing all the materials available at the in person events, including the consultation boards outlined in table 4-2 of this document, being displayed around the room.
- 4.5.15 The room also had two additional pieces of consultation material on a central table:
 - A PDF version of the Q+A document (Appendix A2) which was available to view and download.
 - A button which took consultees to the online feedback form (Appendix A3) when they were ready to complete it.

- 4.5.16 A welcome message appeared on entry to the virtual space containing information on how to navigate the room.
- 4.5.17 Online visitors were able to move around the room by using their computer mouse to click and drag the screen - and zoom in and out - or by touch on mobile devices.
- 4.5.18 Screenshots of the virtual room are shown in Figures 4-1, 4-2 and 4-3 below.

Figure 4-1: Virtual consultation room - View 1

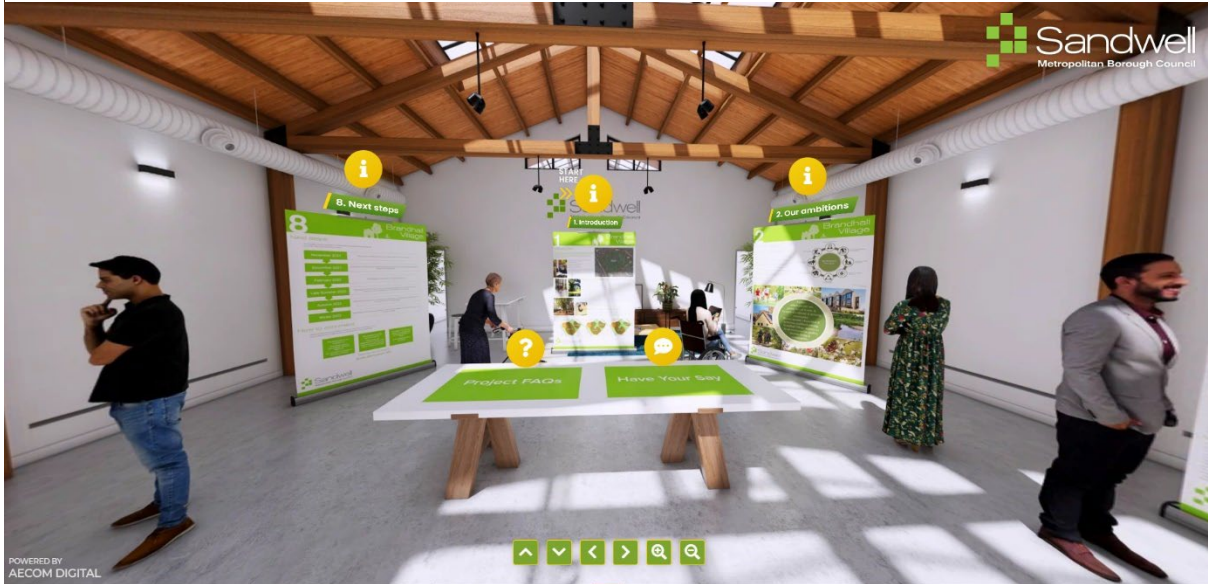


Figure 4-2: Virtual consultation room - View 2



Figure 4-3: Virtual consultation room - View 3



In-Person Public Consultation Event

- 4.5.19 On Tuesday 16 November 2021 an in-person public consultation event was held at Brandhall Library.
- 4.5.20 The event was publicised via a range of channels:
- The initial email and letter drop described in [section 4.4](#) of this report
 - The social media posts described in [section 4.4](#) of this report
 - Press releases described in [section 4.4](#) of this report
 - The Scheme webpage
- 4.5.21 An early-afternoon session was held from 12:00 to 15:30.
- 4.5.22 An afternoon/evening session was held from 16:30 to 20:00.
- 4.5.23 The event was held in two sessions to maximise the number of people able to attend the consultation event. The second session ran until 20:00 to ensure that those who work during the day or were not available during the day had opportunity to attend the consultation event if they wished.
- 4.5.24 This venue chosen was appropriate as its location made it as easy as possible for those likely to be affected or interested in the proposals to attend. The venue was also checked to ensure it was fully accessible and a risk assessment was undertaken prior to the event.
- 4.5.25 Care was taken at the event to ensure that the event was Covid-19 secure. A maximum capacity of 30 residents (in addition to SMBC and AECOM staff members) was in place. A one-way system was enforced, and attendees were encouraged to wear masks and remain socially distanced where possible. A track and trace QR code could be scanned upon entry to the event.
- 4.5.26 The event provided local stakeholders the opportunity to view information about the Masterplan and speak with members of the project team about the plans and ask questions. Members of staff present included council officers and technical specialists from AECOM. Members of staff wore name badges, so members of the public could be identified amongst attendees.
- 4.5.27 At the event, 8 A0 consultation boards were set-up around the room, for consultees to view at their leisure. These boards can be seen in Appendix A1 and are described in Table 4-2 of this report.
- 4.5.28 In addition to this, 4 large versions of the masterplans were laid out on a table.

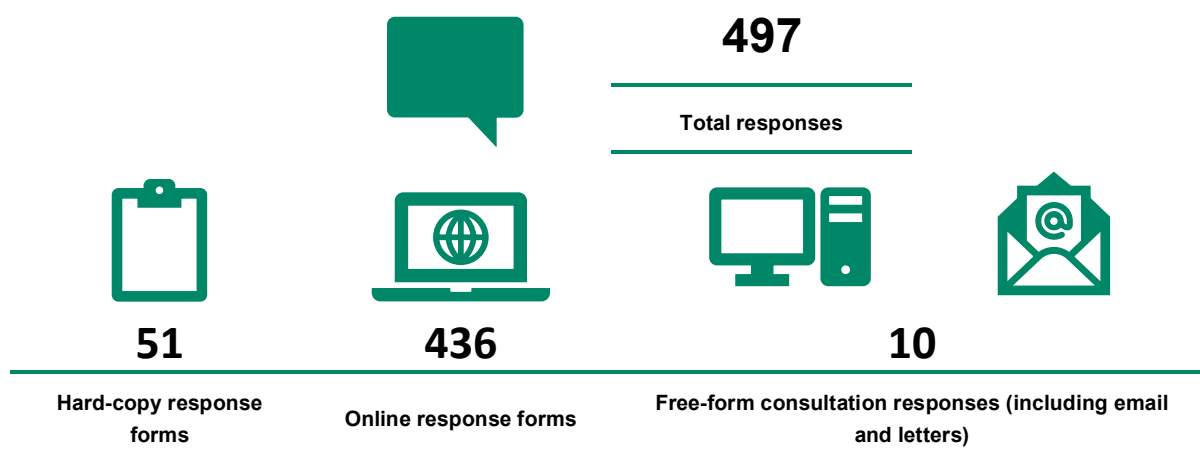
- 4.5.29 Consultees were provided with pens and post-it notes and could stick their comments directly onto the specific areas of the masterplans to which they related. Conversation between staff and consultees, and the sharing of ideas, was encouraged around the table.
- 4.5.30 Whilst this feedback did not form part of the formal consultation feedback (this was explained to consultees at the events) it provided useful feedback on each masterplan. Photos were taken of the comments on each masterplan so that they could be used to inform the development of the preferred masterplan.
- 4.5.31 Hard copy feedback forms (and pens) were also readily available, to enable attendees to take part in the consultation.

5. Engagement

5.1 Number of Responses

- 5.1.1 In total 497 consultation responses were received.
- 5.1.2 As is illustrated by Figure 5-1 below, 436 online feedback form submissions were received, 51 hard-copy feedback forms were received at Brandhall Library, ten free-form consultation responses were received, this included both emails and letters.
- 5.1.3 Free-form consultation responses were received from residents, ward councillors and the MP for the area.
- 5.1.4 All feedback received has been processed and dealt with in the same manner.

Figure 5-1: Summary of responses received



5.2 Event Attendance

- 5.2.1 The event attendance is summarised in Table 5-1 below.
- 5.2.2 Attendance numbers were monitored throughout the session in order comply with Covid-19 safety measures. Attendees were counted as they entered, and the number of attendees leaving was also monitored, to keep track of the number of people in the venue at any given time.

Table 5-1: Consultation event attendance

| Session | Time | Attendance |
|-----------|---------------|------------|
| Session 1 | 12:00 – 15:30 | 72 |
| Session 2 | 16:30 – 20:00 | 71 |

6. Findings and analysis

6.1 Method of analysis

- 6.1.1 The feedback form (available in Appendix A3) included a mix of multiple-choice closed questions and open-ended questions, enabling respondents to elaborate on aspects of the proposals that mattered most to them.
- 6.1.2 In addition to the feedback form, written freeform consultation responses were also received via email or post and accepted. All consultation responses, regardless of the format they were received in, were analysed in the same way.
- 6.1.3 All responses were logged within a consultation database and the consultee given a unique contact ID for identification purposes.
- 6.1.4 An online survey system was used to enable response forms to be completed and captured electronically, then uploaded into the consultation database. Any responses received in paper copy or via email were manually inputted into the consultation database.
- 6.1.5 Once uploaded into the database, a process of coding began. As outlined above, each response was read and dissected into individual, relevant comments. Each comment was assigned a theme.

6.2 Responses to each question

- 6.2.1 This section outlines the responses to each question in the feedback form.
- 6.2.2 For closed questions, graphs have been created to show the responses. It should be noted that not every closed question was responded to in each feedback form and therefore the number of respondents who provided a valid response to each question varies and is shown in each graph.
- 6.2.3 For open questions, tables have been created by coding qualitative responses into themes. Once this had been done, codes were drawn out that captured repeated comments in respondents' responses.
- 6.2.4 Where comments were made more than once, they have been counted and logged in tables, which summarise the responses to the open questions that were asked and how many times each theme was mentioned.
- 6.2.5 The ten free-form responses that were received have been considered alongside the responses to the final question on the response form which asked respondents if they had any other comments on the proposals for Brandhall Village.

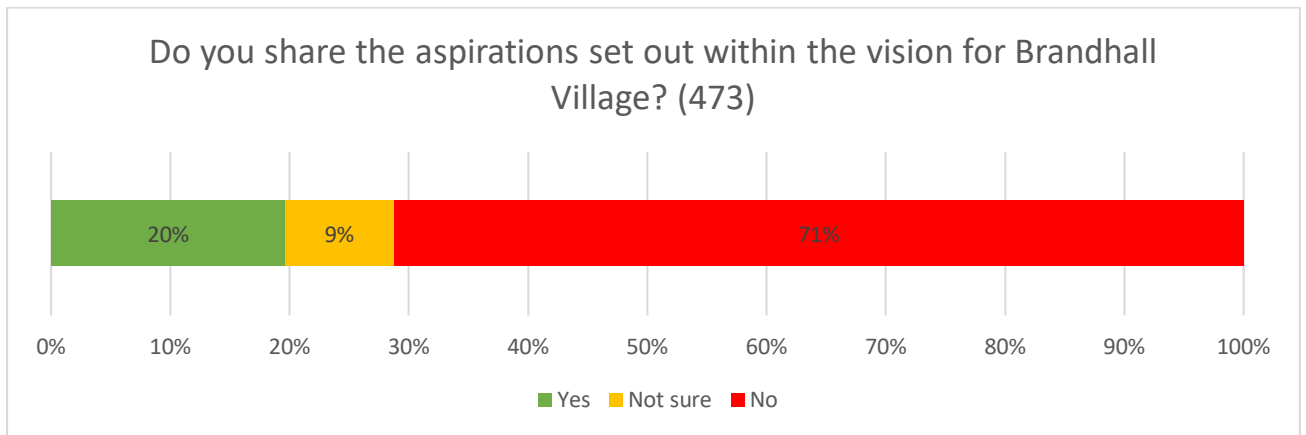
6.3 Quantitative and qualitative summary of responses to each question

Do you share the aspirations set out within the vision for Brandhall Village?

6.3.1 The feedback form asked if respondents shared the aspirations set out within the vision for Brandhall Village, which was provided in the consultation materials.

6.3.2 473 respondents provided a valid response to this question, with 14 not answering the question.

Figure 6-1: Response to ‘Do you share the aspirations set out within the vision for Brandhall Village?’

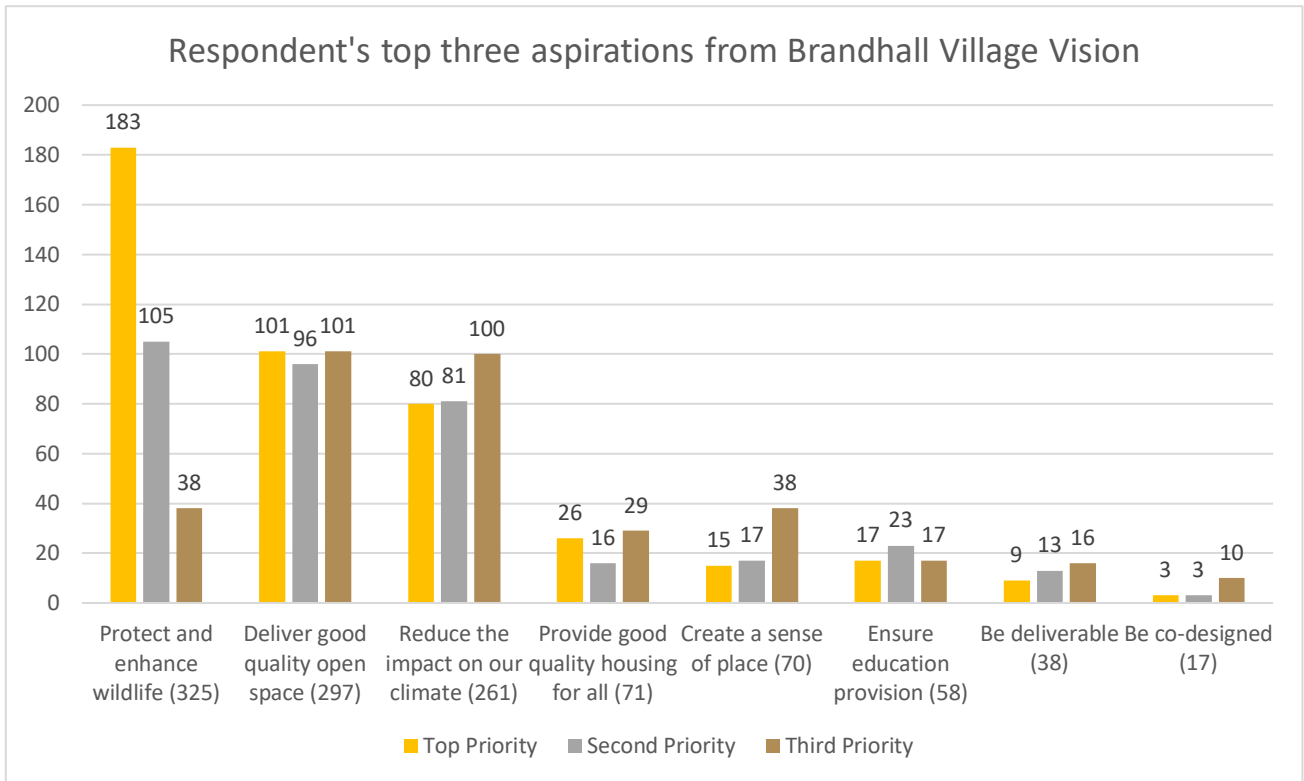


What are your top three priorities in the vision? Please specify your preference with ‘1’ being most preferred and ‘3’ the least preferred.

6.3.3 The response form asked respondents to rank their top three priorities in the vision, from the eight aspirations.

6.3.4 70 respondents did not rank answer the question whilst nine respondents who used a hard copy response form ranked multiple aspects of the vision as ‘1’ and ‘2’.

Figure 6-2: Response to ‘What are your three top priorities in the vision? Please specify your preference with ‘1’ being the most preferred and ‘3’ being the least’



Is there anything else you would like to add to the vision?

6.3.5 The next question provided respondents with an opportunity to add any other aspirations that they thought should be added to the vision for Brandhall Village.

6.3.6 Table 6-1 summarises the responses received. Comments that were mentioned more than once have been included in the table.

Table 6-1: Summary of responses to ‘Is there anything you would like to add to the vision?’

| Summary of responses to ‘Is there anything you would like to add to the vision?’ | Number of respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| <p>Preserve the greenspace Comments suggesting that the greenspace should be preserved.</p> | 134 |
| <p>Leave the Site as it is Comments suggesting that the Site was to be left as it is now.</p> | 110 |
| <p>Against the development Comments stating they were against development of any kind</p> | 108 |
| <p>Concern about the impacts of the scheme on nature, wildlife and biodiversity</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Respondents were concerned that the Site is of importance to varied local wildlife (including birds, bats, badgers, foxes, insects, deer and some protected species) and nature • Respondents indicated the site was a wildlife corridor. • Respondents believed that development would harm the nature and wildlife on the Site, that should be protected. | 59 |
| <p>Against the building of homes on the Site Respondents were against using the Site for housing</p> | 34 |
| <p>Develop brownfield sites instead Respondents felt that brownfield sites should be developed before the proposed Site.</p> | 31 |
| <p>Concern regarding climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In the light of COP-26, this Site should be preserved for the good of the planet. • Development goes against governments climate change policies and targets. • Goes against need to reduce carbon footprint. | 28 |
| <p>Concern regarding the traffic impacts on the local road network</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The proposals will exacerbate existing congestion problems – particularly at peak school time. • The proposals will exacerbate issues of limited parking. • The proposals will exacerbate safety issues associated with the local road network i.e. children crossing roads near schools, there are regularly accidents on the local road network. | 26 |
| <p>Concern regarding increased flooding impact in the local area</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Site is unsuitable for development due to existing flooding issues. • The Site is a known flood plain. • The Scheme will exacerbate the issue the flooding issues the Site and the surrounding area already experiences. • Concreting over greenspace will remove the natural drainage from the area. | 26 |
| <p>Concern about the impact on the physical and mental health of the local population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Site has been an essential asset for the local population’s mental health during Covid. • The Site is essential to people’s mental wellbeing in a built-up area. • The site is used regularly by people for exercise, dog walking and recreational activity. | 20 |
| <p>Preserve/Plant trees on the Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Preserve the trees that exist on the Site. • Plant more trees on the Site. • The trees are beneficial to the local air quality/air pollution. • The trees are beneficial to the prevention of flooding. • The trees provide a home for much of the wildlife found on Site. | 20 |

| | |
|---|-----------|
| <p>Support for the construction of community facilities</p> <p>Respondents supported the creation of certain community facilities, including: community cafes, community centre, the care village, play areas for children, sports facilities.</p> | 19 |
| <p>Support the creation of a country park</p> <p>Support for the creation of a country park, local wildlife reserve, local nature reserve. Respondents cited Warley Woods as an example.</p> | 17 |
| <p>Concern that local services will not cope with extra demand</p> <p>Comments that schools, GP surgeries, dentists and other local public services would not cope with more people living in the area.</p> | 16 |
| <p>Concern about the Scheme's impact on local air quality</p> <p>Respondents were concerned that additional cars in the area and the removal of trees would contribute to worsening air quality in the area.</p> <p>Respondents were also concerned by the idea of placing a school (and in some cases housing) so close to a motorway.</p> | 13 |
| <p>Concern about the Scheme's impact on local pollution</p> <p>Respondents were concerned that additional cars, the removal of trees and additional people in the area would lead to worsening levels of local pollution.</p> | 13 |
| <p>The plans for the Site contradicts the proposed Vision for the Site</p> <p>Residents believed that the proposals contradicted the vision, as the plans increase pollution and traffic levels, reduce the amount of green space, and remove habitats and nature from the local area.</p> | 13 |
| <p>The site should be made more accessible</p> | 12 |
| <p>The Site should be developed by engaging and working with the local community closely</p> <p>Some suggested handing the space over to the local community to manage entirely.</p> | 10 |
| <p>Support for the construction of housing on the Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support for the construction of housing, specifically: affordable housing, sustainable housing, social housing and high-quality housing • Support from respondents who are on waiting list for social housing <p>Support from respondents who want to move house</p> | 10 |
| <p>Support for Brandhall vision</p> | 7 |
| <p>The views of the local community are not being taken into account - the development is not wanted</p> | 7 |
| <p>Criticism of consultation process and consultation materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The consultation does not give respondents the chance to object outright to the proposal • The materials were unclear • The consultation will not have a material impact on the outcome • The questions were leading | 7 |
| <p>Concern about the Scheme's impact on the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern about the environmental impacts of the proposals • Concern that it the proposals don't align with wider government's environmental policies | 5 |
| <p>Opposition to the construction of a school</p> | 5 |
| <p>Support for the construction of a school</p> | 5 |
| <p>The area is already too overcrowded (too many people)</p> | 4 |
| <p>The school should be redeveloped in its current location</p> | 3 |
| <p>A covenant exists on the Site which prevents this development</p> | 2 |

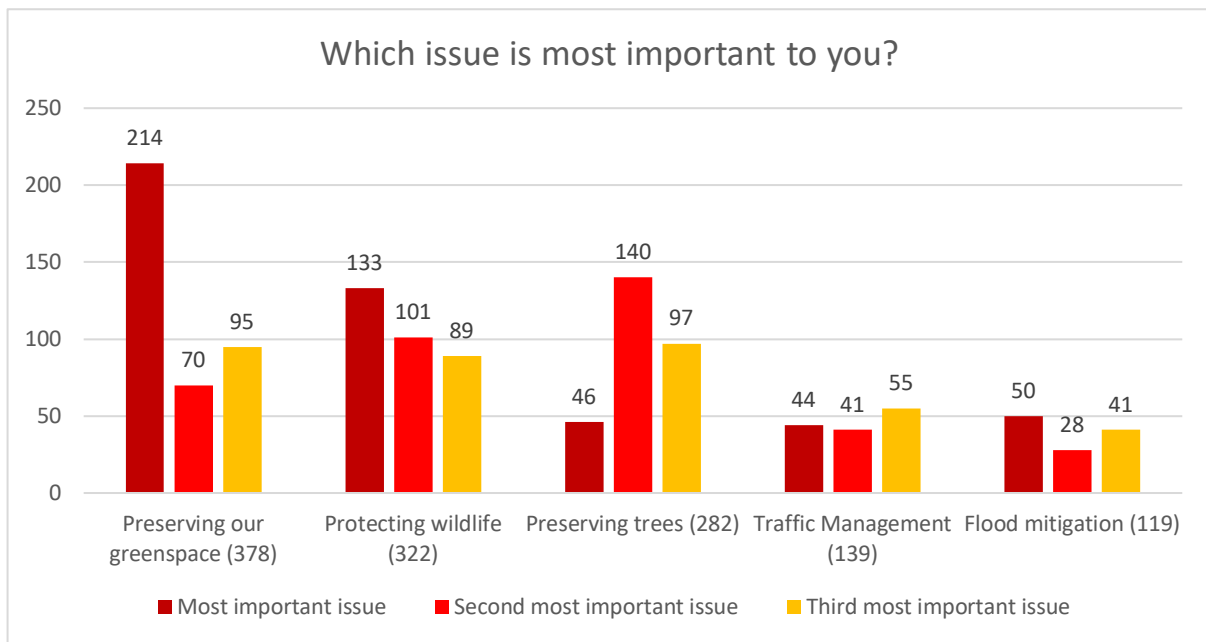
| | |
|---|----------|
| Support for the vision, but not the Scheme | 2 |
| There should be fewer houses on Site with a greater focus on other elements There should be less space for housing and more space for the public park, the school, greenspace, play area etc. | 2 |

Please rank the top 3 most important issues regarding the Scheme, below. '1' being the most important '3' being the least important.

6.3.7 A number of concerns about the development of the Site had been raised in the previous round of consultation and feedback received by SMBC. The next question therefore asked respondents to rank their top three concerns from five options.

6.3.8 30 respondents did not answer this question, not all respondents selected three issues, 14 respondents ranked multiple issues as '1' on hand-written response form, where they had the freedom to do so.

Figure 6-3: Response to 'Please rank the top 3 most important issues regarding the Scheme, below. '1' being the most important '3' being the least important'

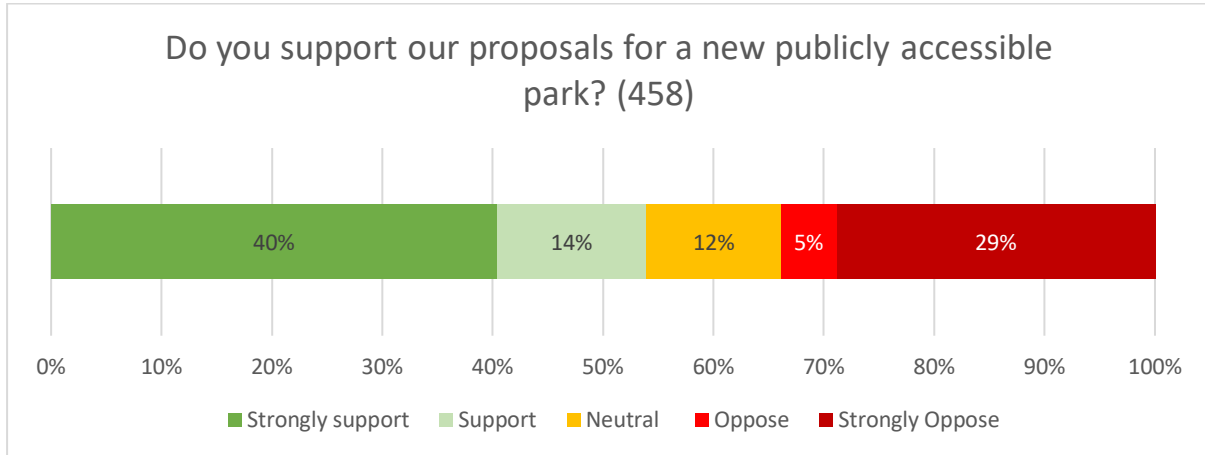


Do you support proposals for a new publicly accessible park?

6.3.9 The next section of the feedback form focussed on the proposed publicly accessible park. This question asked respondents if they supported proposals for a new publicly accessible park. Over half of those who answered the questions (54%) said that they supported the proposal.

6.3.10 29 respondents did not answer this question.

Figure 6-4: Response to ‘Do you support our proposals for a new publicly accessible park?’



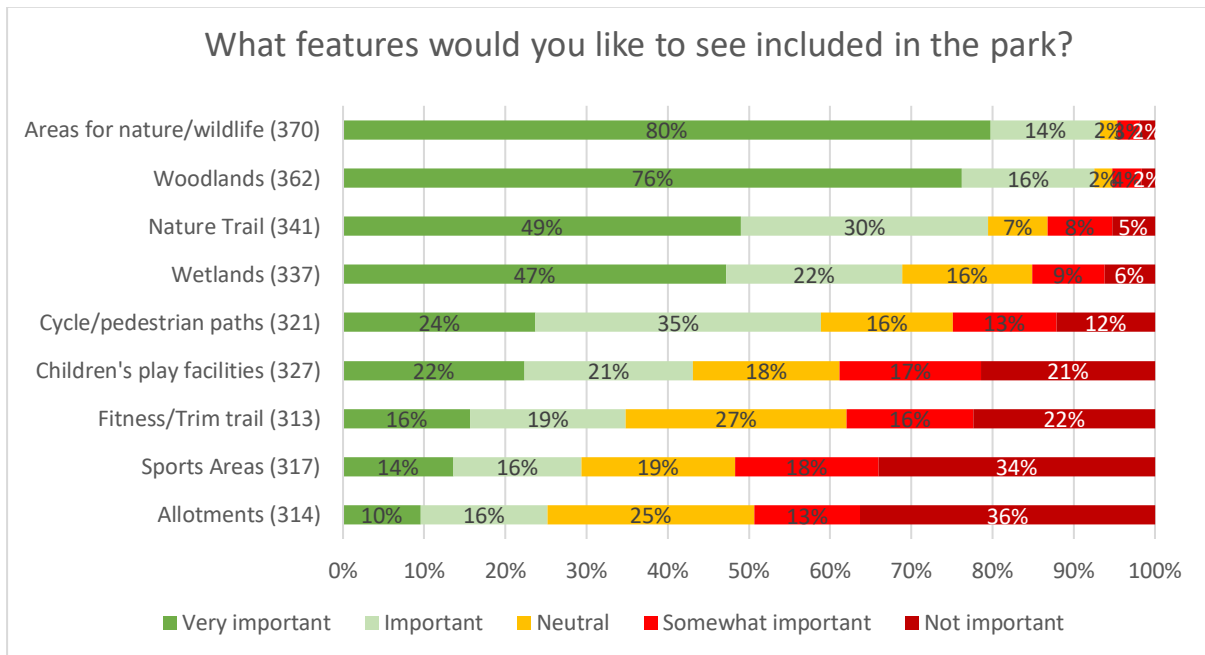
What features would you like to see included in the park? Please indicate how important each feature is to you.

6.3.11 The next question asked respondents what features they would like to see in the park. Respondents were asked to rank each feature on a scale from ‘not important’ to ‘very important’. Attributes related to nature tended to be deemed the most important by those who answered this question.

6.3.12 132 respondents indicated that they would not like to see any of the features.

6.3.13 26 respondents didn’t answer this question.

Figure 6-5: Response to ‘What features would you like to see included in the park?’



6.3.14 As part of this question, respondents were given the opportunity to specify other features, not included in the above options, that they would like to see in the park.

6.3.15 Table 6-2 below shows the features specified by respondents.

Table 6-2: Summary of responses to ‘What features would you like to see in the park? (Other)’

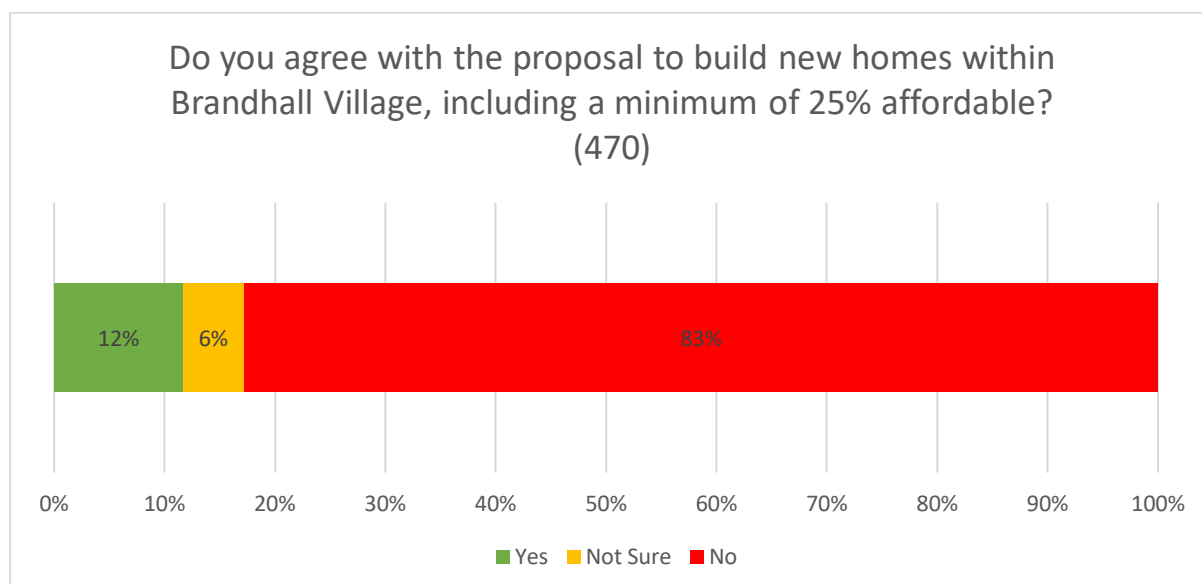
| Summary of responses to Question 10 ‘What features would you like to see in the park? (Other)’ | Number of respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Preservation of green spaces | 22 |
| Leave the site as it is | 17 |
| Accessible green space | 5 |
| Flood mitigation | 4 |
| Protection of heritage | 4 |
| Golf course | 3 |
| Community spaces | 3 |
| Housing and School | 3 |
| Children’s play area | 1 |
| Traffic measures | 1 |
| Wildlife protection | 1 |

Do you agree with the proposal to build new homes within Brandhall Village, including a minimum of 25% affordable?

6.3.16 The next section of the feedback form focussed on the proposed new homes. This question asked respondents whether they agreed with the proposal to build new homes within Brandhall Village.

6.3.17 17 respondents didn’t answer this question.

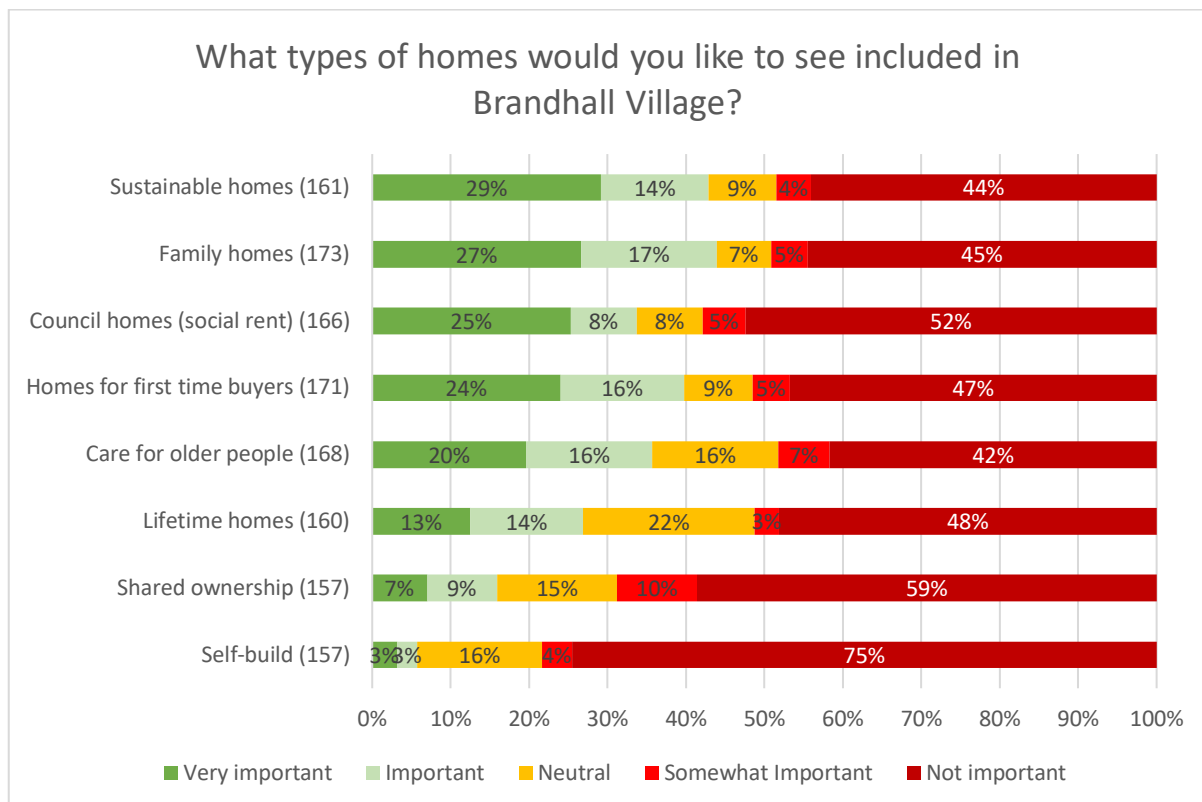
Figure 6-6: Response to ‘Do you agree with the proposal to build new homes within Brandhall Village, including a minimum of 25% affordable?’



What types of homes would you like to see in Brandhall Village? Please could you indicate how important each home is below

- 6.3.18 The next question asked what type of homes people would like to see in Brandhall Village. Respondents were asked to rank each type/tenure of housing on a scale from 'not important' to 'very important'.
- 6.3.19 340 respondents indicated they would not like to see any new homes.
- 6.3.20 22 respondents did not answer this question.

Figure 6-7: Response to 'What types of homes would you like to see in Brandhall Village?'



- 6.3.21 As part of this question, respondents were given the opportunity to specify other types of home/tenure, not included in the above options, that they would like to see in on the Site.
- 6.3.22 Table 6-3 below shows the responses from respondents who selected 'other'.

Table 6-3: Summary of responses to Question 12 'What types of homes would you like to see included in Brandhall Village? (Other)'

| Summary of responses to Question 12 'What types of homes would you like to see included in Brandhall Village? (Other)' | Number of respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Against building new homes | 32 |
| Affordable housing | 2 |
| More social housing | 1 |
| Eco-friendly housing | 1 |
| Housing away from flood plains | 1 |
| Housing close to existing infrastructure | 1 |

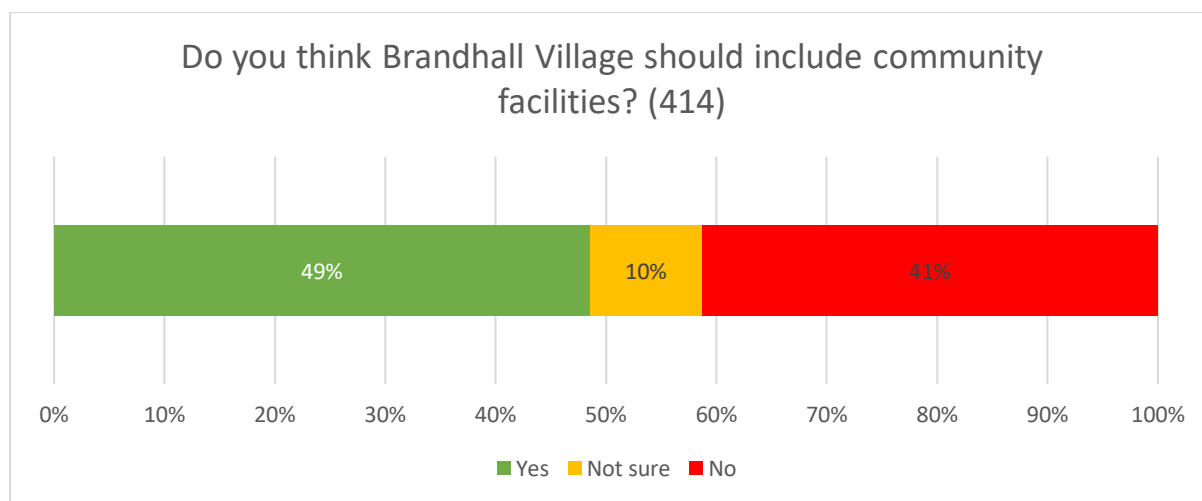
| | |
|---------------------------------|---|
| Houses with large gardens | 1 |
| Less social housing | 1 |
| Housing with Off-street Parking | 1 |

Do you think Brandhall Village should include community facilities?

6.3.23 The next section of the feedback form focussed on community facilities. This question asked whether respondents thought Brandhall Village should include community facilities.

6.3.24 73 respondents did not answer this question.

Figure 6-8: Response to ‘Do you think Brandhall Village should include community facilities?’



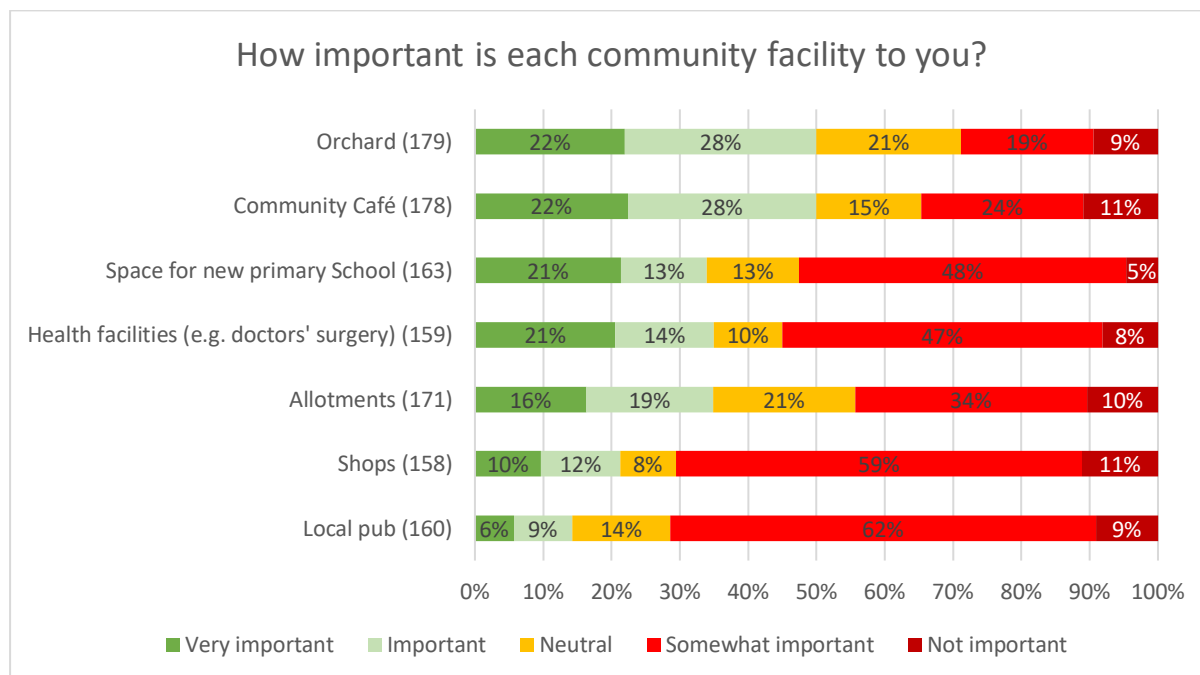
Please could you indicate how important each community facility is to you?

6.3.25 Respondents were then asked to rank how important each community facility was, on a scale of ‘not important’ to ‘very important’.

6.3.26 252 respondents indicated they did not want any community facilities.

6.3.27 20 respondents did not answer this question.

Figure 6-9: Response to ‘Please indicate how important each community facility is to you?’



6.3.28 As part of this question, respondents were given the opportunity to specify other community facilities, not included in the above options, that they would like to see in on the Site.

6.3.29 Table 6-4 below shows the responses from respondents who selected ‘other’.

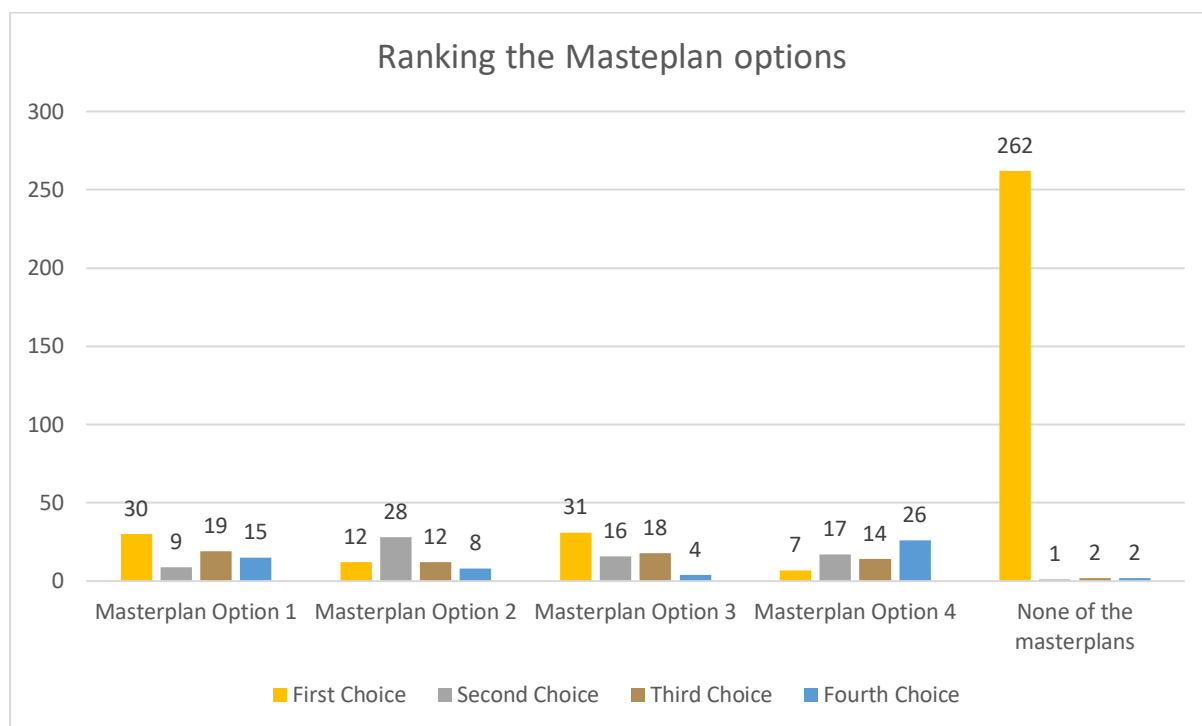
Table 6-4: Summary of responses to Question 14 ‘How important is each community facility to you? (Other)’

| Summary of responses to Question 14 ‘How important is each community facility to you? (Other)’ | Number of respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Remaining as green space | 20 |
| Community Café | 9 |
| Event Space | 3 |
| Trees and Planting | 3 |
| Golf course | 2 |
| Upgrading/developing the school | 2 |
| Spaces for wildlife | 2 |
| Shared working space | 1 |
| Arts space | 1 |
| Facilities for the elderly | 1 |
| Sports facilities | 1 |
| Traffic calming measures | 1 |
| Youth facilities | 1 |

After looking at the four masterplan options, please rank the options below, with ‘1’ being the option you most prefer

- 6.3.30 The final section of the feedback form focussed on the four masterplan options presented at the consultation.
- 6.3.31 This question asked respondents to rank the masterplan options to identify the preferred option.
- 6.3.32 145 respondents did not answer this question.

Table 6-5: Response to ‘After looking at the four masterplan options, please rank the options below, with ‘1’ being the option you most prefer?’



Respondents were asked to provide the reasons for their ranking.

- 6.3.33 The next question asked respondents to provide reasons for their ranking.
- 6.3.34 Where respondents made specific reference to a masterplan and the reason they preferred or disliked the option, this is noted in the table below. The number in brackets that follows the comment indicates how many times this was mentioned. If there is no number, it was only mentioned once.

Table 6-6: Reasons provided for masterplan rankings

| Option preference | Reason Listed |
|---------------------|---|
| Masterplan 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • School should be sited further away from Brennand Road as otherwise there would be traffic problems • Seems to preserve the most greenspace, separates traffic from wildlife • Seems to have the largest area of greenspace • Prefer location of the school (3) • The school is nearer its original location • Too many houses |
| Masterplan 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prefer layout for housing, would be less impact on local traffic and flood plains • Best layout for the protection of wildlife • Preference for the central open space • Prefer the location of the school (3) • The school is too near Brandhall primary, which would create traffic problems |
| Masterplan 3 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Seems to have the biggest open greenspace (4) • Like the fact the green space is in one central area (8) • A good balance between creating greenspace and creating a community and new houses that are needed • Like the location of the school (5) • Seems to have the lowest number of housing • Too many houses |
| Masterplan 4 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Like the siting of the school near open space so the children could use it • Well thought out (good connections in and within the site, likes the green recreational route around the perimeter and green fingers and linear parks along the brook courses) • Concern about the school's proximity to Perryfields and the impact on the traffic |

6.3.35 Table 6-7 below summarises the other comments left in the response boxes, which were much more general. Comments that were mentioned more than once have been included in the table.

Table 6-7: Summary of responses to question 15

| Summary of responses to Question 15 'Please list your reasons for your ranking' | Number of respondents |
|--|-----------------------|
| Preserve the greenspace Comments that the greenspace that exists on the Site could be preserved. | 133 |
| Against the development Respondents who stated they were against development of any kind. | 95 |
| Leave the Site as it is Comments that suggested the site should be left as it is now. | 51 |
| Concern about the impacts of the Scheme on nature, wildlife and biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Concern that the Site is of importance to varied local wildlife (including birds, bats, badgers, foxes, insects, deer and some protected species) and nature. • Comments that the Site was a wildlife corridor. • Comments that development would harm the nature and wildlife on the Site, that should be protected. | 45 |
| Concern regarding the traffic impacts on the local road network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that the proposals will exacerbate existing congestion problems – particularly at peak school time • Comments that the proposals will exacerbate issues of limited parking • Comments that the proposals will exacerbate safety issues associated with the local road network i.e. children crossing roads near schools, there are regularly accidents on the local road network | 33 |
| Concern regarding increased flooding impact in the local area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments that the Site is unsuitable for development due to existing flooding issues • Comments that the Site is a known flood plain • Comments that the proposals will exacerbate the issue the flooding issues the Site and the surrounding area already experiences | 28 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments suggesting concreting over greenspace will remove the natural drainage from the area | |
| <p>Develop brownfield sites instead</p> <p>Comments that brownfield sites should be developed before the proposed Site.</p> | 22 |
| <p>Concerned about the impact on the physical and mental health of the local population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Comments that the Site has been an essential asset for the local population's mental health during Covid Comments that the Site is essential to people's mental wellbeing in a built-up area Comments that the Site is used regularly by people for exercise, dog walking and recreational activity | 20 |
| <p>Against the building of homes on the Site</p> <p>Respondents stating they were against using the Site for housing</p> | 19 |
| <p>Concern about the Scheme's impact on local pollution</p> <p>Comments that additional cars, the removal of trees and additional people in the area would lead to worsening levels of local pollution. Comments that pollution was already high.</p> | 17 |
| <p>Support for the construction of community facilities</p> <p>Comments supporting the creation of certain community facilities, including: Community cafes, community centre, the care village, play areas for children, sports facilities.</p> | 16 |
| <p>Support the creation of a country park</p> <p>Support for the creation of a country park, local wildlife reserve, local nature reserve. Respondents cited Warley Woods as an example.</p> | 15 |
| <p>Preserve/Plant trees on the Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve the trees that exist on the Site Plant more trees on the Site The trees are beneficial to the local air quality/air pollution The trees are beneficial to the prevention of flooding The trees provide a home for much of the wildlife found on Site | 13 |
| <p>Concern regarding climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the light of COP-26, this Site should be preserved for the good of the planet Development goes against government's climate change policies and targets Goes against need to reduce carbon footprint. | 12 |
| <p>Concern about the Masterplan's impact on local air quality</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Respondents were concerned that additional cars in the area and the removal of trees would contribute to worsening air quality in the area. Respondents were also concerned by the idea of placing a school (and in some cases housing) so close to a motorway. | 10 |
| <p>Support for the construction of housing on the Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the construction of housing, specifically: affordable housing, sustainable housing, social housing and high-quality housing Support from respondents who are on waiting list for social housing Support from respondents who want to move house | 9 |
| <p>Opposition to the construction of a school</p> | 8 |
| <p>Concerned about the Masterplan's impact on the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about the environmental impacts of the proposals Concerned that the proposals don't align with wider government's environmental policies | 7 |
| <p>The development goes against the wishes of the local community, who do not want it</p> | 7 |
| <p>There should be fewer houses on the Site with a greater focus on other elements</p> <p>Should be less space for housing and more space for the public park, the school, greenspace, play area etc.</p> | 7 |
| <p>Concern that local services will not cope with extra demand</p> <p>Comments that schools, GP surgeries, dentists and other local public services would not cope with more people living in the area.</p> | 6 |

| | |
|---|----------|
| The school should be redeveloped in its current location | 4 |
| The site should be made more accessible | 4 |
| Comments that the proposals will increase anti-social behaviour in the area | 3 |
| The Site should be developed by engaging and working with the local community closely Suggestions around handing the space over to the local community to manage entirely. | 3 |
| Criticism of consultation process and consultation materials <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation does not give respondents the chance to object outright to the proposal The materials were unclear The consultation will not have a material impact on the outcome The questions were leading | 2 |
| Support for the construction of a school | 2 |
| The Site is an area of historical/cultural importance | 2 |

Do you have any further comments on the proposals for Brandhall Village?

- 6.3.36 The final question on the response form asked if respondents had any further comments on the proposals for Brandhall Village.
- 6.3.37 Table 6-8 below summarises the responses received. Comments that were mentioned more than once have been included in the table.
- 6.3.38 This table also includes the comments in the ten free-hand responses which were analysed and coded in the same way as open questions in the response form.

Table 6-8: Summary of ‘Do you have any further comments on the proposals for Brandhall Village?’

| Summary of ‘Do you have any further comments on the proposals for Brandhall Village?’ | Number of respondents |
|---|-----------------------|
| Preserve the green space Comments that the green space that exists on the Site should be preserved. | 151 |
| Against the development Respondents who stated they were against development of any kind. | 126 |
| Leave the site as it is Comments that suggested the site should be left as it is now. | 119 |
| Concern about the impacts of the scheme on nature, wildlife and biodiversity <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concern that the Site is of importance to varied local wildlife (including birds, bats, badgers, foxes, insects, deer and some protected species) and nature. Comments that the Site was a wildlife corridor. Comments that development would harm the nature and wildlife on the Site, that should be protected. | 68 |
| Against the building of homes on the Site Respondents stating they were against using the Site for housing | 38 |
| Concern regarding increased flooding impact in the local area <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Site is unsuitable for development due to existing flooding issues The Site is a known flood plain The Scheme will exacerbate the issue the flooding issues the Site and the surrounding area already experiences <p>Concreting over green space will remove the natural drainage from the area</p> | 36 |
| Concern regarding the traffic impacts on the local road network <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme will exacerbate existing congestion problems – particularly at peak school time | 35 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Scheme will exacerbate issues of limited parking <p>The proposals will exacerbate safety issues associated with the local road network i.e. children crossing roads near schools, there are regularly accidents on the local road network</p> | |
| <p>Develop brownfield sites instead</p> <p>Respondents felt that brownfield sites should be developed before the proposed Site.</p> | 34 |
| <p>Concern regarding climate change</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> In the light of COP-26, this Site should be preserved for the good of the planet Development goes against governments climate change policies and targets Goes against need to reduce carbon footprint. | 34 |
| <p>Concern about the impact on the physical and mental health of the local population</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Site has been an essential asset for the local population's mental health during Covid The Site is essential to people's mental wellbeing in a built-up area The Site is used regularly by people for exercise, dog walking and recreational activity | 27 |
| <p>Support for the construction of community facilities</p> <p>Respondents supported the creation of certain community facilities, including: Community cafes, community centre, the care village, play areas for children, sports facilities.</p> | 23 |
| <p>Preserve/Plant trees on the Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Preserve the trees that exist on the Site Plant more trees on the Site The trees are beneficial to the local air quality/air pollution The trees are beneficial to the prevention of flooding The trees provide a home for much of the wildlife found on Site | 21 |
| <p>Support the creation of a country park</p> <p>Support for the creation of a country park, local wildlife reserve, local nature reserve. Respondents cited Warley Woods as an example.</p> | 21 |
| <p>Concern that local services will not cope with extra demand</p> <p>Respondents were concerned that schools, GP surgeries, dentists and other local public services would not cope with more people living in the area.</p> | 16 |
| <p>Concern about the Masterplan's impact on local pollution</p> <p>Respondents were concerned that additional cars, the removal of trees and additional people in the area would lead to worsening levels of local pollution.</p> | 16 |
| <p>The plans for the Site contradict the proposed Vision for the Site</p> <p>Residents believed that the proposals contradicted the vision, as the plans increase pollution and traffic levels, reduce the amount of greenspace, and remove habitats and nature from the local area.</p> | 14 |
| <p>The site should be made more accessible</p> | 13 |
| <p>Concern about the Masterplan's impact on local air quality</p> <p>Respondents were concerned that additional cars in the area and the removal of trees would contribute to worsening air quality in the area.</p> <p>Respondents were also concerned by the idea of placing a school (and in some cases housing) so close to a motorway.</p> | 13 |
| <p>Support for the construction of housing on the Site</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for the construction of housing, specifically: affordable housing, sustainable housing, social housing and high-quality housing Support from respondents who are on waiting list for social housing Support from respondents who want to move house | 12 |
| <p>Criticism of consultation process and consultation materials</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The consultation does not give respondents the chance to object outright to the proposal The materials were unclear The consultation will not have a material impact on the outcome | 11 |

| | |
|--|-----------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The questions were leading | |
| <p>The Site should be developed by engaging and working with the local community closely Some suggested handing the space over to the local community to manage entirely.</p> | 10 |
| <p>Concerned about the Masterplan's impact on the environment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Concerned about the environmental impacts of the proposals Concerned that it the Masterplan doesn't align with wider government's environmental policies | 10 |
| <p>Support for Brandhall vision</p> | 9 |
| <p>The views of the local community are not being taken into account - the development is not wanted</p> | 8 |
| <p>Support for the construction of a school</p> | 7 |
| <p>Opposition to the construction of a school</p> | 6 |
| <p>The area is already too overcrowded (too many people)</p> | 5 |
| <p>There should be fewer houses on Site with a greater focus on other elements There should be less space for housing and more space for the public park, the school, greenspace, play area etc.</p> | 4 |
| <p>Concerns associated with anti-social behaviour</p> | 4 |
| <p>The school should be redeveloped in its current location</p> | 3 |
| <p>A covenant exists on the Site which prevents this development</p> | 3 |
| <p>Support for the vision, but not the Scheme</p> | 2 |
| <p>Comments that houses would not be affordable</p> | 2 |
| <p>Comment that the land is of historical importance</p> | 2 |

7. Key Themes

7.1 Overview

7.1.1.1 This section outlines key themes which emerged from the consultation responses.

7.2 Development of the Site

7.2.1 Against any development of the Site

7.2.1.1 Some respondents were opposed to any kind of development being built on site, whether this be housing or other constructed development. However, these respondents indicated that they weren't opposed to an alternative use of the Site, which sets them apart comments requesting the site be 'left as it is', discussed later in Section 7. Several respondents supported the preservation of the space as a golf course.

7.2.2 Improve the accessibility of the Site

7.2.2.1 Relating to the above, some respondents called for the Site to be made more accessible. Most comments of this sentiment felt that rather than developing the Site, it could be made more accessible and preserved as a green space. It was specifically mentioned that accessing the Site in a wheelchair, or with a pushchair, was particularly difficult.

7.2.3 Size of the Development

7.2.3.1 Some respondents were concerned about the proposed size of the development, the density of housing and subsequent increase of the population, and the resultant size of the green space preserved within the proposals. Many respondents who mentioned the size of the development were concerned that the size of the Site would have a significant impact on the surrounding area, and that the proposed development is too large for the existing area.

7.3 The Brandhall Village Vision

7.3.1 Support for the Brandhall Village Vision

7.3.1.1 There was some support for the proposed Vision for Brandhall Village, particularly the use of the space for community benefit, preservation of wildlife and greenspace, rather than just a focus on the construction of housing. Support for the vision was commonly linked to demand for both affordable housing and local social housing.

7.3.2 Agree with the vision, but this should be separate to this development

7.3.2.1 Responses linked to the above supported the sentiments of the Brandhall Vision, however, some felt that while the issues it aims to solve are important, they should not be prioritised over retaining green spaces in the area.

7.3.3 Plans for the Site contradict the Vision

7.3.3.1 A running theme associated with this was that any development of the existing greenspace was contradictory to the vision's overarching themes, such as protecting the environment and enhancing wildlife.

7.4 Location of the Site

7.4.1 Existing covenant for the protection of the Site

7.4.1.1 It has been suggested there is a covenant associated with Site and that any housing development on the Site would directly contradict this.

7.4.2 Development of Brownfield sites

7.4.2.1 A key theme from the responses concerned the use of brownfield sites. Many respondents felt that there were a number of alternative brownfield sites in the surrounding area that would be a better location for the development, including disused factory sites and specific brownfield sites in Oldbury. Respondents believed that brownfield land should be developed before considering developing on local greenspace.

7.5 Design of the School

7.5.1 Support for plans to construct a new school

- 7.5.1.1 Some respondents noted that while they were against the building of houses, they would support proposals to build a new school.
- 7.5.1.2 Some also supported the proposal to build a new school as they felt that current school buildings in the area need upgrading and modernising. Respondents also mentioned that current schools do not have enough capacity for the population, with some families having to send their children to different schools as there is not enough space for them to attend the same school.

7.5.2 Development of schools in existing locations

- 7.5.2.1 Some respondents felt that the proposal to build a new school was less preferable than developing and upgrading the schools that exist in the local area in their existing locations, including Causeway Green Primary School. This was also linked to the additional environmental impacts of constructing a new school versus renovating existing schools in the area.

7.5.3 Proximity of proposed school location to the motorway

- 7.5.3.1 Another theme raised by respondents was the school's location. Respondents were concerned about the school's proximity to the motorway, and the potential health impacts on children attending school.

7.6 Housing Proposals

7.6.1 Against the building of homes on the Site

- 7.6.1.1 Many comments were received that opposed the building of homes on the Site. Some of the key themes relating to this include wanting to preserve the green space of the area and feeling that the housing proposals went against this. Similarly, many felt that building houses on the Site would remove their access to green space due to the lack of alternative green open spaces close to their homes.
- 7.6.1.2 Another key theme relating to this was that building houses on the Site would put pressure on the local community facilities, such as school-places, parking, traffic, and local services. Respondents thought that this would overcrowd the area without the provision of additional local services.

7.6.2 Support the building of affordable housing

- 7.6.2.1 While there were many comments opposing the development of housing on the Site, there was support for housing that was affordable. Many comments regarding this were keen to see a higher percentage of social housing, or housing that is affordable. There were some comments relating to the current length of waiting lists for social housing locally, and more generally about the lack of local social housing.
- 7.6.2.2 The above theme was also linked to the concern that the housing proposed would not be affordable for those wanting to move into the area. People who had concerns demonstrated that the affordability of houses within proposals was very important to them.

7.6.3 Support the building of sustainable housing

- 7.6.3.1 Other comments related to support for proposals that included sustainable development options, with the consensus being that if housing is to be built it should be sustainable. The term 'eco-house' was used by some, with many respondents indicating that they would support proposals that were steered towards sustainable building and increased green spaces.

7.6.4 Preferences relating to the density of housing

- 7.6.4.1 Some respondents preferred the option for higher density housing in a smaller area, in order to preserve more of the green space. Others indicated a preference for lower density housing, with suggestions of semi-detached houses and/or bungalows.

7.6.5 Support for fewer houses on the Site and a greater focus on other elements

- 7.6.5.1 In line with the themes above, there was support for the Site to have a lower proportion of houses to prioritise other elements of the proposal. Many called for the proportion of the Site dedicated to open,

green space to be bigger. Others suggested that the area currently lacks community facilities, which should therefore be prioritised.

7.6.5.2 There were several comments of support for a children's play area to be included in proposals in line with the above. This was also linked to more community spaces, which is discussed below.

7.6.6 Concern that properties will lose their privacy

7.6.6.1 Respondents that live on the outskirts of the Site displayed concerns that the proposed development would reduce the privacy of their homes currently granted by the presence of the golf course and green space.

7.6.7 Impact on property values

7.6.7.1 Linked to the above, respondents close to the Site were concerned that by removing the green spaces that are visible from their homes, this would reduce the value of their property, with some claiming that the view of the golf course was a selling factor of their homes.

7.7 Themes Relating to the Community

7.7.1 Support the building of community facilities

7.7.1.1 While there were comments that opposed any development of the Site, there was support from many respondents for the inclusion of community facilities within the proposals. This included the development of a community hub or youth centre, local park, and/or a community café for social use by the community. Support for a local park was found throughout responses, with many calling for a park to preserve the green space.

7.7.1.2 Another key theme that stood out from the data was the request for sporting facilities to be included in proposals, with several respondents specifically mentioning the provision of basketball courts.

7.7.2 The Site should be developed by engaging and involving the community closely

7.7.2.1 Linked to the above was the sentiment that the development of the Site should be more community led, with many making comparisons to Warley Woods.

7.8 Traffic-related Themes

7.8.1 Concerned about traffic impacts on the local road network

7.8.1.1 One of the key themes related to the design of the proposal, was concern regarding the effect this would have on the local road network. Many comments raised concerns about the developments potential to increase traffic and congestion on the roads, due to the extra cars that new local residents would bring to the area. Some also highlighted that the design of the proposal could exacerbate existing traffic problems in the area.

7.8.2 Traffic associated with the development of a new school

7.8.2.1 Another key theme that emerged from comments related to traffic was the perception that the creation of a new school in the area would exacerbate traffic issues associated with school drop-off/pick-up times. This was not limited to traffic, but also included concerns surrounding parking issues and bottlenecks as a result of the new school and its location within the development.

7.8.3 Parking requirements of additional housing

7.8.3.1 Linked to the above, were comments regarding how the additional housing proposed on the Site could impact on parking in the area. Comments that support the proposals called for off-street parking to be included in housing proposals to reduce the impact on the surrounding area.

7.8.3.2 Comments that opposed the development demonstrated concern for how the additional housing and facilities would add to parking problems currently faced by residents.

7.8.4 Increase in road accidents

- 7.8.4.1 Some respondents were concerned that the development could increase the risk of road accidents in the area. Specifically, Wolverhampton Road was identified as an area of concern, with multiple road accidents a year, and there is the fear that the development could exacerbate this issue.

7.8.5 Associated traffic pollution

- 7.8.5.1 There was also concern regarding the increase in pollution associated with additional road traffic. Many were worried about the impact this could have on children who would be living/using the area and/or attending school there. This was also linked to how pollution from traffic could impact the environment.

7.8.6 Focus on public transport use

- 7.8.6.1 Some comments related to the public transport considerations of the proposal. It was mentioned that current transport services to the site are well designed, and support for the proposal would depend on the guarantee that these services would be able to continue running, with limited disruption during construction.
- 7.8.6.2 Linked to this was the mention of promoting active travel and 15-minute neighbourhoods in the area to reduce resident's dependency on cars.

7.9 Socio-Economic Impact on the Community

7.9.1 Increased pressure and demand for local services

- 7.9.1.1 A key theme that emerged from the data was the concern that respondents had for the ability of local services to cope with the extra demand that an increase to the local population would bring.
- 7.9.1.2 Some respondents felt that local services were already under pressure and the additional housing would exacerbate the problem. Doctors, dentists, and schools were named as most susceptible to over-demand.

7.9.2 Concerns associated with anti-social behaviour

- 7.9.2.1 Several respondents raised concerns that the proposed development could increase the risk of anti-social behaviour in the area. This was linked to the sentiment that the reduction of green spaces can increase anti-social behaviour, as well as the worry that the proposal of a community café could provide an area for youths to congregate in.
- 7.9.2.2 Other comments mentioned current issues faced by the area and how an increased population would add to the issue.

7.10 Impact on the Population and Health of Residents

7.10.1 Mental wellbeing

- 7.10.1.1 Many comments linked the current green space at the Site as having a positive impact on their mental health, with specific mention of its role in mental wellbeing during the COVID-19 pandemic. Respondents felt that the presence of green space has a significant, positive effect on their mental health and by developing on the site and reducing access to green spaces, this would have a detrimental effect on their mental health.

7.10.2 Physical wellbeing

- 7.10.2.1 Similarly, many responses linked the importance of the Site's green space to their physical wellbeing and cited it as an area that they regularly used to exercise and socialise. This was also linked to respondents who demanded the accessibility of the Site to be increased, as currently those who use wheelchairs and pushchairs struggle to access it.

7.11 Economic Themes

7.11.1 Overcrowding

- 7.11.1.1 Some respondents felt that the proposal would make the area over-crowded and over-populated, which could have an economic impact. Many comments relating to this suggested that the area is already overcrowded, and the development of the Site would exacerbate this issue.

7.11.2 Different allocation of council budget

7.11.2.1 Some comments suggested that the money allocated to the proposal would be better spent on projects that benefit the community and/or to help resolve issues currently faced by the community.

7.12 Ecological Impacts

7.12.1 Effect on wildlife and habitats

7.12.1.1 A major theme that was found within the data was respondents concern for how the development may impact the local wildlife and any habitats located on the Site. Many comments were connected to wildlife displacement and the worry that by developing the Site, a large proportion of wildlife would be harmed.

7.12.1.2 This was also linked to concern over the potential removal of habitats in the area, which would have a negative impact on the local wildlife and biodiversity. Many respondents demanded the creation of a wildlife park/sanctuary on the Site, and some asked that the site be allowed to continue to rewild as it has done since the closure of the Brandhall Golf Course.

7.12.2 Protected species

7.12.2.1 Another key concern of residents was the impact that the development would have on protected species that potentially reside on the Site. Many of the comments were linked to the importance of protecting these species, with suggestions that there were potentially endangered species and habitats within the Site.

7.13 Flora and Fauna Considerations

7.13.1 Preservation of the green space

7.13.1.1 A running theme throughout the data was the respondent's desire to preserve existing green space. This was mentioned by a large proportion of the respondents, with many keen to ensure that the green space (including grassland, trees, hedgerows, and other planting) is protected and preserved.

7.13.1.2 Many comments linked this to the lack of alternative green spaces in the area for residents to visit, as well as the preference to preserve the green space as opposed to developing to meet the need for additional housing.

7.14 Air Quality

7.14.1 Concerns about impact on air quality and pollution

7.14.1.1 A key theme related to the development of the Site was the impact that this could have on air quality and pollution. Respondents opposed the development due to concerns that the removal of trees and green space on the Site would result in a negative impact on air quality. This is linked to the proximity of the Site to the M5 and main roads. Currently the Site is perceived as a barrier to the associated air quality and pollution.

7.14.1.2 The concerns regarding air quality were also linked to increased traffic associated with the proposed development, with some raising concerns that the removal of trees and increase of traffic in the area would dramatically reduce the quality of air and increase levels of pollution. Many also called for the planting of more trees in the area to tackle the issue.

7.15 Flooding associated with the proposed Site

7.15.1 Increased risk of flooding because of the proposed development

7.15.1.1 Another major theme that emerged from the data was respondents concern for how the proposed development would impact flooding issues associated with the Site. Many linked the disused golf course to previous flooding in the local area, with suggestions that the golf course acts as a flood plain. It was asserted that the development could have significant impacts on surrounding residents if severe weather causes further flooding. Many comments felt that the site was unsuitable for development without mitigation measures.

7.15.2 Lack of flooding mitigation with the proposals

- 7.15.2.1 Similarly, many comments suggested that there was not enough emphasis placed on flooding mitigation within the development proposals. Specific concerns raised relate to drainage and direction of surplus water. Several comments also asserted that proposed areas of open space were only in areas that could not be developed due to flood risk.

7.16 Heritage Considerations

7.16.1 The land is of historical importance

- 7.16.1.1 Some comments suggested that the land was of historical importance. Some respondents state that the site is designated as an Area of High Historic Landscape Value (AHHLV) as well as having cultural heritage associated with the site. Many of the comments of this nature suggested that the Site should be protected as opposed to developed.

7.17 Landscape and Visual Impact

7.17.1 Concerns of visual impacts

- 7.17.1.1 Some of the comments related to the visual impact of the proposed development, and stated that the development would have a detrimental visual impact. Some respondents described the proposals as an eyesore, and others felt that the development of the site would significantly impact the view from residents' homes.

7.18 Sustainability Concerns

7.18.1 Concerns relating to the impact of climate change

- 7.18.1.1 Many respondents felt that the proposed development did not consider the impact of climate change on its proposals and stated that the proposals disregarded the risk of climate change and were not aimed to reduce its impact.
- 7.18.1.2 Several respondents also stated that they believed the development may contribute to CO₂ emissions as opposed to reducing them and were concerned at the lack of emission mitigation within proposals.

7.18.2 Relationship between green spaces and sustainability

- 7.18.2.1 A key theme related to sustainability was the concern that removing the trees and green space to develop the land would negatively contribute to climate change. This was also linked to the perception that the current site acts as a carbon sink and the development of the site would have a negative impact on the local environment.

7.18.3 Proposals and their ability to meet current climate targets

- 7.18.3.1 Some respondents raised concerns with how the proposed development contributed to meeting the government's climate targets, with some showing a preference for meeting climate and sustainability targets rather than housing targets.

8. Conclusions

- 8.1.1.1 The purpose of this report is to present a factual summary of the consultation process and the responses received.
- 8.1.1.2 The information will be used by SMBC to inform decisions on how the Masterplan is taken forward.

Appendices

Appendix A1 – Consultation Boards



Introduction

Hello and welcome to our public consultation for the former Brandhall Golf Course, which is shown in the plan opposite. Following Cabinet's decision to close the golf course in May 2020, we are now moving forward to develop a masterplan that will guide the future development of Brandhall Village - a new high quality and sustainable community.



We have appointed AECOM to prepare the masterplan for Brandhall Village which could deliver:

- A large public park
- Space for a new primary school
- Routes to walk and cycle
- New areas for wildlife and
- New homes for local people

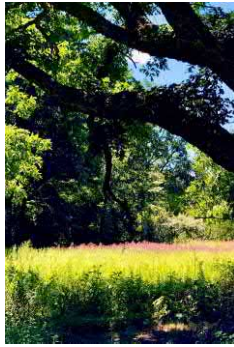
The masterplan will set out a clear vision for Brandhall Village, and ensure that as future development comes forward it aligns with the agreed development principles.

We are at the early stages of developing the masterplan and the purpose of this consultation is to share our ambitions, draft vision and masterplan options.

This consultation offers you an opportunity to share your views and influence the masterplan development.



Above image: Existing aerial of the former Brandhall Golf Course



What benefits will Brandhall Village bring to the Local Community?

We understand that this is a very important site for the local community. Our key priority is to make sure the masterplan responds positively to your concerns, priorities and aspirations for the site. We believe that the development of Brandhall Village has the potential to bring significant benefits to local people, including:

- **Creating significant new public open space** - As a former golf course, the site is not fully accessible to the public. This means local people are not able to use this green space as they would other local parks. Creating the first major new public park in Sandwell's 47-year history will provide opportunity to incorporate new facilities, play areas and natural green spaces which local people can enjoy. This will require significant investment and by developing part of the site, we can deliver and maintain the park and its facilities.
- **Ensuring education provision** - Causeway Green Primary School is aging and recent flooding issues have caused significant disruption to education. There is opportunity to deliver a brand new primary school at Brandhall Village which will replace the existing school and provide new learning facilities.
- **Creating new routes that promote active travel** - The majority of the site is not accessible, with just two existing rights of way providing access across the site (east-west). Development of Brandhall Village will provide opportunity to integrate new fully accessible connections which will help promote walking, running and cycling.
- **Enhancing habitats for wildlife** - We understand that the site provides an important home for wildlife, which are enjoyed by local people. By preparing a masterplan, we can understand and protect important habitats and mitigate any potential impacts - through the enhancement and creation of new habitats.
- **Delivering much needed homes for local people** - Sandwell's housing need is 27,873 homes to be built by 2039 (Government's Housing Need Calculation). Sandwell has sites - including brownfield - which can deliver 9,498 (Draft Black Country Plan), meaning there is a shortfall of 18,375 homes. Brandhall Village could accommodate much needed new homes with a minimum of 25% of these being affordable homes. The redevelopment of the site provides an opportunity to improve housing options for local people.



Above images: Example images showing the types of spaces that Brandhall Village may include

Building on the previous 2019 consultation

In 2019, we carried out a consultation to seek the views of local people on the types of future uses that may be appropriate for the site.

The majority of people said it was important to have a local park (89.5%), good educational facilities (77%) and good quality housing (63.8%).

Three Options were put forward for comment (as shown below) and 84.3% of people preferred Option 3 - which had the largest amount of open space (8.5 hectares).

The new masterplan will therefore be based upon the general principles of Option 3 and recognise the importance of open space.



Above images: The original masterplanning options from the 2019 consultation

2

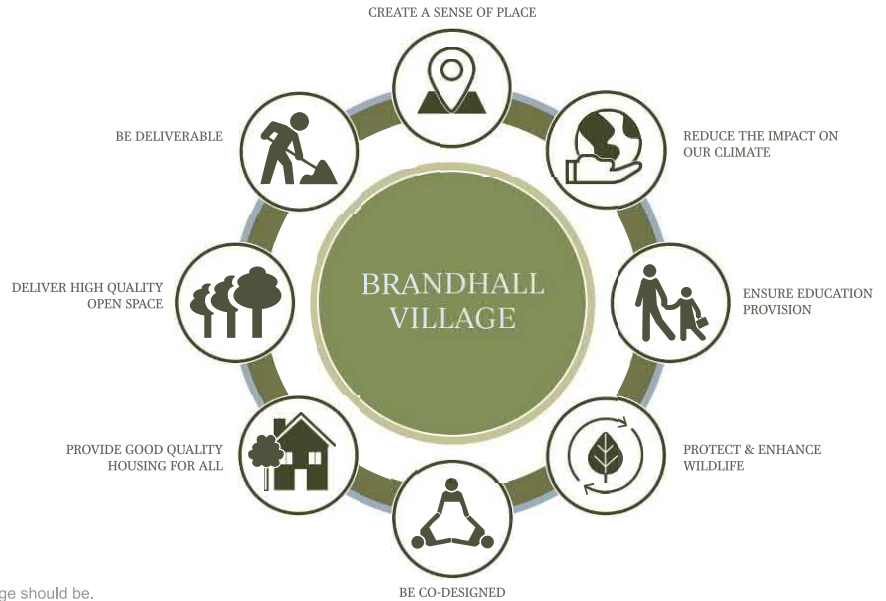
Brandhall Village



Our ambitions

We have set out a number of important principles which the masterplan will achieve. These principles set the level of ambition for Brandhall Village and will help to ensure that we set firm benchmarks for future development:

1. **Create a sense of place** - where people want to live, grow and stay. People will be proud to live here.
2. **Reduce the impact on our climate** - to a higher level than standard developments, ensuring energy efficiency and promoting active travel by walking and cycling.
3. **Ensure education provision** - by setting aside land for a new primary school.
4. **Enhance Wildlife** - making sure that wildlife and the environment is at the heart of our proposals.
5. **Be co-designed** - with the local community and stakeholders to take account of your views.
6. **Provide good quality housing for all** - that is also sustainable regardless of type and tenure.
7. **Deliver high quality open space** - at the centre of the community.
8. **Be deliverable** - We have 'Big Plans for a Great Place' and we will need to set the masterplan to ensure that it can be delivered.



Above image: The core principles for Brandhall Village

Our Draft Vision

Based on the above principles we have created a vision of what we think Brandhall Village should be. However, we want to ensure that this vision is shared and supported by local people at this early stage. Therefore your feedback on the draft vision is extremely important.



Above image: The Draft Vision for Brandhall Village



Design considerations

Flood risk and drainage

- There are areas of the site currently at risk of flooding as shown in the plan below.
- There are two potential flood risk zones shown - Flood Zone 2 and Flood Zone 3. Areas in Flood Zone 3 have a higher risk of flooding.
- Generally, areas at risk of flooding are at the lower levels of the site, close to Brandhall Brook.
- New development will need to avoid existing flood zones and consider drainage - providing areas to store and manage water run-off.
- Drainage ponds could be designed to also provide benefits for wildlife.

Habitats and wildlife

- Ecology and tree surveys have been carried out to identify important habitats and wildlife on site and to understand how we can protect them.
- The River Tame Wildlife Corridor crosses the site and acts as a movement route for wildlife.
- Belts of broadleaved semi-natural woodland are located throughout the site.
- There is a 'Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation' within the site which should be protected and enhanced.
- There are opportunities to enhance existing habitats and create new ones.

Utilities and easements

- The plan below sets out what utilities are present within the site, that the masterplan will need to respond to.
- A high pressure gas main and overhead power lines run along the western edge and a foul sewer runs along the watercourse and Parson's Hill Park to the east.
- Easements are areas that must be kept clear of development based on national guidelines.
- The masterplan will consider how close new development can be positioned to each of these features safely.



As a former golf course, much of the land is uneven and can be steep in places. There are also a large number of existing trees.



Western Boundary: Existing utilities will influence future development and we need to take account of noise and air quality issues near the M5.



Parson's Hill Park in the south east corner overlooks Wolverhampton Road and includes a multi use games area.

The motorway (M5)

- The traffic on the M5 motorway generates noise and affects air-quality.
- We are carrying out studies to understand these issues in more detail and understand how they may affect new development.
- These studies will also consider what measures are needed to reduce the impact of noise and air quality on the site.

Public access

- Two public rights of way currently cross the site in an east-west direction.
- The masterplan will consider whether these should be kept in the same place or if they should be diverted to follow a better path.
- The masterplan will look to increase accessibility and connections across the site for walking and cycling.

Neighbouring homes

- There are existing homes around the north, south and eastern edges of the site.
- The majority of homes face the site across a residential street. These may have views towards the site that are partly screened by trees.
- The masterplan should look to retain and enhance boundary vegetation where possible, for wildlife and to maintain a green character.
- A few homes back onto the site and the masterplan will need to consider how to secure these sensitive edges.

Site levels and heritage

- The plan to the right shows the existing site levels. There is a difference of approximately 30m from the highest to the lowest point.
- The masterplan will need to design development, paths and streets that work with the slopes.
- The changes in level, views and existing trees break up the site into areas which have different characters. This should also influence the layout of the development and new park positively.
- There is potential for archaeological assets to be present within the site and the masterplan will need respond sensitively in these locations.

Diagram showing the site levels





Masterplan Option 1

At this stage, there are different ideas for what should be included in Brandhall Village and how to arrange these uses on the site.

The plan below is the first of four masterplan options which show a mixture of homes, open spaces and community facilities. These are suggested to provide a range of realistic ideas for the site and with your help, we can develop a preferred option to take forward.

Creating a community

- Land for a new primary school could be located to the north-west of the site and accessed from Grafton Road.
- Opposite the school, there is opportunity to provide space for a few small shops / services at the centre of the community.
- A new community cafe could be provided on the site of the former clubhouse. This could become a popular meeting place and venue for the local community.

Green spaces and wildlife areas

- Parsons Hill Park is retained and a new, large linear park is created along Brandhall Brook. There are opportunities to create play areas, new ponds and wetland areas.
- Wide green corridors long the east and west boundary provide natural areas for wildlife and to create nature trails.
- Woodland breaks up development and creates pleasant, green routes and spaces around site.

Homes for all

- Housing of different densities (for example: apartments, town houses, detached and semi detached homes) are shown in different locations creating areas of different character.
- We have shown development facing onto the Brook and created a natural green corridor with housing overlooking. This will make it a safe green space for people to enjoy.
- This option suggests that a care for older people / assisted living could be provided to the east of the site, close to Parsons Park.

Walking, cycling and access

- Three vehicle access points are suggested (Grafton Road, Tame Road and Queensway), plus an emergency access (Brandhall Lane).
- Pedestrian and cycle routes provide strong links to Brandhall community facilities, Brandhall Primary School, Perryfields High School, Jubilee Play Area and Oldbury Academy to encourage active travel.
- Routes across the site are based on the site levels and desire lines for pedestrians and cyclists to access the area.
- The main vehicular routes are largely located within development parcels to reduce vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. They also avoid crossing Brandhall Brook to prevent rat-running.



How it might look...



Above image: Masterplan Option 1

Above images: Example pictures which show the types of uses and spaces Option 1 could include



Masterplan Option 2

Creating a community

- Community and local services are located to the east near Wolverhampton Road. This includes a small local centre with daily need shops and services which may benefit from passing trade as well as from residents.
- A community facility/cafe and community allotments could also be provided at this location, to promote a sense of community and allow people to grow their own food.
- Due to the proximity of Wolverhampton Road, there may also be potential to provide space for a new pub/micro-brewery here too.
- In this option, land for a new primary school is also provided to the east, close to the local facilities and accessed from Queensway.

Green spaces and wildlife areas

- A large new park is provided, which follows the brook and creates an open space at the centre of the site.
- The green spaces in Option 2 are more concentrated to the centre of the site, with additional green corridors running north-south through the site, linking to Jubilee park and play area.
- Generous green corridors to the eastern, northern and western boundaries are protected and enhanced creating areas for wildlife.
- The former clubhouse is demolished and incorporated into the new park as a play area.

- Parsons Hill Park and its facilities are relocated within the new central park.

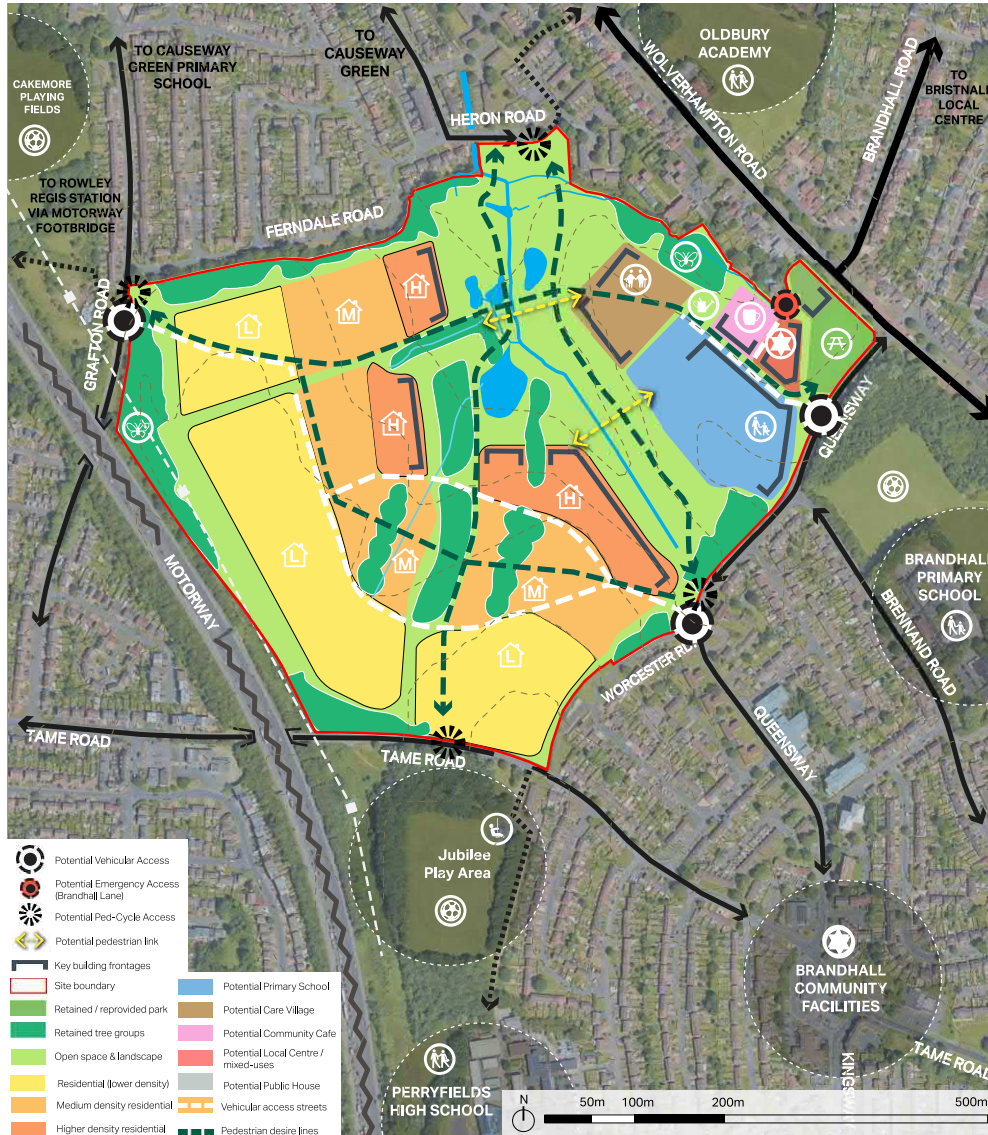
Homes for all

- In this option, homes are mostly located to the south and west of the site.
- The density of new homes reduces to the western and southern edges, whilst higher density development is located along the edge of the new park, providing a defined edge and overlooking.
- Care for older people / assisted living could be provided to the east, with views over the Brook, close to the community facilities.

Walking, cycling and access

- Three vehicle access points are provided (Grafton Road and two on Queensway), plus an emergency access (Brandhall Lane).
- Pedestrian / cycle connections link to the Brandhall community facilities, Jubilee Play Area, Brandhall Primary School, Perryfields High School and Oldbury Academy, encouraging active travel.
- Routes across the site are set out based on site levels and desire lines for pedestrians and cyclists to access the area.
- Main vehicular routes are located within development parcels to reduce vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. They also avoid crossing Brandhall Brook to prevent rat-running.

How it might look...



Above image: Masterplan Option 2

Above images: Example pictures which show the types of uses and spaces Option 2 could include



Masterplan Option 3

Creating a community

- A community cafe/ facility is provided at the centre of the site, within the new park, providing a meeting place for the community.
- Land for a new school is provided next to the community facility on the eastern end of the site.

Green spaces and wildlife areas

- A significant new central park is created which incorporates Brandhall Brook and large belts of existing woodland.
- The former clubhouse is demolished and replaced with new parkland and play area.
- Wide green corridors separate new development, retain tree belts and create attractive cycleways and footpaths.
- This option provides opportunity to create a trail around the edge of the site incorporating wildlife areas, which could include a trim trail to promote exercise and a nature trail to promote learning.
- Parsons Hill Park is maintained in its current location and linked to the new central park.

Homes for all

- In this option, homes wrap around the new central park, with higher density development placed to overlook the brook and

provide a defined edge to the park to ensure it is safe and overlooked.

- There is opportunity to integrate a care for older people / assisted living facility to the south east of the site, close to the new park and a short walk to the existing facilities at Brandhall.
- New homes will overlook green spaces helping to ensure overlooking and prevent anti-social behaviour.

Walking, cycling and access

- Three vehicle access points are provided (Grafton Road, Tame Road and Queensway), plus an additional emergency access (off Brandhall Lane).
- Pedestrian and cycle connections link to Wolverhampton Road, Brandhall Primary School, Jubilee Play Area, Brandhall community facilities, Perryfields High School and Oldbury Academy encouraging active travel.
- This option, maintains the alignment of the existing public rights of way by incorporating them into the new park and green corridors.
- Main vehicular routes are located within development parcels to reduce vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. They also avoid crossing Brandhall Brook to prevent rat-running.

How it might look...



Above image: Masterplan Option 3

Above images: Example pictures which show the types of uses and spaces Option 3 could include



Masterplan Option 4

Creating a community

- Community facilities in this option are located to the centre and north of the site.
- There is potential to create a small local centre, with daily shops and services located at the centre of the new community.
- Land for a new primary school is located to the south of the site and would be accessed from Tame Road.
- Although the site is fairly sloping, there may opportunity to provide some new sports pitches. These are shown to the west of the school in this option.

Green spaces and wildlife areas

- Rather than a consolidated central green space, this option provides a series of wide linear parks incorporating Brandhall Brook, existing woodland belts and natural boundaries to the west and east. This will create a series of linked green spaces rather than a single large open space.
- The option extends parkland to the northern boundary and assumes that the former club house would be demolished. There is opportunity to provide a new community orchard.
- Within this option, Parson's Hill Park is redeveloped and replacement facilities provided within the parkland, potentially on the site of the former clubhouse.

Homes for all

- Residential uses are distributed throughout the site, with higher density development (like apartments) located adjacent to Queensway.
- Densities of other areas - from medium (like town houses) to lower density development (like detached and semi-detached), with lower densities located towards the western and southern edges.
- Care for older people / assisted living could be provided to the east, with views over the Brook, close to the new local centre.

Walking, cycling and access

- There is opportunity to provide a circular walking route around the perimeter of the site, within a natural landscape setting which could incorporate a foraging trail and natural play areas.
- Pedestrian and cycle access points provide good links to Brandhall Primary School, Wolverhampton Road and Perryfields High School, Jubilee Play Area and Brandhall community facilities.
- Three vehicle access points are provided (Grafton Road, Queensway and Tame Road) plus a further emergency access point on Brandhall Lane.
- Main vehicular routes are located largely within development parcels to reduce vehicle dominance on the surrounding parkland. They also avoid crossing Brandhall Brook to prevent rat-running.

How it might look...



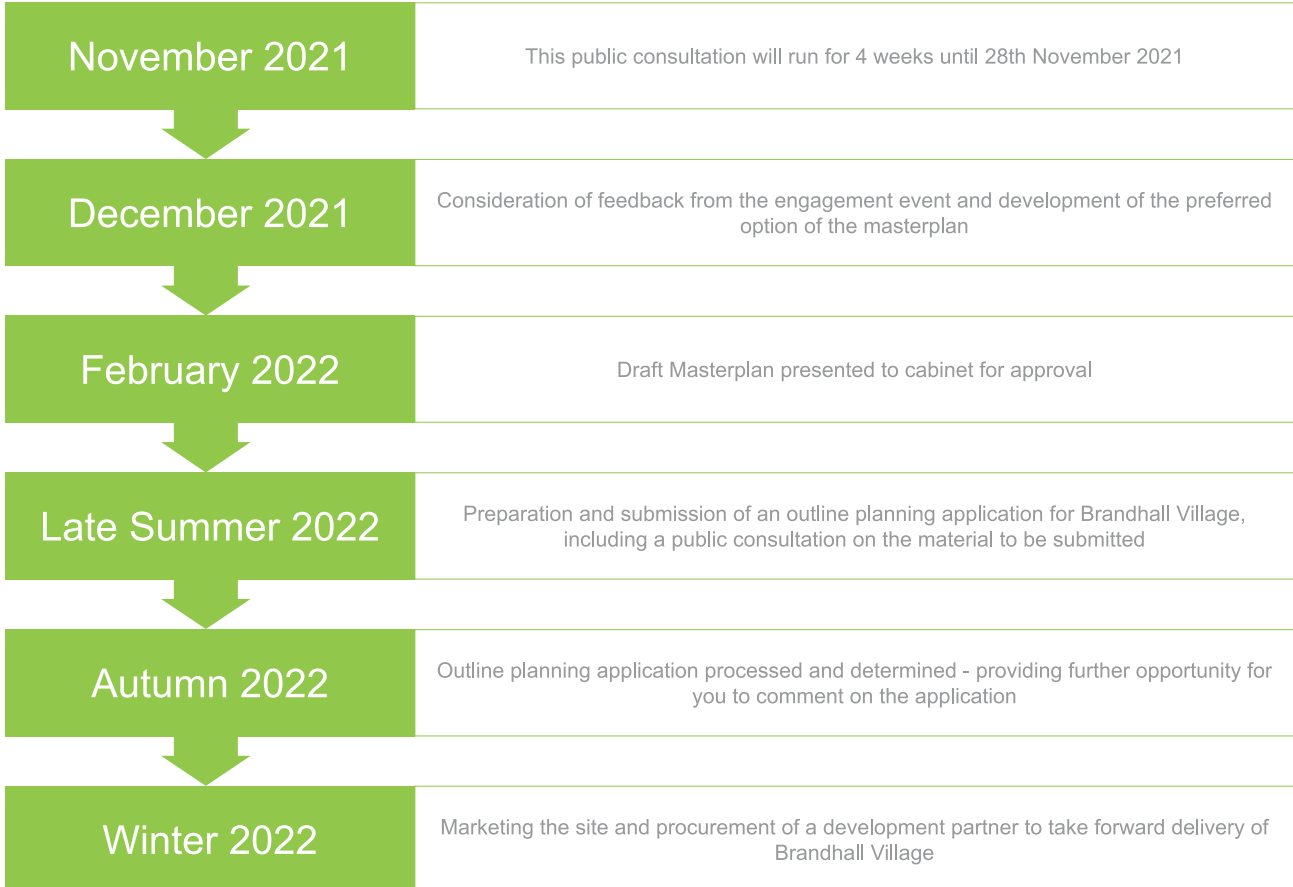
Above image: Masterplan Option 4

Above images: Example pictures which show the types of uses and spaces Option 4 could include



Next steps

The diagram below provides an understanding of what the next steps are and when they are planned to happen.



How to comment

We would welcome your views on what you have seen and heard in this public consultation to help shape the development of the masterplan.

Feedback forms are available at:
 Brandhall Library
 Tame Road, Oldbury
 B68 0JT
 to complete and leave in the box provided

Alternatively post the questionnaire to:
 Directorate of Regeneration and Growth,
 Sandwell Council, Council House,
 Oldbury B69 3DE

Go online and visit our virtual consultation and complete a feedback form:
www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall

Please return any comments by
Sunday 28th November 2021

Appendix A2 - Frequently Asked Questions Document

Brandhall Village – Frequently Asked Questions

What is Brandhall Village?

Our aspiration is that Brandhall Village will provide a large public park with a range of amenities, space for a primary school, new homes including affordable homes, pedestrian and cycle links and new areas for wildlife.

Who is developing the masterplan?

Sandwell Council has appointed AECOM to develop a masterplan for Brandhall Village, in consultation with the local community and stakeholders. AECOM will then work with Sandwell Council to develop an outline planning application for the site.

By developing a masterplan for Brandhall Village, working closely with the local community, we can set a clear vision for the site and use the masterplan as a tool to ensure that as future development comes forward, it aligns with the agreed development principles.

Who is the developer for the site?

At this stage, there are no developers on board.

However, we will test our masterplan with the market as it evolves to ensure that it is deliverable.

We are working to develop a masterplan which sets out our aspirational vision for Brandhall Village, which includes not only homes, but a large public park with a range of amenities, space for a primary school, pedestrian and cycle links and new areas for wildlife.

Should the development gain planning permission, the council would consider how best to deliver Brandhall Village.

What are the benefits of Brandhall Village to the local community?

Brandhall Village provides an opportunity to build much-needed homes, a brand-new public park, a school and local facilities. The park and facilities will be available to the existing community as well as residents of Brandhall Village.

How many new homes will be built at Brandhall Village?

As part of the masterplanning process, we're carefully considering the type and mix of homes that could be delivered at Brandhall Village. Once we know the type and mix of homes, and layout of the wider development, we will be able to estimate the number of homes that would be built.

What type of new homes would they be?

We envisage there could be a mix of tenures/ownerships on the site. Planning policy requires a minimum of 25% affordable housing. These could be affordable homes provided by registered providers of social housing, they could be council homes, or a mix of both.

Our aim is that Brandhall Village provides high quality housing that includes affordable homes, to meet the needs of current and future Sandwell residents.

To ensure the needs of local people are met, we are undertaking research on the local residential and wider development market in the early stages of our technical work.

How much and what percentage of the site do you envisage would be retained as green space after new homes and the school are built?

Feedback from the 2019 consultation favoured the option with the most open space. Therefore, we are proposing to retain approximately 25% of the site as formal open space.

This is the same amount as was proposed in the 2019 consultation - 8.5 hectares (equivalent to 14 football pitches). We recognise that accessible open space will be a key part of Brandhall Village.

Has the plan for Brandhall Village been finalised?

No, we are at masterplan development stage and as part of this we are keen to hear residents' views. The masterplan will then be finalised and used as part of any subsequent planning application.

The site has already been proposed for housing development in the draft Black Country Plan. What is the purpose of this consultation?

Although the site has been proposed for housing development in the draft Black Country Plan, there are still significant opportunities for the local community to influence the proposals.

Our vision for Brandhall Village incorporates not only new homes, but a large publicly accessible park, and space for a new primary school.

This consultation offers the local community an opportunity to influence key aspects of the masterplan including how the new Village will look, and the kinds of open space and any community facilities provided within it.

Environment / open space

Why can't the whole site become a park?

We are aware of suggestions that the entire site should become an open space. Currently, the site is not fully accessible to the public, aside from two existing rights of way. This means local people are not able to make use of this disused golf course as they would other local parks.

We are proposing to create the first new public park in Sandwell's 47-year history, which requires significant investment, and will only be possible through an enabling development of new homes. By bringing forward a mixed use for the site, we can deliver and maintain a park and associated amenities along with much needed affordable homes.

How will wildlife and trees on the site be protected?

We recognise how important the protection of local wildlife and habitats is to residents. As part of our work, we are committed to protecting the wildlife present on the site. Where possible, we will look to mitigate impacts, enhance existing habitats and create new habitats as part of this development.

We're currently undertaking a number of surveys on the site, and in the local area, to understand the wildlife and trees currently on the site so that this information can influence the layout of the masterplan.

The masterplan will show where trees are to be retained and where new trees should be planted. In accordance with planning policy, steps would need to be taken to mitigate the impact on any animals and birds using the site. Where possible, we will aim to enhance the landscape, including trees, as part of Brandhall Village.

How are you accounting for the wildlife on site?

We're currently undertaking a number of surveys on site to understand the wildlife present. These surveys are carried out by specialist ecologists in line with recognised standards and will inform the development of the masterplan and preparation of the Environmental Statement that we produce as part of the planning application.

How can I find the results of the surveys?

The results of surveys will be submitted as part of the planning application. All documents that form the Outline Planning Application will be publicly available once the application has been validated. The Planning Application, including an Environmental Statement, will be reviewed by independent specialists.

Would Parsons Hill Park be retained?

Some masterplan options retain Parsons Hill Park, in others it is developed and replaced within the new park. Feedback on this topic from stakeholders and the public is welcomed.

Why is Sandwell Council considering building on green space?

Brandhall Golf Course is currently classed as restricted because it is not fully accessible to the public. This means local people are not able to use this green space as they would other local parks. Now the golf course is formally closed, this provides an opportunity to consider opening part of the site to local people creating a fully accessible public park. By doing this, we would be making green space more accessible in the community.

Why is Sandwell Council considering building houses on a greenfield site when there are brownfield sites available? What brownfield sites have been/are being considered for new homes? / How does this fit with WMCA's / Mayor's brownfield first commitment?

The council has a brownfield first policy, meaning that brownfield sites should be considered for development first. All large brownfield sites are already allocated for housing, meaning that housing development would be supported on these sites.

The issue with some of the brownfield sites is that they are not viable for homes because of land contamination. The council is working with the landowners of brownfield sites, where possible, to support them to bring the site forward for housing. The council is also working with Partners to bring forward contaminated sites for housing development using grant funding from the West Midlands Combined Authority.

However, should the housing supply from all allocated sites be brought forward, which may not be possible, there would still be a shortfall in terms of the council's current targets for housing need. The development of greenfield sites does therefore need to be considered to meet this housing shortfall.

Has the council considered the flood risk on the site and how this could affect developing it for housing?

We recognise the concerns of the local community with regard to flooding in the local area and on the Brandhall Village site. As part of the outline planning application, we will develop a Flood Risk Assessment to understand both existing risk and also how future development may impact upon this. We will also develop a drainage strategy which will be developed alongside the masterplan and integrate sustainable mitigation to any potential flooding issues.

Wouldn't a new park just encourage more anti-social behaviour?

We would ensure through the design, management and usage of the park that it provides the opportunity for people to engage in positive activities. We would work with our Anti-Social Behaviour teams to ensure that this has a positive impact on the local community.

Local facilities

What would happen to the existing Causeway Green Primary site if it gets replaced?

Should the school be relocated, and the existing school site become surplus, the council will look to develop an option appraisal for the future use of the site. In principle, housing would be considered appropriate as it is within a predominantly residential area, however, the vehicular access to the site would require further consideration.

What and where would extra school places be provided for children who will live at Brandhall Village?

If planning approval for any residential development was granted, and the type of housing confirmed, the council would look at the number of potential school places new homes might create. Over recent years, the council has expanded a number of local primary and secondary schools in response to a significant birth rate across the borough.

Demand for school places has eased with a fall in the latest birth rates, which will lead to a manageable surplus of places in schools that could accommodate any new demand following occupation of any new homes.

How will the council ensure that everybody has adequate access to local services (GPs etc)?

The council works with its partners, including the National Health Service at its regional level, to assess the potential levels of future demand for community services as a result of any redevelopment and compare it with the levels of existing provision. Any areas of potential shortfall of provision that are identified would then be a priority to be addressed by the partners.

Would the road network be redesigned/new roads be built to cope with extra traffic? Our planning application would include a Transport Assessment to identify the impact on the surrounding highway network. This would include an estimate on the amounts of traffic that would be generated by each element of any redevelopment and at what times that traffic would likely travel (through past experience and using industry standard evaluation tools).

Existing base traffic levels would be collected through surveys and then the impact of any new additional traffic to the network would be modelled to assess what mitigation would be required to negate that impact. This could include junction improvements, new roads and junctions, improved pedestrian crossing facilities and other highway safety improvements, depending on the finding of the study.

Consultation and timescales

When will the public consultation be?

We will be collecting feedback from the public consultation throughout November and welcome the opportunity to hear your views.

Should a planning application be submitted, statutory public consultation would be undertaken by the Local Planning Authority.

How will the views of the local community be taken into account?

Following the consultation, we'll review all the responses and use the feedback wherever possible to develop the final masterplan.

When will you submit the planning application?

We expect to submit an outline planning application in mid-to-late 2022.

When would building start?

It is too early at this stage to provide construction timescales. However, we will keep stakeholders and the local community updated as the project progresses.

A3 Feedback Form

Brandhall Village

Thank you for taking the time to view our emerging plans for Brandhall Village. We really appreciate your interest and involvement. We're committed to making sure the masterplan responds to local needs and makes an important and positive contribution to the local community. Your feedback is vital to shaping our plans.

The deadline for feedback is **Sunday 28 November**, so we would be very grateful if you could complete your form by then.

For more information, please visit our consultation webpage here where you can view all the materials – www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall.

Data privacy

We recognise how important it is to protect the privacy of your information. All responses received will be stored and subject to General Data Protection Regulations. For more detail on how we store your data, please visit Sandwell Council's Privacy Notice here: www.sandwell.gov.uk/privacynotice.

1. Postcode: _____

2. Which of the below statements best describes you?

- Local resident
- Local business owner, or work locally
- Elected member
- Responding on behalf of an organisation (community, sports club, education etc)
- Other

Please specify: _____

3. What is your age?

- Under 25
- 25 to 34
- 35 to 44
- 45 to 54
- 55 to 64
- 65 to 64
- 65 and over
- Prefer not to say

4. Which of the following groups do you consider you belong to?

- | | |
|---|---|
| <input type="checkbox"/> White – British | <input type="checkbox"/> Bangladeshi |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White – Irish | <input type="checkbox"/> Chinese |
| <input type="checkbox"/> White – Gypsy or Irish Traveller | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Asian background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any other White background | <input type="checkbox"/> Black – Caribbean |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed – White & Black Caribbean | <input type="checkbox"/> Black – African |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed – White & Black African | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other Black background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mixed – White & Asian | <input type="checkbox"/> Arab |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Any other mixed background | <input type="checkbox"/> Any other background |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Indian | <input type="checkbox"/> Prefer not to say |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Pakistani | |

Vision for Brandhall Village

5. Do you share the aspirations set out within the vision for Brandhall Village (create a sense of place, reduce the impact on our climate, ensure education provision, protect and enhance wildlife, be co-designed, provide good quality housing for all, deliver good quality open space and be deliverable)?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

6. What are your top three priorities in the vision? Please specify your preference with '1' being the most preferred and '3' the least preferred.

| Aspiration | Ranking (please only rank three aspirations on a scale of 1 to 3) |
|--------------------------------------|--|
| Create a sense of place | |
| Reduce the impact on our climate | |
| Ensure education provision | |
| Protect and enhance wildlife | |
| Be co-designed | |
| Provide good quality housing for all | |
| Deliver good quality open space | |
| Be deliverable | |

7. Is there anything you would like to add to the vision?

Please specify: _____

8. We understand from speaking with local people that some concerns have been raised about the proposals. We are carefully considering the points listed below and, to help with shaping our plans, we would like to hear which issues are most important to you. Please specify your preference with '1' being the most preferred and '3' the least preferred.

| Issue | Ranking (please only rank three issues on a scale of 1 to 3) |
|------------------------|---|
| Flood mitigation | |
| Protecting wildlife | |
| Preserving trees | |
| Preserving green space | |
| Traffic management | |

Accessible new park

9. Do you support proposals for a new publicly accessible park?

- Strongly support
- Support
- Neutral
- Oppose
- Strongly Oppose

10. What sort of features would you like to see included in the park? Please could you indicate how important these features are to you in the table below?

| Feature | Not important | Somewhat important | Neutral | Important | Very important |
|--|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Children's play facilities | | | | | |
| Sports areas | | | | | |
| Woodlands | | | | | |
| Fitness / trim trail | | | | | |
| Nature trail | | | | | |
| Wetlands | | | | | |
| Allotments | | | | | |
| Cycle and pedestrian paths | | | | | |
| Areas for nature and wildlife habitats | | | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |
| None (please tick if you would not like to see any of the features listed above) | | | | | |

New homes

11. Do you agree with proposals to build new homes within Brandhall Village, including a minimum of 25% affordable?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

12. What types of homes would you like to see included in Brandhall Village? Please could you indicate how important each type/tenure of housing is to you, in the table below?

| Type | Not important | Somewhat important | Neutral | Important | Very important |
|---|---------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|----------------|
| Family homes | | | | | |
| Homes for first-time buyers | | | | | |
| Care for older people | | | | | |
| Self-build | | | | | |
| Sustainable homes | | | | | |
| Shared ownership | | | | | |
| Lifetime homes | | | | | |
| Council homes (social rent) | | | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |
| None (please tick if you would not like to see any new homes) | | | | | |

Community facilities

13. Do you think Brandhall Village should include community facilities?

- Yes
- No
- Not sure

14. Please could you indicate how important each community facility is to you, in the table below?

| Feature | Not important | Somewhat important | Neutral | Important | Very important |
|---|----------------------|---------------------------|----------------|------------------|-----------------------|
| Space for a new primary school | | | | | |
| Community cafe | | | | | |
| Orchard | | | | | |
| Local pub | | | | | |
| Shops | | | | | |
| Health facilities (e.g. doctors' surgery) | | | | | |
| Allotments | | | | | |
| Other (please specify) | | | | | |
| None (please tick if you do not support the inclusion of any of these facilities) | | | | | |

Masterplan options

15. After looking at the four masterplan options, do you have a preference? Please rank the options, with '1' being the option you most prefer.

| Masterplan | Preference (with '1' being the highest) |
|---------------------|---|
| Masterplan option 1 | |
| Masterplan option 2 | |
| Masterplan option 3 | |
| Masterplan option 4 | |
| None of the options | |

16. Please list your reasons for your ranking (e.g. central open space, school site location, routes through the site etc.).

17. Do you have any further comments on the proposals for Brandhall Village?

Thank you for taking the time to fill out this questionnaire. Your feedback is very important to us and will help shape the masterplan for Brandhall Village.

For further updates on the project, please visit our dedicated webpage here. You can also get in touch by emailing brandhallurbanvillage@aecom.com

Appendix B1 – Letter to local resident

Monday 1 November 2021

Dear resident,

I am writing to invite you to take part in our public consultation on the proposed Brandhall Village, to be sited on the former Brandhall Golf Course.

Our proposals for Brandhall Village include a brand-new large public park with a range of amenities, space for a new primary school and much-needed new homes. The site will also include areas for wildlife and introduce new pedestrian and cycle links.

We're currently developing a masterplan for Brandhall Village and we are keen to hear residents' views on our plans so far. This consultation offers you, as a local resident, the opportunity to influence key aspects of our masterplan, including how the new Village will look, the kinds of open space to be included and any community facilities provided within it.

We're welcoming feedback on our proposals from Monday 1 November 2021 to Sunday 28 November 2021.

Throughout this period, information about the scheme will be available on our website (www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall) where there will also be the opportunity to provide feedback via our online survey. In addition to our website, printouts of our consultation material will also be kept at Brandhall Library, to view at your leisure.

We will be launching a **virtual consultation room from Monday 8 November 2021**, where you can view information about the development, and our current masterplan options. This room will be available 24/7 and will also contain a link to our online survey.

We will also be holding a face-to-face consultation event on Tuesday 16 November 2021 at Brandhall Library, Tame Road, Oldbury, B68 0JT. This event will present the same information as our virtual consultation room but will also provide the opportunity to ask any questions you may have directly to the project team. We will also be welcoming feedback at this event, should you be unable to provide feedback online.

There will be measures in place at our event to ensure it is COVID-19 secure. However, if you are feeling unwell, or experience any COVID-19 symptoms in the 10 days leading to our event, please may we ask you not to attend. All of our consultation materials can be found online, and printed copies will be available on request.

Consultation activities

| Location | Date | Time |
|---|-----------------------------|--|
| Consultation material available on Sandwell Council's website | From Monday 1 November 2021 | Throughout the consultation period |
| Brandhall Library (consultation material printouts) | From Monday 1 November 2021 | Throughout the consultation period |
| Virtual Consultation Room | From Monday 8 November 2021 | 24hrs a day, 7 days a week. |
| Face-to-face consultation at Brandhall Library | Tuesday 16 November 2021 | Session 1: 12 noon to 3.30pm Session 2: 4.30pm to 8pm |

We will review all responses to our consultation, and this feedback will be used to inform further development of the masterplan as we prepare an outline planning application.

To share your feedback, please complete a questionnaire via our website or at our event. You can also contact us at brandhallurbanvillage@aecom.com or write to us at Directorate of Regeneration and Growth, Sandwell Council, Council House, Oldbury B69 3DE.

We very much hope you will take part in our consultation and we look forward to hearing your views on our vision for Brandhall Village.

Yours sincerely,



Tony McGovern
Director of Regeneration and Growth

Regeneration and Growth
Tony McGovern - Director of Regeneration and Growth
Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, West Midlands. B69 3DE
www.sandwell.gov.uk

Appendix B2 – Email sent to key stakeholders

Subject: Brandhall Village - public consultation

Dear [name],

We are writing to you today, as someone who we have previously engaged with on our scheme, to invite you to take part in our public consultation on the proposed Brandhall Village, to be sited on the former Brandhall Golf Course.

Please find a letter attached, which has been sent to local residents, which provides details of our consultation and tells you how you can share your views on the scheme.

As detailed in the letter, if you would like to find out further information about our vision for Brandhall Village, please visit our website at: www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall

We very much hope you will take part in our consultation and we look forward to hearing your views on our vision for Brandhall Village.

Kind regards,

[name]

Consultant, Stakeholder Engagement Services

AECOM

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Appendix C - Consultation Zone

Appendix D - Press Releases

Brandhall Consultation press releases

There's still time for the community to give their views on plans for former Brandhall Golf Course (19/11/21)

Local people still have time to take part in the public consultation on future plans for the former Brandhall Golf Course in Oldbury.

The consultation runs until 28 November and enables people living and working in the Brandhall area to give their views on what they would like to see at the site, and to choose from four detailed options of how Brandhall Village could be designed.

Following the closure of the golf course in 2020, a masterplan for the site is now being developed in consultation with the local community.

Brandhall Village could provide a large new public park – the first new park in Sandwell's 47-year history – together with a range of amenities, space for a new replacement school for Causeway Green Primary School, new high-quality homes including affordable homes, pedestrian and cycle links and dedicated areas for wildlife.

Sandwell has a 'brownfield first' policy for development but even using all brownfield sites available will leave a significant shortfall in how many new homes the government has calculated Sandwell will need by 2039. Brandhall Village provides an opportunity to improve housing options in the area.

The main benefits of Brandhall Village for the local community are:

- Delivering much-needed homes
- Creating significant new public open space
- Ensuring education provision – through the new school
- Creating new routes that promote active travel
- Enhancing habitats for wildlife.

Councillor Iqbal Padda, cabinet member for regeneration and growth, said: "I want to thank everyone who has already taken the time to contribute to the Brandhall Village consultation. The two well-attended consultation events at Brandhall Library, and online engagements, have provided valuable inputs that will help us with the masterplan."

Councillor Maria Crompton, Sandwell Council's Deputy Leader, said: "We are still keen to hear residents' views, and the remaining days of the consultation provide the local community with further opportunities to influence key aspects of the masterplan."

To take part in the consultation and to read answers to some frequently asked questions, go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall on the council's website. A virtual Consultation Room is available via a link on that webpage.

Consultation material will also be available at Brandhall Library, Bleakhouse Library and Langley Library until the end of the consultation period during [library opening hours](#).

Community invited to influence key aspects of Brandhall Village development (9/11/21)

People living and working in the Brandhall area can still give their views on what they would like to see at the site of the former Brandhall Golf Course in Oldbury, as part of a public consultation that runs until 28 November.

People can have their say online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall where a virtual Consultation Room is now available to see how the future Brandhall Village could look.

The virtual consultation room is designed to replicate the information people can view in person at Brandhall Library throughout the consultation. The room provides an easy way to view the exhibition boards and masterplan options, while also being able to provide feedback, from the comfort of your own home.

Face-to-face drop-in consultation sessions will also take place at Brandhall Library in Tame Road, Oldbury, on Tuesday 16 November.

Brandhall Village could provide a large new public park – the first new park in Sandwell's 47-year history – together with a range of amenities, space for a new replacement school for Causeway Green Primary School, new high-quality homes including affordable homes, pedestrian and cycle links and new areas for wildlife.

Sandwell Council is inviting people living and working in the Brandhall area to give their views on what they would like to see at the site – and to choose from four detailed options of how Brandhall Village could be designed.

Following the closure of the golf course in 2020, a masterplan for the site is now being developed in consultation with the local community, which will help with a future outline planning application and guide the development of this site.

For the local community the main benefits of the proposed Brandhall Village would be:

- Creating significant new public open space
- Ensuring education provision – through the new school
- Creating new routes that promote active travel
- Enhancing habitats for wildlife
- Delivering much-needed homes.

Sandwell has a 'brownfield first' policy for development but even using all brownfield sites available will leave a significant shortfall in how many new homes the government has calculated Sandwell will need by 2039. Brandhall Village provides an opportunity to improve housing options for local people.

Councillor Iqbal Padda, Sandwell Council's cabinet member for regeneration and growth, said: "We invite the local community to influence key aspects of the Brandhall Village masterplan. We are at the early stages of developing the masterplan and the purpose of this consultation is to share our ambitions, draft vision and masterplan options and to hear local residents and workers' views.

"This is an opportunity for residents and workers to shape how Brandhall Village could look, to set a clear vision for the site, and the kinds of open space and any facilities provided within it."

Face-to-face drop-in consultation sessions will take place at Brandhall Library in Tame Road, Oldbury, on Tuesday 16 November, between 12pm and 3.30pm and another session between 4.30pm and 8pm. These provide an opportunity to direct questions to the project team.

Consultation material is available at Brandhall Library throughout the consultation period during [library opening times](#).

Community asked for views on future plans for former Brandhall Golf Course (1/11/21)

Local people can have their say on future plans for the former Brandhall Golf Course in Oldbury in a public consultation which will be launched on 1 November 2021.

Brandhall Village could provide a large new public park – the first new park in Sandwell's 47-year history – together with a range of amenities, space for a new replacement school for Causeway Green Primary School, new high-quality homes including affordable homes, pedestrian and cycle links and new areas for wildlife.

Sandwell Council is inviting people living and working in the Brandhall area to give their views on what they would like to see at the site – and to choose from four detailed options of how Brandhall Village could be designed.

Following the closure of the golf course in 2020, a masterplan for the site is now being developed in consultation with the local community, which will help with a future outline planning application.

The council recognises the importance of accessible open space for local residents and its plan is to keep 8.5 hectares of formal open space – equivalent to 14 football pitches.

The main benefits of Brandhall Village for the local community are:

- Creating significant new public open space
- Ensuring education provision – through the new school
- Creating new routes that promote active travel
- Enhancing habitats for wildlife

- Delivering much-needed homes.

Councillor Iqbal Padda said: “We are at the early stages of developing the masterplan and the purpose of this consultation is to share our ambitions, draft vision and masterplan options.

“No decisions have been taken. We are offering the local community an opportunity to influence key aspects of the masterplan, including how the new Brandhall Village could look and the kinds of open space and any community facilities provided within it.

“We understand that this is a very important site for the local community. Our key priority is to make sure the masterplan responds positively to concerns, priorities and aspirations for the site.

“We believe that the development of Brandhall Village has the potential to bring significant benefits to local people. It provides an opportunity to not only build much-needed homes, but also to create a brand new public park, and local facilities, including a new replacement primary school. The park and facilities would be available to the existing community as well as residents of Brandhall Village.

“We are really keen to hear residents’ views. By working closely with the local community, we can set a clear vision for the site.”

The masterplan also sets out a number of important principles to guide the future development of this site.

Currently, the former golf course site is not fully accessible to the public, apart from two existing rights of way. This means local people are not able to make use of this space as they would other local parks.

Councillor Padda added: “We are proposing to create the first new public park in Sandwell’s 47-year history, with facilities, play areas and natural green spaces that people can enjoy. This requires significant investment. By developing part of the site, we can deliver and maintain a park and its facilities.

“Causeway Green Primary School is aging and is coming to the end of its economic life. Recent flooding issues have caused significant disruption to education. We have the opportunity to deliver a brand new primary school which will replace the existing school and provide new learning facilities.

“We understand that the site provides an important home for wildlife. By preparing a masterplan, we can understand and protect important habitats and mitigate any potential impacts by creating new habitats.”

Sandwell has a ‘brownfield first’ policy for development but even using all brownfield sites available will leave a significant shortfall in how many new homes the Government has calculated Sandwell will need by 2039. Brandhall Village provides an opportunity to improve housing options for local people.

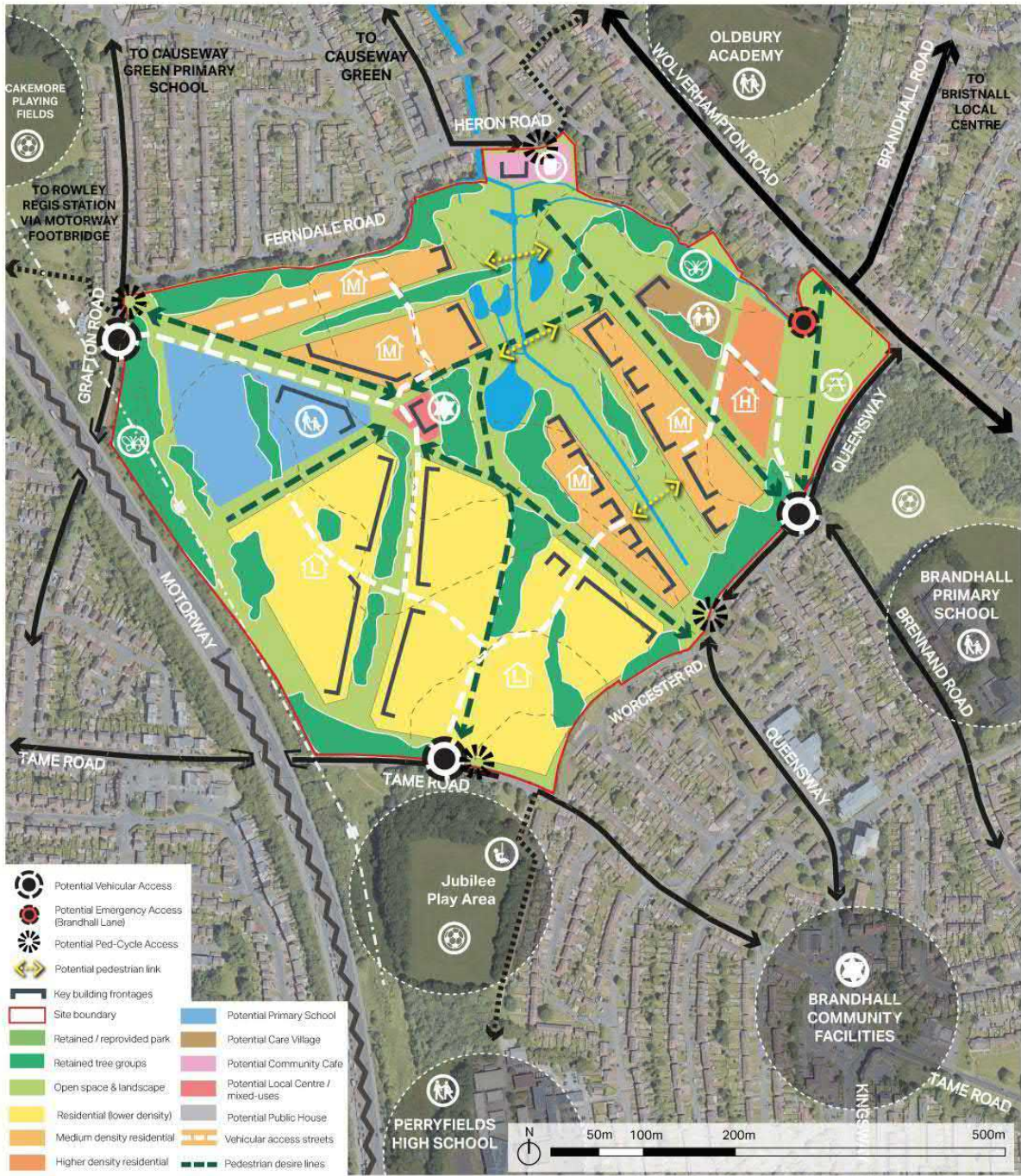
To take part in the consultation – which runs until 28 November– and to read answers to some frequently asked questions – go to www.sandwell.gov.uk/brandhall on the council’s website. A virtual Consultation Room will be available via a link on this webpage from 8 November.

There will also be a face to face consultation at Brandhall Library, Tame Road, Oldbury on Tuesday 16 November, between 12:00pm and 3:30pm and another session between 4:30pm and 8:00pm to provide an opportunity to direct questions to the project team. Consultation material will be available at Brandhall Library throughout the consultation period.

Notes to Editor

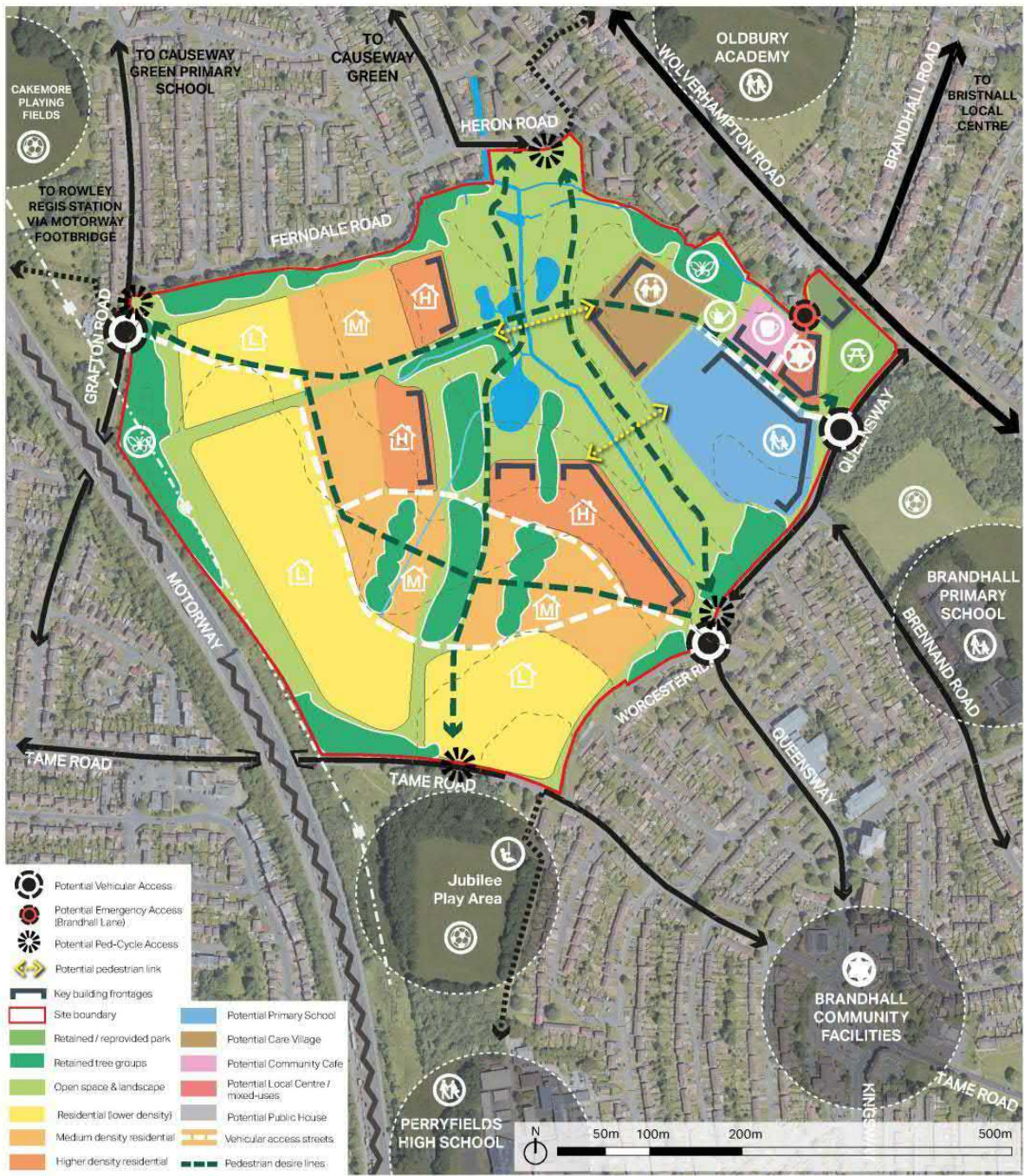
Attached are images of the four options for the Brandhall Village public consultation:

Public consultation option one (below).



Above image: Masterplan Option 1

Public consultation option two (below).

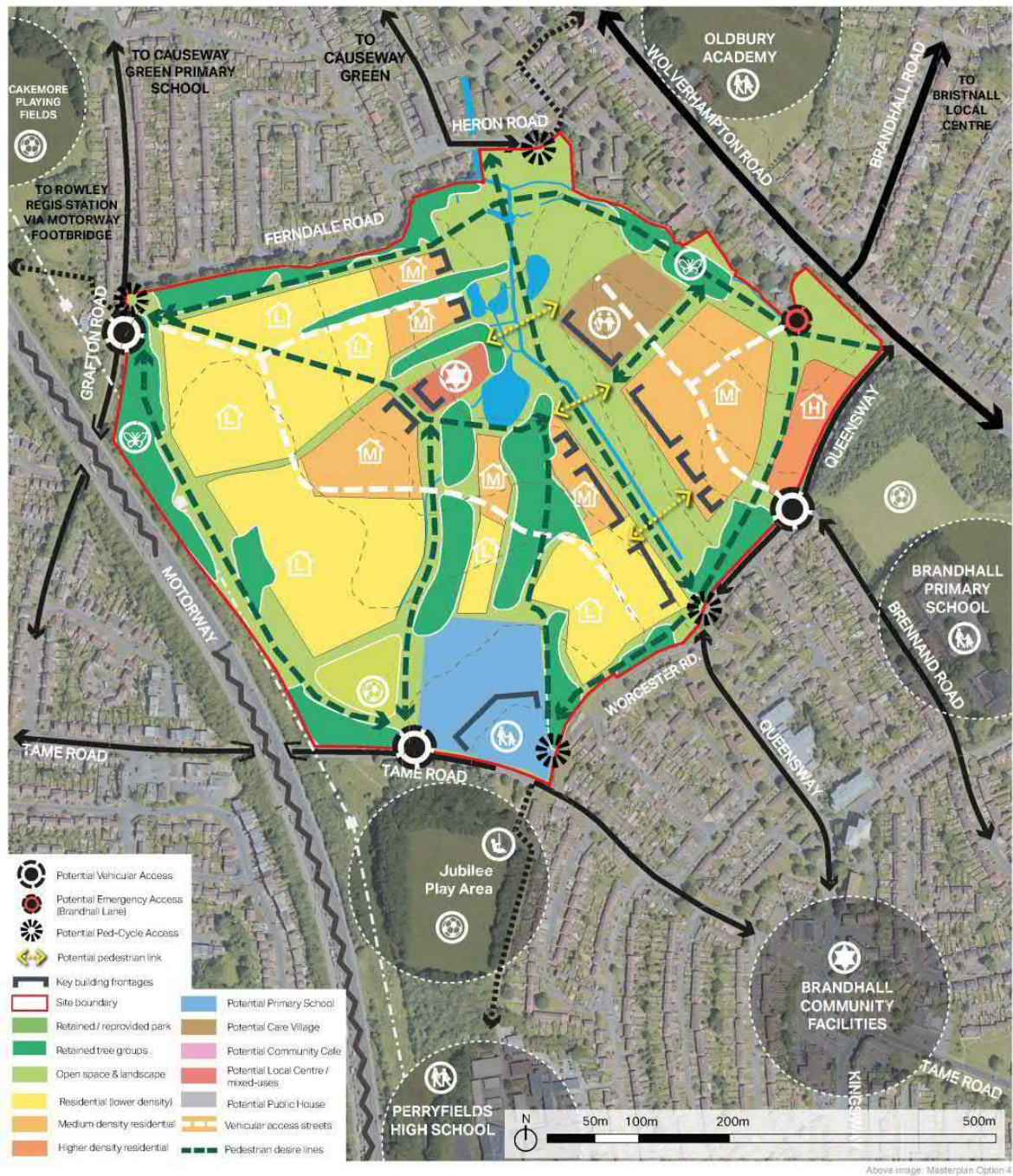


Public consultation option three (below).



Above image - Masterplan Option 3

Public consultation option four (below).



Above image: Masterplan Option 4

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Condition Assessment

Site Name: Causeway Green Primary School – Photographic Record of Condition

23 May 2022

PLATE 1

- Locations 24 - 31
- Original asphalt roofs accounting for approximately 50% of total flat roof coverings;
- Solar reflective paint barely visible therefore roofs subject to high solar gain resulting in thermal shock;
- Poor application of solar paint resulting in fine alligator cracking of asphalt surface;
- Thermal shock results in significant deep cracking to asphalt allowing water ingress;
- Ponding present due to inadequate falls/historic settlement resulting in algal growth and accelerated deterioration of asphalt;
- Overlay single-ply membrane recommended within 2 years.



PLATE 2

- Locations B – H & 41 – 47; 40 & 94
- Asphalt roofs (inc. (49 - 96) with faded solar protection and significant alligator cracking;
- Felt roofs to (40), (94) and (68 - 84) in fair condition but likely 25 years old and well beyond life-expectancy of 15 years.
- Asphalt roofs require overlay within next 2 years, felt roofs within 5 years.



PLATE 3

- Timber fascias and soffits generally;
- Softwood fascias suffering moderate-to-severe decay requiring replacement or over-cladding;
- Soffits potentially ACM's generally in poor condition with badly flaking paintwork requiring removal and replacement if ACM or over-cladding if ply or cement-based. Complete redecoration.



PLATE 4

- As Plate 3



PLATE 5

- Pre-cast concrete soffits generally;
- Extensive spalling concrete due to inadequate cover depth and expansion of steel reinforcement due to rusting and caused by carbonation process;
- Remove all spalling sections, wire-brush loose rust, treat with inhibitor and make good with resin-based concrete prior to re-decoration.



PLATE 6

- Location 18 & 23
- Excessive deflection to concrete frame beam with stress cracking to concrete;
- Install intermediate steel supports to reduce span & rake-and-fill cracks with resin-based compound.



PLATE 7

- Location A (Kitchen)
- Spalling and exfoliating concrete to soffit caused by concrete carbonation, all as per Plate 5.



PLATE 8

- Location (94) Hall, (J) Dining Hall, (40) Gym & sundry locations
- Crittall metal framed windows, single glazed. Subject to solar gain in summer and high heat loss & condensation in winter. Opening casements prone to twisting & difficult to open & failing fasteners. Recommend phased replacement over next 5 years.



PLATE 9

- External Stores and secondary rooms around school;
- Metal frame window inserts in timber sub-frame. As Plate 8 windows subject to high heat loss & condensation issues. Recommend phased replacement over next 5 years.



PLATE 10

- External Store
- Isolated timber doors & frame. Doors in poor condition and beyond economic repair. Recommend replacement with flush ply-faced doors in softwood frame within next 2 years.



PLATE 11

- Location (94) – Replicated Locations (J) & (48)
- Original wood block floors set in herringbone pattern. Blocks badly worn and subject to previous sanding and varnishing regime. Consult flooring specialist for advice on whether renewal is necessary. Recommend refurbishment within 2 years.



PLATE 12

- Infants Generally – concrete ceiling/roof structure.
- Concrete roofs to later Infant Block. Light cracking most likely due to shrinkage of concrete but deflection also possible. Plastic compound finish may contain ACM's so care must be taken with any remedial repairs. Dry-lining with insulated plasterboard preferred solution.



PLATE 13

- Various locations to Infant Block concrete roof/ceiling structure.
- Black mould predominantly at external wall junctions probably caused by condensation formed from cold-bridging with external wall resulting in mould growth on damp surfaces. Can be managed in the short-term by applying biocidal solution but improving insulation levels and ventilation is preferred method of managing black mould.



PLATE 14

- Ceiling/Roof construction to Junior Block and Halls & Gym;
- Consist of channel reinforced woodwool slabs spanning between steel lattice beams with painted self-finish and asphalt roof finish. Utilitarian in looks and subject to high heat-loss therefore recommendation is to underline with insulated suspended ceiling tile system with new LED lighting taking care to ensure void is ventilated to prevent condensation and black mould outbreak in void.
- Work recommended on phased basis over the next 5 years.



PLATE 15

- Staff Toilets
- Original sanitaryware and dated cubicle partitioning requiring refurbishment to modern standards.



PLATE 16

- Original heat emitters & pipework.
- Boiler replaced circa 2016 but efficiency hampered by existing emitters and pipework. Pipework likely to suffer corrosion within floor voids so leakage anticipated long-term and ACM's may be present in the form of lagging. Advise phased replacement within 5-years.



PLATE 17

- Junior main playground;
- Tarmacadam in advanced stage of deterioration with extensive alligator cracking and fretting surface. Re-surfacing recommended within 12 months to avoid more expensive reconstruction work.



PLATE 18

- Junior rear playground;
- Tarmacadam in very poor condition with extensive cracking and breaking-up of surface, As with main playground resurfacing urgently required to prevent more expensive reconstruction work.



PLATE 19

- Main entrance tarmacadam driveway;
- Road surface in poor condition with extensive cracking and breaking-up of surface. As with playgrounds re-surfacing required in near future to prevent more expensive reconstruction work.



PLATE 20

- Tarmacadam car park;
- As Plate 19 comment.



PLATE 21

- Boundary Fencing;
- Plastic-coated chain-link fencing on metal posts and paneled fencing backing on to houses. Failing low-security fencing with broken straining wire and buckled panels. Fencing where necessary to be replaced to meet safeguarding concerns. Masonry boundary walls require minor repair and re-pointing.



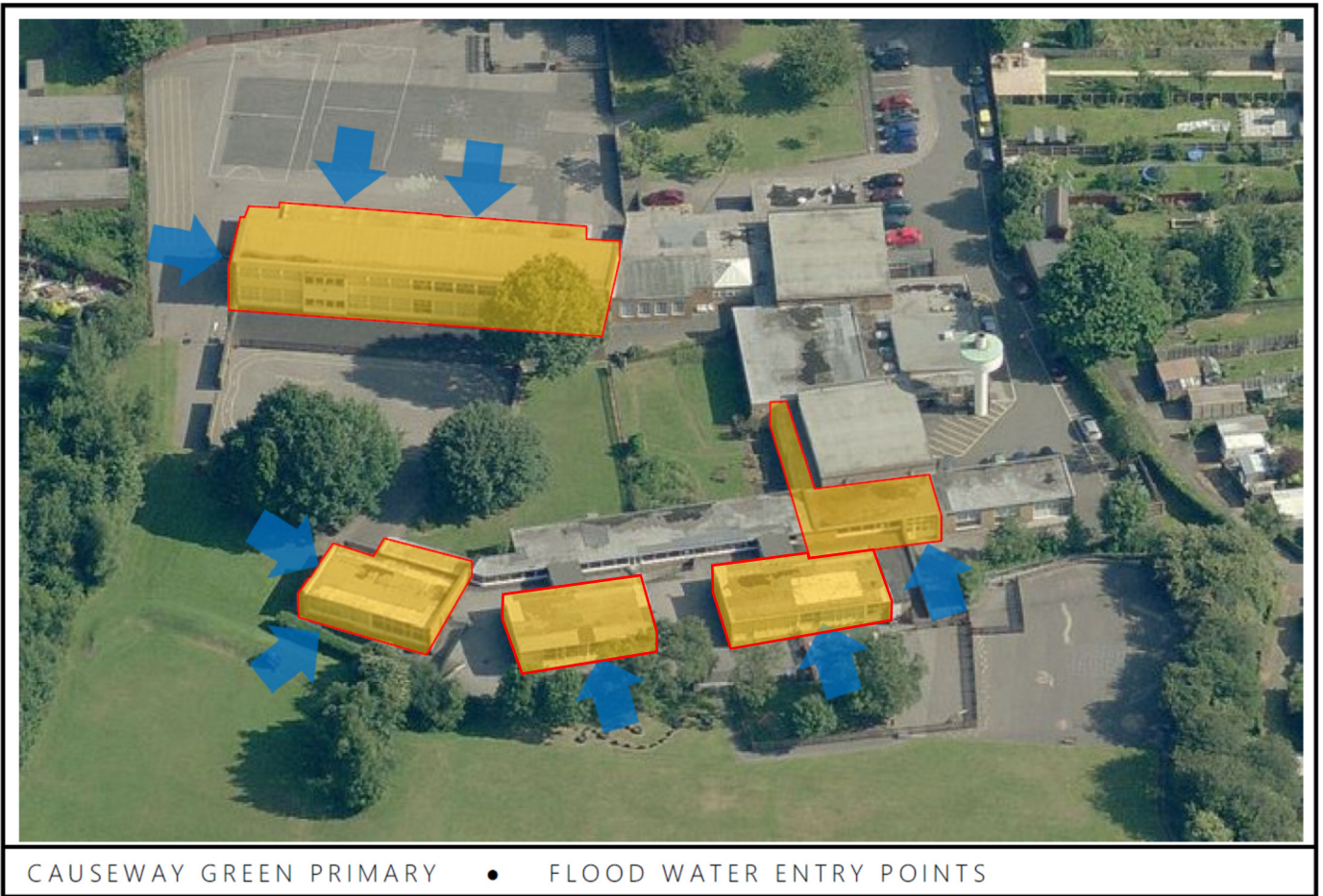
PLATE 22

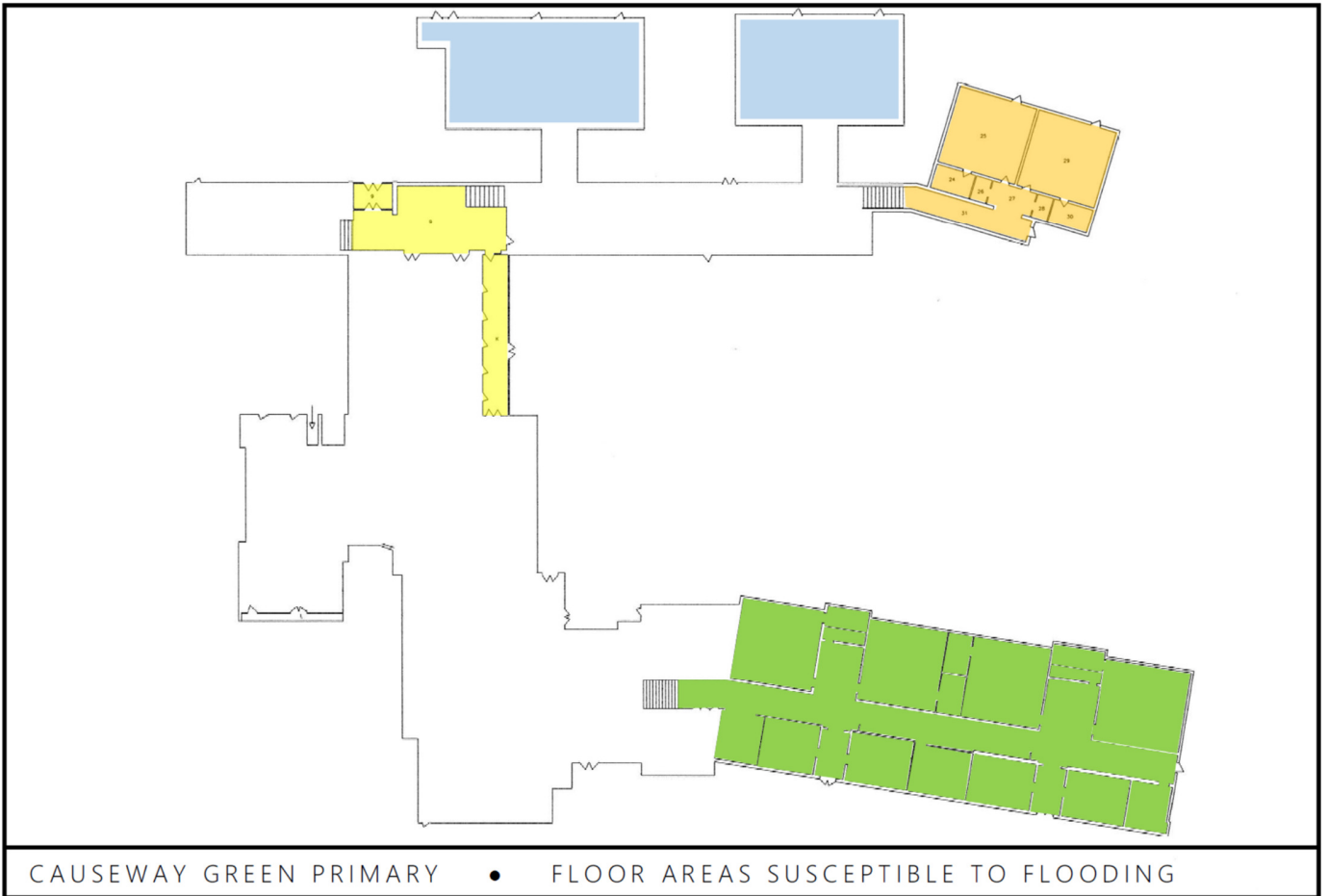
- Boundary Fencing;
- As Plate 21. Any safeguarding weaknesses to be addressed within 12 months.



| | |
|-------------|--|
| APPENDICIES | |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (A) – REPLACEMENT ROOF AREAS |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (B) – FLOOD WATER ENTRY POINTS |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (C) – INTERNAL LOCATIONS SUSCEPTIBLE TO FLOODING |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (D) – EXECUTIVE SUMMARY |
| | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● (E) – BUDGET COSTS |
| | |







School built in 1953 with mixture of Hills system-built (predominantly Junior school) and traditional construction, (Infants). The Hills facade was originally clad in concrete planks however as a result of failure the cladding was replaced with metal composite panels 12 years ago. The school is built on a sloping site with numerous level changes making access around the site difficult for disabled personnel.

The facing brickwork is generally in good condition. The Crittall fenestration requires replacement to the dining hall and gyms and secondary rooms, with twisted frames creating difficulty in opening, large solar gain in the summer and severe condensation in the winter months. The primary external entrance doors have been replaced in aluminium though a few timber doors and frames exist.

The roof construction is a mixture of reinforced concrete and woodwool slabs. Approximately 50% of the asphalt & felt roofs require replacement. The fascias and soffits are in poor condition requiring replacement.

We would anticipate a low building energy efficiency rating with only areas of new cladding being insulated.

Internally the school is dated and in need of refurbishment. The ceilings show evidence of previous roof leaks and black mould, the internal doors and hardware are worn and deteriorated, fittings are dated, and major redecoration is required. The sanitary accommodation has benefitted from recent refurbishment though staff facilities are poor.

The heating system has had the boilers replaced within the last 10 years though the distribution heating and domestic pipework and heat emitters are original and phased replacement is recommended, (no allowance in our costings have been made for asbestos removal which could increase replacement cost significantly if found to be present). The AC units will require replacement within 5 years with the kitchen extract canopy within 2 years.

The lighting installation requires a major overhaul in conjunction with the ceiling replacement. The distribution boards have been replaced over the past few years and therefore considered in good condition. Of the 5 platform lifts 4 will require replacement within the next 5 years.

Both main playgrounds are in poor condition requiring resurfacing before major expensive repairs become necessary. The car park is similarly in a deteriorating condition. The majority of perimeter fencing/walling requires replacement or repair. The school site is prone to flooding with an inability to manage exceptional rainfall. To prevent future flooding a major attenuation scheme is advised.

Whilst the school is capable of refurbishment, in practical and economic terms a complete rebuild would represent arguably the more feasible option with a significant portion of the building fabric and components requiring replacement or refurbishment within the next 5 years.

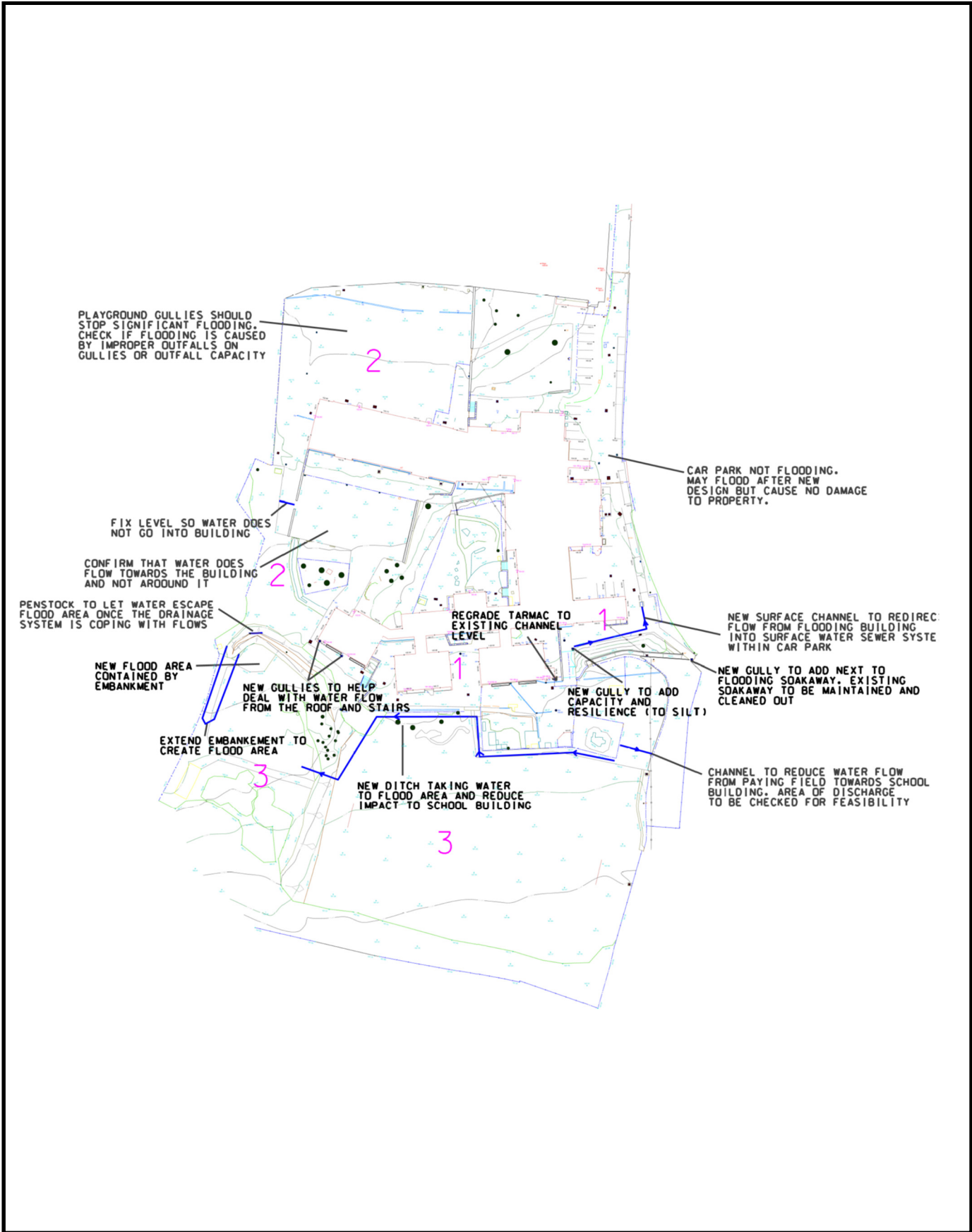
Contact Information

Regeneration and Growth Urban Design & Building Services

Contact: Lee Constable

Mobile: 07581 623 034

Email: lee_constable@sandwell.gov.uk



CAUSEWAY GREEN PRIMARY ● PROPOSED FLOOD ALLEVIATION SCHEME

Brandhall – Transport Summary Technical Note

| | | | |
|--------------|----------|-------|-----------------------------|
| Prepared by: | B Higson | Date: | 22 nd April 2022 |
| Checked by: | C Morris | Date: | 10 th May 2022 |
| Verified by: | C Morris | Date: | 10 th May 2022 |
| Approved by: | J Oakes | Date: | 10 th May 2022 |

Introduction

This Technical Note (TN) sets out a summary of the Transport baseline in relation to the SMBC Brandhall site. Specifically, this Note sets out the following information;

- Site access junction preferences review (May 2021 Technical Note);
- Accessibility of the site (Draft Transport Assessment);
- Development proposals for four masterplan options;
- Trip Generation;
- Parking proposals and standards based on pre-app discussions with a SMBC Highways Officer;
- Proposed vehicular trip generation and distribution per masterplan option based on pre-app discussions with a SMBC Highways Office; and
- Further work to be undertaken.

Access Junction Review

Summary

An initial analysis undertaken in May 2021 included a preliminary review of potential vehicular access points to the Brandhall Urban Village site. This considered the opportunities on the existing highway network, existing constraints, tree lines, junction spacing, pedestrian crossing facilities, gradients and sideways visibility splay requirements based on Manual for Streets (MfS).

Based on the preliminary analysis undertaken, the results of the site access junction scoping assessments are summarised in **Table 1**, with the junctions ranked in order of preference as follows;

Table 1. Potential Access Junction Review Summary

| Number | Road / Location | 2.4m x 43m Horizontal Visibility Splays | Width at Visibility Zone (m) | Initial Junction ranking | Major / Minor junction |
|--------|-----------------|---|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------|
| 1 | Queensway | ✓ | 119 | 1st | Major |
| 2 | Tame Road | ✓ | - | 2nd | Major |
| 3 | Grafton Road | ✓ | 69 | 3rd | Major |
| 4 | Ferndale Road | ✓ | 58 | 5th | Minor |
| 5 | Heron Road | ✓ | - | 4th | Minor |

Conclusions

The preliminary analysis determined that;

- A priority junction on Queensway would be the optimum location for a primary site access. Queensway benefits from clear sideways visibility in both directions, no tree cover, pedestrian accessibility via a nearby signalised crossing, a wide access zone and direct access to the A4123 Wolverhampton road for access to the surrounding road network.
- Tame Road would also provide a primary access junction to the site, with good pedestrian access nearby and a low speed environment. The location has minimal tree clearance, but could require re-working of traffic calming measures due to the existing speed cushions and 'shark teeth' road markings currently in place.
- The Grafton Road junction location would provide clear horizontal visibility in both directions and good pedestrian accessibility; however, an inclined verge and thick tree line exist to the east.
- Heron Road could provide a minor junction to the site, in order to limit through traffic on nearby residential roads. A junction at the Heron Road location would be implemented in place of the existing golf course car park access, thereby satisfying existing alignment and visibility requirements.
- Ferndale Road is narrow, with existing on-street parking and residential dwellings in close proximity with an existing tree line to the south.

Opportunities

The analysis set out the potential opportunities available / improvements that could be required to accommodate access junctions to the site at the proposed locations. These are set out as follows;

Queensway

- Potential for the implementation of shared pedestrian / cycle lane on Queensway in relation to implementation of vehicular access to the site, to connect to Phase 2 of the TfWM Cycle network proposed on the A4123.
- Ensure pedestrian connectivity from within the site to existing signalised pedestrian crossing on Queensway.
- Potential for a 20mph zone and traffic calming measures in proximity to the proposed site accesses due to proposed primary school development.
- Upgrade bus stops to sheltered seating / real time information.

Tame Road

- Rework of traffic calming measures following implementation of vehicular access to the site.
- Ensure pedestrian connectivity from within the site to existing signalised pedestrian crossing on Tame Road.
- Improved pedestrian and cycle access to Jubilee park to the south of Tame Road.

Grafton Road

- Inclusion of pedestrian crossing facilities on Grafton Road, providing easier access to the western side for access to Rowley Regis rail station and Cakemore Playing Fields;
- Improvements to public right of way (PRoW) from Grafton Road / Lansdowne Road northward to Cakemore road via Yates Lane, for improved access to Rowley Regis rail station;
- Lighting improvements to the M5 underpass for improved visibility for pedestrians and cyclists;

Ferndale Road

- Implementation of footway on the southern side of Ferndale road in order to improve pedestrian accessibility along the northern boundary of the site.

Heron Road

- Improve connection from Heron Road to the A4123, thereby improving cycle and pedestrian access to the green space / park proposed within the site, an improving access to public transport provision on the A4123.

A4123 Wolverhampton Road

- Implementation of further pedestrian crossing facilities on the A4123 to improve access to amenities and transport links to the east of the A4123, benefitting connectivity to local education, healthcare, community and retail amenities.

Transport Baseline

The location of the site / study area boundary is shown in Figure 1.



The following text sets out the Baseline transport Conditions present at the site.

Existing Conditions

The outline application site is approximately 37ha situated on greenfield land within Brandhall, approximately 6.5km west of Birmingham city centre. The site is bounded to the west by the M5, to the east by the A4123 Wolverhampton Road, to the south by Tame Road and to the north by Ferndale Road and Heron Road.

The existing site comprises the Brandhall Golf & Social Club building with associated car parking and the accompanying Brandhall Golf Course. Existing community green space is also provided by Parson's Hill Park located within the eastern corner of the site and areas woodland included within the golf course area.

The Brandhall Brook runs on a north-south axis centrally through the site, adjacent to the Golf Club house. This watercourse could form a central part of the green space proposed as part of the proposals.

Accessibility

Local Highway Network

A4123 Wolverhampton Road

The development site is bounded to the east by the A4123 Wolverhampton Road, a dual carriageway road subject to a 40mph speed limit. The A4123 runs on a northwest-southeast axis routing between Oldbury to the north and Hagley Road West to the south, for direct access to Quinton, Bearwood and beyond to Birmingham city centre. The road provides 2m footways and regular streetlighting along both sides and provides a major route throughout the local area.

Approximately 2km north of the site, the A4123 forms the south-eastern arm of the six-arm Birchley Island roundabout junction. This provides for direct connection northward towards Dudley and Oldbury and eastward for connection to Junction 2 of the M5.

Approximately 1.85km southeast of the site, the A4123 provides direct connection to Hagley Road West, a major arterial road and dual carriageway that provides direct access to Birmingham city centre to the east, and Halesowen to the west.

Queensway

At the eastern extent of the site, the A4123 Wolverhampton Road forms the major arm of a three-arm priority junction with Queensway. Queensway is a single carriageway road subject to a 30mph speed limit that forms part of the south-eastern boundary of the site and provides pedestrian access to Parson's Hill Park. From the A4123, Queensway routes south-westward providing connections through the residential areas south of the site, before intersecting with Tame Road at a four-arm crossroads junction.

Queensway has 2m footways and regular street lighting along both sides of the carriageway. A signalised pedestrian crossing is provided to the north of the junction of Queensway / Brennand Road priority junction.

Tame Road

Tame Road is a two-way single carriageway road which forms the southwestern boundary of the development site. The road is subject to partly to a 30mph speed limit, with a 20mph speed limit zone in the vicinity of the site's southern boundary. Tame road provides footways and street lighting along both sides and includes regular speed cushions and 'shark teeth' yield road markings, which act as traffic calming measures. At its eastern extent, Tame road intersects with Perry Hill Road within Brandhall, and to its western extent becomes, Hurst Green Road providing direct access into Hurst Green and Blackheath.

In the vicinity of the site, a signalised pedestrian crossing across Tame Road provides pedestrian accessibility northward for connection to Queensway via the residential Worcester Road. Tame Road also provides bus stops on both sides of the carriageway, with the southern bus stop providing sheltered seating.

M5 Motorway

At the southwestern corner of the site boundary, Tame Road forms an underpass under the M5 Motorway. The M5 is a major route providing access northward for connection to the M6 and access southwards through the West Midlands for connection towards Bristol. The M5 forms the western boundary of the site, with a substantial tree buffer between the Motorway and the site.

Grafton Road / Lansdowne Road

Approximately 300m southwest of the site, Hurst Green Road intersects with Lansdowne Road at a three-arm priority junction. Lansdowne Road runs northward, under an M5 underpass and becomes Grafton Road, which forms the western boundary of the site. Grafton Road / Lansdowne Road is a single carriageway subject to a 30mph speed limit.

The road has footways along both sides and regular streetlighting and provides access northward towards Oldbury via connection to the A4123 Wolverhampton Road.

Ferndale Road / Heron Road

At the north-western corner of the site, Grafton Road forms the major arm of a three-arm priority junction with Ferndale Road. Ferndale Road is a two-way single carriageway residential road, subject to a 30mph speed limit. The road routes eastward from the junction and forms part of the northern boundary of the site. The road has a footway along its northern side and regular street lighting.

Approximately 130m west of the existing Brandhall Golf Club house, Ferndale Road forms the major arm of a priority junction with Heron Road, also a two-way single carriageway residential road that provides connection to the existing

Brandhall Golf Club house and car park. Both Ferndale Road and Heron Road provide access to the existing residential areas to the north of the site.

Pedestrian Accessibility

The Chartered Institution of Highways and Transportation (CIHT) document Guidelines for Providing for Journeys on Foot states that walking accounts for over a quarter of all journeys and four fifths of journeys less than 1 mile (1.6km). The guidance states that an average walking speed of 1.4m/s can be assumed, equating to approximately 3mph (5kph). The guidance contains acceptable walking distances for pedestrians without mobility impairment and identifies a preferred maximum walking distance for commuting, journey to school or sightseeing purposes as being 2km, and up to 1.2km to other destinations other than a town centre.

Based on the above, the development site is located within walking distance of the entirety of Brandhall, Hurst Green, Blackheath and Langley Green town centres and within proximity of the areas of Oldbury, Bearwood and Quinton.

The area surrounding the development site comprises a comprehensive network of well-lit footways that provide access to key local destinations within Brandhall and surrounding areas. Signalised pedestrian crossing facilities comprising dropped kerbs and tactile paving are in place in close proximity to the site, thereby providing for good pedestrian and cycle access to and from the site, including across the A4123 Wolverhampton Road, Queensway and Tame Road.

The existing golf course provides for pedestrian connection across the site with access via the existing Golf Club car park. In addition, public footpaths are in place from Grafton Road through Hurst Green Park to the west of the site, providing pedestrian access to Rowley Regis rail station via Cakemore Road. An off-street footpath is also in place to the north of the site, connecting Falcon Road with Pound Road for off-street pedestrian access towards Oldbury.

Cycling Accessibility

The CIHT and DfT document 'Cycle Friendly Infrastructure: Guidelines for Planning and Design' identifies typical cycle speeds for cyclists of varying confidence and ability, speeds of 10-20mph being identified for adult commuters. Using a mid-speed of 15mph, a catchment of 5 miles (8km) would be available within a 20-minute cycle time.

Based on the above, the development site is within reasonable cycling distance of the entirety of Harborne, Bartley Green, Halesowen, Rowley Regis, Oldbury and Smethwick. The site is also in reasonable cycling distance to West Bromwich, The Queen Elizabeth Hospital, Edgbaston and Cradley Heath.

The nearest designated cycle route to the site is the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 5. Route 5 is a long distance route that runs approximately 3.4km north of the site along the Birmingham Canal Old Line towpath. In proximity to the site, NCN route 5 is a predominantly off-road route that runs on a north-south axis through Birmingham city centre toward Bromsgrove to the south and Walsall to the north. The route connects to NCN Route 81 at Smethwick Galton Bridge approximately 3.9km northeast of the site, a further designated cycle route that provides access into Wolverhampton.

A further local cycle route is also located approximately 2.5km south of the site through Woodgate Valley Country Park. This provides off-road, traffic free cycle connection to the cycle highway along the A38, for access into Birmingham city centre.

In addition, the A4123 Wolverhampton Road is identified as part of the Phase 2 delivery of the Transport for West Midlands (TfWM) Starley walking and cycling network.

In accordance with the CIHT guidance on acceptable walking and cycling distances set out above, the development site is well served by a range of educational establishments, retail, community, education and health facilities in close proximity all within the maximum recommended walking and cycling distances.

Local Amenities

Table 2 sets out the approximate distances and walking time to local amenities, with a map of local accessibility to local amenities set out in **Figure 1**.

Table 2. Local Amenities

| Type | Amenity | Approx. Distance* | Approx. Walking Time |
|-----------|-------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| Education | Hurst Green Primary School | 1100m | 13 Minutes |
| | Causeway Green Primary School | 1150m | 13 Minutes |
| | Brandhall Primary School | 600m | 8 Minutes |
| | Warley Infant School | 1000m | 12 Minutes |

| Type | Amenity | Approx. Distance* | Approx. Walking Time |
|----------------------|------------------------------|-------------------|----------------------|
| | Oldbury Academy | 1300m | 15 minutes |
| | Perry Fields High School | 900m | 12 Minutes |
| Local Retail | Nisa Local Convenience Store | 450m | 5 Minute |
| | Londis Convenience Store | 350m | 4 Minutes |
| | Select Convenience Store | 400m | 5 Minute |
| | Co-operative Food Brandhall | 800m | 11 Minutes |
| Community Facilities | Brandhall Library | 850m | 11 Minutes |
| | Bleakhouse Library | 1000m | 12 Minutes |
| Leisure | Sam's Health & Fitness | 1050m | 13 Minutes |
| | Goals Dudley | 1400m | 16 Minutes |
| Healthcare | Hill Top Medical Centre | 1200m | 14 Minutes |
| | Warley Medical Centre | 1000m | 12 Minutes |

* Walking Distances and Time taken from the centre of the site

As illustrated, there are a range of facilities within the vicinity of the proposed development, in addition to the mix of uses provided within the development proposals.

Bus

Several high frequency bus services operate in close proximity to the site. The closest high frequency bus stops are located on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road, providing the regular National Express West Midlands 126 service to Dudley approximately five times per hour. Further services operate on Tame Road, including the 13A and 49 National Express West Midlands services to Birmingham three times per hour and Bearwood twice per hour respectively. Both bus stops provide sheltered seating with service and timetabled information.

Full bus service operation within 400m of the site is set out within **Table 2**, with the location of the nearest bus stops in relation to the site set out in **Figure 3**.

Table 3. Bus Timetables

| Service Number | Route | Operator | Frequency | | |
|----------------|---|------------------|-----------|----------|---------|
| | | | Mon-Fri | Saturday | Sunday |
| 13A | Birmingham – Blackheath via Bearwood & Brandhall | NX West Midlands | 30 mins | 30 mins | 60 mins |
| 20 | Oldbury – Bearwood via Brandhall | Diamond Buses | 60 mins | 60 mins | - |
| 22 | Bearwood – Oldbury via Warley & Langley | NX West Midlands | 60 mins | 60 mins | - |
| 48A | West Bromwich – Bearwood via Warley | NX West Midlands | 30 mins | 30 mins | - |
| 49 | West Bromwich – Bearwood via Langley, Causeway Green & Brandhall | NX West Midlands | 20 mins | 20 mins | 30 mins |
| 54 | West Bromwich – Worlds End via Europa Village, Smethwick, Cape Hill & Brandhall | NX West Midlands | 30 mins | 30 mins | 60 mins |
| 126 | Dudley – Birmingham via Causeway Green & Bearwood | NX West Midlands | 15 mins | 15 mins | 20 mins |
| 231 | Blackheath – Halesowen via Rowley Regis | Diamond Buses | 60 mins | 60 mins | - |

Source: National Express West Midlands (nxbus.com) and Diamond Bus (diamondbuses.com)

Table 3 demonstrates that the site is served by approximately 16 bus services per hour in each direction, within destinations including Birmingham, Oldbury, Dudley, West Bromwich and Halesowen.

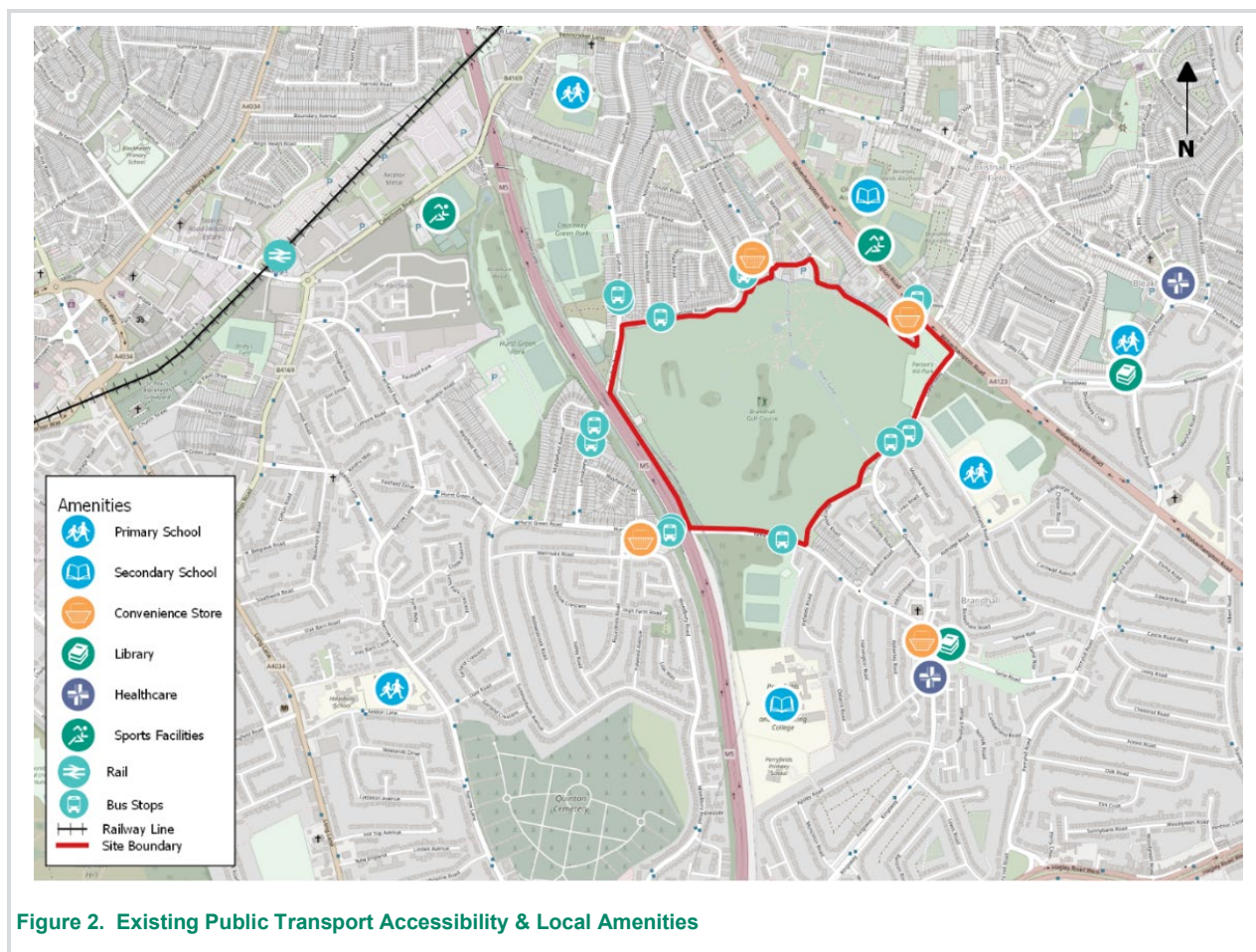
Rail

Rowley Regis rail station is located an approximate approximately 1.25km (19 minute) walking journey northwest of the site. The station is served by Chiltern Railway trains and regular, frequent West Midlands Trains services to Stourbridge Junction, Stratford Upon Avon, Dorridge, Worcester Shrub Hill, Kidderminster and Whitlock’s End multiple times per hour.

Langley Green rail station and Old Hill rail stations are located approximately 2.1km north and 2.9km west of the development site respectively. These are situated on the same rail line and offer the same rail connections as Rowley Regis rail station.

As set out in **Table 3**, the site is also accessible to Birmingham city centre by bus travel. Here, Birmingham New Street station, a central hub of the British railway system, provides high frequency connections to a wide range of destinations across the UK.

The existing public transport accessibility and accessibility to local amenities is set out in **Figure 1** below.



Summary

The existing transport conditions can be summarised as follows:

- A comprehensive network of footways currently exists in the vicinity of the site;
- Existing cycle infrastructure in the vicinity of the site includes off-road routes, including the NCN Route 5 and NCN Route 81 along the Birmingham Old Canal Line Towpath;
- A range of local amenities are available within the local area surrounding the site including good access to education, local retail, leisure and community facilities; and
- The site is accessible by regular and frequent existing public transport services including bus and rail, and therefore ideally located for development.

Development Proposals

The proposals will replace the existing Brandhall Golf Course, including the associated Brandhall Golf & Social Club building.

The development quantum for each of the four masterplan options is summarised in **Table 4**, with a further summary of the options set out below.

Table 4. Draft Development Proposals

| Masterplan Option 1 | Dwellings (Units) | 2 Form Entry (Pupils) |
|---------------------|-------------------|-----------------------|
| 1 | 0 | 0 |
| 2 | 0 | 471 |
| 3 | 190 | 471 |
| 4 | 360 | 471 |

Option 1 - represents a 'Do Nothing' scenario, with the site retained as green space.

Option 2 - comprises the 'Do Nothing' scenario with the addition of a school parcel within the north western portion of the site comprising a two-form entry primary school totalling approximately 471 pupils.

Option 3 - comprises two residential parcels (R1 – R2) across approximately 5.2Ha of land providing a total of 190 residential dwellings, with a mix of low and medium density housing, in addition to the two-form entry primary school.

Option 4 - comprises four residential parcels (R1 – R4) across approximately 9.1Ha of land providing a total of 360 residential dwellings. This is in addition to the two-form entry primary school and provision of a wildlife corridor along the western boundary of the site adjacent to the M5 motorway.

Trip Generation

The TRICS database has been interrogated and the following trip rates and associated trip generations have been derived for the three options with development. Evidently option 1 has no resultant trip generation.

Table 5. Trip Rates

| Land Use | Time Period | Arrivals | Departures | Two-Way |
|----------------|-------------|----------|------------|---------|
| Private Houses | AM | 0.128 | 0.393 | 0.521 |
| | PM | 0.360 | 0.159 | 0.519 |
| Primary School | AM | 0.320 | 0.254 | 0.574 |
| | PM | 0.016 | 0.030 | 0.046 |

The above trip rates have been applied to the three active development options with the resultant trip generations noted below.

Table 6. Raw Trip Generation

| | Land Use | Time Period | Arrivals | Departures | Two-Way |
|----------|--|-------------|----------|------------|---------|
| Option 2 | 0 Private Houses | AM | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | PM | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | A two-form entry Primary School (471 pupils) | AM | 151 | 120 | 270 |
| | | PM | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| Option 3 | 190 Private Houses | AM | 24 | 75 | 99 |
| | | PM | 68 | 30 | 99 |

| | Land Use | Time Period | Arrivals | Departures | Two-Way |
|----------|--|-------------|----------|------------|---------|
| | A two-form entry Primary School (471 pupils) | AM | 151 | 120 | 270 |
| | | PM | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| Option 4 | 360 Private Houses | AM | 46 | 141 | 188 |
| | | PM | 130 | 57 | 187 |
| | A two-form entry Primary School (471 pupils) | AM | 151 | 120 | 270 |
| | | PM | 8 | 14 | 22 |

It is noted that the primary school is being proposed as a relocation of an existing school and also to provide a local primary school for the residents of the development. It is therefore assumed that initially a large portion of the trips associated with the Primary School are already on the network and will divert from the existing school to this new facility. It has been assumed that the level of locally diverted trips will be 80% of all trips associated with the development. In respect to the AM peak hour residential trips it has robustly been assumed that 20% of these will be linked to the primary school and 80% will be wholly new trips with no link to the primary school. During the PM peak hour the primary school is not typically active and as such all residential trips are assumed to be wholly new trips.

Table 7. Resultant Trip Generation

| | Land Use | Time Period | Linked Trips | New Trips | Locally Diverted | Arrivals | Departures | Two-Way |
|----------|--|-------------|--------------|-----------|------------------|------------|------------|------------|
| | 0 Private Houses | AM | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | | PM | - | - | - | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Option 2 | A two-form entry Primary School (471 pupils) | AM | - | 20% | 80% | 151 | 120 | 270 |
| | | PM | - | 20% | 80% | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| | Total Trip Generation | AM | | | | 151 | 120 | 270 |
| | | PM | | | | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| | 190 Private Houses | AM | | 80% | | 19 | 60 | 79 |
| | | PM | | 100% | | 68 | 30 | 99 |
| Option 3 | A two-form entry Primary School (471 pupils) | AM | 20% | | 80% | 151 | 120 | 270 |
| | | PM | 20% | | 80% | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| | Total Trip Generation | AM | | | | 170 | 179 | 350 |
| | | PM | | | | 76 | 44 | 120 |
| | 360 Private Houses | AM | | 80% | | 37 | 113 | 150 |
| | | PM | | 100% | | 130 | 57 | 187 |
| Option 4 | A two-form entry Primary School (471 pupils) | AM | 20% | | 80% | 151 | 120 | 270 |
| | | PM | 20% | | 80% | 8 | 14 | 22 |
| | Total Trip Generation | AM | | | | 188 | 233 | 420 |
| | | PM | | | | 137 | 71 | 209 |

Option 1 generates no trips.

The total effective trip generation for Option 2 is 270 two-way trips in the AM and 22 during the PM peak hour. It is noted that the vast majority of these are locally diverted and as such some parts of the network will see a reduction of trips, and that the impact will be fairly localised.

Option 3 generates 350 AM two-way trips, with 120 two-way trips generated in the PM peak hour. The impact of Option 2 will be wider than Option 2 due to the provision of 190 dwellings.

Option 4 has the largest trip generation of 420 AM and 209 PM peak hour two-way trips.

The trip rates and assumptions around the trip generations for all developments will need to be discussed and agreed with the local highways authority.

Parking

SMBC's adopted maximum car parking standards are set out in the Preparation of Transport Assessments and Travel Plans Supplementary Planning Document (SPD) (Adopted 2006) and Residential Design Guide SPD (Adopted 2014). These in turn are based on PPG13 standards.

The proposed parking quantum is still evolving but will be in line with adopted policy and is anticipated to be broadly based on the following maximum car parking standards set out in **Table 5** below.

Table 8. Car Parking Standards

| Land Use Type | Use Class | Threshold above which parking standards apply | PPG13 & SMBC Car Parking Standards |
|---|----------------------------|---|--|
| Food Retail | E(a) (Formerly A1) | 1,000m ² GFA | 1 space per 14m ² |
| Non- Food Retail | E(a) (Formerly A1-A3) | 1,000m ² GFA | 1 space per 20m ² |
| Business Including Offices | E(g) (Formerly B1, A2) | 2,500m ² GFA | 1 space per 30m ² |
| Residential | C3 | 100 dwellings | 1 space per to 2 Bedroom Properties 2 spaces per 3 to 4 Bedroom Properties 3 Dedicated parking spaces per 5 to 6 Bedroom Properties 4 Dedicated parking spaces per 7 to 8 Bedroom Properties For development >10 properties - 1 space per 4 properties |
| Hospital / Health Centres | C2, E(e) (Formerly C2, D1) | 2,500m ² GFA | Discussion with SMBC |
| Higher and further education (non-residential elements) | F1(a) (Formerly D1) | 2,500m ² GFA | 1 space per 2 staff + 1 space per 15 students (total) |
| Leisure facilities | E(d) (Formerly D2) | 1,000m ² GFA | 1 space per 22m ² |

Source: Preparation of Transport Assessments and Travel Plans (SPD) (2006) and Residential Design Guide SPD (2014)

The development proposals will come forward as part of an outline application for the wider site, therefore the minimum threshold above which the referenced car parking standards is met cumulatively by the wider development.

SMBC's adopted minimum cycle parking standards are set out in the Cycling Supplementary Planning Guidance (SPG) (2004). The cycle parking quantum proposed is still evolving but will be in line with the following adopted standards. Cycle parking standards relevant to the proposed land use classes are set out in **Table 6** below.

Table 9. Cycle Parking Standards

| Land Use Type | Use Class | SMBC Cycle Parking Standards (UDP Policy T12) |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|--|
| General Cycle Parking | - | 1 space per every 10 car parking spaces. Refinements and exceptions to this are set out as follows: |
| Food Retail | E(a) (Formerly A1) | As set out in General Cycle Parking above. Staff provision should be 33% of spaces provided. |
| Non-Food Retail | E(a) (Formerly A1-A3) | As set out in General Cycle Parking above. Staff provision should be 33% of spaces provided. |

| | | |
|---|----------------------------|---|
| Business Including Offices | E(g) (Formerly B1, A2) | As set out in General Cycle Parking above. 75% of cycle spaces provided should be designated Staff parking. (Covered, high security such as lockers / enclosed stands). |
| Residential | C3 | 1 space per dwelling, plus an additional 1 space per 2 bedrooms. Garages will be regarded as providing for cycles. For units which do not have garages, individual high security facilities will be required. |
| Hospital / Health Centres | C2, E(e) (Formerly C2, D1) | As set out in General Cycle Parking above. |
| Primary, secondary and special schools (non-residential elements) | F1(a) (Formerly D1) | As set out in General Cycle Parking above. 1 staff space per 60 pupils (Covered, high security such as lockers / enclosed stands). |
| Leisure Facilities | E(d) (Formerly D2) | 1 space per 6 car parking spaces. |

Source: *Cycling (SPG) (2004)*

Access Strategy

Vehicle Access

As set out within the four proposed masterplan options, vehicular access to the site is proposed from several access points onto the existing local highway network. These comprise;

- Queensway (Adjacent to Parson’s Hill Park);
- Queensway (Adjacent to Brennand Road);
- Tame Road; and
- Grafton Road.

These access points are to be confirmed, however initial work surrounding the Primary School has resulted in an initial design being drawn up to begin this optioneering process. The initial design is noted within **Appendix B**.

The initial access option is located such that sufficient distance is maintained from Grafton Road to reduce any potential impact of blocking back of traffic. The design provides a standard priority access, a pedestrian crossing facility, widening of Ferndale Road and footways along with replacement parking for the on-street facility lost due to the access provision. Access optioneering will progress with discussions with the Local Highway Authority to enable agreement to be reached on a preferred layout option.

As set out in the start of this document, a site access review was conducted by AECOM in May 2021 and concluded that the access points on Queensway (Adjacent to Parson’s Hill Park), Tame Road and Grafton Road are preferred. It was found that these access points achieve the required horizontal visibility requirements with good existing pedestrian connectivity and the least existing constraints.

Pedestrian Access

The masterplan options have been designed with the aim of creating a walkable neighbourhood whereby the majority of day-to-day services are within acceptable and easy walking distances in order to internalise trips. The primary school site along with retail and community uses have been located to ensure that residential dwellings are within 400m of these facilities.

The options set out a network of shared use and segregated walking and cycling routes within the site, connecting to the existing external road network at the site boundary. These provide footways along all local roads, in addition to potential pedestrian connections including across the existing watercourse within the site, which will be developed as part of proposals for a green corridor.

Refuse Collection, Servicing and Emergency Vehicles

The development will be designed so that SMBC refuse vehicles can access refuse storage points for collection.

A maximum guideline distance between a refuse vehicle and storage points of 25m will be used, in line with Manual for Streets (MfS) guidance. Where distances exceed 25m, appropriate waste management measures will be discussed and agreed e.g. facilities management moving waste storage to an accessible area on waste collection days.

The development will also accommodate emergency vehicles. Swept-path analysis drawings undertaken to demonstrate that refuse and fire tender vehicles can access and egress the proposed layout where required will be provided with the Transport Assessment submitted as part of the forthcoming application.

Road Traffic Collision Statistics

Road Traffic Collision (RTC) data has been derived from the DfT (via the Crashmap database) in April 2022 for the most recent 5-year period for which data is available (not including 2020 due to the Covid-19 Pandemic). It is apparent that approximately 21 RTC occurred on the local highway network in the vicinity of the site, comprising;

- Three RTCs on Tame Road, of which two were slight in severity and one serious;
- One RTC on Grafton Road and was slight in Severity; and
- 16 RTCs on the A4123 Wolverhampton Road to the east of the site, of which 13 were slight in severity and three were serious.

The majority of the RTCs on the A4123 occurred in proximity to the A4123 / Queensway / Parsons Hill crossroads junction. Pedestrian crossing improvements are proposed to come forward as alongside the development proposals in order to improve pedestrian safety and accessibility to the site.

Trip Distribution

The distribution of vehicle trips generated by the proposed residential land uses has been estimated using 2011 Census Journey to Work data. This has been applied to Middle Super Output Area (MSOA) destinations within Sandwell, Dudley and Birmingham using origin MSOA's representative of the development site location and surroundings use classes.

The most likely routing from origin MSOAs to destination MSOAs has been calculated using Google Satellite photography and route mapping based on the shortest journey time and therefore most desirable route taking typical peak hour traffic conditions into account, with a percentage split assigned to each route from the site. The resultant trip distribution assumes a 25% split between the four proposed access points to the site.

Future year scenarios

Traffic surveys undertaken for the local highway network at junctions relevant to the site based on traffic distribution by TfWM have been requested from the Data Insight portal. The surveys included Manual Classified Counts (MCCs), and Autoprogram Volume Traffic Counts in relation to the years 2014 – 2021.

The assessment years to be considered are to include;

- Opening year (TBC);
- 5 years post-opening.

NTM adjusted TEMPRO growth factors will be used to derive background growth figures to growth the traffic counts to the assessment years. The ability of the existing junction layouts to accommodate the forecast increase in demand and the potential need for mitigation will also be considered. Any off-site mitigation works will be discussed with SMBC in advance of the planning application submission.

Further Work

The following transport work would be undertaken as part of any future planning application for the site.

- A Transport Assessment (TA) would be prepared as part of any future application in order to assess the traffic impacts of the development and set out proposed mitigation for any traffic impacts identified. A TA would assess the following;
 - **Policy Context** for national, regional and local policy;
 - **Accessibility** including site location, accessibility to amenities and sustainable transport modes;
 - **Existing Conditions** including operation of junctions in the vicinity of the site;
 - **Development Proposals** set out in detail;

- **Development Scenario** including assessment of trip generation associated with the proposals, trip distribution using 2011 Census data and modal shift as proposed mitigation of the impacts; and
- **Traffic Impact** on key junctions on the local network as a result of the development proposals using junction modelling assessments including for proposed site access junctions.
- A Travel Plan (TP) for the development would also be prepared as part of any future application in order to set out the summary of measures and targeted monitoring strategy to be put in place at the site to encourage travel by sustainable modes.

Appendix A – Full TRICS Outputs

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

Filtering Summary

| | | |
|--|--|-------------------|
| Land Use | 04/A | EDUCATION/PRIMARY |
| Selected Trip Rate Calculation Parameter Range | 100-1000 | PUPILS |
| Actual Trip Rate Calculation Parameter Range | 84-1020 | PUPILS |
| Date Range | Minimum: 01/01/14 | Maximum: 25/11/19 |
| Parking Spaces Range | All Surveys Included | |
| Days of the week selected | Monday | 5 |
| | Tuesday | 6 |
| | Wednesday | 5 |
| | Thursday | 6 |
| | Friday | 3 |
| Main Location Types selected | Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) | 4 |
| | Edge of Town | 10 |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) | 11 |
| Population within 500m | All Surveys Included | |
| Population <1 Mile ranges selected | 1,000 or Less | 1 |
| | 1,001 to 5,000 | 6 |
| | 5,001 to 10,000 | 4 |
| | 10,001 to 15,000 | 1 |
| | 15,001 to 20,000 | 7 |
| | 20,001 to 25,000 | 3 |
| | 25,001 to 50,000 | 2 |
| | 50,001 to 100,000 | 1 |
| Population <5 Mile ranges selected | 5,000 or Less | 1 |
| | 5,001 to 25,000 | 2 |
| | 25,001 to 50,000 | 2 |
| | 50,001 to 75,000 | 1 |
| | 75,001 to 100,000 | 4 |
| | 100,001 to 125,000 | 1 |
| | 125,001 to 250,000 | 3 |
| | 250,001 to 500,000 | 10 |
| | 500,001 or More | 1 |
| Car Ownership <5 Mile ranges selected | 0.6 to 1.0 | 8 |
| | 1.1 to 1.5 | 16 |
| | 1.6 to 2.0 | 1 |
| PTAL Rating | No PTAL Present | 25 |

Calculation Reference: AUDIT-204604-220405-0404

TRIP RATE CALCULATION SELECTION PARAMETERS:

Land Use : 04 - EDUCATION

Category : A - PRIMARY

TOTAL VEHICLES

Selected regions and areas:

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------|
| 02 | SOUTH EAST | |
| | BU BUCKINGHAMSHIRE | 1 days |
| | HC HAMPSHIRE | 1 days |
| 03 | SOUTH WEST | |
| | BR BRISTOL CITY | 1 days |
| | CW CORNWALL | 1 days |
| | DV DEVON | 1 days |
| | SM SOMERSET | 1 days |
| | WL WILTSHIRE | 2 days |
| 04 | EAST ANGLIA | |
| | SF SUFFOLK | 1 days |
| 05 | EAST MIDLANDS | |
| | DS DERBYSHIRE | 1 days |
| | LE LEICESTERSHIRE | 1 days |
| | NR NORTHAMPTONSHIRE | 1 days |
| 06 | WEST MIDLANDS | |
| | WM WEST MIDLANDS | 1 days |
| 07 | YORKSHIRE & NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE | |
| | WY WEST YORKSHIRE | 1 days |
| 08 | NORTH WEST | |
| | CH CHESHIRE | 1 days |
| | GM GREATER MANCHESTER | 1 days |
| | LC LANCASHIRE | 1 days |
| 09 | NORTH | |
| | TW TYNE & WEAR | 1 days |
| 10 | WALES | |
| | CF CARDIFF | 1 days |
| 11 | SCOTLAND | |
| | EB CITY OF EDINBURGH | 1 days |
| | FI FIFE | 2 days |
| 13 | MUNSTER | |
| | TI TIPPERARY | 1 days |
| 14 | LEINSTER | |
| | LU LOUTH | 1 days |
| 15 | GREATER DUBLIN | |
| | DL DUBLIN | 1 days |

This section displays the number of survey days per TRICS® sub-region in the selected set

Primary Filtering selection:

This data displays the chosen trip rate parameter and its selected range. Only sites that fall within the parameter range are included in the trip rate calculation.

Parameter: Number of pupils
 Actual Range: 84 to 1020 (units:)
 Range Selected by User: 100 to 1000 (units:)

Parking Spaces Range: All Surveys Included

Public Transport Provision:

Selection by: Include all surveys

Date Range: 01/01/14 to 25/11/19

This data displays the range of survey dates selected. Only surveys that were conducted within this date range are included in the trip rate calculation.

Selected survey days:

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Monday | 5 days |
| Tuesday | 6 days |
| Wednesday | 5 days |
| Thursday | 6 days |
| Friday | 3 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys by day of the week.

Selected survey types:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Manual count | 25 days |
| Directional ATC Count | 0 days |

This data displays the number of manual classified surveys and the number of unclassified ATC surveys, the total adding up to the overall number of surveys in the selected set. Manual surveys are undertaken using staff, whilst ATC surveys are undertaken using machines.

Selected Locations:

| | |
|--|----|
| Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) | 4 |
| Edge of Town | 10 |
| Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) | 11 |

This data displays the number of surveys per main location category within the selected set. The main location categories consist of Free Standing, Edge of Town, Suburban Area, Neighbourhood Centre, Edge of Town Centre, Town Centre and Not Known.

Selected Location Sub Categories:

| | |
|------------------|----|
| Residential Zone | 15 |
| Village | 8 |
| No Sub Category | 2 |

This data displays the number of surveys per location sub-category within the selected set. The location sub-categories consist of Commercial Zone, Industrial Zone, Development Zone, Residential Zone, Retail Zone, Built-Up Zone, Village, Out of Town, High Street and No Sub Category.

Secondary Filtering selection:

Use Class:

F1(a) 25 days

This data displays the number of surveys per Use Class classification within the selected set. The Use Classes Order 2005 has been used for this purpose, which can be found within the Library module of TRICS®.

Population within 500m Range:

All Surveys Included

Secondary Filtering selection (Cont.):

Population within 1 mile:

| | |
|-------------------|--------|
| 1,000 or Less | 1 days |
| 1,001 to 5,000 | 6 days |
| 5,001 to 10,000 | 4 days |
| 10,001 to 15,000 | 1 days |
| 15,001 to 20,000 | 7 days |
| 20,001 to 25,000 | 3 days |
| 25,001 to 50,000 | 2 days |
| 50,001 to 100,000 | 1 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys within stated 1-mile radii of population.

Population within 5 miles:

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| 5,000 or Less | 1 days |
| 5,001 to 25,000 | 2 days |
| 25,001 to 50,000 | 2 days |
| 50,001 to 75,000 | 1 days |
| 75,001 to 100,000 | 4 days |
| 100,001 to 125,000 | 1 days |
| 125,001 to 250,000 | 3 days |
| 250,001 to 500,000 | 10 days |
| 500,001 or More | 1 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys within stated 5-mile radii of population.

Car ownership within 5 miles:

| | |
|------------|---------|
| 0.6 to 1.0 | 8 days |
| 1.1 to 1.5 | 16 days |
| 1.6 to 2.0 | 1 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys within stated ranges of average cars owned per residential dwelling, within a radius of 5-miles of selected survey sites.

Travel Plan:

| | |
|-----|---------|
| Yes | 4 days |
| No | 21 days |

This data displays the number of surveys within the selected set that were undertaken at sites with Travel Plans in place, and the number of surveys that were undertaken at sites without Travel Plans.

PTAL Rating:

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| No PTAL Present | 25 days |
|-----------------|---------|

This data displays the number of selected surveys with PTAL Ratings.

LIST OF SITES relevant to selection parameters (Cont.)

| | | | | |
|----|--|----------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 9 | EB-04-A-01 MAGDALENE DRIVE EDINBURGH | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | CITY OF EDINBURGH |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total Number of pupils: | | 214 | |
| | <i>Survey date: MONDAY</i> | | <i>23/04/18</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 10 | FI-04-A-01 NORTHBANK ROAD NEAR DUNFERMLINE CAIRNEYHILL Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Village | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | FIFE |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 285 | |
| | <i>Survey date: WEDNESDAY</i> | | <i>27/05/15</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 11 | FI-04-A-02 RINTOUL AVENUE NEAR DUNFERMLINE BLAIRHALL Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Village | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | FIFE |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 159 | |
| | <i>Survey date: TUESDAY</i> | | <i>22/03/16</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 12 | GM-04-A-01 ROCH MILLS CRESCENT ROCHDALE | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | GREATER MANCHESTER |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total Number of pupils: | | 457 | |
| | <i>Survey date: TUESDAY</i> | | <i>20/10/15</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 13 | HC-04-A-05 HAVANT ROAD HAYLING ISLAND | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | HAMPSHIRE |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total Number of pupils: | | 550 | |
| | <i>Survey date: MONDAY</i> | | <i>30/11/15</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 14 | LC-04-A-06 SEVERN ROAD BLACKPOOL SOUTH SHORE Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Residential Zone | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | LANCASHIRE |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 449 | |
| | <i>Survey date: TUESDAY</i> | | <i>27/09/16</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 15 | LE-04-A-02 BEAUFORT WAY LEICESTER OADBY Edge of Town Residential Zone | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | LEICESTERSHIRE |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 380 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>30/10/14</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 16 | LU-04-A-02 BRYANSTOWN DROGHEDA BRYANSTOWN MANOR Edge of Town Residential Zone | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | LOUTH |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 1020 | |
| | <i>Survey date: FRIDAY</i> | | <i>19/06/15</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |

LIST OF SITES relevant to selection parameters (Cont.)

| | | | | |
|----|--|------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 17 | NR-04-A-03 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | NORTHAMPTONSHIRE |
| | BOOTH LANE NORTH NORTHAMPTON | | | |
| | Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) Residential Zone | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 400 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>24/03/16</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 18 | SF-04-A-03 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | SUFFOLK |
| | ENSTONE ROAD LOWESTOFT KIRKLEY | | | |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Residential Zone | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 234 | |
| | <i>Survey date: WEDNESDAY</i> | | <i>10/12/14</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 19 | SM-04-A-01 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | SOMERSET |
| | BRIDGWATER ROAD NEAR TAUNTON BATHPOOL | | | |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Village | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 407 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>27/09/18</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 20 | TI-04-A-01 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | TIPPERARY |
| | OLD ROAD NEAR NENAGH SILVERMINES | | | |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Village | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 84 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>26/05/16</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 21 | TW-04-A-02 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | TYNE & WEAR |
| | KELLS LANE GATESHEAD LOW FELL | | | |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) No Sub Category | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 416 | |
| | <i>Survey date: FRIDAY</i> | | <i>19/10/18</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 22 | WL-04-A-01 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | WILTSHIRE |
| | CASTLE VIEW ROAD NEAR SWINDON CHISELDON | | | |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Village | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 178 | |
| | <i>Survey date: TUESDAY</i> | | <i>20/09/16</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 23 | WL-04-A-02 | C OF E PRIMARY ACADEMY | | WILTSHIRE |
| | HIGH STREET ROWDE | | | |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Village | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 199 | |
| | <i>Survey date: WEDNESDAY</i> | | <i>03/04/19</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 24 | WM-04-A-02 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | | WEST MIDLANDS |
| | HAZEL ROAD BIRMINGHAM RUBERY | | | |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone | | | |
| | Total Number of pupils: | | 234 | |
| | <i>Survey date: TUESDAY</i> | | <i>10/11/15</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |

LIST OF SITES relevant to selection parameters (Cont.)

| | | | |
|----|-------------|----------------|----------------|
| 25 | WY-04-A-02 | PRIMARY SCHOOL | WEST YORKSHIRE |
| | TOWN STREET | | |
| | LEEDS | | |

Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre)

Residential Zone

Total Number of pupils: 621

Survey date: MONDAY

19/10/15

Survey Type: MANUAL

This section provides a list of all survey sites and days in the selected set. For each individual survey site, it displays a unique site reference code and site address, the selected trip rate calculation parameter and its value, the day of the week and date of each survey, and whether the survey was a manual classified count or an ATC count.

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY

TOTAL VEHICLES

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.045 | 25 | 349 | 0.016 | 25 | 349 | 0.061 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.320 | 25 | 349 | 0.254 | 25 | 349 | 0.574 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.040 | 25 | 349 | 0.058 | 25 | 349 | 0.098 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.013 | 25 | 349 | 0.013 | 25 | 349 | 0.026 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.022 | 25 | 349 | 0.015 | 25 | 349 | 0.037 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.021 | 25 | 349 | 0.025 | 25 | 349 | 0.046 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.038 | 25 | 349 | 0.041 | 25 | 349 | 0.079 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.088 | 25 | 349 | 0.043 | 25 | 349 | 0.131 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.160 | 25 | 349 | 0.225 | 25 | 349 | 0.385 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.047 | 25 | 349 | 0.077 | 25 | 349 | 0.124 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.016 | 24 | 355 | 0.030 | 24 | 355 | 0.046 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.009 | 24 | 355 | 0.013 | 24 | 355 | 0.022 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.819 | | | 0.810 | | | 1.629 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

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Parameter summary

Trip rate parameter range selected: 84 - 1020 (units:)
 Survey date range: 01/01/14 - 25/11/19
 Number of weekdays (Monday-Friday): 25
 Number of Saturdays: 0
 Number of Sundays: 0
 Surveys automatically removed from selection: 0
 Surveys manually removed from selection: 0

This section displays a quick summary of some of the data filtering selections made by the TRICS® user. The trip rate calculation parameter range of all selected surveys is displayed first, followed by the range of minimum and maximum survey dates selected by the user. Then, the total number of selected weekdays and weekend days in the selected set of surveys are shown, and finally the number of survey days that have been manually removed from the selected set outside of the standard filtering procedure are displayed.

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY

TAXIS

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.006 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.005 | | | 0.005 | | | 0.010 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY

OGVS

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.001 | | | 0.001 | | | 0.002 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY

PSVS

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.004 | | | 0.004 | | | 0.008 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY

CYCLISTS

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.018 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.020 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.004 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.013 | 25 | 349 | 0.014 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.004 | 25 | 349 | 0.005 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.001 | 24 | 355 | 0.001 | 24 | 355 | 0.002 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.026 | | | 0.026 | | | 0.052 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY
CARS

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.043 | 25 | 349 | 0.014 | 25 | 349 | 0.057 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.309 | 25 | 349 | 0.245 | 25 | 349 | 0.554 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.035 | 25 | 349 | 0.054 | 25 | 349 | 0.089 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.010 | 25 | 349 | 0.010 | 25 | 349 | 0.020 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.018 | 25 | 349 | 0.012 | 25 | 349 | 0.030 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.019 | 25 | 349 | 0.022 | 25 | 349 | 0.041 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.034 | 25 | 349 | 0.039 | 25 | 349 | 0.073 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.085 | 25 | 349 | 0.040 | 25 | 349 | 0.125 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.155 | 25 | 349 | 0.219 | 25 | 349 | 0.374 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.044 | 25 | 349 | 0.074 | 25 | 349 | 0.118 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.016 | 24 | 355 | 0.029 | 24 | 355 | 0.045 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.009 | 24 | 355 | 0.012 | 24 | 355 | 0.021 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.777 | | | 0.770 | | | 1.547 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY

LGVS

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.007 | 25 | 349 | 0.006 | 25 | 349 | 0.013 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.006 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.004 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.006 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.001 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.005 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.005 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.003 | 25 | 349 | 0.006 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.002 | 25 | 349 | 0.004 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.001 | 24 | 355 | 0.001 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.001 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.001 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.028 | | | 0.028 | | | 0.056 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

TRIP RATE for Land Use 04 - EDUCATION/A - PRIMARY

MOTOR CYCLES

Calculation factor: 1 PUPILS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. PUPILS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 | 25 | 349 | 0.000 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 | 24 | 355 | 0.000 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 | 1 | 1020 | 0.000 |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.000 | | | 0.000 | | | 0.000 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

Filtering Summary

| | | |
|--|--|------------------------------------|
| Land Use | 03/A | RESIDENTIAL/HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED |
| Selected Trip Rate Calculation Parameter Range | 100-1817 DWELLS | |
| Actual Trip Rate Calculation Parameter Range | 110-918 DWELLS | |
| Date Range | Minimum: 01/01/13 | Maximum: 08/10/20 |
| Parking Spaces Range | All Surveys Included | |
| Parking Spaces Per Dwelling Range: | All Surveys Included | |
| Bedrooms Per Dwelling Range: | All Surveys Included | |
| Percentage of dwellings privately owned: | All Surveys Included | |
| Days of the week selected | Monday | 5 |
| | Tuesday | 2 |
| | Wednesday | 4 |
| | Thursday | 4 |
| | Friday | 2 |
| Main Location Types selected | Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) | 3 |
| | Edge of Town | 13 |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) | 1 |
| Population within 500m | All Surveys Included | |
| Population <1 Mile ranges selected | 5,001 to 10,000 | 5 |
| | 10,001 to 15,000 | 8 |
| | 15,001 to 20,000 | 1 |
| | 20,001 to 25,000 | 3 |
| Population <5 Mile ranges selected | 5,001 to 25,000 | 2 |
| | 25,001 to 50,000 | 1 |
| | 50,001 to 75,000 | 3 |
| | 75,001 to 100,000 | 4 |
| | 100,001 to 125,000 | 1 |
| | 125,001 to 250,000 | 6 |
| Car Ownership <5 Mile ranges selected | 0.6 to 1.0 | 5 |
| | 1.1 to 1.5 | 9 |
| | 1.6 to 2.0 | 3 |
| PTAL Rating | No PTAL Present | 17 |

Calculation Reference: AUDIT-204604-210507-0557

TRIP RATE CALCULATION SELECTION PARAMETERS:

Land Use : 03 - RESIDENTIAL
 Category : A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL TOTAL VEHICLES

Selected regions and areas:

| | | |
|----|--------------------------------|--------|
| 02 | SOUTH EAST | |
| | ES EAST SUSSEX | 1 days |
| | HF HERTFORDSHIRE | 1 days |
| | KC KENT | 3 days |
| | SC SURREY | 2 days |
| | WS WEST SUSSEX | 4 days |
| 03 | SOUTH WEST | |
| | DV DEVON | 1 days |
| 04 | EAST ANGLIA | |
| | NF NORFOLK | 1 days |
| 05 | EAST MIDLANDS | |
| | DS DERBYSHIRE | 1 days |
| 06 | WEST MIDLANDS | |
| | ST STAFFORDSHIRE | 1 days |
| 07 | YORKSHIRE & NORTH LINCOLNSHIRE | |
| | NE NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE | 1 days |
| 11 | SCOTLAND | |
| | FA FALKIRK | 1 days |

This section displays the number of survey days per TRICS® sub-region in the selected set

Primary Filtering selection:

This data displays the chosen trip rate parameter and its selected range. Only sites that fall within the parameter range are included in the trip rate calculation.

Parameter: No of Dwellings
 Actual Range: 110 to 918 (units:)
 Range Selected by User: 100 to 1817 (units:)

Parking Spaces Range: All Surveys Included

Parking Spaces per Dwelling Range: All Surveys Included

Bedrooms per Dwelling Range: All Surveys Included

Percentage of dwellings privately owned: All Surveys Included

Public Transport Provision:

Selection by: Monday-Friday 0700-1900
 Include days where PT not known: Yes
 Range: 1 to 552

Date Range: 01/01/13 to 08/10/20

This data displays the range of survey dates selected. Only surveys that were conducted within this date range are included in the trip rate calculation.

Selected survey days:

| | |
|-----------|--------|
| Monday | 5 days |
| Tuesday | 2 days |
| Wednesday | 4 days |
| Thursday | 4 days |
| Friday | 2 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys by day of the week.

Selected survey types:

| | |
|-----------------------|---------|
| Manual count | 17 days |
| Directional ATC Count | 0 days |

This data displays the number of manual classified surveys and the number of unclassified ATC surveys, the total adding up to the overall number of surveys in the selected set. Manual surveys are undertaken using staff, whilst ATC surveys are undertaken using machines.

Selected Locations:

| | |
|--|----|
| Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) | 3 |
| Edge of Town | 13 |
| Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) | 1 |

This data displays the number of surveys per main location category within the selected set. The main location categories consist of Free Standing, Edge of Town, Suburban Area, Neighbourhood Centre, Edge of Town Centre, Town Centre and Not Known.

This data displays the number of surveys per location sub-category within the selected set. The location sub-categories consist of Commercial Zone, Industrial Zone, Development Zone, Residential Zone, Retail Zone, Built-Up Zone, Village, Out of Town, High Street and No Sub Category.

Secondary Filtering selection:

Use Class:

C3 17 days

This data displays the number of surveys per Use Class classification within the selected set. The Use Classes Order 2005 has been used for this purpose, which can be found within the Library module of TRICS®.

Population within 500m Range:

All Surveys Included

Population within 1 mile:

| | |
|------------------|--------|
| 5,001 to 10,000 | 5 days |
| 10,001 to 15,000 | 8 days |
| 15,001 to 20,000 | 1 days |
| 20,001 to 25,000 | 3 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys within stated 1-mile radii of population.

Population within 5 miles:

| | |
|--------------------|--------|
| 5,001 to 25,000 | 2 days |
| 25,001 to 50,000 | 1 days |
| 50,001 to 75,000 | 3 days |
| 75,001 to 100,000 | 4 days |
| 100,001 to 125,000 | 1 days |
| 125,001 to 250,000 | 6 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys within stated 5-mile radii of population.

Car ownership within 5 miles:

| | |
|------------|--------|
| 0.6 to 1.0 | 5 days |
| 1.1 to 1.5 | 9 days |
| 1.6 to 2.0 | 3 days |

This data displays the number of selected surveys within stated ranges of average cars owned per residential dwelling, within a radius of 5-miles of selected survey sites.

Travel Plan:

| | |
|-----|--------|
| Yes | 8 days |
| No | 9 days |

This data displays the number of surveys within the selected set that were undertaken at sites with Travel Plans in place, and the number of surveys that were undertaken at sites without Travel Plans.

PTAL Rating:

| | |
|-----------------|---------|
| No PTAL Present | 17 days |
|-----------------|---------|

This data displays the number of selected surveys with PTAL Ratings.

| | | |
|-----------------------|-----|--|
| Covid-19 Restrictions | Yes | At least one survey within the selected data set was undertaken at a time of Covid-19 restrictions |
|-----------------------|-----|--|

LIST OF SITES relevant to selection parameters

| | | | |
|---|--|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1 | DS-03-A-02 RADBOURNE LANE DERBY | MIXED HOUSES | DERBYSHIRE |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 371 <i>Survey date: TUESDAY 10/07/18</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 2 | DV-03-A-02 MILLHEAD ROAD HONITON | HOUSES & BUNGALOWS | DEVON |
| | Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 116 <i>Survey date: FRIDAY 25/09/15</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 3 | ES-03-A-03 SHEPHAM LANE POLEGATE | MIXED HOUSES & FLATS | EAST SUSSEX |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 212 <i>Survey date: MONDAY 11/07/16</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 4 | FA-03-A-02 ROSEBANK AVENUE & SPRINGFIELD DRIVE FALKIRK | MIXED HOUSES | FALKIRK |
| | Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 161 <i>Survey date: WEDNESDAY 29/05/13</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 5 | HF-03-A-03 HARE STREET ROAD BUNTINGFORD | MIXED HOUSES | HERTFORDSHIRE |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 160 <i>Survey date: MONDAY 08/07/19</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 6 | KC-03-A-04 KILN BARN ROAD AYLESFORD DITTON | SEMI-DETACHED & TERRACED | KENT |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 110 <i>Survey date: FRIDAY 22/09/17</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 7 | KC-03-A-06 MARGATE ROAD HERNE BAY | MIXED HOUSES & FLATS | KENT |
| | Suburban Area (PPS6 Out of Centre) Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 363 <i>Survey date: WEDNESDAY 27/09/17</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 8 | KC-03-A-07 RECVLVER ROAD HERNE BAY | MIXED HOUSES | KENT |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: 288 <i>Survey date: WEDNESDAY 27/09/17</i> | | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |

LIST OF SITES relevant to selection parameters (Cont.)

| | | | | |
|----|---|--------------------------|-----------------|----------------------------|
| 9 | NE-03-A-02 HANOVER WALK SCUNTHORPE | SEMI DETACHED & DETACHED | | NORTH EAST LINCOLNSHIRE |
| | Edge of Town No Sub Category Total No of Dwellings: | | 432 | |
| | <i>Survey date: MONDAY</i> | | <i>12/05/14</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 10 | NF-03-A-06 BEAUFORT WAY GREAT YARMOUTH BRADWELL | MIXED HOUSES | | NORFOLK |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: | | 275 | |
| | <i>Survey date: MONDAY</i> | | <i>23/09/19</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 11 | SC-03-A-05 REIGATE ROAD HORLEY | MIXED HOUSES | | SURREY |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: | | 207 | |
| | <i>Survey date: MONDAY</i> | | <i>01/04/19</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 12 | SC-03-A-06 AMLETS LANE CRANLEIGH | MIXED HOUSES & FLATS | | SURREY |
| | Neighbourhood Centre (PPS6 Local Centre) Village Total No of Dwellings: | | 116 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>08/10/20</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 13 | ST-03-A-07 BEACONSIDE STAFFORD MARSTON GATE | DETACHED & SEMI-DETACHED | | STAFFORDSHIRE |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: | | 248 | |
| | <i>Survey date: WEDNESDAY</i> | | <i>22/11/17</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 14 | WS-03-A-04 HILLS FARM LANE HORSHAM BROADBRIDGE HEATH | MIXED HOUSES | | WEST SUSSEX |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: | | 151 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>11/12/14</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 15 | WS-03-A-08 ROUNDSTONE LANE ANGMERING | MIXED HOUSES | | WEST SUSSEX |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: | | 180 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>19/04/18</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |
| 16 | WS-03-A-09 LITTLEHAMPTON ROAD WORTHING WEST DURRINGTON | MIXED HOUSES & FLATS | | WEST SUSSEX |
| | Edge of Town Residential Zone Total No of Dwellings: | | 197 | |
| | <i>Survey date: THURSDAY</i> | | <i>05/07/18</i> | <i>Survey Type: MANUAL</i> |

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

LIST OF SITES relevant to selection parameters (Cont.)

| | | | |
|----|------------------------|--------------|---------------------|
| 17 | WS-03-A-11 | MIXED HOUSES | WEST SUSSEX |
| | ELLIS ROAD | | |
| | WEST HORSHAM | | |
| | S BROADBRIDGE HEATH | | |
| | Edge of Town | | |
| | Residential Zone | | |
| | Total No of Dwellings: | 918 | |
| | Survey date: TUESDAY | 02/04/19 | Survey Type: MANUAL |

This section provides a list of all survey sites and days in the selected set. For each individual survey site, it displays a unique site reference code and site address, the selected trip rate calculation parameter and its value, the day of the week and date of each survey, and whether the survey was a manual classified count or an ATC count.

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED

MULTI-MODAL TOTAL VEHICLES

Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.071 | 17 | 265 | 0.306 | 17 | 265 | 0.377 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.128 | 17 | 265 | 0.393 | 17 | 265 | 0.521 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.141 | 17 | 265 | 0.164 | 17 | 265 | 0.305 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.117 | 17 | 265 | 0.149 | 17 | 265 | 0.266 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.123 | 17 | 265 | 0.136 | 17 | 265 | 0.259 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.155 | 17 | 265 | 0.140 | 17 | 265 | 0.295 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.152 | 17 | 265 | 0.153 | 17 | 265 | 0.305 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.165 | 17 | 265 | 0.188 | 17 | 265 | 0.353 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.264 | 17 | 265 | 0.173 | 17 | 265 | 0.437 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.282 | 17 | 265 | 0.162 | 17 | 265 | 0.444 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.360 | 17 | 265 | 0.159 | 17 | 265 | 0.519 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.315 | 17 | 265 | 0.178 | 17 | 265 | 0.493 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 2.273 | | | 2.301 | | | 4.574 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

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Parameter summary

| | |
|---|---------------------|
| Trip rate parameter range selected: | 110 - 918 (units:) |
| Survey date range: | 01/01/13 - 08/10/20 |
| Number of weekdays (Monday-Friday): | 17 |
| Number of Saturdays: | 0 |
| Number of Sundays: | 0 |
| Surveys automatically removed from selection: | 1 |
| Surveys manually removed from selection: | 0 |

This section displays a quick summary of some of the data filtering selections made by the TRICS® user. The trip rate calculation parameter range of all selected surveys is displayed first, followed by the range of minimum and maximum survey dates selected by the user. Then, the total number of selected weekdays and weekend days in the selected set of surveys are shown. Finally, the number of survey days that have been manually removed from the selected set outside of the standard filtering procedure are displayed.

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED

MULTI-MODAL TAXIS

Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.008 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 | 17 | 265 | 0.010 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.008 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.031 | | | 0.030 | | | 0.061 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL OGVS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.020 | | | 0.019 | | | 0.039 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED

MULTI-MODAL PSVS

Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.008 | | | 0.008 | | | 0.016 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL CYCLISTS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 | 17 | 265 | 0.011 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 | 17 | 265 | 0.016 | 17 | 265 | 0.023 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.008 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.010 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.011 | 17 | 265 | 0.008 | 17 | 265 | 0.019 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.013 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.010 | 17 | 265 | 0.009 | 17 | 265 | 0.019 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.063 | | | 0.068 | | | 0.131 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL VEHICLE OCCUPANTS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.087 | 17 | 265 | 0.447 | 17 | 265 | 0.534 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.158 | 17 | 265 | 0.674 | 17 | 265 | 0.832 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.181 | 17 | 265 | 0.237 | 17 | 265 | 0.418 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.154 | 17 | 265 | 0.210 | 17 | 265 | 0.364 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.165 | 17 | 265 | 0.199 | 17 | 265 | 0.364 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.215 | 17 | 265 | 0.192 | 17 | 265 | 0.407 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.217 | 17 | 265 | 0.212 | 17 | 265 | 0.429 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.228 | 17 | 265 | 0.260 | 17 | 265 | 0.488 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.458 | 17 | 265 | 0.242 | 17 | 265 | 0.700 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.472 | 17 | 265 | 0.242 | 17 | 265 | 0.714 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.568 | 17 | 265 | 0.231 | 17 | 265 | 0.799 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.484 | 17 | 265 | 0.275 | 17 | 265 | 0.759 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 3.387 | | | 3.421 | | | 6.808 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED

MULTI-MODAL PEDESTRIANS

Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.015 | 17 | 265 | 0.029 | 17 | 265 | 0.044 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.036 | 17 | 265 | 0.100 | 17 | 265 | 0.136 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.030 | 17 | 265 | 0.029 | 17 | 265 | 0.059 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.023 | 17 | 265 | 0.027 | 17 | 265 | 0.050 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 | 17 | 265 | 0.021 | 17 | 265 | 0.041 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.025 | 17 | 265 | 0.014 | 17 | 265 | 0.039 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.016 | 17 | 265 | 0.024 | 17 | 265 | 0.040 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.028 | 17 | 265 | 0.035 | 17 | 265 | 0.063 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.083 | 17 | 265 | 0.036 | 17 | 265 | 0.119 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.050 | 17 | 265 | 0.026 | 17 | 265 | 0.076 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.038 | 17 | 265 | 0.026 | 17 | 265 | 0.064 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.041 | 17 | 265 | 0.043 | 17 | 265 | 0.084 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.405 | | | 0.410 | | | 0.815 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: $COUNT/TRP*FACT$. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL BUS/TRAM PASSENGERS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.016 | 17 | 265 | 0.017 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.015 | 17 | 265 | 0.016 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 | 17 | 265 | 0.009 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.017 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 | 17 | 265 | 0.023 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.013 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.017 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.008 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.010 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.012 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.015 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.068 | | | 0.068 | | | 0.136 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL TOTAL RAIL PASSENGERS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.016 | | | 0.020 | | | 0.036 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL COACH PASSENGERS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.000 | | | 0.001 | | | 0.001 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL PUBLIC TRANSPORT USERS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.021 | 17 | 265 | 0.023 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.022 | 17 | 265 | 0.023 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.010 | 17 | 265 | 0.012 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.006 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.005 | 17 | 265 | 0.008 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.008 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 | 17 | 265 | 0.007 | 17 | 265 | 0.027 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.016 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.012 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.015 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.016 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.085 | | | 0.091 | | | 0.176 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL TOTAL PEOPLE
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.109 | 17 | 265 | 0.503 | 17 | 265 | 0.612 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.202 | 17 | 265 | 0.812 | 17 | 265 | 1.014 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.214 | 17 | 265 | 0.279 | 17 | 265 | 0.493 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.182 | 17 | 265 | 0.244 | 17 | 265 | 0.426 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.190 | 17 | 265 | 0.228 | 17 | 265 | 0.418 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.247 | 17 | 265 | 0.215 | 17 | 265 | 0.462 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.239 | 17 | 265 | 0.240 | 17 | 265 | 0.479 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.264 | 17 | 265 | 0.300 | 17 | 265 | 0.564 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.566 | 17 | 265 | 0.289 | 17 | 265 | 0.855 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.548 | 17 | 265 | 0.280 | 17 | 265 | 0.828 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.631 | 17 | 265 | 0.268 | 17 | 265 | 0.899 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.551 | 17 | 265 | 0.331 | 17 | 265 | 0.882 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 3.943 | | | 3.989 | | | 7.932 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

FM STREET NAME TOWN/CITY

Licence No: 204604

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED

MULTI-MODAL CARS

Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS

BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.050 | 17 | 265 | 0.252 | 17 | 265 | 0.302 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.101 | 17 | 265 | 0.321 | 17 | 265 | 0.422 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.101 | 17 | 265 | 0.126 | 17 | 265 | 0.227 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.082 | 17 | 265 | 0.110 | 17 | 265 | 0.192 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.094 | 17 | 265 | 0.101 | 17 | 265 | 0.195 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.113 | 17 | 265 | 0.104 | 17 | 265 | 0.217 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.111 | 17 | 265 | 0.108 | 17 | 265 | 0.219 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.122 | 17 | 265 | 0.141 | 17 | 265 | 0.263 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.206 | 17 | 265 | 0.122 | 17 | 265 | 0.328 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.217 | 17 | 265 | 0.118 | 17 | 265 | 0.335 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.294 | 17 | 265 | 0.119 | 17 | 265 | 0.413 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.260 | 17 | 265 | 0.139 | 17 | 265 | 0.399 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 1.751 | | | 1.761 | | | 3.512 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL LGVS
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.012 | 17 | 265 | 0.025 | 17 | 265 | 0.037 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.012 | 17 | 265 | 0.021 | 17 | 265 | 0.033 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 | 17 | 265 | 0.019 | 17 | 265 | 0.039 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.018 | 17 | 265 | 0.017 | 17 | 265 | 0.035 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.015 | 17 | 265 | 0.018 | 17 | 265 | 0.033 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.018 | 17 | 265 | 0.015 | 17 | 265 | 0.033 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 | 17 | 265 | 0.022 | 17 | 265 | 0.042 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.019 | 17 | 265 | 0.018 | 17 | 265 | 0.037 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 | 17 | 265 | 0.020 | 17 | 265 | 0.040 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.021 | 17 | 265 | 0.016 | 17 | 265 | 0.037 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.028 | 17 | 265 | 0.015 | 17 | 265 | 0.043 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.018 | 17 | 265 | 0.012 | 17 | 265 | 0.030 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.221 | | | 0.218 | | | 0.439 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

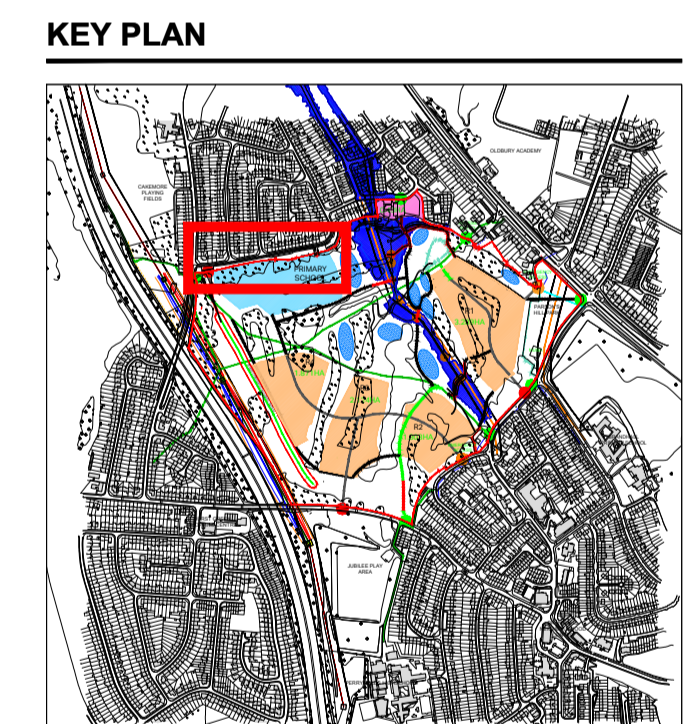
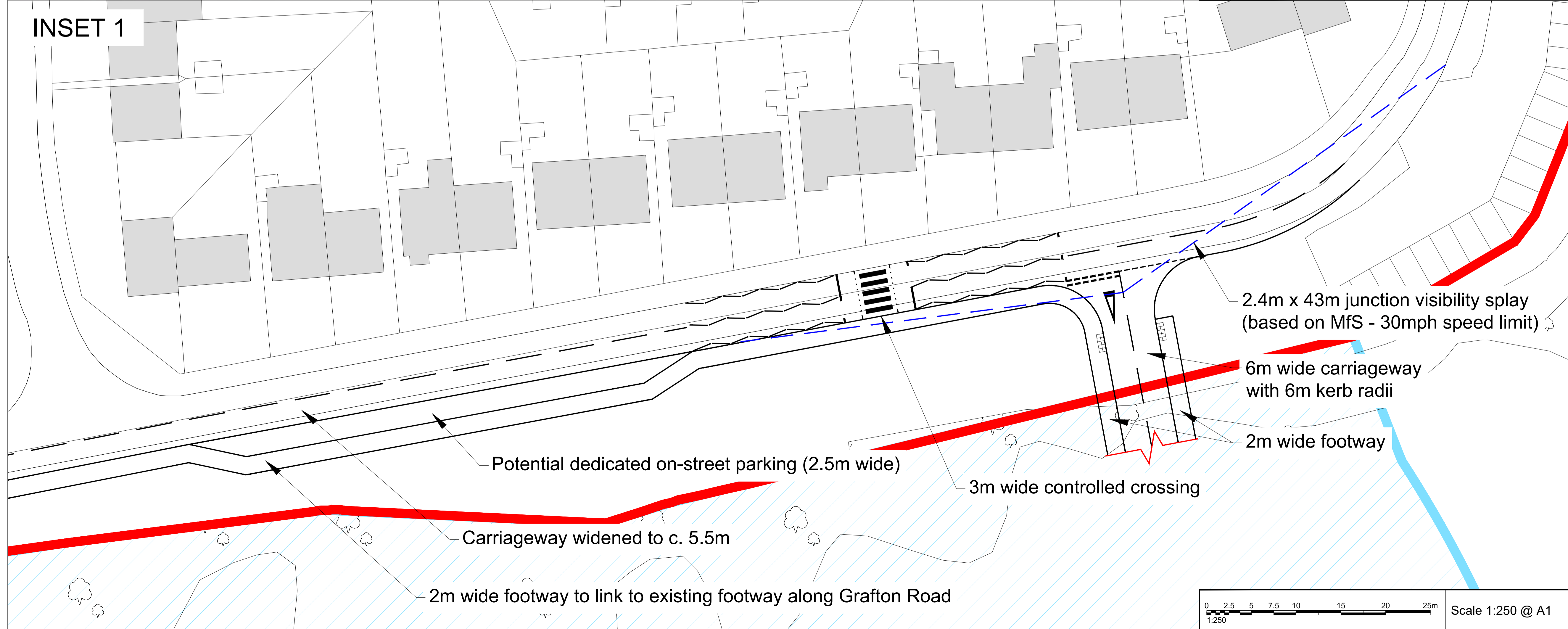
TRIP RATE for Land Use 03 - RESIDENTIAL/A - HOUSES PRIVATELY OWNED
 MULTI-MODAL MOTOR CYCLES
 Calculation factor: 1 DWELLS
 BOLD print indicates peak (busiest) period

| Time Range | ARRIVALS | | | DEPARTURES | | | TOTALS | | |
|---------------------|----------|-------------|-----------|------------|-------------|-----------|----------|-------------|-----------|
| | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate | No. Days | Ave. DWELLS | Trip Rate |
| 00:00 - 01:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 01:00 - 02:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 02:00 - 03:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 03:00 - 04:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 04:00 - 05:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 05:00 - 06:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 06:00 - 07:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 07:00 - 08:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 |
| 08:00 - 09:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 09:00 - 10:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 10:00 - 11:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 11:00 - 12:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 12:00 - 13:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 |
| 13:00 - 14:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.000 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 |
| 14:00 - 15:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 15:00 - 16:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 |
| 16:00 - 17:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.004 |
| 17:00 - 18:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 18:00 - 19:00 | 17 | 265 | 0.002 | 17 | 265 | 0.001 | 17 | 265 | 0.003 |
| 19:00 - 20:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 20:00 - 21:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 21:00 - 22:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 22:00 - 23:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| 23:00 - 24:00 | | | | | | | | | |
| Total Rates: | | | 0.009 | | | 0.010 | | | 0.019 |

This section displays the trip rate results based on the selected set of surveys and the selected count type (shown just above the table). It is split by three main columns, representing arrivals trips, departures trips, and total trips (arrivals plus departures). Within each of these main columns are three sub-columns. These display the number of survey days where count data is included (per time period), the average value of the selected trip rate calculation parameter (per time period), and the trip rate result (per time period). Total trip rates (the sum of the column) are also displayed at the foot of the table.

*To obtain a trip rate, the average (mean) trip rate parameter value (TRP) is first calculated for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. The average (mean) number of arrivals, departures or totals (whichever applies) is also calculated (COUNT) for all selected survey days that have count data available for the stated time period. Then, the average count is divided by the average trip rate parameter value, and multiplied by the stated calculation factor (shown just above the table and abbreviated here as FACT). So, the method is: COUNT/TRP*FACT. Trip rates are then rounded to 3 decimal places.*

Appendix B – Primary School Access Option



ISSUE/REVISION

| NR | DATE | DESCRIPTION | BY | CHK | APP |
|-------|----------|-------------|----|-----|-----|
| P01.1 | 27/04/22 | First Issue | BC | CM | CM |

ISSUE PURPOSE / SUITABILITY
INITIAL STATUS OR WIP

PROJECT NUMBER
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SHEET TITLE
BRANDHALL URBAN VILLAGE
PRELIMINARY SITE ACCESS DESIGN
FOR PRIMARY SCHOOL

SHEET NUMBER
60653817_3622_001

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Brandhall Urban Village

Preliminary Ecological
Appraisal Report

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

28 May 2021

Quality information

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Revision History

| Revision | Revision date | Details | Authorized | Name | Position |
|----------|---------------|---------|------------|------|----------|
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Executive Summary

| | |
|--|---|
| <p>Site Details</p> | <p>The Scheme known as Brandhall Urban Village is proposed at the 36ha former Brandhall Golf Club, Oldbury in the West Midlands.</p> |
| <p>Scheme Details</p> | <p>The Scheme is for the development of an urban village including public open space, which might comprise approximately 550 residential units, care home facility, a few shops and possibly a school. Ecological survey and assessment work is required to inform the Site masterplan design, development strategy and planning application, which is expected to be submitted during late-2021.</p> |
| <p>Ecological Features that may be affected by the Scheme</p> | <p>The Site comprises a designated rock outcrop, broadleaved semi-natural woodland with some mature trees, amenity grassland, pools and two minor watercourses. The Site is accessed by the public and is surrounded by roads and houses, which are part of the local urban conurbation.</p> |
| <p>Recommendations for further survey and assessment</p> | <p>Bat emergence/return survey visits of trees with high and moderate roost potential to determine if they are an ecological constraint to the Scheme and an activity survey to record key commuting/foraging routes across the Site. Also a winter survey of trees with high and moderate roost potential to search for hibernating bats.</p> |
| <p>Recommendations for Mitigation</p> | <p>Reduction of broadleaved semi-natural woodland clearance and replacement for loss of this habitat of principal importance. Protection of mature trees, particularly penduculate oak.</p> |
| <p>Opportunities for Biodiversity Enhancements</p> | <p>Sympathetic management of woodland, grassland watercourses and pools. Eradication of wall cotoneaster to allow native plants to flourish. Installation of bat, bird and invertebrate boxes.</p> |

1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 This Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC), to assess the ecological constraints in connection with developing a new urban village (hereafter referred to as the Scheme). The Scheme is located at the former Brandhall Golf Course in Oldbury, West Midlands, as shown by the red line boundary on Plate 1 below (and Figure 1 in Appendix A). All land situated within this red line is hereafter referred to as the Site.
- 1.2 The assessment of ecological constraints has been undertaken with reference to current good practice¹ and forms part of the technical information commissioned by SMBC in connection with the Scheme. The PEAR addresses relevant wildlife legislation and planning policy as summarised in Appendix B and is consistent with the requirements of *British Standard 42020:2013 Biodiversity. Code of Practice for Planning and Development*.
- 1.3 This PEAR is intended for advice in respect of Scheme design and site layout. Further ecological surveys and ecological impact assessment (including detailed mitigation measures) will be required in connection with a planning application and to contribute to an Environmental Impact Assessment once the Scheme proposals have been finalised and any required surveys have been completed.

The Site

- 1.4 The Site is located to the south of Heron Road in Oldbury at Ordnance Survey national grid reference SO992862 and is approximately 36ha in size. The Site is shown below in Plate 1.



Plate 1: Site Boundary

- 1.5 The Site mainly comprises amenity grassland, belts of broadleaved woodland with some mature trees, which are intergral components of the former golf course. Two minor watercourse are present within the

¹ CIEEM (2017). *Guidelines for Preliminary Ecological Appraisal, 2nd edition*. Chartered Institute of Ecology and Environmental Management, Winchester.

Site which join and drain off-site to the north. The Site is bounded by the M5 motorway to the west and residential housing on the other sides, which are associated with the local urban conurbation.

The Scheme

1.6 The Scheme proposes the development of an urban village including public open space at the Site, which might comprise approximately 550 residential units, care home facility, a few shops and possibly a school. This would necessitate some woodland removal to accommodate the urban village. Where necessary, mitigation measures to reduce impact to important ecological features will be implemented as well as embedded biodiversity enhancements as part of the Scheme. The planning application is expected to be submitted during late-2021.

Purpose of the Preliminary Ecological Appraisal

1.7 This PEAR presents ecological information obtained during the following:

- a desk-study undertaken on 11 March 2021 to obtain records of:
 - statutory designated nature conservation sites of international importance within 10km of the Site; and,
 - statutory and non-statutory designated nature conservation sites of national and lower importance, notable habitats² and protected and notable species³ within 2km of the Site (the area covered by the desk study is hereafter referred to as the Study Area);
- a walkover survey of accessible land within and up to 30m adjacent to the Site (the area covered by the survey is hereafter referred to as the Survey Area) on four day visits between 1 April and 13 May 2021;
- a tree climbing survey of mature trees that involved an inspection of potential bat roost features took place at the Site on 26 April 2021; and,
- a great crested newt eDNA survey of potential breeding habitat at the Site on 13 May 2021.

1.8 The purpose of the PEAR is to provide a high-level ecological appraisal of the Site, specifically to identify:

- baseline conditions and determine the presence of Important Ecological Features (IEF)⁴ (or those that could be present), as far as is possible;
- potential ecological constraints to the Scheme and make initial recommendations to avoid impacts on IEFs, where possible;
- any requirements for mitigation, where possible, including mitigation measures that will be required and those that may be required (depending on results of further surveys or final scheme design);
- to establish any requirements for more detailed surveys; and,
- any opportunities offered by the Scheme to deliver biodiversity enhancements.

1.9 The methodology followed for undertaking the desk study and field surveys is detailed in Appendix C, including any limitations to the assessment.

²Notable habitats are taken as principal habitats for the conservation of biodiversity listed under Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*; habitats listed under the Birmingham and the Black Country Biodiversity Action Plan (BAP); hedgerows identified as being 'important' under the wildlife criteria of the *Hedgerow Regulations 1997*, ancient woodlands and veteran trees.

³Notable species are taken as principal species for the conservation of biodiversity listed under Section 41 of the *Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006*; any species listed in an IUCN Red Data Book; and any other species listed under the Birmingham and Black Country BAP.

⁴ Important Ecological Features are habitats, species, ecosystems and their functions and processes that are of conservation importance and could potentially be affected by the Scheme.

2. Ecological Baseline, Constraints and Recommendations

- 2.1 The following sections detail the results of the desk and field-based studies undertaken to inform this PEAR. Where necessary, recommendations for mitigation measures to protect known IEFs, or further surveys to determine the presence or absence of likely IEFs, are provided.
- 2.2 With regard to background data, 'recent' records are considered to be those no older than 10 years from the date of the desk study. Records outside of this period are historical and have only been reported where more recent records for a feature do not exist. Exceptions to this are detailed in the appropriate sections below.

Designated Nature Conservation Sites

Desk Study

- 2.3 There are three statutory designated sites within the Study Area: Fen Pools Special Area of Conservation (SAC) of international importance, The Leasowes Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI) of national importance and Thimblemill Brook Local Nature Reserve (LNR) of local importance.
- 2.4 There are 10 non-statutory sites: four Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs); five lower tier Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs) and a Wildlife Corridor within the Study Area.
- 2.5 Details about these 13 designated sites within the Study Area are summarised in Table 1.

Table 1. Designated Sites within Study Area

| Designated Site | Reason for Designation | Location of Designated Site ⁵ |
|----------------------------------|---|--|
| Fen Pools SAC | Large population of great crested newt (<i>Triturus cristatus</i>). | 7km north-west |
| The Leasowes SSSI | Lowland meadow that supports 28 species of waxcap fungi (<i>Hygrocybe</i> spp.) and broadleaved semi-natural woodland. | 1.7km to the south-west |
| Thimblemill Brook LNR & SINC | Broadleaved semi-natural woodland adjacent to stream. | 840m to the north-east |
| Barnford Hill Park SINC | Geological – an outcrop of a calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. | 670m to the north-east |
| Warley Woods SINC | Broadleaved semi-natural woodland part of which is included on the county Ancient Woodland Inventory. | 1.1km to the east |
| Coombeswood Wedge SINC | Broadleaved semi-natural woodland, lowland meadow and dry acid grassland | 1.5km to the south-west |
| Brandhall Golf Course SLINC | Geological – an outcrop of a calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. | Within the Site |
| Warley High School Grounds SLINC | Geological – an outcrop of a calcareous conglomerate beneath tree roots on top of a bank. | 160m to the north |
| Langley Reservoir SLINC | Semi-improved neutral grassland. | 610m to the north-east |
| Titford Pool SLINC | Former canal reservoir that supports aquatic plants. | 1.4km to the north |

⁵Where designated sites are situated outside of the Site boundary, the distance and direction is given at the closest point of the designated site from the Site

| Designated Site | Reason for Designation | Location of Designated Site ⁵ |
|------------------------------|--|--|
| Titford Canal SLINC | Remnant stretch of canal that supports aquatic plants. | 1.6km to the north |
| River Tame Wildlife Corridor | Semi-natural habitats alongside the M5 motorway that facilitate wildlife movement north and south of the former Brandhall Golf Course. | Within and adjacent to the Site |

Field Survey

- 2.6 The calcareous conglomerate outcrop occurs in the north-east part of the Site and is the reason for designation of Brandhall Golf Course SLINC (Target Note [TN]1 on Figure 1).
- 2.7 The semi-natural habitats across the former Brandhall Golf Course and alongside the M5 motorway are integral parts of the River Tame Wildlife Corridor, which facilitate species dispersal north and south of the Site.

Constraints and Recommendations

- 2.8 The calcareous conglomerate outcrop that is associated with the Brandhall Golf Course SLINC designation should be protected and enhanced as part of the Scheme.
- 2.9 The features associated with the other 11 designated nature conservation sites summarised in Table 1 are sufficiently distant from the Site and will not be impacted by the Scheme. Therefore no further assessment is needed of these 11 designated sites.

Habitats

Desk Study

- 2.10 Part of Warley Woods is an Ancient Woodland Inventory (AWI) site which is located 1.1km east of the Site. The broadleaved semi-natural woodland at the Site qualifies as lowland mixed deciduous woodland, a habitat of principal importance and a conservation priority of the Birmingham and the Black Country BAP.
- 2.11 There are no records of protected or notable flora⁶ within the Study Area.

Field Survey

- 2.12 Summary descriptions of the habitats within the Survey Area are provided below and shown on Figure 1. TN descriptions and photographs are provided in Appendix D.

Buildings

- 2.13 The former golf course Clubhouse on the north side and two smaller maintenance buildings on the south-east side of the Site.

Hardstanding

- 2.14 Areas of hardstanding that comprise a tennis court, car parks and formal surfaced paths are located across the Site.

Amenity grassland

- 2.15 Amenity grassland is the predominant habitat within the Site. This grassland is regularly mown and a sward height of approximately 50mm is maintained. The grassland supports common plant species including common bent (*Agrostis capillaris*), smooth meadow-grass (*Poa pratensis*), red fescue (*Festuca rubra*), perennial rye-grass (*Lolium perenne*) and Yorkshire-fog (*Holcus lanatus*), creeping buttercup

⁶ For this assessment 'flora' includes: vascular and non-vascular plants, fungi and lichens.

(*Ranunculus repens*), white clover (*Trifolium repens*), daisy (*Bellis perennis*) and dandelion (*Taraxacum officinalis* agg.).

Broadleaved semi-natural woodland

- 2.16 Across the Site are belts of broadleaved semi-natural woodland, which is a habitat of principal importance. A wide range of trees and shrubs are present and this includes mature pedunculate oaks (*Quercus robur*). The understorey of the woodland belts is sparse and comprises hawthorn (*Crataegus monogyna*) and hazel (*Corylus avellana*). Recently coppiced woodland occurs on the west side of the Site beneath the high voltage power lines adjacent to the M5 motorway.

Broadleaved plantation woodland

- 2.17 A recently planted belt of alder (*Alnus glutinosa*) occurs either side of the watercourse close to the north Site boundary.

Swamp

- 2.18 There are three areas with swamp at the Site that support a range of common marginal and aquatic plant species including reed sweet-grass (*Glyceria maxima*), bulrush (*Typha latifolia*), yellow iris (*Iris pseudacorus*) mare's-tail (*Hippuris vulagris*).

Running water

- 2.19 There are two minor watercourses, approximately 1m in width, that flow across the central and northern boundary of the Site.

Introduced shrubs

- 2.20 Wall cotoneaster (*Cotoneaster horizontalis*), which is listed on Schedule 9 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), is an invasive non-native species that is present in two locations at the Site (TN1 and TN2 on Figure 1). Chinese barberry (*Berberis candidula*) which is a non-native shrub which grows on a slope near the Brandhall Golf Clubhouse on the north side of the Site.

Species-poor intact hedge a hawthorn

- 2.21 A regularly cut hawthorn hedge is located along the south and south-east boundaries of the Site.

Constraints and Recommendations

- 2.22 Warley Woods AWI is sufficiently distant from the Site and is not a constraint to the Scheme.
- 2.23 The Scheme will require the removal of some broadleaved semi-natural woodland. It is recommended that the Scheme should seek to retain and protect broadleaved semi-natural woodland given that it is a habitat of principal importance. Any removal of woodland should be replaced to ensure that there is no net loss of this habitat at the Site.
- 2.24 The other habitats present at the Site are not a constraint to the Scheme.
- 2.25 It is recommended that the Scheme implements careful measures to eradicate wall cotoneaster from the Site and not to cause this species to spread during this process.

Bats

Desk Study

- 2.26 In total, 17 records of bats within the Study Area were returned, which date back to 2011. The closest / most relevant of these records is associated with two common pipistrelles (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*) which were recorded foraging in a residential garden approximately 300m south of the Site. There are also records of two other bat species; soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*) and Daubenton's bat (*Myotis daubentonii*) foraging over the Tifford Canal approximately 1.6km north of the Site.

Field Survey

2.27 Table 2 summarises the potential bat roost features and foraging habitats at the Site. No buildings with bat roost potential are present. In total, 29 trees have bat roost suitability which were subject to tree climbing inspection on 26 April 2021. No bats were recorded during these inspection surveys. Of these 29 trees, four, 10 and 15 respectively have high, moderate and low bat roost potential.

2.28 The 14 trees with high and moderate bat roost potential are described in Table 2 and their locations are shown on Figure 1. TN descriptions and photographs are provided in Appendix D.

Table 2. Summary of Bat presence/ potential presence within the Survey Area

| Feature | Description | Location ⁷ | Relevant Target Notes |
|---------|---|-----------------------|-----------------------|
| T1 | Woodpecker hole in black Italian poplar. High potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN3 |
| T3 | Trunk splits in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN4 |
| T8 | Woodpecker hole in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN5 |
| T9 | Branch cavity in pedunculate oak. High potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN6 |
| T11 | Long vertical trunk split in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN7 |
| T12 | Basal trunk cavity in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN8 |
| T13 | Woodpecker hole in pedunculate oak. High potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN9 |
| T14 | Callus role cavity in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN10 |
| T15 | Woodpecker hole in goat willow. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN11 |
| T17 | Trunk cavity in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN12 |
| T18 | Branch cavity in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN13 |
| T19 | Woodpecker hole in pedunculate oak. High potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN14 |
| T21 | Branch cavity in sycamore. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN15 |

⁷Where features are situated outside of the Site boundary, the distance and direction is given at the closest point of the feature from the Site

| Feature | Description | Location ⁷ | Relevant Target Notes |
|-----------------|---|---|-----------------------|
| T28 | Basal trunk cavity in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. | Within the Site | TN16 |
| Woodland belts. | Suitability commuting/foraging habitat for bats. | Within the Site and connecting with other potential roost sites (houses) and foraging habitat (watercourses and woodlands) within the Study Area. | N/A |

Constraints and Recommendations

2.29 The Scheme will require the removal of mature trees including some which have been assessed as having high and moderate bat roost potential. It is recommended that bat emergence/return surveys are carried out of these trees between May and August 2021 to determine if roosts are present which might be constraints to the Scheme and the key commuting/foraging routes across the Site. Trees with moderate to high bat roost potential should also be inspected for hibernating bats during the winter.

Great Crested Newt

Desk Study

- 2.30 A large population of great crested newts (*Triturus cristatus*) occurs at Fen Pools SAC approximately 7km north-west of the Site and is primary reason for its designation. No record of great crested newt within 2km of the Site was returned.
- 2.31 A total of two water bodies are present in residential gardens within 500m of the Site. Both of these water bodies are screened out of requiring further assessment as there are major barriers⁸ to great crested newt movement between them and the Site.

Field Survey

- 2.32 Table 3 describes three locations which have the potential to support great crested newt at the Site. Deep silt in the shallow pools prevented the use of traditional great crested search techniques; instead habitat suitability index (HSI)⁹ assessments and water samples were taken for great crested newt eDNA analysis on 13 May 2021.
- 2.33 The three pools are described in Table 3 and their locations are shown on Figure 1. TN descriptions and photographs are provided in Appendix D.

⁸ The following constitute major barriers to dispersal and are unlikely to be traversed by great crested newts: rivers and larger brooks; main roads such as A-roads, motorways or any other road with high traffic volume (i.e. high traffic volume during the night when great crested newt are more likely to be dispersing/commuting); and major urban infrastructure including extensive areas of hardstanding and buildings and dense networks of minor roads with little green space.

⁹ Habitat Suitability Index score is an assessment of the potential for a waterbody to support great crested newts. See [Appendix C](#) for more details.

Table 3. Summary of Great Crested Newt survey findings

| Feature | Description of Feature and Location ¹⁰ | HSI Score | eDNA Result | Relevant Target Notes |
|---------|---|----------------------|---|-----------------------|
| P1 | This pool is the confluence of two minor watercourses which flows across the Site, which has been recently dredged. It comprises open water with a narrow belt of marginal vegetation that includes reed sweet-grass, bulrush, yellow iris, brooklime (<i>Veronica beccabunga</i>) and soft-rush (<i>Juncus effusus</i>). | 0.54 (Below Average) | Not tested (unsuitable breeding habitat – aquatic plants used by great crested newt for egg laying were recently removed) | TN17 |
| P2 | This pool is deeply silted, encroached with swamp vegetation and a few small areas of open water that is susceptible to drying out. There is an overflow which connects with a minor watercourse. The swamp vegetation is represented by bulrush, yellow iris and marsh-marigold (<i>Caltha palustris</i>). | 0.67 (Average) | Negative ¹¹ | TN18 |
| P3 | This pool is part of a minor watercourse that comprises a mosaic of deep silt, swamp vegetation and small areas of open water. The swamp vegetation is represented by water mint, bulrush, yellow iris, mare's-tail and common duckweed (<i>Lemna minor</i>). Common frog (<i>Rana temporaria</i>) and smooth newt (<i>Lissotriton vulgaris</i>) are present. | 0.72 (Good) | Negative | TN19 |

Constraints and Recommendations

2.34 Pools P2 and P3 appear to provide suitable breeding habitat for great crested newts. However, great crested newt eDNA was not detected in water samples taken from these pools which indicates that this species is likely to be absent. Furthermore, the grassland surrounding the pools has been subject to regular mowing to maintain a sward height of approximately 50mm, which provides sub-optimal terrestrial habitat for great crested newt. For these reasons, great crested newt is not considered a constraint to the Scheme.

Reptiles

Desk Study

2.35 No record of reptiles within 2km of the Site was returned.

Field Survey

2.36 The grassland at the Site has been subject to regular mowing to maintain a sward height of approximately 50mm. The short grass provides sub-optimal habitat for reptile and there are no features considered suitable to support breeding populations on Site.

Constraints and Recommendations

2.37 Reptiles are not considered to be a constraint to the Scheme.

¹⁰Where features are situated outside of the Site boundary, the distance and direction is given at the closest point of the feature from the Site

¹¹ A negative test result implies that great crested newt presence has not been detected.

Birds

Desk Study

2.38 In total, records of 11 notable¹² bird species within the Study Area were returned, which date back to 2011. These include:

- eight species of principal importance: skylark (*Aluada arvensis*), starling (*Sturnus vulgaris*), song thrush (*Turdus philomelos*), mistle thrush (*Turdus viscivorus*), house sparrow (*Passer domesticus*), dunnock (*Prunella modularis*), bullfinch (*Pyrrhula pyrrhula*) and linnet (*Linaria cannabina*);
- six species on the Birds of Conservation Concern 4 (BoCC4) Red List: skylark, starling, song thrush, mistle thrush, bullfinch and linnet; and,
- five species on the BoCC4 Amber List: mallard (*Anas platyrhynchos*), stock dove (*Columba oenas*), kestrel (*Falco tinnunculus*), and bullfinch.

2.39 All of these species are relatively common (though some are declining) in England.

Field Survey

2.40 During four visits to the Site between 1 April and 13 April 2021, a total of 28 common bird species associated with broadleaved woodland, mature trees and hedgerows were recorded nesting at the Site. This includes five notable species, which comprise a few pairs each of: stock dove, starling, song thrush, mistle thrush and bullfinch. Table 4 summarises the features that provide breeding and foraging habitat for these notable species and assemblages of birds at the Site.

Table 4. Summary of features that support notable birds at the Site

| Feature | Description |
|---|---|
| Mature broadleaved trees with cavities | Nest sites for stock dove and starling |
| Mature broadleaved trees | Nest sites for mistle thrush |
| Hedgerows | Nest sites for song thrush and bullfinch |
| Mosaic of broadleaved woodland, hedgerows and grassland | Foraging habitat and nest sites for a wide range of species |

2.41 House sparrow which is also a notable species nests in houses surrounding the Site.

Constraints and Recommendations

2.42 The Scheme will require the removal of some broadleaved semi-natural woodland, hedgerow and amenity grassland. This will result in the displacement of common birds including a few pairs of notable species that nest at the Site to similar habitats within the Study Area. For this reason a detailed breeding bird survey is not required. The displacement of common bird species is not considered a constraint to the Scheme. It is recommended that measures should be implemented to enhance the retained habitat for birds including the provision of nest boxes for notable species.

¹² Notable bird species are taken as those listed: on Annex I of the EC Birds Directive (2009/147/EC); on Schedule 1 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended); as Species of Principal Importance (SPI) for the Conservation of Biodiversity in England listed in Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act 2006; as Red or Amber in the Birds of Conservation Concern (BoCC) 4 (Eaton MA, Aebischer NJ, Brown AF, Hearn RD, Lock L, Musgrove AJ, Noble DG, Stroud DA and Gregory RD (2015). Birds of Conservation Concern 4: the population status of birds in the United Kingdom, Channel Islands and Isle of Man. *British Birds* 108, 708-746); bird species or groups listed under the local BAP.

Badger

Desk Study

- 2.43 Four recent records of badger (*Meles meles*) within the Study Area were returned. The closest of these records is associated with one observed in a residential garden approximately 600m south of the Site boundary.

Field Survey

- 2.44 It is possible that badgers visit the Site but no sign of their presence was recorded.

Constraints and Recommendations

- 2.45 The Site is surrounded by roads and badgers are vulnerable to road traffic injury or fatality, therefore reducing the likelihood of badger being present. Badger is not considered to be a constraint to the Scheme.

Hedgehog

Desk Study

- 2.46 No recent record of hedgehog (*Erinaceus europaeus*) was returned. A hedgehog was recorded in 2004 at Warley, approximately 1.3km east of the Site boundary.

Field Survey

- 2.47 It is possible that hedgehogs visit the Site but no sign of their presence was recorded.

Constraints and Recommendations

- 2.48 The Site is surrounded by roads and hedgehogs are vulnerable to road traffic injury or fatality. Hedgehog is not considered to be a constraint to the Scheme.

Terrestrial Invertebrates

Desk Study

- 2.49 No recent record of protected or otherwise notable terrestrial invertebrates was returned for the Site. A few notable moths and mining bees were recorded from various locations no closer than 1.2km from the Site.

Field Survey

- 2.50 It is likely that a range of common terrestrial invertebrates occur and the Site and particularly species that are typically associated with pedunculate oak.

Constraints and Recommendations

- 2.51 It is recommended that the mature pedunculate oaks are retained and protected as part of the Scheme. It is recommended that measures should be implemented to enhance the retained habitat for terrestrial invertebrates including the provision of boxes for notable species, provision of free-draining banks with southerly aspects to attract ground burrowing insects and flower-rich grassland.

3. Opportunities for Enhancements

- 3.1 The following enhancements could be delivered to increase the biodiversity value of the Scheme in accordance with the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), regional and local planning policies outlined in Appendix B. These are high level opportunities and would need to be developed in greater detail once further surveys have been completed and the Scheme proposals, such as detailed areas of habitat loss are confirmed.

Calcareous conglomerate outcrop (Brandhall Golf Course SLINC)

- 3.2 Removal of scrub around the calcareous conglomerate outcrop, including the eradication of wall cononeaster but not causing this species to spread.

Woodland

- 3.3 Management of the woodlands through selective thinning/coppicing to increase structural diversity. Planting of hazel and hawthorn within the woodland belts to enhance structural diversity within the understorey to increase their biodiversity value. Extend the retained woodland belts (that are orientated NE-SW and N-S) to the southern boundary hedgerow to facilitate species dispersal across the Site to the other parts of the River Tame Wildlife Corridor.

Grassland

Strip the amenity grassland and reseed as a wildflower meadow with the introduction of climate resilient native species that are characteristic of the local area.

Watercourses

- 3.4 Removal of culverted sections of watercourse to form open channels. Any watercourse diversions designed with sinuous alignment, soft banks, shelves stocked with plant species characteristic of the local area and large side pools. Removal of swamp vegetation and silt from the pools to create more open water. Increase the biodiversity value of any proposed Sustainable Urban Drainage System.

Bats

- 3.5 Installation of bat boxes of different designs on suitable trees to provide roost sites at the Site. Provision should be made within the Scheme to facilitate bat dispersal to and from the Site and to the River Tame Wildlife Corridor.

Birds

- 3.6 Installation of bird boxes of different designs on trees and buildings to attract a range of species to the Site including house sparrow, house martin (*Delichon urbicum*) and swift (*Apus apus*).

Invertebrates

- 3.7 Creation of roadside wildflower verges for pollinator insects. Create native species-rich hedgerows with standard hawthorn and goat willow to attract a range of pollinating insects. Provision of free-draining banks with southerly aspects to attract ground burrowing insects. Installation of invertebrate boxes on suitable trees to provide places of shelter at the Site. Retaining felled trees on Site to provide habitat for deadwood invertebrates.

4. Conclusion

- 4.1 This PEAR is based on a desk study and four ecological surveys undertaken between 1 April and 13 May 2021, to assess the ecological constraints to the Scheme and to provide advice in respect of Scheme design and site layout.
- 4.2 The following further survey, summarised in Table 5, is recommended to inform the masterplan and planning application.

Table 5. Summary of Recommendations

| Feature | Recommendation | Timing |
|---------|--|--|
| Bats | Bat roost emergence/return surveys to determine species presence and colony size in trees at the Site: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • three survey visits of trees with high roost potential; and, • two survey visits of trees with moderate potential. | Survey visits to be undertaken between May and August 2021 within gap of 14 days between visits. |
| | Bat activity survey to determine key commuting/foraging routes across across the Site. | A survey visit to be undertaken between July and August 2021. |
| | Bat roost hibernation surveys of trees with high and moderate poential. | A tree climbing survey inspection to be undertaken between December 2021 and February 2022. |

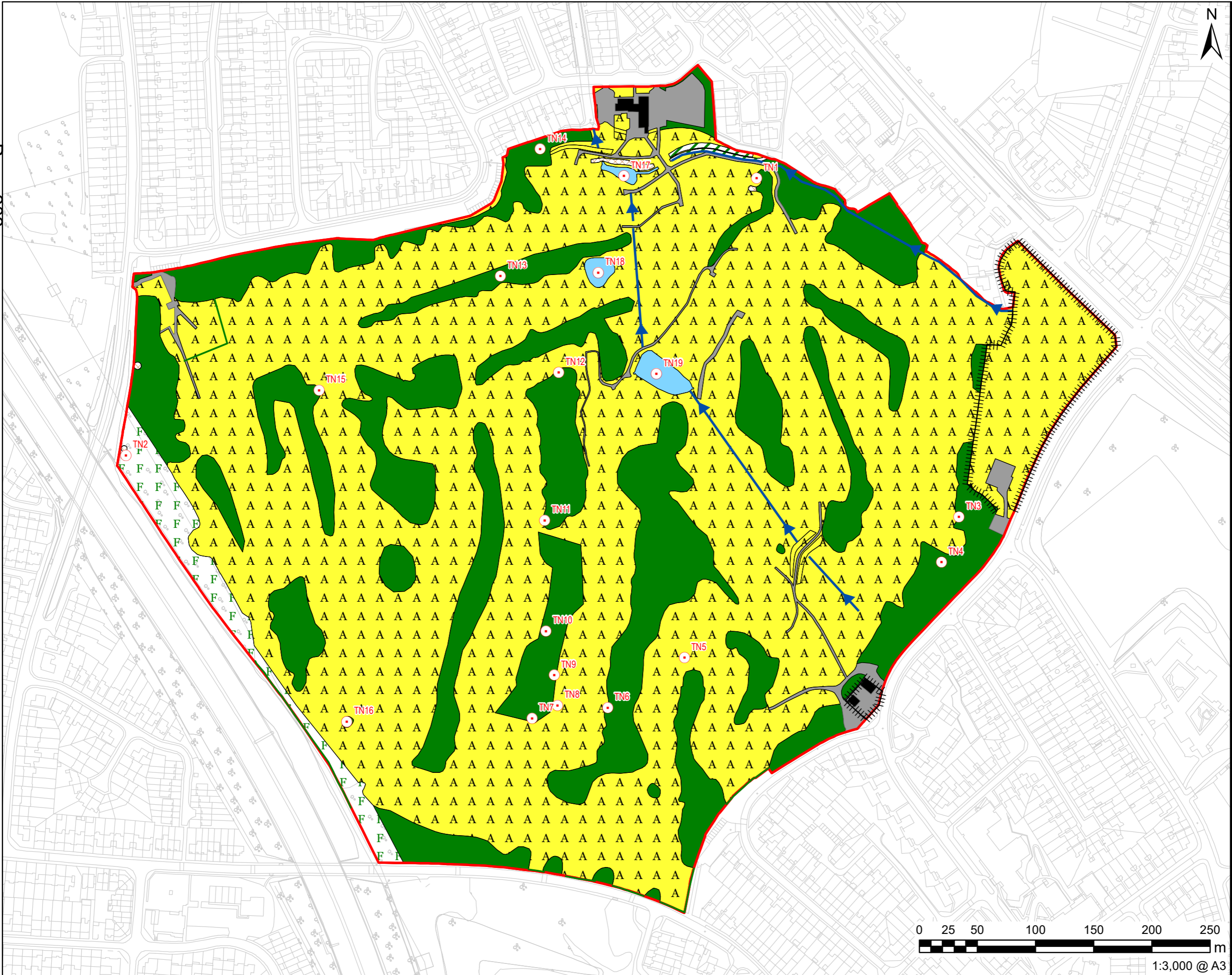
- 4.3 Other enhancements for biodiversity that could be delivered as part of the Scheme include the sympathetic management of retained woodland, grassland and watercourses. Bat, bird and invertebrate boxes could be delivered to further enhance the biodiversity value of the Scheme.

Re-Survey of Site

- 4.4 Due to the mobility of animals and the potential for colonisation of the Site, it is recommended that an updated ecological survey be undertaken prior to the redevelopment of this Site should this not occur by August 2022.

Appendix A Drawings

Figure 1 Phase 1 Habitat Survey Map



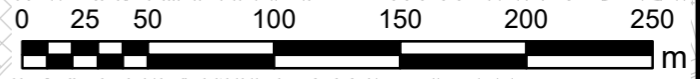
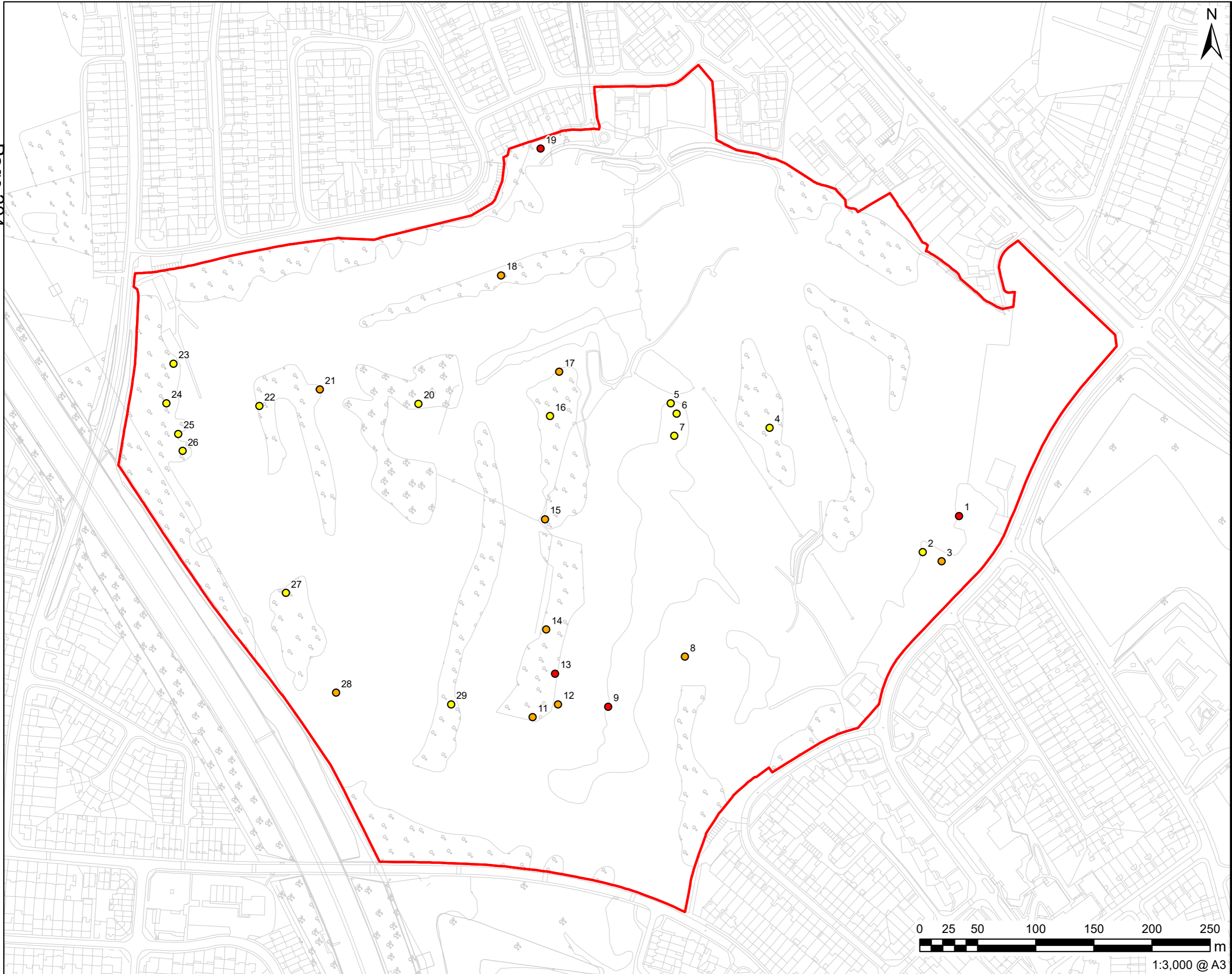
LEGEND

- Red Line Boundary
- Target Note
- Phase 1 Habitat Survey
 - Fence
 - Intact hedge - species-poor
 - Running water
 - Amenity grassland
 - Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
 - Broadleaved woodland - plantation
 - Broadleaved woodland - recently felled
 - Building
 - Hardstanding
 - Introduced shrub
 - Swamp

NOTES
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100023119.

ISSUE PURPOSE
FOR INFORMATION
PROJECT NUMBER
60653817
SHEET TITLE
Phase 1 Habitat Survey
Map
SHEET NUMBER
Figure 01

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Appendix B Relevant Legislation and Planning Policy

Legislation

- 4.5 The UK is no longer a member of the European Union (EU). EU legislation as it applied to the UK on 31 December 2020 is now a part of UK domestic legislation. EU legislation which applied directly or indirectly to the UK before 11.00 p.m. on 31 December 2020 has been retained in UK law as a form of domestic legislation known as 'retained EU legislation'.
- 4.6 The Secretary of State for the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and Welsh Ministers have made changes to parts of the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* (referred to as the 2017 Regulations) so that they operate effectively. Most of these changes involve transferring functions from the European Commission to the appropriate authorities in England. All other processes or terms in the 2017 Regulations remain unchanged and existing guidance is still relevant.

Designated Sites

Special Areas of Conservation (SAC)

- 4.7 These sites in the UK no longer form part of the EU's Natura 2000 ecological network. The *Conservation of Habitats and Species (Amendment) (EU Exit) Regulations 2019* (referred to as the 2019 Regulations) have created a national site network on land and at sea, including both the inshore and offshore marine areas in the UK. The national site network includes:
- existing SACs
 - new SACs designated under these Regulations
- 4.8 Any references to Natura 2000 in the 2017 Regulations and in guidance now refers to the new national site network.
- 4.9 Formal Appropriate Assessment is required to be undertaken by the competent authority before undertaking, or giving consent, permission or other authorisation for any work which are likely to have a significant effect on such a site.

Sites of Special Scientific Interest

- 4.10 Under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), it is an offence to carry out or permit to be carried out any operations likely to damage the Site of Special Scientific Interest (SSSI). These operations are listed in the SSSI notification.
- 4.11 Owners, occupiers, public bodies and statutory undertakers must give notice and obtain the appropriate consent under S.28 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), before undertaking operations likely to damage a SSSI.

Local Nature Reserve

- 4.12 A Local Nature Reserve (LNR) is a statutory designation made under National Parks and Access to the Countryside Act 1949, by principal local authorities (district, borough or unitary councils).
- 4.13 The local authority must control the LNR land - either through ownership, a lease or an agreement with the owner.
- 4.14 LNRs are given protection through policies in a local development plan.

Locally Designated Sites

- 4.15 Local designated sites have 'substantive nature conservation value'. They are defined areas, identified and selected for their nature conservation value, based on important, distinctive and threatened habitats and species with a region.
- 4.16 They are usually selected by the relevant Wildlife Trust, along with representatives of the local authority and other local wildlife conservation groups.
- 4.17 The SINC selection panel, select all sites that meet the assigned criteria, unlike SSSIs, which for some habitats are a representative sample of sites that meet the national standard. Consequently, many sites of SSSI quality are not designated and instead are selected as SINCs or lower tier SLINCs within Birmingham and the Black Country. Within Birmingham and the Black Country there are also designated Wildlife Corridors which are important linear features that facilitate wildlife dispersal.

Protected Species

Bats and Great Crested Newt

- 4.18 These species, known as European Protected Species, are protected under Regulation 43 of the 2017 Regulations as amended by the 2019 Regulations. This makes it an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill an animal; deliberately disturb an animal; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by an animal.
- 4.19 Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include "accepting the possibility" of such capture or killing. Deliberate disturbance of animals includes in particular any disturbance which is likely a) to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) in the case of animals of hibernating or migratory species, to hibernate or migrate; or b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of the species to which they belong.
- 4.20 Where development works are at risk of causing one or more of the offences listed above, a mitigation licence from Natural England can be obtained to facilitate the works that would otherwise be illegal.
- 4.21 These species are also protected under Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). This makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb an animal in such a place.
- 4.22 Lower levels of disturbance not covered by the *Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017* remain an offence under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* although a defence is available where such actions are the incidental result of a lawful activity that could not reasonably be avoided.

Reptiles

- 4.23 Common species of reptile are protected against intentional killing and injury under Schedule 5 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). There is no requirement for a licence where development works affect common species of reptiles. Instead, Natural England advise¹³ that where reptiles are present, they should be protected from any harm that might arise during the development works through appropriate mitigation.

Nesting Birds

- 4.24 All wild birds are protected under the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended), with some species afforded greater protection under Schedule 1 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended). In addition to the protection from killing or taking that all birds receive, Schedule 1 birds and their young must not be disturbed at the nest.
- 4.25 There are no licensing purposes that explicitly cover development activities affecting wild birds.

¹³Reptiles: guidelines for developers, English Nature 2004

Badger

- 4.26 Badgers and their setts are protected under the *Protection of Badgers Act 1992* (as amended). This makes it an offence to wilfully kill, injure or take a badger; or intentionally or recklessly damage, destroy or obstruct access to a badger sett or disturb a badger in its sett.
- 4.27 It is not illegal to carry out disturbance activities near setts that are not occupied, i.e. those that do not show signs of current use.
- 4.28 Where required, licences for development activities involving disturbance or sett interference or closure are issued by Natural England. Licences for activities involving watercourse maintenance, drainage works or flood defences are issued under a separate process.
- 4.29 When assessing the requirement for a licence in respect of development, Natural England¹⁴ state that badgers are relatively tolerant of moderate levels of noise and activity around their setts, and that a low or moderate level of apparent disturbing activity at or near to badger setts does not necessarily disturb the badgers occupying those setts.
- 4.30 Licences are normally not granted from December to June inclusive (the badger breeding season) because dependent cubs may be present within setts.

Species and Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity

- 4.31 Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act (NERC) 2006 sets out the duty for public authorities to conserve biodiversity in England.
- 4.32 Habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity are identified by the Secretary of State for England, in consultation with Natural England, are referred to in Section 41 of the NERC Act for England. The list, known as the 'England Biodiversity List', of habitats and species can be found on the Natural England web site.
- 4.33 The 'England Biodiversity List' is used as a guide for decision makers such as public bodies, including local and regional authorities, in implementing their duty under Section 40 of the NERC Act 2006 to have regard to the conservation of biodiversity in England when carrying out their normal functions.

Hedgerows

- 4.34 Under the Hedgerows Regulations 1997, it is against the law to remove or destroy certain hedgerows without permission from the local planning authority. In general, permission will be required before removing hedges that are at least 20 metres in length, over 30 years old and contain certain species of plant. The local planning authority will assess the importance of the hedgerow using criteria set out in the regulations.

Non-native Invasive Plant Species

- 4.35 Under the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended), it is an offence to plant or otherwise cause species listed on Schedule 9 to grow in the wild.
- 4.36 Any contaminated soil or plant material is classified as controlled waste and should be disposed of in a suitably licensed landfill site, accompanied by appropriate Waste Transfer documentation, and must comply with Section 34 of the *Environmental Protection Act 1990*.

¹⁴ Interpretation of 'Disturbance' in relation to badgers occupying a sett, Natural England (2009)

Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework, 2019

- 4.37 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) sets out the Governments planning policies for England and how these are expected to be applied by Local Authorities within their Local Development Frameworks (LDF). Chapter 15 of the NPPF '*Conserving and enhancing the natural environment*' sets out the requirements to consider biodiversity in planning decisions.

Local Planning Policy

- 4.38 The NPPF is implemented at the local level in this instance by the Black Country Core Strategy – Adopted February 2011¹⁵. Of particular relevance to this assessment is Policy ENV1 Nature Conservation, which relates to safeguarding designated nature conservation sites, important habitats, wildlife dispersal routes, protected and otherwise notable species. Policy ENV1 mentions that all appropriate development should positively contribute to the natural environment by extending designated nature conservation sites, improving wildlife movement and/or restoring or creating habitats of importance.

Local Biodiversity Action Plans

- 4.39 Habitats and species of principal importance in England are listed under the provisions of Section 41 of the NERC Act 2006. These include all the habitats and species in England that were identified as requiring action in the UK Biodiversity Action Plan (UK BAP) and continue to be regarded as conservation priorities in the subsequent UK Post-2010 Biodiversity Framework. The Birmingham and the Black Country Local Biodiversity Action Plan (local BAP) 2010 details actions to help maintain or enhance the conservation status of habitats and species to be implemented at the local level.

¹⁵ Black Country Core Strategy (2011), available at: <https://blackcountryplan.dudley.gov.uk/media/11559/core-strategy-12-final.pdf>

Appendix C Methodology

Desk Study

Background Records Search

- 4.40 The preliminary ecological assessment includes a desk study to obtain background records relevant to a Site and the Scheme. The data obtained provides contextual information for the scope of field surveys, to aid the evaluation of field survey results, and to provide supplementary information where complete field survey coverage is not possible.
- 4.41 The Study Area is dependent upon the nature, timing and scale of the Scheme, as well as the location of the Site and the surrounding landscape. These variables all contribute to what is referred to as the Zone of Influence (ZoI) of the Scheme, which is the area over which ecological features may be affected by biophysical changes because of the works and associated activities.
- 4.42 The following ecological data was provided from EcoRecord (the ecological database for Birmingham and the Black Country) on 11 March 2021:
- Records of non-statutory designated sites (SINCs, SLINCs and Wildlife Corridors) within 2km of the Site boundary; and,
 - Records of legally protected and notable species (fauna and flora) within 2km of the Site boundary, including Species of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity listed under Section 41 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 in the England Biodiversity List¹⁶.
- 4.43 The Multi-Agency Geographic Information for the Countryside (MAGIC) website (www.magic.gov.uk) was reviewed for the following information:
- Designated sites of nature conservation importance (statutory sites only) within 2km of the Site. This was extended to 10km for internationally designated sites: Special Protection Areas (SPAs), Wetlands of International Importance (Ramsar sites) and Special Areas of Conservation (SACs); and,
 - Notable habitats within 2km of the Site, these being areas of ancient woodland and 'Habitats of Principal Importance for the Conservation of Biodiversity' included in the England Biodiversity List¹⁷.

Great Crested Newt Pond Search

- 4.44 Ordnance Survey maps and the *Where's the Path* website (<https://wtp2.appspot.com/wheresthepath.htm>) have been used to identify the presence of water bodies within 500m of the Site boundary, in order to help establish if the land within and immediately surrounding the Site could be used by great crested newts. This species can use suitable terrestrial habitat up to 500m from a breeding pond¹⁸, though there is a notable decrease in great crested newt abundance beyond 250m from a breeding pond¹⁹.

Field Survey

- 4.45 The preliminary ecological assessment includes a walkover survey of the Survey Area (all land within the Site and 30m), broadly following the Phase 1 habitat survey methodology as set out in Joint Nature Conservation Committee guidance (JNCC, 2010)²⁰. This survey method records information on habitat

¹⁶ Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities Act 2006 requires that The Secretary of State has drawn up, in accordance with Section 41 of the Act and in consultation with Natural England, a list of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England that is known as the [England Biodiversity List](#)

¹⁷ Section 40 of the Natural Environment & Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006 requires that The Secretary of State has drawn up, in accordance with Section 41 of the Act and in consultation with Natural England, a list of habitats and species of principal importance for the conservation of biodiversity in England that is known as the [England Biodiversity List](#)

¹⁸ Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines (English Nature, 2001).

¹⁹ Natural England. An assessment of the efficiency of capture techniques and the value of different habitats for the great crested newt (ENRR576) <http://publications.naturalengland.org.uk/publication/134002>.

²⁰ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2010) *Handbook for Phase 1 habitat survey - a technique for environmental audit*.

types and is 'extended' to record any evidence of and potential for protected or notable species to be present. Plant names recorded during the survey follow Stace (2019)²¹.

4.46 During the walkover survey, the following protected or notable species are considered:

- **Bats:** the survey involves searching for potential roosting sites for bats within trees and structures (such as buildings, bridges or underground features such as mines) and categorising the potential of those trees or structures to support roosting bats (negligible to high, or confirmed roost), in accordance with Bat Conservation Trust (BCT) guidance (2016)²²;
- **Great crested newt:** the survey involves assessing the potential of habitats within the Survey Area to support great crested newt, following English Nature (2001)²³ and Froglife (2001)²⁴ guidance;
- **Reptiles:** the survey involves assessing the potential of habitats within the Survey Area to support reptiles (typically adder, grass snake, common lizard and slow worm only, though in some locations and habitat types (most notably heathland) may also include smooth snake and sand lizard), following Froglife (1999)²⁵ and JNCC (2003)²⁶ guidance;
- **Birds:** the survey involves assessing the potential of habitats within the Survey Area to support breeding, wintering or migrating birds, either individually notable species or assemblages of both common and rarer species;
- **Badger:** the survey involves searching for signs of badger activity including setts, tracks, snuffle holes and latrines, following the methodology detailed in Scottish Badgers (2018)²⁷ and Harris et al (1989)²⁸;
- **Other notable species:** the survey involves assessing the potential of habitat within the Survey Area to support other notable species, such as hedgehog, polecat or common toad;
- **Notable species of invertebrate:** the survey involves assessing the potential of habitats within the Survey Area to support notable species of invertebrates, both terrestrial and aquatic (including white-clawed crayfish);
- **Protected or notable species of plants:** the survey involves recording protected or notable plant species; and,
- **Non-native invasive plant species:** the survey involves recording evidence of the presence of invasive plants listed on Schedule 9 of the *Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981* (as amended) and subject to strict legal control.

4.47 A total of 29 trees at the Site were found to have bat roost potential. Of these 29 trees, four, 10 and 15 respectively have high, moderate and low bat roost potential. The 14 trees with high and moderate bat roost potential were climbed and inspected for signs of bats and their presence, following Collins (2016).

4.48 Two locations at the Site that potentially support suitable breeding habitat for great crested newt were subject to eDNA analysis, following Biggs *et al* (2014)²⁹. This involved taking water samples from both locations and sending them to the ADAS laboratory for analysis.

Limitations and Assumptions

4.49 The aim of a desk study is to help characterise the baseline context of a proposed development and provide valuable background information that would not be captured by a single site survey alone. Information obtained during the course of a desk study is dependent upon people and organisations

²¹ Stace, C E (2019) *New Flora of the British Isles*, 4th edition. Cambridge University Press.

²² Collins, J.(ed) (2016). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines* (3rd edition). The Bat Conversation Trust. London.

²³ English Nature (2001). *The Great Crested Newt Mitigation Guidelines*.

²⁴ Froglife (2001). *The Great Crested Newt Conservation Handbook*.

²⁵ Froglife (1999). *Reptile Survey: An introduction to planning, conducting and interpreting surveys for snake and lizard conservation*. Froglife Advice Sheet 10. Froglife, Halesworth.

²⁶ Joint Nature Conservation Committee (2003). *Herpetofauna Workers Manual*.

²⁷ Scottish Badgers (2018). *Surveying for Badgers: Good Practice Guidelines*. Version 1.

²⁸ Harris, S. Cresswell, P. and Jefferies, D. (1989). *Surveying Badgers*.




²⁹ Biggs, J. *et al* (2014). *Analytical and methodological development for improved surveillance of the Great Crested Newt*.




Appendix 5. *Technical advice note for field and laboratory sampling of great crested newt (Triturus cristatus) environmental DNA*. Freshwater Habitats Trust, Oxford.




having made and submitted records for the area of interest. As such, a lack of records for a particular habitats or species does not necessarily mean that the habitats or species do not occur in the study area. Likewise, the presence of records for particular habitats and species does not automatically mean that these still occur within the area of interest or are relevant in the context of the proposed development.




- 4.50 An ecological survey represents a 'snapshot' in time of the ecological condition of a Site. The ecological character of a Site can change substantially throughout both the course of a year, and from year to year impacting on the extent and quality of habitats potential to support protected or otherwise notable species.
- 4.51 None of these limitations either singly or in combination is significant enough to affect the baseline referenced in this report.




Appendix D Target Notes and Photographs





| Target Note | Description | Photograph(s) |
|-------------|--|--|
| TN1 | Calcareous conglomerate outcrop (covered with yellow feather-moss [<i>Homalothecium lutescens</i>] and adjacent wall cotoneaster), which is the feature for SLINC designation. |  |
| TN2 | Wall cotoneaster growing inside the boundary fence. |  |
| TN3 | Woodpecker hole in black Italian poplar. High potential to support roosting bats. |  |

| | | |
|-----|--|--|
| TN4 | Trunk splits in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. |  |
| TN5 | Woodpecker hole in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. |  |
| TN6 | Branch cavity in pedunculate oak. High potential to support roosting bats. |  |

| | | |
|------------|--|--|
| <p>TN7</p> | <p>Long vertical trunk split in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats.</p> |  |
| <p>TN8</p> | <p>Basal trunk cavity in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats.</p> |  |
| <p>TN9</p> | <p>Woodpecker hole in pedunculate oak. High potential to support roosting bats.</p> |  |

| | | |
|-------------|---|--|
| <p>TN10</p> | <p>Callus role cavity in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats.</p> |  |
| <p>TN11</p> | <p>Woodpecker hole in goat willow. Moderate potential to support roosting bats.</p> |  |
| <p>TN12</p> | <p>Trunk cavity in black Italian poplar. Moderate potential to support roosting bats.</p> |  |

| | | |
|------|--|--|
| TN13 | Branch cavity in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. |  |
| TN14 | Woodpecker hole in pedunculate oak. High potential to support roosting bats. |  |
| TN15 | Branch cavity in sycamore. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. |  |

| | | |
|------|---|--|
| TN16 | Basal trunk cavity in pedunculate oak. Moderate potential to support roosting bats. |  |
| TN17 | This pool is the confluence of two minor watercourses which flows across the Site, which has been recently dredged. It comprises open water with a narrow belt of marginal vegetation that includes reed sweet-grass, bulrush, yellow iris, brooklime and soft-rush. |  |
| TN18 | This pool is deeply silted, encroached with swamp vegetation and a few small areas of open water that is susceptible to drying out. There is an overflow which connects with a minor watercourse. The swamp vegetation is represented by bulrush, yellow iris and marsh-marigold. |  |
| TN19 | This pool is part of a minor watercourse that comprises a mosaic of deep silt, swamp vegetation and small areas of open water. The swamp vegetation is represented by water mint, bulrush, yellow iris, mare's-tail and common duckweed. |  |

Brandhall Urban Village

Bat Survey Report

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Project number: 60653817

February 2022

Quality information

| Prepared by | Checked by | Verified by | Approved by |
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| A | 7 February 2022 | Including hibernation survey findings | | | |
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1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 This Bat Survey Report has been prepared by AECOM on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). The reports presents the results of surveys undertaken primarily to determine the presence of bat roosts which might be impacted by developing a new urban village (hereafter referred to as the Scheme) on the site of the former Brandhall Golf Course in Oldbury, West Midlands. All land situated within the red line boundary of the Scheme is hereafter referred to as the Site.
- 1.2 The Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report (PEAR) (AECOM, 2021¹) undertaken to support the Scheme describes the bat roost suitability of 29 trees that were subject to ground level and climbing inspections which were undertaken during April 2021 (AECOM, 2021). Bat emergence/re-entry surveys were carried out of 14 trees with high (four) and moderate (10) roost potential to help determine if they support bat roosts and assess whether those trees are a constraint to the Scheme. Bat activity survey visits were also undertaken because foraging habitat (belts of broadleaved woodland and two minor watercourses) of moderate suitability is present within the Site. All trees with high and moderate roost potential were also subject to a hibernation inspection survey during January 2022. Relevant bat legislation and policy is summarised in Appendix A.
- 1.3 This Bat Survey Report is intended to inform the Scheme design and site layout. The survey data presented in this report will be used to inform potential impacts and likely mitigation measures required for bats, which will be described in detail in an Environmental Impact Assessment in connection with the planning application for the development of the Scheme.
- 1.4 The tree codes mentioned in this report and figures include a reference in brackets to the AECOM tree survey report e.g. T1(T526*).

The Site

- 1.5 The Site is located to the south of Heron Road in Oldbury at Ordnance Survey national grid reference SO992862 and is approximately 36ha in size. The Site is shown below in Plate 1.



Plate 1: Site Boundary

¹ AECOM (2021). *Brandhall Urban Village, Preliminary Ecological Appraisal Report*. AECOM Ltd, Birmingham.

- 1.6 The Site is a former golf course and mainly comprises amenity grassland, belts of broadleaved woodland with some mature trees and three pools that contain wetland plants. Two minor watercourses are present within the Site which join and drain off-site to the north. The Site is bounded by the M5 motorway to the west and residential housing on the other sides, which are associated with the local urban conurbation.

The Scheme

- 1.7 The Scheme proposes the development of an urban village including public open space at the Site, which might comprise approximately 550 residential units, care home facility, a few shops and possibly a school. This would necessitate some woodland removal to accommodate the urban village. Where necessary, mitigation measures to reduce impact to important ecological features will be implemented as well as embedded biodiversity enhancements as part of the Scheme. The planning application is expected to be submitted during late-2021.

Scope of the Assessment

- 1.8 The purpose of the bat surveys, detailed in this Bat Survey Report are to:
- determine the presence of roosts at the Site;
 - determine the key routes that are used for commuting/foraging across the Site;
 - appraise the foraging value of the Site; and,
 - make high level recommendations for mitigation.

2. Methodology

Bat Emergence/Re-entry Surveys

- 2.1 Trees with high or moderate bat suitability respectively require three and two separate survey visits to help determine roost presence (Collins, 2016²). For high suitability trees this involves at least one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey, the third visit can be either a dusk or a dawn. Surveys are required between May to September with at least two of the surveys between May and August. For moderate suitability trees this involves one dusk emergence and a separate dawn re-entry survey. Surveys are required between May to September with at least one of the surveys between May and August 2021. All surveys were undertaken during favourable weather conditions.
- 2.2 A surveyor was positioned next to each tree in such a way that all suitable Potential Roost Features (PRFs) to support roosting bat species were adequately covered; the surveys either commenced 15 minutes before sunset and continued until 1.5 to 2 hours after sunset or 1.5 to 2 hours before sunrise and finished 15 minutes after sunrise.
- 2.3 During the dusk and dawn survey periods the surveyors observed potential access/egress points. Surveyors used bat echolocation detectors (Elekon Batlogger M and Echo Meter Touch 2) to detect bats and assist in species identification. Infra-red cameras were also used, to provide supplementary information and more accurate footage of any roosting locations. The time, location, number, species (where possible) and direction of flight were recorded for each bat pass (discrete burst of echolocation heard, or bat activity observed) encountered during the survey.

Bat Activity Surveys

- 2.4 The Site has moderate habitat suitability for commuting and foraging due to the woodland belts and ponds and their connectivity to woodland and houses that surround the Site (Collins, 2016). The Bat Conservation Trust recommends that sites with moderate habitat suitability are subject to monthly transect surveys supported by static detectors to count bat passes. However, given the Site's location within an urban conurbation and the low diversity of bat species recorded nearby it was decided that transect survey visits were appropriate to observe the key commuting and foraging routes across the Site when there is peak activity between May and August 2021. All surveys were undertaken during favourable weather conditions.
- 2.5 Each activity survey involved two surveyors walking a pre-determined transect route which included 10 spot counts at potentially important features for bats. At each spot count location, the surveyors remain stationary for 3 minutes and, using bat echolocation detectors, bat activity is noted as well as bat flight direction. Any additional activity encountered whilst walking between spot counts was also noted. The survey route was designed to include potential flight paths or foraging areas at the Site. The starting point and direction of the transect was varied during each survey visit in order to ensure different areas of the transect were walked close to dusk.
- 2.6 Surveyors used bat echolocation detectors (Elekon Batlogger M and Echo Meter Touch 2) to help determine the species present. Dusk surveys were carried out from sunset to at least 2 hours after sunset, and the dawn survey commenced 2 hours before sunrise. The time, location, number, species (where possible) and direction of flight were recorded for each bat pass (discrete burst of echolocation heard, or bat activity observed) encountered during the survey. Sound files were analysed using Analook W software, where possible down to species level following the call parameters (Russ, 2013³).

Site Commuting and Foraging Evaluation

- 2.7 The commuting and foraging data collected for each bat species group (depending on the level of identification possible from the recordings made) has been used to assess the site's importance using a geographical frame of reference. This assessment uses a range of variables such as species, number of bats, roosts/potential roosts nearby, and the type and complexity of the linear features to derive an overall

² Collins, J. (ed.) (2016). *Bat Surveys for Professional Ecologists: Good Practice Guidelines 3rd Edition*. Bat Conservation Trust, London.

³ Russ, J. (2013). *British Bat Calls. A Guide to species Identification*. Pelagic Publishing, Exeter.

geographical value of the Site for each species in line with Wray *et al* (2010⁴) methodology and updated based on more recent guidance on population sizes and IUCN Red List Status (Matthews *et al*, 2018⁵).

Hibernation Survey

- 2.8 The trees with high or moderate bat roost potential were subject to tree climbing and ground level inspection survey on 29 January 2022. The survey was undertaken by two licensed surveyors using flexible endoscopes and torches.

Assumptions and Limitations

- 2.9 The absence of bats from any survey cannot be taken as conclusive proof that they are not present, as bat behaviour changes across the season, with bats moving between different roost sites and foraging areas with regularity.

⁴ Wray, S. Wells, D, Long, E Mitchell-Jones, T (2010). *Valuing Bats in Ecological Impact Assessment*. CIEEM In Practice Issue 70 (December 2010), Winchester.

⁵ Matthews *et al* (2018). *A review of the Population and Conservation Status of British Mammals*. A report by the Mammal Society under contract to Natural England, Natural Resources Wales and Scottish Natural Heritage. Natural England, Peterborough. ISBN 978-1-78354-494-3.

3. Results

Bat Emergence/Re-entry Surveys

3.1 Dusk emergence and/or dawn re-entry surveys were undertaken on trees T1(T526*), T3(G510*), T8((T197), T9(T311), T11(G217), T12(G217), T13(T251), T14(G260), T15(T243), T17(T267), T18(T197), T19(T225), T21(T73) and T28(T83) which are shown on Figure 1. Details of the weather conditions and confirmed bat roosts are provided in Table 1.

Table 1. Emergence/re-entry survey results

| Tree number and species | Roost suitability | Survey date and time | Weather Conditions | Roost presence |
|---|-------------------|---|---|--------------------|
| T1(T526*) Black Italian poplar (<i>Populus x canadensis</i> var. 'Serotina') | High | 1 June 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 23 to 21°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 22 June 2021 Dawn | F2 N wind, 75% cloud cover, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 13 July 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, 10% cloud cover, dry and 18 to 16°C | Not confirmed |
| T3(G510*) Black Italian poplar | Moderate | 1 June 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 23 to 21°C | Not confirmed |
| | | No second visit because tree had fallen to the ground | Not applicable | No longer suitable |
| T8((T197) Pedunculate oak (<i>Quercus robur</i>) | Moderate | 25 May 2021 Dusk | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 15 June 2021 Dawn | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 11 to 10°C | Not confirmed |
| T9(T311) Pedunculate oak | High | 25 May 2021 Dusk | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 15 June 2021 Dawn | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 11 to 10°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 6 July 2021 Dusk | Rain before survey. F1 S breeze, overcast, brief rain shower and 14 to 13°C | Not confirmed |
| T11(G217) Black Italian poplar | Moderate | 25 May 2021 Dusk | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 15 June 2021 Dawn | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 11 to 10°C | Not confirmed |
| T12(G217) Pedunculate oak | Moderate | 25 May 2021 Dusk | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 15 June 2021 Dawn | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 11 to 10°C | Not confirmed |
| T13(T251) Pedunculate oak | High | 25 May 2021 Dusk | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 15 June 2021 Dawn | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 11 to 10°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 6 July 2021 Dusk | Rain before survey. F1 S breeze, overcast, brief rain shower and 14 to 13°C | Not confirmed |
| T14(G260) Black Italian poplar | Moderate | 25 May 2021 Dusk | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 15 June 2021 Dawn | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 11 to 10°C | Not confirmed |

| Tree number and species | Roost suitability | Survey date and time | Weather Conditions | Roost presence |
|---|-------------------|----------------------|---|--|
| T15(T243) Goat willow (<i>Salix caprea</i>) | Moderate | 25 May 2021 Dusk | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 15 June 2021 Dawn | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 11 to 10°C | Not confirmed |
| T17(T267) Black Italian poplar | Moderate | 1 June 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 23 to 21°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 22 June 2021 Dawn | F2 N wind, 75% cloud cover, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| T18(T197) Pedunculate oak | Moderate | 1 June 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 23 to 21°C | Common pipistrelle (<i>Pipistrellus pipistrellus</i>), day roost (4 individuals emerged) |
| | | 22 June 2021 Dawn | F2 N wind, 75% cloud cover, dry and 13 to 11°C | No bat returned to roost |
| | | 13 July 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, 10% cloud cover, dry and 18 to 16°C | Not confirmed |
| T19(T225) Pedunculate oak | High | 1 June 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, cloudless, dry and 23 to 21°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 22 June 2021 Dawn | F2 N wind, 75% cloud cover, dry and 13 to 11°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 13 July 2021 Dusk | F1 NW breeze, 10% cloud cover, dry and 18 to 16°C | Not confirmed |
| T21(T73) Sycamore (<i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i>) | Moderate | 8 June 2021 | F1 NW breeze with 10% cloud cover, dry and 21 to 19°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 29 June 2021 | F1 N breeze, overcast, dry and 14 to 13°C | Not confirmed |
| T28(T83) Pedunculate oak | Moderate | 8 June 2021 | F1 NW breeze with 10% cloud cover, dry and 21 to 19°C | Not confirmed |
| | | 29 June 2021 | F1 N breeze, overcast, dry and 14 to 13°C | Not confirmed |

3.2 The confirmed bat roost location at the Site is shown on Figure 2.

Bat Activity Surveys

3.3 The transect survey route and key commuting and foraging habitats are shown on Figure 1. Details of the weather conditions and bat activity descriptions are provided in Table 2.

Table 2. Activity survey results

| Survey date and time | Survey route | Weather conditions | Description of key foraging and commuting and foraging locations |
|----------------------|--------------------------------------|---|--|
| 25 May 2021 Dusk | Clockwise from spot count location 9 | F2 NW wind, cloudless, dry and 13 to 11°C | The first common pipistrelle was observed 14 minutes after sunset flying north-west from the residential area to the south-east of the Site. Much common pipistrelle foraging activity (involving <10 individuals in total) was concentrated over the southern pond (spot count location 1) and woodland edges (spot count locations 2, 4, 5 and 10) in the central and western parts of the Site. No bats were recorded from the eastern part of the Site. |

| Survey date and time | Survey route | Weather conditions | Description of key foraging and commuting and foraging locations |
|------------------------|--|---|---|
| 8 June 2021 Dusk | Anticlockwise from spot count location 6 | F1 NW breeze with 10% cloud cover, dry and 21 to 19°C | <p>The first common pipistrelle was observed 11 minutes after sunset flying south over the northern watercourse from the residential area to north of the Site.</p> <p>Much common pipistrelle foraging activity (involving <10 individuals in total) was concentrated over the southern pond (spot count location 1) and woodland edges (spot count locations 2, 4, 5, 8, 9 and 10) in the central part of the Site.</p> <p>A single noctule (<i>Nyctalus noctula</i>) was detected once but not seen over the northern part of Site.</p> |
| 20 July 2021 Dusk | Clockwise from spot count location 9 | F1 NE breeze, 10% cloud cover, dry and 24 to 22°C | <p>The first common pipistrelle was observed 19 minutes after sunset flying north-west from the residential area to the south-east of the Site.</p> <p>Much common pipistrelle foraging activity (involving <10 individuals in total) was concentrated over the southern pond (spot count location 1) and woodland edges (spot count locations 2, 4, 5 and 10) in the central and western parts of the Site. No bats were recorded from the eastern or southern parts of the Site.</p> |
| 19 August 2021 Dusk | Anticlockwise from spot count location 6 | Rain before survey. F1SW breeze, overcast, humid and 17 to 15°C | <p>The first common pipistrelle was observed 14 minutes after sunset flying south over the northern watercourse from the residential area to north of the Site.</p> <p>Much common pipistrelle foraging activity (involving <10 individuals in total) was concentrated over the southern pond (spot count location 1) and woodland edges (spot count locations 2, 4, 5, 8 and 10) in the central part of the Site.</p> <p>A single noctule was detected once but not seen over the southern boundary of the Site.</p> |

3.4 The key commuting/foraging routes and foraging habitat at the Site is shown on Figure 2.

Site Commuting and Foraging Values for Bats

3.5 The commuting values for each bat species recorded at the Site was assessed and is summarised in Table 3.

Table 3. Site commuting values

| Species | National Rarity | Number of bats | Site/nearby roost potential | Type and complexity of linear features | Total Score | Value |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| Common pipistrelle | Common (2) | Small number of bats (10) | Small number (3) | Well-grown and well-connected hedgerows, small field sizes (4) | 19 | Local/parish |
| Noctule | Common (2) | Individual (5) | None (1) | Well-grown and well-connected hedgerows, small field sizes (4) | 12 | Local/parish |

3.6 The foraging values for each bat species recorded at the Site was assessed and is summarised in Table 4.

Table 4. Site foraging values

| Species | National Rarity | Number of bats | Site/nearby roost potential | Foraging habitat characteristics | Total Score | Value |
|--------------------|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| Common pipistrelle | Common (2) | Small number of bats (10) | Small number (3) | Larger or connected woodland blocks, mixed agriculture, and small villages/hamlets (4) | 19 | Local/parish |

| Species | National Rarity | Number of bats | Site/nearby roost potential | Foraging habitat characteristics | Total Score | Value |
|---------|-----------------|----------------|-----------------------------|--|-------------|--------------|
| Noctule | Common (2) | Individual (5) | None (1) | Larger or connected woodland blocks, mixed agriculture, and small villages/hamlets (4) | 12 | Local/parish |

Hibernation Survey

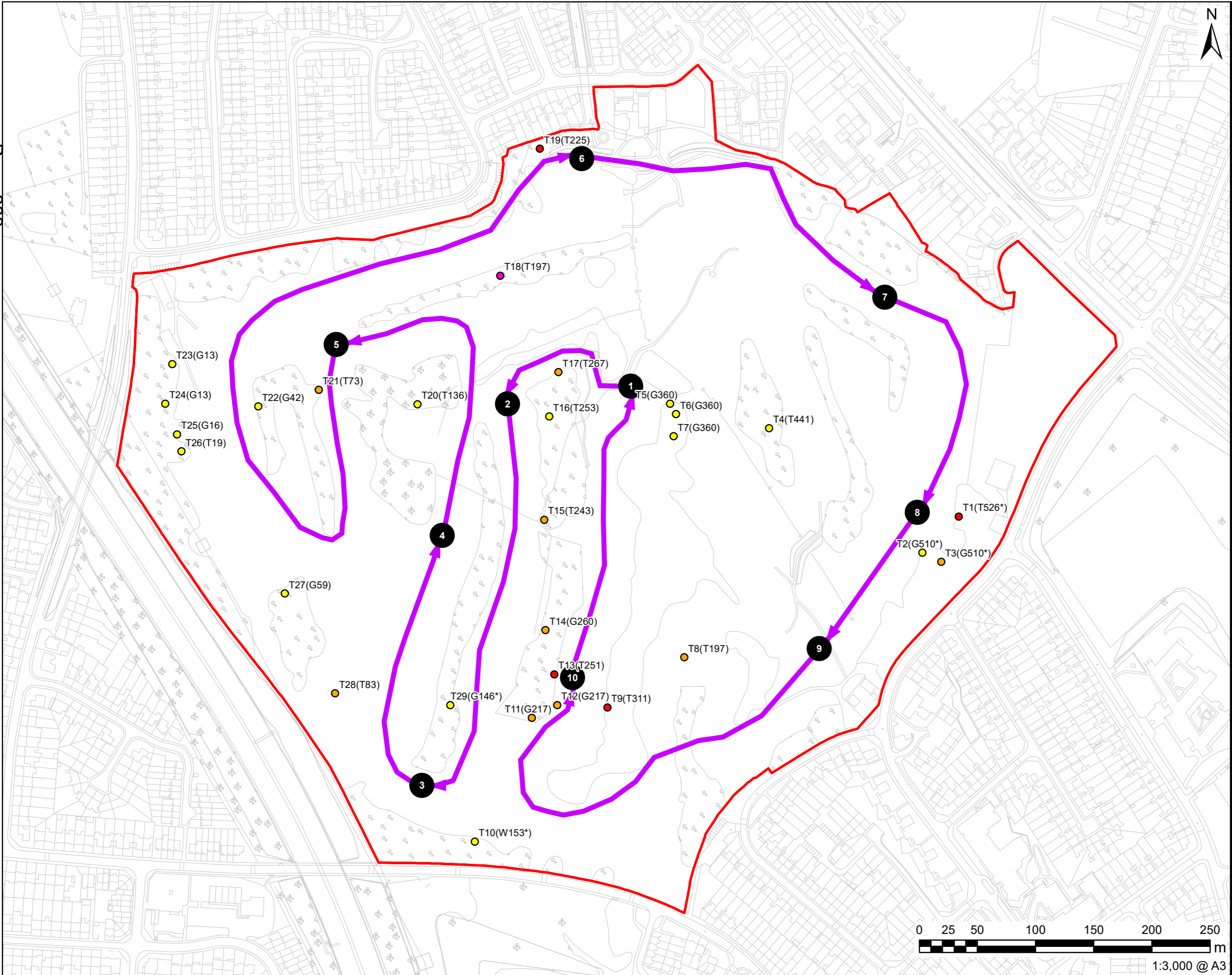
- 3.7 No hibernating bats were recorded in the tree with a confirmed a summer day roost or those with high or moderate roost suitability.

4. Discussion and Recommendations

- 4.1 A common pipistrelle day roost (from which four individuals emerged on the first survey visit but not subsequently) was recorded in tree T18(T197), which is of local/parish value. Four trees that were originally inspected during April 2021 are still considered to have high bat roost potential (T1[T526*], T9[T311], T13[T251] and T19[T225]). Eight trees that were originally inspected during April 2021 are still considered to have moderate bat roost potential (T8[T197], T11[G217], T12[G217], T14[G260], T15[T243], T17[T267], T21[T73] and T28[T83]). Tree T3(G510*) fell to the ground during windy weather which occurred after the first survey visit and this tree therefore no longer has bat roost potential. In addition to the confirmed roost in tree T18(T197) the other 12 trees with high or moderate were inspected and found not to support hibernating bats during January 2022.
- 4.2 It is recommended that the confirmed roost in tree T18(T197) and the remaining 12 trees with high and moderate bat roost potential are retained as part of the Scheme. If trees supporting bat roosts need to be removed as part of the Scheme, then it would be necessary to apply and obtain a European Protected Species Mitigation Licence from Natural England to ensure that the Scheme's legal obligations can be met. The loss of a roost would need to be compensated appropriately.
- 4.3 Common pipistrelles were observed flying to the Site from the north 11 minutes after sunset on 8 June 2021 and from the south-east 14 minutes after sunset on 25 May 2021. The timing of these observations soon after sunset suggests that common pipistrelle roosts are probably located within houses near the north and south-east sides of the Site. The key commuting routes are along the minor watercourse and edges of woodland belts across the central part of the Site. Much common pipistrelle foraging activity (involving <10 individuals in total on each survey visit) was concentrated over the watercourse and woodland edges in the central and western parts of the Site. Single passes of a noctule were detected over the Site on 8 June and 19 August 2021. The Site is assessed to be of local/parish value for commuting and foraging common pipistrelle and noctule.
- 4.4 It is recommended that as part of the Scheme the watercourses and woodland belts are protected to maintain the commuting routes across the Site from residential areas to the north and south-east. It is also recommended that retained woodland belts and watercourses are enhanced and ponds created to provide a better foraging resource for bats at the Site.

Figures

Figure 1. Bat survey location map



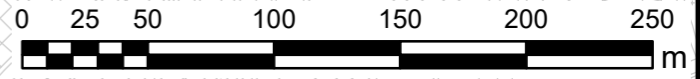
LEGEND

- Red Line Boundary
- Spot Count Location
- Bat Transect
- Bat Roost Potential**
 - Confirmed
 - High
 - Moderate
 - Low

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Figure 2. Bat roosts, key commuting routes and foraging areas map



LEGEND

- Red Line Boundary
- Bat Roost Potential**
- Confirmed
- High
- Moderate
- Low
- Common Pipistelle Commuting / Foraging Routes
- Noctule Presumed Commuting / Foraging Routes
- Phase 1 Habitat**
- Running water
- Broadleaved woodland - semi-natural
- Broadleaved woodland - plantation
- Broadleaved woodland - recently felled
- Swamp

NOTES
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 Bat Roosts, Key Commuting and Foraging Habitat Map

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Appendix A Legislation and Policy

Bats are protected under Regulation 43 of the Conservation of Habitats and Species Regulations 2017 (as amended). This makes it an offence to deliberately capture, injure or kill a bat; deliberately disturb a bat; or damage or destroy a breeding site or resting place used by a bat.

Deliberate capture or killing is taken to include “accepting the possibility” of such capture or killing. Deliberate disturbance of bats includes in particular any disturbance which is likely a) to impair their ability (i) to survive, to breed or reproduce, or to rear or nurture their young, or (ii) to hibernate or migrate; or b) to affect significantly the local distribution or abundance of bats.

Where development works are at risk of causing one or more of the offences listed above, a mitigation licence from Natural England can be obtained to facilitate the works that would otherwise be illegal.

Bats are also protected under Schedule 5 of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 (as amended). This makes it an offence to intentionally or recklessly obstruct access to any structure or place used for shelter or protection or disturb a bat in such a place.

A bat roost is defined as ‘any structure or place, which is used for shelter or protection’ or a ‘breeding site or resting place’. Since bats commonly use the same roosts at particular times of the year after periods of absence, the roost is protected whether or not bats are resident.

Seven of the UK bat species are listed as Species of Principal Importance under Section 41 of the Natural Environment and Rural Communities (NERC) Act 2006: namely, barbastelle (*Barbastella barbastellus*), Bechstein’s bat (*Myotis bechsteinii*), noctule (*Nyctalus noctula*), soprano pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pygmaeus*), brown long-eared bat (*Plecotus auritus*), greater horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus ferrumequinum*) and lesser horseshoe bat (*Rhinolophus hipposideros*). In addition, a Species Action Plan for bats within the Nottinghamshire Local Biodiversity Action Plan has been prepared. This plan covers all bats known to occur within the county, including Daubenton’s bat (*Myotis daubentoni*), whiskered bat (*Myotis mystacinus*), Brandt’s bat (*Myotis brandtii*), Natterer’s bat (*Myotis nattereri*), common pipistrelle (*Pipistrellus pipistrellus*), noctule, Leisler’s bat (*Nyctalus leisleri*), brown long-eared bat and serotine (*Eptesicus serotinus*).

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Brandhall Village Desk-Based Assessment

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

June 2021

Quality information

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Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

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1. Introduction

Background

- 1.1 AECOM have been commissioned to produce a Desk-Based Assessment for the proposed development of the land comprising the former site of the Brandhall Golf Club, Oldbury, hereafter referred to as the Site. The proposed development is a mixed-use Site. It would consist of c.500 proposed new residential buildings, as well as a primary school and parkland incorporating the existing vegetation (the Proposed Development).
- 1.2 The Site is located within the former Brandhall Golf Course in Sandwell, West Midlands. The Site consists of an area comprising approximately 36.3ha. The Site is bounded by residential streets to the north and south, the M5 to the west and A4123 to the east. The Site contains a number of mature trees interspersed throughout the golf course and a public right of way passes through the Site.

Scope

- 1.3 This report has been prepared to determine the cultural heritage baseline for the Site and the impact of the Proposed Development on the cultural heritage within the Site and wider study area. This report conforms to the requirements of the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It describes the Site, including the heritage assets within the study area.
- 1.4 This report is structured in seven sections, with illustrations and appendices at the end.
 - Introduction and general assessment background;
 - Details of the Proposed Development is provided in Section 2;
 - The legislative and planning policy framework is provided in Section 3 (Legislation and Planning Policy) which also includes an overview of Historic England policy and guidance;
 - The methodology for assessment and determination of the study area is set out in Section 4 (Assessment Methodology);
 - A description of the Site's historical and archaeological background is set out in Section 5 (Baseline Assessment);
 - Section 6 provides an assessment of known and potential cultural heritage assets within the Site which have the potential to be impacted by the Proposed Development; and
 - Section 7 summarises the results of the assessment.

Objectives

- 1.5 This desk-based assessment identifies heritage constraints within, and around, the Site and provides relevant and proportional mitigation strategies to reduce the impact of the Proposed Development where required. The objectives of this document are as follows:
 - To place the Site within its full historic and archaeological context through the collection of baseline information;
 - To identify and map all designated and non-designated heritage assets present within the Site and surrounding study area, as well as to assess the significance of potentially affected assets (as defined in Section 4.2 below);
 - In relation to the above, to assess components of the assets' setting which contribute to their significance, where relevant;

- To determine the presence of previously unrecorded non-designated archaeological features and historic structures;
- To determine the potential for the presence of archaeological remains which are as yet unknown; and
- To identify the extent of previous ground disturbance which may have affected archaeological survival.

2. Legislation and Planning Policy

Legislation

The Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Areas Act 1979

- 2.1 The Act imposes a requirement for Scheduled Monument Consent for any works of demolition, repair and alteration that might affect a Scheduled Monument. The Act affords protection for York's designated Areas of Archaeological Importance (AAIs) and requires that the Operations Notice Procedure must be followed for all excavation and tipping operations within the designated area.

The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990

- 2.2 The Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990 (the Act) sets out the principal statutory provisions that must be considered in the determination of any application affecting listed buildings and conservation areas.
- 2.3 Section 66 of the Act states that in considering whether to grant planning permission for development which affects a listed building or its setting, the local planning authority or, as the case may be, the Secretary of State shall have special regard to the desirability of preserving the building or its setting or any features of special architectural or historic interest which it possesses. By virtue of Section 1(5) of the Act a listed building includes any object or structure within its curtilage.
- 2.4 Section 72 of the Act establishes a general duty on a local planning authority or the Secretary of State with respect to any buildings or other land in a Conservation Area to pay special attention to the desirability of preserving or enhancing the character or appearance of a Conservation Area.

Planning Policy

National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF)

- 2.5 The NPPF (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2018) sets out the Government's planning policies for England and how these should be applied to contribute to the achievement of sustainable development.
- 2.6 Section 16 of the NPPF specifically addresses the historic environment. Where changes are proposed, the NPPF sets out a clear framework to ensure that heritage assets are conserved, and where appropriate enhanced, in a manner that is consistent with their significance. Significance is defined in Annex 2 as being the, "value of a heritage asset to this and future generations because of its heritage interest. That interest may be archaeological, architectural, artistic or historic". Significance is not only derived from an asset's physical presence, but also from its setting. The setting of a heritage asset is defined in Annex 2 as, "the surroundings in which a heritage asset is experienced. Its extent is not fixed and may change as the asset and its surroundings evolve".
- 2.7 Paragraph 189 of the NPPF states that in determining applications, local planning authorities should require an applicant to describe the significance of any heritage assets affected, including any contribution made by their setting. The level of detail should be proportionate to the assets' importance and no more than is sufficient to understand the potential impact of the proposal on their significance. Similarly there is a requirement on local planning authorities, having assessed the particular significance of any heritage asset that may be affected by a proposal; to take this into account when considering the impact of a proposal on a heritage asset (paragraph 190).
- 2.8 In determining planning applications, local planning authorities should take account of the following points:
- the positive contribution that conservation of heritage assets can make to sustainable communities including their economic vitality;
 - the desirability of new development making a positive contribution to local character and distinctiveness (paragraph 192); and

- opportunities to draw on the contribution made by the historic environment to the character of a place.
- 2.9 Paragraphs 193 to 197 of the NPPF introduce the concept that heritage assets can be harmed or lost through alteration, destruction or development within their setting. This harm ranges from less than substantial through to substantial. With regard to designated assets, paragraph 193 states that great weight should be placed on its conservation, irrespective of whether any potential harm is considered to be substantial or less than substantial. The paragraph goes further to say that the more important the asset, the greater the weight should be on its conservation. In paragraph 194, a distinction is made in respect of those assets of the highest significance (e.g. Scheduled Monuments, Grade I and grade II* listed buildings) where substantial harm to or loss should be wholly exceptional.
- 2.10 In instances where the proposed development would cause substantial harm to or the total loss of the significance of a designated asset, consent should be refused unless it can be demonstrated that it is necessary to achieve substantial public benefits that outweigh that harm or loss (paragraph 195). In instances where development would cause less than substantial harm to the significance of a designated asset the harm should be weighed against the public benefits of the proposal to provide a balanced judgement (paragraph 196).
- 2.11 In the case of non-designated assets, paragraph 197 states that the effect of the application on the significance of the asset should be considered in determining the application. A balanced judgement will be required having regard to the scale of any harm or loss and the significance of the heritage asset.

Planning Practice Guidance (PPG)

- 2.12 The PPG (Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government, 2016) provides further advice and expands on the guidance and policy outlined in the NPPF.
- 2.13 Significance of heritage assets and its importance in decision taking is explored in Paragraph 009 of the PPG which states that heritage assets may be affected by direct physical change or by change in their setting. Being able to properly assess the nature, extent and importance of the significance of a heritage asset, and the contribution of its setting, is very important to understanding the potential impact and acceptability of development proposals (ID 18a-009-20140306 Last updated 23 07 2019).
- 2.14 Paragraph 013 of the PPG recognises that the contribution that setting makes to the significance of the heritage asset does not depend on there being public right or the ability to experience that setting. When assessing any application for development which may affect the setting of a heritage asset, local planning authorities may need to consider the implications of cumulative change (ID 18a-013-20140306 Last updated 23 07 2019).
- 2.15 The PPG discusses how to assess if there is substantial harm. It states that what matters in assessing if a proposal causes substantial harm is the impact of the significance of the heritage asset. Ultimately, whether a proposal causes substantial harm will be a judgement for the decision taker. However, it acknowledges that substantial harm is a high test so may not arise in many cases. A key consideration when assessing whether there is an adverse impact on a listed building is whether the adverse impact seriously affects a key element of its special architectural or historic interest. It is the degree of harm to the asset's significance rather than the scale of the development that is to be assessed (Paragraph: 017 Reference ID: 18a-017-20140306).

Local Planning Policy

Black Country Core Strategy:

- 2.16 Policy ENV2 states that all development should aim to protect and promote the special qualities, historic character and local distinctiveness of the Black Country in order to help maintain its cultural identity and strong sense of place. Development proposals are required to preserve and, where appropriate, enhance local character and those aspects of the historic environment together with their settings which are recognised as being of special historic, archaeological, architectural, landscape or townscape quality.

- 2.17 All proposals should aim to sustain and reinforce special character and conserve the historic aspects of the following locally distinctive elements of the Black Country. This includes, but is not limited to:
- Areas of extensive lower density suburban development of the mid 20th century including public housing and private developments of semi-detached and detached housing; and
 - Public open spaces, including Victorian and Edwardian municipal parks, often created upon and retaining elements of relict industrial landscape features.
- 2.18 In addition to statutorily designated and protected historic assets particular attention should be paid to the preservation and enhancement of:
- locally listed historic buildings and archaeological sites;
 - historic parks and gardens including their settings; and
 - locally designated special landscape areas and other heritage-based site allocations.
- 2.19 Development proposals that would potentially have an impact on any of the above distinctive elements should be supported by evidence included in Design and Access Statements which demonstrates that all aspects of the historic character and distinctiveness of the locality have been fully assessed and used to inform proposals. In some instances, local authorities may require developers to undertake detailed Historic Landscape Characterisation studies to support their proposals.

Sandwell Local Development Scheme 2020

- 2.20 The LDS produced by the Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council sets out the following timescales for the preparation and adoption of planning policy;
- Black Country Plan (formerly the Black Country Core Strategy) is scheduled for adoption April 2024; and
 - Sandwell Development Plan (formerly the Sandwell Site Allocations Document) is scheduled for adoption in 2025.

Historic England Guidance

- 2.21 Historic England has published a series of Good Practice Advice (GPA) of which those of most relevance to this appraisal are GPA2 - Managing Significance in Decision-taking (March 2015), GPA3 - The Setting of Heritage Assets (2nd Edition) (December 2017), and Advice Note 12 Statements of Heritage Significance (Oct. 2019).
- 2.22 GPA2 emphasises the importance of having a knowledge and understanding of the significance of heritage assets likely to be affected by the development and that the 'first step for all applicants is to understand the significance of any affected heritage asset and, if relevant the contribution of its setting to its significance' (para 4). Early knowledge of this information is also useful to a local planning authority in pre-application engagement with an applicant and ultimately in decision making (para 7).

GPA3 (Second Edition) provides advice on the setting of heritage assets and consolidates and supersedes earlier advice on that matter published by Historic England in 2015 and 2011 (Historic Environment Good Practice Advice in Planning Note 3: The Setting of Heritage Assets and Seeing the History in the View: A Method for Assessing Heritage Significance within Views).

Chartered Institute for Archaeologists

- 2.23 The baseline data was gathered in accordance with guidance published by the Chartered Institute for Archaeologists (CIfA), specifically the standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (CIfA 2020).

3. Methodology for determining the heritage baseline

Assessment methodology

3.1 The aims and objectives of this desk-based assessment are as follows:

- to describe the proposed development;
- to identify designated and non-designated heritage assets with the potential to be affected by the proposed development;
- to assess the impact of the proposals on the significance of heritage assets identified;
- to assess the archaeological potential of the Site and the impact of the proposals on deposits with archaeological potential; and
- to identify opportunities for enhancing the historic environment during the delivery of the proposed development.

Study Area

3.2 Professional judgement has been exercised to adopt a 500m study area from the Site boundary for identifying cultural heritage and archaeology for this assessment. Data will also be collected within a wider area in order to contextualise understanding of the Site within the surrounding archaeological landscape.

Asset Identification

3.3 All assets identified within the study area, irrespective of whether they would be affected by the Proposed Development, are listed in Appendix A. Assets are identified within the text by their National Heritage List for England (NHLE) and/or Historic Environment Record (HER) reference number (with the prefix MBL).

3.4 All heritage assets are shown on Figure 1.

Site visit

3.5 A site visit and walkover survey was conducted on 14th June 2021. The main objectives of the site visit were as follows:

- to carry out a visual inspection of the Site and assess heritage assets and their settings which have the potential to be impacted by the proposed development,
- to identify further non-designated built heritage assets;
- to observe ground conditions and visible evidence of ground disturbance and land use which have may affected potential for archaeological potential.

Data Sources

3.6 The preparation of the heritage baseline was informed by materials gathered from a range of sources, including:

- Sandwell Historic Environment Record;
- Sandwell Archives and Local Studies;
- Historical mapping,

- Available online sources, such as the National Heritage List;
- Available online LiDAR imaging (<https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/>);
- Available geotechnical data and other assessments as appropriate and available; and
- An archaeological walkover survey to assess known sites and assess the area for potential for additional unrecorded sites and/or built heritage.

Assumptions and data gaps

3.7 The following limitations and assumptions apply to this report:

- The core HER dataset used was provided by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council on 24th March 2021. Any subsequent changes to these datasets have not been captured by this assessment.

Archaeological Potential

3.8 The potential for an area to contain archaeological remains is rated 'high', 'medium', 'low', 'negligible', or 'unknown'. This rating is based on an understanding of the archaeological resource as a whole and its national, regional and local context. This includes the number, proximity and significance of known and predicted archaeological/historical sites or find spots within the Site and its surrounding Study Area.

4. Heritage Baseline

Introduction

- 4.1 This section provides a description of the archaeological and historical background of the area as well as heritage assets recorded within the Site boundary and Study Area.
- 4.2 There are five assets recorded within the 500m Study Area of the Site within the HER (see Figure 1), which consist of all non-designated assets, three of which lie within the Site boundary. There are no designated assets located within 500m of the Site boundary, although there are two listed buildings within 1km of the Site. Designated assets are recorded with their NHLE number while non-designated assets are recorded with their HER number.

Designated Assets

- 4.3 There are no designated assets within 500m of the Site. Within 1km of the Site there are two listed buildings. These are both located to the south-east of the Site. The first is the Grade II listed Roman Catholic Church of Our Lady and St Hubert (1433148). The church was built in 1934 in an early-Christian basilican style. The church is located approximately 670m south-east of the Site.
- 4.4 The other listed building is The Wernley (1415310), also Grade II listed and located approximately 850m south-east of the Site. The building is a public house, built in 1933-4 in the Jacobean revival style.
- 4.5 The nearest registered park and garden is located approximately 1.13km east of the Site. Warley Park is a Grade II registered park and garden (1001301) laid out in the late 18th century according to the designs of Humphry Repton.
- 4.6 There are no World Heritage Sites, scheduled monuments, conservation areas, registered parks and gardens or registered battlefields within 1km of the Site.

Non-Designated Assets

- 4.7 There are five non-designated assets within the 500m study area, including three within the Site boundary. These comprise ridge and furrow across the golf course (MBL3192) as well as the sites of Brand Hall manor house (MBL2704) and a chapel at Chapel Croft (MBL2996) both of which lie at the south-eastern end of the Site.

Topography, geology and soils

- 4.8 Within the Black Country HLC, the Site falls within character area SD12: Warley, which lies over an area of sandstone and mudstone at a height of 180-220m, higher than surrounding character areas.
- 4.9 The most significant feature of the historic landscape is the South Staffordshire Coalmine. Industry such as mining and ironworking have altered the formerly agricultural landscape, leaving quarries and spoil heaps in addition to catalysing the expansion of residential developments.

Archaeological and historical background

Prehistoric (Up to AD43)

- 4.10 There is one asset of prehistoric date located within the study area. This is a scatter of worked prehistoric flint found within a garden on Pound Road (MBL2840), located at the northern end of the study area.
- 4.11 Evidence of the early prehistoric is generally limited to find spots of stone tools and geological deposits. The evidence of early prehistoric periods within the West Midlands is 'overall sparse', although unevenly distributed. While central areas of the region have generally recorded a low density of early prehistoric

remains, there are outer areas of this region where significant remains have been recorded. These are particularly noted in the river valleys of the Trent, Avon and Severn as well as upland regions of Staffordshire, Herefordshire and Shropshire (Garwood, 2011, 10).

- 4.12 Later prehistoric monuments are notable within the region. Bronze Age (2400-800BC) round barrows have been recorded in dense concentrations around the outer edges of the West Midlands while large concentrations of ring ditches have been recorded within the river valleys of the Upper Severn, Teme, the Avon and the Trent (Garwood, 2011, 69). Although evidence of monuments is sparser within the inner and urban areas of the West Midlands, the Birmingham area has recorded significant concentrations of prehistoric burnt mound remains (Garwood, 2011, 104).
- 4.13 While the Site is situated in an urban setting with limited evidence for the prehistoric, it has been suggested that early remains may have been built-over during urban expansions, rather than be entirely absent from the area (Garwood, 2011, 70).

Roman (AD43-410)

- 4.14 There are no assets of Roman date recorded within the study area.
- 4.15 The West Midlands is situated between two distinct areas of Roman archaeology, the south-east with its towns and villas, and the north-west with more military settlements consisting of legionary forts and camps (Cleary, 2011, 127). The region includes large settlements such as the civitas capital, Wroxeter and legionary fortress as well as smaller forts and villas dotted throughout the West Midlands (Cleary, 2011, 128). A Roman road also runs through the region between settlements. The line of Rycknield Street runs north-west to south-east between settlements in Birmingham and Droitwich (Victoria County History).
- 4.16 There is evidence of Roman activity within the wider area. For example, Roman forts at Metchley are located approximately 5.1km south-east of the Site (1020977). The site comprises buried and earthwork remains of the fort, located on a plateau, and part of the north-western corner of the defences have been reconstructed. Excavations of the fort revealed four phases of activity from AD40 when the fort was constructed, through to approximately AD120 when it was abandoned. The fort was altered in the second phase and thought to have acted as a store depot. Following this the fort was abandoned for a time before a smaller fort was constructed within the site of the former defences. This is also thought to have been abandoned by AD75 although sporadic occupation of the site continued until c.AD120.

Early Medieval (410-1066)

- 4.17 There are no assets of early medieval date recorded within the study area. Archaeologically this period is often one of the less visible periods, and evidence tends to stem from documentary sources and place-name evidence. Many of the landscape features in the medieval and post-medieval periods were established during the early medieval period, from settlements to churches and land organisation and field systems. During the early medieval period the West Midlands was a part of Mercia, a large Anglo-Saxon kingdom, expanding outward from the Trent Valley (Hooke, 2011, 149).
- 4.18 By AD 1000 Warley and Oldbury in the surrounding area of the Site were small hamlets within the manor of Hale. The lands were given to the Earl of Shrewsbury in AD 1066 who transferred around half of the portion containing Warley Wigorn to the ownership of William FitzAnsculf, remaining in Worcestershire while Warley Salop was transferred to Shropshire (Victoria County History, 1901, 316). The Domesday Book recorded a settlement of 12 households in 1086 and other existing settlements in the area included Smethwick to the north-east and Harborne to the south-east.

Medieval (1066-1540)

- 4.19 There are three assets of medieval date recorded within the study area, all of which are located within the Site boundary.
- 4.20 There is ridge and furrow surviving in varying directions across the Brandhall Golf Course (MBL3192), indicating the agricultural nature of the land during the medieval period. There is evidence of a small early settlement within the Site from AD 1444, referred to as Brand Hall manor or the manor house of Warley

Wigorn (MBL2704). The site of the hall is thought to be located at the south-eastern edge of the Site and documentary evidence indicates a possible former moat surrounded the manor although this is unconfirmed.

- 4.21 The site of a possible former chapel is also thought to be located at the south-eastern corner of the Site (MBL2996). St Katherine's chapel in Brandhall is referred to in a grant in 1308 and a field to the west of Brand Hall Farm is recorded as 'Chapel Croft' on the Warley Wigorn Tithe Award of 1845. It is possible that this represents a former chapel and sub-surface deposits may survive within the Site.
- 4.22 The manor of Hale remained under the ownership of the Earl of Shrewsbury's descendants until AD 1177 when it was transferred to David ap Owens, the brother in law of the king, becoming known as the manor of Halesowen. Following Owen's death, the land was given by the crown to the Bishop of Worcester to establish a religious house. The land of Warley and Oldbury came under monastic rule until the dissolution of the religious houses when they transferred to the Earl of Warwick.

Post Medieval (1540-1900)

- 4.23 There is one asset of post-medieval date recorded within the study area. The Plough is a locally listed, 18th/19th century public house of several phases, constructed of red brick and rendered (DSD646). There is a late 19th century or early 20th century coach house and stable in the yard. The building is located on George Road, approximately 420m north of the Site.
- 4.24 During the first half of the 19th century coal mining, iron working and associated industries experienced a boom within the Black Country. Industrial growth attracted workers and their families from other areas. The rapid population increase meant new housing had to be quickly erected and led to workers living in slum conditions. This problem was addressed and saw some improvement during the late 19th century. The industrial development included advancements in transportation; the Smethwick cutting was a canal opened in 1768-9 which ran from Oldbury to Smethwick and Birmingham (Brook, 1977, 189). Within this area, an example of an industrial building includes the ironworks at Halesowen, to the south-west of the study area, which by 1717 had an output of 500 tons per annum (Booth, 1973, 19).
- 4.25 During the post-medieval period, much of the land within the Site remained undeveloped. The tithe map of Warley Wigorn 1844 shows the Site divided into fields; the only buildings within which are those of Brand Hall at the southern end of the Site (Plate 1). Several of the fields names within the Site indicate this land use, with examples such as 'Long Meadow' and 'Barn Leasow' (meaning rough pasture). Much of the land around Brand Hall to the south and west was arable while the land directly to the north, east and south of the hall was recorded as meadow. Chapel Croft is recorded as the name of land parcel 193, just north of Brand Hall. The 1885 Ordnance Survey (OS) map recorded an old quarry to the north of Brand Hall, which would lie within the southern section of the Site.



Plate 1 Warley Wigorn Tithe Map 1844. (© Crown Copyright Images reproduced by courtesy of The National Archives, London, England. IR 29/39/142. www.NationalArchives.gov.uk & www.TheGenealogist.co.uk)

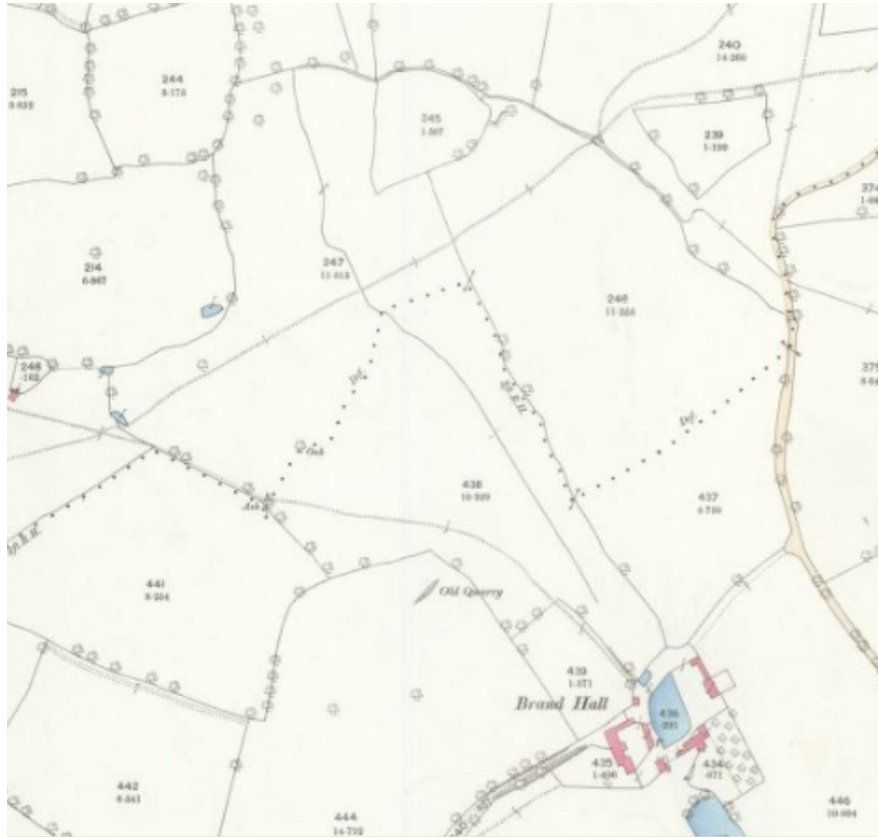


Plate 2 1885 OS map Worcestershire V.6 (Oldbury; Smethwick; Warley Woods)

Modern (1900-present)

- 4.26 There are no assets of modern date recorded within the study area.
- 4.27 Brandhall golf course was first laid out in 1906 and use for agriculture during the First World War. In the 1930s Brandhall Farm was converted into a golf club house, which was subsequently demolished, and the golf course reduced due to the construction of the M5 (Old Memories of Old Warley).
- 4.28 The landscape immediately surrounding the Site was almost entirely agricultural until the 1920s. During the interwar period land-use became largely residential, becoming the single largest centre of 1930s housing in the HLC outside of Wolverhampton. During the 1950s and 1960s several thousand council houses, flats and bungalows were constructed. Though many of the high-rise developments have been replaced by low rise housing, most of these buildings survive.
- 4.29 Cakemore brickworks and colliery is located to the north of the Site on the 1887 OS map and into the early 20th century (Plate 3). Brandhall golf course is first labelled on 1921 OS map (Plate 4) and Brand Hall is still present on the 1944 OS map although the surrounding area is shown as urbanised with the construction of Wolverhampton road to the east of the Site and surrounding residential streets, while Cakemore Brickworks and Colliery appears to be disused by this time (Plate 5).



Plate 3 1904 OS Staffordshire LXXII.NW (includes: Hill and Cakemore; Oldbury)



Plate 4 1921 OS map Staffordshire LXXII (includes: Birmingham; Oldbury; Smethwick)



Plate 5 1944 OS map, Staffordshire LXXII.NW (includes: Hill and Cakemore; Oldbury)

Aerial imaging and LiDAR

- 4.30 Aerial photographs from Google Earth (taken between 1945-2020) and LiDAR imaging (<https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/>) were viewed and are detailed below.
- 4.31 There are a number of features visible on the LiDAR across the Site. While the LiDAR appears to show a number of earthwork features within the Site boundary, most of these coincide with features of the golf course such as bunkers and are not thought to be archaeological in nature (Plate 6).
- 4.32 The 1945 aerial photograph (Plate 7) shows the Site in use as a golf course with footpaths visible running through the Site on the same alignment as those on the historic mapping (Plates 3-5). Within the Site are various features likely associated with the golf course, and Brand Hall is extant to the south-east. Modern roads and buildings are present to the north and east while to the west much of the land remains agricultural.
- 4.33 The later aerial photographs continue to show the Site in use as a golf course with lines of mature trees between the courses (Plate 8). Ridge and furrow are visible on these aerial photographs, shown aligned in several different directions (Plate 9).



Plate 6 1m DSM LiDAR imaging of the Site reveals various feature, most coinciding with golf course features. (House Prices, LiDAR imaging. <https://houseprices.io/lab/lidar/map?ref=TQ64934%2090278>)



Plate 7 1945 aerial photograph of the Site showing the golf course as well as Brand Hall to the south-east of the Site (Google Earth Pro, Copyright 2021 The GeoInformation Group).



Plate 8 2020 aerial photograph showing the Site (2020, Google Earth Pro, Landsat / Copernicus).



Plate 9 2020 aerial photograph showing a section of the Site with visible ridge and furrow (2020, Google Earth Pro, Landsat / Copernicus).

Site Visit

- 4.34 A Site visit was undertaken on the 14th June 2021. The Site is a disused golf course, with meadow type long grass and interspersed with rows of trees and containing various footpaths. The land rises from the north and west to the centre of the Site before falling away at the south and eastern edges. A stream runs north to south through the centre with several wooden bridges over it. The Site is bounded by mature trees to all sides and there are glimpsed views of the houses to the east and the motorway to the south-west. There were no views of the listed church to the south-east from the Site.
- 4.35 There are various surviving features of the golf course within the Site including tees, bunkers, and earthwork features (Plates 13-14). The clubhouse to the north of the Site is still extant, although no longer in use and is a 20th century single storey brick building.
- 4.36 The ridge and furrow was not visible during the Site visit due to the long grass, although it is visible on aerial photographs and satellite imaging (see Plate 9).
- 4.37 There are no above ground indications of a building at the site of the Chapel Croft field. A modern compound is located at the southern end of the Site where this feature is thought to be. There are also no above ground remains of Brand Hall, as the area to the south of the Site has been built over by modern houses (Plate 17).



Plate 10 View south from the northern edge of the Site, showing the stream and wooden bridges.



Plate 11 View of the Site from the eastern side looking west, showing the grass with rows of trees and footpaths.



Plate 12 View to the south-west from the south-west corner of the Site shows the motorway beyond the Site.



Plate 13 Bank features at the south-west end of the Site related to the golf course.



Plate 14 Surviving golf course tee and an area of concrete within the Site boundary.



Plate 15 Area of ridge and furrow visible on aerial photography within the Site was indistinct from the ground due to the long grass.



Plate 16 Modern compound at the southern end of the Site, around the site of Chapel Croft.



Plate 17 View to the south of the Site showing modern housing on the Site of the former Brand Hall.



Plate 18 Golf clubhouse to the north of the Site.

5. Assessment of the Baseline

Archaeological Potential

Prehistoric

- 5.1 The only prehistoric asset in the study area is a lithic scatter at the northern edge (MBL2840). Although there is limited evidence from within this area, the undeveloped nature of the Site highlights the possibility that early archaeological remains may survive within the Site boundary. The presence of ridge and furrow within the Site also indicates that the land has likely been in agricultural use without the development of buildings within the Site. Due to this the potential for previously unrecorded remains of prehistoric date is **medium**.

Roman

- 5.2 There are no assets of Roman date recorded within the study area. There are Roman sites in the wider area, including the scheduled Roman fort at Metchley (1020977) located approximately 5.1km to the south-east. The land of the Site has remained undeveloped and it is possible for previously unrecorded archaeological remains to survive within the Site. However, given the lack of evidence of any Roman site in the study area and its immediate surroundings, the potential for previously unrecorded remains of Roman date to be discovered is considered to be **low**.

Early Medieval

- 5.3 There are no early medieval assets recorded within the study area, although several of the place names in the surrounding area have early medieval origins as they were recorded in the Domesday Book. The undeveloped nature of the Site indicates the possibility of previously unrecorded remains surviving within the Site although the agricultural nature of the Site during the later medieval and post-medieval periods indicate that this was likely open land/ agricultural land during the early medieval period. Therefore, the potential for previously unrecorded remains of early medieval date is **low**.

Medieval

- 5.4 The assets within the study area are predominately of medieval date, and all of these are located within the Site boundary. The site of the former medieval manor house as well as a possible chapel at the south-east edge of the Site, as well as the remains of ridge and furrow throughout the Site, indicate that this land was in use during this period as agricultural land around the medieval manor. Given the lack of redevelopment on the Site, there is potential for previously unrecorded remains to survive and given the proximity to the former manor, the potential for previously unrecorded medieval remains is **high** in relation to agriculture but **low** for settlement evidence.

Post-Medieval

- 5.5 During the post-medieval period the Site remained agricultural in nature, while the surrounding area was slowly urbanised in the latter part of this period. Brand Hall manor house is thought to have remained in use during this period and so it is possible that previously unrecorded post-medieval remains may survive within the Site boundary associated with the manor and its land, although the area has been well-mapped. Therefore, the potential for previously unrecorded remains of post-medieval date is **medium** for agricultural related features but **low** for settlement evidence given the well-mapped nature of the Site.

Constraints

- 5.6 There are two heritage assets recorded within the proposed development Site. The first of these is earthworks of ridge and furrow which survive in varying directions across the Site (MBL3192). These may be physically impacted by the construction of the proposed development.
- 5.7 In addition to this, in the south-east corner of the proposed development Site are the site of a possible former medieval building. Chapel Croft appears as a field name on tithe map, 1845, lying within the south-east side of Brandhall golf course (MBL2996). This name is also associated with a former chapel site, where potential has been identified that sub-surface deposits may survive.

- 5.8 The former site of Brand Hall is located just beyond the south-eastern corner of the Site (MBL2704). The hall is no longer extant, and part of the former site is covered by modern roads and buildings beyond the Brandhall Golf Course Site although it is possible for remains associated with the hall to survive within the Site boundary.
- 5.9 There is also potential for previously unrecorded archaeology to survive within the Site boundary. Given the undeveloped nature of the Site, remains may be identified. A find spot of seven worked flints is located within the 500m study area, could indicate the potential for more prehistoric archaeology within the area, as well as the remains of medieval and post-medieval remains associated with the former Brand Hall and surrounding land.
- 5.10 There is not thought to be any impact to the built heritage asset within the study area (DSD646) or any changes to its setting from the Proposed Development. There are also two listed buildings located within 1km of the Site, the Church of Our Lady and St Hubert (1433148) and The Wernley (1415310), both located to the south-east of the study area. Due to the urban nature of the area and the distance from the Site, the presence of the Proposed Development is not thought to significantly change the setting of the listed buildings. There may be views of the Proposed Development from the top of the tower of the Church of Our Lady and St Hubert (1433148), although it is considered this would not result in a significant change to the setting of the listed building.

6. Conclusions

Summary

- 6.1 AECOM was commissioned to prepare a desk-based assessment for the proposed mixed-use development at the former Brandhall Golf Course. Data was gathered from the National Heritage List for England and from the Sandwell Historic Environment Record (HER). There are five assets recorded within the 500m study area. The aims and purpose of the Desk-Based Assessment have been met in accordance with the ClfA Standard and guidance for historic environment desk-based assessment (ClfA 2020).
- 6.2 There are three assets located within the Site boundary, comprising ridge and furrow across the Site (MBL3192), as well as the former Brand Hall (MBL2704) and possible chapel site (MBL2996). There is potential for archaeological remains to survive within the Site which may be physically impacted during the construction of the Proposed Development. There is also potential for previously unrecorded remains to survive within the Site. Any surviving features would be physically affected by the construction of the Proposed Development.
- 6.3 There is one built heritage asset within the study area, a locally listed post-medieval public house located at the north-eastern edge of the study area (DSD646). There is not thought to be any impact to the building or any changes to its setting from the Proposed Development. There are also two listed buildings located within 1km of the Site, the Church of Our Lady and St Hubert (1433148) and The Wernley (1415310), both located to the south-east of the study area. Due to the urban nature of the area and the distance from the Site, the presence of the Proposed Development is not thought to significantly change the setting of the listed buildings. There may be views of the Proposed Development from the top of the tower of the Church of Our Lady and St Hubert (1433148), although it is considered this would not result in a significant change to the setting of the listed building.

Recommendations

- 6.4 Further assessment of potential impacts upon the archaeological resource within the Site should be undertaken. A programme of geophysical (magnetometer) survey followed by trial trenching should be undertaken at the Site in order to understand the archaeological potential of the Site and to particularly identify the presence of remains associated with Brand Hall and the former chapel in the south-eastern corner of the Site. The requirement for, and timing of, any further archaeological works will be discussed with the County Archaeologist following the results of this.
- 6.5 There is not thought to be any significant impact to the built heritage asset within the study area or the listed buildings located beyond the study area due to the urban nature of the area.

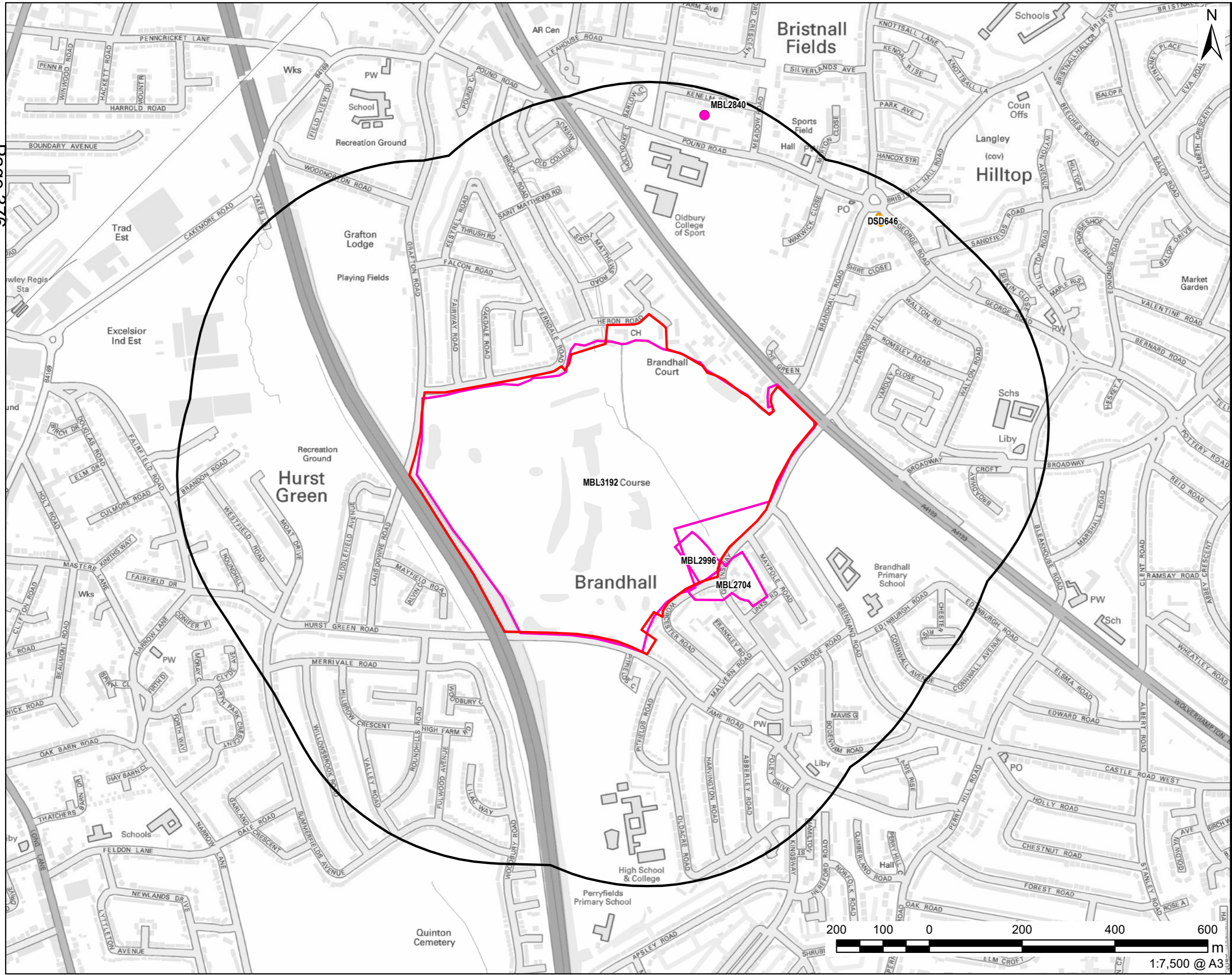
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Appendix A Known Heritage Assets

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| Reference | Grid Reference | Period | Description |
|-----------|----------------|---------------------------|---|
| MBL2840 | SO 9948 8703 | Prehistoric | Findspot: Scatter of 7 worked flints found in 1984 in garden of 226 Pound Rd, Oldbury. Retained by finder and property owner. |
| MBL2996 | SO 9948 8606 | Medieval | Monument: Site of the chapel at Chapel Croft, Brand Hall Farm on the Warley Wigorn tithe map of 1845. Now situated within Brand Hall golf course with potential for survival of buried deposits. |
| MBL3192 | SO 9929 8621 | Medieval | Monument: Ridge and furrow within Brand Hall golf course. Present in aerial photographs 1977. |
| MBL2704 | SO 9954 8602 | Medieval to Post Medieval | Monument: Site, 10m2, of Brand Hall Medieval manor house and fishponds depicted on the Warley Wigorn tithe map of 1845. Documentary evidence suggests possible moat though as yet unconfirmed. Now fully developed as housing. |
| DSD646 | SO99868680 | Post Medieval | The Plough, Hill Top, Oldbury. 18 th /19 th century public house of several phases in red brick now rendered with plain tile gabled roof. Casement fenestration and ground floor bay. Late C19 or early C20 coach house and stable in yard. |



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Air Quality Monitoring Report 2022

Brandhall Village

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Project number: 60653817

April 2022

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1. Introduction

- 1.1 AECOM has carried out site-specific air quality monitoring for Brandhall Village project on behalf of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC). The site exists entirely within the borough-wide air quality management area (AQMA) which SMBC declared in 2005 for exceedance of the annual mean air quality strategy (AQS) objective value for nitrogen dioxide (NO₂).
- 1.2 AECOM conducted three months of monitoring for NO₂ between May and August 2021. The purpose of the NO₂ monitoring survey is two-fold. Firstly, to identify the baseline air quality conditions to determine if concentrations are above the NO₂ annual mean AQS objective of 40 µg/m³ and would therefore pose a notable constraint to the proposed development. Secondly, for use in model verification as part of a subsequent air quality assessment for the development required as part of any future planning application.
- 1.3 The monitoring programme involved the use of passive NO₂ diffusion tubes with monthly site visits. Data was collected at 10 sites, two on the land parcel at locations 30m and 70m from the M5, seven on nearby roads which are likely to be affected by traffic associated with the development and a remaining site which is representative of the local background pollutant climate.
- 1.4 The NO₂ diffusion tubes were exposed for a period of approximately one calendar month and then re-sealed. Additional NO₂ diffusion tubes were used as control blanks (travel blanks) during the survey but these were not exposed to the air. Following exposure, the NO₂ diffusion tubes were sent to the laboratory for analysis along with the control NO₂ diffusion tubes.
- 1.5 Air quality monitoring sites are normally located on accessible and suitable structures such as street furniture, whilst the annual mean NO₂ AQS objective applies to locations representative of relevant long-term exposure, such as residential properties. The selected monitoring sites have been chosen to be as representative as possible of long-term exposure locations and professional judgement has been utilised to determine the indicative risk of exceedance of the air quality objectives.
- 1.6 This monitoring report provides the NO₂ measurement data for May to August 2021. As data was collected for 3 months, it has been adjusted to provide an indication of baseline air quality in the study area that is representative of current air quality conditions over a 12 month period, to align with the annual objective. The results of this adjustment are presented in Section 2 of this report.
- 1.7 When the air quality monitoring for this development was commenced, the initial masterplan for the site included the provision of dwellings, a school, a public park, local amenities, pedestrian and cycle links and wildlife areas. Following public consultation four new options are now being considered:
 - Option 1 - A 'no development' option which effectively assumes no development will take place and the site is turned into public open space.
 - Option 2 – Which is as per Option 1 with the addition of a primary school to the north west corner.
 - Option 3 – Which is as per Option 2 with the addition of 2 new housing parcels (R1 and R2) providing circa 180 homes.
 - Option 4 – Which is as per Option 2 with the addition of 4 new housing parcels (R1, R2, R3 and R4) providing circa 360 homes.
- 1.8 While the air quality monitoring survey was set up for the initial masterplan, the data obtained can be utilised to assist with the identification of potential air quality impacts or constraints for any of the above options.

2. Monitoring Results Summary

2.1 As set out above, measurement data was collected at 10 locations on and around the development area. Details of each monitoring site are presented in Table 2.1. Figure 1 in Appendix A illustrates the location of each monitoring site on a map.

Table 2.1: AECOM NO₂ Diffusion Tube Monitoring Locations

| Site ID | Description | X, Y (m) | Type | Distance from Road (m) | Height (m) |
|---------|--------------------|----------------|------------|------------------------|------------|
| DT1 | Brandhall Site | 398914, 286183 | On site | 30 | 1.5 |
| DT2 | Brandhall Site | 398954, 286199 | On site | 70 | 1.5 |
| DT3 | Grafton Road | 398855, 286367 | Roadside | 1.7 | 2.3 |
| DT4 | Wolverhampton Road | 399704, 286390 | Roadside | 1.7 | 2.4 |
| DT5 | Hurst Green Road | 398880, 285922 | Roadside | 2.4 | 2.3 |
| DT6 | Tame Road | 399360, 285865 | Roadside | 1.1 | 2.2 |
| DT7 | Queensway | 399620, 286190 | Roadside | 2.2 | 2.0 |
| DT8 | Chester Rise | 399997, 285931 | Background | - | 2.2 |
| DT9 | Wolverhampton Road | 400739, 285605 | Roadside | 2.6 | 2.2 |
| DT10 | Hagley Road West | 400707, 285172 | Roadside | 3.2 | 2.4 |

2.2 The raw monitoring results for the period May to August 2021 are presented in Table 2.2.

Table 2.2: Raw NO₂ Diffusion Tube Monitoring Results

| Site ID | NO ₂ Concentration (µg/m ³) | | | |
|---------|--|----------|----------|-------------|
| | Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 3 | Period Mean |
| DT1 | 25.3 | 28.3 | 25.5 | 26.4 |
| DT2 | 17.4 | Missing | 19.3 | 18.3 |
| DT3 | 27.1 | 26.0 | 25.4 | 26.2 |
| DT4 | 23.9 | 23.9 | 20.0 | 22.6 |
| DT5 | 25.2 | 26.3 | 21.6 | 24.3 |
| DT6 | Missing | 26.3 | 19.4 | 22.8 |
| DT7 | 16.6 | 15.0 | 14.9 | 15.5 |
| DT8 | 12.8 | Missing | 12.1 | 12.5 |
| DT9 | 36.4 | 34.3 | 35.8 | 35.5 |
| DT10 | 21.1 | 26.9 | 21.3 | 23.1 |

Note: values have been subject to rounding. Missing data refers to stolen or damaged tubes.

- 2.3 Diffusion tubes are affected by several sources of interference which can cause substantial under or overestimation upon comparison with a reference quality chemiluminescent analyser. This under or overestimation is often referred to as “bias”. Any bias is problematic when diffusion tube results are to be compared with air quality objectives, and therefore quantification of this “bias” is required such that an appropriate bias adjustment factor can be applied to the annual mean.
- 2.4 A database of bias adjustment factors¹ determined from local authority co-location studies has been collated by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and provides combined bias adjustment factors which have been calculated for each laboratory, year and preparation method combination where data are available. This database is updated periodically. The laboratory selected to supply and analyse the diffusion tubes used in this survey was Staffordshire Highways Laboratory, and a preparation method of 20% Triethanolamine (TEA) in water was utilised. A bias adjustment factor 0.93 was applied to the period mean concentrations.
- 2.5 As the survey took place over three months, an annualisation factor needs to be applied to the period mean to ensure that it is representative of an annual mean concentration. The need to apply an annualisation factor is due to the seasonal variation that is observed with ambient NO₂ concentrations in the UK, whereby concentrations are consistently lower in the summer months relative to the winter at any given site. To account for this, the approach described by Defra’s Technical Guidance document² is followed, where data from 2-4 background reference monitoring sites are used to obtain a ratio of annual mean to relevant period mean concentrations. The average of these annual mean to period mean (A_m/P_m) factors is then applied to the period mean concentration at each monitoring site. Data from three Automatic Urban and Rural Network (AURN) sites (Birmingham Acocks Green, Walsall Woodlands and Coventry Allesley) for the year 2019 were obtained. This year was selected as it represents the most recent full year of data which was not affected by national lockdowns.
- 2.6 Additional technical guidance from Defra includes using a projection factor to account for the predicted decrease in roadside NO₂ concentrations with ongoing improvements to vehicle fleets and other factors. This process has not been applied to this dataset as the data are not being used for modelling at this stage. The data are suitable to represent the pollutant climate for the year in which the data were collected.
- 2.7 The raw period mean, annualised and bias adjusted mean NO₂ concentrations are presented in Table 2.3. It is shown that a relatively large A_m/P_m factor is used for each site. This is because the survey took place in summer months, where NO₂ concentrations are expected to be lower than the remaining months of the calendar year. It is also noted that there are three different A_m/P_m factors used in the table, this is because there are effectively three different measurement periods due to missing data at DT2, DT6 and DT8. Table 2.4 shows the data set for each reference monitor site. The first row in this table is relevant for the monitoring sites where no data are missing (DT1, DT3, DT4, DT5, DT7, DT9 and DT10), the second row is relevant for monitoring sites where Period 2 data are missing (DT2 and DT8) and the third row in Table 2.4 is relevant for monitoring sites where Period 1 data are missing (DT6).

¹ Defra (2022) National Bias Adjustment Factors [Online] Available: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/air-quality/air-quality-assessment/national-bias/> [Accessed 06/04/2022].

² Defra (2021) LAQM Technical Guidance (TG16) [Online] Available: <https://laqm.defra.gov.uk/documents/LAQM-TG16-April-21-v1.pdf> [Accessed 06/04/2022].

Table 2.3: Bias Adjusted & Annualised Mean NO₂ Concentrations

| Site ID | NO ₂ Concentration (µg/m ³) | | | | Bias Factor | A _m /P _m | Annualised Mean (µg/m ³) |
|---------|--|----------|----------|-------------|-------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------------|
| | Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 3 | Period Mean | | | |
| DT1 | 25.3 | 28.3 | 25.5 | 26.4 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 39.5 |
| DT2 | 17.4 | Missing | 19.3 | 18.3 | 0.93 | 1.60 | 27.3 |
| DT3 | 27.1 | 26.0 | 25.4 | 26.2 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 39.2 |
| DT4 | 23.9 | 23.9 | 20.0 | 22.6 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 33.9 |
| DT5 | 25.2 | 26.3 | 21.6 | 24.3 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 36.5 |
| DT6 | Missing | 26.3 | 19.4 | 22.8 | 0.93 | 1.71 | 36.3 |
| DT7 | 16.6 | 15.0 | 14.9 | 15.5 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 23.2 |
| DT8 | 12.8 | Missing | 12.1 | 12.5 | 0.93 | 1.60 | 18.6 |
| DT9 | 36.4 | 34.3 | 35.8 | 35.5 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 53.2 |
| DT10 | 21.1 | 26.9 | 21.3 | 23.1 | 0.93 | 1.61 | 34.6 |

Note: values have been subject to rounding.

Table 2.4: Annual mean and period mean data at each reference monitor site

| Data Present | | | Walsall Woodlands | | | Birmingham Acocks Green | | | Coventry Allesley | | |
|--------------|----------|----------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--------------------------------|
| Period 1 | Period 2 | Period 3 | A _m (µg/m ³) | P _m (µg/m ³) | A _m /P _m | A _m (µg/m ³) | P _m (µg/m ³) | A _m /P _m | A _m (µg/m ³) | P _m (µg/m ³) | A _m /P _m |
| ✓ | ✓ | ✓ | 16.13 | 10.00 | 1.61 | 18.14 | 11.06 | 1.64 | 20.44 | 12.92 | 1.58 |
| ✓ | ✗ | ✓ | 16.13 | 10.41 | 1.55 | 18.14 | 10.90 | 1.66 | 20.44 | 12.84 | 1.59 |
| ✗ | ✓ | ✓ | 16.13 | 8.62 | 1.87 | 18.14 | 11.20 | 1.62 | 20.44 | 12.54 | 1.63 |

Note: data presented to 2d.p to demonstrate calculations

- 2.8 Data presented in Table 2.3 show that one measurement location (DT9) has an annualised mean concentrations of nitrogen dioxide above the air quality objective of 40 µg/m³. A further four locations are close to the objective (within 10%), DT1, DT3, DT5 and DT6.
- 2.9 The location exceeding the objective value (DT9) is on Wolverhampton Road. Some development related traffic would be likely to use Wolverhampton Road when heading out into the wider area. It is therefore probable that changes in traffic to this route as a result of the development would affect NO₂ concentrations at this location.
- 2.10 The measurement location within the Brandhall site at the closest edge of the site to the M5 (DT1), approximately 30m, has an annualised NO₂ concentration of 39.5 µg/m³. The site which is approximately 70m from the M5 (DT2) has an annualised NO₂ concentration of 27.3 µg/m³.
- 2.11 The location selected to represent the background pollutant climate of the local area (DT8) is shown to have an annualised concentration of 18.6 µg/m³. This is the lowest concentration of any site in the survey, as would be expected, due to the relatively large distance to any major roads.

- 2.12 The Defra modelled background concentrations for NO₂ in 2021 for the area surrounding the development are shown in Table 2.5. A range of 15.6 – 19.1 µg/m³ is obtained. The annualised concentration at the background site in the AECOM monitoring survey (DT8) falls within this range.

Table 2.5: Defra Mapped 2021 Background NO₂ concentration for 1km grid squares around Brandhall Village

| Location | X OS Grid | Y OS Grid | Annual mean NO ₂ concentration (µg/m ³) |
|----------|-----------|-----------|--|
| Dudley | 394500 | 289500 | 19.1 |
| Dudley | 398500 | 285500 | 15.6 |
| Sandwell | 399500 | 286500 | 16.0 |
| Sandwell | 399500 | 285500 | 18.0 |

- 2.13 Diffusion tube data obtained from the most recent SMBC Air Quality Annual Status Report³ is presented in Table 2.6. The sites presented here are the closest to the development, located approximately 1.5 km north west of the development. The NO₂ concentrations presented are of a similar range to those obtained by the AECOM monitoring survey, but also show a general trend in decreasing NO₂ concentrations in the local area.

Table 2.6: SMBC diffusion tube monitoring around Brandhall Village

| Site ID | X OS Grid | Y OS Grid | Site Type | Annual mean NO ₂ concentration (µg/m ³) | | | | |
|---------|-----------|-----------|-----------|--|------|------|------|------|
| | | | | 2015 | 2016 | 2017 | 2018 | 2019 |
| UA | 398146 | 287639 | Roadside | 32.7 | 34.3 | 31.2 | 31.7 | 29.8 |
| UB | 398214 | 287726 | Roadside | 34.0 | 35.8 | 33.4 | 33.9 | 33.3 |
| UC | 398170 | 287746 | Kerbside | 34.4 | 36.9 | 35.6 | 36.1 | 32.4 |

3. Conclusions

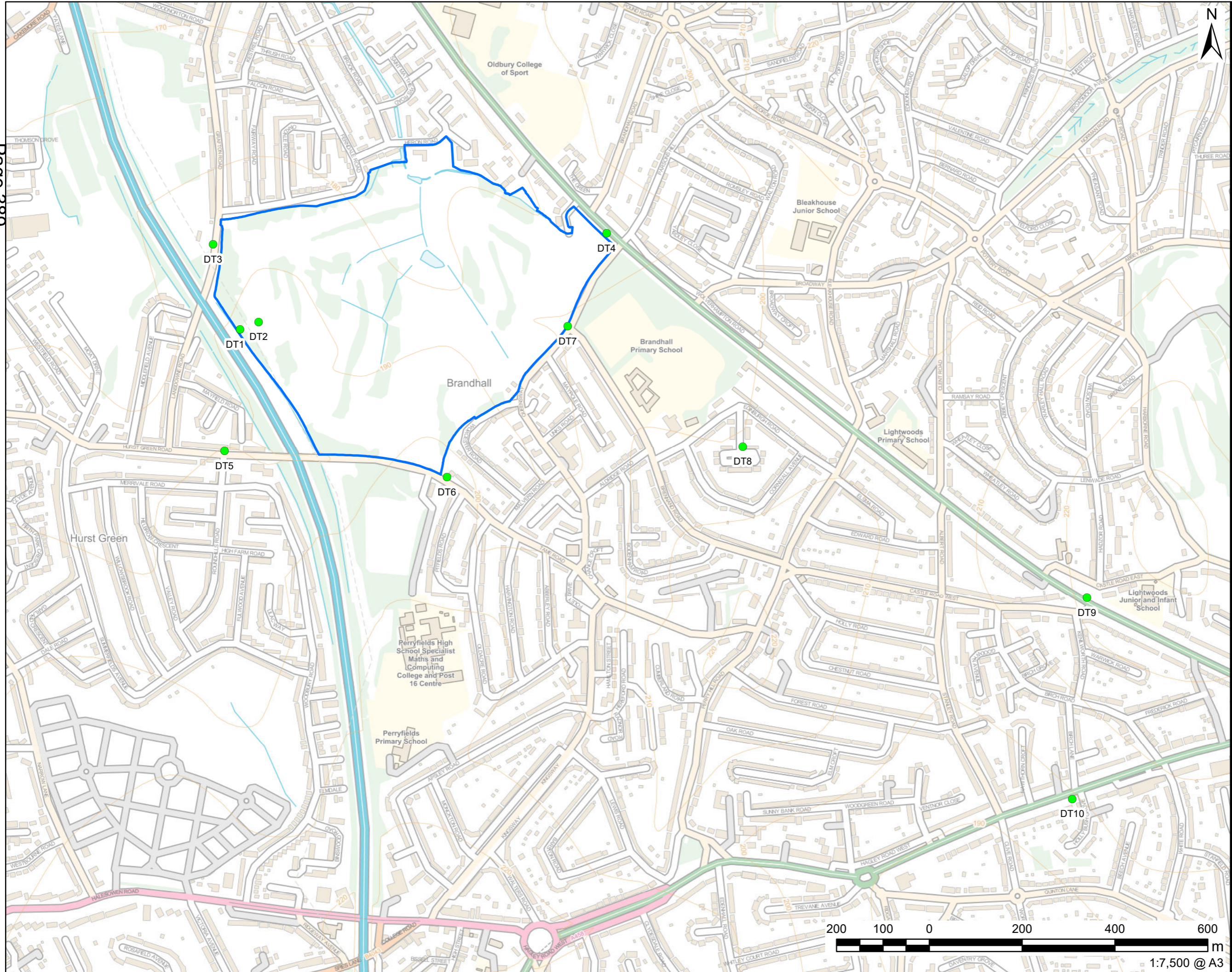
- 3.1 The NO₂ concentrations obtained as part of this survey are close to or exceeding the objective value in a number of locations and they are consistent with what would be expected for an urban area which is within an AQMA.
- 3.2 Long-term monitoring data from SMBC, presented in Table 2.6 shows that there is a general trend whereby concentrations of NO₂ are decreasing at a local level. It would be expected that sites around the development would experience a similar trend. It is likely that by the time a development is operational, NO₂ concentrations would have improved at the sites surveyed. Notwithstanding, it is recommended, that a detailed air quality assessment is conducted for any option where development takes place to ensure the site is suitable for its intended use and to establish whether the development may lead to likely significant effects in the wider area.
- 3.3 With consideration to the survey results for the two on site locations (DT1 and DT2), it is recommended that a suitable buffer from the M5 to any proposed sensitive location (e.g. residential property) is retained to protect health for any development bought forward.

³ https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/downloads/file/31492/air_quality_annual_status_report_2020 [Accessed 06/04/2022].

Appendix A Monitoring Locations

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Figure 1: Diffusion Tube Monitoring Locations



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Technical Note

| | | | |
|--------------|--|---------|-----------------|
| Project: | Brandhall Urban Village | Job No: | 60653817 |
| Subject: | Surface Water Drainage Strategy – Options1 to 4 | | |
| Prepared by: | Luke Palmer | Date: | 12.05.22 |
| Checked by: | David Mulkerrin | Date: | 17.05.22 |
| Approved by: | Claire Parkinson | Date: | 17.05.22 |

Background

AECOM has been requested by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to review the potential surface water drainage strategy for four development options for the proposed Brandhall Urban Village site. The options are as follows:

Option 1

Retain as a park (No change to existing situation) so no drainage strategy required

Option2

Development of a 2 form entry primary school to the north west of the site, retention of remainder of the site as a park.

Option 3

Development of a 2 form entry primary school to the north west of the site plus residential development (up to 190 units) to the east of the site (Parcels R1 and R2) and retention of remainder of the site as a park.

Option 4

Development of a 2 form entry primary school to the north west of the site plus residential development (up to 360 units) including parcels R1, R2, R3 and R4 with retention of remainder of site as a park.

Surface Water Drainage Strategy

This technical note should be read in conjunction with the following drawings, included as Appendix A:

Brandhall Drainage Strategy – Option 2, drawing reference 60653817-CIV-002

Brandhall Drainage Strategy – Option 3, drawing reference 60653817-CIV-003

Brandhall Drainage Strategy – Option 4, drawing reference 60653817-CIV-004

Assumptions

This strategy has been developed to assist in decision making regarding the proposed development proposals at the Brandhall Urban Village site. At this stage, no consultation has been undertaken with the Lead Local Flood Authority or the Environment Agency regarding design requirements for this particular site, therefore the strategy is subject to change.

It is assumed, at this stage, that infiltration techniques are unsuitable at this site, however this should be confirmed by soakage testing.

When preparing this high-level drainage strategy we have assumed that all of the required attenuation volume will be contained within a basin/pond prior to discharge into the Brandhall Brook , to identify the potential land take associated with these features.

To calculate the attenuation volumes we have carried out an assessment using discharge rates equivalent to greenfield rates of runoff restricted to QBar. These discharge rates have been used to determine the attenuation requirements for the 1 in 100 year storm event + 30% climate change allowance, based on

guidance provided within 'The Black Country Authorities Level 1 Strategic Flood Risk Assessment, dated 25th June 2020. There is currently no allowance for development creep in the calculations.

It should be noted that this assessment has been carried out using FSR rainfall data. However, the LLFA may request the use of FEH data (to be purchased) which may increase the attenuation volumes required.

For the purpose of this assessment, it has been assumed that the primary school site will be 50% percentage impermeable (PIMP), the residential development parcels will be 65% PIMP.

The indicative pond size as shown on the drainage strategy option drawings is based on attenuating the QBar volume in a pond with a depth of 1.5m. There will be a requirement to provide freeboard during detailed design, typically this is 300mm, so the max. water depth will be 1.2m. The earthworks associated with the ponds have not been included in the overall area at this stage.

The development of the drainage strategy would refine the design of the attenuation features required for each catchment, with input from landscape architects.

As a drainage strategy for the preferred option is developed further, we would recommend that SuDS are also incorporated within the development parcels using a range of techniques, including: green/blue roofs, bio-retention areas, swales, ponds and permeable paving.

Option 2 – Primary school

The proposals identify the construction of a new 2 form entry primary school located in the north-west of the Brandhall development site.

The area is steeply sloping with a ground level of approximately 189mAOD in the south, falling away to the north and the east. The eastern edge of the development site is at approximately 180mAOD, the north-western boundary of the site is at approximately 185.5mAOD. The site has been divided into two catchments reflecting the current topography.

Catchment A – Development Area of 0.78ha, and impermeable area of 0.39ha. Storage volume required 293m³. Storage shown as a pond/basin within the north-western corner of the development site. Discharge from this catchment requires further assessment, it may be appropriate to connect into the existing surface water sewer.

Catchment B – Development Area of 1.90ha, and impermeable area of 0.95ha. Storage volume required 713m³. Storage shown as a basin/pond located to the east of the development. Earthworks will be required to form the pond within the sloping ground. Two potential outfall options are shown, either north to an existing ditch, which connects into the brook at the north of the site, or east directly into the brook.

Option 3 – Primary school and Residential Development R1 and R2

The proposals identify new 2 form entry primary school, and an area of residential development located in the east of the site.

Primary school – see Option 2 above.

Residential Parcel R1 is steeply sloping with a high point in the south of the site at 190mAOD, falling away to the east (181mAOD), north (185mAOD) and west (186mAOD).

Development area of 3.29ha, impermeable area of 2.14ha. Storage volume required 1,607m³.

As a result of the topography, it is likely that the site would be divided into three sub-catchments, with separate attenuation for each. The Drainage Strategy Option 3 drawing identifies three areas of storage outside of the development parcels, and also outside of the current flood envelope. Earthworks will be required to form the pond within the sloping ground. All three areas would discharge directly to the brook.

Residential Parcel R2 is steeply sloping with a high point in the south of the site at 196mAOD, falling away to the north-east (185mAOD).

Development area of 1.803ha, impermeable area of 1.17ha. Storage volume required 879m³.

As a result of the topography, it is likely that the site would be one large catchment, although the attenuation may be separated due to topographical constraints. The Drainage Strategy Option 3 drawing currently identifies one storage area located directly to the north-east of the development site, and a further larger storage area directly north of the development parcel. This location is constrained due to the steep topography, the location of the brook and flood envelope, and also the proposed pedestrian site access. Earthworks will be required to form the pond(s) within the sloping ground. Any attenuation pond would discharge directly to the brook.

Option 4 – Primary school and Residential Development R1, R2 and R3, R4

The proposals identify new 2 form entry primary school, and an area of residential development located in the east of the site.

Primary school – see Option 2 above.

Residential Parcel R1 and R2 – See Option 3 above.

Residential Parcel R3 is steeply sloping with a high point in the south of the site at 195mAOD, falling away to the north (184mAOD).

Development area of 2.124ha, impermeable area of 1.38ha. Storage volume required 1,036m³.

As a result of the topography, it is likely that the site would be one large catchment, with attenuation located remote from the development parcel, at a lower level on the site closer to the brook. The Drainage Strategy Option 4 drawing identifies an open channel connecting the development to the attenuation basin/pond which then discharges into an existing pond on the site. Earthworks will be required to form the pond within the sloping ground.

Residential Parcel R4 is steeply sloping with a high point in the south of the site at 191.5mAOD, falling away to the east (187mAOD).

Development area of 1.871ha, impermeable area of 1.22ha. Storage volume required 915m³.

As a result of the topography, it is likely that the site would be one large catchment, with attenuation located remote from the development parcel, at a lower level. The Drainage Strategy Option 4 drawing identifies an open channel connecting the development to the attenuation basin/pond which then discharges into an existing pond on the site, also via an open channel. Earthworks will be required to form the pond within the sloping ground.

Conclusions

A high-level drainage strategy has been developed for Options 2, 3 and 4 for Brandhall Urban Village. The purpose of the strategy is to identify the potential volumes of surface water that require attenuation for each development parcel, and the likely area required to accommodate this run-off water within the site.

The purpose of the on-site attenuation is to restrict the surface water run-off from the development parcels to greenfield rates. This would aim to mimic the current scenario and will not increase the risk of flooding at the site, or downstream of the site. The development of the drainage strategy should be undertaken in conjunction with the flood risk assessment.

Based on the preferred development option, the drainage strategy will be developed further to refine the attenuation required, and to understand the earthworks required to form attenuation features within the existing sloping topography.

The design approach will need to be discussed with the Lead Local Flood Authority or the Environment Agency, and is therefore subject to change.

Appendix A – Drainage Strategy Option Drawings

Drainage Strategy Notes

- The site itself is a former golf course. Brandhall Brook flows through the site from south to north and is designated by the EA as a main River. There are numerous piped outfalls from the golf course land drainage into the Brook. Towards the north of the golf course site, Brandhall Brook is culverted into a ponded area behind a large embankment which appears to be for flood relief. Here it has its confluence with a stream that flows around the eastern perimeter of the site, which is also culverted into the ponded area.
- Several tributaries meet Brandhall Brook within the golf course site. These are generally straight drainage ditches/trenches.
- An unnamed tributary of Brandhall Brook flows around the eastern perimeter of the golf course. This emerges into the golf course site, having been culverted beneath the school to the south east of the site. The culverted channel enters a concrete weir structure between the golf course and the residential properties to the northeast of the site.
- It is assumed at this stage that infiltration techniques are unsuitable at this site, however this is to be confirmed by soakage testing.
- Surface water runoff is to be discharged to one or more of the following:
 - into the ground (infiltration) - to be confirmed as per note 4
 - to a surface water body - either the Brandhall Brook or tributaries
- The current strategy is for the proposed rate of surface water runoff from the site to not exceed existing greenfield rates of runoff. The red line boundary of the proposed development gives the development area at 37.2ha. The Institute of Hydrology Report 124, Flood Estimation from Small Catchments, has been used to determine peak greenfield runoff rates for the catchment as it is smaller than 50ha. The analysis for determining the peak greenfield discharge rate has used 50ha in the formula and the flow rate value linearly interpolated based on the ratio of the development to 50ha. The greenfield runoff rates are shown below.

| Return Period | Existing total development runoff (l/s) | Existing development runoff (l/s/ha) |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Q1 | 161.3 | 4.36 |
| QBar | 190.0 | 5.14 |
| Q30 | 372.3 | 10.06 |
| Q100 | 488.4 | 13.2 |



- Indicative catchment areas are based on ground level information taken from Brunel Surveys topographical survey.
- Indicative land use proposals have been assigned to each catchment and the percentage impermeable areas assumed.
- There is no allowance for development creep in the calculations. This will need to be agreed with the LLFA.
- The proposed discharge rate from the site is calculated from the table above with the required attenuation to prevent flooding from a 1 in 100 year storm plus an increase of 30% to account for climate change, calculated using source control module within Microdrainage.
- FSR Rainfall has currently been used in the attenuation assessment. However it is presumed that the LLFA will request FEH rainfall data (to be purchased), which is likely to increase the volume required.
- A surface water treatment train is to be devised for the development which will require treatment at source (i.e swales and permeable paving) as well as the approximate attenuation as shown on this drawing.
- The proposals on this drawing are indicative only and are a means for starting discussions on surface water proposals for the development. The design approach will need to be discussed with the LLFA and EA so is subject to change.

Drainage Constraints



- Surface water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 10m easement.
- Foul water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 5m easement.
- DN300 Foul water sewer crossing site. Easement width TBC. Assume 5m
- Surface water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 10m easement.
- SW Discharge point for Primary School Catchment A to be confirmed. Potential to discharge into surface water sewer
- Runoff from the developed site is to be restricted to greenfield rate of runoff resulting in attenuation to be provided by the way of SUDS

Brandhall Masterplan - Option 2
Development of a Primary School in the North-West corner of the site, remainder of site to be retained as park area.
Due to Topography, proposal is for Primary School area to be split into 2 drainage catchments.
Total Primary School area - 2.684ha
Catchment A - 0.784ha
Catchment B - 1.9ha

Primary School Site (Catchment A)
Overall Dev. Area - 0.784ha
Assumed PIMP - 50% (Education)
Impermeable Area - 0.39ha
Flow Rates
QBar Flow Rate - 0.39 x 5.14 = 2.01l/s
Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
*Max attenuation volumes shown
QBar - 293m³

Primary School Site (Catchment B)
Overall Dev. Area - 1.90ha
Assumed PIMP - 50% (Education)
Impermeable Area - 0.95ha
Flow Rates
QBar Flow Rate - 0.95 x 5.14 = 4.88l/s
Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
*Max attenuation volumes shown
QBar - 713m³



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PROJECT

Brandhall Urban Village

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KEY

- Development Boundary
- Proposed Residential Parcel
- Proposed Primary School Site
- Extent of Flood Envelope
- Indicative Surface Water Attenuation Basin
- Existing Public Right of Way (PROW)
- Existing path
- Proposed foot/cycleway
- Potential primary street
- Pedestrian access point
- Potential vehicle access point
- Existing pedestrian bridge
- Potential emergency access point

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ISSUE/REVISION

| NO. | DATE | DESCRIPTION |
|-----|----------|-------------------|
| P1 | 17.05.22 | Preliminary Issue |
| I/R | DATE | DESCRIPTION |

SHEET TITLE

Brandhall
Drainage Strategy
Option 2

PROJECT NUMBER

60653817

SHEET NUMBER

60653817-CIV-002

SCALE

1:2000

96C 396

Drainage Strategy Notes

- The site itself is a former golf course. Brandhall Brook flows through the site from south to north and is designated by the EA as a main River. There are numerous piped outfalls from the golf course land drainage into the Brook. Towards the north of the golf course site, Brandhall Brook is culverted into a ponded area behind a large embankment which appears to be for flood relief. Here it has its confluence with a stream that flows around the eastern perimeter of the site, which is also culverted into the ponded area.
- Several tributaries meet Brandhall Brook within the golf course site. These are generally straight drainage ditches/trenches.
- An unnamed tributary of Brandhall Brook flows around the eastern perimeter of the golf course. This emerges into the golf course site, having been culverted beneath the school to the south east of the site. The culverted channel enters a concrete weir structure between the golf course and the residential properties to the northeast of the site.
- It is assumed at this stage that infiltration techniques are unsuitable at this site, however this is to be confirmed by soakage testing.
- Surface water runoff is to be discharged to one or more of the following:
 - into the ground (infiltration) - to be confirmed as per note 4
 - to a surface water body - either the Brandhall Brook or tributaries
- The current strategy is for the proposed rate of surface water runoff from the site to not exceed existing greenfield rates of runoff. The red line boundary of the proposed development gives the development area at 37.2ha. The Institute of Hydrology Report 124, Flood Estimation from Small Catchments, has been used to determine peak greenfield runoff rates for the catchment as it is smaller than 50ha. The analysis for determining the peak greenfield discharge rate has used 50ha in the formula and the flow rate value linearly interpolated based on the ratio of the development to 50ha. The greenfield runoff rates are shown below.

| Return Period | Existing total development runoff (l/s) | Existing development runoff (l/s/ha) |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Q1 | 161.3 | 4.36 |
| QBar | 190.0 | 5.14 |
| Q30 | 372.3 | 10.06 |
| Q100 | 488.4 | 13.2 |



Drainage Constraints



- Surface water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 10m easement.
- Foul water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 5m easement.
- DN300 Foul water sewer crossing site. Easement width TBC. Assume 5m
- Surface water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 10m easement.
- SW Discharge point for Primary School Catchment A to be confirmed. Potential to discharge into surface water sewer
- Runoff from the developed site is to be restricted to greenfield rate of runoff resulting in attenuation to be provided by the way of SUDS

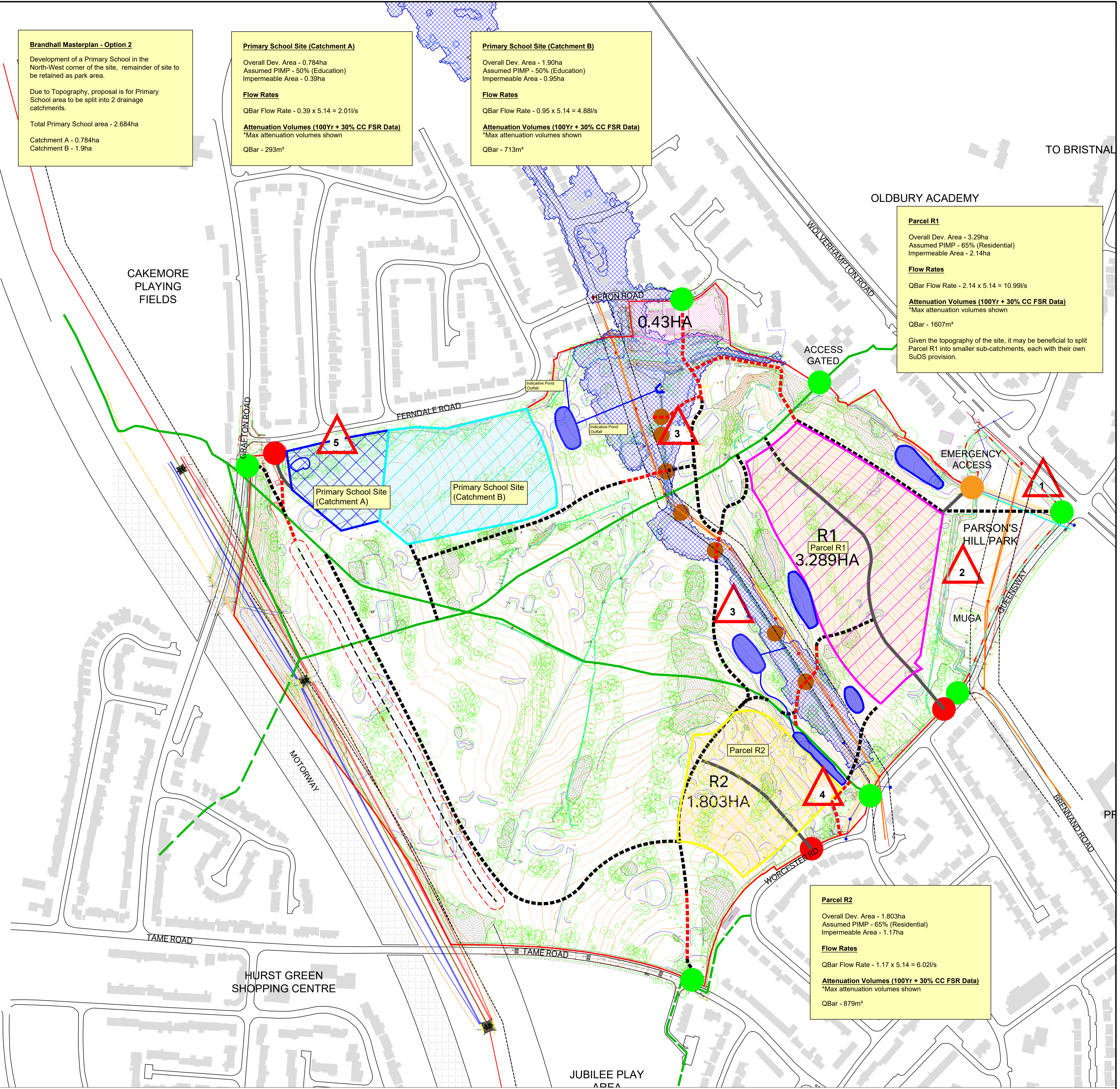
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 Development of a Primary School in the North-West corner of the site, remainder of site to be retained as park area.
 Due to Topography, proposal is for Primary School area to be split into 2 drainage catchments.
 Total Primary School area - 2.684ha
 Catchment A - 0.784ha
 Catchment B - 1.9ha

Primary School Site (Catchment A)
 Overall Dev. Area - 0.784ha
 Assumed PIMP - 50% (Education)
 Impermeable Area - 0.39ha
Flow Rates
 QBar Flow Rate - 0.39 x 5.14 = 2.01l/s
Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 293m³

Primary School Site (Catchment B)
 Overall Dev. Area - 1.90ha
 Assumed PIMP - 50% (Education)
 Impermeable Area - 0.95ha
Flow Rates
 QBar Flow Rate - 0.95 x 5.14 = 4.88l/s
Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 713m³

Parcel R1
 Overall Dev. Area - 3.29ha
 Assumed PIMP - 65% (Residential)
 Impermeable Area - 2.14ha
Flow Rates
 QBar Flow Rate - 2.14 x 5.14 = 10.99l/s
Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 1607m³
 Given the topography of the site, it may be beneficial to split Parcel R1 into smaller sub-catchments, each with their own SuDS provision.

Parcel R2
 Overall Dev. Area - 1.803ha
 Assumed PIMP - 65% (Residential)
 Impermeable Area - 1.17ha
Flow Rates
 QBar Flow Rate - 1.17 x 5.14 = 6.02l/s
Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 879m³



PROJECT

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- Proposed Primary School Site
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- Indicative Surface Water Attenuation Basin
- Existing Public Right of Way (PROW)
- Existing path
- Proposed foot/cycleway
- Potential primary street
- Pedestrian access point
- Potential vehicle access point
- Existing pedestrian bridge
- Potential emergency access point

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SHEET TITLE

Brandhall Drainage Strategy Option 3

PROJECT NUMBER

60653817

SHEET NUMBER

60653817-CIV-003

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1:2000

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Drainage Strategy Notes

- The site itself is a former golf course. Brandhall Brook flows through the site from south to north and is designated by the EA as a main River. There are numerous piped outfalls from the golf course land drainage into the Brook. Towards the north of the golf course site, Brandhall Brook is culverted into a ponded area behind a large embankment which appears to be for flood relief. Here it has its confluence with a stream that flows around the eastern perimeter of the site, which is also culverted into the ponded area.
- Several tributaries meet Brandhall Brook within the golf course site. These are generally straight drainage ditches/trenches.
- An unnamed tributary of Brandhall Brook flows around the eastern perimeter of the golf course. This emerges into the golf course site, having been culverted beneath the school to the south east of the site. The culverted channel enters a concrete weir structure between the golf course and the residential properties to the northeast of the site.
- It is assumed at this stage that infiltration techniques are unsuitable at this site, however this is to be confirmed by soakage testing.
- Surface water runoff is to be discharged to one or more of the following: into the ground (infiltration) - to be confirmed as per note 4 to a surface water body - either the Brandhall Brook or tributaries
- The current strategy is for the proposed rate of surface water runoff from the site to not exceed existing greenfield rates of runoff. The red line boundary of the proposed development gives the development area at 37.2ha. The Institute of Hydrology Report 124, Flood Estimation from Small Catchments, has been used to determine peak greenfield runoff rates for the catchment as it is smaller than 50ha. The analysis for determining the peak greenfield discharge rate has used 50ha in the formula and the flow rate value linearly interpolated based on the ratio of the development to 50ha. The greenfield runoff rates are shown below.

| Return Period | Existing total development runoff (l/s) | Existing development runoff (l/s/ha) |
|---------------|---|--------------------------------------|
| Q1 | 161.3 | 4.36 |
| QBar | 190.0 | 5.14 |
| Q30 | 372.3 | 10.06 |
| Q100 | 488.4 | 13.2 |

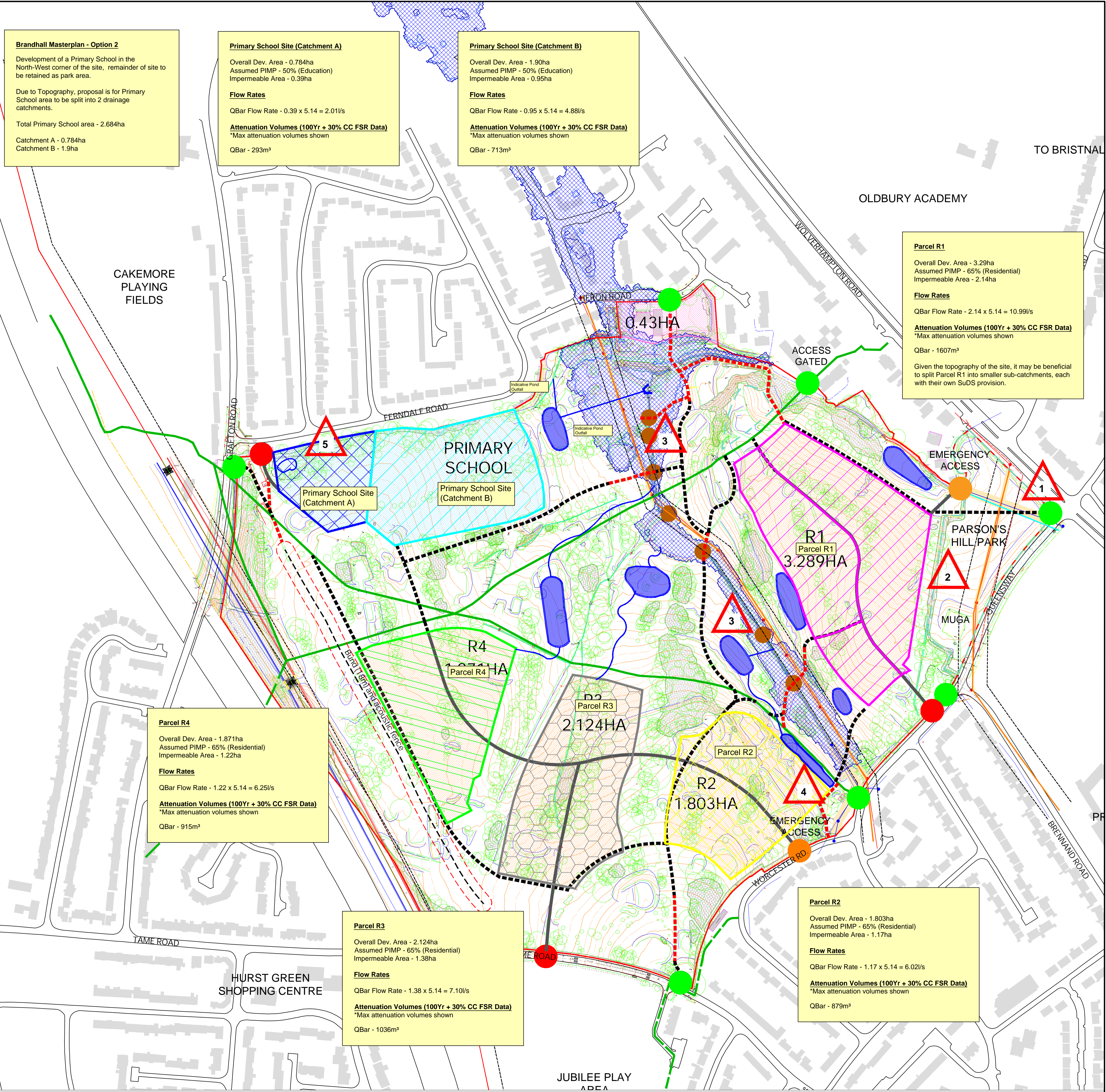


- Indicative catchment areas are shown on the plan based on ground level information taken from the Brunel surveys topographical survey.
- Indicative land use proposals have been assigned to each catchment and the percentage impermeable areas assumed.
- There is no allowance for development creep in the calculations. This will need to be agreed with the LLFA.
- The proposed discharge rate from the site is calculated from the table above with the required attenuation to prevent flooding from a 1 in 100 year storm plus an increase of 30% to account for climate change, calculated using source control module within Microdrainage.
- FSR Rainfall has currently been used in the attenuation assessment. However it is presumed that the LLFA will request FEH rainfall data (to be purchased), which is likely to increase the volume required.
- A surface water treatment train is to be devised for the development which will require treatment at source (i.e swales and permeable paving) as well as the approximate attenuation as shown on this drawing.
- The proposals on this drawing are indicative only and are a means for starting discussions on surface water proposals for the development. The design approach will need to be discussed with the LLFA and EA so is subject to change.



Drainage Constraints

- Surface water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 10m easement.
- Foul water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 5m easement.
- DN300 Foul water sewer crossing site. Easement width TBC. Assume 5m
- Surface water sewer crossing site. Size TBC. Assume 10m easement.
- SW Discharge point for primary School Catchment A to be confirmed. Potential to discharge into surface water sewer
- Runoff from the developed site is to be restricted to greenfield rate of runoff resulting in attenuation to be provided by the way of SUDS



Brandhall Masterplan - Option 2

Development of a Primary School in the North-West corner of the site, remainder of site to be retained as park area.

Due to Topography, proposal is for Primary School area to be split into 2 drainage catchments.

Total Primary School area - 2.684ha
 Catchment A - 0.784ha
 Catchment B - 1.9ha

Primary School Site (Catchment A)

Overall Dev. Area - 0.784ha
 Assumed PIMP - 50% (Education)
 Impermeable Area - 0.39ha

Flow Rates

QBar Flow Rate - 0.39 x 5.14 = 2.01l/s

Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 293m³

Primary School Site (Catchment B)

Overall Dev. Area - 1.90ha
 Assumed PIMP - 50% (Education)
 Impermeable Area - 0.95ha

Flow Rates

QBar Flow Rate - 0.95 x 5.14 = 4.88l/s

Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 713m³

Parcel R1

Overall Dev. Area - 3.29ha
 Assumed PIMP - 65% (Residential)
 Impermeable Area - 2.14ha

Flow Rates

QBar Flow Rate - 2.14 x 5.14 = 10.99l/s

Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 1607m³

Given the topography of the site, it may be beneficial to split Parcel R1 into smaller sub-catchments, each with their own SuDS provision.

Parcel R4

Overall Dev. Area - 1.871ha
 Assumed PIMP - 65% (Residential)
 Impermeable Area - 1.22ha

Flow Rates

QBar Flow Rate - 1.22 x 5.14 = 6.25l/s

Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 915m³

Parcel R3

Overall Dev. Area - 2.124ha
 Assumed PIMP - 65% (Residential)
 Impermeable Area - 1.38ha

Flow Rates

QBar Flow Rate - 1.38 x 5.14 = 7.10l/s

Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 1036m³

Parcel R2

Overall Dev. Area - 1.803ha
 Assumed PIMP - 65% (Residential)
 Impermeable Area - 1.17ha

Flow Rates

QBar Flow Rate - 1.17 x 5.14 = 6.02l/s

Attenuation Volumes (100Yr + 30% CC FSR Data)
 *Max attenuation volumes shown
 QBar - 879m³



PROJECT

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- Existing path
- Proposed foot/cycleway
- Potential primary street
- Pedestrian access point
- Potential vehicle access point
- Existing pedestrian bridge
- Potential emergency access point

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Brandhall Flood Investigation Report

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

Project reference: Brandhall Urban Village
Project number: 60653817

05 May 2022

Quality information

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1. Introduction

AECOM Ltd has been appointed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to undertake a flood investigation in and around the former Brandhall Golf Course site in Sandwell near Birmingham, hereafter referred to as 'the Site'.

The Brandhall Golf Course Site is allocated for development in the draft Black Country Plan¹. SMBC presented four emerging development options for the Site at public consultation in Autumn 2021 where concerns were raised around flooding issues, specifically the following key areas:

- Former Brandhall Golf Course Site
- Brook Road Area
- Wolverhampton Road Area

The findings from this flood investigation report will inform development of mitigation measures to reduce the existing flood risk.

The potential flood alleviation scheme (to be developed at the next stage of work) would go beyond the planning policy requirement of demonstrating that any proposed development on the Brandhall Site would not increase flood risk. The planning requirement of demonstrating no increase in flood risk can be achieved by locating proposed development parcels outside of existing flood risk areas and by developing a drainage strategy which restricts surface water runoff to the greenfield runoff rate using Sustainable Drainage Systems (SuDS). The SuDS strategy is being prepared separately.

1.1 Scope of Work

The impacts and mechanisms of reported flooding in the key areas detailed above were assessed to understand the likely cause and source of flooding. The scope of the flood investigation (reflected within the following chapters of the report) comprised the following:

- 1) **Desktop Flood Risk Assessment:** a desktop assessment of the flood risk in the study area, including a review of publicly available information around the existing Flood Storage Area (FSA) within the Site constructed as part of the Sandwell College development;
- 2) **Third Party Data Review:** obtain flood risk information and data from relevant third parties including SMBC Highways, SMBC Lead Local Flood Authority (LLFA); Environment Agency (EA), Severn Trent Water, and West Midlands Fire Service.
- 3) **Site Visit:** undertake a site visit to assess flood mechanisms in the area including topography, overland flow paths, watercourses, and associated flow control structures.
- 4) **Flood Investigation Summary:** determine the likely cause and source of flooding based on the data collected.
- 5) **Recommendations:** provide recommendations for next steps (including hydraulic modelling) to inform the development of a potential scheme to alleviate or reduce the identified flooding.

¹ <https://consultation.wolverhampton.gov.uk/regeneration/draft-black-country-plan-2039/>.

1.2 Site Description

The Site (Figure 1) is located in Sandwell approximately 7.5km to the west of Birmingham at National Grid Reference SO 99382 86572. The Site is bounded by the M5 to the west, Wolverhampton Road to the east, and residential roads and properties to the north and south. Areas known to have reported flooding issues along Brook Road and Wolverhampton Road are also shown for context. The Site currently comprises a disused golf course made up of fields, trees, and several existing flood alleviation basins and ponds.

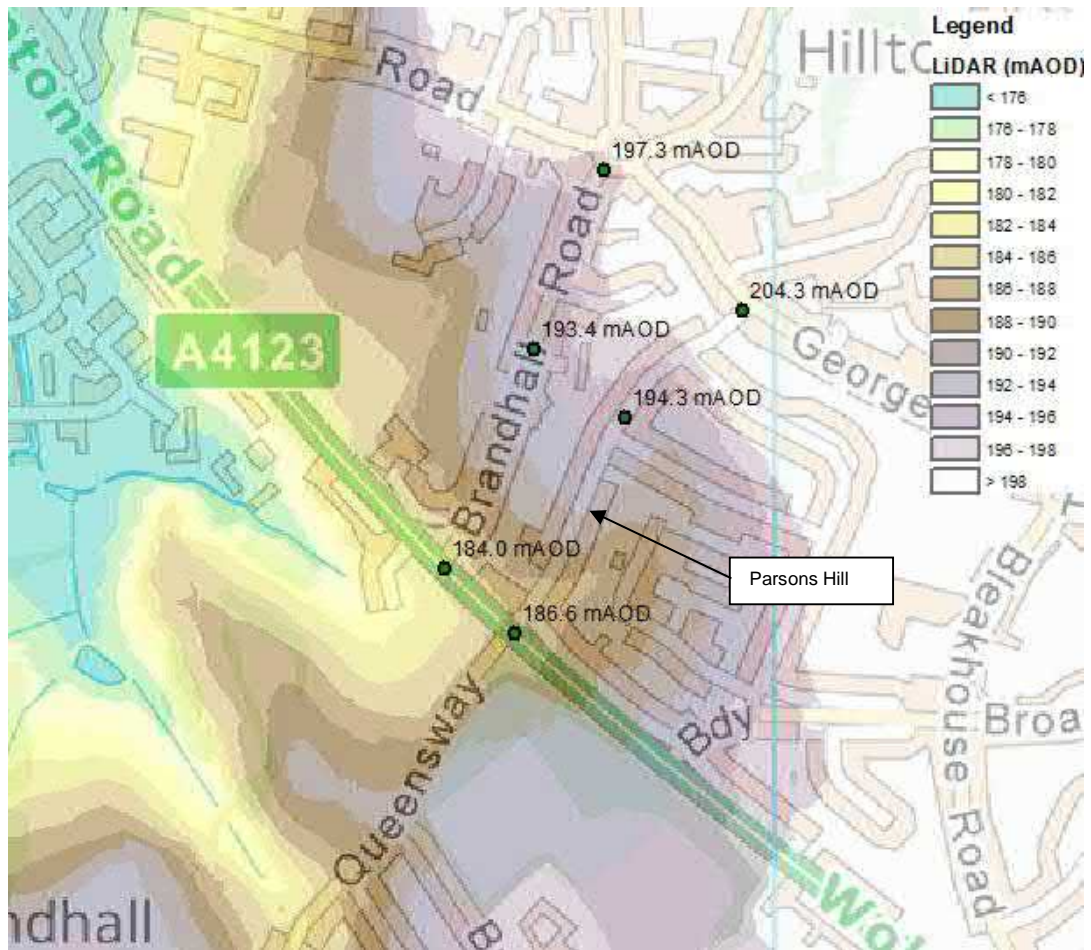
Figure 1: Site Boundary



Source: <https://www.google.co.uk/maps>, [accessed April 2022]

The topography of the Golf Course Site (included in Appendix A) falls significantly towards the Brandhall Brook. LiDAR data provided in Figure 2 overleaf shows that levels of Brandhall Road and Parsons Hill fall towards Wolverhampton Road, from approximately 200m Above Ordnance Datum (AOD) to approximately 184m AOD.

Figure 2: LiDAR data focused on Wolverhampton Road

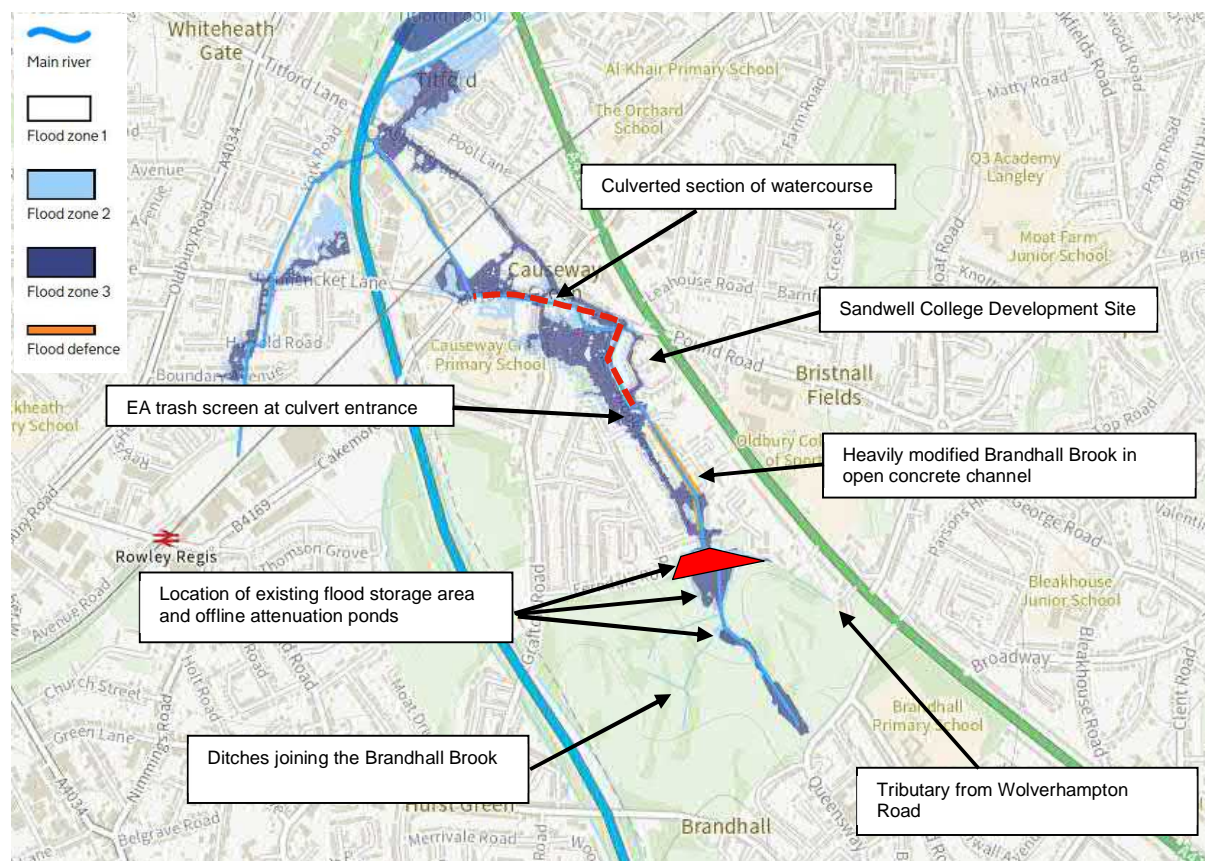


Source: Defra Data Download, LiDAR, [accessed April 2022]

2. Desktop Flood Risk Assessment

A desktop assessment of the flood risk in the study area was undertaken using EA and British Geological Survey (BGS) mapping as well as information from the SMBC planning portal. Figure 3 shows the various existing features relevant to flood risk within and surrounding the Site, which are discussed in more detail in the following sections.

Figure 3: Existing Flood Risk Features



Source: <https://flood-map-for-planning.service.gov.uk/>, [accessed April 2022]

2.1 Fluvial

The Brandhall Brook (denoted as Main River on the EA Flood Map for Planning, see Figure 3) runs from south to north through the Golf Course Site. There are several smaller informal tributaries and ditches within the Site which discharge into the Brandhall Brook, as well as two offline attenuation ponds. A larger tributary joins the Brandhall Brook at the northern end of the Golf Course Site from Wolverhampton Road in the east (for ease of reference referred to as the Wolverhampton Road tributary).

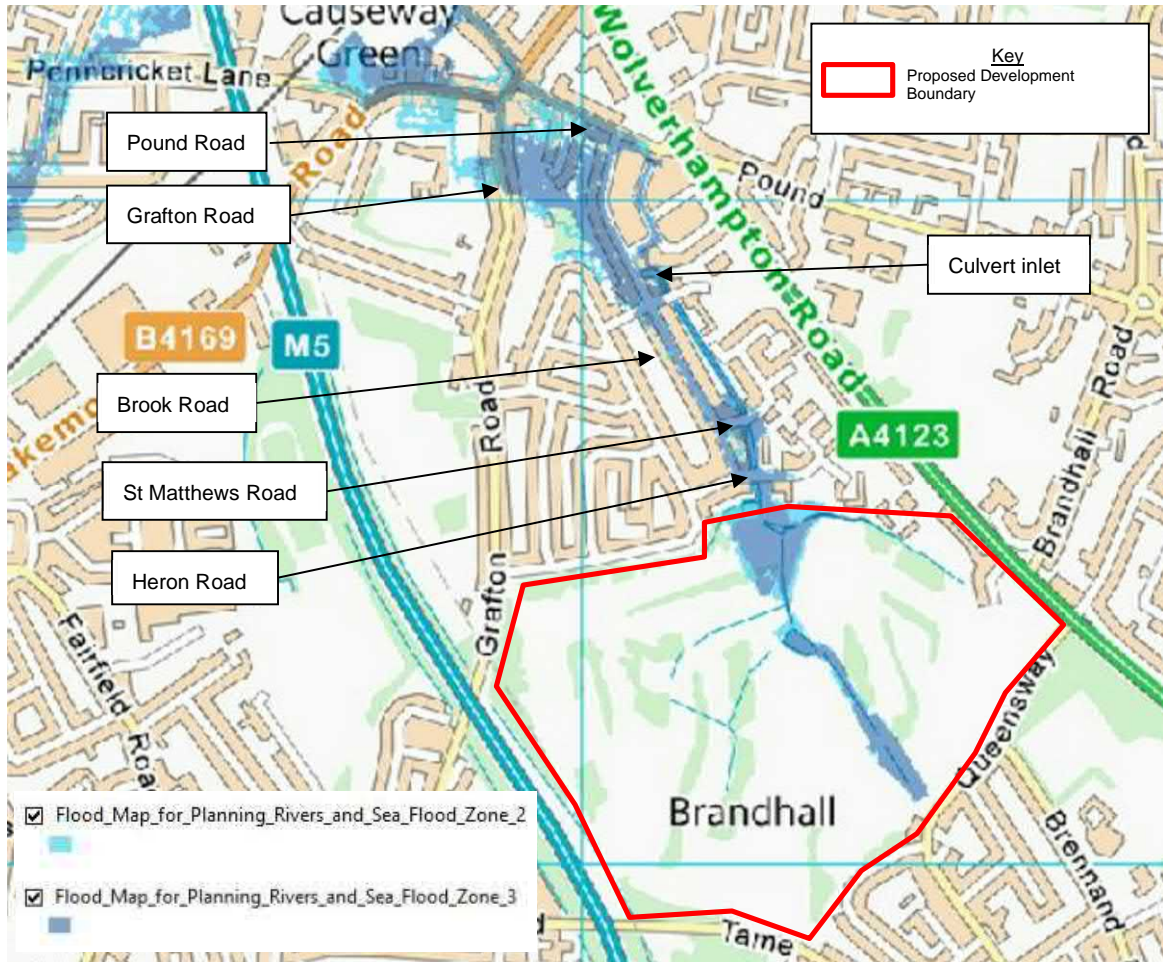
At the northern extent of the Golf Course Site, the Brandhall Brook discharges into an existing Flood Storage Area (FSA) which was completed as part of the Sandwell College Development Site located approximately 450m to the north. The existing FSA (discussed in more detail later in this section) was constructed to attenuate flows within the Golf Course Site to reduce flooding downstream at the Sandwell College Site.

To the north of the FSA the Brandhall Brook becomes a large, heavily modified, concrete channel, which includes a series of weirs and is denoted as formal flood defence. The Brandhall Brook then discharges into a culvert via a double trash screen just south of the Sandwell College Development site. The Brandhall Brook is culverted beneath Brook Road and Pound Road before discharging back into open channel at Pencricket Lane. The watercourse continues northwards beneath the railway line and the M5 before discharging into the Tifford Canal and River Tame.

The EA Flood Zone mapping (Figure 4) shows that the majority of the Site is located in Flood Zone 1 (<0.1% Annual Exceedance Probability (AEP)). There are areas of Flood Zone 2 (0.1% AEP) and Flood Zone 3 associated with the Brandhall Brook in the centre of the Site.

The EA mapping suggests that water overtops Brandhall Brook at Heron Road and St Matthew Road forming a flood flow route down Brook Road. Further overtopping is predicted at Brook Road near Old College Avenue where the Brandhall Brook enters a culvert beneath Brook Road. The associated Flood Zone 3 extends wide in this location, affecting the area between Brook Road, Pound Road, and Grafton Road. There are several properties shown within Flood Zone 3, denoting a high risk of fluvial flooding.

Figure 4: Environment Agency Flood Zone 2 and 3



Source: Defra Data Download, Flood Map for Planning, [accessed April 2022]

2.2 Surface Water

The EA surface water flood extents within the Golf Course Site and Brook Road Area to the north follow a similar pattern as the fluvial flood extents. Flood water is predicted to be conveyed along local roadways including Brook Road.

The EA mapping (Figure 5) shows surface water flow routes along Brandhall Road and Parsons Hill Road towards Wolverhampton Road. Ponding is also predicted on Wolverhampton Road. The flood flow routes are predominantly present in the 'medium risk' scenario, but there is also some flooding predicted in these locations in the 'high risk' scenario.

Figure 5: Environment Agency surface water flood map

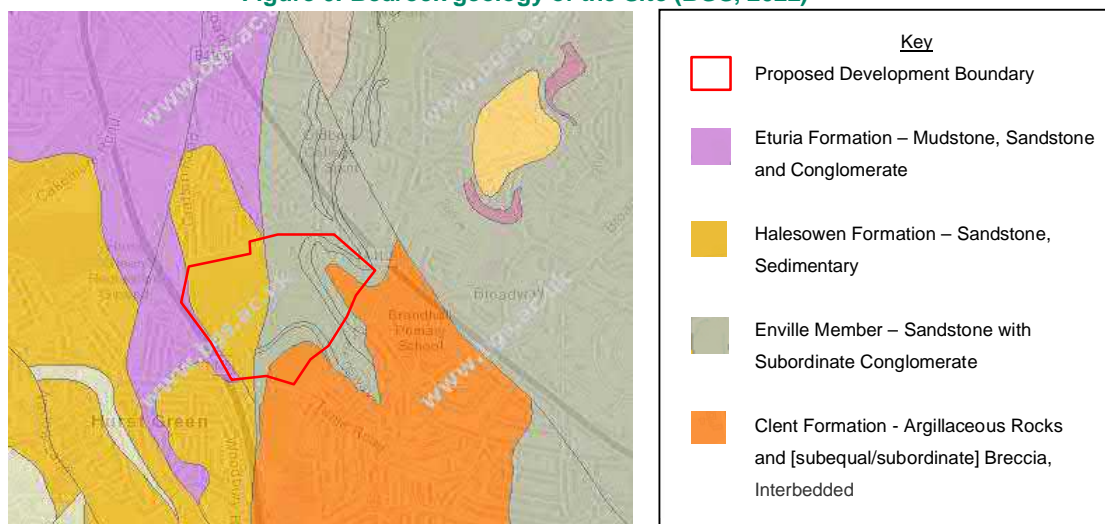


Source: Source: Defra Data Download, Risk of Flooding from Surface Water (RoFSW), [accessed April 2022]

2.3 Groundwater

The Black Country Strategic Flood Risk Assessment (SFRA)² states that the risk of groundwater flooding is generally low throughout the Black Country. The 1:50,000 scale BGS Geology of Britain online mapping (Figure 6 overleaf) shows that the Bedrock beneath the area is varied, comprising a range of formations based on Sandstone. BGS data indicates that Superficial Deposits in the area are only present beneath the Brandhall Brook and to the north of the Site between Brook Road and the M5. The Bedrock beneath the Site is a designated Secondary A aquifer, which means there is the potential for elevated groundwater.

² Jacobs, 2009. Black Country Strategic Flood Risk Assessment.

Figure 6: Bedrock geology of the Site (BGS, 2022)

Source: <https://mapapps.bgs.ac.uk/geologyofbritain/home.html>, [accessed April 2022]

2.4 Sewer

The Severn Trent Water asset plans (Appendix B) indicate the presence of a foul sewer crossing the Brandhall golf course Site generally following the alignment of the Brandhall Brook. The surface water sewer network from the residential area to the south of the Site is shown to discharge into the Brandhall Brook. Surface water sewers from the sports fields to the south are shown to discharge into the Wolverhampton Road tributary which feeds into the Brandhall Brook. The sewer records to the east of the Site along Wolverhampton Road suggest there is potential for a surface water connection from Wolverhampton Road into the tributary. It is recommended that this is confirmed with a CCTV survey.

The Severn Trent Water sewer flooding records show that there were four incidences of sewer flooding in vicinity of the Site. External flooding was reported along Wolverhampton Road in December 2017, August 2020, and July 2021, and along Heron Road in June 2019 and September 2021.

2.5 Reservoir

According to EA mapping the Site and surrounding area is not at risk of reservoir flooding. In addition, the Black Country SFRA does not reference any reservoirs or significant artificial bodies of water within the area.

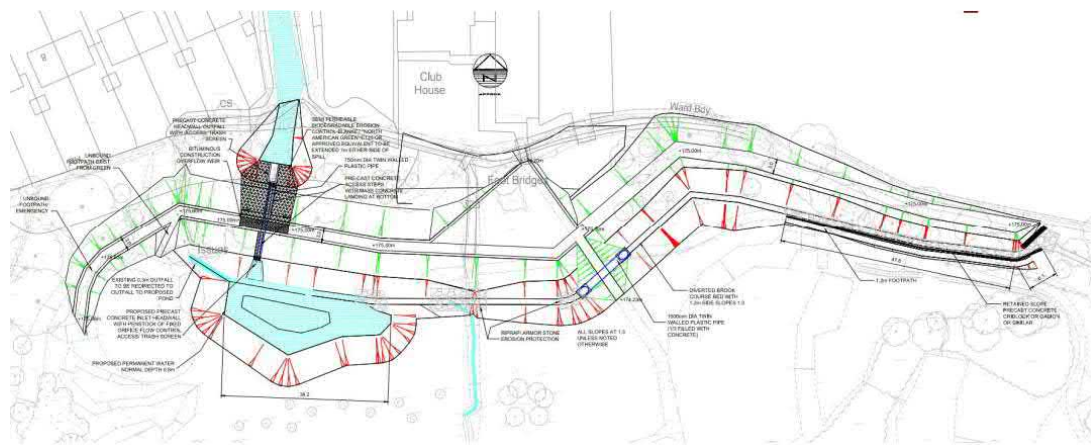
2.6 Existing Flood Storage Area

There is an existing FSA in the northern corner of the Golf Course Site (Figure 7). The FSA was constructed as part of the completed Sandwell College development site (planning references DC/12/55410³ and DC/09/51660⁴), which is located to the north of the golf course Site off Brook Road. The existing FSA is a key feature impacting the flood mechanisms on the Golf Course Site and further downstream.

The Flood Risk Assessment⁵ (FRA) accompanying the planning application for the FSA was obtained from the SMBC online planning portal and reviewed to understand the function of the FSA. The FRA states that the FSA was designed to:

- Remove the Sandwell College Site from the 100 year plus 20% climate change flood extents, to reduce flood levels and extents within the surrounding residential areas around Brook Road, and to reduce the magnitude and extent of the 1,000 year floodplain.
- Throttle outflow from the Brandhall Brook further downstream by creating embankments to impound flow above surrounding ground levels.
- Utilise a partially open penstock to control the outflow. This is to allow the penstock to be opened and allow any blockages to be cleared during normal flow condition.
- Provide a short diversion of Brandhall Brook and the tributary from Wolverhampton Road to allow both sub-catchments to be attenuated by the scheme.
- Include an over deepened online pond upstream of the embankment to settle sediments and mitigate risk of deposition within the FSA control structure.
- Include a row of wooden posts within the pond to create a debris screen offset from the control structure.
- Lower the embankment crest along a 10m length to create a spillway which will help direct overtopping flows generated during events which exceed its design standard into downstream channel.

Figure 7: General Arrangement of Sandwell College Site Flood Storage Area



Source: BWB, 2012. Sandwell College Site Flood Storage Area Flood Risk Assessment.

To support the FSA design, the EA Brandhall Brook hydraulic model⁶ was updated in 2012 to incorporate minor changes to the open channel ISIS 1D model domain to improve stability and correct geometry through the Brandhall Golf Course. The floodplain (represented in 2D using TUFLOW) was re-digitised so that the level of detail could be increased and to allow the incorporation of the golf course and Sandwell College topographic survey. The hydraulic model resulted in slightly different extents when compared with the EA model.

³ <https://webcaps.sandwell.gov.uk/publicaccess/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

⁴ <https://webcaps.sandwell.gov.uk/publicaccess/simpleSearchResults.do?action=firstPage>

⁵ BWB, Nov 2012. Brandhall Brook Flood Storage Area Flood Risk Assessment.

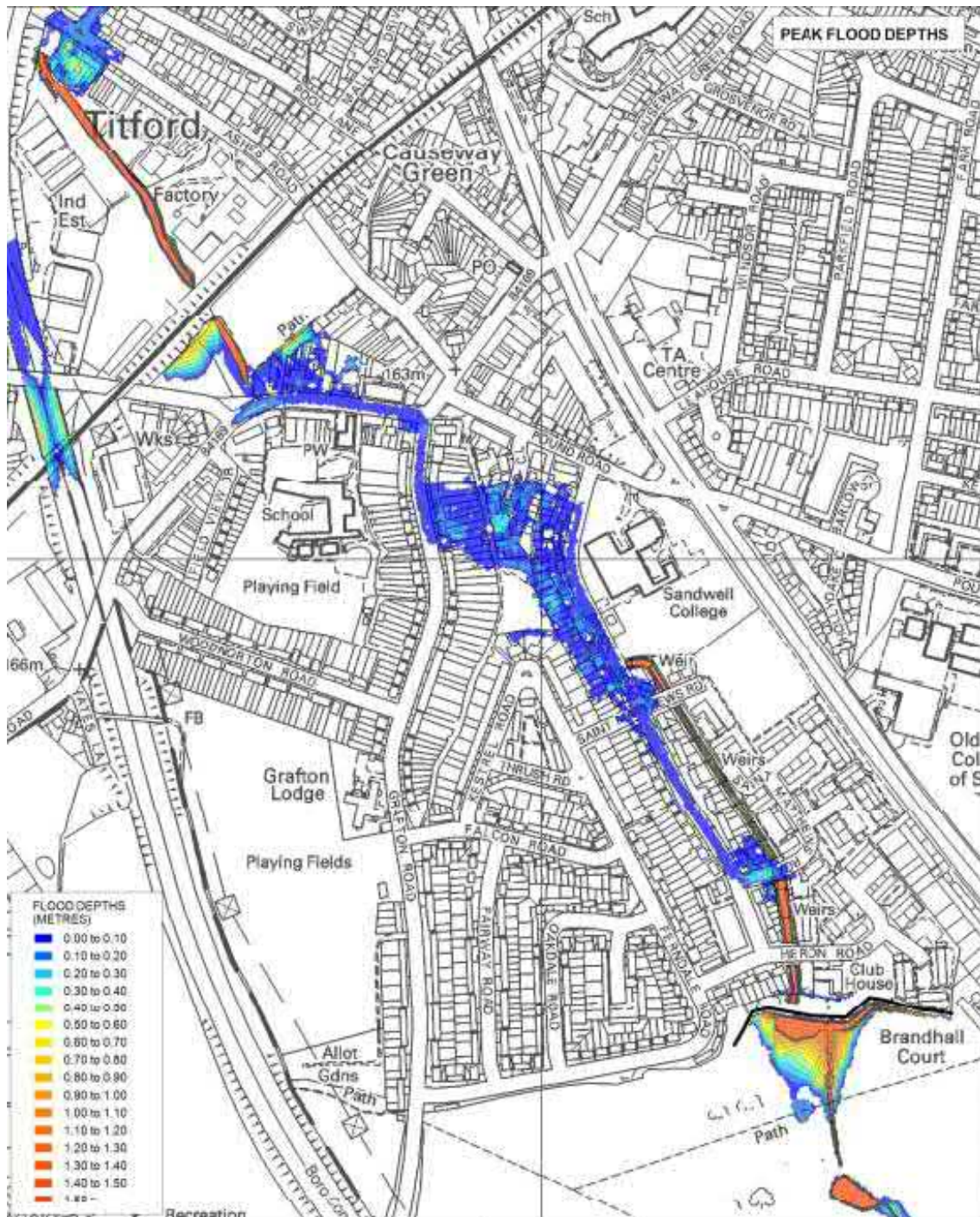
⁶ EA, 2011. Brandhall Brook Strategic Flood Risk Mapping.

Figure 8 and Figure 9 overleaf show the post-FSA modelling (taken from the FSA FRA). It should be noted that the post-FSA model results still show Brook Road and properties between Brook Road and Grafton Road within Flood Zone 3.

The key differences between the post-FSA modelling and the EA Flood Zones for the 1% AEP event (Flood Zone 3) are that the post-FSA model predicts:

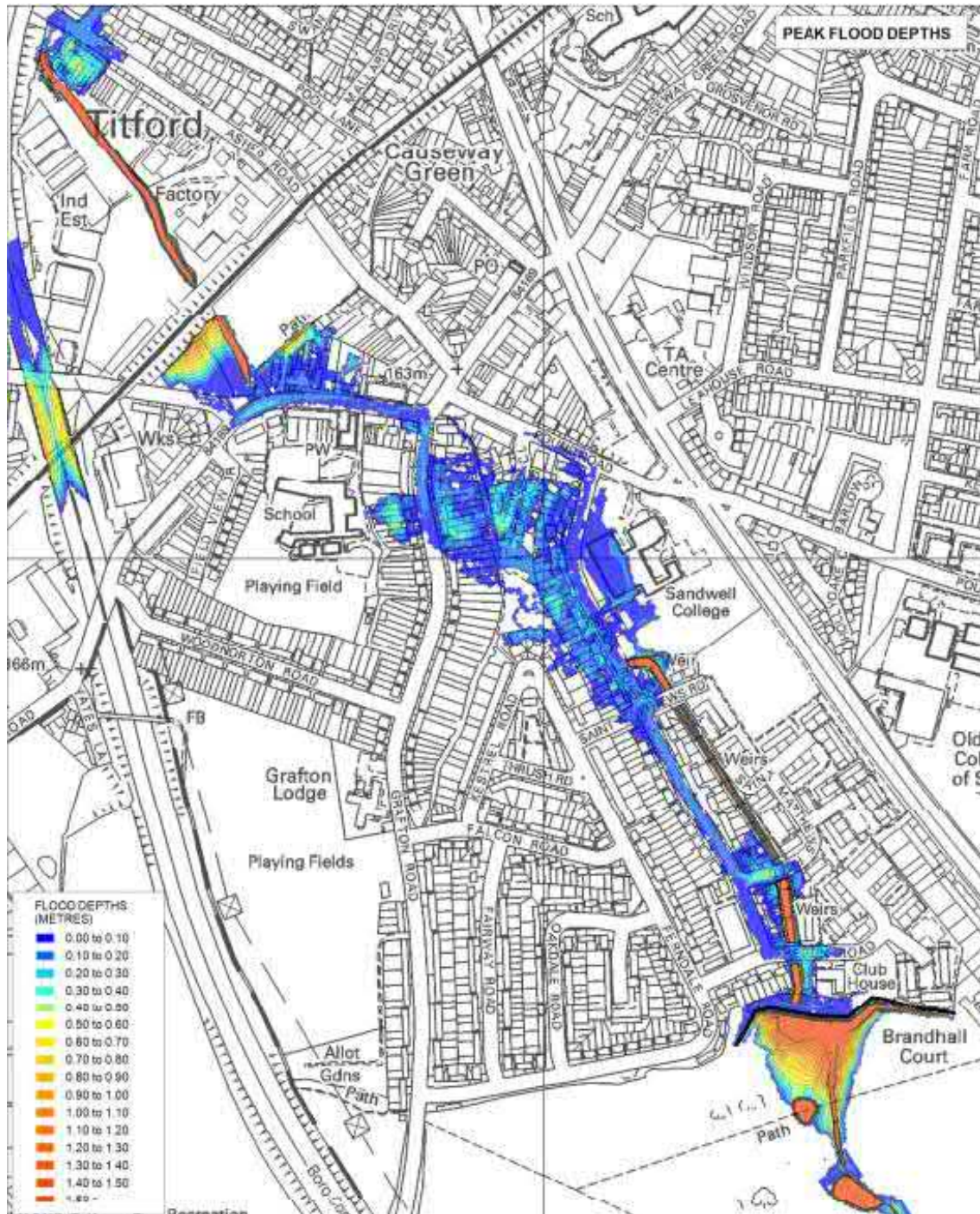
- No overtopping from Brandhall Brook onto Heron Road.
- No flood flow route through the Sandwell College Development Site.
- No flow route onto Pound Road and Ashes Road to the north.
- A reduction in flood depths to the north of the FSA.

Figure 8: Post-FSA Floodplain Extents (1% AEP, Flood Zone 3)



Source: BWB, 2012. Sandwell College Site Flood Storage Area Flood Risk Assessment.

Figure 9: Post-FSA Floodplain Extents (0.1% AEP, Flood Zone 2)



Source: BWB, 2012. Sandwell College Site Flood Storage Area Flood Risk Assessment.

3. Third Party Data Review

3.1 Data Requests

In February 2022, data requests were sent to third-party organisations (including the EA, West Midlands Fire Service, Severn Trent Water, SMBC Highways, and SMBC LLFA) to collate all available information around the flooding in the area. Table 1 overleaf summarises the key data received.

Table 1: Summary of Key Data Received from Third Parties

| Organisation | Information | Comment |
|----------------------------|---|---|
| Environment Agency | Hydraulic model (fluvial) – Brandhall Brook SFRM 2011 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Linked 1D/2D Flood Modeller (formerly ISSI) – TUFLOW model including Brandhall Brook floodplain. Hydrology: includes flow data from Severn Trent Water drainage models. Catchment: Flood Estimation Handbook (FEH) version 3 and adjusted to account for surface water sewers that feed into Brandhall Brook & York Road brook. |
| | Modelled Flood Extents | Product 4 info received as PDF, Node Point Location Plan. AEPs received: 5%, 2%, 1.33%, 1%, 1% + CC, 0.5% and 0.1%. |
| | Rainfall data and River flow data at nearest gauge | Frankley (within 7km) Stourbridge (within 10km) and Halesowen (within 4km) |
| | Historic flooding records. | No records of flooding |
| SMBC Planning | Public Consultation responses around flooding | Anecdotal evidence of flooding problems predominantly around Brook Road, as well as Wolverhampton Road and some localised areas outside of the study area. |
| SMBC Highways & LLFA | Historic Flood Records | No historic flooding database available. Some anecdotal and email evidence of reported flooding in and around the golf course Site. |
| | Ordinary watercourse plan | |
| | Ordinary watercourse consent application report | Watercourse consent application for the Brandhall Brook: application form, feasibility report, preliminary ecological appraisal, embankment and brook course report |
| | Sandwell Surface Water Management Plan | Feasibility report on the preparation of a repairs scheme to deal with the problems of scour and embankment instability of the brook at the boundary of the Brandhall Golf Course and the rear of Bungalow at Brandhall Lane. |
| West Midlands Fire Service | Brandhall Flooding Incidents Map | No flooding incidents in vicinity of the Site. |
| Severn Trent Water | Sewer flooding records | Several flood incidents in vicinity of the Site, predominantly on Heron Road and Wolverhampton Road. |
| | Sewer network plans | |

3.2 Data Review Summary

The proceeding sections discuss the high-level review of the EA hydraulic model and the limited information on historic flooding records been assessed in relation to the three key areas of interest.

Environment Agency Hydraulic Model

The EA's 2011 hydraulic model of the Brandhall Brook was obtained and a high-level review was undertaken to understand the likely requirements for model updates and improvements. A detailed model review would be undertaken as part of the next stage of works.

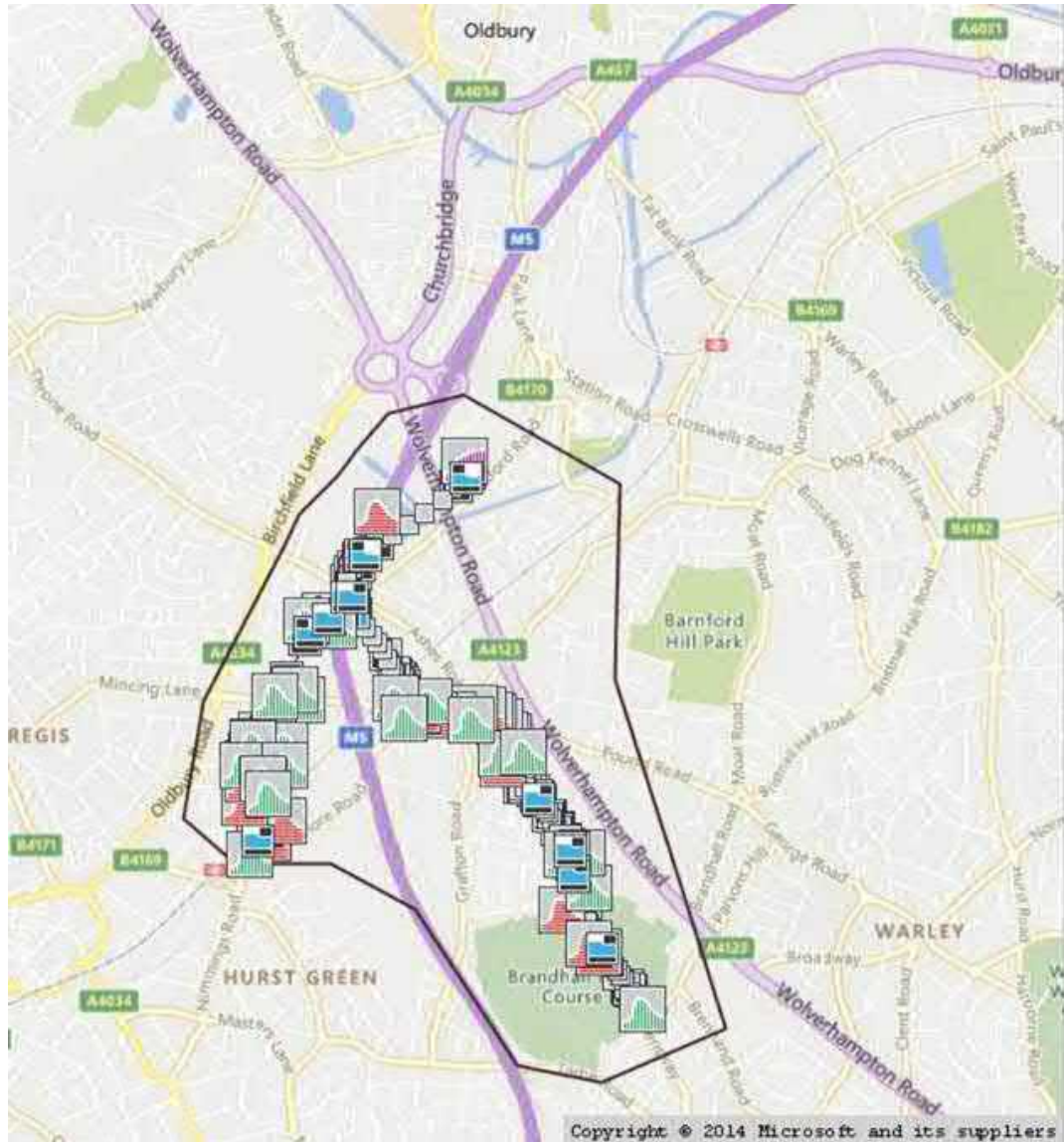
The findings from the high-level review of the 2011 EA model are summarised below:

- Objective: to map the flood extent outlines, the spatial variation of depth, velocity, and hazard rating across the floodplain.
- Software: ISIS (ISIS version 6.3.0.45, source: .zsd file)-TUFLOW (2009-07-AF-iDP, source: .tif file). All files in TUFLOW are in MI format (.MIF files).
- Model extent (see **Error! Reference source not found.**): A 1D model was constructed for the Brandhall Brook and York Road Brook channels. The Brandhall reach extends from the golf course to the confluence with the River Tame. The York Road reach extends from the Cakemore Road Trading Estate to the confluence with the Brandhall Brook. The 2D TUFLOW model includes the Brandhall Brook floodplain from Worcester Road upstream of the Golf Course to Langley.
- Hydrology: Includes inflows from Severn Trent Water drainage models into the Brandhall Brook and York Road Brook. These results were provided for 0.5, one and two hour durations and for the following AEPs: 50% (QMED); 5%; 2%; 1.33%; 1%; 1% + Climate Change; 0.5%; and 0.1%.
- Catchment: The catchment boundaries for the Brandhall Brook catchment were initially extracted from the FEH version 3. The catchment was then adjusted based on the information provided by STW drainage plans to account for the surface water sewers that feed into the Brandhall Brook and York Road Brooks. The catchment was then sub divided into sub catchments that represent the inflows to both the Brandhall and York Road Brooks.

Due to the age of the EA model, it is likely that the hydrology will need to be revisited, as well as improvements to the 2D floodplain and watercourse channel using new topographical survey covering the area to the north of the Golf Course Site. This would be confirmed following completion of a detailed model review.

The hydraulic model developed in support of the Sandwell College development has been requested, with a response currently outstanding.

Figure 10: Environment Agency Hydraulic Model Domain



Source: Brandhall Brook SFRM_Final Report, Environment Agency

The following tables summarise the limited information on historic flooding available in relation to the three key areas of interest.

Golf Course Site

Table 2: Reported Flooding Summary – Golf Course Site

| Location | Source | Date | Description |
|---|---|---------------------------------------|---|
| Along northern Site boundary adjacent to the Wolverhampton Road tributary | SMBC (anecdotal) | Prior to 2015 (exact date(s) unknown) | Reported flood events at properties along the northern Site boundary adjacent to the Wolverhampton Road tributary. Works to improve stability and provide scour protection along the tributary was undertaken (the consent application is dated August 2015). SMBC are not aware of flooding issues since. |
| Within golf course Site and around existing Flood Storage Area | SMBC (email from Sandwell Leisure Trust who formerly managed the golf course Site prior to its closure) | Late 2014 (exact date(s) unknown) | <p>Areas of ponding within the golf course.</p> <p>Concerns that the existing FSA is nearing capacity (Figure 11), although there have been no reports of the FSA overtopping.</p> <p>Maintenance difficulties with the headwall of the FSA causing water to back up into the storage area.</p> <p>Works were undertaken to the trash screen of the outlet of the existing FSA to improve maintenance accessibility, and to the drainage system within the golf course.</p> |

Figure 11: Existing Flood Storage Area nearing Capacity (November 2014)



Source: SMBC

Brook Road

Table 3: Reported Flooding Summary – Brook Road

| Location | Source | Date | Description |
|---|-------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|
| Brook Road residential gardens and driveways. | Public consultation responses | Around 2016 (exact date(s) unknown) | <p>A photograph provided by a resident (Figure 12) indicates that water overtopped where Brandhall Brook flows into the culvert beneath Brook Road.</p> <p>The photograph suggests relatively fast moving water on Brook Road and a depth of flooding of approximately 50mm.</p> <p>Sandbags were deployed by SMBC to a property on Brook Road in this location.</p> |

Figure 12: Photograph of Flooding on Brook Road



Source: Public consultation responses, 2021

Wolverhampton Road

Table 4: Reported Flooding Summary – Wolverhampton Road Area

| Location | Source | Date | Description |
|--|-------------------------------|---------|---|
| Wolverhampton Road junction with Brandhall Road and junction with Parsons Hill | Public consultation responses | Unknown | Reports of water ponding on Wolverhampton Road. The desktop assessment using EA mapping suggests this could be due to overland surface water/highway flows ponding in this location due to topography. AECOM and SMBC visited the locations during the site visit to further understand the mechanisms in this area. |

4. Site Visit Findings

A site visit was undertaken on the 29th March 2022 to understand the flooding mechanisms in the study area including local topography, overland flow paths, and condition of the existing features including watercourses, ditches, channels, culverts, and attenuation features. AECOM staff were accompanied by the SMBC highway/LLFA engineer and SMBC highway clerk. A site visit summary note was prepared (see Appendix C), which includes site photographs.

The site visit covered the Golf Course Site, the Brandhall Brook to the north of the Site, Brook Road, Wolverhampton Road junctions with Brandhall Road and Parsons Hill, as well as two key constriction points of the watercourse further north at the railway and at the M5 at Titford. Where possible, measurements were taken of key watercourse structures to enable comparison with the existing hydraulic model during a detailed model review which will be undertaken at the next stage of works.

The key findings are summarised below for the three key areas of interest.

4.1 Golf Course Site

Site visit observations:

- In addition to the existing FSA in the north of the Golf Course Site, there are two existing offline attenuation ponds within the Site to the west of the Brandhall Brook.
- Further upstream along the Brandhall Brook, it is culverted beneath a raised path. The pipe appeared blocked with water accumulating upstream.
- The Brandhall Brook within the golf course Site is generally poorly maintained with areas containing significant siltation and vegetation overgrowth. In one location (Figure 13 overleaf) this has caused flows from the Brandhall Brook being preferentially diverted into the offline attenuation pond rather than continuing along the culverted reach of the Brandhall Brook
- Prior to the site visit it had not rained for over a week, and the flow in the watercourse within the golf course Site was consistent and approximately 50mm in depth (Figure 14 overleaf).
- Scour protection has recently been installed on the Wolverhampton Road tributary to promote in-channel stability (Figure 15 overleaf). Prior to the repair scheme, the channel banks had partially collapsed, obstructing flow. During the site visit the channel appeared well maintained.
- The maintenance responsibilities of the existing attenuation basins in the golf course were historically undertaken by the golf course when it was still in operation. The maintenance responsibility now lies partly with SMBC as riparian owner and partly with the EA due to the Main River status of the Brandhall Brook.
- Manholes were observed to the south east of the Site on Queensway suggesting that the highway and surface water drainage from this area discharges into the Brandhall Brook. This is further supported by Severn Trent asset plans and the general topography of the area falling towards the Site.

Figure 13: Site Visit Photograph - Vegetation overgrowth



Figure 14: Site Visit Photograph - Brandhall Brook



Figure 15: Site Visit Photograph - Wolverhampton Road tributary



4.2 Brook Road Area

Site visit observations:

- The Brandhall Brook to the north of the golf course is a wide, heavily modified concrete channel (Figure 16). It contains several structures which appear to maintain upstream water levels.
- The inlet to the culvert beneath Brook Road is protected by a double trash screen which is fenced off from public access (Figure 17). The trash screen is an EA asset.
- In general, there appears to be a significant amount of storage volume available both within the golf course Site and in the Brandhall Brook channel downstream.

Figure 16: Site Visit Photograph - Brandhall Brook parallel to Brook Road



Figure 17: Site Visit Photograph - Double EA trash screen at the inlet to the culvert beneath Brook Road



4.3 Wolverhampton Road Area

Site visit observations:

- The levels of Brandhall Road and Parsons Hill fall relatively steeply towards Wolverhampton Road. Wolverhampton Road appear to level off near the junction with Brandhall Road, which would encourage surface water runoff from the surrounding highways to pond in this location. This is supported by the LiDAR level data shown in Figure 2.
- The SMBC highways clerk noted that there appeared to be insufficient highway drainage gullies on Wolverhampton Road, which would make it difficult for water to drain away quickly during a rainfall event.
- The SMBC highways clerk was not sure whether the highway drainage from Wolverhampton Road discharges into the Wolverhampton Road tributary within the golf course Site; however the Severn Trent asset plans suggest that there could a surface water connection into the tributary. A CCTV survey would be required to confirm the location of discharge for highway drainage in this area.

5. Flood Investigation Summary

Based upon the desktop assessment, third party data review, and site visit, the likely causes of flooding have been identified for the three key areas.

5.1 Golf Course Site

There is significant storage available surrounding the Brandhall Brook within the Golf Course Site in the form of existing FSAs as well as natural flood storage areas formed by the topography surrounding Brandhall Brook. The Brandhall Brook within the Golf Course Site is generally not well maintained with significant vegetation overgrowth and siltation. Reports of floodwater ponding within the Site is likely due to blockage of culverts, siltation and a lack of maintenance resulting in the attenuation basins not functioning as designed.

5.2 Brook Road

Following heavy rainfall, water appears to back up at the entrance to the culvert beneath Brook Road and overtop onto the road. The findings from the flood investigation suggest that overtopping at Heron Road or St Matthews Road (as shown on EA mapping) is unlikely as there is significant storage available within the Brandhall Brook channel in these locations. Once floodwater has overtopped onto Brook Road, it flows towards the north and north-west based on local topography, posing a risk to properties. This mechanism is generally in line with the EA fluvial flood extents and the flood mapping produced as part of the Sandwell College development.

There appears to be significant storage available upstream, both in the Brandhall Brook where it is heavily modified in a concrete channel and within the existing FSA in the golf course Site. Parts of the Brandhall Brook and existing attenuation basins within the golf course Site have been poorly maintained, which is likely to reduce the storage available and impact flooding downstream.

The entrance to the culvert at Brook Road has a double trash screen managed by the EA. The maintenance regime of this culvert and associated trash screen should be further investigated.

Based on this desktop assessment the cause of flooding at Brook Road is likely due to a combination of:

- Maintenance issues along the Brandhall Brook reducing available conveyance capacity and potential blockages of key structures and/or,
- The existing flood mitigation measures not functioning as intended.

At this stage it is considered unlikely that the volume of water arising from the Brandhall Brook catchment exceeds the volume of the existing watercourse channel and associated storage structures; however, this can only be confirmed using hydraulic modelling. In order to provide evidence to support the likely causes of flooding outlined above, the EA baseline model needs to be updated to represent current flood risk more accurately.

5.3 Wolverhampton Road

There are no watercourses or ditches to the east of Wolverhampton Road in the area of interest near Brandhall Road or Parsons Hill. The cause of flooding on Wolverhampton Road is likely to be a result of overland surface water flows arising from the surrounding highways. Levels at the Wolverhampton Road/Brandhall Road junction appear to be a localised low-lying area, encouraging water to pond in this location. Insufficient highway gullies are likely to exacerbate flood risk.

In order to provide evidence to support the likely cause of flooding outlined above, a CCTV survey should be undertaken to confirm where the highway drainage in this location discharges into and to understand the existing capacity of the highway drainage.

6. Recommendations

The purpose of this Flood Investigation Report was to understand the likely causes and sources of flooding reported within the Golf Course Site, in the Brook Road Area, and in the Wolverhampton Road area. The findings from this report will inform the development of potential flood alleviation measures to reduce the existing flood risk.

The potential future flood alleviation measures are separate to the proposed development options within the Golf Course Site and would go beyond the planning policy requirement of demonstrating that any proposed development on the Brandhall Site would not increase flood risk. A drainage strategy (prepared separately) for the Brandhall Village Development options would ensure that surface water runoff arising from the development would be restricted to the greenfield runoff rate so as not to increase the risk of flooding off-Site.

The following steps are recommended to progress the development of potential flood alleviation measures to reduce flood risk downstream:

- 1) Detailed review of the existing EA hydraulic model;
- 2) Updating the existing model (based on suitability) to accurately represent the existing/baseline flood risk. This item will likely require:
 - a. Commissioning of topographic/watercourse survey for the area to the north of the Golf Course Site;
 - b. Updating the hydrology; and
 - c. Other updates/improvements to be confirmed following the detailed model review.
- 3) Preparation of a Baseline Model Technical Note and submission to the EA for approval, if applicable;
- 4) Development of a range of mitigation options to reduce flood risk downstream (number to be confirmed) and testing them together with each of the emerging development scheme options. These measures could comprise amendments to the way the existing attenuation areas function to optimise their use or may require a re-design of flood storage areas. A more thorough maintenance plan is also likely to be recommended.
- 5) Liaison with the design team, client, and LLFA flood officer to determine the preferred mitigation option; and
- 6) Production of a Summary Report to summarise the modelled baseline flood risk, the preferred mitigation option, and the implications on the proposed development design.

Appendix A Topographic Survey

Appendix B Severn Trent Asset Plans

Severn Trent Asset Plans
Received from Severn Trent Water 23 March 2022



Appendix C Site Visit Photos

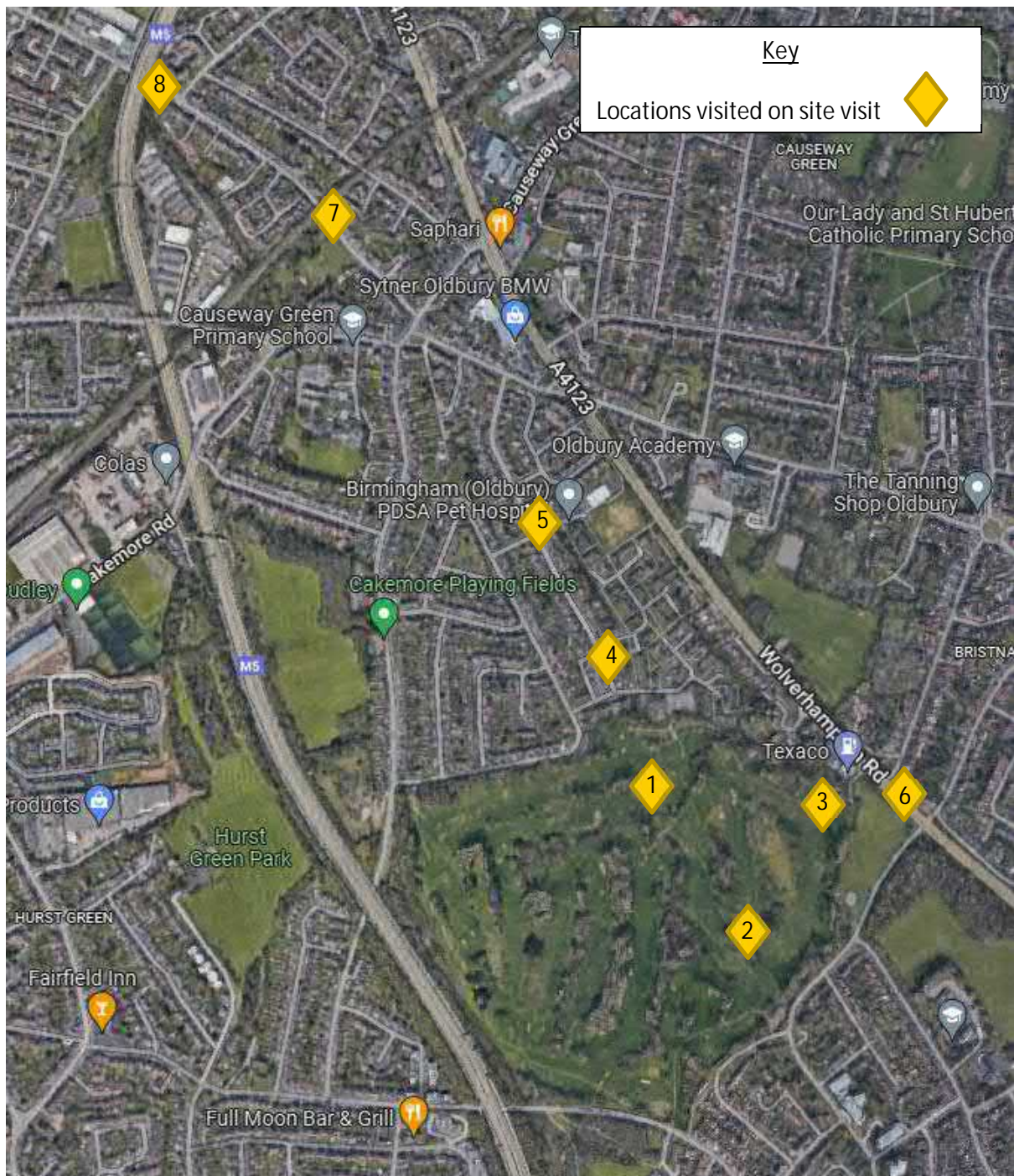
Brandhall Site Visit Summary – 29 March 2022

1. Site Visit Information

AECOM Ltd have been appointed by Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council (SMBC) to undertake a flood investigation in and around the former Brandhall Golf Club in Sandwell near Birmingham.

A site visit was undertaken to assess flooding mechanisms in the area including topography, overland flow paths, watercourses, and associated structures. The site visit will inform the investigation to understand the cause of flooding on the site.

| Item | Information |
|---|--|
| Date of visit | Tuesday 29 th March 2022 |
| Time of visit | Arrival: 1030 hrs Departure: 1300 hrs |
| Location of visit | Approximate post code B68 8AQ National Grid Reference SO 99382 86572 |
| Conditions (weather, precipitation, wind, temperature) | Overcast, had not rained in over a week |
| Names of attending engineer/s | N. Balboni – Senior Engineer, AECOM N. Kaur – Graduate Engineer, AECOM |
| SMBC contact/s on site | Mark Sifford – Highway/LLFA Engineer Kevin Bowden – Highways Clerk |
| Building/areas visited | Former Brandhall Golf Course Tributary into Brandhall Brook from Wolverhampton Road (at the boundary of Brandhall Golf Course and the Bungalow, Brandhall Lane) Brandhall Brook to north of golf course site near Brook Road Brandhall Road and Wolverhampton Road junction Parsons Hill and Wolverhampton Road junction Pencricket Lane - watercourse Ashes Road – watercourse |






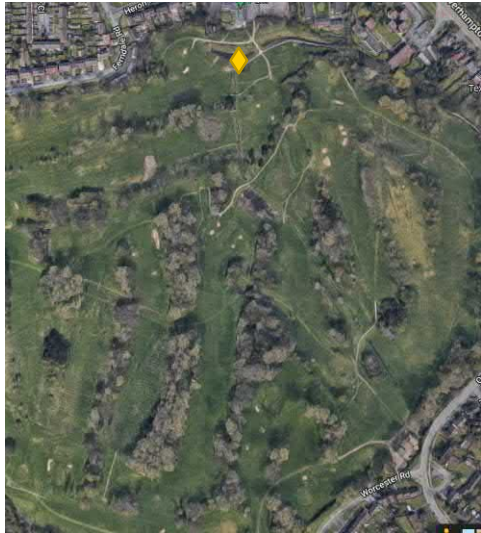
The figure above shows the indicative location of the site observations below.

2. Site Observations

The following table documents the a being done during the inspection:

| Location & Description of Works | Photograph/s |
|---------------------------------|--------------|
|---------------------------------|--------------|

| | |
|--|---|
| <p><u>North of Brandhall Golf Course, existing Flood Storage Area (FSA)</u></p> <p>Kevin mentioned that he has seen the pond approximately half-way full however, has not been on site following a significant storm. This is concurrent with approximately invert level of the outlet culvert ($\varnothing \sim 750\text{mm}$) into the main channel (highlighted by red circle).</p> |  |
|  |  |



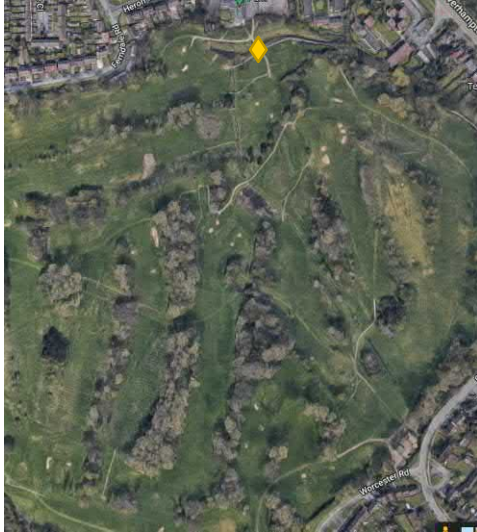
Location & Description of Works

Photograph/s

Tributary from Wolverhampton Road into FSA

Ø ~ 600mm

Base width ~ 1000mm

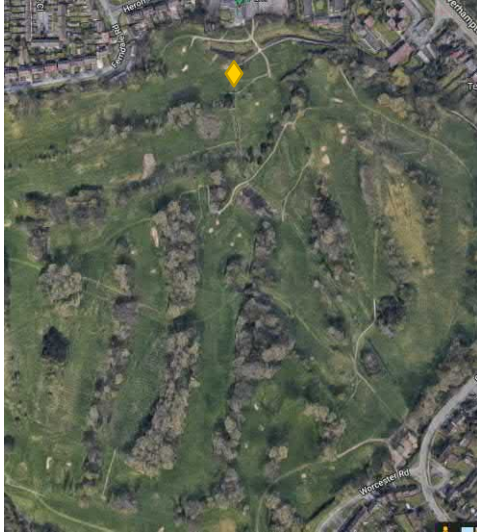


Culvert from Brandhall Brook (open channel) into FSA

Ø ~ 750mm

Brandhall Brook upstream of FSA

Base width ~ 500mm



Location & Description of Works

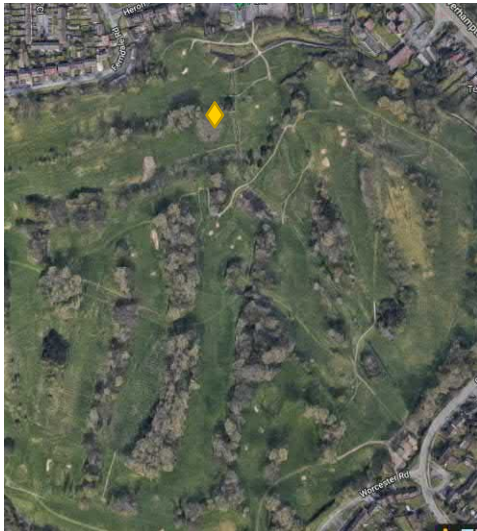
Photograph/s

Vegetation which is directing flow into a side pipe towards an attenuation basin. There was no flow into the main culvert.

Culverted section of watercourse with what appears to be an offline attenuation pond. Entrance to culvert was partly silted up which meant that water was preferentially flowing into the attenuation pond in the first instance.



Offline attenuation pond to west



Culvert downstream of hill

Ø ~ 750mm (same diameter after stone)



Location & Description of Works

Photograph/s

Tributary from Wolverhampton Road towards Brandhall Brook (at the boundary of Brandhall Golf Course and the Bungalow, Brandhall Lane)

Main pipe \varnothing ~ 900mm

Potential old land drain from field \varnothing ~ 225mm (circled in green)

~1000mm

~1500 -1750mm depth



Location & Description of Works

Photograph/s

Brandhall Brook in wide, heavily modified channel

Heron Road

Ø~ 600mm (some silt at bottom)

Width of channel ~1450mm

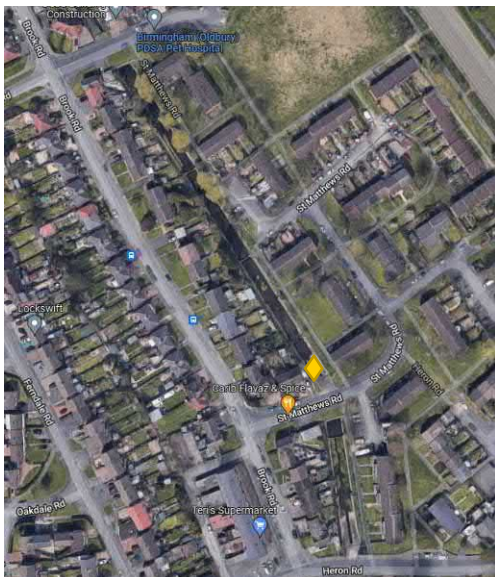


St Matthew's 1

Width of channel ~ 600mm (adjacent to main channel) +100mm slab above

Width of channel ~1450mm

Concrete/brick walls within channel.





Location & Description of Works

Photograph/s

Brook Road

NB: location of video evidence of flooding



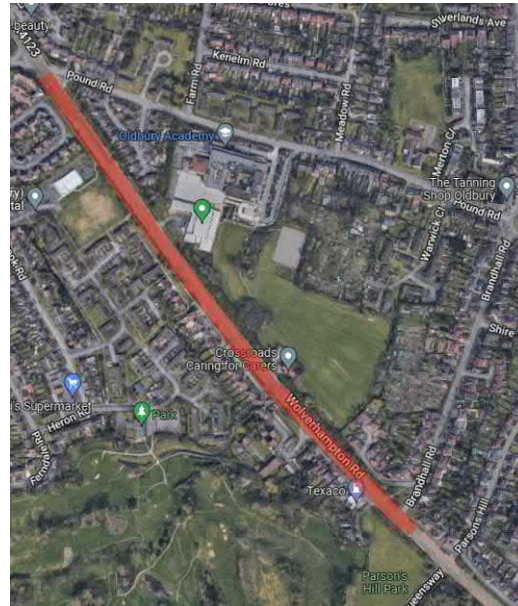
Location & Description of Works

Photograph/s

Brandhall Road and Wolverhampton Road junction

Only 7 road gullies from Pound Road to this junction (approximately 800m length, highlighted in red).

Junction is a low point in Wolverhampton Road. There's a lack of highway gullies. Uncertain of whether the drainage connects into the water course on the golf course site.



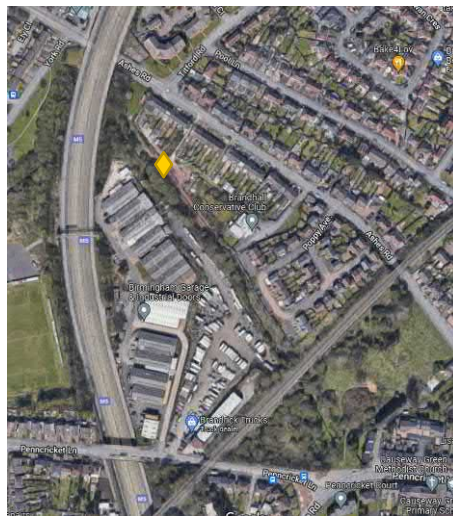
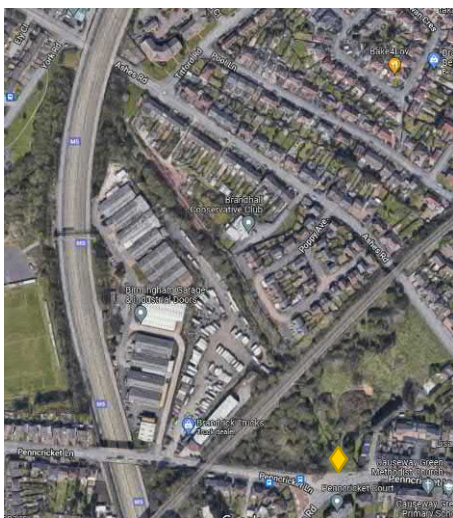
Location & Description of Works

Photograph/s

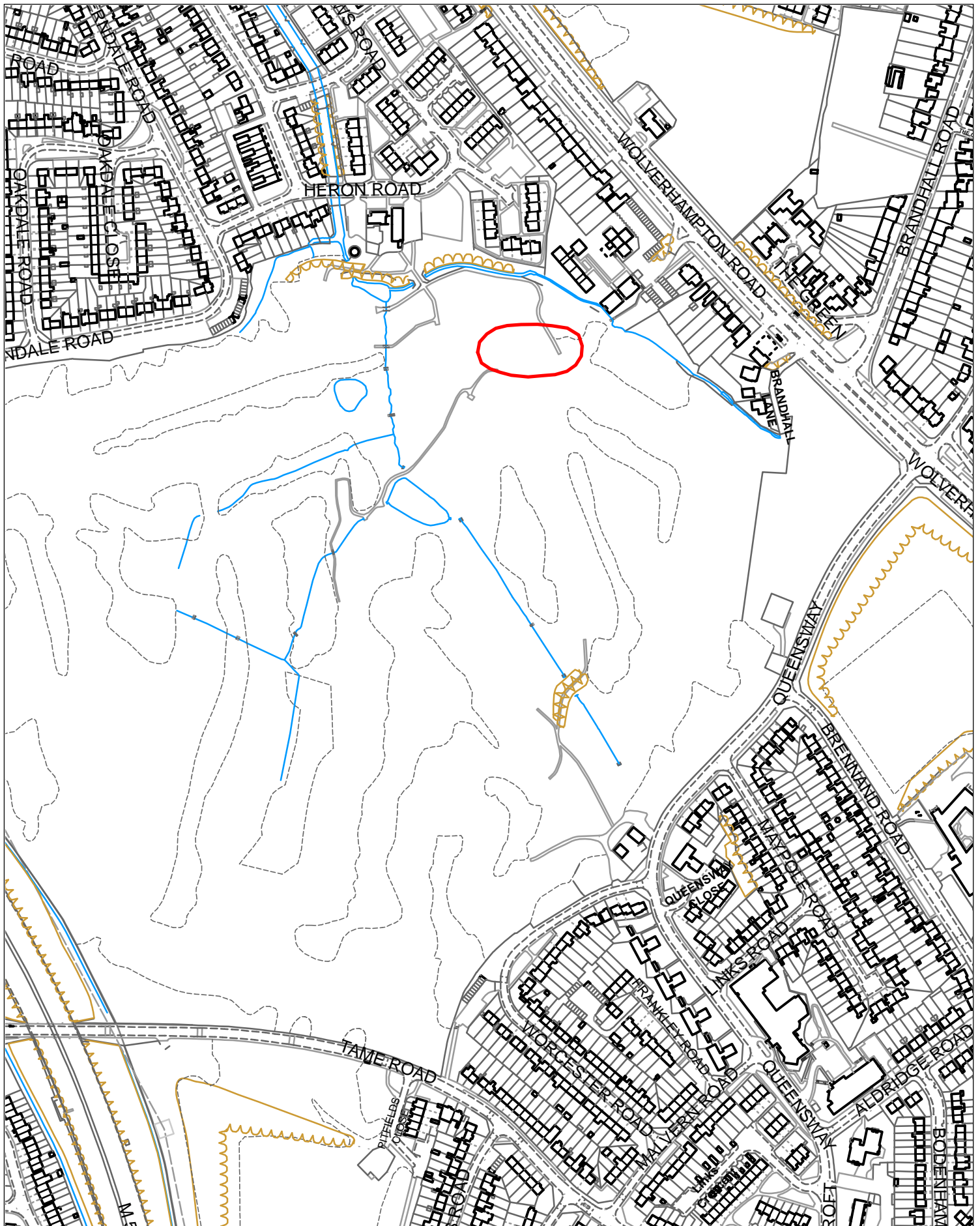
Railway location of water course

Pencrickett Road

Channel width ~2.5m



aecom.com



Site at Brandhall

Existing SLINC boundary



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Birmingham & Black Country Local Sites Assessment Report

| EcoRecord Reference | Site Name | Grid Reference | Current Status [1] | Survey Date(s) |
|--|--|--|---|--------------------------|
| SA097 | Brandhall Golf Course | SO993862 | Ecological – none; Geological – SLINC (part) | 14 & 19/04/22 |
| Planning Authority | Site Ownership | Area/Length | Reason for Survey | Report Date |
| Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council | Local Authority | 37 ha | Local Sites Assessment | 28/04/2022 |
| Meets LS Criteria | SLINC | Type | Wildlife and Geological | i.e. Wildlife/Geological |
| Amendment(s) | Extension | i.e. None; New Site; Upgrade; Downgrade; Extension; Whole/Part Deletion | | |
| Description | The former Brandhall Golf Course section of the survey area meets the selection criteria for wildlife SLINC status and therefore this area (35.2 ha) of the site should be designated as an extension to the existing geological SLINC (see Map 1.) The adjoining Parson's Hill Park (2.8 ha) does not meet the threshold for selection. | | | |
| Citation (Summary of Value) | | | | |
| <p>Brandhall Golf Course comprises a large area of open space incorporating a wide range of habitats including improved grassland, broadleaved and mixed woodland, scattered broadleaved and coniferous parkland trees, tall herb, dense and scattered scrub, three ponds and two small streams. Around the perimeter of the site there are a combination of tree lines and hedgerows. Although the former intensive management of the site has reduced the diversity of some habitats, there is good structural diversity found within the woodland and scrub.</p> <p>The site occupies an important position in an identified wildlife corridor and has been identified as a Core area within the Draft Black Country Local Nature Recovery Network. The site therefore comprises a key area within the Sandwell and wider ecological network.</p> | | | | |
| Local Site Selection Criteria | | | | |
| Ecological | | | | |
| Habitat Diversity | M/H | The site supports a broad range of semi-natural and naturalised aquatic and terrestrial habitats including hedgerows, broadleaved and mixed woodland, improved grassland, running and standing water, scrub, tall ruderal, hedgerow and ditch habitats. Structural variation is mostly seen within the spontaneous scrub and woodland habitat which has established around mature parkland trees. | | |
| Species Diversity | M | Within each habitat species diversity is relatively low due to the modified nature of the site and former and current intensive management practices. However, overall species diversity of the site is moderate due to the broad range of habitats present. The broad range of habitats also support a relatively diverse assemblage of bird species. | | |
| Habitat Rarity | M | The habitats present on site are common across Birmingham and the Black Country, however, the hedgerows and standing water present meet the description of Habitats of Principal Importance. | | |
| Species Rarity | L/M | The majority of flora and incidental fauna species recorded during the Phase 1 habitat survey have been identified as Uncommon to Very Common within Birmingham and the Black Country, though a number of Axiophyte species are present. There are records of bat species listed as a European protected species and Species of Principal Importance. | | |
| Size or Extent | H | In the context of Sandwell's Local Wildlife Sites, Brandhall Golf Course is of large extent in terms of the total site area. | | |
| Naturalness | M | The site is dominated by features designed and created for use as a golf course, however, as a whole and together with the peripheral habitat, the site comprises a semi-natural habitat with high aesthetic value in an area dominated by urban development. | | |
| Position & Connectivity | H | The site lies in close proximity to Thimblemill Brook LNR, Warley High Schools Grounds SLINC, Langley Reservoir SLINC, Barnford Hill Park SINC and SLINC, Warley Woods SINC and SLINC and Titford Pool SLINC. In addition, the site occupies an important position in an identified wildlife corridor and has been identified as a Core area within the Draft Black Country Local Nature Recovery Network. The site therefore comprises a key area within the Sandwell and wider ecological network. | | |
| Geological | | | | |
| Not Assessed | N/A | <p>In compartment 3 there is an outcrop of Enville Formation sandstone overlaid by calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. This feature is currently designated as a Geological SLINC.</p> <p>The authors of this report did not assess the site against the geological criteria due to the specialist knowledge required. Please see Appendix 1 for further details on the geological feature.</p> | | |

| Social | | |
|----------------------------------|------------|--|
| Historical & Cultural | M | Due to change in land use to a golf course the site has changed significantly from the field system depicted on historic mapping, however, features such as probable ridge and furrow can still be found throughout the site. |
| Access | M/H | Two public footpaths provide access across the site, enabling local residents to benefit from the wider landscape and the aesthetic qualities and associated wildlife value of this. The whole site is utilised informally as an area of public open space. |
| Aesthetic | H | The site comprises a large area of semi-natural vegetation with open grassland, semi-mature trees and aquatic features in a heavily developed urban area, and is therefore of high aesthetic value in the local context. |
| Recorded History | L/M | Historic information is relatively well recorded with mapping records dating back to 1845. The Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation describes the current landscape as having origins in the early 20 th century. |
| Value for Learning | M/H | As an accessible area of green space, the site provides high informal learning opportunities for members of the public accessing the public footpaths. The wider site provides potential opportunities for more formal education with local schools and interest groups. |

Site Description

Brandhall Golf Course and the adjoining Parson's Hill Park (the survey area) comprises 37 hectares of former golf course (closed circa 2020) and a small formal park situated between the M5 and the A4123 Wolverhampton Road, and lies to the north-west of Brandhall in the borough of Sandwell.

The former golf course comprises a large area of improved grassland with linear groupings of broadleaved and coniferous parkland trees, broadleaved and coniferous woodland, and scrub habitat running along the edges of the former fairways and around the site perimeter, in combination with hedgerows and lines of trees. Although the regular mowing of the former golf course has reduced the floristic diversity of the grassland, structural and species diversity can be found within scrub and woodland habitat across the site, these having an open nature and a clear distinctive canopy and shrub layer.

In addition to the terrestrial habitats on site, three created ponds and two streams are present. Although the stream running east to west appears to have been altered with some areas of the bankside being artificial, the stream running south to north appears to follow the course depicted on mapping dating back to 1845, and has natural bank sides and riparian features present.

Parson's Hill Park lies on the eastern side of the site and comprises an intensively managed formal recreational park with basketball court and associated hard standing. This is bordered by hedgerows and a tree line on the northern, southern and western edges.

Historic mapping and Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation data shows that the site and land use has changed significantly since 1845. Tithe and OS maps dated 1845 and 1880 respectively, show the site and wider area as mixed arable and pasture farmland with a farmstead present in the western section of the site. Two farm ponds were also present adjacent to the field boundary with a stream running through the centre of the site. The two ponds are no longer present.

Historic records also show that the site became a golf course in the early 20th century, with the farmstead becoming the original club house, though this had been demolished prior to the site survey. Lidar data shows that features likely to be ridge and furrow are present throughout the survey area.

The site contains a small outcrop of Enville Formation sandstone overlain by calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. This section of the site is designated as a geological SLINC and is within the UNESCO Black Country Geopark. The site may contain other geological features, but the assessment of the geological interest of the site falls outside of the scope of this assessment.

The northern section of Compartment 2 has been modified to function as a water storage area designed to protect local homes from flooding.

A maintenance compound lies in the south while in the north lies the former golf club and associated car park.

For the purposes of this survey, the site has been divided into 8 compartment and 8 hedgerow / linear compartments.

Habitats

| Phase 1 Name | Broadleaved / Mixed Woodland – Plantation / Broadleaved Woodland - Semi-natural | Phase 1 Code | A1.11 / A1.12 / A1.32 |
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------------|
|--------------|---|--------------|-----------------------|

There are eight broadleaved and two mixed woodland plantation blocks present on site.

The broadleaved woodland plantation blocks are all of similar species mix and age range, likely resultant from being planted at a similar time when landscaping for the golf course took place. This is noted further as the similar species and age can be seen within the scattered parkland tree habitat. However, it should be noted that scrub species such as Hawthorn *Crataegus monogyna* and Elder *Sambucus nigra* make up much of the shrub layer, which is much younger in age, creating a distinctive difference between the canopy and shrub layer. The woodland structure is mostly open with scattered canopy trees interspersed equally with shrub species creating a diverse habitat. The woodlands appear to be unmanaged at the current time.

The woodlands mostly comprise of a combination and majority of semi-mature and mature Sycamore *Acer pseudoplatanus*, Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Silver Birch *Betula pendula*, London Plane *Platanus x hispanica*, Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Hawthorn, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Apple *Malus domestica*, Hornbeam *Carpinus betulus*, Elder, White Willow *Salix alba*, Black Poplar hybrid *Populus canadensis*, Goat Willow *Salix caprea*, Wild Cherry *Prunus avium*, Blackthorn *Prunus spinosa*, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur*, Raspberry *Rubus idaeus*, Rowan *Sorbus aucuparia*, Hazel *Corylus avellana*, Norway Maple *Acer platanoides*, Field Maple *Acer campestre*, Bramble *Rubus fruticosus* and Dogwood *Cornus sanguinea*.

The field layer was not as diverse as canopy and shrub layer, however, Green Alkanet *Pentaglottis sempervirens*, Common Ragwort *Senecio jacobaea*, Broadleaved Dock *Rumex obtusifolius*, Cock's Foot *Dactylis glomerata*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Wood Violet *Viola odorata*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Common Bistort *Persicaria bistorta*, Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*, Wood Dock *Rumex sanguineus*, Wood Speedwell *Veronica chamaedrys*, Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*, Dwarf Nettle *Urtica urens*, Common Nettle *Urtica dioica*, Cow Parsley *Anthriscus sylvestris* and Common Hogweed *Heracleum sphondylium* could be found. Numerous informal paths can be found throughout most of the woodlands, which are used regularly by public users.

Overall, there was moderate levels of species and structural diversity with no one species dominating the canopy or understorey, though at times due to the nature of landscape planting, species could be grouped together. Regeneration and fallen deadwood was noted throughout.

The broadleaved woodland plantation located in Compartment C2 appears to be more established than others on site suggesting it is older than the more centrally placed smaller woodlands, with the shrub layer being very dense in many areas along the edge and Bramble more prevalent. Canopy trees were very sparse in the southern section while abundant in the northern section, suggesting that the northern area was likely planted with scattered mature trees, while the southern section has likely grown up from scrub habitat, with still present Hawthorn, Blackthorn and Bramble thicket.

In the central eastern woodland plantation lies a dry drainage ditch, where leaf litter makes up most of its substrate, though Male Fern was noted along its banks suggesting it holds water at times.

The woodland plantation encompassed by Compartment C4 is distinctively different from the other plantations as it is comprised of a Hazel coppice with mature Goat *Salix caprea* and White Willow and Pedunculate Oak *Quercus robur* canopy and Hawthorn shrub along the woodland edge in the central and eastern sections. The western section holds areas of Bramble, Hazel, Hawthorn, Guelder Rose *Viburnum opulus*, Horse Chestnut *Aesculus hippocastanum*, Sycamore and Blackthorn. It should be noted that canopy trees are sparse within the western section suggesting it is likely an area of scrub that has succeeded to woodland. The field layer was limited in many areas with bare earth and leaf litter dominating, however, Hedge Mustard *Sisymbrium officinale*, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Wood Violet, Lords and Ladies *Arum maculatum*, Large Bindweed *Calystegia sepium*, Male Fern *Dryopteris filix-mas*, Dwarf Nettle, Sedge species *Carex sp.*, Lesser Celandine *Ficaria verna*, Hawthorn and Sycamore saplings, Common Nettle, Ivy

Hedera helix and Bramble were present. Fallen and standing deadwood was noted throughout the woodland with additional piles created due to the maintenance team storing spoil and brash cuttings within the woodland.

The two mixed woodland blocks lie within the eastern end of Compartment C3 and both are of relatively small size. The southern area comprises a dense cluster of Norway Spruce *Picea abies* in the north section with the southern areas comprising Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn, Elder and Holly *Ilex aquifolium*. While the field layer is more limited under the Norway Spruce, the species diversity is relatively moderate with Spanish Bluebell *Hyacinthoides hispanica*, Lesser Celandine, Cow Parsley, Common Nettle, Bramble and Wood Avens *Geum urbanum* being present.

The northern block comprises of Larch *Larix decidua*, Elder, Wild Cherry, Willow sp., Sycamore and Hawthorn with a field layer comprising Cow Parsley, Hedge Mustard, Bramble, and Ivy. Regeneration and fallen dead woodland was noted in both woodland blocks.

A single semi-natural woodland is present on site on the western boundary. The woodland has succeeded from Hawthorn scrub, which can be noted adjacent. The woodland has little in structural diversity, this is likely due to its young age reducing age diversity within woodland. Species include Field Maple, Hawthorn, Dogwood, Bramble and Cherry sp Prunus sp., while the field layer includes Wood Avens, Red Fescue *Festuca rubra*, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Bramble, native Bluebell *Hyacinthoides non-scripta*, Field Forget-me-not *Myosotis arvensis*, Cleavers *Galium aparine* and Common Nettle. Currently the woodland appears to be unmanaged.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|
| Phase 1 Name | Parkland & Scattered Tree – Broadleaved (Planted / semi-natural), Coniferous and mixed | Phase 1 Code | A1.12i / A1.22i / A3.1 / A3.2 / A3.3 |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|---|

Within the Compartment C3 lie linear groupings of scattered young to mature broadleaved and coniferous trees following former fairways and the site perimeter. In addition to individually scattered planted broadleaved trees located throughout Compartment C1, C3 and C5. Species include Rowan, Osier *Salix viminalis*, Crack Willow *Salix fragilis*, White Willow, Pin Oak *Quercus palustris*, Goat Willow, Plum *Prunus domestica*, Beech *Fagus sylvatica*, Small leaved Lime *Tilia cordata*, Horse Chestnut, Common Whitebeam *Sorbus aria*, Sycamore, Field Maple, Norway Maple, Pedunculate Oak, Ash *Fraxinus excelsior*, Alder *Alnus glutinosa*, Sweet Chestnut *Castanea sativa*, Silver Birch, Sessile Oak *Quercus petraea*, Black Poplar hybrid, Apple, Hazel, Hawthorn, Bird Cherry, Dogwood, Leylandii cypress *Cupressus leylandii*, Scots Pine *Pinus sylvestris*, Norway Spruce, Wild Cherry, Hornbeam and Downy Birch *Betula pubescens*.

Within the linear groupings the field layer beneath is predominately improved grassland, however, in a number of areas the field layer has become dominated by tall herb habitat comprising Cow Parsley, Broadleaved Dock, White Dead Nettle *Lamium album*, Field Forget-me-not, Cleavers, Creeping Buttercup and Common Nettle.

Within all areas of parkland, trees show evidence of management designed to maintain the health of the trees.

| | | | |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|
| Phase 1 Name | Bramble and Scrub – dense / continuous / scattered | Phase 1 Code | A2.1 / A2.2 / A2.1Rf / A2.2Rf |
|---------------------|---|---------------------|--------------------------------------|

There are a numerous small areas of scatted and dense scrub present throughout the site. These are:

- Within sections of scattered parkland tree habitat where a combination of Hazel, Elder, Blackthorn, Rowan, Dogwood, Holly, Hawthorn and Cherry sp, respectively, is present the area have become scattered to dense areas of scrub. These areas are usually small patches, however, some are dense belts alongside the parkland trees;
- Along the western boundary lies a large area of dense Hawthorn scrub with Field Rose *Rosa arvensis*, Hazel, Silver Birch, Sycamore, Field Maple, Bramble and Raspberry. This changes somewhat surrounding the Pylon, where management is taken place regularly to clear scrub habitat to ensure access to the pylon. In this area, the scrub habitat is short and scattered interspersed with grassland species including Perennial Rye-grass *Lolium perenne*, Cock's Foot and Soft Rush *Juncus effusus*. Immediately surrounding the pylon, a belt of dense Bramble scrub is present. In the northern section the diverse scrub habitat returns, however, it is subject to clearance works again to ensure access and stop obstruction of overhead wires. In the areas of clearance, scrub habitat is still present and is re-establishing itself since the clearance. The western section adjacent to the cleared area has become semi-natural woodland and is discussed above in the relevant Phase 1 Habitat category;
- In the south western corner of the site lies an area of dense Bramble scrub with abundant young Ash trees sporadically present within the habitat. The habitat has likely been created through a lack of management and encroachment from adjacent habitat;
- Along the northern site boundary lies scattered boundary scrub. This varies in width and density for 1m width and the occasionally tree to 4m in width and a dense structure. The habitat comprises abundant Hawthorn and Bramble with Holly, Great Willowherb *Epilobium hirsutum*, Ash, Field Maple, Blackthorn, Sycamore, Norway Maple, Hedge Mustard, London Plane, Hazel, Ivy, Herb Robert *Geranium robertianum*, Elder and Silver Birch;
- Along the northern edge of northernmost dry ditch lies patches of scattered and dense scrub. Along the ditch lies mature Cherry sp. and Pedunculate Oak with an understorey of Yew *Taxus baccata*, Hawthorn, Holly, Hazel, Hornbeam, Bird Cherry *Prunus padus* and Bramble. While the adjacent dense scrub area comprises abundant Dogwood and Bramble with Hawthorn, Spruce sp., Silver Birch, Sycamore and Pedunculate Oak;
- Along the fence line boundary between Compartments 3 and 5 and continuing along the northern boundary of Compartment 3 lies an area of scattered to dense scrub. This habitat is dominated by dense Bramble with occasional Elder and Hawthorn and a single young Ash tree. To the east of this area lies a cluster of Cotoneaster sp., Dog Rose *Rosa canina* scrub;
- To the east of the stream lies small areas of scattered scrub. These areas consist of Field Rose, Honeysuckle *Lonicera periclymenum*, Holly, Elder, Sycamore, Bramble and Hawthorn scrub in majority. However, the larger area also contains three semi-mature Scot's Pine;
- Adjacent to the Compartment C4 lies two moderately sized areas of scrub to east and west, respectively. The eastern area of scrub lies in an area currently unmanaged and isolated by the modified stream to the south and residential dwellings to the east, west and north. The area comprises of dense Bramble with Cherry Laurel *Prunus laurocerasus*, Hawthorn, Sycamore, Blackthorn, Common Nettle, Wood Violet *Viola odorata* and Rosebay Willowherb *Chamaenerion angustifolium*. Along the western boundary scattered Hawthorn can be seen along boundary fence suggesting that a Hawthorn hedgerow was once present, although this has been lost due to the lack of management and the encroachment of adjacent scrub and Ivy. The western area of scrub follows the line of the outcrop designated as Local Geological Site. This scrub habitat varies in density, however, includes Hawthorn, Elder, Rosebay Willowherb, Gorse *Ulex europaeus*, Ivy, Common Nettle, Bramble and Dandelion *Taraxacum officinale* agg;

- Surrounding western section of the altered stream prior to joining with Pond P1 lies areas of scattered Bramble with Alder and Raspberry. This scrub habitat links with the adjacent Bramble scrub and Hawthorn scrub habitat which borders Hedgerow H2;
- On northern embankment to Pond P1 lies an area of scattered Cotoneaster sp;
- Along the borders of the northernmost stream lies areas of dense and scattered scrub. Although the composition varies somewhat in different areas. Species include Cotoneaster, Bramble, Holly, Pedunculate Oak, Sycamore, Hornbeam and Broom *Cytisus scoparius*; and
- On the eastern edge of Compartment 1 lies a linear stretch of scrub which is potentially a former hedgerow which has lost its linear structure. Species include Field Maple, Hawthorn, Cleavers, Bramble, Sycamore, Cotoneaster sp., Cow Parsley, Field Rose, Horse Chestnut, Common Nettle, Elder, Wood Avens, Herb Robert, Hedge Mustard, Dogwood and Honeysuckle.

| Phase 1 Name | Improved Grassland | Phase 1 Code | B4 |
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|----|
|--------------|--------------------|--------------|----|

Compartment C3 which holds the majority of golf course, encompasses regularly managed grassland which is maintained at a sward height of 15cm and is subject to regular disturbance from members of the public. Anecdotal information provided by a local resident stated that the grassland habitat is cut every two weeks.

Overall the sward is similar throughout the site, with species diversity across the site low and dominated by grass species with a ratio of 90% to 10% forbs. Species include Perennial Rye-grass, Annual Meadow-grass *Poa annua*, Rough Meadow-grass *Poa trivialis*, Creeping Bent *Agrostis stolonifera*, White Clover *Trifolium repens*, Dandelion, Yorkshire Fog *Holcus lanatus*, Greater Plantain *Plantago major*, Cow Parsley, Yarrow *Achillea millefolium* and Common Ragwort across much of the site. However, there is localised abundance of specific species in different areas across the site including Field Wood-rush *Luzula campestris*, Timothy *Phleum pratense*, Lesser Celandine, Common Vetch *Vicia sativa*, Soft rush and Meadow Foxtail *Alopecurus pratensis*. The more diverse areas are within the grassland to the south of the local geological site and areas in the southern section of compartment C3.

| Phase 1 Name | Tall Ruderal | Phase 1 Code | C3.1 |
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|
|--------------|--------------|--------------|------|

Within the site lies numerous small localised patches of tall herb vegetation, where management has been reduced and or nutrient enrichment has occurred from spoil piles and nutrient enrichment from dogs. Predominantly these areas are dominated by Broadleaved Dock, Cow Parsley, Common Hogweed and Common Nettle and can be found along the perimeter of the site and adjacent to scrub habitats and within the field layer of some scattered parkland tree habitats.

The largest area of tall ruderal habitat on site lies within southern area adjacent to the maintenance compound where the spoil including earth, sand, fly tipping and brickwork is present. This area comprise Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, White Dead Nettle, Field Forget-me-not, Cleavers, Rosebay Willowherb, Great Willowherb, Creeping Thistle *Cirsium arvense* and Broadleaved Dock.

| Phase 1 Name | Standing Water | Phase 1 Code | G1 |
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----|
|--------------|----------------|--------------|----|

Compartment 2 holds three areas of standing water, all three have been created as part of the former commercial golf course, with two of the ponds lying along a historic stream. Further descriptions can be found below:

- Pond P1 is a triangular shaped pond which is fed by both the historic and altered stream prior to pond feeding back into the northern most stream which leads offsite. The pond itself appears to be heavily silted with anecdotal evidence from a resident that the pond had been dredged to remove silt build up. Overall there is large amount of open water with aquatic vegetation based in majority around the edge. Species include Bulrush *Typha latifoli*, Brooklime *Veronica beccabunga*, Soft Rush and Common Water Starwort *Callitriche stagnalis*. The water depth could only be judged by the clear water areas which appears to be around 30cm in depth. Along the bank edge over the south-western side where improved grassland is present, scrub dominates with Alder, Cotoneaster sp and Bramble present.
- Pond P2 is a field drainage pond that is likely connected to running stream through an overspill pipe, however, this could not be seen. The pond itself is heavily vegetated with Bulrush in central area of the pond with abundant Marsh Marigold circling the perimeter of the pond. No clear water could be seen other than along the water's edge. The banks are shallow sided with Goat Willow and Willow sp. present providing some shade across the pond. Otherwise the bank edge was dominated by the regular managed improved grassland habitat within the golf course.
- Pond P3 is oval shaped pond fed by the historic stream and dry ditches present on site. The pond itself is heavily vegetated by Bulrush with occasion Yellow Iris *Iris pseudacorus* present along the edge. In the north eastern section where the pond feeds in to the northern section of the stream an area of clear water is present. This area is abundant with Brooklime with small patches of Common Water Starwort. The banksides are relatively shallow and consists mainly of improved grassland habitat which is regularly mown to the edge of the pond. However, Soft Rush, young Willow sp. and Alder can be found along the bankside. Due to the level of vegetation within the pond water depth could not be measured, however, from the areas of vegetation is likely to be around 0.5m deep.

| Phase 1 Name | Running Water / Dry Ditch | Phase 1 Code | G2 / J2.6 |
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|
|--------------|---------------------------|--------------|-----------|

The stream running south to north holds a natural course noted on the 1845 Tithe map and links the ponds created as part of golf course landscaping. The stream is 1m in width and holds a slow flow at around 10cm in depth. While the substrate appears to be pebble in majority, in the southernmost section where the stream appears to flood regularly silt has built up in the channel.

At the time of the survey, the southern section of the stream had flooded into the improved grassland habitat and back up against the northern embankment. As no further flooding was noted on site. This may indicate a blockage in the small embankment tunnel present in that area.

The banksides are steep with a 1m riparian zone. This riparian zone includes Dandelion, Common Nettle, Great Willowherb, Broadleaved Dock, White Dead Nettle, Carex sp, Soft Rush, Pendulas Sedge *Carex pendula*, Lesser Celandine, Red Dead Nettle *Lamium purpureum*, Common Hogweed, Honeysuckle, Elder, Goat Willow, Ash and Silver Birch and has been created due to the lack of management. At the edges of the riparian zone it quickly reverts to improved grassland due to the regular mowing of the grassland.

Within the northern site of Compartment C3 lies an altered watercourse that runs east to west to join up with pond P1. In the eastern end the stream lies within a narrow channel bordered by concrete sides. These banksides appear to be designed to stabilise the bank and maintain the stream channel location. Channel itself was around a 1m in width and held a depth of around 15cm of water at the time of the survey. The substrate was in majority sand and pebbles with Pendulas Sedge, Creeping Buttercup *Ranunculus repens*, Broadleaved Dock, Common Nettle and Bramble present along the water's edge.

Further to west when it flows into compartment C4 the bankside become natural earth banks. However, with the dense scrub present within the adjacent habitat Bramble and Hawthorn becomes increasingly abundant along the stream banks. Although Male Fern, Lords and Ladies and Lesser Celandine can now be found along its banks.

Prior to stream joining with pond P1 runs along a section within Compartment C3 where the southern side is made up of concrete panels to stabilise the steep bank and footpath running along the bank. However, the northern bank holds a shallow bank with section of Bramble dense scrub with Raspberry and Alder and improved grassland habitat. The water channel here remains natural with pebble and small stones making up the substrate.

In the northernmost point of the site lies a large concrete structured stream around 5m in width. Here the water is moderate flowing at around 5cm in depth. A small mid channel bar can be noted within the channel which is vegetated with Great Willowherb, Perennial Rye-grass and Broadleaved Dock. While the banksides hold occasional Bramble, Common Nettle, Hedge Mustard, Broom and Great Willowherb, however, this is sparse. This stream section is fed by a currently dry ditch, and two streams one leading from Pond 1 and the second from a culverted stream. All three feeding streams hold natural bankside and river bed, however, Bramble has heavily encroached in areas due to the adjacent scrub habitat.

Within the central western area of Compartment C3 lies a network of drainage ditches, likely used previously to allow the fairways to drain. These at the time of the survey were dry with leaf litter making up much of the ditch's substrate. The ditch was around 0.5m wide with vertical to steep banksides. In the most part the bank edge was made up of the adjacent improved grassland and scrub habitat, however, occasionally Soft Rush and Goat Willow and Ash sapling were noted along its edge. These appeared to assist in ground water and run off draining into the central stream.

In the central eastern woodland plantation and within the northern area of compartment C3 lies a dry drainage ditch although in majority the leaf litter made up its substrate Male Fern was noted along its banks suggesting its hold water at times.

| Phase 1 Name | Amenity Grassland | Phase 1 Code | J1.2 |
|--|---|--------------|----------------------------------|
| <p>The majority of compartment C5 and a small section of Compartment C3 comprises intensively mown grassland maintained at a sward height of 5cm for recreational use (C5) or highway maintenance (C3) and is subject to regular disturbance. Due to this intensive management regime, the sward shows very low diversity and forb count with a grass to forb ratio of 70% to 30% forbs. The sward comprises Perennial Rye-grass with Red Fescue, Common Cat's Ear <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i>, White Clover, Greater Plantain, Daisy <i>Bellis perennis</i>, Yarrow, Common Hogweed, Meadow Buttercup, Cleavers and Common Speedwell <i>Veronica persica</i>.</p> | | | |
| Phase 1 Name | Ephemeral / Short Perennial | Phase 1 Code | J1.3 |
| <p>In the eastern section of Compartment C1 where the former golf club car park lies, lies areas of early colonisers and perennials which have become established within the hardstanding. Species include, Scentless Mayweed <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i>, Common Ragwort, Wood Avens, Pineappleweed <i>Matricaria discoidea</i>, Red Fescue, Common Speedwell, Greater Plantain and Daisy.</p> | | | |
| Phase 1 Name | Intact Hedgerow / with tree / line of trees | Phase 1 Code | J2.1 / J2.3 / A112 |
| <p>Hedgerows H1 and H2 are both remnant hawthorn hedgerows that have suffered from the lack of management and lost much of the structure. Both are potential historic hedgerow as mapping and aerial imagery show a field boundary along the same line in early 1900s. H1 lies along a metal fence with the hedgerow being within the site in the western area and outside in the eastern area. While H2 hold a large gap in its central area where several shrubs have been lost and the areas has been densely colonised by Bramble. H1 comprises Hawthorn with Hazel and Holly with a field layer incorporating Great Willowherb, Cow Parsley, Common Nettle and large areas of bare earth. H2 comprises Hawthorn, Elder, Alder, Ash, Willow sp. and Holly with a field layer comprising Hedge Mustard, Ivy and Bramble.</p> <p>Hedgerow compartment H3 is an old Hawthorn hedgerow with semi-mature Ash tree and a field layer dominated by Ivy. It currently appears not to be managed as such has become defunct. The field layer also includes on the edges of the features Cow Parsley, broadleaved Dock, Common Nettle, Horse Chestnut sapling and Common Hogweed.</p> <p>Hedgerow compartment H4 is a semi-mature Sycamore tree line with a field layer comprising Wood Avens, Dandelion, Red Fescue, Cleavers, Common Nettle, Common Hogweed, Cow Parsley, Yarrow, Common Speedwell, Scentless Mayweed and Cuckoo Flower <i>Cardamine pratensis</i>. Currently it is on managed to ensure the tree health.</p> <p>Hedgerow H5 is a continuation of Hedgerow H7, where the management has significant changed. Here the hedgerow has only been managed irregularly to prevent encroachment into the grassland habitat through side flailing. While the hedgerow is still dominated by Hawthorn, Elder is occasionally present within the linear structure with several mature Pedunculate Oak and White Willow noted at intervals within the hedgerow. The field layer comprises Broadleaved Dock, Spear Thistle <i>Cirsium vulgare</i>, Bramble, Ivy, Large Bindweed, Common Nettle and Hedge Mustard.</p> <p>Hedgerow H6 is an intact Hawthorn hedgerow (4m high by 1m wide) which runs along the western site boundary and boundary fence. It is majority Hawthorn with occasional Hazel. The field layer is mostly over shaded by the dense structure of the hedgerow although scattered Creeping Buttercup, Meadow Buttercup, Cleavers and Ivy.</p> <p>Hedgerow compartment H7 and H8 are both dense intact hawthorn hedgerow which runs along the eastern and southern boundary of the site, respectively. Both hedgerows are 3m in height by 1m in width and runs alongside metal fence. The hedgerow is managed through side flailing, however, H7 and western most section of H8 is also cut on top to maintain height. Holly, Rowan, Garden Privet <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> and Cotoneaster sp. can also be found occasionally within the hedgerow with a field layer comprising Hedge Mustard, Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, Spanish Bluebell, Dandelion, Cock's Foot, Common Speedwell, Green Alkanet, Creeping Buttercup, Wood Avens, Cleavers and Bramble. In the central section of H8 within the woodland plantation several poplars line the hedgerow compartment.</p> <p>In addition to the main hedgerow compartments there is a small hedgerow not yet established of young dense Beech. This is present to the south of the golf club buildings and was planted, likely around the time golf club closed, around the amenity area within Compartment C1. Due to its young edge no other plant species are associated with the hedgerow.</p> | | | |
| Phase 1 Name | Built-up areas – Buildings / Man-made Surface / Surfaced Path / Unsurfaced Path | Phase 1 Code | J3.6 / MaSurf / UnPath / SurPath |
| <p>As a former golf club, built up areas are present on site including a maintenance compound in the south and the former golf club in the north with associated buildings and hard standing.</p> <p>Within the main golf course (Compartment 2) numerous small surface paths can be seen across the site although the majority are found in the north of compartment 2.</p> <p>In Compartment 1 lies an area of hard standing incorporating a basketball court, footpath and parking area.</p> | | | |

Within the golf course lies sporadic lines of 10m fencing along the fairways, this is likely to be infrastructure left from when the site was an active golf course.

Notes

Habitats of Note [2]

| Phase 1 Name | Phase 1 Code | EHD | NERC | LBAP | Rarity | Year |
|--------------------------------------|--------------|-----|------|------|--------|------|
| Hedgerows | J2.1, J2.3 | | Y | | | 2022 |
| Parks and Open Space | | | | Y | | 2022 |
| Ponds (standing water) (Mesotrophic) | | Y | Y | | | 2022 |

Notes

Species of Note [2]

Flora

| Species | Statutory | NERC | LBAP | RDL | Rarity | Axiophyte | Year |
|--|-----------|------|------|----------------------|--------|-----------|------|
| <i>Aira praecox</i> - Early Hair-grass | | | | | U | Y | 1998 |
| <i>Caltha palustris</i> - Marsh-marigold | | | | | F | Y | 2022 |
| <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i> - Southern Marsh-orchid | | | Y | | U | Y | 2021 |
| <i>Deschampsia flexuosa</i> - Wavy Hair-grass | | | | | F | Y | 2021 |
| <i>Festuca gigantea</i> - Giant Fescue | | | | | F | Y | 2021 |
| <i>Galium saxatile</i> - Heath Bedstraw | | | | | U | Y | 2022 |
| <i>Hippuris vulgaris</i> - Mare's-tail | | | | | U | | 2021 |
| <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> - Bluebell | WCA8 | | Y | | C | | 2022 |
| <i>Knautia arvensis</i> - Field Scabious | | | | RLEN G.Lr(N T) | U | | 1998 |
| <i>Persicaria bistorta</i> - Common Bistort | | | | | U | Y | 2022 |
| <i>Phleum bertolonii</i> - Smaller Cat's-tail | | | | | R | Y | 2021 |
| <i>Pimpinella saxifraga</i> - Burnet-saxifrage | | | | | R | Y | 1998 |
| <i>Prunus padus</i> - Bird Cherry | | | | | U | | 2022 |
| <i>Quercus petraea</i> - Sessile Oak | | | | | U | Y | 2022 |
| <i>Ranunculus aquatilis</i> - Common Water-crowfoot | | | | | U | Y | 2021 |
| <i>Tilia cordata</i> - Small-leaved Lime | | | | | U | Y | 2022 |
| <i>Veronica beccabunga</i> - Brooklime | | | | | F | Y | 2022 |
| <i>Viola odorata</i> - Sweet Violet | | | | | R | | 2022 |

Notes

Fauna

| Species | Statutory | NERC | LBAP | RDL | Concern | Rarity | Year |
|--|--|------|------|--|---------|--------|------|
| <i>Chalcosyrphus nemorum</i> insect - true fly (Diptera) | | | | | | U | 2021 |
| <i>Tyria jacobaeae</i> - Cinnabar | | Y | | | | C | 2021 |
| <i>Egretta garzetta</i> - Little Egret | | | | | | U | 2021 |
| <i>Motacilla cinerea</i> - Grey Wagtail | | | | | BRed | F | 2022 |
| <i>Turdus iliacus</i> - Redwing | WCA1i | | | | BRed | C | 2021 |
| <i>Turdus philomelos</i> - Song Thrush | | Y | Y | | BRed | C | 2021 |
| <i>Chiroptera</i> – a bat | HabRegs2 , WCA5/9.4 b, WCA5/9.4 c, WCA5/9.5 a | Y | Y | RLGB. CR, RLGB. DD, RLGB. EN, RLGB. Lr(NT) RLGB. VU, MS_St atus_ Dec | | | 2007 |
| <i>Meles meles</i> - Badger | PBA | | Y | | | | 2022 |
| <i>Pipistrellus</i> Pipistrelle – Common Pipistrelle | HabRegs2 , WCA5/9.4 | Y | Y | RLGB. Lr(NT) | | | 2017 |

| | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|---|--|-------------|------|
| | | b, WCA5/9.4 c, WCA5/9.5 a | | | | | |
| The following Species of Note have been recorded within 500m of the assessment site boundary. | | | | | | | |
| <i>Apus apus</i> Swift | | | | | | <i>BAmb</i> | 2012 |
| <i>Passer domesticus</i> House Sparrow | | | Y | | | <i>BRed</i> | 2022 |
| <i>Sturnus vulgaris</i> Starling | | | | | | <i>BRed</i> | 2011 |
| <i>Turdus philomelos</i> Song Thrush | | | | Y | | <i>BRed</i> | 1985 |
| Notes | A single Badger outlier sett was located on site during the field survey. Due to a fresh hair being found within the clear sett entrance, the sett is considered to be active. | | | | | | |

Site/Habitat Suitability for Other Species of Note (not recorded during the survey)

| | |
|--------------------------|---|
| Description/Notes | The onsite grassland, scrub and woodland offers potential foraging habitat for local invertebrate populations. The ponds, streams and ditches likely provide habitat for a range of aquatic invertebrates |
|--------------------------|---|

Invasive Species [3]

| Species | Location | Abundance (DAFOR) | Year Recorded |
|--|----------------|-------------------|---------------|
| <i>Cotoneaster sp.</i> Cotoneaster sp. | P1, H7, H8, C1 | F | 2022 |
| Notes | | | |

Geology

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Solid/Drift Formation | Eastern Area – Clent Formation - Argillaceous Rocks and [subequal/subordinate] Breccia, Interbedded. Central Area - Enville Member - Sandstone with Subordinate Conglomerate, Siltstone And Mudstone. Western Area - Halesowen Formation - Sandstone. |
| Description | Eastern Area – Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 272 to 299 million years ago in the Permian Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Central Area – Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 272 to 310 million years ago in the Permian and Carboniferous Periods. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Western Area – Sedimentary Bedrock formed approximately 308 to 310 million years ago in the Carboniferous Period. Local environment previously dominated by rivers. Superficial deposits were noted along the central strip of the site where Alluvium – clay, silt, sand and gravel deposits, formed up to 2 million years ago in the Quaternary period, are located. |
| Features of Value | |
| 1 | A small area in the northern portion of the site is designated as a Local Geological Site of SLINC status for an outcrop of Enville formation sandstone overlaid by calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. |

Soils

| |
|---|
| Slightly acid loamy and clayey soils with impeded drainage. Loamy some clayey texture. Slightly impeded drainage. |
|---|

Public Access & Site Usage

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------------------|
| Land Use | Informal Public Open Space |
| Access Level | Open |
| Access Type(s) | Public |

Comparison with Previous Survey(s) Results

| |
|---|
| No previous recorded Local Site surveys. A species survey of areas of the grassland was carried out in 2021 by an experienced local volunteer recorder. This survey noted additional species within the grassland including Squirreltail Fescue <i>Vulpia bromoides</i> , Sheep's Sorrel <i>Rumex acetosella</i> , Southern Marsh Orchid <i>Dactylorhiza praetermissa</i> and Wavy Hair-grass <i>Deschamsia flexuosa</i> . Due to the survey undertaken for this assessment taking place early in the season, these species were not visible at the time of the site visit, however, it is assumed that these species are still present on site. |
|---|

Summary of Assessment

When assessed against the Birmingham and Black Country Local Sites Selection Criteria, Brandhall Golf Course scores Medium - High against most of the ecological and social criteria. The ecological value is attributed to the site as a whole due to its broad range of habitats, and the structural diversity within these which is developing due to the management of the site being less intensive following the closure of the golf course.

The site contains a small outcrop of Enville Formation sandstone overlaid by calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. This section of the site is designated as a geological SLINC and is within the UNESCO Black Country Geopark.

The site occupies an important position in an identified wildlife corridor and has been identified as a Core area within the Draft Black Country Local Nature Recovery Network. The site therefore comprises a key area within the Sandwell and wider ecological network.

The former golf course section of the survey area therefore meets the threshold for selection as a Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC).

Parson's Hill Park is dominated by amenity grassland with formal recreational features and it is not recommended that this area is included within the designated site boundary.

Recommendations (including further survey & site management/enhancement)

| | |
|---|---|
| 1 | Removal of introduced species including <i>Cotoneaster</i> sp. |
| 2 | The hedgerows should be placed under active management to maintain and enhance the hedgerow structure and density. This should involve annual trimming outside the bird nesting bird season. It should also include the infilling of any sparse areas, with native species, to enhance species diversity. |
| 3 | Young and mature broadleaved trees present should be placed under active management to ensure that the trees remain healthy and are retained within the site. |
| 4 | There is opportunity for areas within the open space to be put under active meadow management and for the grassland sward to be enhanced through seeding or the strewing of seed-rich green hay. |
| 5 | Former sand bunkers offer the potential to create bee banks to provide further nesting opportunity for invertebrates. |
| 6 | A geological survey should be undertaken of both the existing geological SLINC and other geological features present within the site. |
| 7 | The geological feature should be kept clear of encroaching bramble |

Data Sources

| | Source | Date |
|---|---|--------------------------|
| Species and Habitat Data Source(s) | Samantha Pritchard. The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. EcoRecord data search 2022 | 14 + 19.04.2022 |
| Geological Data Source(s) | British Geological Society 1:50,000 bedrock & superficial deposits GIS web map services from BGS website: http://www.bgs.ac.uk/data/services/mash-ups/desktopgis.html | 20.04.2022 |
| Soil Data Source(s) | Soilscapes, Cranfield Soil & Agricultural Institute website: http://www.landis.org.uk/soilscapes/ | 20.04.2022 |
| Historic Data Sources(s) | Ordnance Survey Country Series Mapping Quigley, P. 2010 Black Country Historic Landscape Characterisation, electronic dataset, Wolverhampton City Council. Google earth pro historical Imagery, | 28.04.2022 |
| Assessment Author and Organisation | Samantha Pritchard, The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. Edited by Simon Atkinson, The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. | 29.04.2022 16/06/2022 |

[1] Definitions of Local Sites in B&BC (SINCs & SLINCs) and Potential Sites of Importance (PSIs)

In Birmingham and the Black Country Local Wildlife and Geological Sites encompass what are termed Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs). This two-tier system aims to ensure that all sites of substantive local nature conservation and geological value are selected by assessing sites in both a sub-regional (i.e. Birmingham and the Black Country) and metropolitan borough or city context (either Birmingham, Dudley, Sandwell, Walsall or Wolverhampton). The two designations are defined as:

- Site of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINC) - Sites of substantive nature conservation value in the context of Birmingham and the Black Country.
- Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC) - Sites of substantive nature conservation value in the context of a metropolitan borough.

Potential Sites of Importance (PSIs) have not yet been assessed against the Local Wildlife and Geological Sites selection criteria but may potentially support species of note, areas of important semi-natural habitat or valuable geological features. PSIs are identified primarily through the use of aerial photography, but also through reference to old maps, existing records and local knowledge. Commonly these sites will not have been subject to the survey work necessary to undertake a Local Wildlife and Geological Sites assessment.

[2] Habitats/Species of Note Tables – Attribute Definitions

STATUTORY (PROTECTED) - *EHD* = EU Habitats Directive (plus where relevant the Annex II or IV) | *WCA S1* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 1 (birds protected at all times) | *WCA S5* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 5 (animals with various levels of protection) | *WCA S8* = Wildlife & Countryside Act Schedule 8 (higher and lower plants with various levels of protection) | *PBA* = Protection of Badgers Act 1992 | *HabRegs2* = The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 2) | *HabRegs4* = The Conservation (Natural Habitats, &c.) Regulations 2010 (Schedule 4).

NERC – *Y* = Habitats/Species included on the current list of Principal Importance in England under Section 41 of the NERC Act (2006 or amended).

LBAP – *Y* = Habitats/Species included on the latest B&BC LBAP list of Priority Habitats/Species.

RDL - Species included on Global IUCN & British Red Data Lists: *RLGB.EN* = IUCN (2001) – Endangered | *RLGB.VU* = IUCN (2001) – Vulnerable | *RDBGB.R* = IUCN (pre 1994) – Rare | *RLGB.Lr(NT)* = IUCN (2001) - Lower risk - near threatened | *RDBGB.IK* = RDB - Insufficient known | *RLGB.DD* = IUCN (2001) - Data Deficient

RARITY (HABITATS) - BIRMINGHAM & BLACK COUNTRY - *Y* = Habitats included on the B&BC list of locally rare habitats (administered by EcoRecord).

RARITY (FLORA SPECIES) - BIRMINGHAM & BLACK COUNTRY - (based on data held and managed by EcoRecord): *VR* = Very Rare - a species present in less than 1.0% of 1Km squares, tetrads, or 5Km squares in B&BC | *R* = Rare - a species present in 1.0% - 4.3% of 1Km squares, tetrads, or 5Km squares in B&BC | *U* = Uncommon - a species present in 4.3% - 12% of 1Km squares, tetrads or 5Km squares in B&BC | *NRR* = no recent B&BC records.

AXIOPHYTE - BBCF_Ax = included on the Birmingham & the Black Country list of axiophytes (administered by EcoRecord).

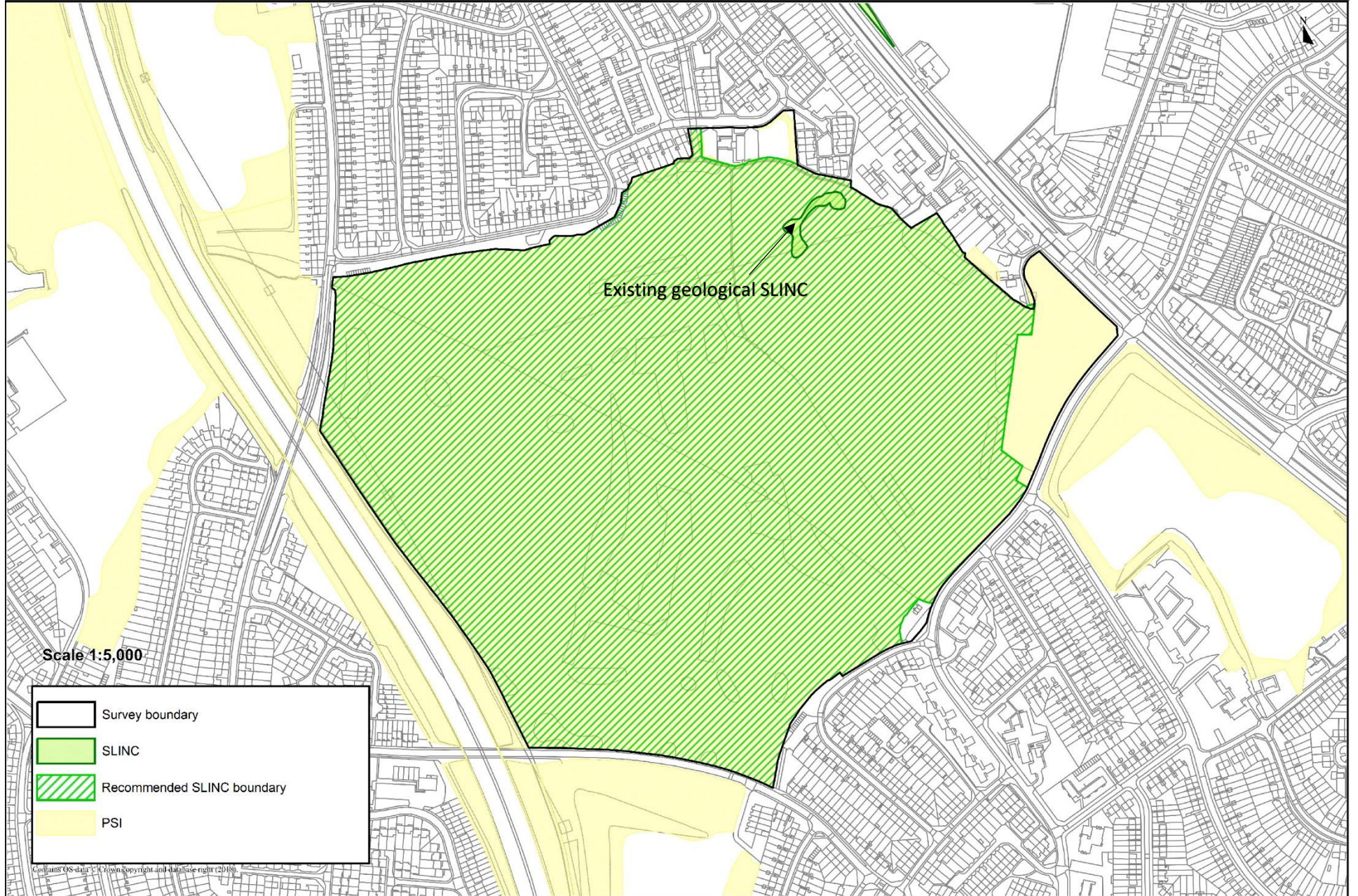
YEAR - The most recent year the species has been recorded.

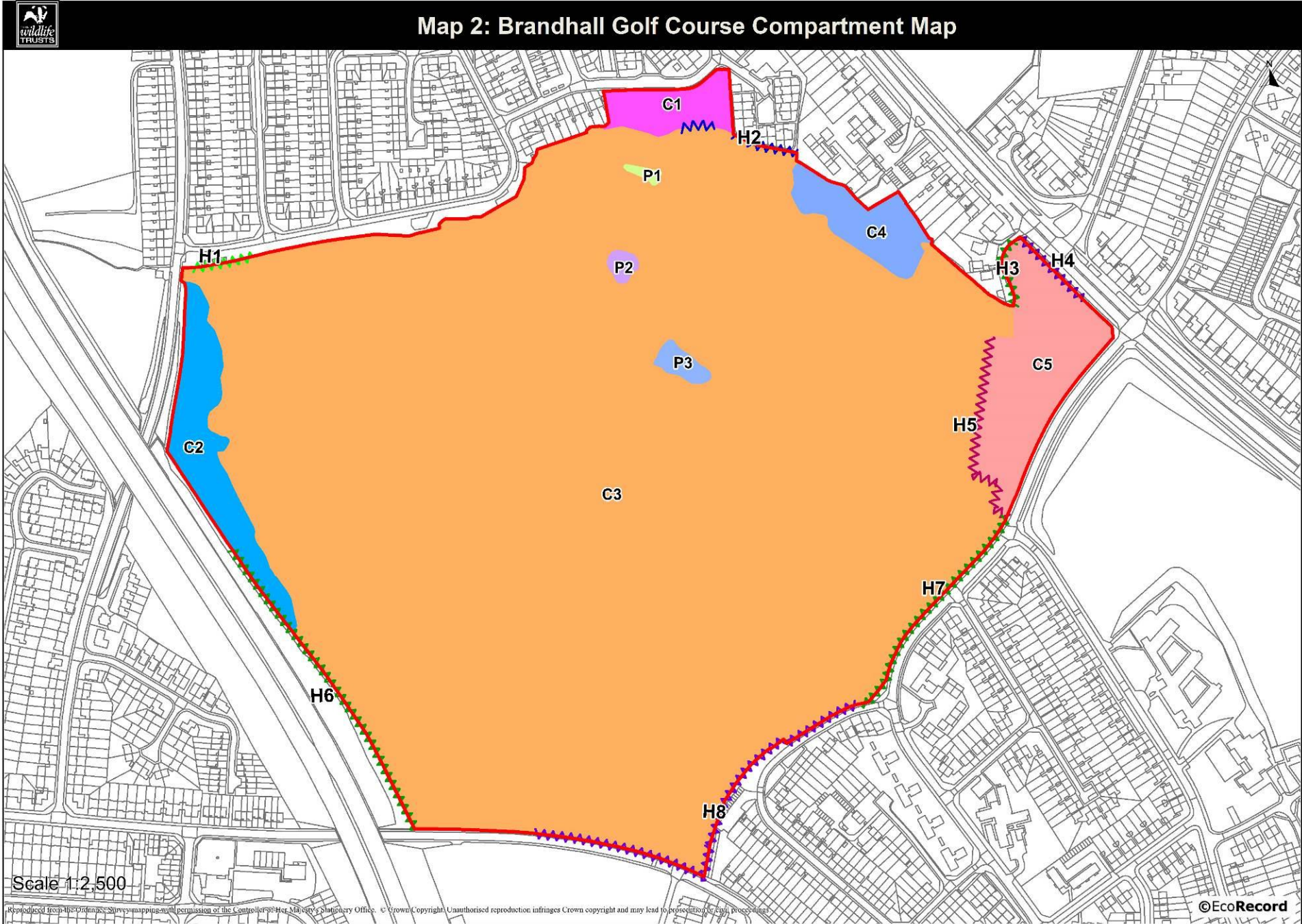
CONCERN (FAUNA SPECIES OF CONSERVATION CONCERN) -

Birds: **BRed** = Birds of Conservation Concern Red List - bird species of high conservation priority needing urgent conservation action. This encompasses species that are Globally Threatened according to the International Union for Nature Conservation criteria; those whose population or range has declined rapidly in recent years; and those that have declined historically and not shown a substantial recent recovery. **BAmb** = Bird of Conservation Concern Amber List – bird species with an unfavourable conservation status in Europe; those whose population or range has declined moderately in recent years; those whose population has declined historically but made a substantial recent recovery; rare breeders; and those with internationally important or localised populations.

[3] Species listed on Schedule 9 part 1 (animals) and part 2 (plants) of the Wildlife and Countryside Act 1981 as amended - this lists animals which may not be released or allowed to escape into the wild and plants which may not be planted or otherwise caused to grow in the wild.

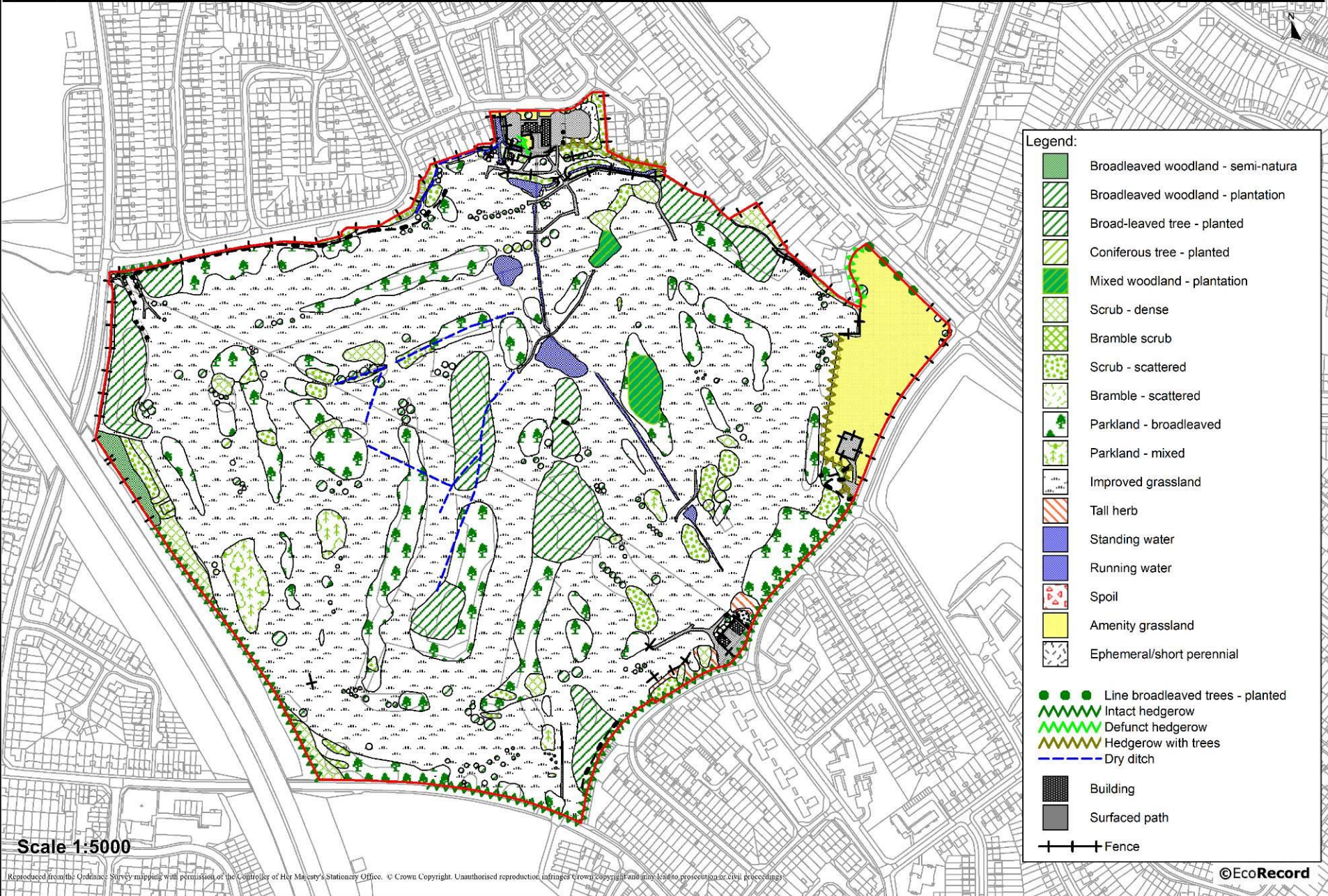
Map 1: Brandhall Golf Course Current & Recommended designation





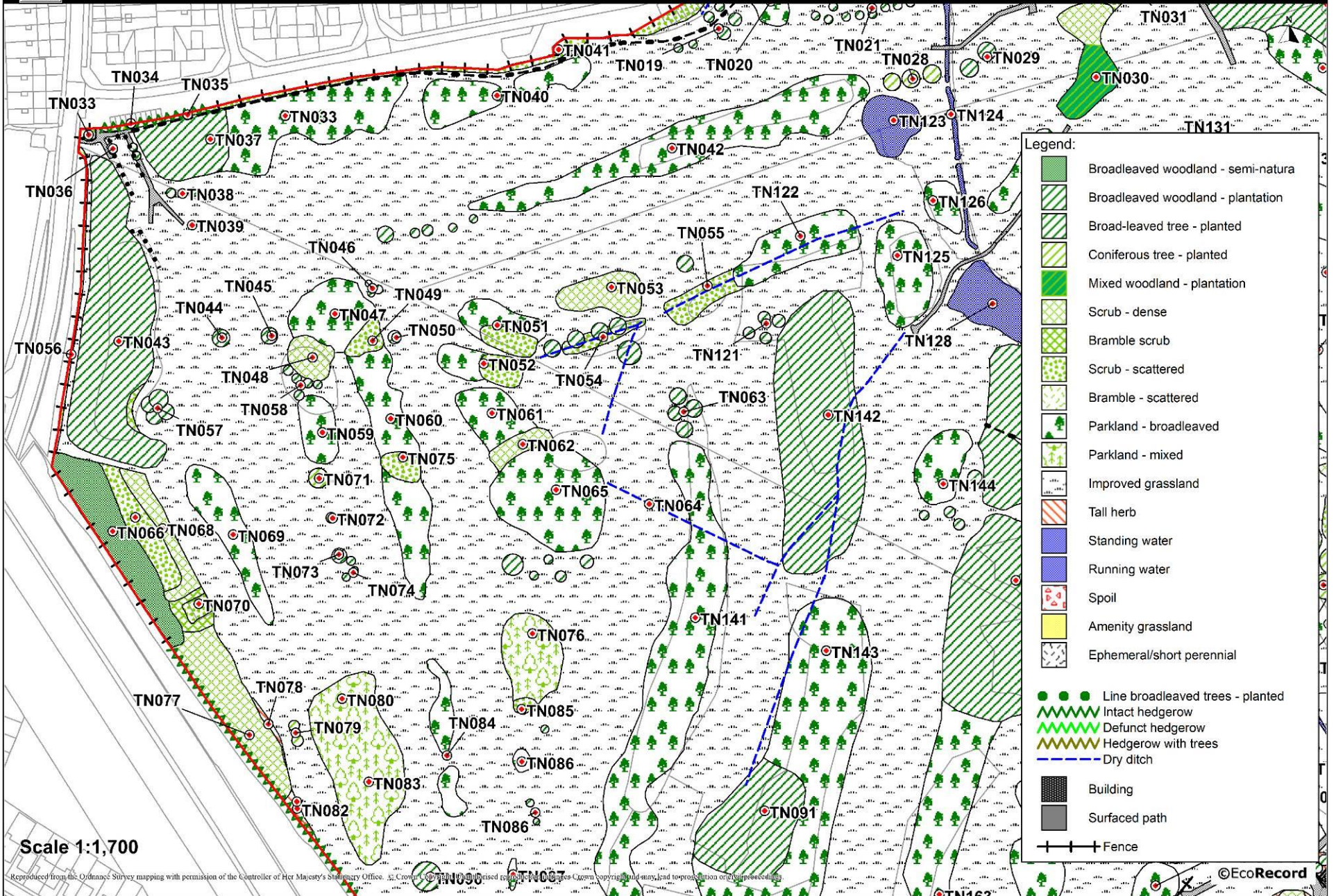


Map 3: Brandhall Golf Course Phase 1 Habitat Map



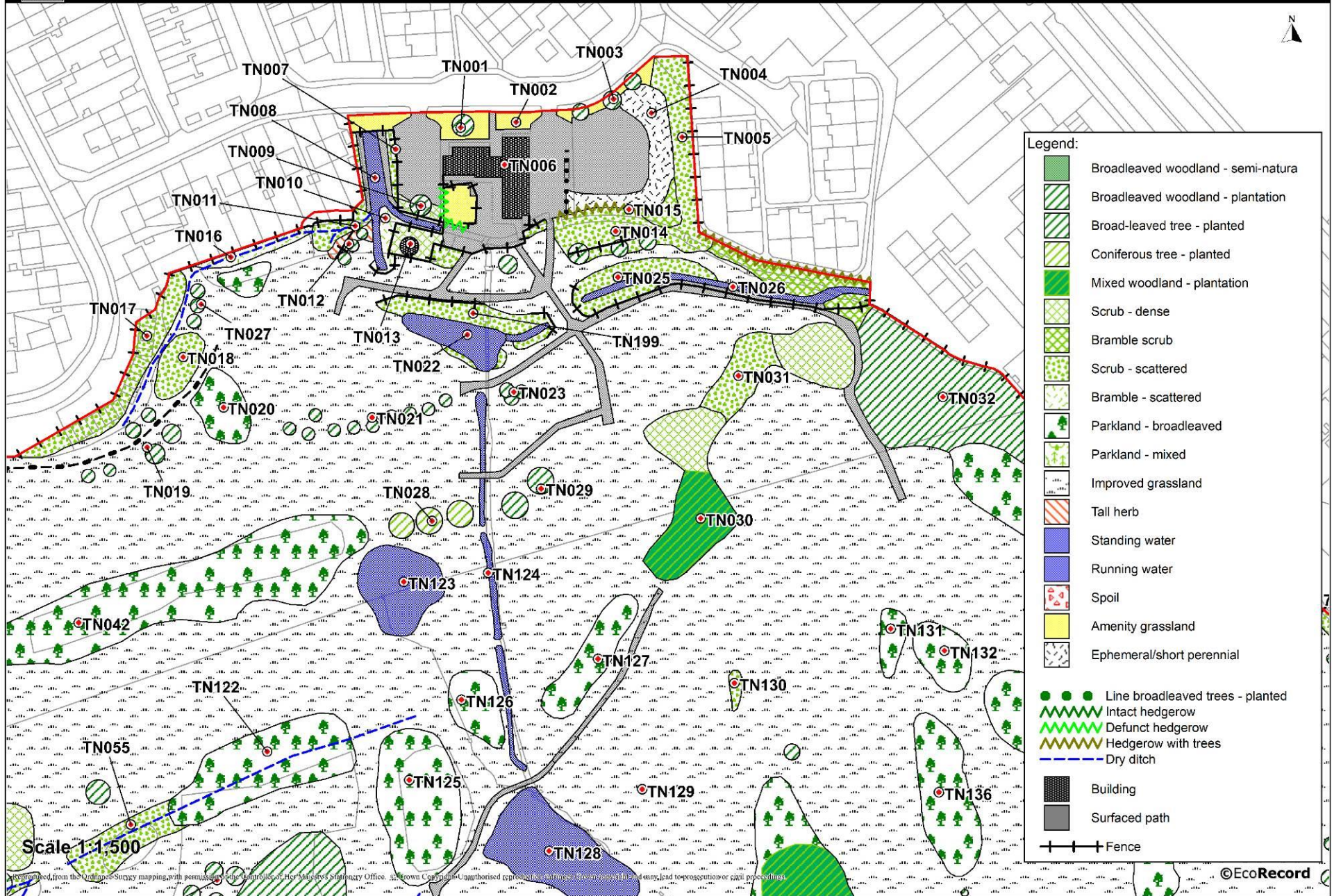


Map 4: Brandhall Golf Course Phase 1 Habitat Map Target Notes - North Western Area

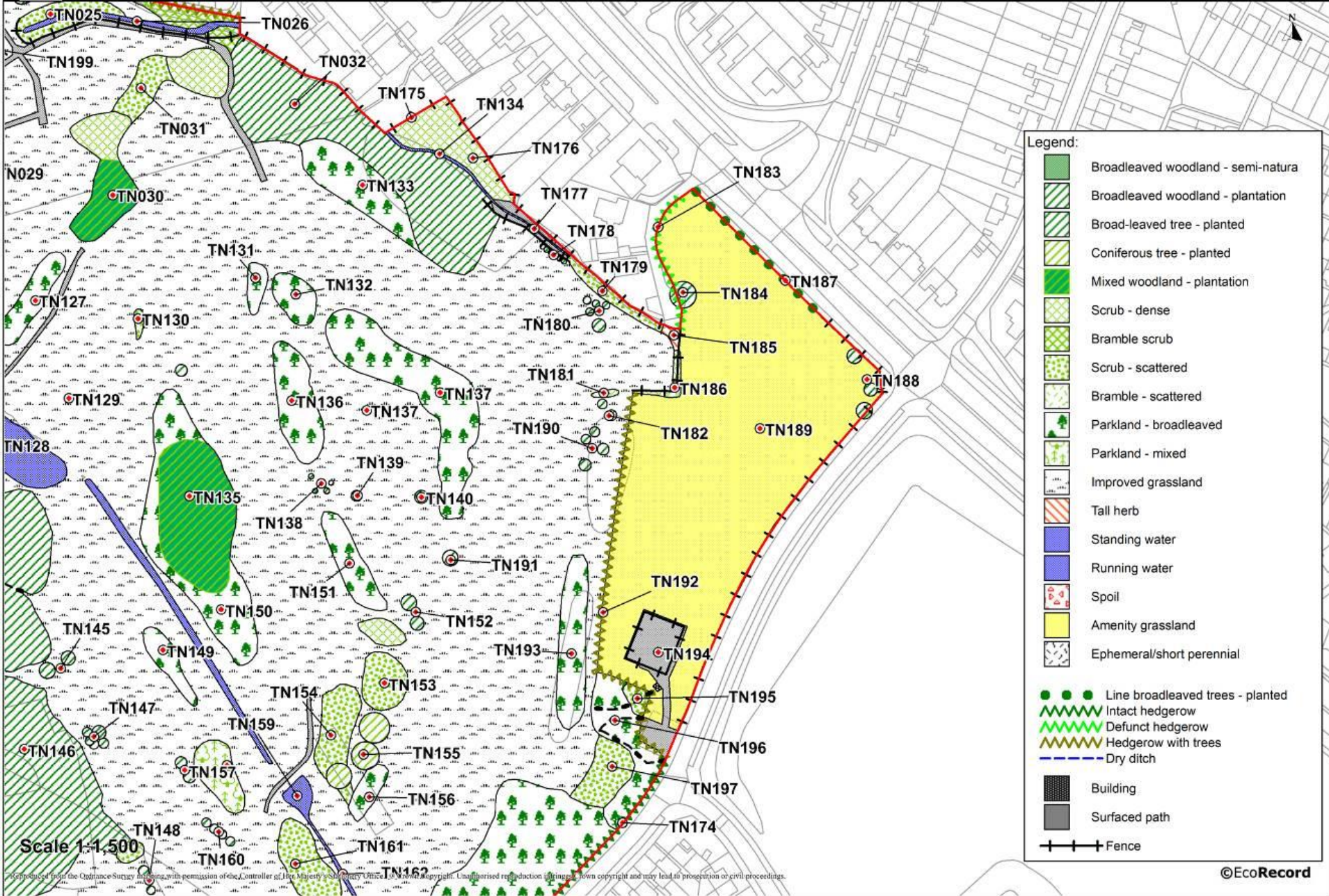




Map 5: Brandhall Golf Course Phase 1 Habitat Map Target Notes - North Central Area

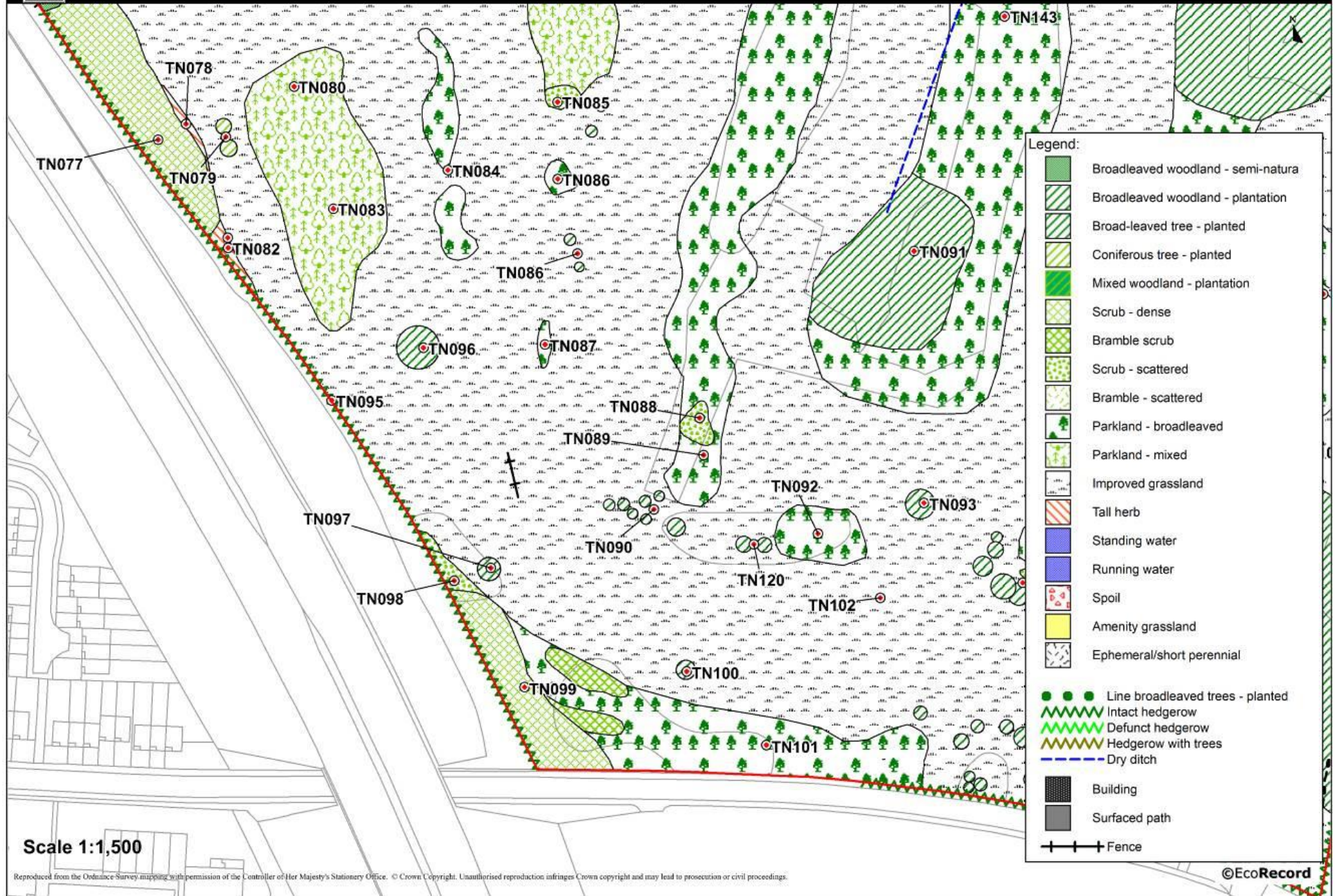


Map 6: Brandhall Golf Course Phase 1 Habitat Map Target Notes - North Eastern Area



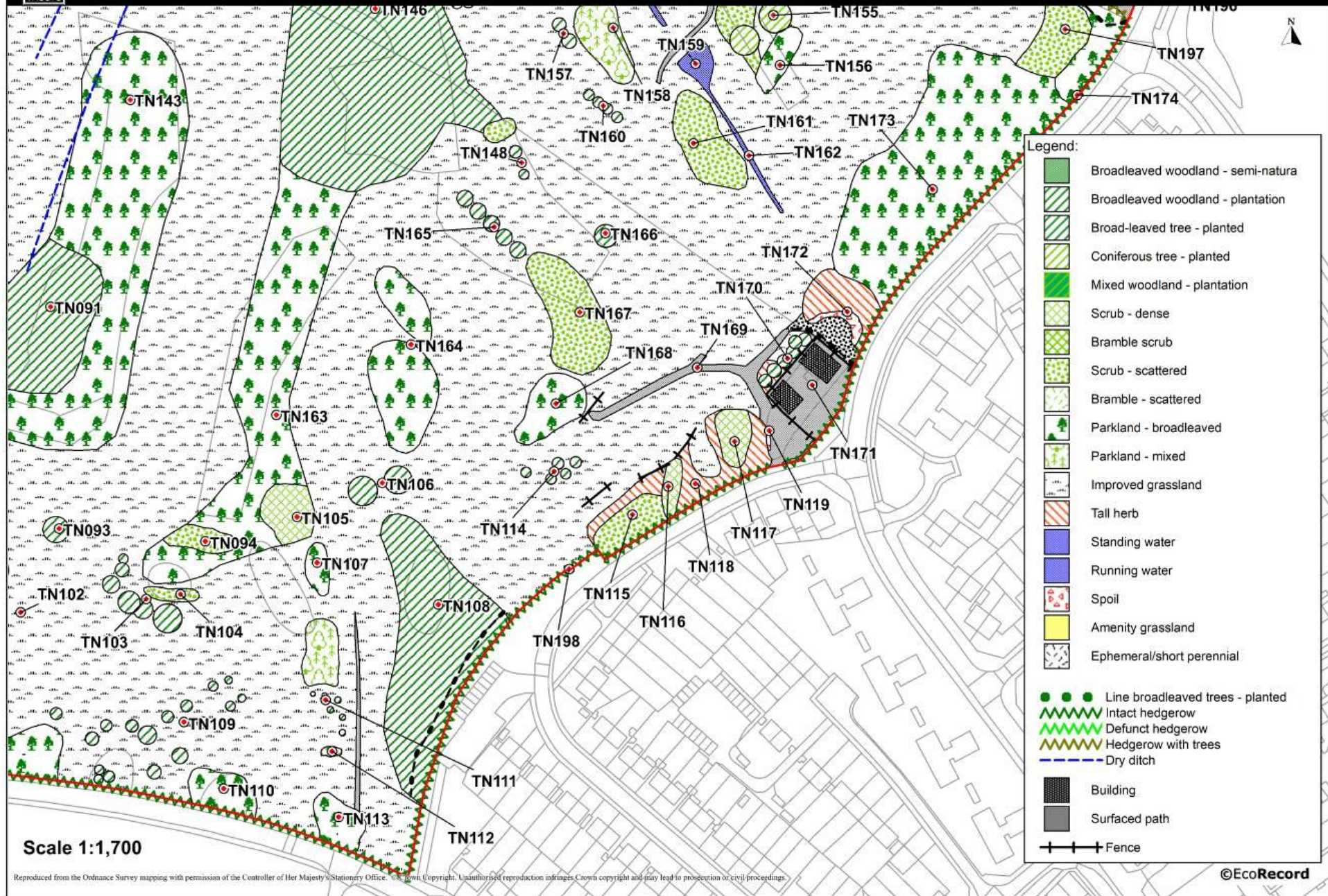


Map 7: Brandhall Golf Course Phase 1 Habitat Map Target Notes - South Western Area





Map 8: Brandhall Golf Course Phase 1 Habitat Map Target Notes - South Eastern Area



Target Notes

| Target Note Ref. | Target Note Description |
|------------------|---|
| TN001 | Weeping Willow |
| TN002 | Intensively managed grassland dominated by grass species including Perennial Rye-grass, Red Fescue and Annual Meadow-grass |
| TN003 | Young Willow sp. and Sycamore |
| TN004 | Competitive species have encroached onto the hard standing areas. Species include Common Speedwell, Red Fescue, Dandelion, Greater Plantain, Daisy, Great Willowherb and Acer saplings. |
| TN005 | Scattered scrub likely a former hedgerow that has lost its linear nature. Species include Hawthorn, Field Maple, Bramble, Sycamore, Cotoneaster, Horse Chestnut and Garlic Mustard. |
| TN006 | Former Golf building |
| TN007 | Scattered Hawthorn and Sycamore along the top of bank edge |
| TN008 | Manmade section of the stream with concrete sides and channel floor. A mid bar can be seen at one point comprising of Great Willowherb, Perennial Rye-grass and Broadleaved Dock |
| TN009 | Pedunculate Oak surrounded by Bramble, Holly and Cotoneaster. |
| TN010 | Scattered Bramble along the bankside of the stream |
| TN011 | Dry ditch heavily vegetated with Bramble |
| TN012 | Semi-mature Pedunculate Oak and Poplar sp. within an area dominated by Common Nettle, Broadleaved Dock and Cow Parsley |
| TN013 | Sewage tank surrounded by Bramble and Hornbeam |
| TN014 | Scattered Hawthorn scrub area formerly used to store equipment for the golf club. Astro turf rolls are still present. Three Pedunculate Oak lie within the scrub. |
| TN015 | Remnant Hawthorn hedgerow left unmanaged has encroached and self-set into adjacent areas. |
| TN016 | Scattered Bramble scrub |
| TN017 | Scattered scrub running along the length of the perimeter fence. Species comprise Field Rose, Bramble, Hawthorn, Alder, Privet, Pedunculate Oak and Cherry sp. |
| TN018 | Scattered Alder, Hawthorn and Bramble scrub |
| TN019 | Scattered Hawthorn and Alder |
| TN020 | Scattered Hornbeam, Field Maple and Wild Cherry |
| TN021 | Line of young Alder, Rowan, Bird Cherry and Silver Birch |
| TN022 | Pond feed by two streams. Bulrush, Soft Rush, Starwort and Brooklime can be found along the pond margins. |
| TN023 | Three Alder trees |
| TN025 | Scattered Alder, Raspberry and Bramble scrub |
| TN026 | Altered watercourse with steep concrete structure on the southern side. |
| TN027 | Three mature Willows |
| TN028 | Three Pinus sp. |
| TN029 | Two Alders |
| TN030 | Small mixed woodland comprising White Willow, Sycamore, Hawthorn and Larch |
| TN031 | Scattered to dense Hawthorn, Gorse and Elder scrub |
| TN032 | Young woodland dominated with Hazel and understorey with Horse Chestnut, Willow sp. and Bird Cherry |
| TN033 | Willow sp. surrounded by scattered Hawthorn |
| TN033 | Scattered Parkland tree comprising Silver Birch, Norway Maple, Willow species, Holly and Sycamore |
| TN034 | Remnant Hawthorn hedgerow that lies along metal fencing. The hedgerow interchanges between being located onsite and offsite. |
| TN035 | Dense Bramble with Silver Birch, Holly, Cow Parsley and Common Nettle |
| TN036 | Two Sycamore |

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|--------------|---|
| TN037 | Open woodland that has been transformed to woodland habitat from scattered parkland tree with the lack of management of the field layer. This has allowed self-setting and competitive species to become established created a woodland shrub and field layer |
| TN038 | Two semi-mature Ash |
| TN039 | Silver Birch |
| TN040 | Scattered young to semi-mature London Plane to Norway Maple |
| TN041 | Scattered Bramble, Field Maple, Norway Maple, Hazel, Blackthorn, Hawthorn and Elder scrub bordering the perimeter fence line |
| TN042 | Scattered young to mature Norway Maple, Apple, Pedunculate Oak, Ash, Field Maple and Silver Birch |
| TN043 | Young woodland comprising Hazel, Field Maple, Apple, Ash, White Willow, Field Rose, Wood Dock, Elder and Holly. |
| TN044 | Pedunculate Oak |
| TN045 | Cherry Species |
| TN046 | Young London Plane, Wild Cherry and Rowan |
| TN047 | Scattered semi-mature Poplar species, Pedunculate Oak and Wild Cherry |
| TN048 | Dense Hazel and Hawthorn scrub with occasional Blackthorn |
| TN049 | Sparse Hazel and Hawthorn scrub |
| TN050 | Sycamore |
| TN051 | Scattered semi-mature Ash, Silver Birch, Beech and Wild Cherry bordered by Hawthorn scrub. The open field layer under the semi-mature trees is dominated by competitive species. |
| TN052 | Scattered Sycamore and London Plane bordered by Hawthorn scrub |
| TN053 | Dense Bramble, Hawthorn, Larch, Silver Birch, Sycamore and Dogwood scrub. |
| TN054 | Mature Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn and Wild Cherry with an understorey of Yew and Hawthorn. |
| TN055 | Scattered Hornbeam, Hazel, Holly and Blackthorn scrub |
| TN056 | Scattered Hazel, Hawthorn, Bramble scrub bordering a palisade fence |
| TN057 | Group of Small Leaved Lime |
| TN058 | Linear line of Poplar, Cherry species and London Plane |
| TN059 | Scattered semi-mature Spruce |
| TN060 | Scattered Poplar species, Silver Birch, Alder and Beech |
| TN061 | Scattered Sycamore, Norway Maple and Goat Willow |
| TN062 | Hawthorn, Bramble and Elder scrub |
| TN063 | Four mature Sycamore |
| TN064 | Dry ditch with steep bankside. The channel is filled with Leaf litter while Soft Rush is occasionally present along the ditch edges. As such suggesting that it does fill with water drawing inclement weather. |
| TN065 | Scattered Silver Birch, White Willow, Hawthorn and Hybrid Black Poplar |
| TN066 | Young woodland which has naturally succeeded from scrub. Comprising of scrub adjacent scrub species in majority including Hawthorn and Field Maple, however, Silver Birch and Ash can be within the woodland adjacent to the site boundary. |
| TN067 | Area of cleared scrub, managed to ensure the overhead cables are clear of vegetation. With scrub re-establishing itself. |
| TN068 | Dense strip of scrub comprising Hazel, Hawthorn, Raspberry and Field Maple |
| TN069 | Scattered Silver Birch, Poplar, Pedunculate Oak, Common Whitebeam, London Plane, Beech, Sycamore and Ash |
| TN070 | Area cleared to allow access the onsite pylon. This area contains sporadic small patches of Bramble and soft rush in between small patches of remnant grassland habitat |
| TN071 | Scot's Pine |
| TN072 | Scot's Pine |
| TN073 | Pin Oak |
| TN074 | Three Leylandii |
| TN075 | Hawthorn, Holly and Bramble scrub |
| TN076 | Scattered Scot's Pine, Alder, Rowan and Silver Birch |

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| TN077 | Dense Hawthorn thicket with Field Maple, Bramble and Rowan |
| TN078 | Area dominated by Common Nettle and Rosebay Willowherb |
| TN079 | Two Scot's Pine |
| TN080 | Group of semi-mature Beech |
| TN081 | Young Goat Willow |
| TN082 | Area comprising Rosebay Willowherb, Broadleaved Dock, Great Willowherb and Bramble |
| TN083 | Scattered Semi-mature London Plane, Silver Birch, Sycamore and Hawthorn |
| TN084 | Scattered London Plane, Silver Birch, Ash and Sycamore |
| TN085 | Area of Bramble, Hawthorn and Hazel scrub |
| TN086 | Group of Hazel |
| TN086 | Field Maple and Hawthorn |
| TN087 | Group of young Bird Cherry |
| TN088 | Scattered Hawthorn, Hazel and Blackthorn scrub |
| TN089 | Scattered semi-mature to mature Silver Birch, Norway Maple, Field Maple, Sycamore, Silver Birch, Pedunculate Oak, Rowan and Bird Cherry |
| TN090 | Group of semi-mature to mature Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn and Poplar sp. |
| TN091 | Broadleaved woodland plantation comprising Alder, Hawthorn, Hornbeam and Pedunculate Oak |
| TN092 | Scattered semi-mature Downy Birch, Horse Chestnut, London Plane and Alder |
| TN093 | Young Pedunculate Oak |
| TN094 | Scattered Holly, Hawthorn and Elder scrub |
| TN095 | Intact Hawthorn dominate hedge with rare Hazel. |
| TN096 | Pedunculate Oak |
| TN097 | Pedunculate Oak |
| TN098 | Area of young to sapling Silver Birch scrub |
| TN099 | Area of dense Bramble with abundant young Ash and Cherry sp scattered throughout. |
| TN100 | Cherry species |
| TN101 | Scattered Parkland trees comprising Norway maple, Field Maple, Cherry Species and Horse Chestnut |
| TN102 | Meadow Foxtail abundant within the grassland sward. |
| TN103 | Group of young Silver Birch, Apple, Ash, Sycamore, Goat Willow and semi-mature Sessile Oak |
| TN104 | Scattered Hawthorn and Holly scrub |
| TN105 | Dense scrub comprising Bramble, Hazel, Elder, Cherry sp., Dogwood and Holly |
| TN106 | Poplar sp and Prunus sp. |
| TN107 | Young Wild Cherry |
| TN108 | Young woodland comprising London Plane, Alder, Silver Birch, Hawthorn, Dogwood, Raspberry, Wild Cherry and Silver Birch |
| TN109 | Young individual Wild Cherry, Poplar sp. and Ash |
| TN110 | Scattered Sycamore and Field Maple |
| TN111 | Scattered Wild Cherry, Silver Birch, Common Whitebeam, Field Maple and Bird Cherry |
| TN112 | Scattered Bramble with Ash and Field Maple |
| TN113 | Scattered young to semi-mature Common Whitebeam, Hawthorn and Norway Maple |
| TN114 | Scattered Horse Chestnut, London Plane, Field Maple and Wild Cherry |
| TN115 | Scattered semi-mature Sycamore, Hornbeam and London Plane |
| TN116 | Three semi-mature Hawthorn |
| TN117 | Scattered Semi-mature Norway Maple, Horse Chestnut and Wild Cherry |
| TN118 | Area dominated by Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, Field Forget Me Not, Cleavers, Rosebay Willowherb and Broadleaved Dock |
| TN119 | Spoil areas of Brash and Earth |
| TN120 | Two Poplar sp. |

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| TN121 | Group of Rowan and Silver Birch |
| TN122 | Scattered semi-mature Hornbeam, Hawthorn, Ash and Silver Birch tree bordered a steep sided dry ditch |
| TN123 | Pond heavily vegetated with Bulrush with abundant Marsh Marigold around the pond edge |
| TN124 | 1m wide stream running south to north. Occasional Yellow Iris and Soft Rush can be found along its edge |
| TN125 | Scattered Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Poplar sp. and Ash |
| TN126 | Sycamore, Norway Maple and Alder |
| TN127 | Scattered tree including Hawthorn, Norway Maple, Sycamore, Pedunculate Oak, Sweet Chestnut and Larch |
| TN128 | Pond heavily vegetated with Bulrush with Yellow Iris and soft Rush present along the edges. In the north-western section of the pond lies an area dominated by Common Water Starwort and Brooklime |
| TN129 | Regularly managed grassland comprising Perennial Rye-grass, Annual Meadow-grass and Creeping Bent. |
| TN130 | Elder and Bramble scrub |
| TN131 | Scattered group of Silver Birch |
| TN132 | Group of Pedunculate Oak |
| TN133 | Scattered semi-mature White Willow, Norway Maple, Hazel, Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn, Alder and Poplar sp. trees |
| TN134 | The stream now holds natural bankside with Lesser Celandine and Male Fern present on the bankside. |
| TN135 | Mixed woodland comprising a dense cluster of Norway Spruce surrounded by Horse Chestnut, Pedunculate Oak, Holly Hawthorn, Silver Birch and Ash |
| TN136 | Scattered Hawthorn, Silver Birch, Blackthorn and Pedunculate Oak |
| TN137 | Scattered Silver Birch, Pedunculate Oak, Hawthorn and Sycamore trees |
| TN137 | Field Wood-rush abundant with the grassland sward. |
| TN138 | Group of four Hornbeam |
| TN139 | Young Pedunculate Oak |
| TN140 | Sycamore |
| TN141 | Scattered young to mature Common Whitebeam, Rowan, Poplar sp., Pedunculate Oak, Silver Birch, Bird Cherry, Sycamore, Ash and Alder |
| TN142 | Young woodland comprising Sycamore, Common Whitebeam, Hawthorn, White Willow and Sycamore |
| TN143 | Scattered young to mature Horse Chestnut, Norway Maple, Poplar sp., Silver Birch and White Willow. |
| TN144 | Scattered Silver Birch, Horse Chestnut, Alder, Pedunculate Oak and Ash |
| TN145 | Two young Poplars |
| TN146 | Young woodland comprising Sycamore, Common Whitebeam, Holly, Hazel, Silver Birch, Elder and Hawthorn. |
| TN147 | Five young Hawthorn |
| TN148 | Hawthorn and Poplar sp. |
| TN149 | Scattered Wild Cherry and Beech |
| TN150 | Scattered Silver Birch, Cherry species and Ash surrounding mixed woodland |
| TN151 | Scattered Silver Birch and Acer sp. trees |
| TN152 | Semi-mature Sycamore and Ash |
| TN153 | hawthorn, Elder and Rose sp. scrub with Honeysuckle. |
| TN154 | Hawthorn and Holly scrub with scattered Bramble and Honeysuckle |
| TN155 | Three mature Scot's Pine |
| TN156 | Scattered young Silver Birch |
| TN157 | Two Wild Cherry |
| TN158 | Scattered Norway Spruce, Field Maple and Elder |
| TN159 | Flooded area of the stream at the time of survey. |
| TN160 | Four Field Maple |
| TN161 | Scrub area comprising Hawthorn, Wild Cherry, Bird Cherry, Silver Birch and Elder |
| TN162 | Narrow stream running south to north with 1m wide riparian edge along both banksides. |

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| TN163 | Scattered young to mature Bird Cherry, Wild Cherry, Poplar sp, Alder, Silver Birch, Elder, Norway Maple, Common Lime, Common Whitebeam, Ash, Horse Chestnut and Sycamore |
| TN164 | Scattered Beech, Ash, Poplar sp., Silver Birch, Hazel, and Sycamore |
| TN165 | Five Black Poplar Hybrid |
| TN166 | Horse Chestnut |
| TN167 | Mature scrub comprising Poplar sp, Sycamore, Ash, Alder, Silver Birch, Wild Cherry, Norway Maple and Cherry species |
| TN168 | Scattered semi-mature London Plane, Cherry sp., Ash, Alder and Poplar sp. |
| TN169 | Surfaced path |
| TN170 | Six mature Cherry species |
| TN171 | Compound with associated buildings and hard standing |
| TN172 | Area used to store large amounts of spoil on a regular basis. The older areas of spoil has been heavily encroached by Common Nettle, Cow Parsley, Dandelion, Cleavers and Bramble. |
| TN173 | Scattered semi-mature tree comprising Horse Chestnut, Wild Cherry, Black Poplar Hybrid, Pedunculate Oak, Sycamore, Plum, Alder and Hawthorn. |
| TN174 | Intact hedgerow dominated by Hawthorn with occasional Cotoneaster. Field layer comprising Garlic Mustard, Cock's Foot, Dandelion, Cleavers and Bluebell. |
| TN175 | Individual Hawthorn trees can be seen along the boundary suggesting a Hawthorn hedgerow was formerly present. However, this appears to be heavily encroached by the adjacent dense scrub. |
| TN176 | Unmanaged area of scrub comprised of Bramble, Cherry Laurel, Hawthorn, Sycamore, Common Nettle, Rosebay Willowherb and Lords and Ladies. |
| TN177 | Narrow stream running east to west with occasional Pendulas Sedge, Creeping Buttercup, Broadleaved Dock and Common Nettle along its bank edge. The bankside in majority consists of a steep sided concrete structure designed to stabilise the banks. |
| TN178 | Group of young Silver Birch trees |
| TN179 | Dense Bramble with Elder, Hawthorn and Cotoneaster |
| TN180 | Group of Cherry sp, Prunus sp. and Silver Birch |
| TN181 | Cotoneaster and Field Rose scrub |
| TN182 | Black Poplar hybrid and Hawthorn |
| TN183 | Line of semi-mature Ash with Hawthorn understorey |
| TN184 | Semi-mature Ash |
| TN185 | Area dominated by Broadleaved Dock and Common Nettle |
| TN186 | Dense Bramble, hawthorn and Elder scrub with an individual Ash tree. |
| TN187 | Sycamore tree line bordering the perimeter fence |
| TN188 | Group of individual young trees comprising Sycamore, Elder and Field Maple |
| TN189 | Intensively managed formal park. Sward is dominated by grass species including Perennial Rye-grass, Red Fescue and Annual Meadow-grass. |
| TN190 | Group of Hawthorn, Ash and Black Poplar hybrid |
| TN191 | Silver Birch |
| TN192 | Hawthorn dominated hedgerow which is only managed on the side as result the hedgerow is becoming defunct and the hawthorn individual are becoming trees. Some gaps have already formed which are used as informally access on to golf course. |
| TN193 | Scattered Norway Maple, White Willow, Norway Maple and Black Poplar Hybrid |
| TN194 | Basket Ball court and associated hardstanding and shelter |
| TN195 | Young hawthorn self-set from adjacent hedgerow |
| TN196 | Group of Sycamore, Poplar sp., and Holly with a field layer including Cow Parsley, Common Nettle and Bramble. |
| TN197 | Hazel scrub |
| TN198 | Hawthorn dominated hedgerow with Holly and Cotoneaster |
| TN199 | Scattered Cotoneaster, Alder and Bramble scrub |



Photograph 1: Hedgerow compartment H5 and the Parsons Hill Park (Compartment C5)



Photograph 2: Former Golf course fairway and scrub edges



Photograph 3: Eastern section of the altered stream



Photograph 4: Pond P3



Photograph 5: Pond P1 and the natural watercourse



Photograph 6: Scattered Parkland tree habitat within Compartment C3



Photograph 7: An example of the broadleaved woodland plantation habitat within compartment C3

Species Records

FLORA

C1 - Clubhouse and surrounds

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|-----------------------------------|------------------------|
| <i>Acer campestre</i> | Field Maple |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| <i>Bellis perennis</i> | Daisy |
| <i>Capsella bursa-pastoris</i> | Shepherd's-purse |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | Hornbeam |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | Dogwood |
| <i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i> | Himalayan Cotoneaster |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Cytisus scoparius</i> | Broom |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot |
| <i>Epilobium ciliatum</i> | American Willowherb |
| <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | Great Willowherb |
| <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Beech |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Red Fescue |
| <i>Ficaria verna</i> | Lesser Celandine |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Geranium robertianum</i> | Herb-Robert |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy |
| <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yorkshire-fog |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | Holly |
| <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> | Common Ragwort |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Perennial Rye-grass |
| <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> | Honeysuckle |
| <i>Plantago lanceolata</i> | Ribwort Plantain |
| <i>Plantago major</i> | Greater Plantain |
| <i>Poa annua</i> | Annual Meadow-grass |
| <i>Poa trivialis</i> | Rough Meadow-grass |
| <i>Quercus robur</i> | Pedunculate Oak |
| <i>Rhytidiadelphus squarrosus</i> | Springy Turf-moss |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble |
| <i>Rumex acetosa</i> | Common Sorrel |
| <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> | Broad-leaved Dock |
| <i>Salix</i> | Willow |
| <i>Salix babylonica</i> | flowering plant |
| <i>Stachys sylvatica</i> | Hedge Woundwort |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg. | Dandelion |
| <i>Trifolium dubium</i> | Lesser Trefoil |
| <i>Trifolium repens</i> | White Clover |
| <i>Tripleurospermum inodorum</i> | Scentless Mayweed |
| <i>Tussilago farfara</i> | Coltsfoot |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle |
| <i>Veronica persica</i> | Common Field-speedwell |

C2 - Over Ley Rough

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Acer campestre</i> | Field Maple |
| <i>Acer platanoides</i> | Norway Maple |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Betula pendula</i> | Silver Birch |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | Hornbeam |
| <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> | Rosebay Willowherb |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Creeping Thistle |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | Dogwood |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | Great Willowherb |
| <i>Epilobium montanum</i> | Broad-leaved Willowherb |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Red Fescue |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Ash |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Geranium robertianum</i> | Herb-Robert |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> | Hogweed |
| <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | Bluebell |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | Holly |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i> | Soft-rush |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Perennial Rye-grass |
| <i>Malus pumila</i> | Apple |
| <i>Myosotis arvensis</i> | Field Forget-me-not |
| <i>Picea</i> | Spruce |
| <i>Poa annua</i> | Annual Meadow-grass |
| <i>Poa trivialis</i> | Rough Meadow-grass |
| <i>Prunus</i> | Cherry |
| <i>Rosa arvensis</i> | Field-rose |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble |
| <i>Rubus idaeus</i> | Raspberry |
| <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> | Broad-leaved Dock |
| <i>Rumex sanguineus</i> | Wood Dock |
| <i>Salix alba</i> | White Willow |
| <i>Salix caprea</i> | Goat Willow |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> | Rowan |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg. | Dandelion |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle |
| <i>Veronica chamaedrys</i> | Germander Speedwell |

C3 - Former Golf Course Fairways and Plantings

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|----------------------------|--------------|
| <i>Acer campestre</i> | Field Maple |
| <i>Acer platanoides</i> | Norway Maple |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |

| | |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------|
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | Yarrow |
| <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Horse-chestnut |
| <i>Agrostis stolonifera</i> | Creeping Bent |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| <i>Alopecurus pratensis</i> | Meadow Foxtail |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Arrhenatherum elatius</i> | False Oat-grass |
| <i>Artemisia vulgaris</i> | Mugwort |
| <i>Betula pendula</i> | Silver Birch |
| <i>Betula pubescens</i> | Downy Birch |
| <i>Calystegia sepium</i> | Hedge Bindweed |
| <i>Cardamine pratensis</i> | Cuckooflower |
| <i>Carex pendula</i> | Pendulous Sedge |
| <i>Carpinus betulus</i> | Hornbeam |
| <i>Castanea sativa</i> | Sweet Chestnut |
| <i>Cerastium fontanum</i> | Common Mouse-ear |
| <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> | Rosebay Willowherb |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Creeping Thistle |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | Dogwood |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel |
| <i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i> | Himalayan Cotoneaster |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Deschampsia cespitosa</i> | Tufted Hair-grass |
| <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> | Male-fern |
| <i>Epilobium ciliatum</i> | American Willowherb |
| <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | Great Willowherb |
| <i>Equisetum arvense</i> | Field Horsetail |
| <i>Fagus sylvatica</i> | Beech |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Red Fescue |
| <i>Ficaria verna</i> | Lesser Celandine |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Ash |
| <i>Galium saxatile</i> | Heath Bedstraw |
| <i>Geranium dissectum</i> | Cut-leaved Crane's-bill |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy |
| <i>Heracleum sphondylium</i> | Hogweed |
| <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yorkshire-fog |
| <i>Holcus mollis</i> | Creeping Soft-grass |
| <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | Bluebell |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | Holly |
| <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Yellow Iris |
| <i>Jacobaea vulgaris</i> | Common Ragwort |
| <i>Juncus articulatus</i> | Jointed Rush |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i> | Soft-rush |
| <i>Lamium album</i> | White Dead-nettle |
| <i>Larix decidua</i> | European Larch |
| <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> | Garden Privet |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Perennial Rye-grass |
| <i>Lonicera periclymenum</i> | Honeysuckle |
| <i>Luzula campestris</i> | Field Wood-rush |

| | |
|--|---------------------|
| Myosotis arvensis | Field Forget-me-not |
| Pentaglottis sempervirens | Green Alkanet |
| Persicaria bistorta | Common Bistort |
| Phleum pratense | Timothy |
| Picea abies | Norway Spruce |
| Pinus | Pine |
| Pinus sylvestris | Scots Pine |
| Plantago lanceolata | Ribwort Plantain |
| Plantago major | Greater Plantain |
| Platanus occidentalis x orientalis = P. x hispanica | London Plane |
| Poa annua | Annual Meadow-grass |
| Poa trivialis | Rough Meadow-grass |
| Populus | Poplar |
| Populus alba | White Poplar |
| Populus nigra x deltoides = P. x canadensis | Hybrid Black-poplar |
| Prunus avium | Wild Cherry |
| Prunus domestica | Wild Plum |
| Prunus padus | Bird Cherry |
| Prunus spinosa | Blackthorn |
| Quercus palustris | Pin Oak |
| Quercus petraea | Sessile Oak |
| Quercus robur | Pedunculate Oak |
| Ranunculus acris | Meadow Buttercup |
| Ranunculus repens | Creeping Buttercup |
| Ribes sanguineum | Flowering Currant |
| Rosa arvensis | Field-rose |
| Rubus fruticosus agg. | Bramble |
| Rubus idaeus | Raspberry |
| Rumex acetosa | Common Sorrel |
| Rumex obtusifolius | Broad-leaved Dock |
| Salix | Willow |
| Salix alba | White Willow |
| Salix caprea | Goat Willow |
| Salix euxina x alba = S. x fragilis | Hybrid Crack-willow |
| Salix viminalis | Osier |
| Sambucus nigra | Elder |
| Sorbus aria agg. | Common Whitebeam |
| Taraxacum officinale agg. | Dandelion |
| Taxus baccata | Yew |
| Tilia cordata | Small-leaved Lime |
| Tilia platyphyllos x cordata = T. x europaea | Lime |
| Tussilago farfara | Coltsfoot |
| Ulex europaeus | Gorse |
| Urtica dioica | Common Nettle |
| Urtica urens | Small Nettle |
| Viburnum opulus | Guelder-rose |
| Vicia hirsuta | Hairy Tare |
| Viola odorata | Sweet Violet |

C4 - Townabrook Rough

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|--|---------------------|
| <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Horse-chestnut |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Arum maculatum</i> | Lords-and-Ladies |
| <i>Calystegia sepium</i> | Hedge Bindweed |
| <i>Carex</i> | Sedge |
| <i>Chamerion angustifolium</i> | Rosebay Willowherb |
| <i>Cornus sanguinea</i> | Dogwood |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot |
| <i>Dryopteris filix-mas</i> | Male-fern |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Red Fescue |
| <i>Ficaria verna</i> | Lesser Celandine |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy |
| <i>Platanus occidentalis</i> x <i>orientalis</i> = <i>P. x hispanica</i> | London Plane |
| <i>Populus nigra</i> x <i>deltoides</i> = <i>P. x canadensis</i> | Hybrid Black-poplar |
| <i>Prunus laurocerasus</i> | Cherry Laurel |
| <i>Prunus padus</i> | Bird Cherry |
| <i>Prunus spinosa</i> | Blackthorn |
| <i>Quercus robur</i> | Pedunculate Oak |
| <i>Ranunculus acris</i> | Meadow Buttercup |
| <i>Ranunculus repens</i> | Creeping Buttercup |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble |
| <i>Salix alba</i> | White Willow |
| <i>Salix caprea</i> | Goat Willow |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle |
| <i>Urtica urens</i> | Small Nettle |
| <i>Viburnum opulus</i> | Guelder-rose |
| <i>Vicia sativa</i> | Common Vetch |
| <i>Viola odorata</i> | Sweet Violet |

C5 - Queensway Open Space

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |
| <i>Achillea millefolium</i> | Yarrow |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Bellis perennis</i> | Daisy |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot |
| <i>Festuca rubra</i> | Red Fescue |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Holcus lanatus</i> | Yorkshire-fog |
| <i>Hypochaeris radicata</i> | Cat's-ear |
| <i>Lolium perenne</i> | Perennial Rye-grass |

| | |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Plantago major | Greater Plantain |
| Poa annua | Annual Meadow-grass |
| Ranunculus acris | Meadow Buttercup |
| Rubus fruticosus agg. | Bramble |
| Sambucus nigra | Elder |
| Taraxacum officinale agg. | Dandelion |
| Trifolium repens | White Clover |
| Veronica persica | Common Field-speedwell |
| Vicia sativa | Common Vetch |

H1 - Ferndale Road Hedge (S), Brandhall

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Creeping Thistle |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> | Bramble |
| <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> | Broad-leaved Dock |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle |

H2 - Clubhouse Hedge

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|------------------------------|---------------------|
| <i>Acer campestre</i> | Field Maple |
| <i>Acer pseudoplatanus</i> | Sycamore |
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Creeping Thistle |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Ash |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Geranium robertianum</i> | Herb-Robert |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy |
| <i>Myosotis arvensis</i> | Field Forget-me-not |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus agg.</i> | Bramble |
| <i>Salix alba</i> | White Willow |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |

H3 - Brandhall Lane Hedge

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|----------------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Aesculus hippocastanum</i> | Horse-chestnut |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot |
| <i>Fraxinus excelsior</i> | Ash |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Hedera helix subsp. helix</i> | Common Ivy |

Heracleum sphondylium
 Plantago lanceolata
 Plantago major
 Sambucus nigra
 Taraxacum officinale agg.
 Urtica dioica
 Veronica persica
 Vicia sativa

Hogweed
 Ribwort Plantain
 Greater Plantain
 Elder
 Dandelion
 Common Nettle
 Common Field-speedwell
 Common Vetch

H4 - Wolverhampton Road Hedge (S),
Brandhall

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Acer pseudoplatanus | Sycamore |
| Achillea millefolium | Yarrow |
| Aesculus hippocastanum | Horse-chestnut |
| Alliaria petiolata | Garlic Mustard |
| Anthriscus sylvestris | Cow Parsley |
| Cardamine pratensis | Cuckooflower |
| Crataegus monogyna | Hawthorn |
| Festuca rubra | Red Fescue |
| Galium aparine | Cleavers |
| Geum urbanum | Wood Avens |
| Heracleum sphondylium | Hogweed |
| Holcus lanatus | Yorkshire-fog |
| Myosotis arvensis | Field Forget-me-not |
| Plantago lanceolata | Ribwort Plantain |
| Plantago major | Greater Plantain |
| Sambucus nigra | Elder |
| Taraxacum officinale agg. | Dandelion |
| Tripleurospermum inodorum | Scentsless Mayweed |
| Urtica dioica | Common Nettle |
| Veronica persica | Common Field-speedwell |

H5 - Townabrook Hedge (S)

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Anthriscus sylvestris | Cow Parsley |
| Calystegia sepium | Hedge Bindweed |
| Cirsium vulgare | Spear Thistle |
| Cotoneaster | flowering plant |
| Crataegus monogyna | Hawthorn |
| Fraxinus excelsior | Ash |
| Galium aparine | Cleavers |
| Hedera helix | Ivy |
| Quercus robur | Pedunculate Oak |
| Rubus fruticosus agg. | Bramble |
| Rumex obtusifolius | Broad-leaved Dock |
| Salix | Willow |
| Salix alba | White Willow |
| Sambucus nigra | Elder |
| Taraxacum officinale agg. | Dandelion |
| Urtica dioica | Common Nettle |

H6 - M5 Hedge, Brandhall

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|------------------------------|--------------------|
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Creeping Thistle |
| <i>Corylus avellana</i> | Hazel |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Hedera helix</i> | Ivy |
| <i>Petasites fragrans</i> | Winter Heliotrope |
| <i>Ranunculus acris</i> | Meadow Buttercup |
| <i>Ranunculus repens</i> | Creeping Buttercup |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle |

H7 - Queensway Hedge (N), Brandhall

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|----------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Alliaria petiolata</i> | Garlic Mustard |
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Cotoneaster simonsii</i> | Himalayan Cotoneaster |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Dactylis glomerata</i> | Cock's-foot |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Geum urbanum</i> | Wood Avens |
| <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> | Garden Privet |
| <i>Pentaglottis sempervirens</i> | Green Alkanet |
| <i>Ranunculus repens</i> | Creeping Buttercup |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg. | Dandelion |

H8 - Tame Road and Brand Hall Trackway Hedge

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| <i>Anthriscus sylvestris</i> | Cow Parsley |
| <i>Calystegia sepium</i> | Hedge Bindweed |
| <i>Cirsium arvense</i> | Creeping Thistle |
| <i>Cotoneaster</i> | flowering plant |
| <i>Crataegus monogyna</i> | Hawthorn |
| <i>Galium aparine</i> | Cleavers |
| <i>Hyacinthoides non-scripta</i> | Bluebell |
| <i>Ilex aquifolium</i> | Holly |
| <i>Ligustrum ovalifolium</i> | Garden Privet |
| <i>Rubus fruticosus</i> agg. | Bramble |
| <i>Rumex obtusifolius</i> | Broad-leaved Dock |
| <i>Sambucus nigra</i> | Elder |
| <i>Sorbus aucuparia</i> | Rowan |
| <i>Taraxacum officinale</i> agg. | Dandelion |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle |

P1 - Clubhouse Pond

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Callitriche stagnalis</i> | Common Water-starwort |

| | |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Caltha palustris</i> | Marsh-marigold |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i> | Soft-rush |
| <i>Typha latifolia</i> | Bulrush |
| <i>Veronica beccabunga</i> | Brooklime |

P2 - House Meadow Pond

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|----------------------------|----------------|
| <i>Alnus glutinosa</i> | Alder |
| <i>Caltha palustris</i> | Marsh-marigold |
| <i>Salix</i> | Willow |
| <i>Salix caprea</i> | Goat Willow |
| <i>Typha latifolia</i> | Bulrush |
| <i>Veronica beccabunga</i> | Brooklime |

P3 - Brandhall Pond

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|------------------------------|-----------------------|
| <i>Callitriche stagnalis</i> | Common Water-starwort |
| <i>Epilobium hirsutum</i> | Great Willowherb |
| <i>Iris pseudacorus</i> | Yellow Iris |
| <i>Juncus effusus</i> | Soft-rush |
| <i>Persicaria amphibia</i> | Amphibious Bistort |
| <i>Salix caprea</i> | Goat Willow |
| <i>Typha latifolia</i> | Bulrush |
| <i>Urtica dioica</i> | Common Nettle |
| <i>Veronica beccabunga</i> | Brooklime |

FAUNA

Whole Site

| Scientific Name | Common Name |
|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| <i>Bombus lapidarius</i> | Red-tailed Bumblebee |
| <i>Aegithalos caudatus</i> | Long-tailed Tit |
| <i>Buteo buteo</i> | Buzzard |
| <i>Columba palumbus</i> | Woodpigeon |
| <i>Corvus corone agg.</i> | Carrion/Hooded Crow |
| <i>Cyanistes caeruleus</i> | Blue Tit |
| <i>Dendrocopos major</i> | Great Spotted Woodpecker |
| <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | Robin |
| <i>Erithacus rubecula</i> | Robin |
| <i>Gallinula chloropus</i> | Moorhen |
| <i>Garrulus glandarius</i> | Jay |
| <i>Parus major</i> | Great Tit |
| <i>Passer domesticus</i> | House Sparrow |
| <i>Pica pica</i> | Magpie |
| <i>Picus viridis</i> | Green Woodpecker |
| <i>Troglodytes troglodytes</i> | Wren |
| <i>Turdus merula</i> | Blackbird |
| <i>Meles meles</i> | Eurasian Badger |
| <i>Vulpes vulpes</i> | Red Fox |

Appendix 1: Geological Information

Black Country Geological Society

Local Geological Sites (SINCS & SLINCS) Condition Monitoring Form - for NI 197 reporting.

| 1. Site Information | | | | | | | |
|---|------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|--|--------------------|--|------------|
| Site Name & ID | | Brandhall Golf Course SLINC SA097 | | | | | |
| Site Type | | ED | Grid Reference | | SO 9940 8650 | | |
| Date of Visit | | Feb 2009 | Local Authority | | Sandwell MBC | | |
| Surveyor | | | Landowner | | | | |
| 1:50,000 BGS Sheet no. | | 168 Birmingham | 1:25,000 OS Sheet no. | | Explorer 219 SO 98 | | |
| RIGS designation | Scientific | Y | Educational | | Aesthetic | | Historical |
| Interest Feature(s): | | | | | | | |
| An outcrop of Enville Formation sandstone overlaid by calcareous conglomerate in a former gravel pit. | | | | | | | |
| Previous management and dates (if any) | | | | | | | |
| | | | | | | | |

| 2. Primary Factors | | | | | | | | |
|--|--|---|-----|--|---|--|--|--|
| Bedrock feature | Is (are) the feature(s) exposed? | | YES | | If No, can it (they) practically be re-exposed? | | | |
| | Is (are) the feature(s) being affected by the following factors? | | | | | | | |
| | Factor | | Y/N | Comments | | | | |
| | Vegetation | | | | | | | |
| | Scree/Mass Movement | | | | | | | |
| | Flooding | | | | | | | |
| | Dumping/Landfill | | | | | | | |
| | Quarrying/Engineering Works | | | | | | | |
| Superficial deposit feature | Is (are) the feature(s) exposed? | | | | If No, can it (they) practically be re-exposed? | | | |
| | Is (are) the feature(s) being affected by the following factors? | | | | | | | |
| | Vegetation (Trees or crop planting) | | | | | | | |
| | Agricultural practices (deep ploughing) | | | | | | | |
| | Quarrying/Engineering Works | | | | | | | |
| | Development (housing/industrial) | | | | | | | |
| | Others (please define) - | | Y | Near fairways of golf course but no direct threats. Some litter. | | | | |
| | Geomorphology feature | Is (are) the geomorphological feature(s) being allowed to evolve naturally? | | | | | | |
| Is (are) the feature(s) being affected by the following factors? | | | | | | | | |
| Vegetation | | | | | | | | |
| Sea Defences | | | | | | | | |
| River Management | | | | | | | | |
| Ground Stabilisation (slopes/sand dunes) | | | | | | | | |
| Water level change | | | | | | | | |
| Development (housing/industrial) | | | | | | | | |
| Others (please define) - | | | | | | | | |

| 3. Secondary Factors | | | |
|--|---|-----|---------------------------|
| Factors that do not directly affect the feature(s) but may need to be managed in order for feature(s) to maintain a desirable condition | | | |
| | Factor | Y/N | Comments |
| Site access | Are any of the following causing difficulties in accessing the site? | | |
| | Physical obstacles | | |
| | Landowner permissions | Y | Permission from Clubhouse |
| | Protected species/habitats | | |
| | Other (please define) | | |
| Furniture | Are any of the following in an undesirable condition? | | |
| | Interpretation Boards | | |
| | Benches/Fences/Gates | | |
| | Earthworks | | |
| | Other (please define) | | |
| Other features | Are there any other features of interest that should be considered? | | |
| | Biodiversity | | |
| | Historic Environment | | |
| | Other (please define) | | |

| Site Status | |
|--|----------------------------------|
| Overall, is the site in a desirable condition for use(s) of the feature(s) identified? | Yes / No / Uncertain |
| | Status: Good |
| If Yes - what management is required (if any) for the feature(s) to maintain a desirable condition: Some cleaning of litter would improve the general aspect | |
| For the above, is the management: <i>Being undertaken / Going to be undertaken / Not going to be undertaken / Not possible</i> | |
| If Uncertain or No - what management is required for the feature(s) to reach and maintain a desirable condition: | |
| For the above, is the management: <i>Being undertaken / Going to be undertaken / Not going to be undertaken / Not possible</i> | |
| Are there any secondary factors that need further management? | Yes / No / Not applicable |
| Suggested management in order for the feature(s) to reach/maintain a desirable condition: | |



Map showing boundary of Geological SLINC:



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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Review of Parking Charges Policy |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Zahoor Ahmed - Cabinet Member for Environment Services |
| Director: | Alice Davey - Director of Borough Economy |
| Key Decision: | <p>Yes;</p> <p>Type (b) - an executive decision which is likely to result in the Council incurring expenditure, the making of savings or the generation of income amounting to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - £250,000 or more where the service area budget exceeds £10m; - £100,000 or more where the service area budget is less than £10m; <p>Type (c) - an executive decision which is likely to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough.</p> |
| Contact Officer: | <p>Robin Weare Service Manager, Highways Robin_weare@sandwell.gov.uk</p> |

1 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 1.1 That approval be given to the realignment of parking charges to support the objectives of Climate Change Policy, Carbon Reduction, Air Quality, sustainable transport choices, balancing available parking with demand and to meet the cost of providing and maintaining car parks, parking related services and highway projects.



- 1.2 That future reviews of the appropriate documents that make up the Sandwell Local Plan consider the appropriate level of parking provision in centres for the future taking into account the level of redevelopment planned and implemented since the last review, climate change policy and facilitating modal shift through parking management.
- 1.3 That approval be given to authorise the Director Borough Economy to implement the revised scales of parking charges set out in the recommendations subject to statutory public consultation for the changes to Traffic Regulation Orders.
- 1.4 That the Cabinet Member for Environment be authorised to consider and determine any unresolved objections in relation to Traffic Regulation Order concerning parking charges, arising from the statutory public consultation; and that they be delegated to make any adjustments to the proposals as part of their determination.
- 1.5 That the proposed scales of charges in this report are not applied to Sandwell Valley car parks.
- 1.6 That for all other off-street car parking, the scale of charges outside West Bromwich be reset from the start of 2023 including a new low cost 30 minute charge to assist small businesses. The scale of charges then to increase at the start of each year until the start of 2027 as follows :-

| Up to No. of Hours | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|-------|
| 30 mins | 20p | 30p | 40p | 50p | 50p |
| 1 hr | 50p | 60p | 70p | 70p | 70p |
| 2 hrs | £1.00 | £1.10 | £1.20 | £1.20 | £1.20 |
| 3 hrs | £1.50 | £1.60 | £1.70 | £1.70 | £1.70 |
| 4 hrs | £2.00 | £2.10 | £2.20 | £2.30 | £2.40 |
| Day | £4.00 | £4.50 | £5.00 | £5.50 | £6.00 |

- 1.7 That for off-street car parking, the scale of charges within West Bromwich be reset at the start of 2023 including a new low cost 30 minute charge to assist small businesses. The scale of charges then to increase at the start of each year until the start of 2027 as follows:-



| Up to No. of Hours | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|--------------------|-------|-------|-------|-------|--------|
| 30 mins | 40p | 60p | 80p | 80p | 80p |
| 1 hr | £1.00 | £1.20 | £1.40 | £1.60 | £1.80 |
| 2 hrs | £2.00 | £2.20 | £2.40 | £2.40 | £2.40 |
| 3 hrs | £3.00 | £3.20 | £3.40 | £3.40 | £3.40 |
| 4 hrs | £4.00 | £4.20 | £4.40 | £4.60 | £4.80 |
| Day | £8.00 | £8.50 | £9.00 | £9.50 | £10.00 |

1.8 That parking shall be free of charge at the following times to assist small businesses.

- On Sundays,
- Overnight between the hours of 18.00 and 08.00.
- For Blue badge holders and
- For two Saturdays before Christmas
- Every Saturday for season ticket holders

1.9 That short stay on-street parking charges will remain unchanged to assist small businesses.

1.10 That, to support flexible working, encourage the use of sustainable transport alternatives and free up short stay parking to assist small businesses, the annual charges for long stay season tickets that operate on nominated days of the week be set as follows, on the basis of one season ticket per vehicle, also valid for use at Sandwell Valley car parks on the nominated days. West Bromwich long stay Season Tickets are valid for all Council long stay car parking on the nominated days.

Outside West Bromwich

| No of Days per Wk | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-------------------|------|------|------|------|------|
| 1 | £40 | £45 | £50 | £55 | £60 |
| 2 | £100 | £115 | £125 | £140 | £155 |
| 3 | £200 | £225 | £250 | £275 | £300 |
| 4 | £300 | £330 | £350 | £380 | £410 |
| 5 | £400 | £450 | £500 | £550 | £600 |



Within West Bromwich (also valid outside West Bromwich for the same nominated days)

| No of Days per Wk | 2023 | 2024 | 2025 | 2026 | 2027 |
|-------------------|------|------|-------|-------|-------|
| 1 | £80 | £90 | £100 | £110 | £120 |
| 2 | £200 | £230 | £250 | £280 | £310 |
| 3 | £400 | £450 | £500 | £550 | £600 |
| 4 | £600 | £660 | £700 | £760 | £820 |
| 5 | £800 | £900 | £1000 | £1100 | £1200 |

- 1.11 That to support Climate Change and air quality objectives the following concessionary reduction will apply.
- For all zero emission electric vehicles a 50% reduction in season ticket prices will apply
- 1.12 That the monthly scales of season ticket charges will be levied at 10% of the annual scales of season ticket charges for car parks either within West Bromwich or outside west Bromwich as appropriate.
- 1.13 That at the few locations where long stay on-street parking charges are necessary, charges will be set to correspond with the off-street scale of hourly parking charges.
- 1.14 That the Off-Street Parking Places order is also updated with the following changes for public consultation.
- Remove Bull Street Multi Storey, West Bromwich and Morrisons car park and Market Place car park, Wednesbury.
 - Include wording for paying by other means advertised where there is no functioning ticket machine, no refunds for season tickets and spaces marked for electric vehicle recharging to only be used when actively recharging a vehicle.
 - Include West Bromwich Street and Causeway Green Road car parks in the main Off Street Order and revoke the two individual orders.
 - Change the operating times for New Street Disabled car park, West Bromwich. At present it is Monday to Saturday 8am to 6pm. New time 7 days a week at any time. This is to keep spaces available for blue badge holders in the evening.
 - Include Roway Lane car park, Oldbury.



- Include wording so that bays marked for recharging electric vehicles, disabled badge holders and motorcycles operate at all times. This is to prevent others parking in these bays after 6pm.
- 1.15 That, subject to public consultation and the consideration of objections, new traffic regulation orders are implemented around town centres to prevent the displacement of parking to the streets through the introduction of resident parking schemes supplemented by yellow and red line restrictions where appropriate.
 - 1.16 That the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to undertake the necessary public and statutory consultation required to introduce and amend the necessary Traffic Regulation Orders (TRO's);
 - 1.17 That the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to undertake the necessary statutory procedures to bring the approved recommendations into effect.
 - 1.18 That the revised charges be implemented on completion of statutory processes for the changes to the scales of charges;

2 REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The purpose of this report is to review Sandwell Parking Policy to ensure that Sandwell Council can continue to provide suitable, adequate, safe and well-maintained public parking to secure the following objectives.

- To support the response to the Climate Change Emergency by reducing congestion in and around our town centres and reducing carbon emissions.
- To facilitate more working from home, walking and cycling for short journeys and journeys to work.
- To secure the health benefits associated with more active transport choices and improved air quality.
- To free up more parking spaces on town centre car parks for short stay shoppers and visitors who contribute to the local economy.
- To fund the post pandemic costs of the parking service, the provision, operation, maintenance (schedule in Appendix A), enforcement of car parks, Highway Maintenance and traffic management on the network.



- 2.2 The proposed introduction of new parking charges following completion of statutory processes, is a consequence of increased working from home following the pandemic together with the effects of inflation on the cost of the services. These revised charges are also set to enhance and scale up the usage and benefits of active travel infrastructure being provided to help encourage more people to choose alternatives ways to travel, making healthier habits easier and making sure the road networks are ready to respond to future increases in demand.

Existing Regional Policy Adopted by Sandwell

- 2.3 The UK is legally committed to an 80% reduction in carbon emissions by 2050 (relative to 1990 levels) and Parliament declared a climate change emergency in May 2019. Sandwell Council declared a climate change emergency in March 2020. This parking policy change is designed to alleviate congestion, encourage modal shift to cycling and walking, reduce short journeys by car to town centres and encourage working from home. This will support the strategic response to the Climate Change Emergency, reducing our carbon footprint and improving air quality.
- 2.4 Sandwell is one of seven constituent authorities in the West Midlands Combined Authority. The West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan: Movement for Growth provides the following policy direction, “there is a need to balance the role of car access to centres to support economic vitality, whilst promoting the use of public transport, cycling and walking. This is to ensure that private car volumes are not at such levels where the dominance of the car detracts from the quality of the environment of our centres”.
- 2.5 The Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS) is a planning and regeneration plan for the whole of the Black Country and comprises the upper tier of the adopted Sandwell Local Plan. The BCCS sets out the vision, objectives and strategy for future development in the Black Country up to 2026 and beyond. The BCCS (adopted February 2011) states that “demand management and the promotion of sustainable transport will play a key part in achieving a shift in favour of these modes of transport”. The BCCS supports this priority which will assist in reducing congestion, greenhouse gas emissions, improve road safety, promote social cohesion and improve the attractiveness of centres as places to visit and invest in”.



- 2.6 The Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document (SADDPD) is a key part of the Sandwell Local Plan and builds on the Black Country Core Strategy, providing much greater detail for Sandwell. The SADDPD notes that car parking provision has an effect on travel choices, the quantity of road traffic and congestion”.
- 2.7 The West Bromwich Area Action Plan (WBAAP) forms part of Sandwell's Local Plan. The Plan concentrates on developing a strategy to capture the growth required to make this a strategic town centre within the Black Country Sub-Region, as well as looking at the wider area to support the housing needs for the town. The WBAAP (adopted in December 2012) requires the Council to make provision “for an appropriate level of convenient and suitably managed car parking to facilitate the regeneration and viability of the town centre”.

The Reasons for a Review of Parking Policy in Sandwell

- 2.8 This parking policy change is designed to alleviate congestion, encourage modal shift to cycling and walking, reduce short journeys by car to town centres and facilitate the trend towards more working from home all of which have recently assisted in reducing carbon emissions globally during the pandemic. This will support Sandwell’s strategic response to the Climate Change Emergency, reducing our carbon footprint and improving air quality.
- 2.9 Through the Local Air Quality Management (LAQM) system local authorities are required to assess air quality in their area and designate Air Quality Management Areas (AQMA) if improvements are necessary. The objectives of the LAQM system have been put in place to protect people's health and the environment. The whole of Sandwell has been declared as an Air Quality Management Area due to likely exceedances of the Air Quality Objective for Nitrogen Dioxide of 40 micrograms per cubic metre (ug/m3). An action plan has been developed and we are working on initiatives to improve the situation. Initiatives that support air quality improvements include demand management that promotes the use of sustainable transport such as walking and cycling and reduced congestion through traffic management. The efficient management of town centre parking is an important contributor to these objectives. Priority areas for air quality improvement in Sandwell include town centre locations such as parts of Blackheath, Bearwood, Oldbury and West Bromwich.



- 2.10 As a result of the COVID19 pandemic, multiple sources indicate that we experienced an unrivalled drop in carbon output with the reduction in road transport being the principal factor. A reduction in travel, such as commuting due to working from home policies, has played its part in reducing carbon emissions. According to the International Energy Agency (IEA) global average road transport activity fell to 50% of the 2019 level during the COVID 19 lockdowns. This was certainly reflected across Sandwell, with traffic levels through town centres significantly reduced, assisting in the boroughs air quality and climate change objectives. However, with the lifting of lockdown restrictions, there has been a return to previous patterns of behaviour without lessons being learned and consequently, the high risks of climate change are once again exacerbated. The challenge now for Sandwell is to ensure that the economic recovery and the transition to a sustainable and climate-neutral local economy go hand in hand.
- 2.11 In 2019 there was increasing concern that parking demand in key town centres such as West Bromwich is exceeding the supply of available parking spaces. Without action one effect is a reduction on parking availability for customers on small businesses. This issue can also lead to competition for available parking spaces and indiscriminate parking and causing congestion and highway safety concerns. The council has a responsibility to manage these key issues. This is particularly important when also considering the strategic response to the Climate Change Emergency, reducing our carbon footprint, improving air quality and supporting the modal shift in transport use.
- 2.12 Increased parking demand is driven by population growth and increased levels of car ownership. Sandwell trend statistics illustrate that population in Sandwell has been growing at around 2% per year for several years and these population growth forecasts are regularly revised upwards. One feature of population growth in Sandwell has been significant increases in population between the ages of 25 to 35.
- 2.13 Department for Transport statistics on vehicle mileage per year have also shown an increase of around 2% annually for several years, excluding the periods affected by the pandemic. These national trends together with the pattern of local population growth imply that car use in Sandwell (and hence parking) has been increasing at more than 2% per year for several years.



- 2.14 In 2018 and 2019 the Council had received complaints from town centre workers, particularly in West Bromwich, experiencing difficulty finding parking spaces after 8am. There have been reports of spending up to an hour driving around the town centre car parks looking for parking spaces after 10am. This is not only a hidden cost to small businesses and services in the town but also contributes to congestion and poor air quality. This could also have an adverse impact on town centre trade and would be contrary to the car parking policy in the West Bromwich Area Action Plan. Urgent action is needed to ensure these circumstances do not become re-established and to secure the associated benefits to support the Council response to the Climate Change Emergency.
- 2.15 The proposed charging regime associated with the Birmingham Clean Air Zone (CAZ) is likely to increase demand for public transport services in Sandwell as both commuters and those making leisure journeys into Birmingham City Centre seek to avoid the CAZ charges and choose less expensive travel modes. The outcome is likely to be an increase in parking outside the zone and around key interchanges such as bus, train and tram stations in Sandwell. There are likely to be key impacts at town centre locations where low-cost car parks can be used for transfer to metro, train and bus station interchanges. Increasing parking charges for season tickets will ensure that parking spaces are retained for short stay customers of small businesses rather than being used by commuters to park and ride into Birmingham.
- 2.16 National government funding to support the implementation of a CAZ is only available for the authority implementing the scheme. Sandwell Council will have to fund measures to mitigate the future impacts of Birmingham's CAZ within Sandwell from existing budgets.
- 2.17 The pre-lockdown demand pressure on local car parks illustrates that the availability of low-cost parking presents a significant risk of encouraging car travel in preference to using sustainable travel options to our town centres. This adds pressure to the local transport network, increasing congestion, impacting on air quality and reducing the through flow of visitors to the area. Should this continue, the increase in costs for car park maintenance, enforcement, traffic regulation orders (to control overflow parking on-street) and the implementation of road safety measures is likely to place further pressure on Council budgets. These consequential effects and mitigation measures are a regular feature on the highway network when localised demand for



parking exceeds supply. Examples that will be familiar to many, are parking around the General Hospital, around Providence Place, around Sandwell College and around expanded schools, etc.

The Current Provision of Parking in Sandwell

- 2.18 The town centres of Sandwell have the greatest demand for parking throughout the day together with many constraints on the supply of spaces. The Council operates 48 car parks across the borough and 40 of these are in town centres where charges provide an appropriate means of demand management. Similar management of on-street parking in town centres includes pay and display parking bays and appropriate parking restrictions.
- 2.19 There are 3,059 council operated car parking spaces in the borough and charges are applied on 2,798 of this total. Out of the 2,798 spaces where charges apply there are only 161 dedicated for short stay use. The remaining 2,637 spaces can be used for both short and long stays.
- 2.20 Parking charges are applied to car parks where demand would otherwise exceed available spaces. In recent years West Bromwich has suffered most from demand exceeding supply. This imbalance increased when parking charges in West Bromwich were reduced in 2016 and is likely to have had a negative effect on small businesses. West Bromwich is well served by public transport, residential parking schemes, an extensive 20 mph zone, cycling and walking routes. Consequently from 2000 until 2016 West Bromwich sustained parking charges at twice the level charged in other towns in the borough. The higher charges for the West Bromwich zone served to restrain demand and encourage sustainable transport choices.
- 2.21 Allocated on-street parking in Sandwell is predominantly short-stay and for limited permissible durations that match the requirements of adjacent trade and service outlets ensuring optimum turnover. Charges apply in the busiest on street locations to manage demand. There are locations in Sandwell where long stay demand has exceeded the capacity of car parks and parking capacity is available on adjacent streets. In these circumstances adjacent streets provide for the overflow long stay demand. These on-street parking bays are provided at a scale of charges to match the long stay public car parks.

Policy Conclusions






- 2.22 An analysis of supply and demand before COVID 19 lockdown concluded that public long stay parking shortages can best be addressed by reducing long stay demand rather than increasing supply. This would be the most effective near-term measure and would also benefit short stay supply for localised short stay users. This approach would mitigate the risk of returning to the demand pressures experienced before the pandemic by incentivising modal shift, plus a continuation of home working and would provide urgent support to the Councils strategy for mitigating the Climate Change Emergency.
- 2.23 Charging for parking fulfils statutory purposes including, but not limited to, recovering the cost of car park maintenance, parking management, operation and enforcement, implementation of Traffic Regulation Orders, enforcement, demand management and statutory road safety duties. Price inflation has also significantly increased the cost of providing services beyond the limits of the currently available budgets and consequently increased income is needed to ensure statutory duties and functions can be delivered. The associated long-term investment in the quality of the car parks should also be considered (schedule in Appendix A).
- 2.24 The realignment of parking charges to around the highest levels charged by neighbouring Black Country authorities would restrain and alleviate long stay demand for the benefit of essential long and short stay users. This would encourage more use of cycling and walking, also creating space on town centre car parks for additional cycle parking and support the strategic response to the declared Climate Change Emergency. Some local authorities such as Nottingham City Council have gone further and adopted the workplace parking levy to manage congestion and provide an income stream that helps to deliver better sustainable transport infrastructure.
- 2.25 One outcome of the COVID 19 pandemic is the much greater use of home working. Consequently, the proposed scale of parking charges introduces new season ticket options at reduced rates for parking on 1 to 4 nominated days of the week. The proposed scale of charges is set at rates that escalate moderately with the number of days each week that parking is used.
- 2.26 The proposals represent a policy that is expected to align Sandwell Parking Policy with emerging policies resulting from the ongoing review



of Black Country Core Strategy known as the Black Country Plan which is expected to be adopted in 2024.

- 2.27 The proposals do not constrain the development of further parking policy opportunities to meet the requirements of regional policy initiatives. Regional initiatives expected over the next few years include cashless payment, consistent regional policy for disabled drivers and other policy drivers that establish joined up sustainable regional transport networks.
- 2.28 The greatest need for realignment of charges is to restrain and alleviate long stay demand, free up more spaces for customers of small businesses, reduce congestion, encourage cycling and walking and support the strategic response to the declared Climate Change Emergency. It is recommended that this can be achieved through a significant increase in season ticket prices mitigated by reduced rates for parking on 1 to 4 nominated days of the week. The consequential restraint of long stay demand would alleviate the long stay shortage and accommodate any suppressed short stay demand which is more important to the economic vitality of town centres. Space should be created on town centre car parks so that they become green hubs that could be used for cycle parking or bike hire, as well as electric vehicles.
- 2.29 In addition, a more modest increase in short stay charges would align Sandwell charges at levels consistent with levels charged in the Black Country and would set charges to be consistent with regional policy

3. DELIVERING THE OBJECTIVES OF THE CORPORATE PLAN

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>People live well and age well: The Local Transport Settlement contributes to safe and efficient roads for local people and visitors, and to the health benefits of sustainable active travel.</p> |
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities: Successful communities needs access to jobs, services and facilities to enable them to remain healthy and vibrant. The highway network and sustainable transport measures are an important enabler of this.</p> |
|  | <p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods: Both new and existing residential developments rely on good quality access and links to shops, services and leisure facilities in order for them to be successful. Balancing the demand and supply of parking spaces facilitates this.</p> |



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| | A strong and inclusive economy: The provision of a high quality, well maintained highway network will reduce journey times and improve journey reliability for Sandwell business who rely on it to connect to their suppliers and customers. |
| | A connected and accessible Sandwell: The provision of a high quality, well maintained highway network and parking is vital to enable Sandwell residents to access jobs, education and services both within and beyond the Borough's boundaries. |

4 CONTEXT AND KEY ISSUES

Parking Costs and Revised Charging Proposals

- 4.1 Increased parking demand continuously places pressure on the highway network. The increase in charges proposed below are the most practical and achievable way to assist in restraining demand with associated benefits set out earlier in this report including supporting the strategic response to the Council's declared Climate Change Emergency.
- 4.2 The Council's off-street car parking service has in recent years recovered income from charges that are sufficient to meet the costs for car park maintenance, cleaning, lighting, equipment, enforcement, traffic regulation orders, business rates, water rates etc. The exact budget balance between zero net cost and a surplus varies in parallel with the long-term economic cycle. In the past any surplus on the parking account have been allocated in accordance with statutory requirements. However, the sustained increase in working from home following the pandemic has reduced parking income well below the levels needed to fund this service. A deficit of more than £300,000 on the parking account was experienced in 2021/22 and is likely to continue at similar levels without action. In these circumstances available service budgets are not sufficient to maintain normal levels of statutory services also because of the increased costs arising from post pandemic price inflation.
- 4.3 The future economic outlook is less positive than in recent years with the expectation of significant post pandemic realignment of Government spending and taxation policies together with the impact of inflation. The associated restraint in economic growth could increase the deficit on the parking account further. The recovery from the pandemic and the transition to a sustainable and climate-neutral economy must go hand in hand.



Historic Parking Charges and Review Period

4.4 Parking charges were last reviewed in December 2015. The approved parking charges were implemented in November 2016. Before the last review of parking charges, annual season tickets for West Bromwich cost £390 and had been in place for several years. In real terms the annual season ticket prices for West Bromwich that were in place 12 years ago would be equivalent to a cost of around £500 per year today. The following proposals to increase parking charges would be implemented early in 2023 following seven years without change. Since the last review the experiences of the COVID19 pandemic and the Climate Change Emergency make increasing parking charges at this time more crucial than in previous reviews.

Schedules of Proposed Charges

Short Stay Car Parking Charges

4.5 It is proposed to maintain the current free parking concessions that work best in Sandwell for benefit the public and small businesses in a sustainable way as follows.

- Free parking for blue badge holders and powered two wheelers.
- Free parking between 6pm in the evening and overnight until 8am the next morning on all car parks (except Sandwell Valley Car Parks where charges are proposed to remain unchanged).
- Free parking for two Saturdays before Christmas on all car parks (Except Sandwell Valley Car Parks where charges are proposed to remain unchanged),
- Free parking every Saturday for Season Ticket Holders

4.6 In addition, concessionary rates are proposed to mitigate the season ticket price increases where appropriate as follows.

- The proposed scale of charges include a 50% reduction in season ticket prices for towns outside West Bromwich to acknowledge that other towns are less well served by public transport, central car parks, and cycle routes



- A 50% reduction in season ticket prices would apply for all zero emission electric cars to encourage the use of low emission vehicles.

4.7 A statutory 10-minute grace period applies in all pay and display parking bays before enforcement action.

4.8 This report proposes that borough wide off-street car parking charges for short stay parking (up to 4 hours) should be increased. The exception would be the scale of charges for Sandwell Valley car park that would remain unchanged. A new low cost 30-minute charge is also proposed to accommodate short visits to town centres and support small businesses.

4.9 At the time of writing hourly parking charges are £1.80 to £2.10 for 3hrs in Dudley, £1.20 for 2hrs in Walsall and vary from 70p to £1.50 in central Wolverhampton. However other Black Country councils have not yet used parking charges as part of the response to recent Government policy and requirements such as the Climate Change Emergency, air quality improvement and modal shift and working from home associated with the emergence from the COVID 19 pandemic.

4.10 Current Sandwell borough wide short stay charges are:

- Up to 1 hour 40p
- Up to 2 hours 80p
- Up to 3 hours £1.20
- Up to 4 hours £1.60

The proposed borough wide short stay charges are as shown in the recommendations:

Long Stay Car Parking Charges

4.11 The Council's long stay (over 4 hours) off-street car parking is provided at a current rate of £4.00 per day.

4.12 The proposed scales of charges are set out in the recommendations.

Annual and Monthly Season Ticket Charges

4.13 In 2018 and 2019 there was a shortage of long Stay parking availability in the main town centres of Sandwell and consequently increasing parking charges would also encourage more sustainable modes of transport and sustain the increase in home working and free us spaces for customers of



small businesses. The revised charges would make the most of changes in travel behaviour as experienced during the pandemic which can lead to the introduction of long-lasting sustainable habits and avoid a return to the pre-lockdown demand pressures as the economy recovers.

- 4.14 The current annual rates for a season ticket are Dudley £460, Walsall, £660 and vary in Wolverhampton from £227 to £1080. However other Black Country councils have not yet used parking charges as part of the response to recent Government policy and requirements such as the Climate Change Emergency, air quality improvement, modal shift and home working associated with the emergence from the pandemic whereas many towns and cities are encouraging car free streets.
- 4.15 Sandwell season ticket charges are proposed to be increased to support our strategic response to the declared climate change emergency, encourage modal shift and free up more spaces for passing trade to small businesses. This increase is proposed to be mitigated by reduced rates for parking on 1 to 4 nominated days of the week and by allowing season ticket holders to park without charge on Saturdays.
- 4.16 Annual and monthly off-street parking season tickets are currently set at £240 per year and £24 per month. Before the last review in West Bromwich season tickets were set at £390 per year and £39 per month. The current value of season tickets prices that operated 12 years ago would now be around £500 per annum and £50 per month in real terms.
- 4.17 This report proposes that the season ticket charge for unrestricted use all week is increased significantly over 5 years to encourage working from home, walking and cycling and reduce congestion to support the Climate Change Emergency. Charges have been stable for some time in other Black Country Authorities and might increase in response to evolving recommendations and policy.
- 4.18 The higher demand for parking in West Bromwich together with a shortage of supply and good sustainable transport alternatives justifies returning to the differential charges that applied between 2000 and 2016. Within West Bromwich the proposed season ticket charges for unrestricted use all week are increased significantly as set out in the recommendations. This increased cost would be mitigated by reduced rates for parking on 1 to 4 nominated days of the week and by allowing season ticket holders to park without charge to shop on Saturdays.



- 4.19 It is proposed that season tickets valid for all paid for Council car parks across the Borough would in future be valid in Sandwell Valley car parks (Except Event Days). It is proposed that charges remain unchanged at Sandwell Valley.
- 4.20 The reduced charges for part time workers are currently £144 per year for three nominated days each week. To encourage working from home, car sharing, cycling and walking and free up more short stay spaces for small businesses it is proposed to extend this scale of charges to provide reduced cost season tickets for one, two, three and four nominated days per week as set out in the recommendations. Only one season ticket to be issued to each vehicle.

On-Street Parking Charges

- 4.21 Short stay on-street parking charges are proposed to remain unchanged to maintain passing trade for shopkeepers and assist public access to retail, financial, commercial and local community facilities. A statutory 10 minute grace period applies in pay and display parking bays before enforcement action.
- 4.22 At the few locations where on-street long stay parking charges are necessary, charges will be set to correspond with the off-street scale of parking charges to avoid a relocation of parking from adjacent car parks to the streets.

The Current Position.

- 4.23 See section 3. Background and Main Considerations.

Consultation with Stakeholders

- 4.24 Statutory public consultations would be undertaken in the late Summer with the consideration of objections and a decision on the proposals in the Autumn. This would allow for statutory processes to be completed, signs to be manufactured and processes to be updated ready for the implementation of new charges early in 2023.



5 ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS

- 5.1 To leave parking charges unchanged would miss the opportunity to support the strategic response to the declared Climate Change Emergency, would miss the opportunity to make the most of changes in travel behaviour as experienced during the pandemic, would fail to address the existing supply and demand problems, would miss the opportunity to mitigate against the expected exacerbation of demand and associated impacts on safety, the environment, trade for small businesses and local economy and would fail to take the opportunity to encourage working from home and modal shift in transport choice.
- 5.2 Highway Services would require subsidising with additional revenue funding as income would no longer be sufficient to fund the costs. Highway Services provide the maintenance, operation and enforcement of car parks, enforcement on street, including around hospitals and schools gate parking, meeting request for new traffic regulation orders, resident parking schemes and other costs permitted by the legislation.

6 IMPLICATIONS

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| <p>Resources:</p> | <p>The rates to be applied to Council controlled off-street parking are detailed in the recommendations. The response to the climate change emergency, impact of COVID 19, greater levels of home working and the modal shift objective for short journeys have reduced parking incomes to levels well below the costs of providing the services.</p> <p>The forecast deficit in 2022/23 is expected to be £300,000 to £500,000. There are many variables that will influence future income levels such as;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • the potential for future virus-related restrictions • future trends for working from home • the extent to which travel choices change • the future viability of town centres • the changing nature of town centre use • the future economic outlook • inflation in the costs of operation and maintenance • comparative cost of car use and public transport |
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| | <p>Using mid-range estimates the proposed scale of charges is expected to eliminate the current income deficit to the revenue account that is used to fund these essential parking services. As a consequence it is also anticipated that sufficient income would be generated to undertake the maintenance work scheduled in Appendix A. It is not expected that a surplus of income over cost would be generated. Without an increase in charges the Highway Service would require subsidising with additional revenue funding as parking income would no longer be sufficient to fund the many associated costs of the parking services</p> <p>Parking services income provides for the maintenance (schedule in Appendix A), operation and enforcement of car parks, enforcement on street, including around hospitals and schools gate parking, meeting requests for new traffic regulation orders, resident parking schemes, business and water rates.</p> <p>The future economic outlook is less positive than in recent years with the expectation of significant post pandemic realignment of Government spending and taxation policies together with the effects of post pandemic inflation. The associated restraint in economic growth could offset benefits near term.</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>Legal and Governance: Traffic Regulation Orders are made by the Highway Authority under the provisions of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 that includes the permitted uses of income.</p> <p>The Council has powers under the Road Traffic (Permitted Parking Area and Special Parking Area) (Metropolitan Borough of Sandwell) order 2000, to carry out enforcement activities relating to parking contraventions within the Borough.</p> |



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| | <p>The Road Traffic Regulations Act 1984 and the Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996, applies for parking in car parks and on street parking.</p> <p>Sections 35C and 46A of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984 has been amended by the Parking Places (Variation of Charges) Act 2017. The Parking Places (Variation of Charges) Act 2017 requires the Highway Authority to undertake public consultation in addition to publishing and issuing a Notice of Variation under regulation 25 Local Authorities' Traffic Orders (Procedure) (England and Wales) Regulations 1996.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <p>There are no direct risk implications resulting from the course of action recommended in this report that seek to provide a sustainable solution to parking demand and funding for the service in a way that promotes sustainable transport, active travel and mitigates the climate change emergency.</p> |
| <p>Equality:</p> | <p>By initial inspection it is not believed that this decision discriminates against the protected characteristics. The requirements of the Equality Act 2010 are included in Policy to draw attention to the detail of, and the need to comply with, the Act</p> |
| <p>Health and Wellbeing:</p> | <p>It is increasingly recognised that an appropriately managed and maintained and up to date sustainable transport provision is needed to support significant economic growth and the associated social well-being benefits. To maximise the benefits of economic investment programmes requires balancing parking demand with supply in a way that encourage active travel and deliver 2030 ambitions. The greater activity levels associated with using sustainable transport options promote healthy lifestyles. The air quality benefits of sustainable transport and reductions in congestion also have health benefits</p> |



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| Social Value | There are no implications for social value directly arising from this report. |
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7. APPENDICES

Appendix A – Car Park Improvement & Maintenance Plan (attached - follows below)

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

The documents referenced in the report are published and accessible on the internet.



Car Park Improvement & Maintenance Plan

| Car Park | Town | Work Required |
|----------------------------------|---------------|---|
| 41 Pay and Display Car Parks | All | New tariff signs when parking charges change. |
| 41 Pay and Display Car Parks | All | New software for ticket machines to allow for tariff changes. |
| John Street | West Bromwich | Paint lighting columns |
| Temple St/Frederick St | West Bromwich | Paint lighting columns |
| Thomas St/George St | West Bromwich | Paint lighting columns |
| Victoria Street | West Bromwich | Paint lighting columns |
| Corngreaves Road | Rowley | Paint lighting columns |
| Highgate Street North (Opp. 127) | Rowley | Paint lighting columns |
| Northgate/Prince St | Rowley | Paint lighting columns |
| Short Street | Rowley | Paint lighting columns |
| Hawkes Lane | Wednesbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Hill Top | Wednesbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Ridding Lane | Wednesbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Spring Head | Wednesbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Upper High Street | Wednesbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Gilbert Road (adj. 112) East | Smethwick | Paint lighting columns |
| Gilbert Road (adj. 108) West | Smethwick | Paint lighting columns |
| Shireland Road | Smethwick | Paint lighting columns |
| Stony Lane | Smethwick | Paint lighting columns |
| High St (Princes End) North | Tipton | Paint lighting columns |
| High St (Princes End) South | Tipton | Paint lighting columns |
| Market Place, Great Bridge | Tipton | Paint lighting columns |
| Whitehall Road, Great Bridge | Tipton | Paint lighting columns |
| Arden Grove | Oldbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Causeway Green Road | Oldbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Langley High Street | Oldbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Low Town | Oldbury | Paint lighting columns |
| Victoria Street | West Bromwich | Remark and alter layout to provide wider bays and improve space to access disabled bays. Repair fencing. |
| Arden Grove | Oldbury | Paint fencing |
| Langley High Street | Oldbury | Paint fencing |
| Roway Lane | Oldbury | New height barrier, fencing/bollards and lining bays. Cut back vegetation/remove weeds, new information sign. |
| West Bromwich Street | Oldbury | Repair triprail fence, possible speed humps, ongoing treatment of weeds damaging surfacing. |
| High Street (South) Princes End | Tipton | Repair fencing or replace with hoop barriers. |
| Market Place, Great Bridge | Tipton | Full resurface or patch repair with micro asphalt and remark with slight amendment to bays. |
| Corngreaves Road | Rowley | Repair triprail fence. |
| Graingers Lane | Rowley | Paint bollards |
| Lower High Street (East) | Rowley | Remark lining. Consider speed humps as car park used as 'short cut' to avoid queues at junction. |
| Park Street | Rowly | Patch repair and micro asphalt. |
| High Bullen | Wednesbury | Patch repairs and micro asphalt. Paint perimeter fence. |
| Ridding Lane | Wednesbury | Micro asphalt. |
| Spring Head | Wednesbury | Paint perimeter fence. |
| St Pauls Road | Smethwick | Remark |



Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Land at Cranford Street, Smethwick – Compulsory Purchase Order |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member Regeneration and Growth, Councillor Peter Hughes |
| Director: | Director of Regeneration & Growth, Tony McGovern |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Planning Regeneration Team Leader, Hayley Insley Hayley_insley@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given to make a Compulsory Purchase Order under Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 99 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Acquisition of Land Act 1981, and Section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976 to be known as The Borough Council of Sandwell (Cranford Street, Smethwick) Compulsory Purchase Order, in respect of approximately 1.67 hectares of land bounded by land to the south of Cranford Street as shown on the attached Drawing SAM/12980/005 or such lesser land as may be deemed necessary and also including the air space above an area lying to the north and south of the development during the construction as shown on Drawing SAM/12980/005.
- 1.2 That approval be given to the use of the Council's Compulsory Purchase powers to acquire land and property required for the Grove Lane Towns Fund project.



- 1.3 That approval be given to authorise the Service Manager - Legal to make and the (Cranford Street, Smethwick) Compulsory Purchase Order in respect of the land needed for residential development shown outlined on drawing No. SAM/12980/005 and more particularly, marked "Map referred to in Borough Council of Sandwell (Cranford Street, Smethwick) Compulsory Purchase Order" or such lesser land as may be deemed necessary under the powers contained in Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 99 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Acquisition of Land Act 1981, and Section 13 of the Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1976.
- 1.4 That approval be given to the Director of Regeneration & Growth to make minor amendments to the (Cranford Street, Smethwick) Compulsory Purchase Order and more particularly, marked "Map referred to in Borough Council of Sandwell (Cranford Street, Smethwick) Compulsory Purchase Order" prior to it being made and submitted for confirmation.
- 1.5 That approval be given to authorise the Service Manager - Legal to affix the common seal of the Council and serve the necessary notices and documentation as required by Section 226(1)(a) of the Town and Country Planning Act 1990 as amended by Section 99 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004 and Acquisition of Land Act 1981 and submit the Compulsory Purchase Order to the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities for conformation.
- 1.6 That in the event the Compulsory Purchase Order is unopposed and granted powers to do so by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities to confirm the above order and serve all necessary notices to implement the Compulsory Purchase Order including the issuing of sheriff warrants.
- 1.7 That approval be given to authorise the Service Manager – Strategic Assets & Land to enter into negotiations and to acquire, on terms to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration & Growth, land and property within the proposed Order lands, in advance of confirmation of the Compulsory Purchase Order by the Secretary of State subject to the availability of finances.



- 1.8 That approval be given to authorise the Service Manager - Legal to enter into any licences, undertaking or other agreements to facilitate the Compulsory Purchase Order on terms to be agreed on terms to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration & Growth.
- 1.9 That approval be given to authorise the Service Manager - Legal to take all necessary action to secure the making, confirmation and implementation of the Compulsory Purchase Order and if objections are received to the Compulsory Purchase Order make arrangements for public inquiries including instructing external Counsel and Consultants to assist in the preparing evidence and the presentation of the Council's case at any public Inquiry.
- 1.10 That in the event that the Compulsory Purchase Order is confirmed by the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, authorises the Service Manager – Legal to serve all necessary notices to implement the powers of compulsory acquisition, including be authorised to make General Vesting Declarations, notices to treat and notices of entry to take all other requisite steps to obtain possession of the properties and to obtain a Sheriff's Warrant for possession of any lands where it has not been given.
- 1.11 That approval be given to authorise the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to acquire the necessary interests in the land and property included in the confirmed Compulsory Purchase Order on terms to be agreed by the Director of Regeneration & Growth or as ordered by the Lands Tribunal.




2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The submission for Towns Fund to support the acquisition and remediation of a site in the Grove Lane area has been approved by the Ministry for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities in May. The site identified would contribute significantly to the regeneration of the area surrounding the new Midland Metropolitan University Hospital in line with the approved masterplan.



- 2.2 The sum of £4.35m is provided to acquire a site identified south of Cranford Street and remediate the land sufficiently to accommodate residential development. The Towns Fund bid indicated approximately 145 homes could be provided, including 25% affordable homes and one commercial unit.
- 2.3 Surveyors were appointed by the council to undertake a valuation of the site and subsequently engage with the landowner's agents to seek acquisition by agreement. However, following several months of negotiation, the landowner's agents have indicated that their client requires significantly more than that offered by the council for the site and would therefore not dispose of the site unless their own valuation was matched.
- 2.4 In order to progress the Towns Fund Grove Lane project, and to not lose the £4.35m granted by MLUHC, it is necessary to undertake a compulsory purchase of the site.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>Objective C2 within the Corporate Plan (2012-2025) states that 'We will deliver the Towns Investment Plans in West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis secured through £64.5m of Town Deal Funding'. This project contributes £4.35m of that funding if delivered.</p> |
|  | <p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <p>Objective H1 within the Corporate Plan (2021-2025) is: We will deliver much needed new homes across the borough, especially affordable homes, on our own land and other viable sites in order to help meet the demand for affordable housing in our communities.</p> <p>This proposal will ensure that over 145 new homes are provided to meet the current housing need, including 25% affordable housing.</p> |
|  | <p>A strong and inclusive economy</p> <p>Objective E4 is 'We will work proactively with our partners at the Local Enterprise Partnership, West Midlands</p> |



| | |
|---|---|
| | <p>Combined Authority and in central government to take maximum advantage of funding opportunities to secure additional funding for Sandwell regeneration projects'. This project is part of the Town Deal project attracting £4.35m of investment for Smethwick.</p> <p>Objective E6 is 'We will deliver the agreed Town Deals in collaboration with our partners across Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich</p> |
|  | <p>A connected and accessible Sandwell</p> <p>This project is one of many in the Grove Lane area that will assist in connecting existing with new development, access to the local public transport services and canal corridor.</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 As part of the Smethwick Town Investment Plan, an Outline Business Case for a site near Grove Street was submitted to government in October 2020. The project involved acquiring and demolishing several industrial buildings and remediating the land ready for residential development. In March 2021, government announced a funding package of £23.5m to support the projects within the Smethwick Town Deal, subject to Full Business Cases being prepared within the next 12 months. The site at Grove Street was allocated £4.35m.
- 4.2 Whilst working up the Full Business Case, it was discovered that another site in the area, that had previously been discounted, was likely to be marketed. The site was located off Cranford Street adjacent to the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital and was being used as a compound for the hospital build. This site was in one ownership and likely to become vacant once the development was complete. A change request to Towns Fund was submitted for the revised site.
- 4.3 Council officers made requests of partner agencies such as Homes England and West Midlands Combined Authority to acquire the site on the council's behalf. Unfortunately, partners were not in a position to assist in this exercise.



- 4.4 The Council therefore procured a Chartered Surveyor in September 2021 to provide a valuation on the land. This was to understand the value of the site should the council set out to acquire in line with the council's Financial Regulations. The second part of the commission was for the Surveyor to undertake negotiations on the council's behalf to come to an agreed price for the acquisition of the site.
- 4.5 The landowner has in mind a price he would like to receive for the site. However, this is based upon the only recent land purchase in the area which was at the time thought to be exceeding true land values for this area. The valuation on behalf of the council took into account the demolition of buildings and significant remediation due to past industrial workings, potential asbestos and underground tunnels. The offer from the Council fell short of the landowner's expectations. An increased and final offer was made given the strategic importance of acquiring the site following several months of negotiation. However, the council has been unable to agree acquisition by agreement.
- 4.6 The site is required to further the Towns Fund project for the Grove Lane area. Its acquisition will enable the site to be cleared and remediated ready for residential to come forward, for at least 145 new homes, including 25% affordable homes, which is in line with its allocation in the local plan and the Grove Lane Masterplan approved by Cabinet in February 2022.
- 4.7 It is proposed therefore to acquire the land via a Compulsory Purchase Order (CPO). The council has an excellent record in winning CPO cases in the past, and it is considered that the regeneration benefits of undertaking this action with the investment of £4.35m from Towns Fund and the delivery of much needed homes will be a key component in the statement of case. The council can also evidence that it has tried to acquire the site by agreement.
- 4.8 The Towns Fund grant is required to be spent by 2024/5 and whilst the CPO process may take some time, it is considered that the delivery of the Towns Fund project of acquisition, clearance and remediation would still be achievable within the timescale.



5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Option 1: Not progress with the CPO and not deliver the Towns Fund project leading to clawback of £4.35m to MLUHC. Reputation of the council at risk.
- 5.2 Option 2: Identify another site that could achieve the Town Fund project and submit another change request. There are no other sites in the area that could be considered at this stage given the timescales for the funding to be spent.

6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resources: | The acquisition of the site and remediation of the land will be resourced from the Towns Fund allocation of £4.35m. |
| Legal and Governance: | <p>Section 226 of the Town and Country Planning Act (as amended by Section 99 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004) lays the basis of local authorities' positive planning powers. These provisions grant the authority the power to acquire any land compulsorily under section, if they think the acquisition will facilitate the carrying out of development, redevelopment, or improvement provided they think that the development, redevelopment or improvement is likely to contribute to one or more of the objects specified in subs.(1A).</p> <p>Section 226(1A) sets out what are known as the 'well being' powers. It confirms that the Local Authority should not exercise the power under section 226 unless it considers that the development the subject purpose of the exercise of the power will achieve the promotion or improvement of one or more of the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • economic wellbeing and/or • social wellbeing and/or • environmental wellbeing of their area. |



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | The details set out of this report under respective priority headings together with the planning application show that the redevelopment scheme will improve the economic, social and environmental well being of the area. |
| Risk: | The making of a Compulsory Purchase Order may attract objection from the current landowner, In certain circumstances if land is blighted by the proposed scheme the owners of the land in question may serve a Blight Notice on the Authority. Not progressing with a CPO for this site would result in the clawback of £4.35m of Towns Funding by MLUHC. |
| Equality: | An initial screening was undertaken as part of the Full Business Case development for this project. There was an indication that certain groups may be affected by the proposal and a resolution made to undertake a full EQIA once the project was more developed. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | The acquisition of this site and remediation of the land ready for residential development will enable the provision of new homes, including affordable homes, close to public transport routes and access to the green and blue network of open space and the canal network. More sustainable routes for walking and cycling and access to open space will improve resident's health and wellbeing. |
| Social Value | As part of the Full Business Case submission to government, a monitoring and evaluation plan was included outlining the opportunities for apprenticeships, new construction jobs and other outcomes that would contribute to social value targets for this project. The construction of new homes would also lead to increased spend within the local area by the new residents. |

7. Appendices

Draft Compulsory Purchase Order Map - Drawing No. SAM/12980/005



8. Background Papers

None



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NORTH

Page 517

REGENERATION AND PLANNING
STRATEGIC ASSET MANAGEMENT

LEGEND

DESCRIPTION
LAND OFF
CRANFORD STREET
SMETHWICK

AREA
16791.6 M2 20083.3 Y2

PLAN NUMBER
SAM/12980/005

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| SANDWELL SP0388SE | TERRIER 302 |
|----------------------|----------------|

| | |
|-----------------|---------------------------|
| SCALE 1:1250 | CENTROID 403639/288210 |
|-----------------|---------------------------|

| | |
|-------------|---------------------|
| DRAWN DM | DATE 22-JUN-2022 |
|-------------|---------------------|

THIS MAP IS BASED UPON ORDNANCE SURVEY MATERIAL WITH THE PERMISSION OF ORDNANCE SURVEY ON BEHALF OF THE CONTROLLER OF HER MAJESTY'S STATIONERY OFFICE

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SANDWELL MBC
LICENCE NO 100032119
2022

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Civica Contract Award and Upgrade to CX |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Danny Millard - Cabinet Member for Communities Councillor Charn Singh Padda - Cabinet Member for Housing Councillor Suzanne Hartwell - Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health |
| Director: | Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Nicola Plant Service Manager – Regulated Services Nicola_plant@sandwell.gov.uk Binda Rana Adults Systems Manager Binda_rana@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Director of Borough Economy, in consultation with the Director of Finance - Section 151 Officer, be authorised to award a contract for 'Civica Cx Case Management System' to be procured via a direct award of contract using Crown Commercial Services (CCS) Data and Applications Solutions framework RM3821 and be awarded for a five-year period with an option to extend for a further two years.
- 1.2 That the Director Law and Governance – Monitoring Officer be authorised to execute any documentation necessary to enable the action referred to in 1.1 above.



1.3 That any necessary exemptions to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules be made to enable the course of action referred to in 1.1 above to proceed.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 The Civica software system is currently used as a case management system for Regulated Services and Environmental Protection & Enforcement within the Borough Economy Directorate. The system is also utilised by Housing Improvement Agency and Private Sector Housing within the Housing and Public Health Directorates.

2.2 A contract was awarded in March 2020 for the provision of CIVICA software for a period of two years with provision for two single year extensions. This included the option to upgrade the system to Cx, however this was not actioned.

2.3 In March 2022, one of the single year extensions was enacted to extend the contract for the provision of Civica software system to the end of March 2023.




2.4 The services have considered their future case management requirements and have identified that the Civica software system, upgraded to the Cx system will continue to meet the needs of the services moving forward.

2.5 Approval is sought to enable a direct award via the Crown Commercial Services Framework RM3821 in order to continue provision of the case management software upgraded to Civica Cx for a period of five years with an option to extend for up to a further two years.

2.6 All framework suppliers have been pre-qualified to supply the services required by SMBC and meet all technical and financial preconditions commensurate with the service and public sector procurement.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>People live well and age well</p> <p>The services using this software system contribute to public safety by ensuring compliance with legislation across a range of legislation linked to air quality, housing, food safety and consumer protection.</p> |
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>Contribute to community safety through environmental protection services and protection from counterfeit goods and rogue traders.</p> |
|  | <p>A strong and inclusive economy</p> <p>Support to ensure new relevant business are aware of legislative requirements and ensures compliance</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 A contract was awarded in March 2020 for the provision of CIVICA software for a period of two years with provision for two single year extensions. This included the option to upgrade the system to Cx, however this was not actioned.
- 4.2 In March 2022, one of the single year extensions was enacted to extend the contract for the provision of Civica software system to the end of March 2023.
- 4.3 The software system is used by services within the Borough Economy, Neighbourhoods and Public Health Directorates, and as such the costs of the contract will be shared by the three Directorates.
- 4.4 The value of the contract will include initial system upgrade and licensing costs in year 1 and annual costs.
- 4.5 The total value of the contract for the period of five years will be £659,650, plus £161,240 if the maximum two-year extension were activated.
- 4.6 The costs will be apportioned between the three Directorates as follows

| Directorate | Total Costs (5yr) | Total Costs (+2yr) |
|-----------------|-------------------|--------------------|
| Borough Economy | £227,380 | £54,490 |
| Housing | £275,370 | £69,100 |
| Public Health | £156,900 | £37,650 |

5 Alternative Options



- 5.1 An open market procurement process could be considered however Corporate Procurement have identified that the service we require is available via a Crown Commercial Services Framework. This provides a compliant and cost effective means of procuring the service. Direct awarding and procurement from the CCS framework is compliant with Public Contract Regulations 2015.
- 5.2 Doing nothing is not an option. The provision of a case management system for these service areas is essential to support modern service delivery.



6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Resources: | The total value of the contract for the period of five years will be £659,650, plus £161,240 if the maximum two-year extensions were activated. Service areas' budgets already include funding to cover the cost of specific modules required |
| Legal and Governance: | The Council's Procurement and Contract Procedures and Public Contract Procedure Rules (PCR) 2015 will be adhered to. |
| Risk: | The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks associated with the recommendations being sought. This has concluded that there are no significant risks that require reporting. |
| Equality: | No implications |
| Health and Wellbeing: | No implications |
| Social Value | Social Value will be considered during the procurement process |

7. Appendices

List appendices

8. Background Papers

List source/background documents



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Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: January 2019

| | |
|--|---|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | Civica Cx Software System Contract Award |
| Directorate and Service Area | Borough Economy – Regulated Services |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Nicola Plant Service Manager, Regulated Services |
| Contact Details | Nicola_plant@sandwell.gov.uk |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | Alasdair Morrison – Operations Manager, Environment Protection & Enforcement |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | N/A |
| Date EIA completed | 06 June 2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | Alice Davey |
| Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member | |

1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required

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

(Please provide as much information as possible)

This report seeks approval to make a direct contract award using the Crown Commercial Services framework for Civica Cx Case Management system. The system is used across Regulatory Services, Public Health and Housing to support case management. The new contract will provide additional functionality to update processes to increase efficiency and improve service.

2. Evidence used/considered

The Civica system is currently used and services have considered future service requirements and determined the current software, upgraded to Cx will provide additional functionality for processes to be updated to increase efficiency.

3. Consultation

The services using the software system have been consulted however no external consultation will be required as this is an internal-use ICT case management system.

4. Assess likely impact

The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is an internal case management system.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |
| Disability | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Gender reassignment | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |
| Race | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |
| Religion or belief | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Sex | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |
| Sexual orientation | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |
| Other | | | ✓ | The awarding of the contract for the software system is not considered to have a direct impact on any protected characteristics as this is a service case management system. |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

7. Monitoring arrangements

Services will continue to monitor impact of case management system effectiveness and expected improvements with the introduction of the CX upgrade.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

| Question no. (ref) | Action required | Lead officer/ person responsible | Target date | Progress |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

9. Publish the EIA

Yes

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Award of Contract for Local Welfare Provision |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Bob Piper - Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources |
| Director: | Simone Hines – Director of Finance and Section 151 Officer |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Ian Dunn ian_dunn@sandwell.gov.uk carl_jones@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

That Cabinet:






- 1.1 Authorise the Director of Finance - Section 151 Officer in consultation with Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources to award a contract for Local Welfare Provision, following the conclusion of an open procurement exercise that commenced on 6 June 2022, for a 4 year period commencing 1 October 2022.
- 1.2 Authorise the Director Law and Governance – Monitoring Officer to execute any documentation necessary to enable the action referred to in 1.1 above.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 This report is seeking approval to award a contract for the provision of white goods and household items to support the delivery of the Council's Local Welfare Provision scheme following a compliant procurement process.
- 2.2 The current contract with Loaves N Fishes ends on the 30 September 2022.
- 2.3 Sandwell's Local Welfare Provision scheme has been co-designed with the voluntary sector/charitable organisations. It provides crucial support by way of food parcels, fuel, white goods, and essential household items to Sandwell's most vulnerable residents who are faced with a crisis.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | | |
|---|--|--|
|  | Best start in life for children and young people | The Local Welfare Provision scheme provides crucial support to Sandwell's most vulnerable residents who are faced with a crisis. It therefore supports several of the Council's objectives |
|  | People live well and age well | |
|  | Strong resilient communities | |
|  | Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods | |
|  | A strong and inclusive economy | |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Local Welfare Provision scheme was introduced in April 2013



- 4.2 It replaced the Social Fund and Crisis Loan elements of the social fund scheme previously administered by the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP).
- 4.3 The DWP provided funding for the first 2 years. Since 2015 our Local Welfare Provision scheme has been funded by the Council.
- 4.4 Sandwell's Local Welfare Provision scheme provides crucial support by way of food parcels, fuel, white goods, and essential household items to Sandwell's most vulnerable residents who are faced with a crisis/emergency and are suffering financial hardship.
- 4.5 Sandwell Council's decision to continue to fund a Local Welfare Provision scheme demonstrates commitment to support our most vulnerable residents. A number of our neighbouring authorities no longer provide a Local Welfare Provision scheme or have in place alternative arrangements where residents in acute need have to take out loans.
- 4.6 Sandwell Council supports the main foodbanks in the borough with grant funding and residents who present to us requiring food are referred to a foodbank for a food parcel.
- 4.7 Residents requiring assistance with fuel are given a voucher. This voucher is issued via Paypoint.
- 4.8 The number of residents provided with white goods and/or household items in the past 3 years is as follows:
- 2019/20: £176,801 and 406 residents supported.
 - 2020/21: £222,537 and 429 residents supported.
 - 2021/22: £242,452 and 446 residents supported.
- 4.9 Based upon the details in 4.8 we have estimated the annual cost of the contract at £232,000 making a total of £928,000 for the 4-year period.
- 4.10 The contract will not commit to a fixed level of provision in any one year and is also subject to the provision of on-going funding throughout the period of the contract remaining in place. In addition we are also proposing a fixed price on items for 24 months from the commencement



of the contract and considering increases via the Consumer Price Index on an annual basis afterwards.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 If a contract is not in place to provide white goods and household items to Sandwell's most vulnerable customers there is a risk that families would suffer poverty and their basic needs would not be met

6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resources: | The total cost of this contract is estimated to be in the region of £232,000 per year. This is fully funded by the Council and if the funding is not available there is the option to no longer provide or reduce the level of Local Welfare Provision. |
| Legal and Governance: | The Council's Contract and Procurement Procedures and Public Contract Procedure Rules (PCR) 2015 will be adhered to. Legal Services will be involved in the preparation of the Contract Documentation prior to the award. |
| Risk: | The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks associated with the recommendations being sought. This has concluded that there are no significant risks that require reporting. Further measures will be put in place to ensure that the risks identified during the procurement process are considered and mitigated to levels within the council's appetite for risk. |
| Equality: | No implications |
| Health and Wellbeing: | Sandwell's Local Welfare Provision scheme has a direct impact upon the health and wellbeing of the residents it supports |
| Social Value | Social Value is being considered as part of the evaluation of returned tender submissions |

7. Appendices

None



8. Background Papers

None.



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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter, Policy and Guidance |
| Cabinet Member: | Deputy Leader – Cllr Bob Piper Cabinet Member – Finance & Resources |
| Director: | Neil Cox, Director – Business Strategy and Change |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Contact Officer: | Head of Human Resources, Victoria Lee Victoria_Lee@sandwell.gov.uk Assistant HR Policy Officer, Ian Markham Ian_Markham@sandwell.gov.Uk |

1 Recommendations



- 1.1 That approval be given to implement a Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter and its accompanying policy and guidance, in accordance with the details contained within this report.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Adopting a Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter and introducing a supporting policy and guidance makes clear the council's commitment to tackling gambling related harm in the workplace.
- 2.2 The policy and guidance are to assist managers who are supporting and managing employees who are suffering from gambling related harms to such an extent that it affects their health, work performance, conduct and relationships at work.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

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|  | People live well and age well - raising awareness and providing the appropriate support and advice will enable employees to live healthy well and age well. |
|  | One Council One Team - Organisational Development – reducing stigma, breaking down barriers and enabling our employees to support their own wellbeing will ensure they have to tools to fulfil their potential. |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Harmful gambling is behaviour related to gambling which causes harm to the gambler and those around them.
- 4.2 Sandwell Council takes the health and wellbeing of its employees very seriously. In this regard, the Council will work collaboratively to tackle gambling related harms in the workplace and community.
- 4.3 Harmful gambling is a social concern for all, and as a council we want to ensure the issue is given the appropriate awareness and exposure and pledge our full commitment to supporting employees who may be affected.
- 4.4 Harmful gambling can affect anyone at any time. This can often be far reaching for individuals and those around them. Harmful gambling may impact on employees mental and physical health, and can cause or contribute to debt, poverty, domestic abuse, isolation, homelessness, crime and suicide.
- 4.5 The effects on the workplace may include poor engagement and performance levels, changes in behaviour, poor conduct and relationships with colleagues, and increased absence.
- 4.6 Sandwell Council should provide the appropriate support to employees who are suffering from gambling related harms. The Council has a responsibility to create a stigma-free environment that encourages open discussion and disclosure; this will encourage employees suffering from harmful gambling to not suffer in silence, and discuss the practical steps needed to support their full recovery.



Current Position

4.7 A Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter (Appendix 1) and its associated policy (Appendix 2) and guidance (Appendix 3) have been developed and should be read in conjunction with this report.

4.8 The Workplace Charter outlines seven key principles:

- We will make a commitment
- We will build our approach
- We will promote a positive culture
- We will support and train
- We will provide the right support
- We will help people to recover
- We will seek parity and handle issues with sensitivity

4.9 The policy and guidance have been developed to reinforce the charter and aims to:

- Support employees and managers by setting out the responsibilities and key principles to follow in relation to harmful gambling.
- Foster an environment in which colleagues feel confident disclosing gambling related harms to their line managers and peers.
- Provide direction and clarity on how the Council will deal with issues relating to gambling related harm.

Consultation

4.10 Sandwell Council is committed to working with its recognised Trade Union colleagues to ensure support is available for employees suffering from gambling related harm.

4.11 The charter, policy and guidance were developed in conjunction with Sandwell Council's recognised Trade Union colleagues and with the assistance of Sandwell Council's Occupational Health team.



- 4.12 The proposal to implement a Harmful Gambling Charter, policy and guidance was endorsed by members of the Joint Consultative Panel (JCP) on 10 March 2022.
- 4.13 The Council will continue to review the policy and guidance in consultation with the Trade Unions to ensure it is in line with current best practice and any future legislation.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Council is not obligated to implement a Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter and its accompanying policy and guidance. However, as part of its corporate and social responsibility, the Council has a commitment to carry out its practices in an ethical way which supports the development of employee relations.

6 Implications

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| Resources: | There are no specific financial implications arising from the contents of this report. |
| Legal and Governance: | There are no specific legal implications arising from the contents of this report. The proposed charter, policy and guidance do not create any risk of discrimination claims, as they can be applied equally to all employees. They do not affect any other statutory employment right. |
| Risk: | The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks arising from the decisions being sought. This has concluded that there are no red risks that require reporting. All risks identified have suitable measures in place to mitigate risks to an acceptable level within the council's appetite for risk. |
| Equality: | An initial screening was undertaken in February 2022, it was agreed at this time that the subject of the statement did not meet the criteria for undertaking a full EIA. The information assessed had a positive impact on one of the nine protected characteristics or groups – |



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| | <p>namely sex. The remaining characteristics were not adversely affected, as the policy will be applied equally and consistently to all employees.</p> <p>Although this policy applies equally to all employees, managers should have due regard to the personal circumstances of individuals.</p> |
| Health and Wellbeing: | <p>By taking a proactive approach to supporting employees suffering from gambling related harm, the Council can ensure that employees are able to ask for help and support. This in turn, can reduce absenteeism by providing the appropriate support.</p> <p>A sympathetic and appropriate approach from managers is crucial to provide employees with the support that they need. This should ensure employees feel confident to discuss their concerns, enabling them to continue to be successful in their roles.</p> |
| Social Value | <p>Supporting employees suffering from gambling related harms could reduce the associated financial, health and unemployment costs.</p> |

7. CONCLUSIONS AND SUMMARY OF REASONS FOR THE RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 The Council, like all employers, has a duty of care to its employees, by providing workers with a safe and effective work environment.
- 7.2 It is important to make it clear through a workplace charter and its associated policy and guidance, that employees suffering from gambling related harm will receive the appropriate levels of support and that Sandwell MBC has a positive attitude towards this subject.
- 7.3 Once agreed, the Council will communicate to employees that the charter, policy and guidance has been created.
- 7.4 Senior Managers, Line Managers, the Occupation Health team and Human Resources will also be informed of their responsibilities under this guidance.



7.5 Sandwell Councils Workplace Wellbeing Board and Wellbeing Champions will also be informed that the charter, policy and guidance has been created.

8. Appendices

8.1 Appendix 1 – Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter

8.2 Appendix 2 – Harmful Gambling Policy – HR88

8.3 Appendix 3 – Harmful Gambling Guidance – HR88.1

9. Background Papers

None



Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter



Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council takes the health and wellbeing of our employees very seriously. In this regard, the Council will work collaboratively to tackle gambling related harms in the workplace and community.

We will:

- ▶ **Make a commitment** that policies on gambling related harm are central to the organisations approach to health and wellbeing.
- ▶ **Build our approach**, ensuring the senior management team understand, communicate and act on its duty of care and legal obligations concerning gambling related harms and risk management in the workplace.
- ▶ **Promote a positive culture**, ensuring employees feel supported and valued whilst suffering from or at risk of suffering from gambling related harms.
- ▶ **Support and train managers** to help them understand and signpost individuals to sources of support regarding gambling related harms.
- ▶ **Provide the right support**, ensuring managers are trained and confident in recognising gambling related harms and how to hold sensitive and confidential conversations.
- ▶ **Help people to recover**, ensuring that employees who experience gambling related harms, and have to take time off work, are given the appropriate support to help them return to work when they are ready.
- ▶ **Seek parity and handle issues with sensitivity**, ensuring problematic gambling issues are given equal parity to policies regarding drugs and alcohol.

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Harmful Gambling Policy

1. Introduction

Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council takes the health and wellbeing of our employees very seriously. In this regard, the Council will work collaboratively to tackle gambling related harms in the workplace and community.

Harmful gambling is a health and social concern for all and can affect anyone at any time. This can often be far reaching for individuals and those around them. Harmful gambling may impact on employees mental and physical health, and can cause or contribute to debt, poverty, domestic abuse, isolation, homelessness, crime and suicide.

The effects on the workplace may include poor engagement and performance levels, changes in behaviour, poor conduct and relationships with colleagues, and increased absence.

Sandwell Council should provide the appropriate support to employees who are suffering from gambling related harms. The Council has a responsibility to create a stigma-free environment that encourages open discussion and disclosure; this will encourage employees suffering from harmful gambling to not suffer in silence, and discuss the practical steps needed to support their full recovery.

2. Definition

Harmful gambling is behaviour related to gambling which causes harm to the gambler and those around them.

3. Aims and Objectives

The aims of this policy are to:

- Support employees and managers by setting out the responsibilities and key principles to follow in relation to harmful gambling.
- Foster an environment in which colleagues feel confident disclosing gambling related harms to their line managers and peers.
- Provide direction and clarity on how the Council will deal with issues relating to gambling related harm.

The policy is supported by further guidance and a range of other interventions and support options, such as:

- Education, training and awareness sessions.
- Wellbeing champions network

- Access to both internal and external support services.

4. Scope

This policy applies to all employees of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council. The principles of the policy are recommended to all partner organisations.

5. Key Principles

The Council recognises that each case will be different. Whilst the action taken will depend on the individual circumstances, the following key principles will be followed in all cases:

Care

- Raise awareness
- Deliver wellbeing initiatives and activities
- Positively respond to voluntary disclosures from employees about themselves or others
- Promote, signpost and help with access to services

Consult

- With the individual and any other representatives involved, depending on the circumstances, which may include Occupational Health, Human Resources and Trade Unions
- Supporting guidance
- Internal and external support resources

Consider

- Regular supportive conversations via [One to One Template](#) and [Sensitive Conversations Guide](#)
- Taking a holistic approach - consider other wellbeing tools or policies
- Workplace adjustments or time off to seek help
- Monitor and review support plans.

6. Duty of Care

Sandwell Council, like all employers have a duty of care to their employees. Health and safety laws ensure workers have the right to a safe working environment where risks to health and wellbeing are considered and dealt with efficiently.

7. Roles and Responsibilities

All employees are responsible for:

- Being open, honest and accountable in conversations with managers, Human Resources and Occupational Health
- Taking responsibility for looking after their health and wellbeing
- Raise any concerns they have in relation to this policy. This may be about themselves, colleagues or activities that may put the council at risk
- Being aware of the support available and engaging in support measures which are put in place

All line managers should:

- Familiarise themselves with the Harmful Gambling Policy and Guidance
- Create a working environment that maximises employee attendance and engagement
- Be ready and willing to have open discussions about harmful gambling, appreciating the personal nature of the conversation, and treating the discussion sensitively and professionally
- Refer to the guidance before agreeing with the individual how best they can be supported, and any adjustments required
- Record any adjustments agreed, and actions to be implemented
- Ensure ongoing dialogue and review dates

Where adjustments are unsuccessful, the line manager may:

- Discuss a referral to Occupational Health for further advice
- Refer the employee to Occupational Health where there are concerns that there is an impact on the employees capability to carry out their duties.
- Review the Occupational Health advice, and implement any recommendations, where reasonably practical
- Continue to review

The role of Human Resources is to:

Provide advice and guidance to managers and employees on the application of policy, including support options available and appropriate action

- Provide tools and training for managers

- Monitor the effectiveness of this policy and seek regular feedback from employees and managers

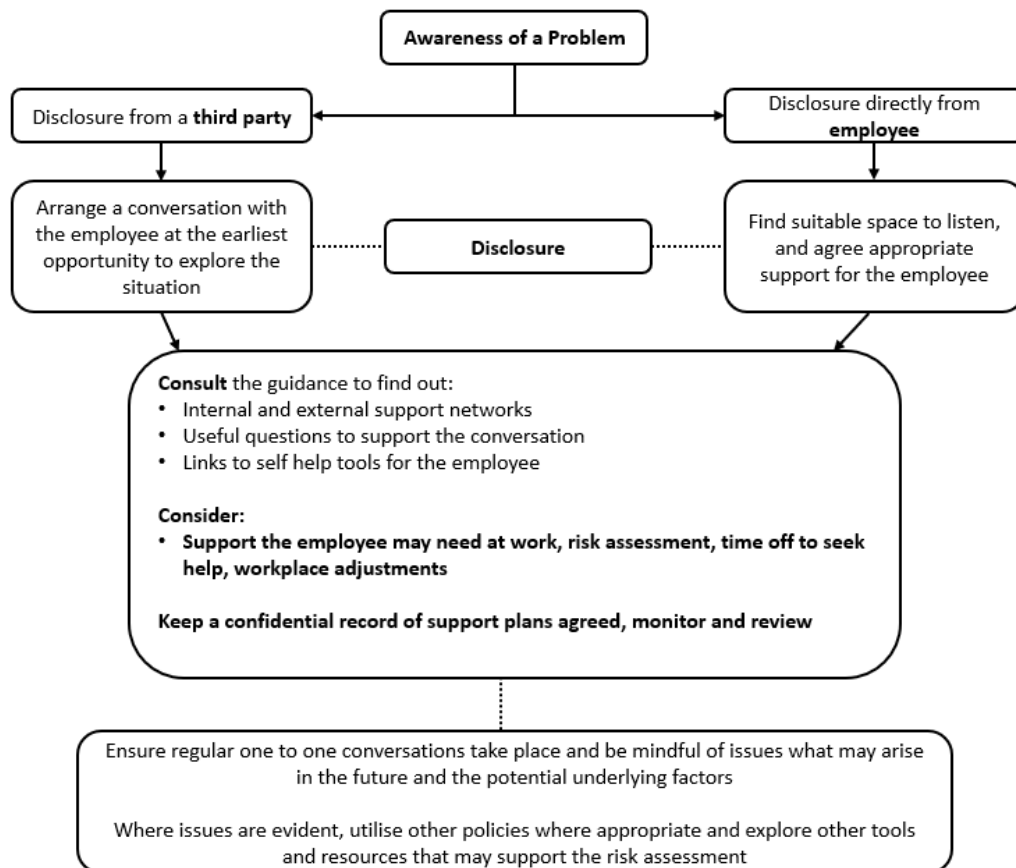
The role of Occupational Health is to:

- Signpost to appropriate sources of help and advice
- Provide support and advice to HR and Line Managers in determining and agreeing reasonable adjustments, if required

Employee Assistance and Counselling Service will:

- Provide access to 24/7 telephone counselling and face-to-face counselling for all employees on 0808 168 2143.

8. Process



9. Confidentiality

It is recognised that certain personnel records will be necessary. However, any discussion on the nature of an employee's gambling problems and the record of any treatment will be strictly confidential, unless the employee agrees otherwise.

10. Internal Support Services

- Harmful Gambling Guidance (link)
- Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter (link)
- [One to One Template](#)
- [Approaching Sensitive Conversations – Guide and Template](#)
- [My Wellbeing Hub](#)
- [Occupational Health](#)
- [Employee Assistance and Counselling Service](#)

11. External Support Services

- [NHS Inform – Problem Gambling](#)
- [Gam Care](#)
- [Beacon Counselling Trust – Problematic Gambling](#)
- [Citizens Advice - Gambling](#)
- [Mind – Gambling Addiction Support](#)

This policy was developed in conjunction with Sandwell Council's recognised Trade Union colleagues and Occupational Health.

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Harmful Gambling Guidance

1. Introduction

Harmful gambling is a social concern for all, and as a council we want to ensure the issue is given the appropriate awareness and exposure and pledge our full commitment to supporting employees who may be affected.

Harmful gambling can have a detrimental effect on the wellbeing of employees and their physical and mental health. It may often be the underlying factor for other difficulties employees may be experiencing which can often go unnoticed due to the fear, shame and stigma attached to acknowledging that there is a problem.

As a council we are devoted to caring for the health and wellbeing of our workforce. We aim to create and promote a culture where colleagues feel confident enough to raise issues about harmful gambling and seek the help and support they need. One where managers feel confident in holding conversations and providing the appropriate level of support to those who need it.

This guidance has been developed to support the Harmful Gambling Policy and the Council's pledge to the Workplace Harmful Gambling Charter (LINK), in partnership with our recognised trade unions.

It provides information on:

- Defining harmful gambling
- The impact of harmful gambling on individuals and others
- Spotting the signs of harmful gambling
- What you can do as a manager
- What you can do as an employee
- Workplace support
- National support

2. What is Harmful Gambling?

Whilst gambling can be a harmless form of entertainment for most people, it does entail a risk of losing control over time and money spent, which may cause economic problems, distress and other kinds of harm not only to the individual but also to significant others and society at large.

Harmful gambling is when an individual's gambling starts to cause problems for themselves or others – for example, if:

- individuals are starting to have some stress associated with gambling
- it's starting to put financial pressure on an individual
- it's causing problems with some of your relationships

Harmful gambling often contributes to other problems such as, drug or alcohol misuse, employment, homelessness or crime.

Harmful gambling directly affects an estimated 430,000 people in Britain, with a further 1,985,000 deemed as being at risk of developing a gambling problem. An estimated 5-8 other people are affected by someone else's gambling problem. This makes gambling a significant social issue.

Harmful Gambling can impact:

Financially

- Debt
- Non-payment of debt
- Court summons
- CCJs or repossession
- Pay day loans
- Borrowing or stealing

Health

- Extreme emotion/mood swings
- Difficulty sleeping
- Misuse of drugs or alcohol
- Anxiety
- Depression
- Suicidal thoughts

Relationships

- Arguing with partners, family or friends
- Lack of interest in other social activities
- Isolation
- Violence or abuse

Employment

- Lack of motivation and performance
- Disengagement
- Timekeeping
- Absence
- Misusing working time or equipment

3. Spotting the Signs

It is not easy to tell whether an employee is having gambling related issues, as most individuals are able to maintain consistent behaviour on a day to day basis for long periods of time.

Those who have a harmless passion for gambling will often talk openly about placing bets or wins in their free time and many colleagues will take part in a lottery group or sweep stake at work. The difficulty is that others whose gambling has become a problem, often try to conceal it and it may be that the signs initially present themselves in other ways whilst the underlying cause can remain hidden for a long time.

The following behaviour patterns and characteristics, especially when combined, could be an indication that an employee may have a gambling problem:

Work

- A decline in work performance, inability to meet deadlines, and unreliability.
- Arriving late at work, leaving early.
- Taking extended lunch breaks and often calling in sick.
- Gambling when should be working.

Physical

- Clothes, car and other belongings gradually change to appear below the individual's usual standards.
- Substance use/misuse.
- Fatigue/sleep disorders.

Behaviour/Demeanour

- Seems depressed, anxious or stressed,
- Moody and irritable, is tired and has difficulties concentrating.
- Appearing distracted or pre-occupied with something
- No longer talks much about personal interests and leisure activities

Financial

- Stating various reasons for being out of cash and why money is urgently needed.
- Borrowing money from colleagues.
- Asking for more hours of work.
- Usually having little money to spend but suddenly having a lot of money (after a substantial gambling win).

4. What can we do?

What can managers do?

If a manager suspects that an employee is experiencing gambling related harm, they should facilitate a conversation at the earliest opportunity to be able to discuss the situation and identify and implement appropriate support. Shying away from the subject can perpetuate

fear of stigma and increase feelings of anxiety. Often employees will not feel confident in speaking up, so a manager making the first move to begin a conversation can be key.

A sympathetic and appropriate approach from employers and managers is crucial to provide employees with the support that they need. Above all, it is important to listen to employees and respond sympathetically to any requests for support at work.

Managers know their employees better than anyone and through regular one to one meetings they are able to pick up on early warning signs that an individual may be struggling.

The [one to one template](#) and [Sensitive Conversations Guide](#) includes a key focus on employee wellbeing and provide a safe space to discuss any difficulties an employee may be facing and to agree the appropriate support. Every conversation a manager has with an employee who may be experiencing personal issues will be different. Sometimes, a team member may feel able to be very open with their manager from the very first meeting. In other situations, it may be difficult for the employee to open up and might take several conversations.

Building relationships based on trust, empathy and respect will make it easier for an employee to feel comfortable about raising a gambling issue. This will help to identify the support they need.

Managers should consult the guidance and tools available to them to support the conversation with the employee. These will vary depending on the situation.

For example, depending on the severity of the signs or evidence, or lack of, managers may need to start the conversation at different points. Managers should also consult others where appropriate, for example, where it becomes appropriate to seek advice from other services such as HR or Occupational Health.

Managers should consider the views of all those involved in discussions and agree a joint [support plan](#) with the employee which may include a combination of internal and external sources. The support plan should be documented, monitored and reviewed regularly. In addition to the employee's wellbeing managers should also consider the impact on colleagues and the organisation and consider these alongside other relevant policies.

Individual support may include, but is not limited to:

- Changes to working times and patterns.
- Use existing flexible working policies such as Flexible Leave and Annual Leave to assist with relevant appointments, for example, with support agencies.
- Referring to Occupational Health for further advice.
- Signpost to the Council's employee assistance programme.
- Identify a supportive colleague to talk to away from the work environment, such as a [Workplace Wellbeing Champion](#).

If an employee's performance is suffering as a result of harmful gambling and continues to suffer after the appropriate support has been given, or the employee is having periods of sickness as a result of harmful gambling then please see advice from HR.

What can the employee do?

All employees are responsible for looking after their own health and wellbeing and to care for the health and wellbeing of others.

Any concern they have about their own wellbeing that of others should be raised with their manager in the first instance.

It is important employees engage with any support plans that are developed.

What can we do together?

Care

- Be aware of and promote [wellbeing initiatives](#)
- Help to create a culture of openness, raise and respond to concerns positively
- Be sensitive and respect confidentiality
- Ensure one to one conversations take place

Consult

- Tools to support the conversation - [One to one template](#), [Sensitive Conversations Template](#), [Wellbeing Champions](#).
- Colleagues who can help; trade union representatives or HR representatives for advice and guidance on support and the process.
- Specialist advice where it would be helpful, for example EAP for access to counselling or financial advice.

Consider

- What can managers and individuals do to help and support each other
- Workplace support: temporary adjustments, different types of leave, flexible working, Employee Assistance Programme
- Other policies that maybe impacted: Code of Conduct, Performance Capability, Sickness Absence Management
- Other people that maybe impacted

- Joint expectations and timeframes; monitor and review

5. Internal Support Services

There is a wide range of internal support on offer to support individuals experiencing harmful gambling:

- **Harmful Gambling Policy** (link) – which outlines the responsibilities and key principles to follow in relation to harmful gambling.
- **Harmful Gambling Workplace Charter** (link) – which underpins the Council’s commitment to tackling harmful gambling.
- [One to One Template](#) – conducting regular one to one’s are vital for engaging with employees and can provide a platform to unearthing personal and sensitive issues.
- [Approaching Sensitive Conversations – Guide and Template](#) - provides a safe and structured space to discuss any difficulties an employee may be facing and to agree the appropriate support.
- [My Wellbeing Hub](#) - contains all of the links from the Councils wellbeing council offer from Occupational Health, Public Health and Workplace Vision.
- [Employee Wellbeing Champions](#) - are employees who volunteer to focus on improving the wellbeing of their colleagues, share best practice and signpost to wellbeing initiatives.
- [Occupational Health](#) - provides quality services and advice to employees and managers across the council and partner organisations.
- [Employee Assistance and Counselling Service](#) - offers free, confidential advice and counselling on a wide range of issues from financial advice to general wellbeing. The programme is available 24/7 and aims to support employees with both personal and work related issues.

6. External Support Services

There is a wide range of external support on offer to support individuals experiencing harmful gambling:

- [NHS Inform – Problem Gambling](#) – provides a toolkit which includes a self help page and a live chat forum for individuals suffering from harmful gambling.
- [Gam Care](#) - provides information, advice and support for anyone affected by problem gambling. It operates the National Gambling Helpline and provides treatment for problem gamblers and their families.

- [Beacon Counselling Trust – Problematic Gambling](#) - is a counselling charity, which employs fully qualified counsellors who have extensive experience working with a range of mental health issues which include gambling.
- [Citizens Advice - Gambling](#) – offers free and confidential advice to start dealing with gambling related debts as well as getting help to stop gambling.
- [Mind – Gambling Addiction Support](#) – provides a list of support service to help with gambling and addiction.

This guidance was developed in conjunction with Sandwell Council's recognised Trade Union colleagues and Occupational Health.

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

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| Subject: | Health Checks Service |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Suzanne Hartwell Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health |
| Director: | Lisa McNally Director of Public Health |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Liann Brookes-Smith Consultant in Public Health Liann_brookesmith@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Director of Public Health be authorised to tender the Health Checks contract for a prime provider to deliver Health Checks for an initial period of two years up to a total cumulative maximum value of £320,000 for the vatable price (£266,667+20% = £320,000) which would total capped budget of £640,000 over two years.
- 1.2 That the Director of Public Health be authorised to award and enter into a contract with the successful bidder, on terms to be agreed by the Director of Public Health, for the provision of NHS Health Checks Services.
- 1.3 That the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into and execute, under seal as may be required, any contracts or ancillary documentation in relation to the award of contract referred to in recommendations above.
- 1.4 That the Director of Public Health be Authorised to use an exemption to rule 9 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 to waive the requirement for the advertisement of a health checks IT system on the Council's portal, and instead allow the direct award of a



two year contract to Health Diagnostics for the maintenance of the existing health checks IT system, to be aligned to the period that the new delivery model of health checks commences at a maximum value of £80,000 per annum.

- 1.5 That the Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to award a contract to Health Diagnostics for a health checks IT management system for a period of two years for a maximum value of £80,000 per annum on terms to be agreed by the Director - Public Health.
- 1.6 That the Director of Public Health be authorised to use an exemption to rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 to waive the requirement for a minimum of 3 written tenders and instead allow the direct award of a two year contract to Health Diagnostics for the maintenance of the existing health checks IT system.

2 Reasons for Recommendations


- 2.1 In the Cabinet paper 9th October 2019 we had put forward the plan to cease the current prime provider contract and commission directly with GPs to provide Health checks. However, shortly after this was agreed and the contract ended, the COVID-19 pandemic occurred, and we were unable to work with GPs at that time.
- 2.2 We wished to start the procurement with GPs this year. We sought advice from Bevan Brittan Solicitors and were informed that our initial approach to advertise to an approved list of primary care providers is now not permitted under the Light Touch Regime of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as we must contract with Any Qualified Provider and not limit this to GPs. As a result, the information contained in the Cabinet Report in 2019 (which referred to commissioning directly with GPs only to provide Health checks) may now not be entirely correct due to the recent advice that we must contract with Any Qualified Provider and not limit this to GPs.
- 2.3 In addition, the Health Economy landscape has changed since 2019 and the Health and Care Partnership is maturing. Over these two years we will be looking at the potential to integrate NHS Health Checks with the primary care framework Sandwell and West Birmingham Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) have with their GP practices, this



approach would align with current activity across the Borough such as the Joint Outcomes Framework.

- 2.4 We are now proposing that we return to a procurement of a Prime Provider for a period of 2 years. Whilst the health economy transitions to the new care structure from a Clinical Commissioning Group to the Integrated Care Partnership and recovers from the COVID pandemic.
- 2.5 Nationally, the government is reviewing the current delivery models and indicators of the NHS Health Checks services. We are only looking to work with a prime provider for 2 years as during that time the government review will be finalised and as such there maybe changes needed and new requirements to the service.
- 2.6 We do not currently have a service in place due to rightly pausing the process during the COVID Pandemic

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

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|  | <i>People live well and age well</i> |
| The New Health Checks Service would contribute to delivering against this objective in the Corporate Plan. | |

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Health Checks

4.2 This service supports People live well and age well.

4.3 The NHS Health Check is a national risk assessment and prevention programme that identifies people at risk of developing heart disease, stroke, diabetes and kidney disease. They are aimed at anyone between 40 and 74 years of age excluding those who have been previously diagnosed with a cardiovascular condition or are being treated for certain risk factors such as high blood pressure or high cholesterol. Commissioning and monitoring the NHS Health Check is a mandatory public health function in the Health and Social Care Act 2012. This means that there is a obligation on the Council to commission them.



- 4.4 Sandwell Council previously commissioned a private company to deliver Health Checks.
- 4.5 We had requested permission for an alternative approach to deliver health checks via a partnership arrangement between local primary care centres and the voluntary sector. Primary care being the logical setting for clinical governance reasons (as the health checks require blood samples to be taken, sharps to be disposed of and medical records to be accessed), the addition of the voluntary sector partnership would improve the extent to which health checks reach those most in need of them. In our new maturing health economy, we are wishing to procure the service with a prime provider moving across to a more primary care centric model in the longer-term plan.
- 4.6 The overall value would be a total cumulative maximum value of £320,000 for the vatable price ($£266,667 + 20\% = £320,000$) which would total capped budget of £640,000 over two years. This would be paid on a mix of tariff per health check and setting up costs.
- 4.7 A digital health diagnostics system is already installed in local primary care settings and it is considered for continuity and the mitigation of service disruption, the existing supplier is maintained, subject to approval by Cabinet of an exemption to direct award a contract to Health Diagnostics. This was the agreed provider before the pandemic, all software has been installed on GP systems but has not been in use yet due to the procurement being paused. If the exemption is not approved, the existing system would need to be uninstalled and potentially a new system installed. As stated this was an approved and agreed provider who has not yet being able to enact the system which was agreed.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 We continue to not provide a health checks service – as a nationally mandated service this will come with national scrutiny.



- 5.2 We move forward with an Any Qualified Provider procurement approach, which means we could contract with GPs, private companies and other Qualified Providers from local to national whom are compliant against the tender criteria, who are able to provide health checks across the Borough in a mosaic of provision.

6 Implications

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| <p>Resources:</p> | <p>The recommendations within the report is in two parts, an agreement to tender for a Health Checks Prime Provider up to a total cumulative value of £320,000 for the vatable price (£266,667+20% = £320,000) which would total capped budget of £640,000 over two years.</p> <p>Then the related IT Management System, Health Diagnostic a period of two years for a maximum value of £80,000 per annum (£160,000 in total excluding VAT – if applicable). Which was agreed, set up and installed following the Cabinet paper in October 2019, but put on pause due to the pandemic. Uresh Patel in ICT has supported this work and requires no further ICT input or resource.</p> <p>The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks associated with the decisions being sought. This has concluded that the most important risk is that a mandated service is not tendered and put in place. Following this would be of lower significance risks around embedding and the success mobilisation and deliver of the provider, which would be addressed in the applicant questioning phase of the tender, where at an early stage we will ensure measures are in place to mitigate risk to an acceptable level, such as engagement, delivery, relationships, communications, patient care pathway.</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>The total value of the tender for Health Checks Contract is £640,000, inclusive of VAT. It is therefore over the threshold for a Light Touch Regime procurement (£663,540). As a result, it is not caught</p> |



| | |
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| | <p>by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, save for the need to advertise the award of the contract on the Government's Contracts Finder portal. However, the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules would need to be adhered to.</p> <p>The value of the contract proposed to be directly awarded to Health Diagnostics is approximately £160,000 for a two year term and is below the procurement threshold for supply of goods/services (£213,477). As a result, it is not caught by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, save for the need to advertise the award of the contract on the Government's Contracts Finder portal.</p> <p>With regard to awarding the contract to Health Diagnostics, the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 would also need to be adhered to.</p> <p>Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules requires a minimum of 3 written tenders for contracts over £100,000. Where it is the intention to deviate from this requirement, an exemption must be sought. As a result, an exemption to Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules would need to be secured to waive the requirement to obtain a minimum of three tenders. Further to this, Rule 9 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 requires advertisement on the Council's portal. As a result, an exemption to Rule 9 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules would need to be secured to waive the requirement for the advertisement of a health checks IT system on the Council's portal, and instead allow the direct award of a two year contract to Health Diagnostics.</p> <p>Uresh Patel in ICT has supported this work and requires no further ICT input or resource.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <p>A risk review was completed previously on this service as it is maintaining sustainable delivery of mandatory service which previously existed the main risk is not having a service in place and enhancing accessibility to key priority groups such as people with</p> |



| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| | disabilities and those living with mental health conditions. |
| Equality: | A screening exercise was completed previously on this service and found that a full Equality Impact Assessment was not required as the report is concerned with maintaining sustainable delivery of an existing service in a way that enhances accessibility to key priority groups such as people with disabilities and those living with mental health conditions. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | This service, as mentioned, is a mandated service to support health and wellbeing of the Sandwell population providing health checking for those aged 40-74 who did not know they had indicators of illness. |
| Social Value | <p>The provisions set out in this report will contribute to greater focus of spend within the Borough, contributing to the inclusive growth agenda that will result in increased social value.</p> <p>We will ensure wherever possible that local people and services are put at the forefront of the procurement of this service from recruiting and training local people where possible.</p> |

7 Appendices

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix B – Health Checks Risk Register PRIVATE

8 Background Papers

Cabinet paper from 9th October 2019



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Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: January 2019

| | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | Health checks Service |
| Directorate and Service Area | Public Health – Healthy sandwell |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Liann Brookes-Smith |
| Contact Details | Liann_brookessmith@sandwell.gov.uk |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | |
| Date EIA completed | 16/06/2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | 16/06/2022 |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | Lisa McNally |
| Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member | 16/06/2022 |

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)**

We wish to tender the Health Checks service using a prime provider model, this is a change to a previous cabinet paper in 2019. In the previous paper we were requesting permission to stop using a prime provider model and to use local GPs to provide the service. The Covid 19 pandemic occurred, preventing the procurement from going ahead and as the health economy is in a different position to where it was in 2019, we now wish to return to a prime provider model and work with the maturing Integrated Care Partnership to look at how this can be delivered.

Also procurement guidance means we would need to use Any Qualified Provider, which could mean a mosaic of provision across the borough, from private to GP to gaps.

2. Evidence used/considered

Current procurement guidance, local concern around primary care capacity, concern around putting this model in place at this present time.

The national model is also reported to change, therefore we wish to get a service in place and ensure we are providing the best possible service.

3. Consultation

None.

This service was previously in place using a prime provider model before the pandemic.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

We do not foresee any impact, this service model was in place before the pandemic, we are simply requesting that we move from a model we had proposed, back to the previous model in place at the time of the previous paper.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | ✓ | | | Having a service in place to screen for ill health in the 40-74 age bracket will be of benefit. |
| Disability | ✓ | | | All people will benefit – including those with a disability aged between 40 and 74 yrs. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Gender reassignment | | | ✓ | No specific impact |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | ✓ | No specific impact |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | ✓ | No specific impact |
| Race | ✓ | | | All people will benefit – including those of different races who are more likely to develop long term conditions- aged between 40 and 74 yrs. |
| Religion or belief | | | ✓ | No specific impact |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|---------------------------|
| Sex | | | ✓ | No specific impact |
| Sexual orientation | | | ✓ | No specific impact |
| Other | | | | |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

The main adverse impact would be lack of provision , which the new service model will address.

Also people being made aware of a risk to their health but no onward support after being made aware of that. The service will able to support that as part of the provision – which a new model using GPs may not have been able to develop at this time.

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

The service will able to support that as part of the provision – which a new model using GPs may not have been able to develop at this time.

That there is balance provision across the borough but also targeting those most in need.

7. Monitoring arrangements

The contract will have a list of indicators to ensure that we monitor the support and the numbers and risk groups attendees come from.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

| Question no. (ref) | Action required | Lead officer/ person responsible | Target date | Progress |
|---------------------------|--|---|--------------------|------------------------------|
| | Permission to procure a prime provider model | LBS | 07/22 | Awaiting outcome |
| | Create the documentation required for a tender | LBS | 07/22 | Awaiting permission to start |
| | Increase awareness of the contract going out to the market to improve bids | LBS | 07/22 | Awaiting permission to start |
| | Go through procurement | LBS | 08-09/22 | Awaiting permission to start |
| | Award contract | LBS | 09/22 | Awaiting permission to start |
| | Mobilise service | LBS | 10-11/22 | Awaiting permission to start |

9. Publish the EIA

Yes

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | School Condition Report 2022 |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Children and Education Councillor Simon Hackett |
| Director: | Director of Children's Services and Education Michael Jarrett |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Sue Moore, Group Head, Education Support Services sue_moore@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations


- 1.1 That subject to a satisfactory financial appraisal being completed by Strategic Finance, approval be given to the allocation of £1.5m of School Condition grant funding to be used to support cyclical maintenance of local authority maintained schools.
- 1.2 Require in connection with 1.1, that the following actions are implemented to reduce any risk to the council in connection with School Condition; ensure that repair / maintenance work for schools is undertaken following an analysis of pre-determined criteria and that records are maintained to demonstrate the priority need of each school.
 - Ensure that corporate Risk Registers are maintained and reviewed for all projects, and ensure all risks are appropriately identified and assessed, with adequate mitigation;
 - That cost estimates are reviewed to ensure that any future costs can be managed within the allocated funding;



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 This report seeks approval to allocate School Condition grant funding for cyclical maintenance to support maintained schools.
- 2.2 Building Services and Strategic Assets and Land's Engineering team have identified six schools for 2022/23 which require replacement of oil fired boilers, boilers, water services systems and fire alarms. Works are planned for completion during the school summers holidays and the autumn holidays.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p><i>Best start in life for children and young people</i></p> <p>The recommendation in this report supports the desire of the council to focus resources on the specific needs and aspirations of the community. This contributes to the Council's Vision 2030 Ambition 1 – Raising aspirations and resilience, Ambition 3 – Young people to have skills for the future, Ambition 4 – Raising the quality of schools.</p> |
|---|--|

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Department for Education allocates funding each year to help maintain and improve the condition of school buildings and grounds which continue to operate as maintained establishments.
- 4.2 Investment should be prioritised on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues.
- 4.3 **The current position**
- 4.4 In late April the DfE announced the Authority's School Condition allocation for 2022/23 in the sum of £5.1million.



- 4.5 Strategic Assets and Land has a schedule of proposed works for maintenance of maintained schools in the borough. The list is included in Appendix 1, 'Strategic Investment Capital Appraisal'.
- 4.6 Detailed budget costs for all the works recommended for 2022/23 are currently being developed. Initial estimated cost of £970,000.
- 4.7 The remaining £3.6million will be retained for use towards other school building improvement projects. Cabinet reports will be submitted once those projects have been identified.
- 4.8 **Consultation (Customers and other Stakeholders)**
There is no requirement to undertake a wide consultation on the proposed schemes.

In managing the School Repair Account, officers within Building Services meet on a termly basis with representatives from those schools that have bought back into the Account for compliance monitoring, reactive/ planned maintenance and repairs. The meetings are held to review works completed to date, and any critical issues that will require immediate attention over the short to medium term (i.e. up to 5 years).

Any maintained school that has chosen not to purchase a full service from the School Repair Account do however continue to be considered for support from the School Condition grant funding allocation to ensure council assets are appropriately maintained.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 There are either no alternative options for schemes identified, or options have already been discounted through project development:

The terms of the School Condition Allocation mean funds have to be spent on maintained school's cyclical maintenance.

Within the maintained schools sector, it is the primary school building stock that will also require a programme of replacement to commence shortly. The deteriorating condition of school buildings will otherwise continue to be a drain on the School Repair Account.



6 Implications

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Resources:</p> | <p>Following a decision by the Director of Finance, Capital Appraisals for Town Team funding have taken priority to meet tight deadlines required to draw down funding. All other capital appraisals will therefore be undertaken retrospectively. The Cabinet approval is therefore subject to a capital appraisal being completed but should not prohibit progress with the proposed project.</p> <p>School Condition funding continues to be allocated on a yearly basis and is based on the number of maintained schools the council remains responsible for. School Condition allocation for 2022/23 has been confirmed as £5.1m. The resources are not ring fenced and there is no time limit to expend.</p> <p>Staffing implications: none</p> <p>Land implications: no change to LA's land holding. Programmed works will add value to LA asset.</p> <p>Building implications: improvement of existing school buildings.</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>The council shall ensure that any procurement of contracts necessary for this proposal are undertaken in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <p>The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision / project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks.</p> |



| | |
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| | <p>Based on the information provided, it is the officers' opinion that for the significant risks that have been identified, arrangements are in place to manage and mitigate these effectively.</p> <p>Improvements to the conditions of school buildings may assist in mitigating some of the risks arising from insured perils (such as storms, floods, fire etc) and therefore mitigate the financial costs associated with such events.</p> <p>Project Risk Registers will continue to be prepared and managed during the lifetime of the projects to ensure that time, cost and quality are continually monitored to mitigate any risk to the council once projects are finalised. There are currently no significant risks identified.</p> |
| Equality: | An Equality Impact Assessment initial screening has been undertaken. The screening identified that there will be no adverse impact on people or groups with protected characteristics as a result of the proposals contained within the report. A full EIA is not therefore required. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | This will be a positive impact for children and young people as it ensures schools buildings will be enhance and improved. |
| Social Value | In improving the maintained schools' buildings, it will enhance and improve the teaching environments for all. |

7 Appendices

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment

8 Background Papers

None.



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Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 3: January 2013

| | |
|--|---|
| Title of proposal | Schools Condition Report 2022 |
| Directorate and Service Area | Children and Education Directorate |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Martyn Roberts School Place Planning and Capital Manager |
| Contact Details | martyn_roberts@sandwell.gov.uk 0121 569 8341 |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | Sue Moore Group Head Education Support Services |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | |
| Date EIA completed | |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | |
| Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member | |

1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required

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

(Please provide as much information as possible)

This report seeks approval to allocate School Condition Allocation funding for cyclical maintenance to support maintained schools.

Building Services, Strategic Assets and Land's Engineering Schemes for 2022/23 identify five schools which require replacement of oil fired boilers, boilers, water services systems and fire alarms. Works are planned for completion during the school summers holidays and the autumn holidays.

2. Evidence used/considered

Strategic Assets and Land has a schedule of proposed works for maintenance of maintained schools in the borough.

Detailed budget costs for all the works recommended for 2022/23 are currently being developed.

3. Consultation

4. Assess likely impact

It has been assessed no adverse impact on people or groups with protected characteristics as a result of the proposals contained within the report. This is based on schools have been selected and work needed has been identified as part of a process of risk assessment on keeping school buildings safe and in good working order by tackling poor building condition, building compliance, energy efficiency, and health and safety issues.

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 | | | ✓ | Not applicable. |
| Disability | | | ✓ | Not applicable. |
| Gender reassignment | | | ✓ | Not applicable. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | ✓ | Not applicable. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | ✓ | Not applicable. |

| | | | | |
|--------------------|--|--|---|----------------|
| Race | | | ✓ | Not applicable |
| Religion or belief | | | ✓ | Not applicable |
| Sex | | | ✓ | Not applicable |
| Sexual orientation | | | ✓ | Not applicable |
| Other | | | | |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Outcome of the Review of Generic Advocacy Service |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health – Councillor Suzanne Hartwell |
| Director: | Director of Adult Social Care Rashpal Bishop |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Justin Haywood Operations Manager ASC Commissioning Justin_Haywood@sandwell.gov.uk Beverley Stevens Commissioner Beverley_Stevens@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1. That approval be given to decommission the Generic Advocacy Service as from 1 October 2022.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Cabinet approved the re-procurement and award for the Advocacy Services Contract on 9th September 2020, the commencement of the review of the Generic Advocacy Service, and that the findings of the review would be reported back to Cabinet.



- 2.2 The Advocacy Services contract started on 1 April 2021 and is due to expire on 31 March 2023, except for the Generic Advocacy Service part of the contract, which was due to expire on 31 March 2022. The contract included the option to extend by up to two further periods of 12 months each, which was previously agreed by Cabinet on 9th September 2020.
- 2.3 The Generic Advocacy Service part of the contract was extended for 6 months in April 2022 to allow the consultation and decision to be taken on the future of the service.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | People live well and age well Generic Advocacy and other services in the community helps to address issues presented by service users and thus contributes to their health and wellbeing. |
|  | Strong resilient communities Generic Advocacy and other services in the community strengthens the voice of vulnerable people and builds their resilience against issues. |

4 Background

- 4.1 The non-statutory Generic Advocacy Service provides issue-based advocacy for Sandwell residents in relation to Social Care, Health, Child Protection, Housing, Immigration, and other issues.
- 4.2 The statutory advocacy services in the Advocacy Services Contract including Independent Mental Capacity Advocacy, Independent Mental Health Advocacy, NHS Complaints Advocacy and Care Act Advocacy are not affected by the recommendations in this report.
- 4.3 Cabinet approved a review to look at the purpose and eligibility criteria for the non-statutory Generic advocacy element with a view to bringing it closer in line with the purpose and criteria for Care Act Advocacy. For this reason, the Generic Advocacy Service part of the contract was awarded for 12 months, with two 12 months extensions. Their use was dependent on the outcome of the review.



- 4.5 Delayed by the Pandemic, the 12-week consultation period commenced on the 14 February 2022 and ended on 9th May 2022 and was conducted in line with the Council's policy on consultation.
- 4.6 Surveys were sent to POhWER to share with current service users, with their advocates and managers. Surveys were sent to those who refer to the service including The Local Authorities Care Management staff, NHS staff, Public Health Community Vaccination Leaders Network. Referrers from the voluntary sector were engaged through Sandwell Council Voluntary Organisations.
- 4.7 The consultation received 17 responses from people currently or recently having accessed the service. It was noted that the main reasons for people seeking support from the service was in connection with health or mental health services, support for parents undergoing child protection court proceedings, housing, and access to care services. 13 clients stated that they had asked for support from another organisation before presenting at POhWER and felt that they had not or partly been supported.
- 4.8 Examples of the most frequent presenting issues by service users are listed below:

Care and Support:

"There has been a change in how my son has been in supported living, his mental health has declined and he talks to himself. The professionals didn't inform me of son's declining health. My advocate supported me to communicate my feelings to the social worker as I felt that she was not getting back to me. My advocate helped me in a meeting with the care home to say how worried I was".

Health

"I had issues with my GP and could not understand letters. Advocate helped me to understand letter and make appointment to talk with practice nurse. Now feel better about treatment".



Parenting/Child Protection

“I wasn't told what was going on and it was confusing. I did not know I was able to get a solicitor and the relationship with my social worker was rubbish. My advocate helped me say what I needed to say and showed me how to show them the changes I had made for my family. I think without an advocate my children would have been taken into care”.

Mental Health

“I was referred twice to mental health services but could not attend the clinic due to anxiety, then discharged. I tried to explain but no one listened. My advocate spoke with the services and explained why attending a physical meeting would not work. We arranged an online assessment. My advocate talked me through how to install and use the technology and attended the meeting with me. I was accepted for support and arranged a home visit, given a CPN and now get support. I doubt I would be here without the service”.

Housing

“I stopped paying my rent because the landlord refused to make changes to the home that would make it suitable for me and my disabled child. I was under threat of eviction. My advocate supported me to write letters and meet with the housing provider. I am still waiting for some adaptations but my situation is much better”.

5 Alternative Option(s)

5.1 The following options have been considered. These options were:

Option 1: Extend this element of the contract with the existing provider for a further 6 months to deliver a Generic Advocacy Service, then decide on the future Contract.

Option 2: To continue with the Generic Advocacy Service

Option 3: Decommission the service.

Option 3 is the recommended option for the following reasons:



The evidence supported that the needs can be met by other services in the voluntary sector many of which are already funded or provided by the council to provide the identified support or where there is a statutory responsibility placed on those services to support people with reasonable adjustments.

People contacting POhWER for support, previously provided by Generic Advocacy, would in future be referred to organisations whose role it is to support people with such issues or back to organisations who have a statutory responsibility to provide support under the Equality Duty.

6. Implications

| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Resources: | The Generic Advocacy and Care Act Advocacy contract combined costs £100,000 per annum with Generic Advocacy taking up half of this budget at £50,000 per annum. The proposal will deliver annual savings which have been reflected within the approved Adult Social Care budget for 2022/23. |
| Legal and Governance | Unlike the other forms of Advocacy, Generic Advocacy is a non-statutory which means the Council is not legally required to provide this service. However, the Equality Act places a responsibility to ensure reasonable adjustments are made to ensure protected groups are supported where they may have difficulty in participating in a process or accessing services. |
| Risk | There are no significant risks in decommissioning the service. The Corporate Risk Management Strategy has been updated to identify and assess the risks associated with this Contract. |
| Equality | An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed as part of the Cabinet report process to identify any adverse impacts or issues of concern for protected groups because of the proposals in this report. There are no adverse impacts on any group. |



| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Health and Wellbeing | The consultation enabled service users to give their views on the usefulness of the service. The service users can use other services in the community which can contribute to their health and wellbeing. |
| Social Value | The Advocacy Services Contract is delivered by a charitable organisation. By contracting with this organisation, the Council is supporting the resilience and capacity of the voluntary sector. There is social value in staff working from home and using virtual tools for advocacy, and volunteering. |

7. Appendices

Appendix A – Survey responses summary

Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

8. Background Papers:

- Consultation and Procurement of Advocacy Contracts - Report to Cabinet 9 September 2020.
- Commissioning Board – Paper on Extension of Community Advocacy Contract



Appendix A – Survey Responses Summary

There were 59 responses to the survey, of which only 17 were by service users and the rest were by professional advocates or staff who refer to the services.

The main presenting issues were access to health or mental health services, support for parents undergoing child protection court proceedings, housing, and access to care services. The service users can be referred to local organisations for support.

Service users were asked if the organisation they contacted (which were mainly the Council, NHS etc) before presenting for advocacy had met their needs for support and clear communication – of the 8 who replied, 3 said yes, 3 said no and 2 said partly, in which case they should be referred back for support.

All but 1 of the 17 service users stated that the service had made a positive difference to their lives – out of a maximum of 5 for great outcome –the average score was 3.76 with most service users scoring 4 or 5. Most comments included reference to feeling supported/kept in touch with, and advocacy helped them to understand and communicate with professionals/organisations.

The main need met by Community Advocacy was support for parents undergoing Child Protection processes. However, funding has been recently awarded to a local advocacy organisation to provide advocacy to support parents with learning disabilities who are undergoing Child Protection court processes for possible removal for child. This project will include support to the parents to prevent this crisis happening.

All 13 advocates had signposted to other organisations before providing advocacy– most commonly housing (5), legal (3), specialist advice and CAB (3 each), Other advocacy (2) and GP, Immigration service.

45% have and 17% maybe would signpost elsewhere before advocacy. 50% of professionals in care did so – most commonly to Adult Social Care or NHS services, or other services. Social workers were more likely to signpost to a voluntary organisation for support with housing, benefits, employment and Adult Social Care or NHS if a mental capacity assessment was needed, or there were issues with health or care. 76% of staff in voluntary sector signposted to others also – mainly if more specialist support was needed such as legal information and advice, Welfare Rights, Immigration or Housing.

In response to the question “Do you provide advocacy services?” three social workers replied that they do so as part of their role, but used formal advocacy where the service user was eligible (for Care Act and Mental Capacity or Mental Health Advocacy). Of the Voluntary Organisations, 9 provide advocacy or in-

depth casework – for example, but for specific communities such as deaf people or carers, or people experiencing specific health conditions, or general support such as Healthwatch. A local organisation said they have started to provide advocacy for parents with learning disability who were undergoing child protection proceedings.

In terms of other comments, most respondents found the service to be a good or brilliant service, especially staff who felt it met gaps left by other advocacy services and prevented needs escalating. Most service users who had used the service found it valuable. Some professional referrers valued the professional standard of the service, but mentioned lack of capacity in the service, and needing to refer to other agencies due to low staffing numbers/hours. It was also mentioned that some service users were having mental health or other needs that are ongoing, and they keep returning to the service with similar or the same issues, and need thus need longer term support.

Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 1: August 2020

| | |
|--|--|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | The Review of the Generic Advocacy Service |
| Directorate and Service Area | Adult Social Care, Health and Wellbeing |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Beverley Stevens – Commissioning Officer Justin Haywood, Operations Manager |
| Contact Details | Justin_Haywood@sandwell.gov.uk |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | Justin Haywood, Operations Manager Beverley Stevens, Commissioning Officer |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | None |
| Date EIA completed | 18 January 2022, updated 8 June 2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | Rashpal Bishop |
| 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)**

1. Approve the findings of the consultation with the service users and other stakeholders/referrers to Generic Advocacy in Sandwell.
2. A further report be presented to Cabinet on 20 July 2022, to agree the future for Generic Advocacy in Sandwell, following completion of the consultation, which is contracted to run for 1 year only until March 31, 2022, with 2 options to extend the contract for a further year each. The contract was recently extended for 6 months until 30 September 2022.

2. Evidence used/considered

The current Advocacy Services Contract started in April 2021 and covers all statutory services and generic advocacy which is non- statutory. The services are for vulnerable residents in Sandwell with the overall aim of ensuring that these people access support to get their views heard on issues and decisions that affect their lives. The services are: IMCA, IMHA, ICAS, Care Act and Generic advocacy. These have all been delivered by Powher since 2016.

Analysis of take up of the generic and other advocacy services since April 2016 have been analysed to demonstrate current and future capacity, movement and expected demand across the services, in terms of the protected characteristics in the Equality Act 2010. The overall take up of generic advocacy has reduced over last few years from 303 in 2018/19 to 214 in 2019/20, and 193 in 2020/21, and 168 in 2021/22, unlike statutory services which all increased pre-COVID. COVID reduced take up of all services.

It should be noted that from 2016- 2020 the take up of Generic Advocacy and Care Act advocacy by different groups were reported together as they were part of the same contract - but most cases were generic, with Care Act cases taking an increasing share as referrals increased.

Discussions with relevant staff, partners and contractors about the generic advocacy service, and other advocacy services, have been recorded and considered, including outcomes, any issues raised by casework.

Consultation survey forms will be collated and analysed to find out the views of generic advocacy service users on the usefulness and difference the service makes to their lives, and the views of referrers on the same.

3. Consultation

Commissioners identified individuals and groups who were consulted. These include:
 Stakeholders who refer or use the generic services – social workers in Adult Social Care and Children’s Services, community organisations, carer groups etc
 Staff who refer to the services – social care and volunteers, Powher staff such as statutory advocates
 Service users of Generic Advocacy
 There was a 12-week consultation period. This Cabinet paper outlines the findings of the consultation. The recommendation is to decommission the service.

4. Assess likely impact

There may be an impact on the service users who are concerned about the possibility of change or reductions in advocacy services, and where they will access support in future. It was initially thought that the protected characteristics most likely to impact on the service users if service is closed are age, parental responsibility and disability because people undergoing Continuing Health Care or Child Protection Proceedings are extremely vulnerable/stressed and unable to gain support easily elsewhere. Consultation findings showed that most of the service users had already presented to other services, or referrers would signpost to other services in Sandwell, and there are a range of other services in the community which provide informal advocacy and casework. These include Community offer, CAB, Housing and voluntary sector services. Decommissioning processes will be followed and all current service users will be signposted to appropriate services.

The proposals in the report are a proportionate means of achieving a legitimate aim of the council

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | | ✓ | | Many of the service users of generic advocacy service are older adults, and they will be given opportunity to comment on the proposals, and how they can be supported. In 2016 - 18% of Generic/Care Act service users were aged over 75 and 28% over 60, by 2022 this share dropped to 5% over 75 and 18% over 60 - this group are more likely to be frail and have health conditions, so may need communication support with health or care services - the communication can be covered by NHS and services in Community and Voluntary Sector. |
| Disability | | | ✓ | Many service users of generic advocacy have some form of disability, and they will give the opportunity to comment on the proposals and how they can be supported. The group with disabilities with the largest take up of |

| | | | | |
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| | | | | generic advocacy are adults with mental health needs, followed by learning disabilities – who are more likely to need advocacy for communication, care, housing etc, then followed by physical disabilities – these could be supported by Community Offer/local voluntary organisations. There was low take up by those with Sensory impairments - there are voluntary organisations and Sensory team in Council who support these. |
| Gender reassignment | | | ✓ | Generic advocacy does not cover support specifically around this but may deliver this in response to related issues that are presented e.g. communication issues because of gender reassignment. In the last few years, some service users have declared they are intersex. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | ✓ | Generic advocacy does not cover support to personal relationships but may deliver this in response to related issues that are presented – e.g. housing cases, mental health cases or child protection cases can be related (not always) to abusive or broken relationships. There is no monitoring to cover marriage/civil partnership. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | ✓ | | About a third of the non- statutory Generic Advocate time is taken up by parents with learning disabilities and/or mental health conditions who are undergoing child protection processes. These parents are in high need of advocacy support and the consultation, while causing uncertainty in the short term, will offer these parents an opportunity to express their needs and how they can be most effectively supported. Many but not all the parents are mothers – some of whom are pregnant and/or have had several children legally removed. When advocates were asked not to attend court proceedings to support the parents, due to waiting time involved, the parents presented at other voluntary organisations for |

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| | | | | additional support. There is reported satisfaction with this part of the service, but some service users and one voluntary organisation felt there were gaps. A local consortia of voluntary organisations has recently set up a project to support parents with learning disability with preventative support and support through child protection proceedings. |
| Race | | | ✓ | As at end quarter 4, 47% of generic advocacy service users who declared their race were white, with 53% from BAME groups, which roughly matches the makeup of Sandwell, as at January 2022 (2021/22). Many of the service users of generic advocacy service are black and minority groups and communities, and were given opportunity to comment on the proposals, and how they can be supported. The provider has made links with community organisations who support minority ethnic groups. There are organisations who support these groups and communities in Sandwell, and the decommissioning process will include signposting to these groups. |
| Religion or belief | | | ✓ | Generic advocacy does not cover support specifically around this but may provide support around related issues. e.g. religious discrimination, religious practices/preferences in health and care, and hate crime. 35% of service users who declared their faith were Christian, 41% no religion, and other faiths had less than 10% each, 9% Muslim. |
| Sex | | | ✓ | 64% of the service users of generic advocacy service who declared gender are women in q4 2021/22. Some of those using the service are either over 60 (with more women in this age group) or are mothers or couples whose children have or may be removed due to child protection proceedings. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|---|---|---|
| Sexual orientation | | | ✓ | <p>Generic advocacy does not cover support specifically around this – but may provide support around related issues e.g. discrimination at work. About 2% self-declared as LGBT in 2016 and 1% in 2021/22– the non-declaration rate is high (43 out of 125) and the contractor is making links with LGBT organisations. These people will be signposted to local community organisations in accordance with their presenting needs.</p> |
| Other | ✓ | ✓ | | <p>The main group of service users are adults with mental health or long-term conditions whose conditions are not (at the time of the case) severe to warrant residential care - so generic advocacy acts as a preventative service to support with care, housing etc. Many are repeat service users who could be referred to other Community Offer and other providers in voluntary and community sector for preventative support. Other service users include small numbers with autism, dementia, cognitive impairment/stroke/acquired brain injury etc.</p> <p>Case studies show that there are Generic Advocacy Service Users who are undergoing Continuing Health Care assessments due to their possible need for health funded care, and they have difficulty accessing this care due to fluctuating conditions, or other reasons that the Generic Advocate can support with addressing.</p> <p>Adults who are assessed as lacking mental capacity, or with mental health condition and needing to be detained, or as having a substantial difficulty in engaging with social care processes, use IMCA, IMHA, Care Act advocacy may benefit from the closure of Generic Advocacy, which will increase capacity to deliver these statutory services. These people may have dementia, head injury or complex needs which affect their need for these services. Many of these people have statutory advocacy, but then need further support such as with housing or care in the community</p> |

| | | | | |
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| | | | | which the Generic Advocate picks up – they could be referred to a housing charity or voluntary sector befriending/care agency for this support. |
|--|--|--|--|---|

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

Many service users can be referred to Community Offer and other Organisations in Community and Voluntary Sector, or statutory services.

- Health – Healthwatch and their respective PALS service
- Housing – Local housing officer or SHELTER etc
- Immigration Issues -Judiciary - A solicitor
- Welfare rights Benefits and Money – Citizens Advice Bureaux
- Mental Health issues – Healthwatch
- Communication – reasonable Adjustments by the organisations implicated

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

A survey of service users and referrers to understand need for service, any alternative places to refer or use, and difference that the service makes to service users with different protected characteristics. See main report for list of findings

7. Monitoring arrangements

The consultation was completed by the Commissioning team. Quarterly monitoring data for the contract was used in this EIA.

We will monitor the impact of this change through the number of referrals received by POhWER where clients are referred to other support organisations or services and the destination of those referrals.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

Action Plan Template

| Question no. (ref) | Action required | Lead officer/ person responsible | Target date | Progress |
|--------------------|---|-------------------------------------|-------------|--|
| All | Undertake survey of service users and referrers to Generic Advocacy Service | BS | 2-3 months | Completed |
| All | Analyse results | BS | 2 months | Completed |
| 4a | Look at alternative options for any adverse impacts that surface- especially for parents undergoing Child Protection proceedings and People undergoing CHC. | BS | 2 months | Completed – project set up for parents. CHC to be referred to other voluntary organisations |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care & Health Cllr Suzanne Hartwell |
| Director: | Director of Public Health Dr Lisa McNally |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Consultant in Public Health Dr Lina Martino lina_martino@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations






- 1.1 That approval be given to publish and promote the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan, as set out in Appendix A and B, subject to any required revisions.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The draft Strategy and Action Plan have been through a statutory 60-day public consultation and have been revised to reflect feedback from Sandwell residents and partner/stakeholder organisations.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Best start in life for children and young people This is an all age Strategy & Action Plan that includes actions specific to children and young people, aligning to the Black Country CYP SP subgroup. CYP were specifically targeted during the 60-day consultation via the SHAPE forum to ensure that their voices were heard.</p> |
|  | <p>People live well and age well Suicide is the leading cause of death for men under 50, and even one death by suicide can have wide-reaching impacts across families and communities. Every suicide prevented can have a positive impact on many more people. The Strategy & Action Plan include a range of measures to prevent deaths by suicide, balancing universal action to improve wellbeing among our residents with more targeted action to ensure that they are supported in their communities to access the help they need.</p> |
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities Strengthening community resilience through training, awareness raising and capacity building is a key element of the Strategy & Action Plan. The Strategy & Action Plan have been developed through the Sandwell SP Partnership, which includes representation from across services and sectors that contribute to improving population mental wellbeing and preventing suicide. The Strategy & Action Plan have a much wider focus than mental health services, recognising the complex relationship between the various factors associated with risk of suicide. A key focus is on improving partnership working and information sharing so that we can act early to prevent suicide, and residents are always able to access the help they need.</p> |
|  | <p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods N/A</p> |
|  | <p>A strong and inclusive economy Employment is one of the key factors associated with mental wellbeing. Involving employment services in suicide prevention activity (e.g. staff training) can help to promote a more inclusive economy that meets the needs of all our residents.</p> |





A connected and accessible Sandwell
N/A

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Sandwell had a preliminary Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan which were drafted at the start of 2020. A local Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment was carried out to re-assess the local situation and current programmes of work in light of the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. The findings and recommendations were endorsed by Health & Wellbeing Board in September 2021.
- 4.2 The local Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan were updated through the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership, and links to the Black Country-wide Suicide Prevention Plan have been developed with the Black Country Suicide Prevention Group, which identifies common priority areas to be addressed through NHSE/I Suicide Prevention funding.
- 4.3 The principal priority is that by 2030, no-one will die of suicide in Sandwell. This ambition is also a key priority for the Sandwell Good Mental Health Strategy, reflecting the importance of good mental health in delivering an effective suicide prevention plan. These form part of a suite of interlinked strategies that also include Autism, Dementia and Child Mental Health.
- 4.4 The draft Strategy & Action Plan were released for public consultation on 20 December 2021 for the statutory 60-day period, supported by a communications plan to ensure maximum reach and representation across our diverse communities. We also worked with voluntary and community sector organisations to engage seldom heard residents and service users.
- 4.5 Feedback from the consultation suggested that the priority areas identified were generally the right ones, with individuals and organisations ranking them similarly in terms of relative importance. However, different groups placed greater emphasis on some of the areas (e.g. children & young people ranked priorities around information and intelligence more highly). The consultation also



highlighted gaps around domestic violence & abuse, and individuals in contact with the criminal justice system.

- 4.6 The draft was revised to address these gaps, as well as amending timelines where possible to reflect higher priority actions (taking into account that some of the actions are already ongoing/concurrent with one another, and differences between groups in perceived importance of priority areas).

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The alternative would be for the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership to continue our work without a supporting Strategy & Action Plan.

This would compromise the effectiveness and efficiency of our work by making it more difficult to: plan and monitor progress; ensure alignment with other relevant strategies, programmes and partnerships (e.g. Black Country Suicide Prevention Partnership, Sandwell Better Mental health Programme and Strategy Group); assess impact; and identify gaps in provision and support.



6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resources: | This work is being led by Sandwell Public Health staff as part of the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership, with much of the focus on improving partnership working across the system. Although identifying possible funding sources for further work is included in the Action Plan, there are currently no budget or land/building implications associated with this proposal. |
| Legal and Governance: | Legal implications including regulations/law under which proposals are required/permitted and constitutional provisions: None |
| Risk: | The main risk is disruption to the work programme that will compromise delivery of the Strategy & Action Plan. This is currently being mitigated by the current governance arrangements and dedicated resource to support delivery. There is also potential risk around information sharing where personal data are exchanged between partners – developing Information Sharing Agreements with support from the Information Management Team will mitigate this risk. |
| Equality: | A focus on protected and marginalised groups is a key part of the Action Plan, therefore it is anticipated that this work will have a positive impact on reducing inequalities. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | In addition to reducing inequalities in health, the Strategy & Action Plan are expected to contribute to the wider wellbeing of individuals, families and communities. |
| Social Value | Every death by suicide has wide-reaching social and economic impacts. Preventing suicide will therefore have a range of beneficial impacts on Sandwell’s residents and communities. |

7. Appendices

- Appendix A: Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy
- Appendix B: Sandwell Suicide Prevention Action Plan
- Appendix C: Equality Impact Assessment



8. Background Papers

None

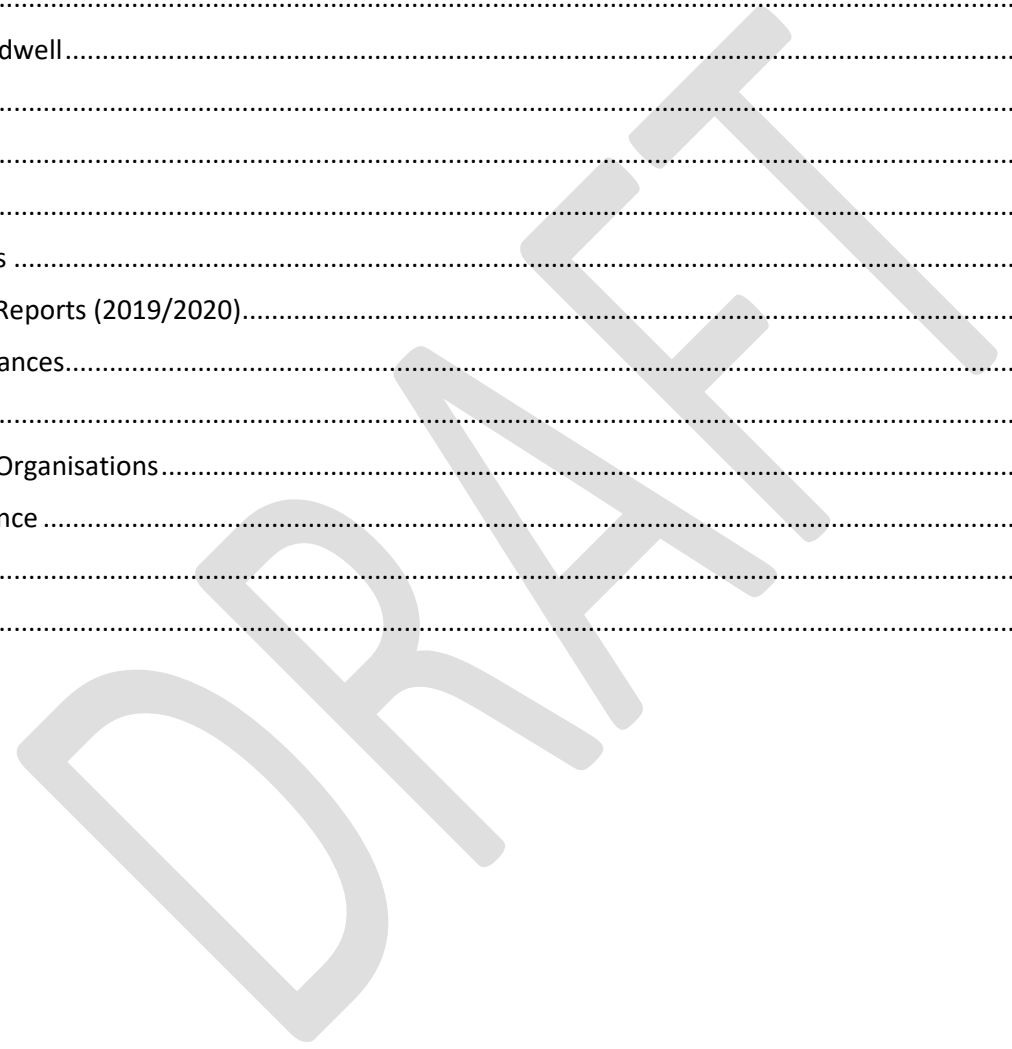


Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2022 – 2025

DRAFT

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Background

When someone takes their own life, the impact on families, friends and the local community is devastating. As well as the immense pain and grief caused to loved ones, there are often wide-reaching and long lasting effects on all involved.

However, suicide is not inevitable. Deaths by suicide usually follow a complex history of distress, trauma and adversity, and occur not because someone wants to die, but because they feel they can no longer live in their situation. Although no single initiative or organisation can prevent suicide alone, there are many ways in which services, communities, individuals and society can work collectively to do so.

Despite considerable progress in awareness and understanding of mental health and wellbeing, the issue of suicide continues to be met with silence and stigma. Attitudes, understanding and false perceptions are still barriers to providing care and support to individuals in crisis and to those who have lost a loved one to suicide.

The COVID-19 pandemic has brought further challenges, both directly through the impacts of the virus, and indirectly through the social and economic effects on people's lives and communities. It has changed how we interact with each other and how we access help and support. Following a review and update of initial Suicide Prevention plans in light of the pandemic, the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership has been working to continue and strengthen ongoing initiatives to raise awareness of suicide and ensure that all our residents can receive the right support at the right time.

Acting early to help people during times of despair could save many lives and improve countless others. This needs to start with changing our society and culture so that we can have open and respectful conversations, understand people's experiences and needs, and work together to tackle the problems that can lead to someone taking their own life. The actions we take to prevent suicide will also contribute to improving the mental health and wellbeing of our residents overall, and reducing inequalities in healthy living age and quality of life.

Every death by suicide is a death that could be prevented. This Strategy and Action Plan are our commitment to fulfilling our Zero Suicide ambition for Sandwell and to supporting the vision of a thriving, resilient and optimistic community.

Our vision and strategy for Sandwell

The purpose of this Strategy and accompanying Action Plan is to prevent loss of life to suicide in Sandwell, and the profound impacts on individuals, families and communities. Our ambition is to achieve “zero suicides” by 2030, which will contribute to achieving the Sandwell 2030 vision of a thriving, optimistic and resilient community.

This will be achieved through the following key strategic objectives, drawing upon the wealth of skills and expertise across the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership and wider stakeholder networks:

1. To work in partnership to fulfil the ‘Zero Suicides’ Ambition.
2. To ensure the highest quality of care and support guaranteed by professionals.
3. To encourage a better awareness of suicide within local organisations and our communities.
4. To reduce the chances of suicide in high-risk populations.
5. To create an open culture where we listen to those with lived experience.
6. To reduce access to the means of suicide.

These priorities have been developed alongside the Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy (currently in draft) as well as the national guidance in the 2012 *Preventing Suicide in England* strategy by the Department of Health and Social Care.

In line with Stronger Sandwell principles, the voices of our residents are central to this Strategy and have been key to shaping our objectives, recommendations and actions.

Governance

The Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy has been developed through the multi-stakeholder Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership, who are jointly responsible for the development and delivery of the Action Plan. This group sits alongside the Black Country Suicide Prevention Partnership (with recently established Children & Young People subgroup), which oversees development within the Black Country and has wider links across the West Midlands region.

For the delivery and development of this strategy, there will be local oversight from the Sandwell Mental Health Strategy Group and the Sandwell Health and Wellbeing Board.

The group also links in with various other boards via its members including: Children's mental health groups, Drugs and Alcohol Groups and Safeguarding Groups.

Strategic and Policy drivers

Preventing Suicide in England: A Cross-government Strategy to Save Lives¹ (2012) identified 6 key areas for action in order to reduce suicide in the UK and to better support those affected by suicide:

1. Reduce the risk of suicide in key high-risk groups
2. Tailor approaches to improve mental health in specific groups
3. Reduce access to the means of suicide
4. Provide better information and support to those bereaved or affected by suicide
5. Support the media in delivering sensitive approaches to suicide and suicidal behaviour
6. Support research, data collection and monitoring

¹ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-strategy-for-england>

This was updated in 2017 to address self-harm and clarify the role of local authorities in suicide prevention, including an expectation that every local authority would have its own multi-agency suicide prevention plan. These priorities are reflected in our strategic objectives, and the Action Plan developed against the recommendations of our local Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment (2021).

Prevention Concordat for Better Mental Health (PHE, updated 2020)² supports local areas to take their planning and action on prevention and promotion for better mental health further and deeper, backed by evidence of effective ways to support delivery. This includes having local suicide prevention plans in place.

NHS Long Term Plan³ reaffirms the NHS's commitment to make suicide prevention a priority over the next decade, via a variety of mechanisms.

In 2019, the **National Suicide Prevention Strategy Delivery Group** delivered a workplan outlining key suicide prevention actions for sectors such as the NHS, local government and the criminal justice system.⁴ These included ensuring the effectiveness of local suicide prevention plans; strengthening suicide prevention measures across mental health trusts and prisons; and improving use of local and national intelligence.

In November 2021, central Government launched a £5m **Voluntary & Community Sector Enterprise (VCSE) Suicide Prevention Fund** to support suicide prevention services.

² <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/prevention-concordat-for-better-mental-health-consensus-statement/prevention-concordat-for-better-mental-health>

³ <https://www.longtermplan.nhs.uk/>

⁴ <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/suicide-prevention-cross-government-plan>

Local and national context

A Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment was carried out in 2021 to re-assess the local situation in light of the Covid-19 pandemic and its impact on the ability to provide services and support.

A mixed methods approach was used to explore what services were already available, how accessible these services were and whether they were functioning effectively or not. Interviews with partner and community organisations, and with individuals with lived experience, provided valuable insights into the perspectives of survivors and those bereaved by suicide.

Overview of rates and trends

- Sandwell's average suicide rate for the last reported period (2017/19) is 10.8 per 100,000. This is statistically similar to the West Midlands (10.2) and England (10.1) averages and has remained fairly constant over the past 20 years, illustrating that suicide continues to be an issue at local, regional and national levels.⁵
- There also continues to be a much higher rate of suicide in males (17.6 per 100,000) than in females (4.5), again in line with national trends (Figure 1a & 1b). The most at-risk group for suicide continues to be males aged between 40 and 60.
- However, in line with national statistics, a higher proportion of females than males are admitted to hospital for intentional self-harm. Between 2015/16 and 2019/20 there were 3,209 admissions to Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals Trust for intentional self-harm, with females aged 15-29 accounting for 39% of those admissions.⁶
- Compared to population statistics for the borough,⁷ there was an over-representation of those who identify as White (British/Irish/Other) and an under-representation of those who identify as Black/Black British, Asian/Asian British or Mixed Ethnicity in those admitted to hospital for intentional self-harm during the same 5-year period.

⁵ Source: <https://fingertips.phe.org.uk/profile-group/mental-health/profile/suicide> (Accessed: 18/02/2021). This uses the Office of National Statistics' (ONS) definition of suicide, which is "deaths with an underlying cause of intentional self-harm (ages 10 years and over) and deaths with an underlying cause of event of undetermined intent (ages 15 and over)": Office of National Statistics, <https://www.ons.gov.uk/peoplepopulationandcommunity/birthsdeathsandmarriages/deaths/methodologies/suicideratesintheukqmi> (Accessed: 23/02/2021)

⁶ Source: Hospital Episode Statistics, Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust. ICD 10 codes X64 - X80 (intentional self-harm).

⁷ Sandwell Trends, <https://www.sandwelltrends.info/2011-census/2011-census-ethnicity-hub/> (Accessed: 09/02/2021)

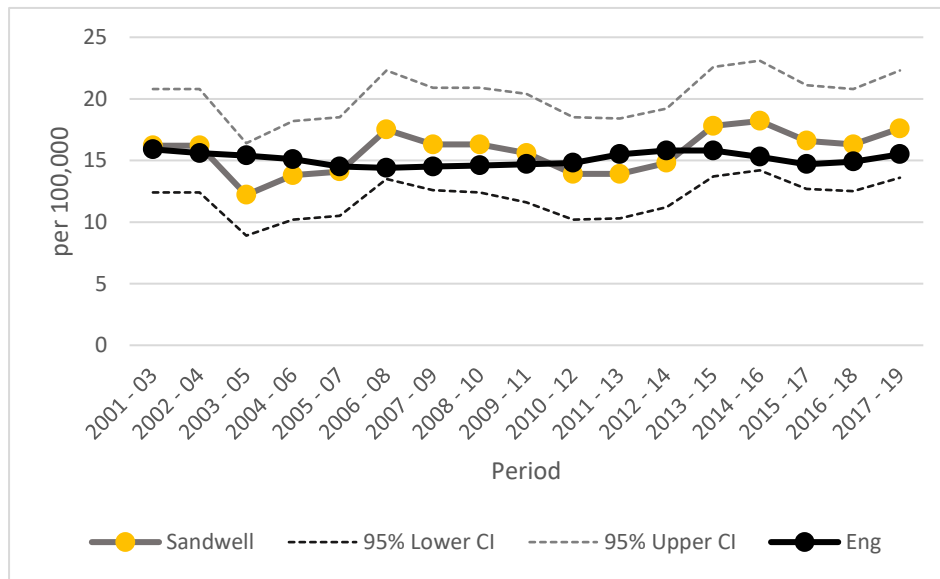


Figure 1a: Sandwell average suicide rate (Male) per 100,000 with England average

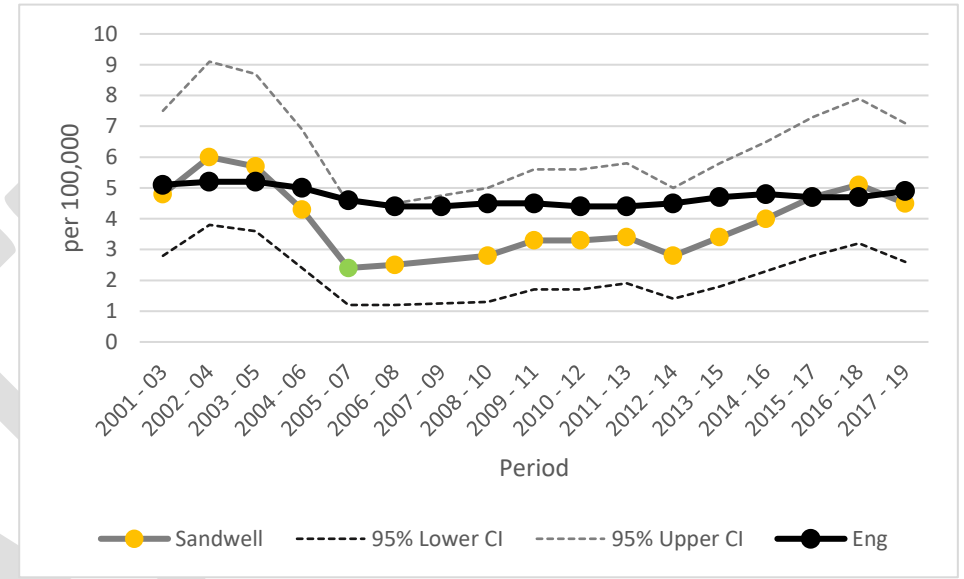


Figure 1b: Sandwell average suicide rate (Female) per 100,000 with England average

Annual Coroner's Summary Reports (2019/2020)

Coroner's reports for the years 2019 and 2020 were examined to understand the characteristics of those who had recently died by suicide in Sandwell. There were 19 deaths recorded as suicide in January-September 2019 and 18 in the same period for 2020. Local data appear to reflect national trends:

- Males accounted for the majority of completed suicides recorded across both periods. The number of recorded suicides was almost four times higher for males than for females.
- The majority of suicides were in those aged 40-69. It should be noted that these figures do not reflect the anecdotal increase in reported suicides in children and young persons that have occurred over the 2020/2021 winter months.
- The majority of suicides took place at home or at a private location, with a minority taking place in public settings such as parks and railway stations.

Key Themes and Circumstances

Across the Coroner's reports for both 2019 and 2020, a number of key themes that emerged that can provide insights into factors that may contribute to risk of suicide and help us to identify where support may be needed. It should be noted however that the factors involved in suicide are complex, and that we cannot assume any single issue or combination of issues was the cause of suicide.

Key issues identified across the 2-year period were as follows:

- Relationship breakdown (including child custody issues) was cited in almost a quarter of reports. Approximately two-thirds of people who died by suicide in 2019 and 2020 were single, divorced/separated or widowed, and over one-fifth had recently experienced bereavement.
- Approximately 40% were unemployed or retired.
- Substance and/or alcohol use problems were noted in over one-third of recorded deaths by suicide over the 2-year period.
- Previous suicide attempts and/or admission to hospital for self-harm episodes were noted in over a third of reports. Almost half of people who died by suicide were known to mental health services.

Social isolation is potentially a common underlying factor, particularly among those experiencing relationship breakdown or bereavement, or those who are unemployed. These issues may also be linked to increased financial difficulty, particularly when they co-exist with other difficulties or risk factors. Although it is not possible to determine this from the data, these are areas that may warrant further exploration.

While the number of recorded suicides was similar across both periods, considerably fewer reports in 2020 mentioned contact with mental health services, self-harm admissions or substance and/or alcohol use problems compared with the previous year. This may reflect impacts of the pandemic on access to and interactions with health services.

Stakeholder interviews

Partners and Community Organisations

The following themes were identified through content analysis of semi-structured interviews with partners and community organisations:

- **Awareness of Services**

A general lack of awareness around non-medical services relating to suicide prevention and bereavement by suicide was highlighted as a major issue in Sandwell. People with lived experience described a lack of follow up or further support following the initial contact with primary care services; service providers felt that partners and associates failed to promote their availability widely enough to healthcare professionals.

- **Accessibility of Services**

Interviewees felt that services could be difficult to access for some residents due to language barriers or low confidence in their offers. There was anecdotal evidence of more issues in the community than were being recorded because many residents did not want to formally 'access' services.

“Sandwell, especially, is filled with diverse, multi-lingual communities and keeping everything just in English remains the biggest barrier to access”

- **Impact of Deprivation**

A twofold impact of socioeconomic deprivation was highlighted: firstly, making risk factors for suicide more widespread and compounded; and secondly, placing additional pressure on services through more people relying on public services rather than being able to access support privately.

- **Impact of Covid-19**

Interviewees reported an increase in calls and contacts throughout the pandemic, with new and exacerbated mental health issues due to isolation, anxiety or lack of support. Service providers felt they had managed to adapt quickly and could still deliver services at the same level but in alternative formats.

- **Impact of Training**

Interviewees spoke positively about the impact of training, mostly because it raises professional awareness of a very complex subject. However, they expressed different ideas on whether training should be provided generally or to more specific groups, and on the content of training.

- **Lack of Funding**

Several interviewees said that there was scope to expand in their organisations but that they risked a loss of quality if they tried to stretch their current resources. The demands of developing bids for funding was cited as a barrier to increased funding.

“If we could access more funding, I think it would unlock a lot of potential for the group; we could much more proactive and get into people’s lives when they need it”

People with Lived Experience

Key themes identified through semi-structured interviews with people with lived experience were:

- **Disappointment with Clinical Pathways**

Interviewees were dissatisfied with the routes offered by their GP’s after seeking help for mental health issues. Common pathways were prescription of medication, which they felt did not address actual issues, or referral for therapy, which they felt was over-subscribed with long-waiting lists.

- **Pro-activity from Services**

It was felt that services needed to be proactive in reaching out at the earliest point to family and friends affected by suicide, as well as recognising that people will engage at very different points following their trauma. The expectation for individuals who are/have been affected by suicide or suicidal ideation to “*make the call*” can put people off accessing services because they might not be emotionally ready to move by themselves.

“There’s a general assumption that helplines are just for people in crisis but it can and should be used for emotional support as much as anything else”

- **Understanding Risk Factors**

There was a feeling that the wider context of common risk factors such as unemployment, especially in high-risk populations, needs to be better understood and appreciated. When identifying high-risk populations, we should consider first those who will already be affected by multiple factors.

- **Reactions by communities**

Interviewees felt that despite progress in talking about mental health, including men’s mental health, there is still stigma around emotional wellbeing and suicide bereavement. Meeting men “*on their terms*” in the right setting was considered important in building trust and enabling those most neglected to come forward. “*Closed doors*” and very little professional help made it difficult to discuss bereavement, leading to isolation and poor mental wellbeing.

- **Treatment by the media**

Interviewees felt that reporting on suicides and treatment of bereaved families needed to be improved as some media outlets currently take a very unsympathetic approach, with aggressive questioning and little empathy for their trauma as well as inaccurate reporting and failure to respond to complaints.

Good practice examples

There is a wide range of organisations across Sandwell that provide support to people who may be at risk of suicide, and to those who have been bereaved by suicide. These range from formal services to grassroots community groups.

It is important to note that many activities that can help prevent suicide are often not 'badged' as such: initiatives to improve mental health and wellbeing, enable connections within communities, and support people with wider issues such as housing, employment and debt can all contribute to suicide prevention, and provide opportunities to develop targeted approaches through engaging with people who may be vulnerable.

The examples shown here demonstrate how existing activity can be developed and better connected to identify and engage those who may be at risk of suicide, and provide more timely support.

Tipton town place-based pilot

Railways are among key locations for suicide attempts. A pilot group for Tipton and Dudley Port stations was established to reduce suicide risk at these locations, led by the local community with support from the Samaritans and Public Health. The aim of the group is to raise awareness and vigilance around risk of suicide, and signpost people to appropriate help. Support is in place for all station staff including train drivers who witness a suicide; this support is provided in-house and with the help of the Samaritans.

Kaleidoscope Plus – Sanctuary Hub

The Sanctuary Hub at Hope Place, West Bromwich was established in February 2021. The Hub provides out-of-hours support for adults who have primary mental health needs, or are concerned about a family member or friend. Staff work with individuals to give them the time and space to talk in a non-judgemental environment; reduce any immediate pressures; and provide advice or signpost to further help.

Prevention & Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health programme

Sandwell Council was awarded £370,000 from Public Health England's *Prevention & Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health* to invest in improving mental health and wellbeing among Sandwell residents. The funding was used to award grants to a range of voluntary & community sector organisations to provide targeted support for children and young people, men and ethnic minority communities through community outreach and peer support, and to provide education and training on mental health awareness and suicide prevention. Local organisations will also be able to apply for small grants of up to £5,000.

Grant-funded projects include pre-and post-natal support groups; a parenting programme (via Changes Antenatal); an anti-bullying campaign (via the SHAPE Programme); the Children and Young People/VCS Charter Mark initiative; and VCS mental health community training and champions. The funding will also focus on engaging men through outreach peer support for self-harm and suicide prevention, and football activities with peer support; and engaging Minority Ethnic Communities through targeted peer support and activities. Projects commenced in October 2021 and will run until June 2022.

GP Receptionist Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) Training

Funded by the HSE/I National SP Programme, MHFA was provided to equip key front house staff in GP surgeries with the knowledge and skills to provide immediate support to those in crisis and link them to appropriate help. This was initially piloted across Dudley surgeries, with plans to roll out to Sandwell, Walsall and Wolverhampton over 2022/23.

Recommendations

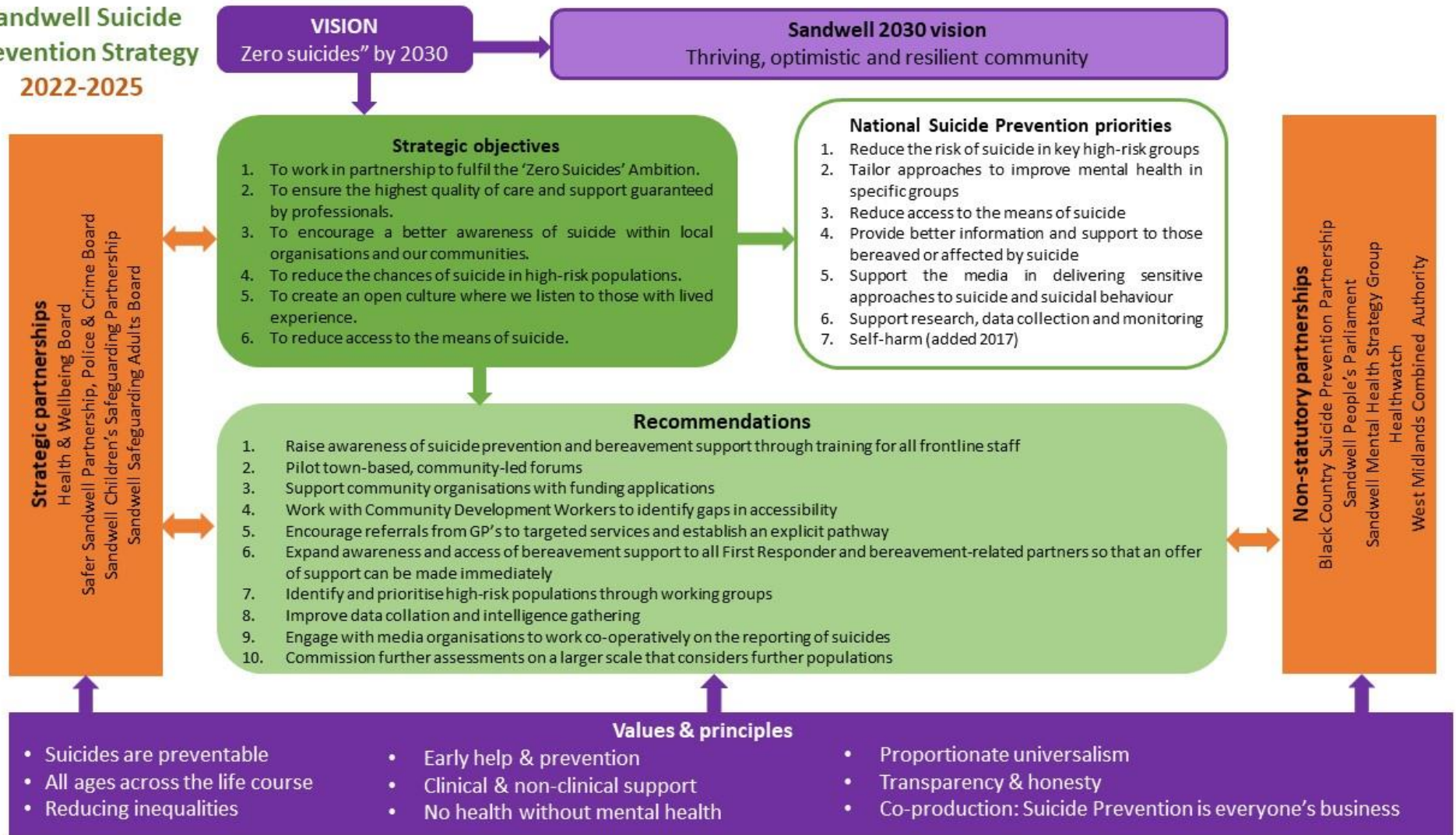
The following recommendations have been informed by the updated needs assessment, aligning to our strategic objectives and national suicide prevention priorities. The accompanying Action Plan has been developed against these recommendations, shaped through the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership.

1. **Raise awareness of suicide prevention and bereavement support through training for all frontline staff**
2. **Pilot town-based, community-led forums**
3. **Support community organisations with funding applications**
4. **Work with Community Development Workers to identify gaps in accessibility**
5. **Encourage referrals from GP's to targeted services and establish an explicit pathway**
6. **Expand awareness and access of bereavement support to all First Responder and bereavement-related partners so that an offer of support can be made immediately**
7. **Identify and prioritise high-risk populations through working groups**
8. **Improve data collation and intelligence gathering**
9. **Engage with media organisations to work co-operatively on the reporting of suicides**
10. **Commission further assessments on a larger scale that considers further populations**

The Action Plan is based on the principle of *proportionate universalism* – balancing universal, population-based approaches with more targeted action so that we create a culture that promotes wellbeing and prevents crisis, while also ensuring timely and appropriate support for those who need it.

Focusing on the interfaces between individuals and services, and not just on risk groups and factors, will help to develop a co-ordinated and responsive system where no-one is overlooked.

Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy 2022-2025



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Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy & Action Plan – 2022-2025

Recommendations and actions

| Recommendations | Actions | Led by | Due by end |
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| <p>Recommendation 1:</p> <p>Raise awareness of suicide prevention and bereavement support through training for all frontline Council staff</p> <p>All staff across Sandwell Council who have direct contact with our residents will receive targeted training to recognise signs that someone may be having suicidal thoughts, initiate supportive conversations, and direct people to the right help and support.</p> <p>Delivering this alongside more basic training for all staff, and enhancing training in related areas through including suicide prevention elements, will help to create a culture of awareness and compassion</p> | <p>1a: Raising awareness across whole organisations</p> <p>ACTION 1: Universal online training - encourage all staff across the Council to complete brief online sessions from Zero Suicide Alliance as an entry point to developing awareness and understanding.</p> <p>ACTION 2: Develop a set of key principles for Suicide Safer Workplaces that will equip frontline staff with information to support residents experiencing suicidal ideation and/or refer or signpost them to appropriate services.</p> <p>1b: Workforce development</p> <p>ACTION 3: Link to the Sandwell Workforce Wellbeing Group, with representation from across services, to develop a workforce SP offer consisting of resources for staff to access support for themselves and colleagues, and to refer or signpost residents and service users.</p> <p>ACTION 4: Carry out a training needs analysis to assess current skills and training needs relating to suicide awareness and prevention across key service areas.</p> <p>ACTION 5: Map current training available through the voluntary & community sector, and promote via networks and SCVO's Route2wellbeing portal.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ HR and Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ HR and Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Community Mental Health Taskforce</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Community Mental Health Taskforce</p> | <p>Q2 2022/23</p> <p>Q2 2022/23</p> <p>Q2 2022/23</p> <p>Q2 2022/23</p> <p>Q2 2022/23</p> |

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| <p>around suicide across the whole organisation. This will be complemented by training across partner organisations and multi-agency training (1c and Recommendations 5 & 6).</p> | <p>ACTION 6: Develop and deliver brief targeted training sessions on suicide prevention & bereavement support for services and sectors that work directly with specific groups across the life course (e.g. education and care workers).</p> | Sandwell SP Partnership | Q4 2022/23 |
| | <p>ACTION 7: Develop and deliver SP awareness training for local elected members and support them to become advocates for suicide prevention in their wards.</p> | Sandwell SP Partnership | Q4 2022/23 |
| | <p>1c: Partnership working ACTION 8: Explore options to develop and deliver multi-agency training that can be delivered in person or online.</p> | Sandwell SP Partnership | Q3 2022/23 |
| | <p><i>Additional action specific to Children & Young people:</i> ACTION 9: Embed suicide prevention into wider mental health training offered by Sandwell Children’s Safeguarding Partnership (SCSP).</p> | Public Health and SCSP, SMBC | Q2 2022/23 |
| | <p>ACTION 10: Ensure all frontline staff working with children and young people 10 years of age and over are supported to attend suicide prevention training (also known as “gatekeeper training”, a short intervention available online)</p> | Public Health and SCSP, SMBC | Q2 2022/23 |
| | <p><i>Additional Action specific to Adults (including older adults):</i> ACTION 11: Embed suicide prevention into wider mental health training offered by Sandwell Adult Safeguarding Partnership</p> | Public Health and ASC, SMBC | Q3 2022/23 |
| | <p>ACTION 12: Develop and deliver brief training on suicide prevention and bereavement support to businesses, services and groups (e.g. faith groups) across the wider community using a Train the Trainer approach, so that those who attend can inform and upskill others in their organisations and networks around suicide prevention & bereavement support.</p> | Sandwell SP Partnership/Black Country SP Partnership CDWs | Q1 2023/24 |
| | <p>ACTION 13: Work with Suicide Prevention leads across the Black Country to introduce and monitor SP training funded through NHSE/I National SP Programme.</p> | Black Country SP Partnership | Q1 2023 |

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| <p>Recommendation 2:</p> <p>Pilot town-based, community-led forums</p> <p>We are working with stakeholders such as the police, fire service and community organisations to identify high-risk locations as part of the approach to reducing means of suicide. Thus far, this has identified motorway bridges and rail stations.</p> <p>Pilots undertaken in Tipton suggest that town-based forums led by local communities are effective in embedding awareness and vigilance around suicide prevention.</p> | <p>2a: Community-led, town-based approaches to Suicide Prevention</p> <p>ACTION 14: Use forums facilitated by Sandwell Public Health Development Officers (PHDOs) to support the adoption of the Tipton town-based approach focusing on rail networks across all six towns in the borough.</p> <p>ACTION 15: Carry out a similar pilot in one of the six towns focusing on highways, working with communities to raise awareness and vigilance around suicide, and sharing ideas on how to reduce risk.</p> <p>2b: Using community-led forums to inform and implement wider suicide prevention approaches</p> <p><i>Additional action specific to: Children & Young people:</i></p> <p>ACTION 16: Embed current good practice and continuous improvement across anti-bullying work via the SHAPE forum and partner agencies.</p> <p>ACTION 17: Improve information and advice available to parents/carers, primary care and community services about monitoring (signs to be concerned) and support for children and young people, including those who disengage with mental health services. This should include access to local crisis helplines and national resources.</p> | <p>Samaritans/Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Highways Agency</p> <p>SHAPE Partnership Board/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing Service Providers commissioned via local authorities and the NHS, Voluntary and Community Sector organisations and independent sector organisations.</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Q4 2022/23 TBC</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>ACTION 18: Work with Black Country Community Development Workers (CDWs) to facilitate community-led Suicide Prevention forums that will feed into the Black Country Suicide Prevention Steering Group.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Black Country SP Partnership</p> | <p>Q1 2023</p> |

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| <p>Recommendation 3:</p> <p>Support community organisations with funding applications</p> <p>Lack of capacity and resources are cited as key barriers to accessing funding by voluntary and community organisations, with this activity detracting from core business. Public Health and other partners with experience of the application process can work with community organisations to support them in writing bids for funding so that they can access the means to grow.</p> | <p>3a: Mapping suicide prevention & mental wellbeing activity</p> <p>ACTION 19: Work with PHDO in each town and SCVO to identify voluntary & community organisations already working towards suicide prevention and mental wellbeing promotion.</p> <p>3b: Helping organisations to access funding</p> <p>ACTION 20: Work with SCVO to maintain up-to-date information on related funding opportunities on their online funding portal, and to highlight key developments.</p> <p>ACTION 21: Work with SCVO to support voluntary & community organisations to develop funding applications and bids.</p> <p>ACTION 22: Liaise with Community Partnerships Team to identify opportunities to work collaboratively to best support community organisations to access funding to support suicide prevention.</p> <p>3c: Supporting communities through grant funding</p> <p>ACTION 23: Use available funding to provide voluntary & community sector grants to support suicide prevention activities and interventions (e.g. via the Prevention & Promotion Fund for Better Mental Health).</p> | <p>Public Health, SMBC/SCVO</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ SCVO</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership SCVO</p> <p>Public Health/Community Partnerships, SMBC</p> <p>Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Q3 2022/23</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>ACTION 24: Work with Black Country SP leads and CDWs to identify and build capacity within the voluntary & community sector.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Black Country SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>4: Recommendation 4:</p> <p>Work with Community Development Workers to identify gaps in accessibility</p> | <p>4a: Improving communications to increase accessibility and reduce stigma</p> <p>ACTION 25: Develop a Suicide Prevention Communication Plan for corporate communications and community marketing.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Q1 2022 Refresh annually</p> <p>Q2 2022</p> |

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| <p>Lack of accessibility to services supporting suicide prevention has been highlighted as a key issue in Sandwell. Here we focus on working together to identify barriers to access, in terms of both practical elements (i.e. language, format, digital literacy) and inclusion (i.e. cultural appropriateness and representation).</p> | <p>ACTION 26: Print materials (posters, leaflets, business cards) on suicide prevention in languages other than English, particularly those that are most widely spoken among Sandwell residents.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Refresh as required Q2 2022</p> |
| | <p>ACTION 27: Develop targeted resources for people who are non-literate or whose first language is not English, including radio and audio information and adding pictorial information to key messages.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Refresh as required</p> |
| | <p>ACTION 28: Produce resources in accessible formats for people who are deaf or hearing impaired, or blind or visually impaired.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>4b: Increasing representation within Suicide Prevention communications</p> | | |
| | <p>ACTION 29: Use imagery and wording that is relatable to different communities and groups, including those in higher-risk groups.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>ACTION 30: Work with minority and/or marginalised communities and groups within Sandwell to understand how their unique lived experience affects their lives and mental health (e.g. experiences of discrimination).</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>ACTION 31: Share learning across professional and community networks to increase understanding of the experiences minority and/or marginalised communities and groups, and ensure that these experiences are reflected in their communications.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>4c: Disseminating information</p> | | |
| <p>ACTION 32: Work proactively to promote messages around suicide prevention and available support to local communities via a range of media, including approaching local networks and radio stations.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |
| <p>ACTION 33: Work closely with community groups and the faith sector to build on existing infrastructure and embed support around suicide prevention.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> | |

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| | <p>ACTION 34: All partners and delivery organisations to ensure materials are available via Healthy Sandwell and SCVO Route2wellbeing platforms.</p> <p><i>Additional action specific to: Children & Young people:</i></p> <p>ACTION 35: Develop Just Youth platform to host all related information and resources.</p> <p>ACTION 36: Work with the CDWs to develop networks and communications across the Black Country footprint.</p> | <p>Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Black Country SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 5:</p> <p>Encourage referrals from GP's to targeted services and establish an explicit pathway</p> <p>Partners can work alongside GPs to ensure that they are aware of non-medical services as well as increase confidence that there is support available for anyone who has been affected by suicide. Part of this will require GPs to have a working knowledge of all up-to-date services so information and communication flow will be critical.</p> | <p>5a: Developing referral pathways</p> <p>ACTION 37: Approach Sandwell Primary Care Networks to develop referral pathways for universal, targeted and specialist services.</p> <p>ACTION 38: Develop self-referral pathways, particularly where there may be barriers to accessing support via Primary Care.</p> <p>5b: Links to social prescribing</p> <p>ACTION 39: Ensure that up-to-date information on all community provision is available on SCVO Route2wellbeing to promote and support referrals.</p> <p>ACTION 40: Develop training for GP social prescribers to become Suicide Prevention champions in their practices and communities.</p> <p>ACTION 41: Support the continued roll out of children and young people's mental health services across community settings such as schools, local authorities and criminal justice to improve accessibility</p> | <p>Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Black Country & West Birmingham CCG</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership SCVO</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership Black Country SP Partnership</p> <p>Commissioners and Providers of Emotional Mental Health and Wellbeing Services, Department of Education, NHSE/I, Schools and Colleges, Local authorities, Youth</p> | <p>Q3 2022</p> <p>Q3 2022</p> <p>Q3 2022 Regular review</p> <p>Q4 2023</p> |

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| | | Offending Teams and Liaison and Diversion teams | |
| | ACTION 42: Progress and monitor the provision of Black Country-wide training for frontline staff in GP practices, funded through NHSE/I National SP Programme. | Black Country SP Partnership | Q4 2023 onwards |
| <p>Recommendation 6: Expand awareness and access of bereavement support to all First Responder and bereavement-related partners</p> <p>Knowledge of bereavement services by First Responders and wider professionals in contact with those who have been bereaved by suicide can help families and friends feel that help is available, at any time which they chose to take it. This includes not just emotional and psychological support, but also practical support in the period following a death.</p> | <p>6a: Developing the suicide bereavement support offer for Sandwell residents</p> <p>ACTION 43: Community engagement with people bereaved by suicide to identify gaps in support and provision and identify/inform policy and funding.</p> <p>ACTION 44: Identify opportunities to provide practical support to First Responders and people bereaved through suicide immediately after the death and in the weeks that follow, taking learning from Warwickshire.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Kaleidoscope+ Group/Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Ongoing</p> | |
| | <p>6b: Information and training for First Responders</p> <p>ACTION 45: Develop and deliver targeted training sessions on suicide prevention, postvention & bereavement support for first responders</p> <p>ACTION 46: Create Z cards for all first responders containing details of local bereavement support services.</p> <p>ACTION 47: Ensure appropriate identification and targeted support and actions taken to support the community after someone dies by suicide.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Q1 2023</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Q1 2022</p> <p>Health and Local Authority commissioners, Emergency Response Team and Police</p> | |
| | ACTION 48: Work with Black Country Suicide Prevention leads to develop, monitor and evaluate a Black Country SP Bereavement & Postvention Support programme, funded through NHSE/I National SP Programme. | Sandwell SP Partnership/ Black Country SP Partnership | |
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| <p>Recommendation 7: Identify and prioritise high-risk populations through working groups</p> <p>Through the Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment and ongoing work through the Sandwell SP Partnership, we are continuing to identify groups and circumstances that may be associated with increased risk of suicide. This goes beyond consideration of mental health issues and includes wider social, economic and environmental factors.</p> <p>It is important to actively engage with our communities to fully understand and begin to address emerging needs and concerns – including direct and indirect impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Links to related strategic priorities and groups, including the Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy and Children & Young People’s SP subgroup, will enable a stronger and more co-ordinated approach.</p> | <p>7a: Reviewing local, regional and national evidence</p> <p>ACTION 49: Continue to ensure that new and emerging evidence and local intelligence on suicide and suicide prevention is discussed regularly through the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership.</p> <p>ACTION 50: Continue to work with the Black Country Coroner’s Office and Child Death Overview Panel to understand the factors linked to deaths by suicide in Sandwell.</p> <p>ACTION 51: Update the Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment in 2024 to inform update of subsequent SP Strategy & Action Plan.</p> <p>7b: Links to mental health and other services</p> <p>ACTION 52: Conduct an audit of referrals into child and adult mental health services to determine where referrals are coming from and to understand more about the people accessing support.</p> <p>ACTION 53: Analyse data on hospital admissions for self-harm to identify associated risk factors.</p> <p>ACTION 54: Improve awareness of the impact of domestic abuse and strengthen links between multi-agency partnerships and strategies for domestic abuse and suicide prevention.</p> <p>7c: Links with community-led forums</p> <p>ACTION 55: Regular engagement with community-led forums in each of the six towns in Sandwell to identify new and emerging concerns.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Black Country & West Birmingham CCG</p> <p>Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Q2 2024</p> <p>Q2 2022</p> <p>Q1 2023</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
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| | <p><i>Additional actions specific to: Children & Young People:</i></p> <p>ACTION 56: Issue revised guidance to schools on the use of exclusion, recognising that when a child or young person is permanently excluded from school or college, any relationships with universal services are at risk of becoming fractured and should be identified as a potential risk factor for suicide. If a school or college is considering excluding someone there should be multi-agency engagement to discuss other potential solutions.</p> <p>ACTION 57: Improve awareness of the impact of domestic abuse, parental physical and mental health needs and conflict at home. In addition, agencies should ensure that where a parent or carer is open to adult mental health services, existing processes include systematic risk assessment (including thoughts of suicide) of the needs of the child or young person by all partner agencies to ensure they receive appropriate support</p> <p>ACTION 58: Ensure all schools and colleges (including independent and faith-based schools) have clear anti-bullying policies that include guidance on how to assess the risk of suicide for children and young people experiencing bullying and when and under what circumstances multi-agency meetings will be called to discuss individual children/young people.</p> <p>ACTION 59: Review existing local policies and guidance to ensure they emphasise the range of indicators identified to improve awareness of the possibility of child suicide.</p> | <p>Public Health/ Education, SMBC / School & College Leadership Teams & Governors</p> <p>Integrated Care System Suicide Prevention Leads, GPs, Adult Mental Health Services, Children and Young People’s Mental Health Services, Social care, Alcohol and Drugs Services, Children Services</p> <p>Public Health/ Education, SMBC / School & College Leadership Teams & Governors Health, Social Care, Education, Local Authorities, Schools Colleges, Criminal Justice System,</p> <p>Acute Trusts, Mental Health Trusts, Childrens Services, Local Authorities, Primary Care, Education departments, Schools, Colleges, Youth Offending Teams, Liaison and Diversion Services, Commissioned services</p> | <p>Q3 2023</p> <p>Q3 2023</p> |
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| | ACTION 60: Share learning with Black Country Suicide Prevention leads to identify priority areas for collective action and ensure alignment to CYP action plan. | Sandwell SP Partnership/ Black Country SP Partnership | |
| <p>Recommendation 8: Improve data collation and intelligence-gathering</p> <p>There are multiple sources for statistical data that can be shared on a regular basis to identify developing trends. Equally, there should be encouragement for recorded and anecdotal evidence from across the borough to be shared among partners so that we can continue to understand what is happening at every level. This also feeds into the requirement to link to the Police's real-time surveillance activities.</p> | <p>8a: Monitoring and evaluation</p> <p>ACTION 61: Improve monitoring of protected characteristics for mental health and wellbeing programmes, project and services delivered or commissioned by SMBC and partner organisations.</p> <p>ACTION 62: Develop a set of key outcome indicators to inform evaluation frameworks for suicide prevention interventions and projects.</p> <p>8b: Effective information sharing</p> <p>ACTION 63: Work with Sandwell Council Information Management Unit to establish Information Sharing Agreements between the Council and partner organisations.</p> <p>8c: Sharing learning between partner organisations</p> <p>ACTION 64: Continue to share information and intelligence via the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Partnership to inform local policy and practice.</p> <p><i>Additional action specific to: Children & Young People:</i></p> <p>ACTION 65: Review local policies on information sharing and escalation to ensure children and young people at risk of suicide can be identified and supported.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health/IMU, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Acute Trusts, Mental Health Trusts, Childrens Services, Local Authorities, Primary Care, Education departments, Schools, Colleges, Youth Offending Teams, Liaison and Diversion Services, Commissioned services</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Q2 2022</p> <p>Q4 2022</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | ACTION 66: Develop a Real Time Surveillance system across the Black Country to improve use of data and intelligence to develop timely postvention support. | Sandwell SP Partnership/ Black Country SP Partnership | Q4 2023 |

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| | ACTION 67: Develop a Black Country Suicide Prevention Dashboard, hosted by Walsall MBC. | Walsall Council/ Research & Intelligence, SMBC | Q4 2023 |
| <p>Recommendation 9: Engage with media organisations to work co-operatively on the reporting of suicides</p> <p>Media organisations have a responsibility to report accurately and compassionately on deaths by suicide. Working proactively with media organisations and reporters to embed good practice reporting guidelines can help to ensure that they understand the impact of their messages on bereaved families and friends.</p> | <p>9a: Promoting responsible reporting of suicides ACTION 68: Provide opportunities for media organisations and staff to participate in multi-agency training to advocate towards responsible reporting.</p> <p>ACTION 69: Actively engage with local media organisations to encourage and support them to adopt the Samaritans' media guidelines for reporting suicide.</p> | <p>SMBC Press Office/Samaritans</p> <p>Samaritans Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Q1 2024</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>9b: Developing key messages for the public ACTION 70: Produce a set of key messages around local suicide rates and support available that should be included in all relevant press releases and media communications, highlighting where these may be subject to change so that they can be updated as required.</p> <p>ACTION 71: Develop and deliver a general awareness campaign around the sharing of media stories on suicides online and how it can be traumatic for those affected.</p> | <p>Samaritans Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Samaritans Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Q3 2022</p> <p>Q1 2023</p> |
| | ACTION 72: Work with Black Country Suicide Prevention leads to develop and promote consistent messages. | Sandwell SP Partnership/ Black Country SP Partnership | Ongoing |
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| <p>Recommendation 10: Conduct further assessments to consider specific populations</p> <p>We have already begun to identify key groups including rough sleepers, migrants, those with who misuse drugs and alcohol and people who are</p> | <p>10a: Increasing resources and capacity ACTION 73: Identify potential funding sources to support local suicide prevention activity.</p> <p>ACTION 74: Align with related strategies (including Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy; Autism Strategy; Carers Strategy and End of Life Strategy).</p> <p>ACTION 75: Ensure that suicide prevention considerations are included in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) for Sandwell.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Public Health, SMBC</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>TBC</p> |

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| <p>unemployed. We will continue to work as a multi-stakeholder group to review and update these groups.</p> <p>We are working with the community and voluntary sector to ensure that there is appropriate support for those who do not access traditional services and review commissioned services which target the mental health of target groups highlighting suicide prevention/interventions/effectiveness.</p> | <p>10b: Focus on specific groups</p> <p>ACTION 76: Continue to identify key groups for targeted action including rough sleepers, migrants, those in the criminal justice system, those who misuse drugs and alcohol, people who are unemployed and those who are LGBT+, working as a multi-stakeholder group to review and update these groups.</p> <p>ACTION 77: Continue working with the community and voluntary sector to ensure that there is appropriate support for those who do not access traditional services and review commissioned services which target the mental health of target groups highlighting suicide prevention /interventions/effectiveness.</p> <p>ACTION 78: Carry out more detailed work on self-harm, following on from preliminary analysis of hospital admissions data (Action 49) to understand more about potential risk factors.</p> <p>ACTION 79: Continue to work together to identify emerging risk factors and key issues.</p> | <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership/ Public Health, SMBC</p> <p>Sandwell SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Ongoing</p> <p>Q4 2023</p> <p>Ongoing</p> |
| | <p>ACTION 80: Identify potential funding sources to support suicide prevention activity across the Black Country footprint.</p> | <p>Black Country SP Partnership</p> | <p>Ongoing</p> |

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Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: January 2019

| | |
|--|--|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan 2022-2025 |
| Directorate and Service Area | Public Health |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Lina Martino, Consultant in Public Health |
| Contact Details | lina_martino@sandwell.co.uk |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | |
| Date EIA completed | 13 June 2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | |
| 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 approve the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan for publication, subject to any amendments required.

2. Evidence used/considered

The Strategy and Action Plan were informed by local and national policy and evidence on suicide prevention. A Suicide Prevention Needs Assessment was carried out in 2021 using mixed methods to update the existing draft Strategy and Action Plan, and understand the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic on suicide and related factors in Sandwell. This included quantitative data describing the local epidemiology of suicide, and qualitative analysis of interviews with service providers and people with lived experience.

3. Consultation

The draft Strategy & Action Plan were released for public consultation on 20 December 2021 for the statutory 60-day period, supported by a communications plan to ensure maximum reach and representation across our diverse communities. We also worked with voluntary and community sector organisations to engage seldom heard residents and service users.

Feedback from the consultation suggested that the priority areas identified were generally the right ones, with individuals and organisations ranking them similarly in terms of relative importance. However, different groups placed greater emphasis on some of the areas (e.g. children & young people ranked priorities around information and intelligence more highly). The consultation also highlighted gaps around domestic violence & abuse, and individuals in contact with the criminal justice system.

The draft was revised to address these gaps, as well as amending timelines where possible to reflect higher priority actions (taking into account that some of the actions are already ongoing/concurrent with one another, and differences between groups in perceived importance of priority areas).

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

The purpose of the Sandwell Suicide Prevention Strategy and Action Plan is to reduce numbers of deaths by suicide in Sandwell, with a primary aim to achieve zero suicides in Sandwell by 2030.

However, many of the actions are likely to lead to an overall improvement in population mental health and wellbeing through improving access to support and services.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | x | | | <p>This is an all-age Strategy. Recommendation 1 (raise awareness of suicide prevention and bereavement support through training for all frontline Council staff) includes a specific action to develop and deliver brief targeted training sessions on suicide prevention & bereavement support for services and sectors that work directly with specific groups across the life course.</p> <p>Middle aged men are disproportionately likely to die by suicide and are a key target group throughout the Strategy and Action Plan. There are also actions that focus specifically on children and young people to address key risk factors for suicide in this age group. Specific actions to address bullying in schools (see Recommendation 2: Pilot town-based, community-led forums) and</p> |

| | | | | |
|----------------------------|----------|--|--|--|
| | | | | <p>Recommendation 7: Identify and prioritise high-risk populations through working groups) is also likely to have a positive impact across a range of protected characteristics.</p> |
| Disability | x | | | <p>Recommendation 4 (work with Community Development Workers to identify gaps in accessibility) includes actions to increase availability of resources in different formats, and to work with minority and/or marginalised communities and groups within Sandwell to understand how their unique lived experience affects their lives and mental health.</p> <p>The Strategy and Action Plan align with related strategies (including Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy; Autism Strategy; Carers Strategy and End of Life Strategy).</p> |
| Gender reassignment | x | | | <p>Recommendation 10 (conduct further assessments to consider specific populations) includes an action to continue to identify key groups for targeted action, with explicit reference to those who are LGBT+. It also includes an action to continue working with the community and voluntary sector to ensure that there is appropriate support for those who do not access traditional services. This will include people who are LGBT+.</p> <p>Recommendation 4 (work with Community Development Workers to identify gaps in accessibility) includes actions to work with minority and/or marginalised communities and groups within Sandwell to understand how their unique lived experience affects their lives and mental health. This will include people who are LGBT+.</p> |

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | x | This Strategy and Action Plan do not specifically target people by marital or civil partnership status. However, they are included within universal suicide prevention measures. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | x | This Strategy and Action Plan do not specifically target pregnant women. However, they are included within universal suicide prevention measures. The Strategy will also link to the Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy which will include maternal mental health. |
| Race | x | | | <p>Recommendation 4 (work with Community Development Workers to identify gaps in accessibility) includes actions to work with minority and/or marginalised communities and groups within Sandwell to understand how their unique lived experience affects their lives and mental health. This will include people from ethnic minority groups.</p> <p>The Strategy will also link to the Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy which will include an explicit focus on reducing racial inequalities in mental health and access to services.</p> |
| Religion or belief | x | | | Recommendation 4 (work with Community Development Workers to identify gaps in accessibility) includes a specific action to work closely with community groups and the faith sector to build on existing infrastructure and embed support around suicide prevention. |

| | | | |
|---------------------------|----------|--|--|
| Sex | x | | <p>Middle aged men are disproportionately likely to die by suicide and are a key target group throughout the Strategy and Action Plan.</p> |
| Sexual orientation | x | | <p>Recommendation 10 (conduct further assessments to consider specific populations) includes an action to continue to identify key groups for targeted action, with explicit reference to those who are LGBT+. It also includes an action to continue working with the community and voluntary sector to ensure that there is appropriate support for those who do not access traditional services. This will include people who are LGBT+.</p> <p>Recommendation 4 (work with Community Development Workers to identify gaps in accessibility) includes actions to work with minority and/or marginalised communities and groups within Sandwell to understand how their unique lived experience affects their lives and mental health. This will include people who are LGBT+.</p> |
| Other | x | | <p>Recommendation 8 (improve data collation and intelligence-gathering) includes an action to improve monitoring of protected characteristics for mental health and wellbeing programmes, project and services delivered or commissioned by SMBC and partner organisations. This is likely to have a positive impact across all protected groups.</p> |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

| |
|---|
| <p>5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?</p> |
| <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?</p> |
| <p>N/A</p> |
| <p>7. Monitoring arrangements</p> |
| <p>Recommendation 8 (improve data collation and intelligence-gathering) includes an action to improve monitoring of protected characteristics across related project and services delivered or commissioned by SMBC and partner organisations.</p> <p>The impact of the Strategy and Action Plan themselves on protected groups will be monitored</p> |
| <p>8. Action planning</p> |
| <p>You may wish to use the action plan template below</p> <p>N/A</p> |

Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Draft Statement of Community Involvement 2022 |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth Councillor Peter Hughes |
| Director: | Regeneration and Growth Tony McGovern |
| Key Decision: | Yes (c) to be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough |
| Contact Officer: | Planning Officer, Zoe Wilson zoe_wilson@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given to adopt the Statement of Community Involvement.
- 1.2 That the Director, Regeneration and Growth be authorised to make any minor amendments to the Statement of Community Involvement prior to circulation.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The revised Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the Council will involve communities in the planning decision making process. The previous document was adopted in 2016. Given the age of the document and with the changes made to national and local planning policy, it was perceived that the document was no longer relevant for its intended purpose.



2.2 For the document to remain relevant and to ensure it was consistent with policies in the Black Country Core Strategy 2011, the emerging Black Country Plan and changes within the National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF). It was recommended that the Statement of Community Involvement should be revised to reflect changes in planning policy and technological advances

2.3 Following approval to consult on the draft SCI, the consultation took place between 9th May and 19th June 2022. Notification of the draft SCI was made available on the council's consultation page, the council's website and social media accounts. Notification was also sent via letter or email to

- Statutory Consultees, including adjoining authorities
- Local Plan database contacts including individuals, developers and agents

Hard copies of the draft SCI (2022) were made available within all six of the main town libraries and an additional copy was made available at Council House, Oldbury.

The comments form was interactive and made available on the council's website. A hard copy of the comments form was also available upon request.

Comments were requested to be made via the interactive comments form on the council's website, by email to ldf_planning@sandwell.gov.uk, or in writing to Strategic Policy, Sandwell Council, Directorate of Regeneration & Economy, Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury B69 3DE

An introduction to the Draft Statement of Community Involvement was made publicly available on the Sandwell MBC website





2.4 The revised Statement of Community of Involvement was circulated for consultation between 9th May and 19th June 2022. A total of 5 representations were received (see Appendix 1 for details).



As a result, minor amendments have been made and incorporated in to the document. As these were only minor amendments, and as the core purpose of the document remains, the revised SCI is recommended for adoption

2.5 An EIA has been carried out. No adverse impacts were identified, and no specific actions are required. This document provides further guidance to processes and arrangements for polices already adopted in the Black Country Core Strategy and within the emerging Black County Plan and national policy

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | Best start in life for children and young people Engaging with customers early in the process can help deliver better quality development meeting their needs and those of future generations. |
|  | Strong resilient communities Identifies how the community, including the residents, businesses and stakeholders can get involved in the planning process and how these views will be balanced |
|  | A strong and inclusive economy Inclusion of businesses and stakeholders |
|  | A connected and accessible Sandwell Planning transport matters contribute to making Sandwell better connected |

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The draft Statement of Community Involvement aims to set out simplified guidance for involving communities and is aimed at all those involved in planning. The document:

- Explains why community involvement is important in Sandwell and sets out the existing policy framework;
- Revises the existing (2016) Statement of Community Involvement
- Identifies the types of development and documents where community involvement is encouraged and to what extent.



- Proposes a variety of methods that detail how communities can become involved in the planning process. This includes; targeting specific community groups, enabling greater accessibility and recent technological shifts in the way the Sandwell Council communicate i.e. social media and live streaming.
- Explains how the Council deals with issues surrounding consultation within a pandemic

4.3 The Statement of Community Involvement supplements Policy CSP4 (Place Making) of the adopted Black Country Core Strategy (2011), and reflects the National Planning Policy Framework (paragraph 16) which states that ‘...plans should be shaped early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisation, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees’

4.4 The Council will encourage relevant stakeholders including communities, businesses, developers, statutory consultees and other external agencies to engage in the process, their role in the preparation of plans is crucial. We will ensure that every opportunity is given for engagement within the process and meetings can be arranged if necessary. We will aim for representation forms to be interactive in the first instance, but they will also be available electronically and a hard copy will also be available upon request during the relevant consultation periods.

4.5 The period of consultation on the draft Statement of Community Involvement ran for a period of 6 weeks from May 9th until 19th June 2022. During this time, the document was able to be viewed at the reception area at Oldbury Council House as well as at the six main town centre libraries, and on the Council’s website. Notification of the consultation was sent to statutory consultees and key stakeholders.

4.6 The representations received during the consultation period have been considered and, where appropriate, have been incorporated in the final document. The changes and reasons for incorporating them are identified below;



| Rep No. | Consultee | Rep | Action | How changed | Reason for change |
|---------|------------|--|----------------|---|--|
| Sci1 | Dudley MBC | Para 1.3 bpt 6, direct reference to community engagement statement required in LP preparation under Part 17 (d) of the 2012 regs (proposed submission documents) | Amend Document | The following sentence has been added to the end of the 6 th bullet point "This will form the basis of the Consultation Statement, and includes which people were invited to make representations and how they were involved, a summary of the main issues raised and how these have been incorporated in to the document, in line with the Town and County Planning Act." | To make reference to requirements under the T&CP Act |
| Sci2 | Dudley MBC | 2.7 - reference to the BCCS in the process of being superseded by the emerging BCP? | Amend Document | Para 2.7 has been amended to incorporate "...which is in the process of being superseded by the Black Country Plan..." | To identify that the Core Strategy is in the process of being replaced by the BCP |
| Sci3 | Dudley MBC | 3.2 – words run into each other throughout the doc – e.g. here "planningdecisions" and "andambitions" | Amend Document | Amended layout in areas where this has occurred so the space between words is more obvious | For Clarity |
| Sci4 | Dudley MBC | 3.2 – "stakeholder" mentioned here, but only defined at 7.1 | Amend Document | Footnote added "The term stakeholder has a broad definition, but it often referred to as any individual or organisation with an interest" | To clarify what Stakeholder means when it is first referenced |
| Sci5 | Dudley MBC | 3.3 – caution – potential repeal of DtC under the Levelling Up and Regeneration Bill (currently we do this but this is under review, will follow national guidance - currently have to Make reference, this is under review) | Amend Document | Sentence amended to read the following (sections underlined have been added) "There is <u>currently</u> a duty to cooperate in the plan making process with neighbouring councils and government bodies, <u>however, this requirement is currently under review. Whilst the duty to cooperate is still required,</u> the council will endeavour to assist partners wherever possible throughout the formation of the plan making process. Sandwell Metropolitan BoroughCouncil has a strong working relationship with neighbouring boroughs (Appendix 1). An example of this is the creation and adoption of the joint Black Country Core Strategy and the ongoing collaborative working on its successor document, the Black Country Plan. <u>We will continue to follow national guidance and will undertake the requirements of the most up to date legislation.</u> | To make the reader aware that the CIL may be replaced by another mechanism |
| Sci6 | Dudley MBC | 4.2 – Libraries – may need a footnote to reference that libraries and other public buildings may not be open in nationally or locally prescribed lockdown measures (If | Amend Document | Footnote added "Note should be taken that during pandemic conditions, libraries and other public buildings may not be open" | To clarify that future pandemics may impact on the opening of public buildings and the |



| Rep No. | Consultee | Rep | Action | How changed | Reason for change |
|---------|------------|--|----------------|--|--|
| | | another pandemic, may not be open) | | | consultation process |
| Sci7 | Dudley MBC | 4.2 – mention here large print copies of planning documents, and translations? | Amend Document | Sentence added to the end of the Hard Copies bullet point “Upon request, copies may also be available in large print or languages other than English” | To identify that copies of documents may be available in other formats |
| Sci8 | Dudley MBC | 4.3 bpt 3, could mention virtual Q and A sessions here? | Amend Document | The last bullet point of 4.3 has the added wording “virtual question and answer sessions” | To highlight that another form of communication may be available during lockdown conditions |
| Sci9 | Dudley MBC | 5.1 – mention redaction of comments/ subject to GDPR? | Amend Document | The following sentence has been added to the end of 5.1 “Comments will be available for public view but these will be redacted in line with GDPR” | To make clear that representations are available for public view but that it will comply with GDPR |
| Sci10 | Dudley MBC | 8.1/Fig 3 - “Annual Monitoring Report” now “Authority Monitoring Report” | Amend Document | Diagram amended to read Authority Monitoring | Correct terminology |
| Sci11 | Dudley MBC | 8.1/Fig 3 – some planning docs missed out such as LDOs/ CACAs? | Amend Document | Suggested documents have been added to the diagram | Add missing content |
| Sci12 | Dudley MBC | 8.2 - reference to the Local Plans under preparation? | Amend Document | Sentence added to 8.2 “...and other land use documents under preparation” | Add missing content |
| Sci13 | Dudley MBC | 8.3 – DPDs do more than “outline” the key development goals of the Idf? | Amend Document | Removal of the word “outline” and replaced with “identify and guide” | To better represent what a DPD does |
| Sci14 | Dudley MBC | 8.5/8.6 – caution Levelling up and Regeneration Bill may give more weight to SPDs and IPSs etc | Amend Document | Sentence added to the end of 8.5 “In the future, the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill may give more weight to SPDs” Sentence added to the end of 8.6 “In the future, the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill may give more weight to IPSs” | To identify that changing legislation can impact on existing documents |
| Sci15 | Dudley MBC | 8.7 – caution CIL being replaced by IF? (There may be changes afoot, currently, may change dependant on national policy) | Amend Document | The first four sentences within 8.7 now reads as follows “The council currently has a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in place. As set out in national guidance, this is in the process of being replaced by an Infrastructure Levy. The council will utilise the most up to | To highlight that the CIL mechanism may change in the future |



| Rep No. | Consultee | Rep | Action | How changed | Reason for change |
|---------|-------------------|---|----------------|--|---|
| | | | | date requirement as identified in National Policy. These processes allow local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area.” | |
| Sci16 | Dudley MBC | 9.2 – need to expand more on the benefits of pre-apps (although 10.1 is noted) – as under para 40 of the NPPF – also note rouge apostrophe in this para | Amend Document | The following sentence has been added to 9.2 “This can be done via the pre-application process, which is identified in paragraph 10.1” | Reference made to another section which deals with this – to make it an easier read |
| Sci17 | Dudley MBC | 9.9 – mention the possible need for Planning Committee meetings to be held virtually during periods of lockdown | Amend Document | The following sentence has been added to 9.9 “In the event of another pandemic and periods of lockdown, Planning Committee meetings will be held virtually” | Add content |
| Sci18 | Dudley MBC | virtually during periods of lockdown <ul style="list-style-type: none"> (9.10) – mention appeal process and how the community can engage with it? | Amend Document | 9.10 is an addition to the document. The paragraph reads as follows “The appeal process is in place should the person who made the application disagree with the decision, and this is the most common reason for an appeal being made. An appeal can be lodged within 12 weeks for a householder application and within 6 months for a Major application. There is also a right to appeal should a decision not be made within 8 weeks (13 for a major development) and an extension of time had not been agreed. The deadline is earlier if the appellant has received an enforcement notice, the appeal must then be made within 28 days” | Add content |
| Sci19 | SFS | “More effort could be made to include the residents of Sandwell. All projects should include written letters to those affected either locally, or for major projects (town centres etc), every Sandwell resident, with a survey such as this, as well as the chance to add their own thoughts and ideas”. | Amend Document | “Letters to residents” has been added to the bullet point entitled Additional Comments | To identify that this can be a method used up to a degree |
| Sci20 | West Bromwich BID | thanks whilst I cc to clients of mine, whom work together & whom will be looking to promote their freehold ownerships in the next Site Allocations and Delivery DPD and also | Noted | | Noted only as it did not specifically refer to this document and there were no calls for change |



| Rep No. | Consultee | Rep | Action | How changed | Reason for change |
|---------|-----------------------|---|----------------|--|---|
| | | <p>review of West Bromwich & Tipton AAP</p> <p>Also cc to couple of Architectural firms e.g. below I've previously referred them both to, whom may wish to pass on to the couple of the planners, they refer their planning policy to,</p> | | | |
| Sci21 | Canal and River Trust | <p>The Trust is a statutory consultee in the Development Management process and whilst we are not a specific consultation body on planning policy matters, we note our inclusion in the draft SCI Appendix 1 within the groups listed as an 'other consultee' on page 22. We consider that the Canal and River Trust is more specifically a 'Specific Consultation Body' as set out in The Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015, Statutory Instruments 2015 No. 595 (as amended), Schedule 4 (consultations before the grant of Planning Permission) of Section 18, paragraph (za). This provides that the Trust must be consulted on "Development likely to affect (i) any inland waterway (whether natural or artificial) or reservoir either owned or managed by the Canal and River Trust; or (ii) any canal feeder channel, water course, let off or culvert, which is within an area which has been notified for the purposes of this provision to the local planning authority by the Canal and River Trust."</p> <p>We would therefore request that reference to the Canal and River Trust on page 22 been altered to our inclusion within the earlier list of 'Specific</p> | Amend Document | Added the Canal and River Trust to 'Specific Consultation Body' section and removed from 'other consultee' section | To better represent the status of the consultee |



| Rep No. | Consultee | Rep | Action | How changed | Reason for change |
|---------|------------------|--|----------------|---|--|
| | | Consultation Bodies' on page 21. | | | |
| Sci22 | Historic England | Paragraph 3.3 it may be useful to include some additional detail about the Duty to Cooperate process and when, who and how the Council engage in this. | Amend Document | The following was added to the start of 3.3 "The Duty to Cooperate applies to all Local Planning Authorities and a number of public bodies. The duty relates to sustainable development/use of land that significantly impacts two or more local planning areas. Cooperation is also required on issues of common concern. Councils are required to address such issues. The council and the public bodies will actively and constructively engage with each other, and on an on-going process, to develop strategic policies. The Duty to Cooperate also requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making". | To offer a greater explanation |
| Sci23 | Historic England | Section 4; Historic England is available to attend meetings and/or workshops where relevant to our specific remit on the historic environment. | Noted | | This relates more specifically to HE rather than the process |
| Sci24 | Historic England | Paragraph 5.2 given the nature of our role and the detail of our formal representation it is not possible for Historic England to fill in a representation form for each issue. Instead we will submit a letter response via email within the consultation deadline period. | Noted | | No change as, although other forms accepted, the preferred method is representation form |
| Sci25 | Historic England | Section 6/7 it would be useful in either of these sections to have a reference to Appendix 1 and the list of Consultation Bodies. We welcome the inclusion of Historic England on this list. | Amend | Added "This can be seen in appendix 1." After the first sentence in 6.4 | To highlight the consultees |
| Sci26 | Historic England | Paragraph 8.2 we would request that there is transparency between the Development Plan document and the Sustainability Appraisal assessments for example, that the same policy numbers or site reference numbers are used within both documents or if this is not possible, then a | Noted | | The Council are aware of this issue and are in talks on how to address it. The document will be updated once this is established |



| Rep No. | Consultee | Rep | Action | How changed | Reason for change |
|---------|------------------|--|--------|--|---|
| | | conversion chart should be supplied. | | | |
| Sci27 | Historic England | It may be useful in Section 9 to have a link to the Statutory Bodies that will be consulted during the planning application process. | Amend | Added text to 9.3 - The relevant statutory bodies will also need to be consulted during the application process. | Noted comment and amended text to highlight statutory consultees but link may cause confusion |

5 Alternative Options

5.1 The alternative option would be to continue to use the SCI adopted in 2016. However, this document will not be up to date and would not tackle issues surrounding the Coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic and other pandemics which may affect the ability to consult

6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Resources: | The costs of preparing the draft Statement of Community Involvement for Sandwell, and the consultation process will be met from existing budgets |
| Legal and Governance: | <p>The current Development Plan for Sandwell includes the Black Country Core Strategy (currently being reviewed), the Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document and a number of Area Action Plans and Supplementary Planning Documents.</p> <p>Following consultation and adoption, the Statement of Community Involvement will form part of the Local Development Framework suite of documents. The document is being prepared under the provisions of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act (2004) and the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012, the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework.</p> |
| Risk: | The council's corporate risk management strategy has been complied with, to identify and assess the risks associated with this decision/recommendations. This has identified that there are no significant risks that need to be reported. |



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | <p>In terms of the risks themselves, have we considered the following:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Programme risks in terms of whether there is sufficient capability and capacity to deliver the programme of work • Key dependencies (i.e. key people required to deliver the documents) • Budget/ financial risks |
| Equality: | An EIA has been carried out. This document provides further guidance to processes and arrangements for policies already adopted in the Black Country Core Strategy. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | Planning seeks to uphold the health and wellbeing of the community as a whole. Consultation on planning matters should therefore address health and wellbeing |
| Social Value | Through effective community involvement, people will feel more involved in the planning process, leading to better outcomes for everyone |

7. Appendices

Draft Statement of Community Involvement

8. Background Papers

None



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Statement of Community Involvement

Regulation 12(a) Report of Consultation and Consultation Statement

February 2022

Statement of Community Involvement



February 2022



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Figure

Figure 1: Key stages in preparing our local plan

Figure 2: Key stages in preparing our supplementary planning document

Figure 3: Components of the Local Development Framework

Figure 4: Categories of development defined as major in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council has been innovative and proactive in its approach to Planning. As a result, the borough has experienced significant regeneration to its buildings, public spaces, shops and attractions. To ensure that a balanced and sustainable approach to the future of Sandwell is achieved, the Local Planning Authority (LPA) will continue to offer opportunities for early engagement, working closely with communities, businesses and stakeholders.
- 1.2 The LPA is committed to delivering excellent services to our local residents, businesses and service users and we see consultation as a vital part of this service. We know that by engaging with our customers, we can help deliver better quality development which meets their needs and those of future generations. This document sets out our approach to consulting with you during the planning process and understanding your views.
- 1.3 The LPA will be guided by the following key initiatives, that will aim to increase accessibility and consistency across all of its documents:
- Use a variety of written, verbal and technological communication methods when undertaking consultation for planning documents, for example letters, emails, press releases, exhibitions, workshops and social media.
 - Where possible avoid consultation during holiday periods and/or special events that may reduce participation.
 - Documents will be clearly written in plain English (except where unavoidable technical expressions are required).
 - Copies of relevant documents and/or summaries will be made available where possible
 - Consultations will meet the statutory requirement and will run for a minimum of six weeks
 - Comments and feedback raised from consultation will be analysed and summarised. The results will then be considered, and a response produced, detailing how the issues raised will be addressed in the planning document (where relevant). This will form the basis of the Consultation Statement, which will also include who was invited to make representations and how they were involved, a summary of the main issues raised and how these have been incorporated into the document, in line with the Town and County Planning Act.
 - Consultation on planning applications will adhere to the government regulations as a minimum; for larger/sensitive applications additional consultation will be undertaken.
 - Comments received from planning applications will be summarised and considered in the Planning Officer's Report before a planning application is determined.

2. Introduction

- 2.2 The Statement of Community Involvement (SCI) has been produced, in accordance with the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act 2004, Section 18. This document also reflects the requirements of the Town and Country Planning (Local Planning) (England) Regulations 2012, the Localism Act 2011 and the National Planning Policy Framework.
- 2.3 Planning shapes the places where people live and work. It seeks to ensure that there are jobs, homes, shops, parks and other important facilities available to everyone, while at the same time protecting and improving the environment.
- 2.4 The National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF) paragraph 16 states that “...plans should be shaped early, proportionate and effective engagement between plan makers and communities, local organisations, businesses, infrastructure providers and operators and statutory consultees.”
- 2.5 As the planning system has the potential to affect everyone, it is only right that communities within Sandwell should be able to contribute to the preparation of plans and policies. It is equally important for communities to be involved in the process of development management (which deals with planning applications).
- 2.6 Strong community involvement improves the quality and efficiency of decision making in Sandwell. This Statement of Community Involvement sets out how the Local Planning Authority will involve stakeholders such as; the public, developers, businesses and other agencies in the preparation of its planning policy documents and in the determination of planning applications.
- 2.7 Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council as the local planning authority is responsible for the preparation of the planning documents for Sandwell. The following documents make up the Local Development Framework; Local Development Scheme (LDS), Black Country Core Strategy (which is in the process of being superseded by the Black Country Plan), Area Action Plans, Development Plan Documents and Supplementary Planning Documents.
- 2.8 This SCI updates and supersedes the existing SCI, which was adopted in 2016, and has been prepared following government legislation relating to the coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic. We will review and amend the SCI as necessary to reflect any future changes
- 2.9 Further information can be found at:
http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200275/planning_and_buildings/950/planning_policy

3. Consultation Process

3.1 There is a legislative requirement to illustrate how and to what extent the public have been involved in the drafting and delivery of planning documents and guidance. This is achieved through the production of the Statement of Community Involvement setting out what community involvement has been carried out at each stage. Without a Statement of Community Involvement an inspector could reject the planning document.

3.2 There are several benefits of early involvement, which include:

- Increased public ownership of planning projects and planning decisions
- Increased awareness of residents and businesses desires and ambitions for the borough.
- Increased opportunities for collaborative working between key stakeholder groups¹.

3.3 Duty to Cooperate

The Duty to Cooperate applies to all Local Planning Authorities and a number of public bodies. The duty relates to sustainable development/use of land that significantly impacts two or more local planning areas. Cooperation is also required on issues of common concern. Councils are required to address such issues. The council and the public bodies will actively and constructively engage with each other, and on an on-going process, to develop strategic policies. The Duty to Cooperate also requires councils to consider joint approaches to plan making. There is currently a duty to cooperate in the plan making process with neighbouring councils and government bodies. Whilst the duty to cooperate is still required, the council will endeavour to assist partners wherever possible throughout the plan making process. Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council has a strong working relationship with neighbouring boroughs (Appendix 1). An example of this is the creation and adoption of the joint Black Country Core Strategy and the ongoing collaborative working on its successor document, the Black Country Plan. We will continue to follow national guidance and will undertake the requirements of the most up to date legislation

3.4 Minimum Standards for consultation

The legal requirement for consultation on planning documents is set out in government regulations.

In summary the regulations require the council to:

- Place all relevant documentation and supporting material on the council's website so that it is easily accessible and can be inspected. This will be made available at www.sandwell.gov.uk.
- Ensure relevant documentation and supporting material is available in convenient and appropriate locations which includes the council offices.

¹ The term stakeholder has a broad definition, but it is often referred to as any individual or organisation with an interest

- Supply copies of the planning document and other relevant material to statutory bodies
- Abide by the minimum six weeks' consultation on planning documents set out in statutory guidance.

Supplementary Planning Documents will be consulted on for a minimum of six weeks.

3.5 Coronavirus

The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic presented new challenges to undertaking consultation work in Sandwell. This has had repercussions for our consultation events, the posting of site notices, and for publishing hard copies of development planning documents at the Council House. The government, in recognition of this, have published regulations and new planning practice guidance relating to consultation. This updated SCI aims to provide a means of engagement with the local community despite the challenges of Covid-19 and helps to maintain a comprehensive consultation process in challenging times.

4 Methods of consultation

- 4.1 Sandwell is a diverse community made up of many different cultures, faiths and languages. It is important therefore that all parts of the community that live and work within Sandwell are included and consulted with effectively. The council will therefore ensure that;
- Community groups and community leaders that represent these communities are all involved within the planning process and are consulted with.
 - Documents can be made available in other languages.
- 4.2 There are some key challenges related to increased digitalization and pandemic / lockdown situations;
- Some people have difficulty in accessing the internet and struggle to navigate online to find the relevant consultation documents they want to respond to.
 - Planning documents can be technical and lengthy and slow internet access restricts the ease with which people can use these documents.
 - An inability to hold consultation events in person, due to pandemic / lockdown situations
- 4.3 To help overcome this challenge, we may use a range of methods for the consultation process. The types and methods used will vary depending on the complexity of the issue and the number of people that are likely to be affected. Such methods could include;
- Telephone/email²
Have officers available to provide assistance via the telephone and/or via email to help the public locate and understand the documents
 - Face to Face³
Have officers available to provide assistance with documents and queries by appointment and at organised events
 - Local Press
In certain circumstances the LPA is required to publicise planning documents and planning applications through press releases and adverts. A statutory notice would need to be advertised. Information will be made available at key stages in the consultation process. The notices will include details such as; the length of the consultation and its commencement and finishing time and dates, the location of any documents and the purpose of the consultation. It will also identify any events arranged for community involvement. These will generally be published in the Express & Star, and Sandwell Chronicle.

² Due to working arrangements, officers will be available as necessary, not all the time

³ Again, due to working arrangements, officers will be available as necessary, not all the time

- Exhibitions and Presentations⁴
In certain circumstances exhibitions and presentations will be used. This will allow the LPA to present their findings, explain the process involved and invite further discussion. This method allows the local community and businesses to talk directly to officers, to understand what the proposed plans may mean for them. The benefit of this type of engagement is that it provides an opportunity for the public to contribute to the debate and access information.
- Workshops⁵
Workshops may be held to encourage greater participation and interaction as they often yield more focused and detailed feedback. This form of public involvement is well suited to groups such as businesses, developers and underrepresented minority groups. The aim of each workshop will be to facilitate clear and detailed discussion, which often creates a mutually positive outcome. However, this will be subject to the level of resources and staffing available to undertake the activity.
- Internet: E-government
In accordance with government regulations all documents will be available on the council's website. An email contact address will be provided where comments can be made direct to the LPA. This has proven to be a popular method of communication, as it is more convenient and enables correspondence to be recorded.
- Libraries⁶
A copy of consultation documents will be placed in all six of the Borough's main libraries, where the subject matter concerns the whole of the borough. For area specific plans, these will be placed in the local libraries. Internet access may also be available within the libraries so that people are able to view documents and submit comments on line.
- Social Media
Social media has become a popular method of communication particularly as users can voice their opinions through a platform that is easily accessible and instant. Furthermore, it allows officers to gauge initial responses and respond to issues sooner and more efficiently.
- Hard Copies⁷
Upon request, a copy of the Local Plan will be provided to residents who do not use the internet during consultation stages, where possible. Upon request, copies may also be available in large print

⁴ where physical events are planned, we will use accessible venues and facilities for exhibition events which will allow for any social distancing guidelines to be followed and to have documents available in accessible formats on request.

⁵ where physical events are planned, we will use accessible venues and facilities for exhibition events which will allow for any social distancing guidelines to be followed and to have documents available in accessible formats on request.

⁶ Note should be taken that during pandemic conditions, libraries and other public buildings may not be open

⁷ There may be a charge for this provision

- Letters, Newsletters or Leaflets
Letters, newsletters or leaflets will state the purpose of the document or plan, and detail the process being undertaken. It will also include opportunities for involvement and detail matters such as the length of the consultation, the venue and location of any associated events, contact details and any other relevant information
- Additional Consultation
There will be occasions where extra consultation will be required, particularly when dealing with planning documents or applications that have a sensitive or far-reaching impact upon communities and businesses. Therefore, additional consultation will be undertaken when necessary and could include; letters to residents, attendance at external meetings, workshops, events, focus groups, guided site visits, media releases and social media.
- Feedback
All responses made to verbal or written communication will be fully considered in the preparation of any planning document. The LPA aims to respond to all queries and concerns in the shortest time possible. However, for complex and significant issues that may arise as a result of feedback, response time may be extended, in order to provide a full and comprehensive reply. Feedback will be given either directly at meetings, or by letter, email, telephone, newsletter or the press (if appropriate or requested). In addition, a report will be submitted to the relevant Cabinet Members. All responses will be treated in line with GDPR
- Planning Aid England
Planning Aid England is a charitable organisation that provides independent and professional planning advice and support to individuals and communities. Planning Aid can give help and support to individuals and communities who wish to put forward their views at the start of the planning process, or alternatively respond to particular proposals.

Planning Aid England
 Contact: 0330 123 9244
 Email: advice@planningaid.rtpi.org.uk
<http://www.rtpi.org.uk/planning-aid/>

4.4 Coronavirus (Covid-19)

The coronavirus (Covid-19) pandemic has led to the Government providing social distancing guidance in order to reduce the spread of coronavirus. This included new statutory regulations and planning practice guidance produced in the wake of the pandemic. This has and will continue to impact on the way Sandwell MBC can engage with the

local community.

- Face to face consultation exhibitions must adhere to any social distancing guidelines in force with stakeholders and participants being expected to wear facial coverings to prevent the spread of the virus and floor markings are being used to improve adherence to these measures where possible.
- Local action groups may be asked to send individual representatives to ask questions on behalf of their group (rather than having a larger number of group members attend) to limit the number of people in each gathering and thus maximising the number of groups able to be represented at face to face consultations.
- Virtual exhibitions, virtual question and answer sessions and digital consultations are being considered by Sandwell MBC as a way of reaching more people who are unable to attend in person. The LPA is aware that government guidelines are constantly being updated and may be subject to change.

4.5 The pandemic situation resulted in temporary legislative changes, which resulted in the LPA consulting and engaging in new and different ways. Future consultations may need to be carried out using approaches that have regard and conform to the council's [Engagement Strategy](#). A range of approaches and options are being considered and some or all could be used as part of any future approach to consultation alongside other methods. Such approaches could include:

- Press releases and material - Utilisation of the range of printed and electronic local media outlets including local papers, local magazines and other publications, local electronic news formats and sites, and the increased use of social media;
- Borough-wide communications that could tie in with consultations and/or promote the LPA's consultation database to ensure people sign up to receive notification as soon as consultations are published;
- Notices distributed during household bin collections; and
- Video and online presentations providing overviews of consultation documents and explaining how people can engage in the consultation. These can then be released via the LPA's website and social media channels.

5 How to comment

- 5.1 Comments should be in writing and will be recorded. Any correspondence will be taken into consideration by the LPA and determined in accordance with national and local planning policies. Whilst the planning authority will always seek to reach a consensus on proposed planning documents and schemes, this may not always be possible, particularly when responses are received from groups with conflicting interests. Comments will be available for public view, but these will be redacted in line with GDPR
- 5.2 The LPA will require written comments for the formal stages of consultation; this should be made on a representation form provided by the LPA. Alternatively, the form can be made available online or as an email, to be completed and sent back electronically. Upon request, LPA officers will assist with the completion of forms for those who may experience difficulties in making written representations e.g. where there may be a language barrier or visual impairment.

6 How the LPA will respond to comments on planning documents

- 6.1 Community involvement is an integral and continuous part of the planning system. The purpose of the system is to give those who wish to take part the ability to influence how policies and proposals develop. As part of this process, effective and continuous feedback will be undertaken by the LPA.
- 6.2 The LPA will formulate a report after each consultation event, which will detail background information on the proposal or plan. Furthermore, the LPA will consider any comments received and address how concerns will be dealt with. Often, these representations will be summarised, if several comments are similar in nature or relate to a particular concern.
- 6.3 All responses received will be fully considered in the preparation of any proposal or plan. Any comments received will be responded to at the formal consultation stage.
- 6.4 The LPA maintains an extensive list of specific consultees, local groups and individuals which are used during the preparation and consultation stages. These can be seen in appendix 1. The LPA has already developed strong links with community groups in Sandwell. Furthermore, the LPA is always looking to reach sections of the community who are underrepresented. Therefore, the LPA will utilise the most appropriate methods that enable participation for everyone.

- 6.5 The planning authority works closely with other departments within the council, which enables a co-ordinated and encompassing approach. These include:
- Councillors and Ward Members
 - Town and Neighbourhood Managers
 - Internal department (Public Health, Personalised Travel Planning, Environmental Health and Parks)
 - External Partners (Serco, The Access Alliance, Black Country LEP etc.)

7 Stakeholders

- 7.1 The term stakeholder has a broad definition, but it is often referred to as any individual or organisation with an interest, for example:
- Groups and organisations with a 'stake' in a particular area or issue
 - Community groups, residents, young people, elderly, refugees, asylum seekers, people with low literacy, gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender groups (as an example).
 - Those promoting or carrying out business
 - Those involved in the development industry, such as House Builders
 - Different parts of Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council and associated organisations
 - Statutory bodies
- 7.2 A planning consultation database with the contact names of all stakeholders will be compiled, detailing who will be involved in the planning process. Individuals or organisations can request to be included on the database by email, letter or telephone. The database will be managed in accordance with all current legislation relating to the protection of sensitive personal information. Further information can be found on our website https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200198/data_protection_and_freedom_of_information
- 7.3 The statutory requirements for community involvement in the preparation of planning documents are set out in government regulations and are designed to ensure that the process is as open and transparent as possible.

8 Key stages for planning documents

- 8.1 The key stages for community involvement in the preparation of the Local Plan and supplementary planning documents are shown in the diagrams below followed by an explanation of each document. The LPA encourage engagement at the early stages of consultation, as this is the best opportunity for people to have their views taken into account.

Key stages for planning documents

Figure 1: Key stages in preparing our Local Plan

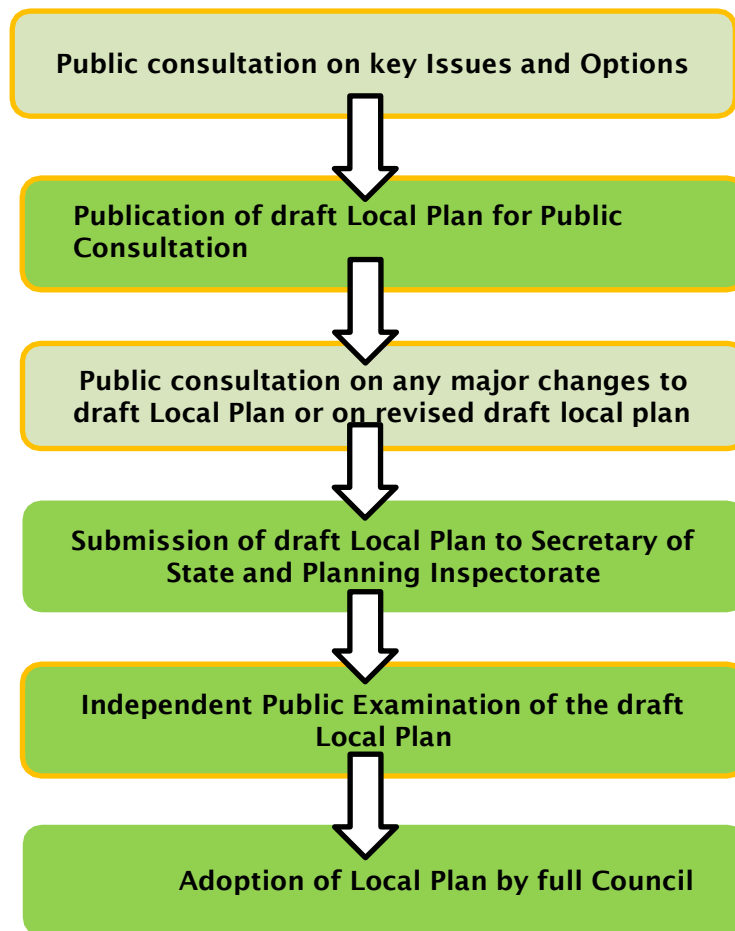
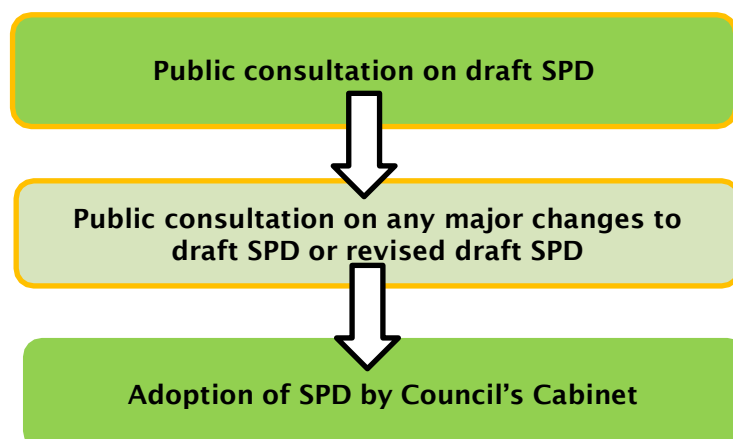
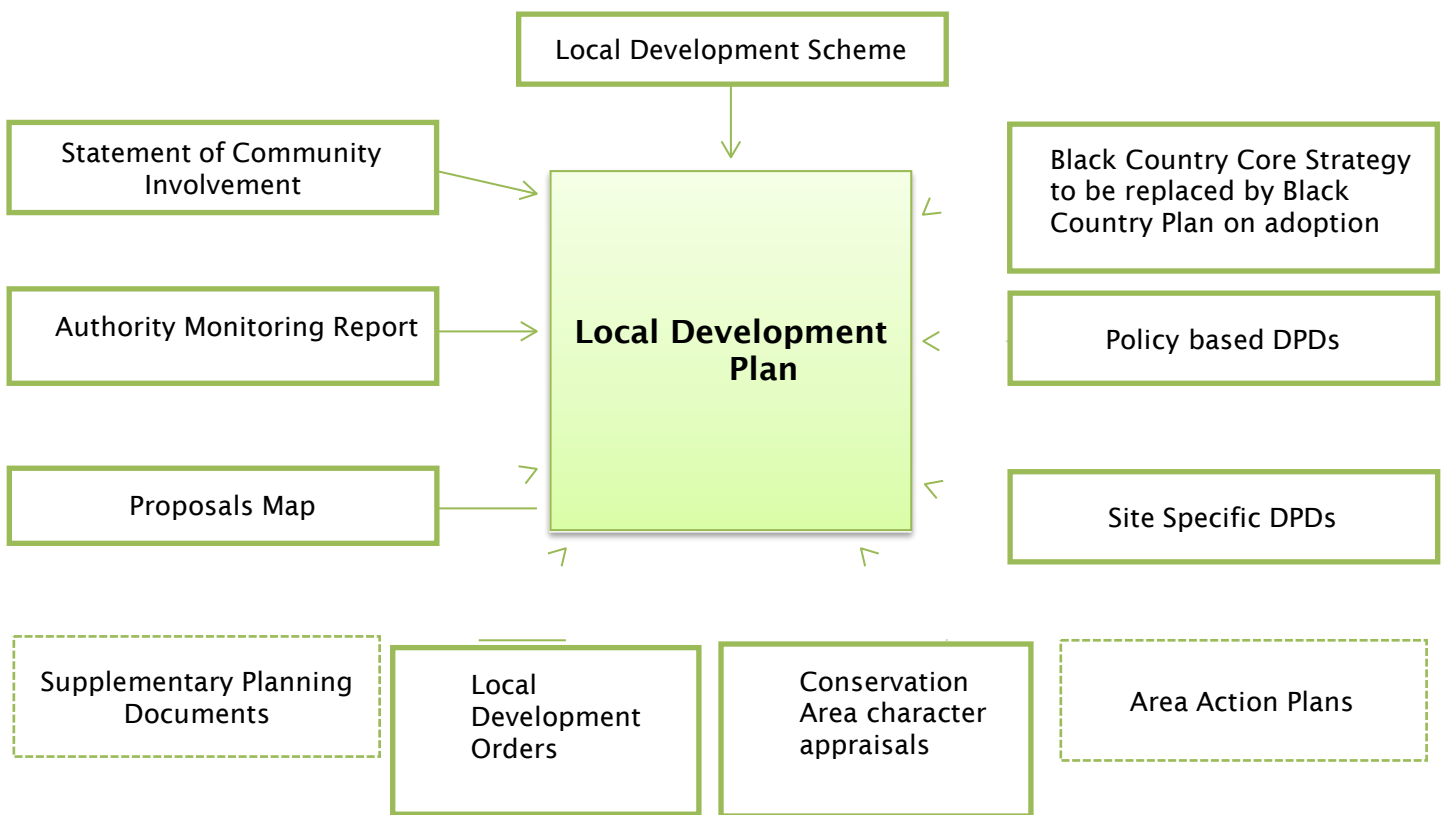


Figure 2: Key stages in preparing our Supplementary Planning Documents (SPD)



■ Required stage ■ Optional stage □ Stage at which the public can participate

Figure 3: Components of the Local Plan



8.2 Sustainability Appraisal

A Sustainability Appraisal (SA) must be undertaken as part of the Local Plan process. The purpose of the SA is to assess the social, environmental and economic effects of the Local Plan and other land use documents under preparation. The first stage of the SA is the production of a scoping report to identify the key sustainability issues for the area. Following the scoping report, subsequent versions of the SA are produced to accompany each stage of the plan making process and published for consultation at the same time.

8.3 Development Plan Documents

Development Plan Documents are planning policy documents which form part of the Local Plan. They identify and guide the key development goals of the development plan. They help to guide development within a local planning authority area by setting out the detailed planning policies, which planning officers use to make their decisions on planning applications. All DPDs must be subject to rigorous procedures of community involvement, consultation and independent examination, and adopted after receipt of the inspector's binding report.

8.4 Area Action Plans

Area Action Plans are a type of Development Plan Document that focus on a particular area that is or will be subject to significant change, and provide specific proposals, planning policy and guidance to help manage that change / development.

8.5 Supplementary Planning Documents

Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs) are designed to support and add further guidance to policies in the Local Plan. These documents are prepared with the involvement of the local community and interested parties. The consultation period will be a minimum of six weeks. Whilst they are not subject to independent examination they are adopted by the Council under the authorisation process. In the future, the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill may give more weight to SPDs

8.6 Interim Planning Statement

An interim planning statement provides updated guidance in advance of a formal review of the Local Plan. Interim Planning Statements (IPS) will be prepared where changed circumstances are of such magnitude that it cannot await a formal review of the Local Plan. Preparation will take account of the most up to date information and requirements for an area/subject. The interim planning statement should be treated as a material consideration but is non-statutory and does not form part of the Local Plan. In the future, the Levelling up and Regeneration Bill may give more weight to IPSs

8.7 Community Infrastructure Levy

The council currently has a Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) in place. As set out in national guidance, this is in the process of being replaced by an Infrastructure Levy. The council will utilise the most up to date requirement as identified in National Policy. These processes allow local authorities to raise funds from developers undertaking new building projects in their area. The money can be used to fund a wide range of infrastructure that is needed for development. The Community Infrastructure Levy (Amendment) Regulations 2021 apply to the production of CIL. The LPA adopted its CIL Charging Schedule in April 2015.

The first stage of consultation on CIL is the Preliminary Draft Charging Schedule which takes place over a six-week period. The next consultation stage is the publication of the Draft Charging Schedule. It is consulted on for a six-week period and any person can make representations and if requested to do so they will be heard before the Inspector at the CIL examination. If the LPA makes significant changes to the Draft Charging Schedule following the publication stage, then it will produce a 'statement of modifications' which is advertised for a four-week period. Prior to adoption, the Charging Schedule will be examined in public by an independent inspector.

9 Consultation on planning applications

- 9.1 Sandwell Council is the local planning authority responsible for making decisions on planning applications. These can include construction of new developments, extensions and the change of use to land and buildings. It also receives applications for other consents covered by planning legislation such as the display of advertisements, works to listed buildings and some demolitions. This is referred to as the development management process. Planning applications are determined in accordance with the policies and proposals in the Local Plan.
- 9.2 The LPA advise those intending to submit planning applications for large scale developments to consult with local communities and Ward Councillors before making their planning applications. This can be done via the pre-application process, which is identified in paragraph 10.1. This will help to streamline the planning process, once an application has been received. Categories of development defined as 'major' can be found in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995.
- 9.3 There are minimum statutory requirements for publicising planning applications, which are set out in the Town and Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995. The LPA must write to all owners or occupiers of land adjoining the application site or display a notice on or near the site. The relevant statutory bodies will also need to be consulted during the application process.
- 9.4 Adjoining land is defined in the regulations as any land or property which;
- Has a common boundary with the application site, however short;
 - Touches the application site at any point e.g. at a corner;
 - Is across an entry from the application site; and
 - Any flat directly below, above or abutting the application property (It may include separate units within the application site, for example a self-contained flat above a shop).
- 9.5 For major applications not in accordance with the Local Development Framework, the LPA is required to publish a notice in the local paper (Express & Star). There is a minimum period of 21 days for people to make comments on a planning application. Statutory bodies such as Historic England will be allowed further time to comment where this is prescribed by legislation.
- 9.6 Complying with the statutory requirement will not necessarily ensure that all owners and occupiers, who might reasonably consider themselves to be directly affected, will be notified. The LPA will consider sending additional notifications, where there is a reasonable prospect of the proposal impacting on another party. For example, a front extension to a property or where a development may affect the wider community

and/or area.

- 9.7 Planning applications are available for public viewing on the council's website via the "Planning – Public Access Link."
http://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200275/planning_and_buildings/2266/planning_applications

Or in person at;

Planning Department offices: Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury B69 3DE

- 9.8 The responsibility for making decisions on planning applications is held by the Planning Committee. However, the vast majority of planning applications (currently around 90%) are in fact dealt with by officers using delegated powers (They are reported to Planning Committee for information purposes only).
- 9.9 Planning Committee is a public meeting and the opportunity is usually given for interested persons to speak (for five minutes) at the discretion of the Committee Chair. Meetings are held approximately every four weeks and information is available online via the council website. However, if you are unable to attend the meeting in person, there is now an online live stream facility that can be accessed through the council's website. In the event of another pandemic and periods of lockdown, Planning Committee meetings will be held virtually
- 9.10 The appeal process is in place should the person who made the application disagree with the decision, and this is the most common reason for an appeal being made. An appeal can be lodged within 12 weeks for a householder application and within 6 months for a Major application. There is also a right to appeal should a decision not be made within 8 weeks (13 for a major development) and an extension of time had not been agreed. The deadline is earlier if the appellant has received an enforcement notice, the appeal must then be made within 28 days

10 Pre-application Consultation

- 10.1 The LPA already encourages applicants to undertake pre- application discussions to establish whether the principle of the development is acceptable, and to clarify the level of detail and type of information required to enable the application to be properly determined. Proposals are assessed rigorously against policies relating to such matters as land use, design, traffic and environmental effects.

11 Prior Approval

- 11.1 Guidance notes have been produced to assist applicants and agents in preparation of notification applications. For further advice please contact the planning department on 0121 569 4054/55 or email planning@sandwell.gov.uk

Appendix 1: Consultation bodies

Specific Consultation Bodies

In accordance with government regulations the following specific consultation bodies must be consulted where the council considers that they may have an interest in the subject of the proposed planning document:

- o The Coal Authority;
- o Adjoining Local Planning Authorities (Dudley Metropolitan Borough Council, City of Wolverhampton Council, Walsall Metropolitan Borough Council, Solihull Metropolitan Borough Council, Coventry City Council and Birmingham City Council).
- o The Environment Agency;
- o National Highways;
- o The Historic Buildings and Monuments Commission for England (Historic England);
- o Natural England;
- o West Midlands Integrated Transport Authority (ITA)
- o Electronic communications companies and those who own or control apparatus in Sandwell;
- o Severn Trent Water PLC;
- o South Staffs Water;
- o Relevant gas and electricity companies;
- o Homes England;
- o Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Lead Local Flood Authority;
- o West Midlands Police; and
- o Office of Rail Regulators;
- o Canal & River Trust

General Consultation Bodies

In accordance with government regulations the following general consultation bodies must be consulted where the Council consider it appropriate:

- o Voluntary bodies whose activities benefit any part of the borough;
- o Bodies which represent the interests of different racial, ethnic, or national groups;
- o Bodies which represent the interests of different religious groups in the borough;
- o Bodies which represent the interests of disabled people in the borough; and
- o Bodies which represent the interests of persons carrying on business in the borough.

These include organisations such as:

- o Connexions;
- o Black Country Chamber of Commerce; and
- o Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership.

Government Departments

The following Government Departments will be consulted where appropriate:

- o Home Office;
- o Department for Communities and Local Government;
- o Department for Education;
- o Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;
- o Department for Transport;
- o Department for Business Innovation and Skills;
- o Department of Health;
- o Ministry of Defence;
- o Department of Work and Pensions;
- o Ministry of Justice; and
- o Department for Culture, Media and Sport.

Other Consultees

The following agencies and organisations will be consulted where the Council consider it appropriate. Some of these will be consulted as 'general consultation bodies'.

- o ACERT- Advisory Council for the Education of Romany and other Travellers
- o Age UK;
- o Black Country Archaeological Service;
- o British Geological Survey;
- o Campaign for Better Transport;
- o Centre for Ecology and Hydrology;
- o Church Commissioners for England;
- o Community Groups;
- o Electricity, Gas, and Telecommunications - Undertakers, and the National Grid Company;
- o Equality and Human Rights Commission;
- o Freight Transport Association Ltd;
- o Health and Safety Executive;
- o Home Builders Federation;
- o West Midlands Fire and Rescue Service;
- o Local Access Forum;
- o Local Tenants and Residents Groups;
- o Local Transport Authorities;
- o Local Transport Operators;
- o National Housing Federation;
- o National Offender Management Service;
- o National Rail Infrastructure Limited;
- o Network Rail;
- o Passenger Transport Authorities;
- o Passenger Transport Executives;
- o Post Office Property Holdings;
- o Rail Companies and Rail Freight Groups;
- o Road Haulage Association;
- o Royal Society for the Protection of Birds;
- o Sport England;
- o The Crown Estate;
- o The Theatres Trust;

- o The Victorian Society,
- o The Woodland Trust;

Please note, this list is not exhaustive and also relates to successor bodies where re- organisations occur.

Statutory planning application consultees

- o The Health and Safety Executive;
- o The relevant railway network operator;
- o The Local Highway Authority;
- o The Coal Authority;
- o The Environment Agency;
- o The Historic Buildings and Monuments --- (Historic England);
- o Natural England;
- o The Theatres Trust;
- o **Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council Lead** Local Flood Authority;
- o Secretary of State for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs;
- o Sport England; and,
- o Canal & River Trust.

Produced by

Directorate of Regeneration & Growth
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 3DE

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Smethwick Enterprise Centre – declaration surplus to requirements |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member Regeneration and Growth, Councillor Peter Hughes |
| Director: | Director of Regeneration & Growth, Tony McGovern |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | <p>Planning Regeneration Team Leader, Hayley Insley Hayley_insley@sandwell.gov.uk</p> <p>Principal Lead: Commercial Property Stefan Hemming Stefan_hemming@sandwell.gov.uk</p> |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Cabinet agree to declare the Smethwick Enterprise Centre, Smethwick surplus to requirements in order to facilitate the redevelopment of the site for residential development as part of the Towns Fund programme.
- 1.2 That the Director – Finance be authorised to make the appropriate adjustments to the Revenue Budget to reflect the loss of income, at such time the premises is decanted.







2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Currently, the Smethwick Enterprise Centre is only 37% occupied, with the remaining units requiring substantial investment to bring them up to a lettable standard. The rental income from the occupied units does not cover the ongoing maintenance costs.
- 2.2 Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities has announced the approval of £23.5m for the projects contained in the Smethwick Investment Plan. The site of the Smethwick Enterprise Centre was submitted as one of the five projects, requiring funding of £2m to facilitate the demolition of buildings and remediation of the land ready for residential development.
- 2.3 In order to progress the Towns Fund project, it will be necessary to declare the Centre surplus to requirements. It will also be necessary to make a change to the Revenue Budget to reflect that the rental commitment in the ledger will not be achievable once the site is brought forward for demolition and redevelopment.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities Objective C2 within the Corporate Plan (2012-2025) states that ‘We will deliver the Towns Investment Plans in West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis secured through £64.5m of Town Deal Funding’. This project contributes £2m of that funding if delivered.</p> |
|  | <p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods Objective H1 within the Corporate Plan (2021-2025) is: We will deliver much needed new homes across the borough, especially affordable homes, on our own land and other viable sites in order to help meet the demand for affordable housing in our communities. This proposal will ensure that over 115 new homes are provided to meet the current housing need, including 25% affordable housing.</p> |
|  | <p>A strong and inclusive economy Objective E4 is ‘We will work proactively with our partners at the Local Enterprise Partnership, West Midlands Combined Authority and in central government to take maximum advantage of funding opportunities to secure additional funding for Sandwell regeneration projects’. This project is part of the Town Deal project attracting £4.35m of investment for Smethwick. Objective E6 is ‘We will deliver the agreed Town Deals in collaboration with our partners across Rowley Regis, Smethwick and West Bromwich</p> |
|  | <p>A connected and accessible Sandwell This project is one of many in the Smethwick area that will assist in connecting existing with new development, access to the local public transport services and canal corridor.</p> |



4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Smethwick Enterprise Centre was set up to provide incubator space for start-up businesses to occupy prior to moving on to larger premises when their businesses were more established. However, the centre has been unable to attract the types of businesses that were initially envisaged and currently has only 37.5% occupancy. The remaining units require significant investment to bring them up to a reasonable standard.
- 4.2 The current yearly maintenance of the site is £161,000, and the low rental income of approximately £99,000 per year means that there are insufficient funds to cover the refurbishment of the vacant units. A Condition Appraisal Report, undertaken in June 2021, looked at the minimum improvements required to make the units safe and serviceable, which includes new glazing, electrical rewiring, roofing and structural integrity of each of the buildings. The estimated costs for works to all buildings on site was £2.4m - rising to £3.12m with additional costs.
- 4.3 Many of the occupiers hold leases with a one month or three-month break clause. Whilst there is no obligation on the council to find or fund alternative accommodation for the current occupiers, wherever possible, Council officers will work with them to identify appropriate relocation premises that meet their requirements. The procurement of contractors to undertake the work on site can commence at the same time as the businesses are relocated.
- 4.4 The site was included as one of the projects within the Smethwick Town Investment Plan submitted to Government in October 2020. The project sets out proposals to demolish buildings on site and remediate the land, ready for residential development. This is in line with the site's allocation, for residential use, in the Local Plan. The delivery vehicle for the proposed housing has not yet been agreed.
- 4.5 In March 2021, Government announced a funding package of £23.5m to support the six projects within the Smethwick Town Investment Plan with Full Business Cases to be submitted within twelve months. The Council, along with consultants, prepared the Full Business Cases of five Smethwick projects for submission to DLUHC in March 2022. In May 2022, the Council received notification that the funding had been



awarded to all Smethwick projects, with the Rolfe Street Regeneration project set to receive £2m.

- 4.6 In order to progress the Towns Fund Project, it will now be necessary to formally declare the Enterprise Centre surplus to requirements; and to engage with the current occupiers in order to assist them in finding alternative premises.
- 4.7 There is an annual expenditure for consumables including gas/electric/water, business rates, cleaning, grounds maintenance and security. This is recouped via a service charge for the occupied units. The rental charged is an 'all-inclusive' rent that incorporates a 'pure' rent element, and pro rata service charge element. The current maintenance costs exceed the current rental income and other ad-hoc maintenance costs, such as maintaining the structure of the building. Such costs would obviously fall away should the site be redeveloped. Although this could be considered a saving to the council, Members should also note that it will result in a loss of revenue for the Commercial Estate budget

5 Alternative Options

5.1 Option 1:

The Enterprise Centre continues to operate, as it is currently, with more than half of the units remaining empty and a reduced revenue being received. The Towns Fund project would not progress, resulting in:

- Claw back of £2m of funding by the DLUHC
- approximately 115 new flats and houses (to meet the borough needs) not being delivered and the reputational damage to the council.

5.2 Option 2:

The Enterprise Centre continues to operate, and a budget is identified to fund the refurbishment of the remaining units. As Option 1, the £2m from Towns Fund is clawed back; no housing is delivered; and a significant impact on the Commercial Estate budget.

5.3 Option 3:

The Enterprise Centre is declared surplus, resulting in:

- a saving to the council of the continued maintenance costs of running the facility.



- The Towns Fund project being progressed, leading to the first phase of the wider Rolfe Street regeneration
- a loss in revenue in the Commercial Estate.

6 Implications

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| Resources: | The demolition of buildings and remediation of the land will be resourced from the Towns Fund allocation of £2m. |
| Legal and Governance: | <p>There are no specific immediate legal or statutory implications arising from the proposal outlined in this report.</p> <p>The Council's Sale of Land and Buildings Protocol requires the Corporate Landlord to be responsible for the management of land and premises required for operational purposes, which includes:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring that the council's operational property portfolio is fit for purpose, sustainable and in good repair; • Identifying assets surplus to council requirements; • The formulation of business cases relating to the rationalisation and continued improvement of the council's operational property portfolio. |
| Risk: | <p>A risk assessment has been completed as part of the Towns Fund submission to Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. There was only one significant risk associated with this project which was the potential risk of the costs exceeding the Towns Fund available. This can be mitigated by commencing site investigations as soon into the programme as possible although an initial desktop report did not highlight any major concerns regarding ground contamination. Other funds may need to be sought from partners should costs escalate beyond the contingency contained within the full business case. Not progressing with this project will result in clawback of £2m Towns Fund by DLUHC leading to reputable damage to the council. It will also mean that 115 much needed new homes will not be built to meet current demands.</p> |



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| | Any issues regarding highways, climate change and school planning will be addressed through the relevant channels throughout the demolition and construction periods. |
| Equality: | An initial screening was undertaken as part of the Full Business Case development for this project. There was an indication that certain groups may be affected by the proposal and a resolution made to undertake a full EQIA once the project was more developed. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | The demolition and remediation of the land ready for residential development will enable the provision of new homes, including affordable homes, close to public transport routes and access to the green and blue network of open space and the canal network. More sustainable routes for walking and cycling and access to open space will improve resident's health and wellbeing. |
| Social Value | As part of the Full Business Case submission to government, a monitoring and evaluation plan was included outlining the opportunities for apprenticeships, new construction jobs and other outcomes that would contribute to social value targets for this project. The construction of new homes would also lead to increased spend within the local area by the new residents. |

7. Appendices

Appendix A - Smethwick Enterprise Centre location plan

8. Background Papers

None



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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Appointment of contractor to deliver the 'Sandwell Urban Bike Park' project |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism Cllr. Laura Rollins |
| Director: | Director of Borough Economy Alice Davey |
| Key Decision: | Yes The Council will incur expenditure in excess of £250,000 and the project will be significant in terms of its effect on communities living or working in an area comprising two or more wards of the Borough. |
| Contact Officer: | (Interim) Service Manager – Parks, Sandwell Valley & Events. Matthew Huggins Matthew.Huggins@sandwell.gov.uk Senior Lead Officer – Sport and leisure. Rob Marlow Robert.Marlow@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That an exemption be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure rules in relation to the appointment of 'Back On Track Mountain Bike Solutions Ltd' to deliver the Design and Build Cycle trails within Sandwell Valley and Birmingham (The former Hill Top Golf Course).



1.2 That subject to 1.1 above, the Director of Borough Economy be authorised to award a contract to Back On Track Mountain Bike Solutions Ltd up to £530,000 to deliver the new Cycle trails.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 Tenders for the Design and Build Contract for the Sandwell Urban bike Park project were invited on 2 separate occasions via the Council's 'InTend' Portal. On the first occasion only one contractor submitted a Tender. This contractor failed to pass the standard questions and were therefore discounted from the process. On the second occasion two contractors submitted tenders, these were the contractor previously excluded and 'Back On Track Mountain Bike Solutions Ltd'.


2.2 Despite best attempts it has not been possible to obtain 3 tenders for the works. The most likely reasons are:

- The short timescales involved in delivering this project.
- Contractors already have full order books and do not have capacity to take on additional work at this time.





2.3 The project timeline for this development would not allow a third round of tendering. Sport England is the main funder and has stipulated that the project must be completed within the current financial year (by end of March 2023).

2.4 The Procurement Services Manager has been consulted and their advice is that in order for this tender to be accepted an exemption in accordance with Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 8.11 and 15 is required.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

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|  | <p>The Best Start in Life for Children and Young People</p> <p>The new cycle trails will offer enhanced facilities for families, children and young people to access physical health and wellbeing opportunities together.</p> |
|---|---|



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| | Trails will be designed to offer opportunities for cyclists with different abilities so that they can progress steadily as they grow, learn, gain experience and become more confident. |
|  | <p>People Live Well and Age Well</p> <p>The new cycle trails will provide an opportunity for people to exercise, keep fit and have fun within an open space. It is also believed that the trails will encourage more people to take up cycling and explore other cycle routes across the Borough of Sandwell.</p> |
|  | <p>Strong Resilient Communities</p> <p>Cycling is widely acknowledged as being a social activity and it is hoped to see more 'informal groups' develop along with increased memberships of cycling clubs.</p> |
|  | <p>A Strong and Inclusive Economy</p> <p>The project will deliver a cycling legacy for Sandwell, Birmingham and the Black Country supporting wider tourism-based growth and will further establish Sandwell Valley as a 'gateway' visitor destination.</p> <p>It is hoped that further developments will occur in the future including road cycling, triathlon events, outdoor water sports etc. This is likely to bring extra investment into the Borough.</p> |
|  | <p>A Connected and Accessible Sandwell</p> <p>Sandwell Valley already has Cycle Network route 5 within it. By encouraging cycling, it is realistically expected that Sandwell Residents will become more aware of cycle routes across the Borough and hopefully use these for commuting / active travel purposes.</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 This project has been developed over a lengthy period and involved a number of agencies including Sport England, British Cycling, Birmingham City Council and specialist track designers.



The scope of the project has altered on several occasions due to the level of funding that could be made available.

4.2 A total funding package of £630,000 has recently been agreed. This is made up of:

£430,000 from Sport England
 £100,000 from Birmingham City Council
 £100,000 from Sandwell Council

It should be noted that the total funding package will also need to cover professional fees and charges.

4.3 As the main funder and to secure their investment, Sport England has insisted on a fast delivery of the project. Works on site to be completed by end of March 2023.

4.4 In order to keep within project timelines, Back On Track Mountain Bike Solutions Ltd has been appointed (Under delegated authority) to carry out the scheme design works to RIBA (Royal Institute of British Architects) Stages 3 and 4.

5 Alternative Options

5.1 The option to tender the works again (for a third time) was considered however this was discounted due to the timescales previously discussed.

6 Implications

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| Resources: | The contract sum will be approx. £530,000. This will be finalised with the Contractor prior to financial close |
| Legal and Governance: | The tender exercises have been conducted in accordance with Public Contract Regulations 2015. |
| Risk: | There is a risk that should the exemption report not be approved, Sport England would remove its financial backing leaving the project undeliverable. |
| Equality: | The cycle trails will be open access and can be enjoyed by everyone regardless of ethnicity, gender or any protected characteristic. |



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| | An initial stage Equality Impact Assessment will be completed. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | The project will have a significant positive impact on the health and wellbeing of residents within the Borough. |
| Social Value | The project will be 'labelled' as a Legacy project from the 2022 Commonwealth games and help to celebrate Sandwell's involvement. This will help to engender a sense of pride in Sandwell. |

7. Appendices

None

8. Background Papers

None



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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Designation of Nature Conservation Sites |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth Councillor Peter Hughes |
| Director: | Regeneration and Growth Tony McGovern |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Planning Officer, Zoe Wilson zoe_wilson@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given to the designation of Alexandra Road, John's Lane, and Land at Yew Tree, as shown on the plans set out in Appendix 1 and 2, as 'Site of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINC).
- 1.2 That the Director, Regeneration and Growth, be authorised to make any minor amendments prior to circulation.

2 Reasons for Recommendations







- 2.1 This report informs Cabinet of the result and recommendation of the ecological surveys carried out for Alexandra Road, John's Lane, and Land at Yew Tree.
- 2.2 All of the sites surveyed were classified as a SLINC before the ecological surveys were carried out. The purpose of the surveys was to provide a more up to date assessment of the sites to determine what the status of the site should now be and whether a boundary alteration was required.
- 2.3 It is recommended that the Director / Cabinet Member:



- Approves the extension and part deletion in the SLINC designation of Alexandra Road (as set out in appendix 1 of this report)
- Approves the partial extension of the SLINC at the North and West of John's Lane (as set out in appendix 1 of this report)
- Approves the continued designation of Land at Yew Tree, as SLINC (set out in appendix 1 of this report)

2.4 The recommendation is required to ensure that the Council's Local Plan is based on up-to-date evidence and can continue to be used as the basis for robust and defensible planning decisions.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

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|  | Best start in life for children and young people Areas of Nature Conservation provide an important educational tool for children and young people |
|  | People live well and age well The environmental infrastructure of the borough has the potential to increase levels of physical activity, improve mental health benefits and contribute to environmental benefits, thus contributing to the aim of achieving a healthier population. |
|  | Strong resilient communities The provision of a network of green spaces and nature conservation sites improves the local environment, which in turn makes the borough more attractive as a place to live, work, enjoy recreation in and invest in |
|  | Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods An attractive environment will significantly improve the prospect of achieving significant numbers of high quality new houses in locations that people wish to live in |
|  | A strong and inclusive economy |
|  | A connected and accessible Sandwell The environmental infrastructure of the borough has the potential to increase levels of physical activity, improve mental health benefits and contribute to environmental benefits, thus contributing to the aim of achieving a healthier population. |



4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document (SAD DPD) forms part of Sandwell's Local Plan. It sets out land use policies, allocates land for specific uses or purposes and identifies infrastructure requirements to achieve sustainable communities and development within the borough.
- 4.2 Sites of Importance for Nature Conservation (SINCs) and Sites of Local Importance for Nature Conservation (SLINCs) are designations identified in the SAD DPD and form part of the Borough's environmental infrastructure. Environmental infrastructure also includes green space and Local Nature Reserves (LNRs). Such spaces are of importance as they have the potential to increase levels of physical activity, improve mental health benefits, contribute to environmental benefits, reduce the urban heat island effect, and benefit high quality residential development. The environmental infrastructure of the borough also provides an important ecological and educational resource.
- 4.3 SINCs and SLINCs are not subject to statutory protection. The Government envisages that sites are afforded levels of protection from development through the Local Plan process. The identification and allocation of SINCs and SLINCs within the SAD DPD is therefore crucial in maintaining and enhancing the Borough's environmental infrastructure.
- 4.4 Incorporating environmental infrastructure principles into Local Plan documents will help meet the Black Country Core Strategy vision for environmental transformation.
- 4.5 The surveying of existing SINCs and SLINCs is essential to ensure that such designations are based on robust and up-to-date evidence.
- 4.6 The potential for planning decisions to be challenged increases where it can be shown that Local Plan allocations are based on out-of-date or incomplete information. Ensuring that there is current information relating to the Borough's inventory of nature conservation sites, including SINCs and SLINCs, reduces this risk.



- 4.7 The sites surveyed were identified as being high priority due to the potential for development.
- 4.8 All of the borough's SINC and SLINC are set to be surveyed over the next few years. The order in which they are surveyed will be prioritised by identifying which sites require more urgent attention due to development pressures. There will be a level of flexibility within the list to account for changing development pressures.
- 4.9 Of the three sites surveyed, all will maintain their SLINC status. One site has been recommended for partial deletion and partial extension, one has been extended, and one has maintained its current boundary

Additional Information

- 4.8 The reports are based on recommendations made by The Wildlife Trust for Birmingham and the Black Country. The recommendation has been endorsed by the Local Sites Partnership (LSP).
- 4.9 The LSP is a group that consists of the four Black Country Authorities, Birmingham City Council, Birmingham and the Black Country Wildlife Trust, EcoRecord, Geodiversity, Natural England, The Environment Agency and botanists. The LSP is responsible for approving any new sites put forward for listing and then ensuring the endorsement/adoption of those sites by their own organisations
- 4.10 SINC and SLINC are designations applied to the most important non-statutory nature conservation sites in the West Midlands.

Consultation

- 4.11 The Birmingham and Black Country Local Sites Partnership were consulted in the preparation of the surveys and associated reports that form the basis of the above recommendations and their endorsement sought.



5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The alternative option would be to base planning decisions on the existing evidence base using the current out of date survey data and such decisions may be subsequently open to challenge due to allocations being based on out-of-date or incomplete information.

6 Implications

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| <p>Resources:</p> | <p>The production of survey work and associated reports regarding the potential nature conservation sites are funded through the Regeneration and Planning budget.</p> <p>There are no direct financial implications arising from this report. However, sufficient resources will need to be identified within existing budgets to ensure that the ongoing nature conservation site review programme can be completed within an appropriate timescale.</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>The current Local Plan for Sandwell includes the Black Country Core Strategy (BCCS), the Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery Development Plan Document (SAD DPD), and a number of Area Action Plans (AAPs) and Supplementary Planning Documents (SPDs). Details are set out in the approved Local Development Scheme (LDS).</p> <p>The SAD DPD and associated proposals map provides policy, land use allocations and infrastructure requirements to achieve sustainable communities and development within the borough.</p> <p>The surveying of existing SINCs and SLINCs is essential in order to ensure that such designations are based on robust and up-to-date evidence.</p> <p>The potential for planning decisions to be challenged increases where it can be shown that Local Plan allocations are based on out-of-date or incomplete information. Ensuring that there is current information relating to the Borough's inventory of nature</p> |



| | |
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| | conservation sites, including SINC's and SLINC's, reduces this risk. |
| Risk: | The Council's corporate risk assessment strategy has been complied with, to identify and assess the risks associates with this decision/recommendation. This has identified that there are no significant risks that need to be reported. |
| Equality: | The sites that are the subject of this report are included in the Site Allocations & Delivery DPD which was subject of a full Equality Impact Assessment prior to its adoption in 2012. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | Nature conservation sites have the potential to increase levels of physical activity, improve mental health benefits, contribute to environmental benefits, reduce the urban heat island effect, and benefit high quality residential development. The environmental infrastructure of the borough also provides an important ecological and educational resource. |
| Social Value | Nature conservation sites have the potential to increase levels of physical activity, improve mental health benefits, and contribute to environmental benefits. |



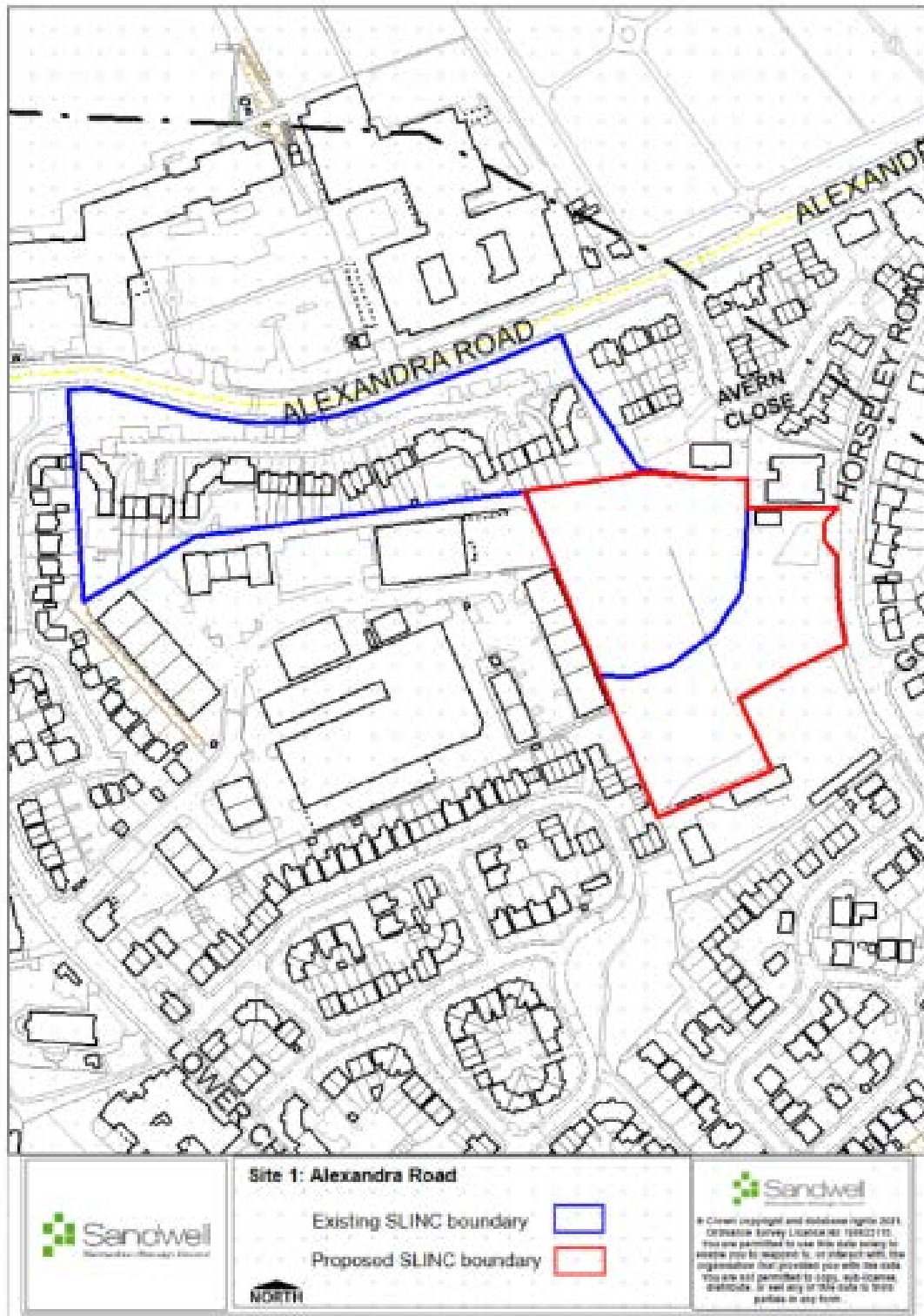
7. Appendix

| Appendix 1: Site Recommendations | | | |
|----------------------------------|---------|---|---------------------------------|
| Site | Plan No | Site Description | Recommendation |
| Alexandra Road | 1 | The northern area of the existing SLINC has been lost to residential development, while the southern area and the additional areas adjacent to the south of the site include areas of semi-natural habitat with moderate species diversity. The designation should therefore be amended to meet the current extent of semi-natural habitat. This includes removing Compartment 1 from the designation and extending the southern designation boundary to include the whole of Compartment | Extension and part deletion |
| John's Lane | 2 | John's Lane is deemed to still meet the criteria for SLINC status. Therefore, the area covered by the SLINC designation should be retained. In addition to this, the designation should be extended to include the whole length of the scrub belt running along the eastern perimeter fence and include areas of diverse scrub along the lagoon bankside | Extension |
| Land at Yew Tree | 3 | Land at Yew Tree is deemed to still meet the criteria for SLINC status. Therefore, the SLINC designation and area covered by the designation should be retained with a slight extension to include the accurate area of the Broadleaved woodland habitat within the western arm of the site | Maintain current SLINC boundary |

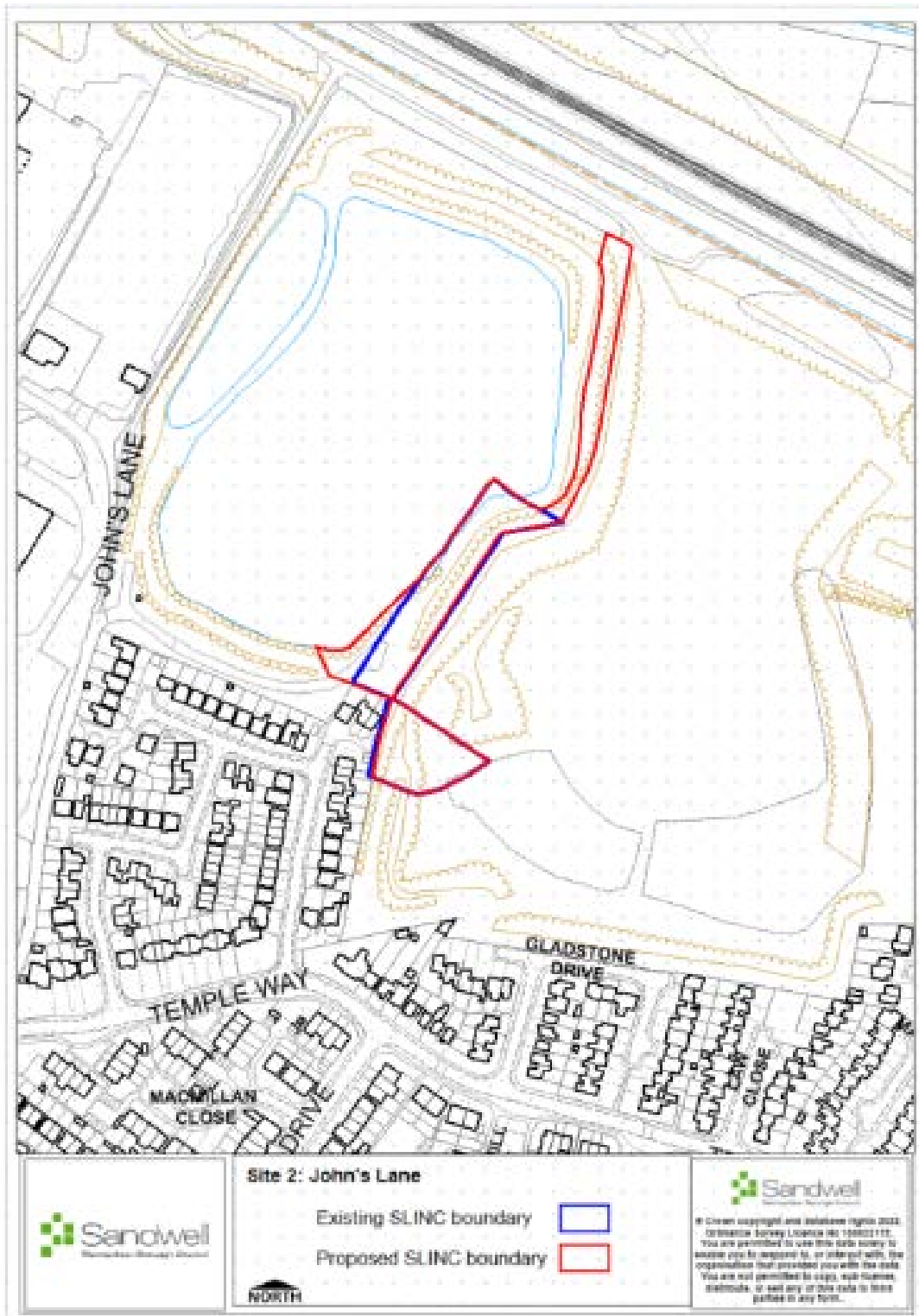


Appendix 2: Site Maps

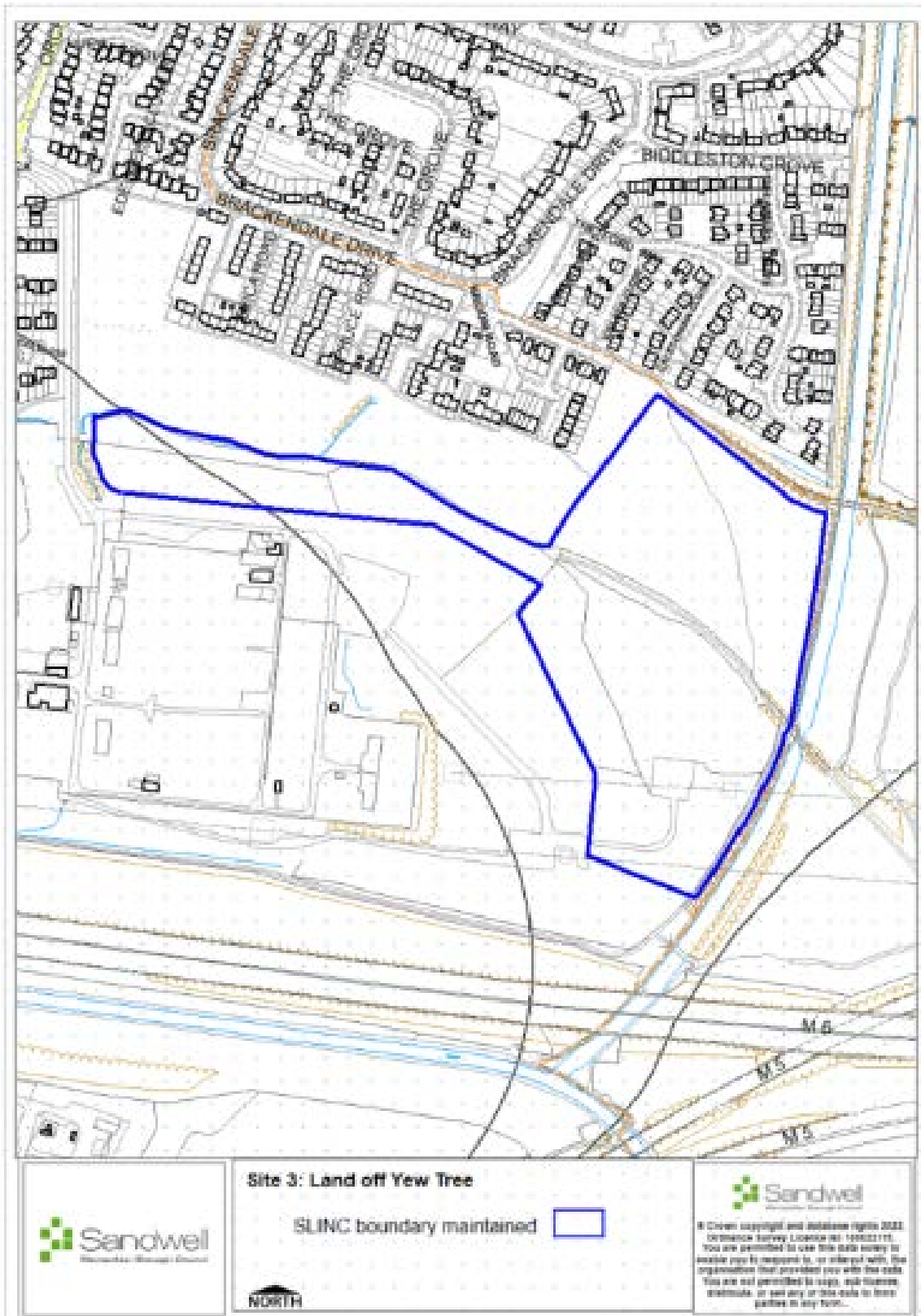
Site 1: Alexandra Road



Site 2: John's Lane



Site 3: Land at Yew Tree



8. Background Papers

None



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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Governance Improvement Plan Progress |
| Cabinet Member: | Leader of the Council Cllr Kerrie Carmichael |
| Director: | Managing Director Kim Bromley-Derry |
| Key Decision: | No |
| Contact Officer: | Strategic Lead – Service Improvement Kate Ashley Kate1_ashley@sandwell.gov.uk Senior Lead Officer – Service Improvement Rebecca Jenkins Rebecca_jenkins@sandwell.gov.uk |

1. Recommendations

- 1.1. That details of progress made against the Governance Improvement Plan, up to 7 June 2022 as set out in Appendix 1, be received.
- 1.2. That the Governance Improvement Plan be formally closed.
- 1.3. That the Improvement Plan Risk Register, as set out in Appendix 2, be received.

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 This report provides a quarterly update on progress against the Governance Improvement Plan agreed by Council on 18 January 2022 in response to the Grant Thornton Value for Money Governance Review. On 7 June 2022, Council approved the single Improvement Plan which incorporates all recommendations from the Grant Thornton Governance



Review, the LGA Corporate Peer Challenge and the CIPFA Financial Management Review, as well as the Statutory Directions from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities. The new Improvement Plan approved in June replaces the Governance Improvement Plan, and future reporting will be on the progress of the new Improvement Plan.

- 2.2 Risk management is embedded within the council's programme management of the Improvement Plan. A risk register has been developed which underpins the council's strategic risk relating to the Improvement Plan (59a 02/22). Cabinet is asked to receive the Improvement Plan Risk Register to provide assurance that risks are being managed effectively and to provide contextual information for future decision making.

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

- 3.1 Sandwell Council's Improvement Plan focuses on the governance arrangements of the council and areas of improvement across the organisation. The underpinning objective of the Improvement Plan is to ensure that the council is able to deliver on the aims and priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. The deliverables set out in this Improvement Plan will achieve long-term sustainable improvements in how the council operates and is able to make effective decisions focused on improving outcomes for residents and experiences of service users. Therefore, this impacts on the council's ability to deliver all the objectives in the Corporate Plan.

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Background

- 4.1.1 For a number of years, the council has experienced ongoing governance issues that have hindered the organisation from both moving forward and seizing opportunities, despite the desire and ambition to do so.
- 4.1.2 As well as successfully responding to the COVID-19 pandemic to support our residents and businesses, the council has continued to deliver high quality services over the period leading up to the Grant Thornton Value for Money Governance Review and beyond. Significant progress has been made on delivery the strategic priorities set out in the Corporate Plan, as reported to Cabinet on 23 March 2022.



- 4.1.3 Since May 2021, a number of key changes have moved the council forward on its improvement journey including the refresh of the strategic framework in the light of the pandemic, the appointment of an interim Chief Executive in August 2021, and a new Leader in November 2021. The new permanent leadership team structure is now resulting in tangible strides forward and greater stability which was recognised in all of the external reviews.
- 4.1.4 The council's external auditors Grant Thornton conducted a Value for Money Review into the council's governance arrangements over the period August to October 2021 and reported their findings of this review to Full Council in January 2022. In response, Council approved an Improvement Plan in January 2022 to address the recommendations made by Grant Thornton and the proposed reporting mechanisms to ensure progress is managed effectively.
- 4.1.5 Since the approval of this Governance Improvement Plan, findings were received from the CIPFA financial management review, LGA Corporate Peer Challenge along with the Statutory Directions from the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities.
- 4.1.6 A single Improvement Plan was agreed by Council on 7 June 2022 which addresses the recommendations from all the external reviews and the Statutory Directions. The single Improvement Plan has superseded the Governance Improvement Plan.
- 4.1.7 To ensure that senior officers and members have oversight of delivery against the Governance Improvement Plan, Council approved that progress will be monitored by Leadership Team monthly and reported to Cabinet quarterly. This will continue until all actions have been completed, or changes have been embedded into business as usual.
- 4.1.8 The first quarterly update on progress of the Governance Improvement Plan was provided to Cabinet in April 2022. This report forms the second quarterly update on the Governance Improvement Plan to Cabinet.
- 4.1.9 The monitoring of the Governance Improvement Plan will conclude with this report. The next quarterly update will follow the thematic format of the single Improvement Plan approved on 7 June 2022.



Improvement Achievements

Summary of achievements made since the approval of the Governance Improvement Plan:

- Significant progress made on long-standing service issues to implement decisions taken by Cabinet between December 2021 and March 2022: Sandwell Leisure Trust, Sandwell Children's Trust, the waste service, the ERP system and Lion Farm
- SEND Transport procurement out to market, incorporating lessons learned from previous procurement into new approach
- Regular meeting structures in place to enable development of positive and constructive working relationships between officers and members
- Learning taken from commercial decisions, procurement and contract management and national best practice is being included in refresh of Corporate Governance Documents
- Regular reporting on budget monitoring, performance information and Improvement Plan in place
- Approval of:
 - Performance Management Framework that underpins the delivery of the Corporate Plan
 - The single Improvement Plan that addresses the recommendations of all three external reviews and aims to improve how the council operates
 - Regeneration Strategy and Pipeline to encourage and deliver significant investment in Sandwell
- Launch of the Early Help Strategy with partners
- Employee engagement survey conducted and initial results shared with Leadership Team, ahead of further engagement with staff on development of actions to address areas for improvement
- Council representatives participating in key regional and sub-regional bodies including active engagement in discussion and negotiations relating to the WM Trailblazer devolution deal
- Capacity in Finance – specialist training delivered in March to develop skills of Finance Team, and a restructure designed and



underway to ensure there is sufficient capacity to manage the council's financial reporting responsibilities.

Improvement Plan Progress

- 4.2** The Governance Improvement Plan Monitoring Report is attached to this report at Appendix 1.
- 4.3** A status rating has been included as part of the update for each action to aid quick reference around which actions are on track for delivery, and those that may require remedial action or additional levels of assurance.
- 4.4** To create the single Improvement Plan that was approved by Council on 7 June 2022, all actions within the Governance Improvement Plan were mapped into the relevant theme and workstream area. This cross-referencing is included in the monitoring tool to provide assurance.
- 4.5** A summary of progress against the three statutory recommendations is provided below with an overall rating of progress. Detailed progress against each action and individual ratings are included in the Governance Improvement Plan Monitoring Report.
- 4.6**
- 4.7** **Statutory Recommendation 1** - It is imperative that senior officers and senior members take effective corporate grip of long-standing service issues highlighted by the findings in this report (including SLT, SCT, the waste service, the ERP system, and Lion Farm) and prioritise corporate effort in managing the issues identified and embed the solutions into the Council.

Overall rating:

- Amber – majority of actions are Green/on track to achieve within timescale; small number of actions are rated as Amber/medium issues or risk of slippage.

Progress update:

- Continuing to implement strategies to address the service issues highlighted in the Grant Thornton report.
 - SLT – progressing the approach agreed by Cabinet in December 2021 with engagement of members throughout process. Since the completion of the May monitoring report, Cabinet made a decision in June in relation to Leisure Management Options (subject to call-in).



- SCT – Governance arrangements remain in place with the addition of the newly established meeting between the Chair of the Trust Board, Lead Member, CEO of the Trust and DCS. Joint work in place with SCT in relation to corporate parenting and early help.
- Waste Contract – industrial relation issues have been resolved and the council is continuing to strengthen governance arrangements around this contract. Revised reporting is in place. Waste board have agreed revised terms of reference, SERCO drafting of annual report is in progress and the contract award for the review of the contract is in progress.
- ERP (Oracle Fusion) – Tender for support provider is due to close in June. On track for award of contract by end July. Project Management and Governance arrangements are in place. First round of project management training has been delivered.
- Lion Farm – action plan to implement Cabinet decision made on 12 January 2022 is on track. Respective legal advisers are in final stage of negotiations to agree the terms of Expert Determination Process.
- Regeneration Strategy and Pipeline to underpin significant regeneration in Sandwell approved by Cabinet 23 March 2022. Implementation of a number of schemes on the pipeline are being scoped and discussed. Since the completion of the May monitoring report, approval has been given to £67.5m capital investment for the Towns Fund Schemes for Smethwick, Rowley Regis and West Bromwich. Resource requirements for implementation of a number of schemes on the pipeline are being scoped and discussed.

Key Issues and Mitigating Actions:

- SLT – the programme remains on track to put in place arrangements for the future delivery of leisure facilities. Since the completion of the May monitoring report, Cabinet made a decision in June around the Leisure Management Options which has reduced the risk score.



- Waste Contract - Progress is being made with revised reporting and terms of reference for Waste Board. Amber rating reflects risk profile which will reduce following review of the contract. Contract award for the review of the contract is in progress.

4.8 Statutory Recommendation 2 - The Council must ensure that the learning in relation to commercial decisions, procurement and contract management highlighted in this report are understood through the organisation.

Overall rating:

- Green – Majority of actions on track to achieve within timescale; small number of actions are rated as Amber/medium issues or risk of slippage.

Progress Update

- The Governance Review of key documents within the council's Constitution is well underway, incorporating best practice from across the sector. The initial refresh of the Financial Regulations and Procurement & Contract Procedure Rules being prepared for Council approval in July. The Scheme of Delegation is due for discussion at Governance and Constitution Committee in June to gain a steer on the timescale to refer to Council for approval.
- Corporate Governance Training - Programme of training and development on effective decision-making and good governance to be rolled out between July and Sept 2022.
- Corporate Transformation - framework and suite of project and programme documentation agreed by Leadership Team. Recruitment underway for Corporate Transformation Manager role to provide capacity to support and enable transformation across the council.
- Sale of Land Protocol being prepared for Council approval
- Development of a Commercial Strategy continues, with workshops and surveys completed. Draft strategy is being reviewed.
- Work is progressing to develop the Corporate Asset Management Strategy aligned to other key council strategies including Workplace Vision and the developing approach on local community facilities. An Asset Management System has been procured and is now in the implementation phase.



Key Issues and Mitigating Actions:

- Scheme of Delegation timescale for referral to Council will be discussed by Governance and Constitution Committee in June.

4.9 Statutory Recommendation 3 - Senior leadership, both officers and members, must demonstrate that they can continue to work together effectively, that they operate in line with the Council's values, codes, policies and procedures, and that there is zero tolerance to inappropriate behaviours. This includes changing the organisational culture in relation to complaints so that they restore balance and proportionality.

Overall rating:

- Green – Majority of actions on track to achieve; small number of actions are rated as Amber/medium issues or risk of slippage.

Progress Update

- Member Development – Member induction is in process. Member Development Plan is being drafted and due for consideration by Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee by September. LGA have been engaged.
- Organisational Culture – cross-council Officer working group established and prospective partnership conversations underway to support engagement approach.
- Work has commenced to design the Senior Leadership Team development programme which will feed into the new Management Development Programme to ensure consistency across all levels of management.
- Meeting structures to facilitate Cabinet Member and Leadership Team cross-working re-established following election. Executive development plan is being progressed.

Key Issues and Mitigating Actions:

- Management Development Programme – sequencing has been reviewed in line with engagement programme for organisational culture theme in the single Improvement Plan and to ensure that the programme reflects employee engagement survey findings.



Employee engagement survey results are being shared at Directorate Management Team level over June.

Reporting Framework

- 4.10** To ensure that senior officers and members have oversight of delivery, Council approved the reporting mechanism for the Governance Improvement Plan (January 2022) and the single Improvement Plan (June 2022). This set out that progress will be monitored by Leadership Team monthly and reported to Cabinet quarterly until all actions have been completed, or changes have been embedded into business as usual.
- 4.11** The first quarterly update on progress of the Governance Improvement Plan was provided to Cabinet in April 2022. This report forms the second quarterly update on the Governance Improvement Plan to Cabinet. The next quarterly update to Cabinet will follow the thematic format of the single Improvement Plan approved on 7 June 2022.
- 4.12** The government Directions require reporting on the delivery of the Improvement Plan at six monthly intervals to the Secretary of State.
- 4.13** Existing member-led committees, such as the Governance & Constitution Review Committee, Audit & Risk Assurance Committee and Scrutiny Committees, will be used for decision making and maintaining oversight of the actions and implementation of the Improvement Plan. Work is underway with the Chairs of Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee, and Budget & Corporate Management Scrutiny to agree the scope of their oversight and assurance roles.

Risk Management

- 4.14** A risk register will be maintained for the duration of the Improvement Plan which will underpin the council's strategic risk relating to the council's Improvement Plan (59a 02/22). This will be reported monthly to Leadership Team and quarterly to Cabinet.
- 4.15** The current risk register is attached as Appendix 2. The main risks are associated with:
- **Resources** – for delivery of key components of the plan including the performance management framework, asset management system implementation and culture change programme. The



financial resources required have been identified and were approved by Council in June.

- **Organisational Culture** – If the organisational culture doesn't change, this will limit the improvements that can be made. A theme within the Improvement Plan focuses on organisational culture. It includes plans for a comprehensive engagement programme with staff and members to define a collectively owned culture. We will then embed the conditions for this culture to thrive.
- **Communication** – to ensure everyone is aware of their respective roles and responsibilities. A detailed communication plan will be developed to ensure effective and timely communication with stakeholders
- **Governance Policies and Procedures** – key corporate governance documents are being reviewed and once approved, will provide an important foundation for improvement.
- **Performance Management Framework** – to ensure that we can effectively monitor progress and evidence improvement. Each theme includes an outline of how success will be evidenced. Processes for monitoring progress and evaluating evidence of improvement will be developed.
- **Historic Issues** – if there is a continued focus on and resource directed towards historic issues this will hinder improvement. The improvement plan contains actions to bring historic issues to a conclusion and embed lessons learnt.
- **Progress Monitoring and Risk Management approach** – if assessment of progress and risk assessment contains optimism-bias, this will prevent an accurate and realistic view of progress. Assurance mechanisms will help manage this risk.

4.16 The Improvement Plan risk register will be reported to Audit, Risk and Assurance Committee on a regular basis as part of the assurance mechanism



5 Alternative Options

- 5.1** The Value for Money Governance Review was undertaken as part of the external auditor's role to provide assurance on the council's arrangements for securing economy, efficiency and effectiveness in its use of resources. As the report includes statutory recommendations the council has a legal obligation to respond appropriately.
- 5.2** The Directions issued by the Secretary of State are a statutory requirement and the council has a legal obligation to respond appropriately. Failure to do so would likely result in further intervention measures.
- 5.3** Reviewing progress against the Improvement Plan enables senior officers and members have oversight of delivery, and take corrective action, as necessary.
- 5.4** There are no alternative options to consider.

6 Implications

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Resources: | <p>Resources to deliver the Improvement Plan have been allocated from within existing commitments in the majority of cases. Where one-off funding is required to deliver improvements, this will either be funded from the Improvement and Capacity Fund or from earmarked reserves created from 2021/22 underspend position. Allocation of this funding was approved by Council with the Improvement Plan on 7 June 2022.</p> <p>Where funding is required for longer-term change, this will be incorporated into the Medium-Term Financial Strategy.</p> <p>There are no land or building implications associated with the Improvement Plan as a whole.</p> |
|-------------------|---|



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|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>On 22 March 2022, The Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities issued Directions under Section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999 (the 1999 Act) in order to ensure that the council can comply with the requirements of Part 1 of the 1999 Act. Failure to comply with these Directions may lead to further intervention measures for the council.</p> <p>The regular reporting development and approval of this Improvement Plan will mean that the council has achieved one of the elements within the Directions within the specified timescales.</p> <p>The delivery of the Improvement Plan and achievement of the desired outcomes will meet the remainder of the Directions.</p> <p>Ultimately, the changes made through the Improvement Plan will enable the council to effectively deliver its strategic priorities and ensure it is delivering value for money for Sandwell.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <p>If the Council fails to take appropriate action to meet the requirements set out in the government Direction, or the Commissioners appointed by the Secretary of State do not have sufficient confidence that appropriate actions are being taken to implement and sustain the required improvements, then the council risks not having appropriate arrangements in place to comply with its best value duty under Part 1 of the 1999 Act. This could lead to further government intervention, increased costs and damage to reputation.</p> |



| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| | A risk register will be maintained for the duration of the Improvement Plan which will underpin the council's strategic risk relating to the council's Improvement Plan (59a 02/22). This will be reported monthly to Leadership Team and quarterly to Cabinet. |
| Equality: | The successful delivery of the Improvement Plan will require the development and review of many of the council's policies and procedures. These changes will build in consideration of the impact on equalities throughout the development and will include an Equality Impact Assessment where appropriate. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | The underpinning objective of the Improvement Plan is to ensure the council is able to achieve the strategic priorities as set out in the Corporate Plan. These priorities focus on improving the health and wellbeing of our residents and tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way. Therefore, any improvements to the council's governance structures will strengthen the council's ability to deliver services that will improve the health and wellbeing of Sandwell. |
| Social Value | Within the Improvement Plan, the council is committed to developing its Social Value Policy in conjunction with the refresh of the Procurement & Contract Procedure Rules. Through strengthening our asks of contractors through this Social Value Policy and linking them to the Corporate Plan objectives, the council will be able to maximise its social value return. |

7. Appendices

1. Governance Improvement Plan Monitoring Report
2. Improvement Plan Risk Register June 2022



8. Background Papers

Sandwell Council Governance Improvement Plan

- [Adopted January 2022](#)
- [Quarterly Monitoring April 2022](#)

Sandwell Council Improvement Plan [Report to Council 7 June 2022](#)

Appendices:

- [Sandwell Council Improvement Plan](#)
- Grant Thornton Value for Money Governance Review Report December 2021
- CIPFA Financial Management Review Report January 2022
- LGA Corporate Peer Challenge March 2022
- Sandwell Directions under Section 15(5) and (6) of the Local Government Act 1999, 22 March 2022
- Sandwell Directions - Explanatory Memorandum



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|-------|---|---------------------------------|--|---------------------|--------------|------------|---|---|---|
| SN1 | In the first three months prepare, agree and implement an Improvement Plan to the satisfaction of the Commissioners with resource allocated accordingly, activities to implement all 45 recommendations of the [Grant Thornton] report; and to report at six monthly intervals (or at such intervals as the Commissioners may direct), and adopt any recommendations of the Commissioners | | | | | | | | |
| SN1.1 | Revise this plan to ensure information is captured around resource allocation, identifies key milestones, and ensure the format and contents meet the needs of the Commissioners | Leadership Team | Commissioners confirm content and format suitability for three month report to Secretary of State. Submission of report to Secretary of State | 22nd June 2022 | G | G | RJ update: Improvement Plan is being prepared for approval by Council on 7th June. | RJ 25/05/22: Addressed in Improvement Plan. Due for Council approval 7th June | N/a addressed throughout IP |
| SN1.2 | Report on a six monthly basis to the Secretary of State | Leadership Team | Commissioners confirm content and format suitability for three month report to Secretary of State. Submission of report to Secretary of State as per schedule. | 22nd September 2022 | G | G | RJ update: First improvement plan submission due 22nd June. On track to meet timescale with Council approval due on 7th June | RJ 25/05/22: On track for Improvement Plan approval to enable Commissioners to make their report. December report to SoS will include a progress report from the Council. This has been included in reporting schedule for Improvement Plan. | Addressed in reporting schedule |
| SN2 | Actions to Establish the roles of Commissioners <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Governance and scrutiny of strategic decision making - Appropriate delegations / arrangements in place in relation existing statutory roles as Interim CE - Recruitment and Dismissal of Statutory Officers | | | | | | | | |
| SN2.1 | Work across with DLUCH to identify and address any areas of conflicts of interest and implement delegations | Director - Law & Governance | Completed Advice Note agreed with DLUCH | 13-Apr-22 | G | G | ST 16/05/22: Conflict of interest issues have been addressed. Legal advice notice prepared and shared with DLUHC who have accepted it. Contract variation re Kim's contract with the Council being drafted - completion in next 2 weeks. | ST 08.06.22: Draft contract being prepared for sign off. | Action will be closed following contract sign-off |
| SN2.2 | Relationship between Commissioners, SCT and DFE to be clarified and established | Director - Children & Education | TBC | TBC | G | G | MJ: The SCT intervention will run alongside the council-wide interventions. There will be scheduled updates between SCT arrangements and the Commissioners through the Improvement Plan and quarterly meetings with the independently appointed Chair of the Trust Improvement Board. | MJ - 27.5.22: The SCT intervention will run alongside the council-wide interventions. There will be scheduled updates between SCT arrangements and the Commissioners through the Improvement Plan and quarterly meetings with the independently appointed Chair of the Trust Improvement Board. | Partnerships and Relationships |
| SN4 | Actions to secure improvements in relation to the proper functioning of the scrutiny and associated audit functions | | | | | | | | |
| | S1.7 Refresh decision making arrangements including role of Scrutiny | | | | | | | | see S1.7 entry |
| | I34.1 (Action) Work with the Chair of ARAC through Audit Committee Agenda meetings to manage the position | | | | | | | | See I34.1 entry |
| | S2.1 (Action) Refresh key corporate governance documents | | | | | | | | See S2.1 entry |
| | S2.1.C (Action) Scheme of Delegations (including delegated decision making on hosting events) | | | | | | | | See S2.1 entry |
| SN5 | Actions to secure continuous improvement in all services | | | | | | | | |
| | K4.2 (Action) Develop a Continuous Improvement Plan to ensure that we understand the lessons learned (e.g. when things go wrong) and embed the learning in our appraisals and performance management systems | | | | | | | | See K4.2 entry |
| SN6 | Appointment of a Permanent Chief Executive by September 2023 | | | | | | | | |

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|--------|--|-----------------------------|---|-----------------------------|-----------------|------------|---|--|---------------------------------------|
| | <i>K5.1 (Action) Conduct robust recruitment process for permanent Chief Executive designed to attract the best candidates</i> | | | | | | | | See K5.1 entry |
| | <i>K5.2 (Action) Implement Communications and Corporate Affairs Strategy – raising Sandwell’s national profile to showcase the good work of the council</i> | | | | | | | | |
| SN7 | Implementation of 4 yearly election cycle | | | | | | | | |
| SN7.1 | Options Paper to be discussed by Leadership Team around implementation timeline (2024/2026) | Director - Law & Governance | Agreed approach and timeline for 4 yearly electoral cycle (inc Full Council decision) | Jun-22 | G | G | ST: 16/05/22: Draft paper will be completed by 20 May | RJ: 14/06/22: Paper being prepared for July Council | Decision Making |
| SN7.2 | Council decision to implement | Director - Law & Governance | | tbc following options paper | Not Yet Started | | | | |
| SN8 | Cultural Change Programme | | | | | | | | |
| SN8.2 | Cultural Change Programme to be embedded within Single Improvement Plan Formation | Leadership Team | | Jun-22 | G | G | RJ 28.04.22: Organisational Culture identified as a theme within the Improvement Plan. Workshop discussion planned with Leadership Team. | VL 26.05.22 Phase approach agreed with Leadership Team. Cross-Council Working Group established. Prospective partnership conversations underway. | Organisational Culture |
| SN8.3 | Actions to be embedded within single improvement plan to address findings from employee survey | Leadership Team | | Sep-22 | G | G | RJ: 28.04.22: Findings from employee survey due to be discussed by Leadership Team on 12/05/22. | VL 26/05/22: Employee survey results shared with Leadership Team. DLT level presentations scheduled for June (last one 1 July) | |
| S1 | It is imperative that senior officers and senior members take effective corporate grip of long-standing service issues highlighted by the findings in this report: (including SLT, SCT, the waste service, the ERP system, and Lion Farm) and prioritise corporate effort in managing the issues identified, and embed the solutions into the Council. | | | | | | | | |
| S1.1 | Sandwell Leisure Trust Governance arrangements in place to manage, develop and support the current and future delivery of leisure services across the borough, including the new Aquatic Centre: | | | | | | | | Procurement and Commercial- Leisure |
| S1.1.A | • Governance processes refreshed and in place | | | End December 2021 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |
| S1.1.B | • Appoint and retain external support to review SLT Business Plan submissions in line with contractual requirements | | | Dec-21 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |
| S1.1.C | • Following receipt and review of the revised SLT Business Plan for the coming 3-year period, to progress a recommendation and decision as appropriate. | Director - Borough Economy | Cabinet approval of way forward Arrangement in place for future delivery of leisure facilities Clear audit trail of decisions | Jun-22 | A | A | Updated by AD on 28/04/2022 Legal meetings ongoing in relation to exit period. Option appraisal approach shared with Leadership 13/04/22 for comment. Health and wellbeing service development planning research underway. Further update to Cabinet 03/05/22 to reflect updated legal advice, risks and decisions required. (change control re: date reprofiling) | AD 31/05/22 Cabinet report drafted for 22/06/22 Leisure Management Options. | |
| | Sandwell Children’s Trust | | | | | | MJ: The SCT intervention will run alongside the council-wide interventions. There will be | MJ: 27.5.22: The SCT intervention will run alongside the council-wide interventions. | |

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|--------|--|--|--|---|---------------|---------------|--|--|---------------------------------------|
| S1.4 | Implement Cabinet approved action plan to deliver Oracle Fusion | Director - Finance Director - Business Strategy & Change | Oracle Fusion implemented within agreed timescales and budget | | | | See updates 1.4A- 1.4E | See updates 1.4A- 1.4E | Corporate Oversight |
| S1.4.A | Terminate implementation partner contract with InoApps | Director - Finance Director - Business Strategy & Change Director - Law & Governance | Termination of contract completed | In progress | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |
| S1.4.B | Procure new support provider to deliver Oracle Fusion | Director - Finance | Oracle Fusion implemented within agreed timescales and budget | Jul-22 | A | G | Procurement process on track to complete in July – amend date to end of July 2022 via change control. Amber Status rating ahead of the change control process leading to a reprofiled date. 9.5.22 MM. | Tender launched for support provider with closing date of 17th June. This is an extension of two weeks following requests from suppliers. Timetable still allows for the evaluation process to be completed and contract awarded before the end of July. 6/6/22 SH | |
| S1.4.C | Review operational team to ensure there are appropriate resources in place during implementation phase | Director - Finance Director - Business Strategy & Change | Any gaps in operational capacity identified and options developed for addressing gaps | Feb-22 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |
| S1.4.D | Project management training for all of project team, including Project Sponsors | Director - Business Strategy & Change | All of project team attend project management training | PM methodology agreed - December 2022 Implementation of training - July 2022 | G | G | NC 5/5/22 - Training in progress of being delivered between May and June | NC 8/6/22 First round of Prince 2 Training delivered to staff within the Oracle Fusion project and staff with project management within their job role | |
| S1.4.E | Implement robust project management arrangements | Director - Finance Director - Business Strategy & Change | Project management methodology refreshed and adopted, including risk management approach SRO confirmed Oracle Fusion implemented within agreed timescales and budget | Jun-22 | Complete G | Complete G | Completed – revised Project Management and governance arrangements in place. (Completed in May 2022) 9/5/22 MM 5/5/22 NC - SOCITM and interim project manager are engaged and providing robust project management support | complete NC 8/6/22 - no further update | |
| S1.5 | Lion Farm Action plan to agree way forward and resolve matter | | | | | | | | |
| S1.5.A | Brief Cabinet on options | | | Completed December 2021 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |
| S1.5.B | Presentation of proposal by developer to Cabinet | | | Completed December 2021 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |
| S1.5.C | Options appraisal report to Cabinet for approval of way forward | Director - Regeneration & Growth | Action plan in place that addresses recommendations of external review with achievable timescales. Implementation of action plan | 12-Jan-22 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |

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|--------|---|----------------------------------|--|--|--------------|------------|--|---|---------------------------------------|
| S1.5.D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Implement approved way forward | | Action plan in place with achievable timescales Clarity of responsibility for both council and developer within action plan | As per action plan for approved option | G | G | 11/05/2022 as per March update | Respective legal advisers in final stage of negotiations to agree the terms of Expert Determination Process | Procurement and Commercial |
| S1.6 | Develop and publish Regeneration Pipeline, including dates for delivery, and regularly report on progress | Director - Regeneration & Growth | Comprehensive Regeneration Pipeline published to underpin significant regeneration and development in Sandwell in period 2022-2027. | Mar-22 | Complete | Complete | TM- 06/05/2022-the development and approval and publication of the Regen Strategy was completed on 24th March 22 (the Cabinet decision to approve) and the report detail confirmed that the regular reporting on progress would be six monthly to Cabinet with the first of these due in the Autumn covering 1 April – 31 Sept 2022. | Resource requirements for implementation of a number of schemes on the Pipeline are being scoped and discussed; Approval has been given by DLUHC for the Towns Fund Schemes for Smethwick and Rowley Regis to be implemented which represents a £42m capital investment. A microsite to promote and explain all 63 projects in the Pipeline is in development with a selected contractor. | |
| S1.7 | Refresh decision making arrangements including role of Scrutiny | Director - Law & Governance | Updated executive procedure rules (including Forward Plan), council procedure rules, scrutiny arrangements, updated scheme of delegation for officers, and implementation of Phase 2 of ModGov and CIVICO. | Jul-22 | G | G | ST 16/5/22: Governance Review is progressing with an initial 5 workstreams. Contract Procedure Rules, Financial Regulations and Council Procedure rules are being revised for approval at July Council. Scrutiny Review to be completed by July Council and any changes reported to July Council Governance and Constitution Committee meeting on 27 May to consider progress and agree timescales for each workstream and the methodologies for the reviews. Member Development Plan work underway and being progressed - completion expected by July. LGA have been engaged. Member Induction updated and in process of being implemented. MDP Strategy being drafted and will be considered by the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee in June / July. | RJ 14/06/22: Scrutiny work planning event held 13/06 supported by the Centre for Scrutiny and Governance | |
| S2 | The Council must ensure that the learning in relation to commercial decisions, procurement and contract management highlighted in this report are understood through the organisation. | | | | | | | | |
| S2.1 | Refresh key corporate governance documents including: | | | | | | | | |
| S2.1.A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to incorporate recommendations of this review including: o Review of procurement thresholds | Director - Finance | P&CPR reviewed and incorporate key learning including policies, procedures, record keeping, timescales Future major procurements are conducted within appropriate timescales | Jul-22 | G | G | As March update – review complete and awaiting Council approval (which I believe is now June) 9.5.22 MM | As April update, although Council date now July. 06/06/22 SH | |

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|--------|---|---------------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|------------|---|---|---|
| S2.1.B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Financial Regulations | Director - Finance | Financial Regulations updated within timescale | Jul-22 | G | G | As per March – review on track to be completed and approved at July Council. 9.5.22 MM | As April update 06/06/22 SH | Decision making |
| S2.1.C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme of Delegations (including delegated decision making on hosting events) | Director - Law & Governance | <p>Updated Scheme of Delegation approved for executive and council-side functions</p> <p>Clear thresholds on participation or income projection included in decision making delegation</p> <p>In the event that legacy issues arise, they are dealt with appropriately and learned from</p> | Jul-22 | A | A | <p>ST 16.05.22: Scheme of delegation to be progressed alongside Member/Officer relationship work (with the support of the LGA).</p> <p>Discussion underway with the LGA and programme of work/engagement being agreed with the LGA.</p> <p>Scheme of delegation to be refreshed and referred for approval at October Council. Review of decision-making, report writing etc. to be part of the review - working with officers and members over the coming months before the Scheme of Delegation is approved.</p> | RJ 13.06.22: Scheme of Delegation scheduled for discussion at Governance and Constitution Committee on 24 June to gain steer on the date to refer Scheme of Delegation to Council for approval. | Decision making |
| S2.1.D | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Corporate approach to Project Management, including requirement of full business cases for major projects | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Clear frameworks in place and applied across the council | May-22 | G | G | 5/5/22 - no additional update | NC 8/6/22 - recruitment underway for Corporate Transformation Manager role, additional funding also agreed for AD-Transformation role | Corporate Oversight- programme and project management |
| S2.1.E | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop template for Corporate Projects which includes Options Appraisals and Business Case | Director - Finance | Comprehensive template in place that supports effective decision making at all levels | Jan-22 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | Corporate Oversight- programme and project management |
| S2.1.F | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review the Sale of Land and Buildings Protocol in the Council's Constitution and enhance content to improve clarity | Director - Regeneration & Growth | Clear protocol on Land Disposals and Options Agreements approved by Council | Aug-22 | G | G | 11/05/2021 CH (DW) This is now drafted and is in the process of being finalised. | 08/06/2022 CH (DW) The Sale of Land Protocol is drafted and I is part of a pack on constitutional changes that is going to Council for approval | Decision making |
| S2.1.G | Design and deliver Corporate Governance training for officers to include refreshed governance documents and contract management | Director - Law & Governance | <p>Attendance by all appropriate officers</p> <p>Appropriate decision making at all levels</p> | Oct-22 | A | G | ST 16.05.22: Programme of training and development on effective decision-making and good governance to be rolled out between July and Sept 2022. | Corporate Governance documents to be refreshed and referred to Council in Dec 2022 (this enables all changes to the constitution to be made which provides the evidence base for the Corporate Governance documents). | Organisational Culture |
| | | Director - Finance | | | | | On track for October although dependent on Council approving revised Constitution in July. SH 06/06/22 | | |
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|--------|--|----------------------------------|---|---------------|--------------|------------|--|--|---|
| S2.2 | Develop and implement Commercial Strategy: | Director - Finance | Commerical Strategy agreed within timescale Identifies achievable income generating workstreams | 22-Jul | G | G | On track. Draft Commercial Strategy received from C Co for review. 9.5.22 MM. | As April update. | Strategic Direction |
| S2.2.A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Training for officers and workshops to develop strategy | Director - Finance | Attendance of all appropriate officers at training and involved in workshops | Feb-22 | G | G | As above. Training is next step so date needs to change – will check target dates with C Co. 9.5.22 MM. | Workshops completed in January. Training to be scheduled in next - SH to check dates with C Co. | Organisational Culture |
| S2.2.B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Commercial Strategy developed | Director - Finance | Commerical Strategy agreed within timescale Identifies achievable income generating workstreams | May-22 | G | G | On track. Draft strategy received from C Co for review. 9.5.22 MM. | Draft strategy received from C Co. Leadership Team to review in June. | Strategic Direction- Strategy development and refresh |
| S2.2.C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business case for two workstreams developed | Director - Finance | Robust business case for workstreams delivered | Jun-22 | G | G | On track. Draft strategy received from C Co for review. 9.5.22 MM. | One business case likely to be completed before the end of June. Second business case is likely to be delayed as C Co have recommended running the training programme as the next step so that relevant officers have the right knowledge and skills to identify opportunities and develop business cases. | |
| S2.3 | <p>Develop a Corporate Asset Management Strategy which is aligned with relevant Council property related strategies, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Aligning all decisions with Corporate Objectives including service area asset requirements based on business planning modelling with a robust risk assessment process to support the process. Building on the Work Place Vision (WPV) strategy currently being implemented, by continuing to monitor business property needs post-Covid. Developing a Property Maintenance Account which is fit-for-purpose, provides value for money, and is effectively managed. Aligning a fit-for-purpose ICT strategy which supports flexible working. Identifying and promptly disposing of surplus assets. Ensuring value for money from the council's investment portfolio. | Director - Regeneration & Growth | Corporate Asset Management System procured and in place, and supporting flexible working Timely decisions made on disposal of surplus assets Value for money derived from use of council assets | Sep-22 | G | G | 11/05/2021 CH (DW)On track for Cabinet in September. | 08/6/2022 CH (DW) The Asset Management Strategy is still on course for September Cabinet. | Strategic Direction- Strategy development and refresh |

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|--------|--|--|--|--|--------------|------------|---|---|---|
| S2.4 | Develop a 30-year Housing Revenue Account Strategy, utilising sector expertise from Savills | Director - Housing | 30-year strategy developed | 01-Apr-23 | G | G | 11/05/22 RJ – Review of stock data due this month. On track for April '23 approval of plan. | On track for approval by April 2023. HRA Business Plan session planned with Savills on 23rd June. SH 8/6/22 | Strategic Direction |
| S2.5 | Refresh and embed the Corporate Procurement Strategy, ensuring that lessons from previous activity are incorporated and local spend is increased: | Director - Finance | Achieving action plan in CPS Outcomes identified in CPS | Jul-22 | G | G | On track 9.5.22 MM. | On track. 06/06/22 SH | Strategic Direction- Strategy development and refresh |
| S2.5.A | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Conduct spend analysis | Director - Finance | Spend analysis conducted and used to inform refresh of CPS | Jul-22 | G | G | On track – external provider now commissioned to undertake spend analysis and should be completed in June. 9.5.22. MM | As April update 06/06/22 SH | |
| S2.5.B | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Develop Social Value Policy | Director - Finance | Social Value Policy adopted by Council SVP aligns to Corporate Plan and Fairer Sandwell Principles | Jul-22 | G | G | On track. 9.5.22 MM. | As April update 06/06/22 SH | |
| S2.5.C | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Address capacity issues within the Corporate Procurement Service to refresh and deliver the Corporate Procurement Strategy | Director - Finance | Procurement Team has appropriate skilled capacity | Jan-22 | G | G | As previous update. Interim resources have resolved immediate issue but restructure planned for the Autumn to put long term solution in place. 9.5.22 MM. | As April update 06/06/22 SH | |
| S2.6 | Embed management of key corporate contracts within the Performance Management Framework to ensure oversight of performance and link to the Corporate Plan | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Key contract performance discussed at LT regularly Report to Cabinet regularly | Mar-22 | G | G | Update by RJ 28.04.22: As per March update - framework in place in line with March target date. Preparations to be made for Q1 reporting. | RJ update: 26.05.22: Framework approved in line with March target date. Preparations being made for Q1 reporting. | Corporate Oversight- Performance management |
| S3 | Senior leadership, both officers and members, must demonstrate that they can continue to work together effectively, that they operate in line with the Council's values, codes, policies and procedures, and that there is zero tolerance to inappropriate behaviours. This includes changing the organisational culture in relation to complaints so that they restore balance and proportionality. | | | | | | | | |
| S3.1 | Review the council's values, codes and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose and focus on building the organisation of the future | Chief Executive Director - Business Strategy & Change Director - Law & Governance Leadership Team | Sign off by Cabinet and/or Council as appropriate | February 2022 to review Refresh – timescale TBD | Complete | Closed | Update by RJ: 28.04.22: Intention to revisit values within the organisational culture theme. New action to be crafted around this within the Single Improvement Plan. | RJ 07.06.22: Action incorporated within organisational culture theme within single Improvement Plan (see SN8.2 and SN8.3). Action to be closed. | |

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|------|--|---|---|--|--------------|------------|--|--|--|
| S3.2 | Develop and implement Member Development Programme to address knowledge and skills gaps, develop positive behaviours and focus on delivery of the Corporate Plan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Involve more officers across the council to develop members' knowledge in key areas, and trust in officers. MDP needs to address both corporate learning and portfolio specific, and specific roles Corporate governance training provided to members of Cabinet and those in key governance related roles (specifically Scrutiny and Audit Committee roles, and those who sit on external Boards) Review induction process for new members to include local government finance and corporate governance roles and engagement with more officers (including junior officers) Include continuation of LGA Cabinet Member mentoring programme including subject specific for Cabinet portfolios | Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee Executive Director - Law & Governance Head of Leader's Office | MDP addresses both corporate and portfolio specific learning needs Members take-up of development programme and offers of support including member personal development plans Compliance with Member Code of Conduct No issues identified in future external reviews/assurance Healthy and regular dialogue between senior leaders, groups and whips In the event that legacy issues arise, they are dealt with appropriately and learned from | Updated programme developed - July 2022 Implementation from August 2022 | G | G | ST 16.05.22: Member Development Plan work underway and being progressed - completion expected by July. LGA have been engaged. Member Induction updated and in process of being implemented. MDP Strategy being drafted and will be considered by the Ethical Standards and Member Development Committee in June/July. | As per last month's update | Organisational Culture- Member learning and development |
| S3.3 | Develop a behaviour framework that sets out the expectations on managers and officers that is aligned with the appraisal framework, performance management and Officer-Member protocol | Director - Business Strategy & Change | No issues identified in future external reviews/assurance Behaviour framework developed and agreed | Apr-22 | A | Closed | RJ update 28.04.22: Leadership Team have revisited the behaviour framework approach, and focus within the Single Improvement Plan will shift to actions that establish the desired organisational culture, and creating the right environment for that culture to thrive. Action will be re-crafted within the Single Improvement Plan. Amber rating to reflect review of approach as part of Improvement Plan formation | VL 26.05.22 Updated action within organisational culture theme of single Improvement Plan (see SN8.2 and SN8.3). Action to be closed. | Organisational Culture- Establish org culture |
| S3.4 | Develop a clear programme of management development aligned to the Behaviour Framework and Council's values to ensure managers have the knowledge and skills to exhibit the expected behaviours | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Programme implemented Managers attending Engagement survey feedback that managers are demonstrating values and expected behaviours | Jul-22 | A | A | NC 5/5/22 - dependency with S3.3 approach and work completed on this may need to be reprofiled and reviewed in line with the work undertaken on previous action. RJ: Amber rating to reflect review of approach as part of Improvement Plan formation | VL 26.05.22 Revised delivery date in accordance with SN8.3. RJ 07.06.22: Revised delivery date and plan is reflected in single Improvement Plan. Amber rating reflects slippage against the timescale originally profiled. | Organisational Culture- Officer learning and Development |
| S3.5 | Engage LGA to support officers and members to develop the relationship going forward. (Linked to values/behaviours/codes review) | Chief Executive | Actions identified with LGA and implementation plan formed Better understanding between officers and members of their respective responsibilities and roles. Increased confidence and appreciation of one another. | Feb-22 | G | G | RJ 16.05.22: LGA engaged and supporting work to develop executive and MDP. Ongoing action | As per last month's update | Organisational Culture- Officer and Member relationships |

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|------|---|--|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|--|---|
| S3.6 | Continue with regular weekly meetings between Cabinet Members and Leadership Team to address knowledge gaps and facilitate discussion on key issues | Chief Executive Leader Director - Law & Governance Cabinet Members Leadership Team | Positive outcome from Peer Review Key topics covered in meetings In the event that legacy issues arise, they are dealt with appropriately and learned from | Informal Cabinet every Wednesday | G | G | ST 16.05.22: Meetings re-established. Separate Meetings also being had by MD Commissioner and Monitoring Officer with Leader and other Group Leader. Personal Development Plans to be prepared in respect of each Member – July 2022 Executive Development Plan being progressed – LGA involved in supporting and helping to develop the Executive. Further work to progress the Exec MDP ongoing. | Ongoing action. | Organisational Culture- Officer and member relationships |
| K4 | The Council's leadership needs be relentless in its focus in delivering and embedding sustainable change, and use its past history as a reference point when focusing on improvement. | | | | | | | | Corp Oversight- Improvement planning, monitoring and learning |
| K4.1 | Develop Improvement Plan to address the recommendations and report on progress regularly: -Leadership Team – monthly -Leader's Briefing – monthly -Cabinet – progress update monthly and formal reporting quarterly -External Audit – six months/annually | Chief Executive | Improvement Plan approved by Full Council in January, following approval by Leader of the Council Actions are SMART Positive feedback from External Auditor/no gaps identified Regular reporting to LT and Members | Plan approved - January 2022 Progress reported regularly | G | G | Update by RJ 28.04.22: Improvement Plan being prepared and due for approval at Council 7th June. Regular monitoring in place with Leadership Team and Leader's meeting monthly. | RJ 08.06.22: Improvement Plan approved by Council 07/06/22 including monitoring approach to Leadership Team Monthly and Cabinet Quarterly. | Corporate Oversight- Delivery Plan |
| K4.2 | Develop a Continuous Improvement Plan to ensure that we understand the lessons learned (e.g. when things go wrong) and embed the learning in our appraisals and performance management systems | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Continuous Improvement Plan in place and adopted across the council Improvements made as a result of interventions set out in CIP | May-22 | | A | NC 9/5/22 (DW): Arrangements in place to understand good practice from other LA's. However lack of resource currently available to scope and deliver the project. Discussion scheduled to address resource issues. | NC 8/6/22: Funding approach approved by Council 07/06 to provide additional capacity corporately around performance management. This will free up corporate resources to deliver on the continuous improvement plan. Revised timescales contained within the single Improvement Plan to reflect resource availability. | Corporate Oversight |
| K4.3 | Develop and implement an improvement plan to address recommendations from CIPFA's Financial Management Review | Director - Finance | Plan in place by end January 2022 All recommendations from CIPFA review implemented Improvement of star rating | Jan-23 | G | G | On track 9.5.22 MM | On track. 06/06/22 SH | Single improvement plan |
| K5 | Critical to embedding the transformation and change required will be the appointment of the right permanent Chief Executive. The Council must ensure an effective recruitment process, including attracting a pool of appropriate candidates. | | | | | | | | Organisational Culture- CEx recruitment Strat direction- Strat development and refresh |
| K5.1 | Conduct robust recruitment process for permanent Chief Executive designed to attract the best candidates | Commissioner | Chief Executive appointed | Sep-23 | Not Yet Started | Not Yet Started | | RJ: Reviewing options for recruitment timescales pre / post Christmas. | Organisational Culture- CEx recruitment |

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| K5.2 | Implement Communications and Corporate Affairs Strategy – raising Sandwell’s national profile to showcase the good work of the council | Director - Business Strategy & Change | National positive profile of Sandwell increased High quality candidates apply for Chief Executive role | Dec-22 | G | G | 5/5/22 NC: no further update | NC 8/6/22: Strategy continues to be implemented effectively. Service Managers across the organisation briefed on plan and key themes for communications to take place for the remainder of the year | Strat direction- Strat development and refresh | |
| K6 | The Council should ensure that a corporate performance framework is agreed so that the implementation of the Corporate Plan can be effectively monitored, and there is collective corporate responsibility rather than silo working. | | | | | | | | Strategic direction - consultation and engagement proc and commercial - new system proc | |
| K6.1 | Develop and embed a corporate performance management framework that provides Leadership Team and members collective oversight of progress on the Corporate Plan, key operational level intelligence, organisational health and improvement activity | Chief Executive | Corporate performance framework in place by target date Leadership Team and members have access to regular reporting of key information that informs decision making to address performance issues Collective management of key measures Clear lines of accountability, responsibility and delegated authority | Ongoing | G | G | KA 05/05/22: first monthly report of Customer Experience and Finance performance data presented to Leadership Team 27/04/22. This will be built upon during the year. Work progressing in readiness for Q1 reporting against Customer Experience, Organisational Health, Finance and Corporate Plan measures, and progress against Corporate Plan actions. | As per April update | Corporate Oversight- perf management | |
| | | Director - Business Strategy & Change | | | | | | | | |
| K6.2 | Explore implementation of a corporate performance management system | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Options appraisal and business case developed, aligned with budget plan | Aug-22 | G | G | KA 05/05/22: update as April 2022, resource focused on development of Single Improvement Plan. Timescale to be reprofiled to reflect resource availability | RJ 08.06.22 Timescale has been reprofiled as resources have been focused on development of Single Improvement Plan. | Procurement and Commercial- new system procurement | |
| K6.3 | Develop, implement and monitor progress of Directorate and Service level plans to deliver the Corporate Plan | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Directorate and Service Level Plans in place | Mar-23 | A | G | KA 05/05/22: approach for regular monitoring of Corporate Plan progress in development, to be discussed with LT before end of Q1 | RJ 08.06.22 Approach for quarterly monitoring | Corporate Oversight- perf management | |
| | | Leadership Team | Clear lines of accountability, responsibility and delegated authority | | | | | | | |
| K6.4 | Ensure public consultation results are incorporated into Performance Management Framework, including on budget development | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Key measures incorporated into PMF and influencing improvement actions | Jul-22 | G | G | 5/5/22 - Procurement in progress to commission support with undertaking resident survey, Leadership Team engaged with design of survey and questions to be used | 8/6/22 NC - Procurement for residents survey support successfully completed, working group also now established to ensure sustained resident engagement following completion of the survey | Strategic direction- consultation and engagement | |
| | | Leadership Team | | | | | | | | |
| K7 | Members in key statutory roles, in particular in relation to Cabinet, scrutiny, standards and audit, need to be provided with effective development, training and support. The member development programme should be reviewed to ensure corporate governance forms part of the training for members with governance roles. | | | | | | | | Organisational culture- member learning and development | |
| S3.2 | Member Development Programme | | see update at S3.2 | | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 |
| S3.6 | Continue with regular weekly meetings between Cabinet Members and Leadership Team to address knowledge gaps and facilitate discussion on key issues | | see update at S3.6 | | | | | | | See entry for S3.6 |
| K7.1 | Develop forward plan for All Member Briefings based on themes of work/areas for development | Director - Law & Governance | Terms of reference for briefing meetings and agendas in place. Maintain importance of informal and safe space. More regular meeting pattern in place - balancing needs of responding to issues in a timely manner | March 2022 and then ongoing | G | G | ST 16.05.22: Rolling programme and ongoing action. No issues identified | ST 16.05.22: Rolling programme and ongoing action. No issues identified | Organisational Culture- member learning and development | |

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|--------|---|-----------------------------|--|---------------|--------------|------------|-------------------------------|--|---|
| K8 | The Council should develop and agree an action plan in relation to the statutory, key and improvement recommendations included in this report, ensuring that they are specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and time-bound. | | | | | | | | Corp Oversight- Improvement planning, monitoring and learning |
| K4.1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Team - monthly Cabinet - quarterly External Audit – six months/annually | | see update at K4.1 | | | | | | See entry for K4.1 |
| I1 | Officer and Member Relationships Embedding the changes that have been made by the Leadership Team and those that are planned will be critical if the Council is to realise its strategic ambition and provide effective governance. | | | | | | | | org culture- officer and member relationship |
| S2.1.C | Refresh key corporate governance documents including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Scheme of Delegations and decision-making framework (including delegated decision making on hosting events) | | see update at S2.1C | | | | | | See entry for S2.1.C |
| S3.2 | Develop and implement Member Development Programme to address knowledge and skills gaps, develop positive behaviours and focus on delivery of the Corporate Plan | | see update at S3.2 | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 |
| S3.6 | Continue with regular weekly meetings between Cabinet Members and Leadership Team to address knowledge gaps and facilitate discussion on key issues | | see update at S3.6 | | | | | | See entry for S3.6 |
| I1.1 | Continue to adopt “Star Chamber” approach for Cabinet Members and Chief Officers as part of budget setting approach | Director - Finance | Star Chamber sessions held in Summer 2022 Discussion inform development of robust MTFS | Summer 2022 | G | G | As previous update. 9.5.22 MM | On track. 06/06/22 SH | organisational culture- officer and member relationships |
| I2 | Officer and Member Relationships Enhancement of the induction programme to new members of Cabinet, including on local government finance and their governance roles is recommended. | | | | | | | | org culture- member learning and development |
| S3.2 | Member Development Programme: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Induction programme Corporate governance training | | see update at S3.2 | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 |
| I3 | Officer and Member Relationships The Council should ensure that corporate KPIs are agreed so that the implementation of the Corporate Plan can be effectively monitored. | | | | | | | | Corporate oversight- performance management |
| K6.1 | Continue to develop and embed a corporate performance management framework that provides Leadership Team and members of collective oversight of progress on the Corporate Plan, key operational level intelligence and improvement activity | | see update at K6.1 | | | | | | See entry for K6.1 |
| K6.3 | Develop, implement and monitor progress Directorate and Service level plans to deliver the Corporate Plan | | see update at K6.3 | | | | | | See entry for K6.3 |
| I4 | Officer and Member Relationships The forward plan of the Cabinet should be shared with the Audit Committee and Scrutiny Board to help structure their agenda planning. | | | | | | | | decision making- role and function of scrutiny and audit |
| I4.1 | Implement sharing of the Cabinet Forward Plan to Audit Committee and Scrutiny Board | Director - Law & Governance | Chairs of ARAC and Scrutiny Boards receive Forward Plan and use it to determine future agendas | Immediate | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | complete |
| I5 | Officer and Member Relationships The Leadership Team should agree key medium-term financial objectives and principles. There should be effective ownership of the principles that underpin the budget setting process, for example the Council’s approach to reserves, contingency and Minimum Revenue Provision (MRP). | | | | | | | | organisational culture- officer and member relationships |
| I1.1 | Continue to adopt “Star Chamber” approach for Cabinet Members and Chief Officers as part of budget setting approach | Director - Finance | see update at I1.1 | | | | | | See entry for I1.1 |
| I5.1 | Continue to provide regular budget monitoring reporting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Leadership Team - monthly Cabinet Member/Informal Cabinet/Leader’s Briefing – monthly Cabinet - quarterly | Director - Finance | Senior officers and members have oversight of budget position | Achieved | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | Corporate Oversight - Budget Monitoring |
| I6 | Officer and Member Relationships Senior officers and senior members must lead by example to ensure that the “tone from the top” consistently reflects these values and behaviours. This is critical in ensuring that the wider organisation recognises that changes have been made and that all people are confident in adopting these values and behaviours. This should build on recently introduced staff briefings to include a programme of staff engagement including “pulse” checks to benchmark and monitor progress on the organisation’s wellbeing. | | | | | | | | org culture- officer and member relationship |
| S3.1 | Review the council’s values, codes and procedures to ensure they are fit for purpose and focus on building the organisation of the future | | | S3.1 | | | | | See entry for S3.1 |

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|--------|--|---------------------------------------|---|-----------------------------|--------------|------------|---|--|--|
| I6.1 | Build organisational health metrics into performance management framework, including 'pulse' checks on organisation's wellbeing | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Leadership Team understand the organisational health of the council and implement action to address issues 'pulse' surveys held to capture intelligence on | Ongoing | G | G | NC 5/5/22 - No additional update | 8/6/22 NC: Employee engagement survey results received and shared with Leadership Team, directorate level results now being presented and shared via DMT's | Corporate oversight- performance management |
| | | Director - Human Resources | IIP assessment takes place, and any issues identified addressed | | | | | | |
| I7 | Officer and Member Relationships The Council should ensure that the review of the member development programme is appropriate. In particular, thought should be given to how members with special responsibility roles are developed and supported. This should include succession planning for these roles. | | | | | | | | org culture- member learning and development |
| S3.2 | Develop and implement Member Development Plan | | see update at S3.2 | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 |
| I8 | Officer and Member Relationships Further work is required to establish a formal performance management framework and agree a set of key corporate indicators for the Leadership Team to collectively manage, receive appropriate management information to monitor progress, and set out clear lines of accountability, responsibility, and delegated authority. | | | | | | | | Corporate oversight- performance management |
| S2.1.C | Refresh key corporate governance documents including: •Scheme of Delegations and decision-making framework (including delegated decision making on hosting events) | | see update at S2.1C | | | | | | See entry for S2.1.C |
| K6.1 | Develop and embed a corporate performance management framework that provides Leadership Team and members of collective oversight of progress on the Corporate Plan, key operational level intelligence, organisational health and improvement activity | | see update at K6.1 | | | | | | See entry for K6.1 |
| K6.3 | Develop, implement and monitor progress Directorate and Service level plans to deliver the Corporate Plan | | see update at K6.3 | | | | | | See entry for K6.3 |
| K6.4 | Ensure public consultation results are incorporated into Performance Management Framework, including on budget development | | see update at K6.4 | | | | | | See entry for K6.4 |
| I9 | Officer and Member Relationships The recent introduction of financial benchmarking will need to be sustained to create a culture of curiosity in services in how nearest statistical neighbours are performing, to support savings identification and to drive improvements | | | | | | | | |
| I9.1 | Build benchmarking of financial and service performance into performance management framework | Director - Finance | Benchmarking information included in regular reporting to Leadership Team and Members | Mar-22 | G | G | Benchmarking partially included in Performance Management Framework. CIPFA to be commissioned to do further work on this. 9.5.22 MM | As April update 06/06/22 SH | Corporate oversight- performance management |
| | | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Benchmarking used to inform focus of improvement activity | | | | | | |
| I10 | Officer and Member Relationships The Council should continue its more outward looking approach is sustained and develop key local and sub-regional relationships. | | | | | | | | |
| I10.1 | Continue to develop the relationship with and actively participate in regional and sub-regional bodies (e.g. WM Combined Authority, Black Country LEP) to maximise opportunities for Sandwell | Cabinet | Regular and active presence regionally and sub-regionally e.g. WMCA Board Opportunities linked to Sandwell priorities maximised | Review on a quarterly basis | G | G | 11/05/2022- TM- following our presentation to BCLEP funding group, a decision was taken to allocate £500,000 to Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council for 22/23 to support delivery of regeneration strategy and pipeline priorities. | Sandwell Council representatives are actively engaged in discussions and negotiations relating to the WM Trailblazer Devolution Deal, Ministerial Letter on Lep Integration and priorities for UK Shared Prosperity Fund together with WMCA, Met LA's and LEP's. Discussions also in train with BCLEP about remediation funding for a housing site in West Bromwich. | partnership and relationship- regional and sub-regional presence |
| | | Chief Executive | | | | | | | |
| | | Director - Regeneration & Growth | | | | | | | |
| I10.2 | Raise Sandwell Council's profile through engagement with key partners and professional bodies at a national, regional and local level | Leadership Team | | Review on a quarterly basis | | | | | |
| I11 | Officer and Member Relationships When investing in the communications team, the Council should also use this as an opportunity to ensure more effective internal communications, including with back-bench members. | | | | | | | | |

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| I11.1 | Deliver the Communications Strategy and align resources to delivery | Director - Business Strategy & Change | Local, regional and national profile of Sandwell increased Residents' views on the council/services Employee Engagement Survey results Resources invested in internal communications and improved communications to backbench members | Ongoing | G | G | 9/5/22 NC – No additional update | NC 8/6/22: Strategy continues to be implemented effectively. Service Managers across the organisation briefed on plan and key themes for communications to take place for the remainder of the year | Strategic direction- Strategic dev and refresh (restructure) org culture- member learning and dev |
| I12 | Officer and Member Relationships There is a need to ensure that members of scrutiny and audit committees are aware of their governance roles including how to interrogate reports and ask the right questions. | | | | | | | | Decision making- Role and function of Scrutiny and audit |
| S3.2 | Member Development Programme | | see update at S3.2 | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 |
| I13 | Sandwell Children's Trust The Council's senior leadership –both officer and member –should prioritise corporate effort and develop a clear strategy for working with SCT to ensure it remains on its improvement trajectory. This should include: •working with SCT to progress a multi-agency early intervention and prevention strategy. •ensuring SCT has an appropriately resourced and skilled placements team in place to effectively manage the care market. •conducting a review of KPIs to ensure they are effective for current circumstances. •undertaking financial benchmarking in relation to children's social care, and take a realistic and pragmatic view on the level of funding required. •reviewing the governance roles of officers and members in relation to SCT so that they are clear on their responsibilities, avoid duplication, ensure effective communication and that there is a collective understanding of the performance of SCT and how risks and issues are being managed. | | | | | | | | Partnerships and Relationships - Sandwell Children's Trust |
| S1.2.A | Sandwell Children's Trust Continue with robust governance arrangements in place to hold SCT to account for delivering improved outcomes for children and young people in Sandwell in line with the contact | | see update at S1.2A | | | | | | See entry for S1.2.A |
| S1.2.B | Sandwell Children's Trust Establish and maintain positive relationship between SMBC and SCT at senior officer and member level | | see update at S1.2B | | | | | | See entry for S1.1.B |
| S1.2.C | Sandwell Children's Trust Establish corporate approach to working with SCT on shared issues, such as corporate parenting and delivering of Early Help services | | see update at S1.2C | | | | | | See entry for S1.2.C |
| I14 | Sandwell Leisure Trust The Senior Leadership – both officer and member -must take ownership of this issue, prioritise corporate effort and take urgent steps to either resolve the current position with SLT or consider the options for alternative provision should either party decide to terminate the current contract, to ensure the continuity of future leisure service provision and associated reputational impacts. | | | | | | | | Proc and commercial- Leisure contract |
| S1.1A-C | Governance arrangements in place to manage, develop and support the current and future delivery of leisure services across the borough, including the new Aquatic Centre | | see update at S1.1 A-C | | | | | | See entry for S1.1 |
| I15 | Providence Place Where the Council considers similar transactions in future, those charged with making decisions must satisfy themselves that they fully understand the detail of the options being proposed. Council officers and their advisors have a responsibility to ensure that members making decisions do so having fully understood these complexities and risks. | | | | | | | | org culture- officer learning and development decision making- constitution and governance framework Strategic direction- strategy development and refresh |
| S2.1.E | Refresh key corporate governance documents including: • Develop template for Corporate Projects which includes Options Appraisals and Business Case | | see update at S2.1E | | | | | | See entry for S2.1 |
| S2.1.G | Design and deliver Corporate Governance training for officers to include refreshed governance documents and contract management | | see update at S2.1G | | | | | | See entry for S2.3 |
| S2.3 | Develop a Corporate Asset Management Strategy which is aligned with relevant Council property | | see update at S2.3 | | | | | | |
| I16 | Providence Place The Council should ensure that all future property or land acquisitions and disposals are clearly aligned with relevant Council property related strategies. | | | | | | | | Strategic direction- strategy development and refresh |
| S2.3 | Develop a Corporate Asset Management Strategy which is aligned with relevant Council property | | see update at S2.3 | | | | | | See entry for S2.3 |
| I17 | SEND Transport The Council's senior leadership –both officers and members –must place priority on agreeing the outcome of the SEND Transport procurement exercise to ensure a further contract extension is not required. This should include: •Not losing the significant progress made on the contract specification's focus on service quality. •Greater support, involvement, dialogue and oversight with the officer teams with responsibility for progressing the procurement. •Ensuring the contract provides the Council with effective management and oversight of the personal transport market. | | | | | | | | Proc and commercial- SEND transport decision making- Role and function of scrutiny and audit |

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|--------|--|---------------------------------|---|---|--------------|------------|---|---|---|
| I17.1 | SEND Transport - Plan in place to ensure new contract commences prior to expiry of current arrangements | Director - Children & Education | Contract in place within timescales and incorporating focus on service quality and flexibility of provision to meet needs of children and young people Governance arrangements in place for procurement and implementation of contract | Sep-22 | G | G | RJ update from SM (25.04.22): New procurement exercise in place and will be out to market in Spring in readiness for September. | MJ 27.5.22: New procurement exercise now out to market. Closing date 15 June 2022 for Implementation on 1 September 2022. | procurement and commercial- SEND transport |
| I17.2 | ARAC Chair concludes fact-finding exercise and reports to ARAC | Director - Law & Governance | Completion of fact-finding exercise and formation of recommendations | Feb-22 | Complete | Complete | ST: 16.05.22: Action completed March 2022 | Complete. | complete |
| I17.3 | SEND Transport - Implement recommendations from the Scrutiny review of existing and proposed provision of SEND transport | Scrutiny | Recommendations implemented SEND transport provision improved | Vast majority Recommendations – implemented early 2022. | G | G | RJ update from SM 25.04.22: On track to implement recommendations in line with the procurement timeline (as per update report given to Scrutiny in Feb 2022). | MJ 27.5.22: New procurement exercise now out to market. Closing date is Monday 13 June 2022, for Implementation on 1 September 2022. This falls within the Project Management Board milestones. | procurement and commercial- SEND transport |
| | | Director - Law & Governance | | | | | | | |
| I18 | <p>SEND Transport</p> <p>For the conclusion of the SEND Transport procurement and for all future major procurements, the Council should ensure that:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Record keeping and declarations of interest are undertaken in line with Council policies and procedures. Decision making does not create real or perceived risks in relation to inappropriate procurement decisions. Procurement timescales provide adequate time for both suppliers to submit high quality bids, and the Council to undertake appropriate evaluation, scrutiny and decision making. This timescale should include appropriate time in advance of the procurement for the council to undertake the necessary strategic thinking and planning required, and mitigate the risk of not making an award in the planned timescale | | | | | | | | procurement and commercial- SEND transport |
| S2.1.A | <i>Review of Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules</i> | | | see update at S2.1A | | | | | See entry for S2.1.A# |
| I18.1 | SEND Transport - Appropriate record keeping in place for procurement of SEND Transport contract | Director - Finance | Records of decisions made, and declarations of interest held on file | Contract in place to start September 2022 | G | G | RJ: 25.04.22 As per Feb update - Project Mgmt Board in place. | MJ 27.5.22 - Project Management Board is now in place, this board reviews activity detailed in the Project Management Plan for SEND Transport. | procurement and commercial- SEND transport |
| | | Director - Children & Education | | | | | | | |
| I19 | Sandwell Land and Property | | | | | | | | decision making- constitution and governance framework |
| S2.1.E | <i>Refresh key corporate governance documents including:</i> •Develop template for Corporate Projects which includes Options Appraisals and Business Case | | | see update at S2.1E | | | | | See entry for S2.1 |
| S2.1.G | <i>Design and deliver Corporate Governance training for officers to include refreshed governance documents and contract management</i> | | | see update at S2.1E | | | | | See entry for S2.1 |
| I20 | Sandwell Land and Property | | | | | | | | decision making- constitution and governance framework org culture- officer learning and development |
| I20.1 | Refresh the existing arrangements for arms-length companies: •Identify existing arms-length companies, company directors and company administration, •Conduct review to ensure appropriate resources are allocated to these organisations •Implement annual reporting arrangements. | Director - Law & Governance | All directors/members are trained and attend meetings and are clear of their roles. Annual reporting arrangements in place in relation to each of the companies | Jul-22 | G | G | ST: 16.05.22: All relevant information still being collated ahead of commencement of the review. Review and actions on track for completion by July 2022. | As per last month's update | |
| I20.2 | Incorporate training on company roles and responsibilities in senior officer development plan | Director - Human Resources | All existing company directors have | Mar 22 | | | | | decision making- constitution and governance framework |

Governance Review Improvement Plan

Reporting Period: 13 May - 7 June 2022

To be reviewed and updated for monthly monitoring

| Ref | Action | Responsible Lead | Measure of Success | Delivery Date | April Status | May Status | April 2022 update | New Update (May 2022) (initial and update) | Improvement Plan Theme Transferred to |
|----------------------|---|---------------------------------------|---|--|--------------|--------------------|---|--|---|
| I20.2 | Incorporate training on company roles and responsibilities in senior officer development plan | Director - Business Strategy & Change | received appropriate training on their roles | Mar-22 | | | | NC 8/6/22: Work being undertaken by Legal & Governance to update duties and responsibilities of company directors, to be completed by end of July, propose to realign delivery date so that training takes place following completion of this work | |
| MADE Festival | | | | | | | | | |
| I21 | As part of the planned review of the scheme of delegation the Council should ensure that there is clarity of decision making on hosting events, and that the governance arrangements relating to such decisions are effective and clearly communicated. | | | | | | | | decision making- constitution and governance framework |
| S2.1.C | <i>Review Scheme of Delegation, and include delegated decision making on hosting events</i> | | see update at S2.1C | | | See entry for S2.1 | | | |
| I21.1 | Decision making process and authority to be communicated with event organisers and stakeholders | Director - Borough Economy | Event organisers and stakeholders clear on decision making arrangements Decisions made at appropriate level in a timely manner | Following agreement of Scheme of Delegation Then ongoing | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | complete |
| Waste Service | | | | | | | | | |
| I22 | 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. | | | | | | | | proc and commercial- waste contract corporate oversight- perf management |
| S1.3.A | <i>Refocused and strengthened contract management meetings in line with contract requirements</i> | | see update at S1.3A | | | See entry for S1.3 | | | |
| I22.1 | Waste and Recycling Recovery Plan – completion and implementation | Director - Borough Economy | Approved by Waste Management Board Regular monitoring and reporting on progress to WMB Performance re: •Complaints •Enquiries to contact centre •Fly tipping clearance | Jun-22 | G | Complete | Updated by AD on 28/04/2022 Reporting remains in development phase across all tiers, with Waste Board in May to receive revised reporting and revised agenda. | Waste Board received revised reporting 31/05/22. Action now complete. | Procurement and commercial |
| I22.2 | Street Cleansing Recovery Plan – completion and implementation | Director - Borough Economy | Approved by Waste Management Board Regular monitoring and reporting on progress to WMB Performance re: •Complaints •Enquiries to contact centre •Fly tipping clearance | Jun-22 | G | G | Updated by AD on 28/04/2022 Street cleansing recovery plan comments provided by SMBC to Serco awaiting final version for adoption. | AD 31/05/22 awaiting final version and new equipment order | Procurement and commercial |
| I22.3 | Include key contract performance measures in Corporate Performance Management Framework, as well as Performance re: •Complaints •Enquiries to contact centre •Fly tipping clearance | Director - Borough Economy | Regular monitoring and reporting of progress | Jun-22 | G | G | Updated by AD on 28/04/2022 Joint approach to the adoption of contract monitoring software to support the requirements for a joint data portal is now in development. First software demonstration complete 27/04/22, investigation of Council's procurement software contract monitoring module in progress. Potential ICT pilot in discussion phase. | AD 31/05/22 Leadership report in draft for 08/06/22 to use Intend procurement system contract management module. Approach agreed with Serco | Corporate Oversight |

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To be reviewed and updated for monthly monitoring

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| Ref | Action | Responsible Lead | Measure of Success | Delivery Date | April Status | May Status | April 2022 update | New Update (May 2022) (initial and update) | Improvement Plan Theme Transferred to |
|----------|--|----------------------------|--|--|--------------|------------|--|--|---|
| 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 | Improved performance in street cleansing standards Increased monitoring of the Waste & Street Cleansing Contract Reduced missed collections for waste and recycling Future Scrutiny review to confirm improvements embedded | 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 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | complete |
| I23 | Waste Service 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. | | | | | | | | proc and commercial- waste contract |
| S1.3.A | Refocused and strengthened contract management meetings in line with contract requirements | | see update at S1.3A | | | | | | |
| S1.3.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 | | see update at S1.3B | | | | | | See entry for S1.3 |
| S1.3.C | Introduction of a more focused framework for contract monitoring | | see update at S1.3C | | | | | | |
| I24 | Waste Service The Council should ensure that the investments specified in the contract with Serco are made, such as a new vehicle fleet. | | | | | | | | Procurement and Commercial- waste contract |
| S1.3.A | Refocused and strengthened contract management meetings in line with contract requirements | | see update at S1.3A | | | | | | See entry for S1.3 |
| I24.1 | To manage the delayed Serco Fleet replacement programme in line with the requirements of the contract | Director - Borough Economy | The delayed fleet replacement in line with the contractual requirements in terms of provision of vehicles | By the proposed revised date of end January 2022 | G | G | Updated by AD on 28/04/2022 No deliveries for waste fleet due during this period. | AD 31/05/22 No further deliveries due for waste fleet during this period | Procurement and Commercial- waste contract |
| I25 | Lion Farm The Council must ensure that the recent re-engagement with the developer results in agreeing a clear way forward, including an action plan and timescale so there is clarity on the responsibilities for the Council and developer in order to progress the finalisation of the secondary option agreement, or to be clear on the legal process for both parties extricating themselves from the agreement and the associated terms. | | | | | | | | Procurement and Commercial- lion Farm |
| S1.5A-D | Action plan to agree way forward and resolve matter | | see update at S1.5 A-D | | | | | | See entry for S1.5 |
| I26 | Lion Farm The Council must ensure that it has taken all necessary steps to ensure that arrangements are in place so that all the serious governance issues identified in the external report are appropriately mitigated and managed. | | | | | | | | Procurement and Commercial- lion Farm |
| S1.5.A-D | Action plan to agree way forward and resolve matter | | see update ay S1.5 A-D | | | | | | See entry for S1.5 |
| S1.7 | Refresh decision making arrangements | | see update at S1.7 | | | | | | See entry for S1.5 |
| I27 | Lion Farm The Council should review its procurement regulations and consider updating them to include land sales, including options agreements, to ensure that best value can be achieved. | | | | | | | | Decision Making - Constitution and Governance Framework |
| S2.1.A | Review of Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules | | see update at S2.1A | | | | | | See entry for S2.1 |
| S1.2.F | Review the Sale of Land and Buildings Protocol in the Council's Constitution | | see update at S1.2F | | | | | | See entry for S1.2 |
| I28 | Introduction of new ERP system The Council must prioritise corporate effort to: •ensure that temporary support is agreed with Oracle for EBS continuity. •have an honest and frank discussion with Inoapps and urgently agree a clear resolution on the way forward. •review governance arrangements so that good practice (such as Managing Successful Programmes) is in place and embedded, including clarity on the SRO role and approach to risk management. •review the resourcing and scope of the implementation to ensure that it is realistic, given current circumstances, focuses on outcomes as well as costs, and there is organisation wide engagement and ownership of the programme. •confirm a realistic and achievable go live date. •ensure for future major projects a full business case is developed and approved. | | | | | | | | Corporate oversight- ERP Corporate oversight- Programme and project management |
| S1.4.A-D | Actions options for moving forward and project management arrangements | | see update ay S1.4 A-D | | | | | | See entry for S1.4 |
| S2.1.D | Corporate approach to Project Management, including requirement of full business cases for major projects | | see update at S1.2D | | | | | | See entry for S2.1 |

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| Ref | Action | Responsible Lead | Measure of Success | Delivery Date | April Status | May Status | April 2022 update | New Update (May 2022) (initial and update) | Improvement Plan Theme Transferred to | |
|--------|---|---|---|--|--------------|------------|--|--|--|--------------------|
| S2.1.E | Develop template for Corporate Projects which includes Options Appraisals and Business Case | | | see update at S2.1E | | | | | | See entry for S2.1 |
| I28.1 | Agreement with Oracle to extend all necessary EBS support | Director - Business Strategy & Change Director - Finance Director - Human Resources | Agreement in place to provide EBS support to cover period of implementation of Oracle Fusion | End December | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | complete | |
| I29 | Chief Officers The Council should ensure that at the very least, appropriate internal and external advice is sought should the departure of a chief officer by mutual consent is agreed. | | | | | | | | | |
| I29.1 | Induction training (within the Member Development Programme) for Leader and Cabinet Members on appropriate processes relating to the employment of Chief Officers, and in particular Statutory Officers | Director - Law & Governance Director - Human Resources | Appropriate processes followed in the event of a departure of a chief officer by mutual consent | Updated programme developed - July 2022 Implementation from August 2022 | G | G | ST: 16.05.22: Member Development Plan to include training on this area to develop the capability in readiness for the lifting of the statutory notice. | As per last month's update | org culture- member learning and development | |
| I30 | Senior Leadership Critical to this sustainable change will be the appointment of the right permanent Chief Executive, and the Council must ensure an effective recruitment process, including maximising the chances of attracting a pool of appropriate candidates. Should the appointment of a permanent Chief Executive not be successful the Council should seek to retain the current interim Chief Executive and move this to a full-time contract. | | | | | | | | | |
| K5.1 | Conduct robust recruitment process for permanent Chief Executive designed to attract the best candidates | | see update at K5.1 | | | | | | See entry for K5.1 | |
| I31 | Complaints The Council's senior leadership –both officer and member –must act to change the culture and organisational ethos in relation to complaints, and to restore balance and proportionality. | | | | | | | | | |
| S3.2 | Member Development Programme | | see updates at S3.2 | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 | |
| I32 | Standards Committee Member training and development programme must play a key role in ensuring members fully understand the expectations and standards relating to their role | | | | | | | | | |
| S3.2 | Member Development Programme | | see updates at S3.2 | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 | |
| I33 | Standards Committee Meetings between senior officers, political group leaders and chief whips should take place to ensure that these stakeholders are able to discuss emerging issues and trends, recognise good behaviours and discuss how to manage behaviours not in line with the Code | | | | | | | | | |
| I33.1 | Emerging issues to be part of formal dialogue within regular 1-1s with key members (group leaders and chief whips, and other relevant members) | Chief Executive Director - Law & Governance | Compliance with Member Code of Conduct Appropriateness of complaints raised | May-22 | G | G | ST 16.05.22: See response to s3.6 above. Meetings with other key members such as Chief Whips etc to be progressed – timetable of meetings with Agendas being worked up. | As per last month's update | org culture- officer and member relationships | |
| I34 | Audit Committee Now that the Audit and Risk Assurance Committee has agreed the actions to bring this long-standing matter to resolution, it will be important that –as the Audit and Governance Panel recognised -the Council manages its position so that the matter does not resurface, so that it can move on and focus on its corporate objectives. | | | | | | | | | |
| S3.2 | Member development programme | | see updates at S3.2 | | | | | | See entry for S3.2 | |
| I34.1 | Work with the Chair of ARAC through Audit Committee Agenda meetings to manage the position | Chief Executive Director - Law & Governance | Should matter arise in future, it is dealt with quickly | Feb-22 | G | G | ST 16.05.22: ongoing | Ongoing | decision making- role and function of scrutiny and audit | |

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Reporting Period: 13 May - 7 June 2022

To be reviewed and updated for monthly monitoring

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| Ref | Action | Responsible Lead | Measure of Success | Delivery Date | April Status | May Status | April 2022 update | New Update (May 2022) (initial and update) | Improvement Plan Theme Transferred to |
|-------|--|--------------------|--|---------------|--------------|------------|--|--|---|
| | | | | | | | | | |
| I35 | Financial Reporting Management should ensure that the AFR action plan sets out actions and completion dates in relation to all recommendations. It should also identify where the new ERP system implementation and the planned asset management system could cause delays or impacts on planned actions | | | | | | | | Corporate Oversight-Improvement Planning, Monitoring and Learning |
| I35.1 | Review AFR Action Plan and ensure it addresses all recommendations, includes named leads, timescales and analysis of the impact of ERP System implementation and Asset Management System | Director - Finance | Robust action plan in place, with interdependencies identified, in readiness for budget process 2022/23 External Audit satisfied that action plan addresses all recommendations | Mar-22 | G | G | On track and specific recommendations covered elsewhere (e.g. Oracle Fusion and Financial Reporting) 9.5.22 MM | As April update 06/06/22 SH | |
| I36 | Financial Reporting Management should ensure that the changes in relation to budget setting and budget management recently introduced are sustained and take steps to manage any weaknesses not yet addressed. | | | | | | | | Corporate oversight- Performance management |
| K4.3 | Develop and implement an improvement plan to address recommendations from CIPFA's Financial Management Review | | see update at K4.3 | | | | | | See entry for K4.3 |
| I1.1 | Continue with 'Star Chamber' sessions for budget setting | | see update at I1.1 | | | | | | See entry for I1.1 |
| I36.1 | Regular budget monitoring reporting to Leadership Team and Cabinet, embedded within corporate performance management framework | Director - Finance | Regular monitoring and reporting of progress | Mar-22 | Complete | Complete | Completed. 9.5.22 MM. | Completed. 9.5.22 MM. | Corporate oversight- Performance management |
| I37 | Financial Reporting Management should ensure the Finance team has appropriate skills and capacity to manage the Council's financial reporting responsibilities. | | | | | | | | Corporate oversight- Organisational Structure and Enabling Corporate Core |
| I37.1 | Comprehensive specialist technical training for whole of Finance Team | Director - Finance | Training delivered Minimal errors in 2021/22 Accounts as reported in the AFR | Mar-22 | Complete | Complete | complete | complete | |

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Authority to procure Accommodation based support services for victims of domestic abuse |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health – Cllr Suzanne Hartwell |
| Directors: | Director of Borough Economy Alice Davey Director of Adult Social Care Rashpal Bishop |
| Key Decision: | Yes Value of new contract exceeds £250k |
| Contact Officer: | Operations Manager Complex Commissioning Justin Haywood Justin_Haywood@sandwell.gov.uk Commissioner, Craig Stevens Craig_Stevens@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given to the Director of Adult Social Care to enter into a procurement exercise to procure new accommodation-based support services for victims of domestic violence and abuse, for a contract and services commencing 1 February 2023 and for a maximum period of 5 years with a budget of £470k per annum and £2.35m across the contract term.
- 1.2 That approval be given to the Director of Borough Economy to award the contract given that the budget funding for this contract will sit with Borough Economy.
- 1.3 That approval be given to make an exemption to rule 8.7 of the Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018/19 to allow a contract






to be awarded to a successful tenderer in the event that the required minimum number of tenders are not received.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The current contract for Accommodation based support for victims of domestic abuse expires 31 January 2023 which provides 34 units of safe accommodation and support to victims of domestic abuse and their families
- 2.2 An independent assessment of provision in Sandwell was recently undertaken as part of the Council's responsibilities under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. This found that provision in Sandwell was not only sufficient to meet local demand but also provided a good customer journey and very positive outcomes for people experiencing Domestic Violence and Abuse. This report also pointed to the service supporting effective and timely move on to safe and appropriate alternative accommodation.
- 2.3 The report did suggest a few areas where support could be further enhanced which we are building into the new contract and we are looking to bring together a smaller contract for additional refuge provision into the new main contract from February 2023.
- 2.4 Given the very specialist nature of the service historically there have been very few providers in the market and the Council has no evidence to suggest that this will be any different for this procurement exercise. Therefore, in the likely event that fewer than the required number of tenders are received an exemption to rule 8.7 of Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 is sought to allow a contract to be awarded to the successful tenderer.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Best start in life for children and young people -</p> <p>The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children as victims of domestic abuse. The service outlined in this report will provide specialist support in safe accommodation to victims and their children who have experienced domestic abuse</p> |
|  | <p>People live well and age well -</p> <p>The service outlined in this report include provision of specialist support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation.</p> |
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>The service provision outlined in this report will include support to vulnerable victims and their families in safe accommodation and help them to cope and recover from domestic abuse.</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The requirement for Local Authorities to provide Safe Spaces to victims of domestic abuse became a Statutory Duty in April 2021 with the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021.
- 4.2 An Independent Local Needs Assessment into Safe Spaces was a requirement of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 together with the award of New Burdens Funding to ensure Local Authorities could continue to commission services which meet the needs identified.
- 4.3 The local needs assessment for Sandwell was carried out externally by Linxs Consultancy on behalf of the Council which consisted of data analysis, review of clients accommodated, consultation with stakeholders who refer into service, 1-1 interviews with victims and consultation with the public.



4.4 The findings showed:

- 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 level of risk or complexity of presenting needs.
- Sufficient units were currently being commissioned to meet demand.
- The first available void policy had been successful, with Sandwell residents now more likely to receive safe accommodation within the Borough.

4.5 The report identified a number of recommendations for additional activity to be built into the accommodation specification further enhance the any newly commissioned provision these include:

- 4 additional units and complex worker
- Family Support Worker and Empowerment and Engagement Coordinator
- Resettlement worker

4.6 The contract for the new provision from February 2023 will be funded through New Burdens Money. A report regarding the planned spend for the New Burdens Money was presented and approved at Cabinet on 23 March 2022 including the services/costs referenced in this report. See attachment 1 - Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024 and allocation of New Burdens funding for 2022-2024.

5. Financial Implications

5.1 The new contract is expected to have a budget in the region of £470k per annum which will be funded by New Burdens funding:

| Services and Interventions | Budget Per Annum |
|--|------------------|
| Provision of refuge accommodation | £305k |
| 4 additional places in refuge accommodation, including Refuge Complex Needs Worker | £60k |
| Family Support Worker and Empowerment & Engagement Co-Ordinator posts to support | £70k |



| | |
|--|------|
| victims in specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation | |
| Floating support/resettlement support for victims' transition from refuge to community | £35k |
| Total | 470k |

- 5.2 The contract will be for a maximum period of 5 years with a total budget in the region of £2.35m over the contract term.
- 5.3 As the specification is still being developed there may be elements of support that need to be added or removed from the specification therefore the final budget may fluctuate accordingly.

6 Alternative Options

- 6.1 Do nothing

The current contract expires 31 January 2023 with no option to extend and as the service is required to allow the Council to meet its statutory duty under the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 there is no option other than to procure the service.

7 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resources: | Services identified in this report and that will be included within the new specification will be funded through New Burdens money which came with the introduction of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 which has already been presented and agreed at Cabinet 23 March 2022 |
| Legal and Governance: | <p>The Budget allocated is in the region of £470k per annum, for a five-year contract would make the value £2.35m therefore a full above threshold procurement will be required under the Light Touch Regime, implementing a competitive tender process.</p> <p>As a result, the contract will be procured and awarded in accordance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015 and the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.</p> |



| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| | In view of the value of the contract, Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules states that a minimum of three tender submissions would be required. In the event that the required minimum number of tenders are not received, an exemption to Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules would need to be secured to waive the requirement to obtain a minimum of three tender submissions and to proceed with the award of the contract to a successful tenderer. |
| Risk: | There is a risk of receiving a very small number of bids, however, the current provider has indicated they will be submitting a bid. |
| Equality: | An equality impact assessment has been carried out regarding the authority to procure this service and an in-depth assessment was carried out as part of the needs assessment |
| Health and Wellbeing: | The service provision outlined in this report will include support to vulnerable victims and their families in safe accommodation and help them to cope and recover from domestic abuse. |
| Social Value | Social Value forms part of the tender process with a % of the quality score being attributed to this |

8. Appendices

Appendix A - Cabinet Report – 23 March 2022 – Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024
Appendix B – Equality Impact Assessment

8. Background Papers

Domestic Abuse Act 2021
Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment for Sandwell(Confidential)
Sandwell Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24



Report to Cabinet

23 March 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-2024 and allocation of New Burdens funding for 2022-2024 |
| Cabinet Member: | Councillor Bob Piper Cabinet Member for Community Safety |
| Director: | Alice Davey Director of Borough Economy |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Maryrose Lappin Domestic Abuse Team Manager maryrose_lappin@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the 2021-24 Domestic Abuse Strategy as set out in Appendix 1 be approved.
- 1.2 That approval be given to carry forward the projected underspend of £150,000 Domestic Abuse New Burdens Funding for 2021-22 as a reserve and that it be used to partly fund the interventions in 2022-23 (£62,500) and 2023-24 (£87,500).
- 1.3 That approval be given to allocate New Burdens funding outlined in Table 1 below of £907,042 in 2022-23 and £932,042 in 2023-24 to support the delivery of the strategy, ensuring that Sandwell fully complies with the new statutory duty for the delivery of specialist support to domestic abuse victims and children in safe accommodation, subject to the confirmation of the funding allocation for 2023-24 from central government.



| Table 1. Services and Interventions | 2022-23 proposed allocation (Total funding available, including c/f of £62,500 from 2021-22: £907,042) | 2023-24 proposed allocation (Total funding available, including c/f of £87,500 from 2021-22: £932,042) |
|--|--|--|
| Existing Services and Interventions: | | |
| Provision of refuge accommodation | £305K | £305K |
| Community-based support for victims of Domestic Abuse | £236K | £236K |
| 4 additional places in refuge accommodation, including Refuge Complex Needs Worker | £60K | £60k |
| Family Support Worker and Empowerment & Engagement Co-Ordinator posts to support victims in specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation | £70K | £70K |
| Co-Ordinator within SMBC Domestic Abuse Team to support implementation and programme management of NBF programme and Domestic Abuse plan | £60K | £60K |
| New Interventions | | |
| Sanctuary Scheme – specialist support to victims referred for sanctuary provision | £17,872 | £17,872 |
| Floating support/resettlement support for victims' transition from refuge to community | £35,000 | £35,000 |
| Psychologically-informed therapeutic interventions for adults and children in safe accommodation | £120,440 | £120,440 |
| DA needs assessment / strategy update required under Domestic Abuse Act 2021 | 0 | £25,000 |
| Contingency | £2,730 | £2,730 |
| Total | £907,042 | £932,042 |

1.4 That approval is given to award grant funding totalling up to £223,609 (£205,737 in 2022-23 and £17,872 in 2023-24) to Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA) as detailed in Table 2 below from New Burdens funding for a range of interventions which will assist in delivering the Domestic Abuse Strategy and the statutory duty for domestic abuse.



| TABLE 2. Proposed grants to be awarded to Black Country Women's Aid | Grant Period | Total Grant |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Family Support Worker and Empowerment & Engagement Co-Ordinator posts to support victims in specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation | 10 months funding 1/04/22 - 31/1/23 | £58,333 |
| Sanctuary Scheme – specialist support to victims referred for sanctuary provision | 24 months 1/04/22 – 31/03/24 | £35,744 (£17,872 pa) |
| Floating support/resettlement support for victims' transition from refuge to community | 10 months funding 1/04/22 - 31/1/23 | £29,166 |
| Psychologically-informed therapeutic interventions for adults and children in safe accommodation | 10 months funding 1/04/22 - 31/1/23 | £100,366 |
| TOTAL | | £223,609 |

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 In March 2021, Statutory Officers Group were briefed on the new statutory duty for the provision of specialist support for victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation from April 2021. This duty is part of the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 and requires that a safe accommodation needs assessment is undertaken which informs a safe accommodation strategy.
- 2.2 Linxs Consultancy were commissioned to undertake a domestic abuse needs assessment and develop a new domestic abuse strategy for Sandwell. Work on the needs assessment and strategy development has been overseen by a multi-agency task and finish group which reports to the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership (DASP), the statutory board responsible for domestic abuse.
- 2.3 The first phase of this work focussed on the production of a safe accommodation needs assessment which informed the safe accommodation strategy 2021-24 to comply with the timescales required by the new statutory duty. The domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy 2021-24 was approved by Cabinet in December 2021 and



published on the SMBC website by 5 January 2022 to comply with statutory requirements to publish a domestic abuse safe accommodation strategy by that date. There is no specific statutory requirement or timescale for the production of the wider Strategy, but the latter now also incorporates the safe accommodation strategy which Cabinet has already approved. The period of the wider strategy is 2021-24 to reflect the period of the safe accommodation strategy.

- 2.4 The Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24 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.
- 2.5 Based on the analysis of the needs assessment, the Strategy indicates that we will focus our activity on the following three themes:
- Early intervention and enhanced survivor and whole family support;
 - Joint working and partnership focus;
 - Safe accommodation.

The strategy outlines a number of commitments outlining how these themes will be addressed.

- 2.6 In March 2021, Statutory Officers Group approved the use of New Burdens funding in 2021-22 to support delivery of the statutory duty.
- 2.7 Sandwell's New Burdens grant funding of £841,812 for 2021-22 was 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.
- 2.8 The grant was distributed to Local Authorities for the period from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and Government has indicated that this funding will be in place for at least a three-year period, at similar levels to the 2021-22 allocation. They have indicated that funding after that period may be allocated as part of the main grant to local authorities. In February 2022, SMBC was notified that the Sandwell allocation for 2022-23 will be £844,142.



- 2.9 A Memorandum of Understanding from the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG – now called the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities (DLUHC) was signed on behalf of the Local Authority by the Interim Director of Adult Social Care and returned in March 2021.
- 2.10 Final [Statutory guidance](#) on the new duty for local authorities was issued by DLUHC on 1 October 2021. This requires that all support in safe accommodation provided under the new duty should be delivered by knowledgeable and/or experienced specialist providers, charities, and other voluntary organisations whose purpose is to provide support to victims of domestic abuse. Those specialist providers should also meet the DLUHC Quality Standards. 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.
- 2.11 Table 1 below outlines the proposed investment plan for 2022-23 and 2023-24 from New Burdens funding. With the proposed reserve of £150K underspend from 2021-22 to be utilised across 2022-24, there is a total of £907,042 allocations proposed in 2022-23 and £932,042 in 2023-24.
- 2.12 The proposed programme of investment includes allocation of New Burdens Funding to: -
- the provision of refuge accommodation and community-based support for victims of domestic abuse that is currently funded by the council and will therefore support the financial savings to be achieved by the budget strategy.
 - Interventions that commenced in 2021-22 funded by the first year of New Burdens funding
 - New interventions as identified by the domestic abuse needs assessment

The proposed allocations are provided in table 1 below.

- 2.13 Any programme variations that arise will be managed to support the objectives of the New Burdens Funding and in accordance with delegations under the Constitution and Standing Financial Instructions.



| Table 1. Services and Interventions | 2022-23 proposed allocation (Total funding available, including c/f of £62,500 from 2021-22: £907,042) | 2023-24 proposed allocation (Total funding available, including c/f of £87,500 from 2021-22: £932,042) |
|--|--|--|
| Existing Services and Interventions: | | |
| Provision of refuge accommodation | £305K | £305K |
| Community-based support for victims of Domestic Abuse | £236K | £236K |
| 4 additional places in refuge accommodation, including Refuge Complex Needs Worker | £60K | £60k |
| Family Support Worker and Empowerment & Engagement Co-Ordinator posts to support victims in specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation | £70K | £70K |
| Co-Ordinator within SMBC Domestic Abuse Team to support implementation and programme management of NBF programme and Domestic Abuse plan | £60K | £60K |
| New Interventions | | |
| Sanctuary Scheme – specialist support to victims referred for sanctuary provision | £17,872 | £17,872 |
| Floating support/resettlement support for victims' transition from refuge to community | £35,000 | £35,000 |
| Psychologically-informed therapeutic interventions for adults and children in safe accommodation | £120,440 | £120,440 |
| DA needs assessment / strategy update required under Domestic Abuse Act 2021 | 0 | £25,000 |
| Contingency | £2,730 | £2,730 |
| Total | £907,042 | £932,042 |



2.13 Adult Social Care commissions the specialist support in domestic abuse refuge accommodation in Sandwell and will commission support for the 4 additional refuge places and a complex needs worker. A procurement process will be undertaken in 2022-23 to identify the provider of specialist domestic abuse refuge accommodation and support provision



from February 2023. In line with the timescale for the procurement of refuge provision in the borough, it is proposed that the grants outlined in Table 2 below are awarded to Black Country Women’s Aid to deliver support to victims of domestic abuse as identified by the needs assessment. (These proposals are included within the overall investment plan in Table 1).

| TABLE 2. Proposed grants to be awarded to Black Country Women’s Aid | Grant Period | Total Grant |
|--|-------------------------------------|-------------------------|
| Family Support Worker and Empowerment & Engagement Co-Ordinator posts to support victims in specialist domestic abuse safe accommodation | 10 months funding 1/04/22 - 31/1/23 | £58,333 |
| Sanctuary Scheme – specialist support to victims referred for sanctuary provision | 24 months 1/04/22 – 31/03/24 | £35,744 (£17,872 pa) |
| Floating support/resettlement support for victims’ transition from refuge to community | 10 months funding 1/04/22 - 31/1/23 | £29,166 |
| Psychologically-informed therapeutic interventions for adults and children in safe accommodation | 10 months funding 1/04/22 - 31/1/23 | £100,366 |
| TOTAL | | £223,609 |

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Best start in life for children and young people - The Domestic Abuse Act 2021 recognises children as victims of domestic abuse. The Domestic Abuse Strategy outlines work to support children and families experiencing domestic abuse. The proposed funding allocations outlined in the report will provide specialist support in safe accommodation to children who have experienced domestic abuse. |
|  | People live well and age well - The Domestic Abuse Strategy outlines work to support all victims of domestic abuse. The proposed funding allocations outlined in the report will include provision of specialist support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation. |





Strong resilient communities – The provision outlined in this report will include support to vulnerable victims and their families in safe accommodation and help them to cope and recover from domestic abuse.

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 and their children in safe accommodation from April 2021. This duty requires that a safe accommodation needs assessment is undertaken which informs a safe accommodation strategy. Work has been completed on a domestic abuse assessment which has informed the Domestic Abuse Strategy 2021-24 in Appendix 1. The domestic abuse safe accommodation element of this strategy was approved by Cabinet in December 2021 and published by 5 January in compliance with the statutory duty. Approval and adoption by SMBC Cabinet is now sought on the wider draft Domestic Abuse Strategy. 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. Members of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership have agreed the Strategy and it is due for formal approval at the DASP meeting on 11 March.
- 4.2 Central government has awarded New Burdens funding to local authorities to support the delivery of the new statutory duty. In March 2021, Statutory Officers Group approved the use of New Burdens funding in 2021-22. The proposals outlined in this report to Cabinet proposes allocations for 2022-23 and 2023-24 to support the implementation of the strategy and the safe accommodation statutory duty.
- 4.3 Sandwell's New Burdens grant funding of £841,812 for 2021-22 was allocated 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.



- 4.4 The grant was distributed to Local Authorities for the period from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and Government has indicated that this funding will be in place for at least a three-year period, at a similar level to 2021-22. They have indicated that funding after that period may be allocated as part of the main grant to local authorities. In February 2022, SMBC was notified that the Sandwell allocation for 2022-23 will be £844,142.
- 4.5 A Memorandum of Understanding from MHCLG was signed on behalf of the Local Authority by the Interim Director of Adult Social Care and returned in March 2021.
- 4.6 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. This requires that all support in safe accommodation provided under the new duty should be delivered by knowledgeable and/or experienced specialist providers, charities, and other voluntary organisations whose purpose is to provide support to victims of domestic abuse. Those specialist providers should also meet the DLUHC Quality Standards.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Members of the Domestic Abuse Strategic Partnership have agreed the Strategy and it is due for formal approval at the DASP meeting on 11 March. The proposals for the use of New Burdens funding will support the delivery of that strategy and enable the commitments outlined in the strategy for safe accommodation to be delivered.
- 5.2 Black Country Women's Aid is the commissioned specialist provider of domestic abuse support services in Sandwell. They have secured the tender for the current domestic abuse refuge contract through competitive tendering. SMBC Adult Services have indicated they intend to re-tender the main domestic abuse refuge contract during 2022 and this will be subject to a separate Cabinet report.
- 5.3 As BWCA are the provider of specialist refuge accommodation in Sandwell grant, they are best placed to support the additional activity through grant funding.



6. Implications

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Resources: | <p>In March 2021, Statutory Officers Group approved the use of New Burdens funding in 2021-22 to support delivery of the statutory duty for domestic abuse.</p> <p>Sandwell's New Burdens grant funding of £841,812 for 2021-22 was 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>The grant was distributed to Local Authorities for the period from 01 April 2021 to 31 March 2022 and Government has indicated that this funding will be in place for at least a three-year period at a similar level to the 2021-22 allocation. They have indicated that funding after that period may be allocated as part of the main grant to local authorities. In February 2022, SMBC was notified that the Sandwell allocation for 2022-23 will be £844,142. Proposals within this report are therefore based on the 2022-23 level of New Burdens funding allocation to Sandwell of £844,142.</p> <p>The proposed investments in Table 1 can be fully funded in 2022-23 and 2023-24 using the expected grant and the resources requested to be carried forward from the 2021-22 underspend.</p> <p>A Memorandum of Understanding from MHCLG was signed on behalf of the Local Authority by the Interim Director of Adult Social Care and returned in March 2021.</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. This requires that all support in safe</p> |
|-------------------|---|



| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| | <p>accommodation provided under the new duty should be delivered by knowledgeable and/or experienced specialist providers, charities, and other voluntary organisations whose purpose is to provide support to victims of domestic abuse. Those specialist providers should also meet the DLUHC Quality Standards.</p> <p>SMBC currently commissions Black Country Women's Aid (BCWA) to provide both refuge support and specialist community-based support to victims of domestic abuse via existing grant agreements and a contract arrangement. BCWA meets the required DLUHC Quality Standards.</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>The recommendations of the report are in line with the Council's Third Sector Funding Strategy. The intended services will be delivered in the context of the following legal and policy considerations. The recommendations outlined in this report will enable SMBC to deliver the statutory duty outlined in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 to provide specialist support to victims of domestic abuse and their children in safe accommodation.</p> <p>The Government has developed a new statutory definition of domestic abuse in the Domestic Abuse Act 2021. The Act also outlines statutory expectations on local authorities for the provision of specialist support to victims and children in safe accommodation. 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. This requires that all support in safe accommodation provided under the new duty should be delivered by knowledgeable and/or experienced specialist providers, charities, and other voluntary organisations whose purpose is to provide support to victims of domestic abuse. Those specialist providers should also meet the DLUHC Quality Standards.</p> |



The Government's Violence Against Women & Girls (VAWG) National Statement of Expectations was issued in 2016 and has been re-emphasised in the 2021 Domestic Abuse Act. This sets out what local areas need to put in place to ensure their response to VAWG issues is as collaborative, robust and effective as it can be so that all victims and survivors can get the help they need. The Government expects to see local strategies and services that:

- Put the victim at the centre of service delivery
- Have a clear focus on perpetrators to keep victims safe
- Take a strategic, system-wide approach to commissioning, acknowledging the gendered nature of VAWG
- Raise local awareness of the issues and involve, engage and empower communities to seek, design and deliver solutions to prevent VAWG.

The statutory power to provide grant funding is contained in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011 (general power of competence). Grant funding is not subject to the requirements for competition under the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.

The Council is under a legal obligation to ensure that the proposed grant funding to Black Country Women's Aid complies with subsidy control regulations (previously known as European State Aid rules). A Legal view has been obtained which advises that the EU State aid rules now only apply in limited circumstances, which do not include the Grant. The new rules are contained in the UK-EU Trade and Cooperation Agreement (TCA), which require public authorities to consider on a case-by-case basis whether financial support could fall within the definition of "*subsidy*" and if so whether it would comply with six key principles.

Support may be considered lawful if it satisfies the principles and does not fall within a prohibited category, for example, unlimited guarantees.



| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| | <p>Unlawful subsidy can be challenged in the courts by way of judicial review, and for this reason the decision-making process around granting subsidy is particularly important.</p> <p>The legal advice states that there are good grounds for concluding that the Grant will not fall within the definition of subsidy on the basis that it will not meet Condition 4 (i.e. it will not impact on trade and investment between the UK and EU). SMBC has obtained further evidence to strengthen such a conclusion.</p> |
| Risk: | <p>A risk register has been developed which addresses the potential risks associated with the decisions being sought. There are no risks identified that are significant once mitigating actions have been implemented. No red risks have been identified.</p> <p>This will be regularly reviewed, updated and reported to DASP or appropriate sub-group to ensure that risks are effectively managed.</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 domestic abuse strategy and the objectives of the provision supported through the proposed funding allocations 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 domestic abuse strategy outlines commitments to provide specialist support for victims of domestic abuse and their families. 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.</p> |



| | |
|--|--|
| | Black Country Women's Aid are a well-established third sector organisation whose roots are in Sandwell. They employ local people and also lever additional resources from charitable and other sources to provide support to vulnerable victims and children in Sandwell and add value to the SMBC investment. |
|--|--|

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - Domestic abuse strategy 2021-2024.

8. 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.



Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: January 2019

| | |
|---|---|
| Title of proposal <i>(include forward plan reference if available)</i> | Authority or procure Accommodation based support services for victims of domestic abuse |
| Directorate and Service Area | Adult Social Care and Borough Economy |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Craig Stevens - Commissioner |
| Contact Details | Craig_Stevens@Sandwell.gov.uk |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | Operations Manager Complex Commissioning Justin Haywood |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | |
| Date EIA completed | 8 June 2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | |
| 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)

That approval be given to the Director of Adult Social Care to enter a procurement exercise to procure new accommodation-based support services for victims of domestic violence and abuse, for a contract and services commencing 1 February 2023 and for a maximum period of 5 years with a budget of £470k per annum and £2.35m across the contract term.

That approval be given to the Director of Borough Economy to award the contract given that the budget and ongoing contract monitoring responsibility will sit with Borough Economy.

That the Cabinet authorise an exemption to rule 8.7 of the Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018/19 to allow a contract to be awarded to a successful tenderer in the event that the required minimum number of tenders are not received.

2. Evidence used/considered

A local needs assessment for Sandwell was carried out externally by Linxs Consultancy on behalf of the Council which consisted of data analysis, review of clients accommodated, consultation with stakeholders who refer into service, 1-1 interviews with victims and consultation with the public

For the accommodation-based support services the findings showed:

- the existing safe accommodation system in Sandwell is highly effective.
- The range of accommodation types and levels of support provided mean that survivors are routinely accepted regardless of level of risk or complexity of presenting needs.
- Sufficient units are currently being commissioned to meet demand.
- The first available void policy has been successful, with Sandwell residents now more likely to receive safe accommodation within the Borough

Their findings have identified a number of recommendations for additional activity to be built into the accommodation specification further enhance any newly commissioned provision

3. Consultation

Meetings and discussions with the current service provider and stakeholders who are part of the Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment & Strategy Development T&F Group

The Domestic Abuse Needs Assessment included consultation with internal/external stakeholders, the provider, service users and members of the public

The current contract for Accommodation based support is monitored closely through regular meetings, monitoring of outcomes delivered and satisfaction surveys with service users.

4. Assess likely impact

The current contract for Accommodation based support for victims of domestic abuse expires on 31 January 2023 with no option to extend

A procurement exercise is needed to have a continued provision for accommodation-based support for victims of domestic abuse from 1 February 2023.

The Domestic Abuse needs assessment has reviewed the current provision and has found the existing service to be very effective and recommends it be recommissioned.

The needs assessment has also recommended additional activity be built into this contract to further enhance the provision and the support service users accommodated receive.

Due to the new service being an enhanced provision of what we have currently the impact will be positive

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | ✓ | | | There are currently 2 posts funded seperatly for a Family Support Worker and Empowerment and Engagement Coordinator who specifically work with children and families which will be incorporated in the new specification to enhance the provision |
| Disability | ✓ | | | There is currently a dedicated post and 4 units of accommodation funded seperatly for victims with additional complex needs which will be incorporated in the new specification to enhance the provision |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| Gender reassignment | | | ✓ | There is no impact |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | ✓ | There is no impact |
| Pregnancy and maternity | ✓ | | | There are currently 2 posts funded seperatly for a Family Support Worker and Empowerment and Engagement Coordinator who specifically work with children and families which will be incorporated in the new specification to enhance the provision |
| Race | | | ✓ | There is no impact |
| Religion or belief | | | ✓ | There is no impact |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| Sex | | | ✓ | The provision offers options for male and female victims already and will continue to do so |
| Sexual orientation | | | ✓ | There is no impact |
| Other | | | | |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

7. Monitoring arrangements

Monthly mobilisation meetings with the successful provider in November, December and January
Monitoring of the new contract through outcome workbooks, contract meetings and satisfaction surveys

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Provision of accommodation-based housing related support for adults at risk of becoming homeless contracts |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member Adults, Social Care and Health Cllr Suzanne Hartwell |
| Director: | Director of Adult Social Care Rashpal Bishop |
| Key Decision: | Yes Aggregated value of the 4 contracts exceeds £250k |
| Contact Officer: | Operations Manager Complex Commissioning Justin Haywood Justin_Haywood@sandwell.gov.uk Commissioner, Craig Stevens Craig_Stevens@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given for an exemption to be made to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and to authorise the Director of Adult Social Care to directly award four separate short-term contracts for accommodation-based housing related support for adults at risk of becoming homeless for a period of 9 months (2 November 2022 to 1 August 2023) for a combined value of £632.8k.



| Contract | Provider | Service area | 9 Month Contract Value | Contract End Date |
|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Midland Heart | Generic Adults | £172.1k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 2 | Trident | Generic Adults | £157.5k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 3 | Green Square Accord | Generic Adults | £109.4k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 4 | P3 | Safe place to stay and assess | £193.8k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| Total | | | £632.8k* | |

*Please note VAT does not apply as all four organisations are Charites

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 Summary

2.2 This report is seeking the approval for an exemption to Council Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to directly award four separate short-term contracts, under the Light Touch Regime (LTR) for Accommodation based housing related support for single homeless for a 9-month period from 2 November 2022 to 1 August 2023 as detailed in the table below

| Contract | Provider | Service area | 9 Month Contract Value | Contract End Date |
|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1 | Midland Heart | Generic Adults | £172.1k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 2 | Trident | Generic Adults | £157.5k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 3 | Green Square Accord | Generic Adults | £109.4k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 4 | P3 | Safe place to stay and assess | £193.8k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| Total | | | £632.8k* | |

*Please note VAT does not apply as all four organisations are Charites



- 2.3 The purpose of this request to Cabinet is to facilitate the alignment of all current Supported Housing services to a common expiry date being 31 July 2023 to allow retendering of a Supported Housing framework.
- 2.4 Aligning the end dates for these six contracts will allow them to be reviewed collectively for the first time to allow any potential cost/efficiency savings to be identified and built into a new single remodelled and formally procured service from August 2023.

2.5 Background

- 2.6 There are currently six contracted services for accommodation-based housing related support for people at risk of becoming homeless which sit within Adult Social Care, these services may also be known as Supported Housing Services. These contracts are:

| Contract | Provider | Service area | Annual Value | End date |
|----------|---------------------|-------------------------------|--------------|--------------|
| 1 | Midland Heart | Generic Adults | £229.5k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 2 | Trident | Generic Adults | £209.8k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 3 | Green Square Accord | Generic Adults | £145.8k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 4 | P3 | Safe place to stay and assess | £258.4k | 1 Nov 2022 |
| 5 | Sharp | Teenage Parents | £171.9k | 31 July 2023 |
| 6 | CHADD | Young Families | £39.611k | 31 July 2023 |

- 2.7 Historically services have been reviewed, remodelled and recommissioned individually and in clusters of 2 – 4 which have delivered service improvements/savings.
- 2.8 These six services have never been reviewed together previously and doing so will allow cost/efficiency savings to be identified and built into a new single remodelled service from August 2023.
- 2.9 To enable these six services to be reviewed and remodelled collectively the end dates of the contracts need to be aligned allowing the services in the new single model to be commissioned together








2.10

2.11 In order to align the six contract end dates to 31 July 2023 there are four contracts which expire 1 November 2022 with no option to extend that require new contracts for a period of 9 months for a continuation of existing services.

2.12 This paper seeks approval for an exemption to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to directly award four new contracts to the current service providers for a continuation of existing services to allow the review of these together with the other Supported Housing services.

2.13 This review will be carried out in partnership with Housing Solutions and Sandwell Children's Trust.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | Best start in life for children and young people Services do accommodate young adults at risk of becoming homeless over the age of 18 |
|  | People live well and age well The Services offer support to individuals who are at risk of becoming homeless supporting them to develop skills and tackle barriers they have to move to a sustainable tenancy |
|  | Strong resilient communities The services are a homeless prevention offer and support individuals to develop skills and overcome barriers |
|  | Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods The services offer temporary accommodation and support people to find a permanent tenancy which they are able to sustain |
|  | A strong and inclusive economy Services support individuals to develop skills to help them with future employment |

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Procurement Implications

4.2 Corporate Procurement have been consulted and support the proposals contained within this report.



- 4.3 Whilst it has been confirmed that this approach is consistent with the Council's Procurement & Contract Procedure Rules there is always a potential risk that another provider could challenge the decision on the basis that they would want the opportunity to provide the contract or contracts being awarded.
- 4.4 Given that in the past, interest from the market in delivering these services has been extremely low and that no provider is likely to want to bid for a 9 month contract, requiring them to set up a supported housing service, find suitable units of available accommodation, transfer clients from the existing provider for 9 months after which there would be another procurement process to put the Supported Housing contracts on a long term footing the risk of any challenge is extremely low.
- 4.5 The impact of that challenge would be similarly low as drawing up these proposals, officers have sought advice from both Corporate Procurement and Legal services to ensure that the approach proposed is in line with the Council's Procurement & Contract Procedure Rules.

4.6 Legal Implications

- 4.7 Legal Services have been consulted and support the proposals outlined in this report.
- 4.8 Although these are four mutually separate contracts with four separate providers, when aggregated the four contracts do exceed £250k and therefore it was decided necessary to seek Cabinet approval should these be preserved as a combined exemption.
- 4.9 Legal Services have been consulted and they have indicated that as the total value of this procurement (£632.8k) is below the relevant threshold for Light Touch (£663,540), it is not caught by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, save for the need to advertise the award of the contract on the Government's Contracts Finder portal. The Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-2019 would also need to be adhered to. An exemption to Rule 8.7 of the Council's



Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules would need to be secured to waive the requirement to obtain a minimum of three tenders.

4.10 Financial Implications

4.11 The funding for the exemption recommended in this report will come from the current Supporting People programme budget which sits within Adult Social Care.

4.11 There are no additional financial pressures to the Council due to the request or approval of this Exemption request.

4.12 There are no inflationary increases planned for these 9 month contracts

4.13 Risk

4.14 **Risk that one of the four existing providers decides not to take up the offer of a Direct Award**

4.15 If this were to happen the Council would first look to the other 3 providers to provide additional units of accommodation to meet the gap. Failing that, referrals to that provider would cease and the provider would be asked to focus on supporting their existing clients to find permanent tenancies up to the end of their current contract November 2022. The Council would then run with reduced capacity through to August 2023.

4.16 Anyone not able to be placed in Supported Housing service during this period would be referred to Housing's Homelessness pathway.

4.17 The current providers have been consulted and have indicated they are willing to sign the contracts.

4.18 Risk of poor performance by one or more of the providers

4.19 The current contracts have been running for 4 years with no breaches of contract to any of the four providers



4.20 Contracts are monitored through outcome workbooks, quarterly contract meetings and satisfaction surveys with service users

5 Alternative Options

5.1 **Option 1** – To extend the current contracts rather than directly award new ones.

5.2 This is not an option as the current contracts are for a set period with an end date of 1 November 2022 with no option to extend further, therefore, new contracts are for a continuation of service.

5.3 **Option 2** – To conduct a procurement exercise for the 4 short term contracts.

5.4 The services come with significant set up costs regarding the provision of the accommodation, therefore, it would not be financially viable for a new provider to deliver the service for 9 months only to go through another procurement exercise to commission a holistic framework for supported housing a few months later. This would have a significant impact on council procurement and contracting resource as well as demonstrate very poor value for money for the Council.

6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resources: | The funding will come from the existing Supporting People programme budget held by Adult Social Care |
| Legal and Governance: | Legal have been consulted and support the recommendations outlined in this report |
| Risk: | Risks have been reviewed and mitigations commented upon earlier in this report |
| Equality: | Equality impact assessment has been completed and found to have no differential impacts to those from or with protected characteristics |
| Health and Wellbeing: | If approved the continuation of existing services will ensure no changes to the current provision. |
| Social Value | The exemption allow for a continuation of services while the review and remodel is completed. |



7 Appendices

Appendix A – Equality Impact Assessment
Appendix B – Risk Register PRIVATE

8 Background Documents

None



Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: January 2019

| | |
|--|--|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | Exemption in accordance with Procurement and Contract rules for the Provision of accommodation-based housing related support for adults at risk of becoming homeless contracts |
| Directorate and Service Area | Adult Social Care |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | |
| Contact Details | Rashpal Bishop |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | Justin Haywood - Commissioning Operational Manager Craig Stevens - Commissioner |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | |
| Date EIA completed | 8 June 2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | |
| 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 seeking the approval to directly award four separate short-term contracts, under the Light Touch Regime (LTR) for Accommodation based housing related support for single homeless for a 9-month period from 2 November 2022 to 1 August 2023.

This is a continuation of existing services which are commissioned by Adult Social Care and will align the contract end dates with two other Accommodation based housing related support contracts

Aligning the end dates for these six contracts will allow them to be reviewed collectively for the first time to allow any potential cost/efficiency savings to be identified and built into a new single remodelled service from August 2023.

2. Evidence used/considered

Meetings and discussions with current service providers
Meetings and discussions with Partner Directorates

3. Consultation

Meetings and discussions with current service providers
Meetings and discussions with Partner Directorates

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

The exemption will award four contracts to the four existing providers for a continued service for 9 months, therefore there should be no impact to the services providers, staff and current clients as there will be no change in provider and service.

The investment in services remains the same therefore will have no impact on budget.

Authorising the exemption to align these contracts with the other 2 accommodation-based support contracts to allow for a wider review and remodel should improve services from August 2023

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |
| Disability | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Gender reassignment | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |
| Race | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |
| Religion or belief | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Sex | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |
| Sexual orientation | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |
| Other | | | ✓ | The exemption will allow for a continuation of existing services for 9 months, therefore, will have no impact. |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

Document is Restricted

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Award of Minor Adaptation/ Handyperson Service 2023-2026 |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care & Health Councillor Suzanne Hartwell |
| Director: | Director of Adult Social Care Rashpal Bishop |
| Key Decision: | Yes to result in the Council incurring expenditure, the making of savings or the generation of income amounting to - £250,000 or more where the service area budget exceeds £10m |
| Contact Officer: | Operations Manager – Independent Living Team Charlotte Leadbeater-Chase charlotte_leadbeater@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations



- 1.1 That the Director of Adult Social Care in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care & Health, be authorised to award the contract for the supply of Minor Adaptations and Handypersons Service 2023-2026 following the conclusion of the current procurement exercise.
- 1.2 To authorise the Director – Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer to enter into any legal agreements to enable the course of action referred to in 1.1 above to proceed.
- 1.3 That any necessary exemption be made to the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the course of action referred to in 1.1 above to proceed.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The current contract framework is due to end on 31 December 2022.
- 2.2 It is necessary to request delegated Director authority to award this contract upon completion of tender evaluation at the end of September 2022. This will ensure that mandatory standstill requirements are observed, and sufficient time is available to comply with any potential TUPE requirements. Furthermore, it will allow for an appropriate mobilisation period to be implemented.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>People live well and age well</p> <p>The provision of these services provides support to disabled residents to enable them to remain living independently in their own homes. Adaptations and improvements to people's homes can reduce the number of home accidents and reduce the number of avoidable hospital admissions and re-admissions.</p> |
|  | <p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <p>Adapting existing houses to meet the needs of residents allows them to remain living independently for longer. The objectives of the corporate plan have been considered in the formulation of the specifications for this framework.</p> <p>The provision of these services provides vital adaptations and improvements to people's homes which enable them to maintain their independence in their communities.</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Contract arrangements to deliver the Minor Adaptation / Handyperson service expires on 31 December 2022.
- 4.2 The Council is seeking to appoint a suitably qualified, competent and experienced contractor to manage and deliver this service/works for the period of three and a half years.



4.2.1 A contract length of three and a half years is recommended, as the current contract expiry date (31 December) falls during a busy period for the provision of adaptations to support hospital discharges. With the benefit of hindsight, it is not desirable to continue to manage a possible provider change during the winter period, hence the proposal that the next contract should fall to be renewed in the summer months.

4.3 The estimated value (excluding VAT) for the Minor Adaptation and Handyperson service will be £450,000 per annum.

4.4 Funds to support these services and works are delivered from the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocated to the Council.

4.5 **A Minor Adaptation** is defined as any alteration to a residential property costing less than £1,000. This service includes the supply and installation of grab rails, hand rails, stair and second stair rails, steps and half steps, key safe installations, newel rails, over bath showers, drop arm rails and small ramps.

4.6 Residents must live in privately owned or non-council rented housing within the Sandwell Borough and have been assessed as eligible by an Approved Requisitioner¹ to apply. Minor Adaptations are provided without charge to the resident. Access to the service and the specification of the works are determined by the Council based on the resident's presenting needs.

4.7 **The Handyperson service** responds directly to residents who are aged 60 plus or are in receipt of Disability related benefits. It provides residents with labour and material costs to undertake minor improvements and repairs; fitting door chains, fitting spy holes, installing draught proofing measures, leaking taps and hanging shelves.

4.8 Residents must live in privately owned or non-council rented housing within Sandwell Borough to be eligible.
For council tenants, the handypersons service is offered on a reduced basis to cover small improvements not already offered by the social landlord. The Handyperson service is provided without charge.

4.9 The handyperson service also includes a hospital discharge pathway for all adults aged 18+. This service provides practical support i.e. for the movement of furniture/beds to prepare for the person to return home.



Residents must be in hospital and need practical support to return home to be eligible for support. This service is provided without charge.

- 4.10 The contract will be sent out to competition on the basis of a selection criteria set at 60% for price and 40% for quality.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 No alternate options have been considered as this contract is required under the SMBC Policy for the Provision of Assistance (Regulatory Reform Order (Housing Assistance) (England & Wales) Order 2012.

Additionally, under the Care Act 2014, a local authority must provide or arrange for the provision of services, facilities or resources, or take other steps, which it considers will;

- (a) contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by adults in its area of needs for care and support;
- (b) contribute towards preventing or delaying the development by carers in its area of needs for support.

- 5.2 Due to the forthcoming expiration of the Minor Adaptation and Handyperson service contract in December a procurement exercise is required to continue the provision of such service and works.
- 5.3 The most economically advantageous solution is to conduct a tender process in compliance with the Public Contracts Regulations 2015. The cost of employing SMBC staff, alongside costs for supplies and services, would exceed the budget for this service.

6 Implications

| | |
|-------------------|---|
| Resources: | <p>The Council has sufficient budgetary provision for the delivery of all aspects of the Minor Adaptation / Handyperson Service identified in this report. The estimated annual £350,000.00 spend for Minor Adaptations is generated through the Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) allocated to the Council.</p> <p>The Disabled Facilities Grant (DFG) is an allocation to the Council to fund the provision of adaptations to</p> |
|-------------------|---|



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | <p>disabled residents' homes that are privately owned or non-council rented housing.</p> <p>The estimated annual £100,000 spend for the Handypersons Service is generated through Public Health funds allocated to the Council.</p> |
| Legal and Governance: | <p>The Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules will be rigidly applied to this tender. Following approval, all contracts will be awarded in accordance with the council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</p> <p>The sharing of any relevant data for the delivery of this contract will follow the General Data Protection Regulations. A Data Protection Impact Assessment has been completed.</p> <p>The Council is under a duty under the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970 and the Children Act 1989 (in respect of children) and the Care Act 2014 (in respect of adults who may be in need of care and support) to provide support where it has assessed that such support is needed, this includes practical assistance in the home and adaptations to the home.</p> |
| Risk: | <p>The corporate risk management strategy has been complied with to identify and assess the risks associated with the decisions being sought. This has concluded that there are no significant risks to report. Where risks have been identified, suitable measures are / will be in place to ensure that risks are mitigated to an acceptable level.</p> |
| Equality: | <p>An Equality Impact Screening Assessment has been completed and found there to be no adverse impacts. A positive impact is noted as the enhanced service specification allows all residents to have universal access to these services.</p> <p>The contract will be monitored to ensure compliance.</p> |
| Health and Wellbeing: | <p>There are no crime and disorder issues relating to the consideration of this report.</p> |



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| | <p>The investment of housing adaptations and improvements significantly improves the quality of life of disabled people by preventing avoidable accidents such as falls that may result in potential hospital admissions and the prevention of social care and support that may results in potential residential placement.</p> <p>The investment also has the added value of improving the quality of life for carers and other family members.</p> |
| Social Value | <p>Social Value commitments have been built into the tender evaluation criteria to ensure the successful contractor(s) complies with nationally recognised standards and contributes to the Council's Vision 2030 ambitions.</p> |

7. Appendices

None.

8. Background Papers

None.

Definitions

1. Approved Requisitioner

A health or social care employee with the appropriate experience, training or knowledge to identify and order minor adaptations i.e. Occupational Therapist, Physiotherapist, District Nurse, Social Worker



Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Request to procure an adult weight management service using the public health budget |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care & Health Councillor Suzanne Hartwell |
| Director: | Director of Public Health Lisa McNally |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Ricky Byrnes- Communities and Partnerships manager- ricky_byrnes@sandwell.gov.uk Anna Blennerhassett – Consultant in Public Health anna_blennerhassett@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Cabinet consider and approve the proposal to re-commission the Tier 2 Weight Management Service for Adults, taking into account the change in funding source and revised timeline.
- 1.2 That the Director of Public Health be authorised, in consultation with the Chief Finance Officer, to procure a two plus one-year behavioural (tier 2) weight management service for adults using the public health budget.
- 1.3 To approve the revised timeline details from a service start date in July 2022 to a start date in early 2023 for a period of two years with the option to extend up to a further year until 2026 at a cost of £200,000 per year, so a £600,000 overall budget will be required (which includes the optional one-year extension period) for the service to include a multi-component programme addressing dietary intake, physical activity, and behaviour change for adults who are overweight or living with obesity with the primary aim of promoting



health behaviour change, increased physical activity and improved self-esteem.

- 1.4 That the Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into and execute, under seal as may be required, any contracts or ancillary documentation in relation to the award of contract referred to in recommendation 1.1 above.
- 1.5 That the Cabinet authorise an exemption to rule 8.7 of the Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018/19 to allow a contract to be awarded to a successful tenderer in the event that the required minimum number of tenders are not received.
- 1.6 That Cabinet also approve Variations to the Contract up to a maximum of 10% of the Contract value, should they be necessitated, and that authority to approve such Variations be delegated to the appropriate Director of Public Health in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Living Healthy Lives.
- 1.7 That the Director of Public Health be authorised to look at options to extend current provision of the Tier2 Adult Weight Management service using available underspend from the current grant funding and/or Public Health grant with Everyone Health.
- 1.8 That in connection with 1.7 above, subject to the recommendation above being explored and an extension is allowed as per the framework agreement and Public Contract Regulations, the Director of Public Health and Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer be authorised to enter into an extension agreement with the current provider Everyone Health.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

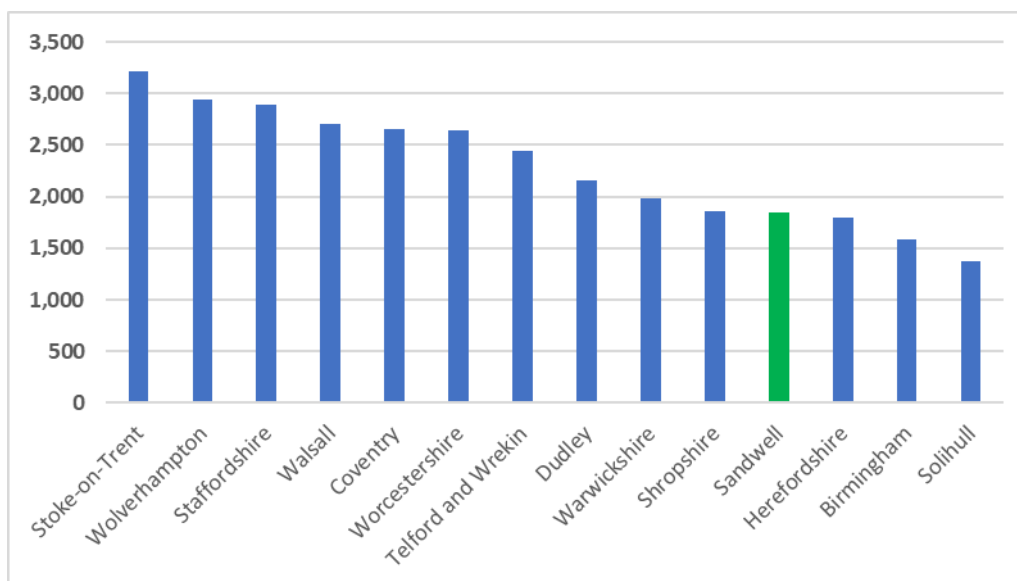
- 2.1 Obesity causes problems at both an individual and societal level, in that it is a significant driver of ill health and demand on health services. The extent to which obesity is a challenge for any given area can be gaged in the routine data on hospital admissions in which obesity is judged by the clinician to be a primary or secondary factor in the patient's ill health.

In Sandwell last year the rate of hospital admissions with obesity as a factor was 1842 per 100k population (see Table One below). This



equates to over 5585 individual admissions. The rate in Sandwell is below average. However, without continued local investment rates could rise, leading to further, significant impact on both individuals and healthcare resources.

Table One: Rate of admissions with obesity as a factor (NHS Digital 2020)





2.2 The public health team would like to take the opportunity to use the public health budget to expand on previous short-term funding provided by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities (OHID) in 2021-22.

In May 2022, unfortunately the public health team were notified that the OHID funding would not be continued. In order to continue what has been a successful programme, we would like to commission a service that will continue to improve levels of physical activity, healthy eating and support people to adopt healthier behaviours.

2.3 The change in funding source has resulted in extra work for the team and that is the rationale behind the revised timeline. The public health team would like to give enough time to build on the learning from the existing service to design a high quality service.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>This programme is likely to impact positively on children’s levels of physical activity and healthy eating as parents adopt and encourage healthier behaviours within the home.</p> |
|  | <p>People live well and age well in Sandwell</p> <p>The behavioural (tier 2) adult weight management service is defined as multi component programmes addressing diet, physical activity and behaviour change.</p> <p>This programme will increase levels of physical activity, improve healthy eating and behaviour change. This programme recognises the benefits from exercising at the right level and maintaining healthy weight on health and wellbeing, reducing the risk of disease and illness and improving mental health; and improving physical and psychological quality of life for individuals, families and communities.</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 On the 26th March 2021, OHID published information about the adult weight management services grant for local authorities. This is funding to support local authorities to commission weight management services in 2021 to 2022. ([Adult weight management services grant 2021/ 2022 - GOV.UK](https://www.gov.uk/government/news/adult-weight-management-services-grant-2021-2022))

4.2 OHID have provided funding to local authorities to commission adult weight management services for active delivery up until the end of June 2022. The current adult weight management service contract ends on the 30th September 2022 to ensure that the 26 weeks follow up of service completers can take place. The current provider will stop active delivery of the service at the end of June 2022 but will continue to follow-up to collect data from participants until the end of September 2022.

4.3 On 7th February 2022 OHID sent a letter to The Director of Public Health (DPH) to state that funding would be made available to continue adult weight management services. However, in May 2022 OHID stated in a meeting with local authority commissioners that the funding was no longer available.



4.4 The early data provided for the current adult weight management service indicates that there was a latent demand and unmet need. This is showing through referral numbers coming through to the current service (200 referrals have been made in the first month).

4.5 The procurement of a longer service will ensure that local demand and need is addressed, and residents continue to receive support with adopting healthier behaviours which will improve levels of physical activity, diet and levels of self-esteem.

4.6 Consultation

The Director of Public Health briefed the Cabinet Member for Adults, Social care and Health on 8th March 2022, and this paper initially went to Cabinet on 13th April 2022. For July 2022 Cabinet, the Cabinet Member for Living and Ageing Well will be briefed both on 14 June 2022 and 21 June 2022.

We also consulted with the adult social care health and wellbeing commissioning support unit on the timescales of procuring a service of this value.

4.7 Sustainability

Public Health are committed to funding this programme over a longer period, which will include a contract for a minimum of two years with an option to extend for a further year. We will also work with the local community voluntary sector to capacity build and upskill during the period of delivery of this programme to ensure they are able to support residents utilising local grants such as Vision 2030 community grants.

4.8 Timescales

The current adult weight management service active delivery is due to end on the 30th June 2022. Between 1st July 2022 and 30th September 2022, the existing provider will continue to follow-up to collect data from participants until the end of September 2022 detailed in section 4.2.



- 4.9 Pending Cabinet approval, the new Tier 2 adult weight management service will be commissioned in early 2023. In the time between the end of the current service delivery and the start of the new service, residents in Sandwell will be offered several other options to aid weight management. This will include Weigh2Go, Weight Watchers and the community Healthy Lifestyle offer. When the new service starts residents, who have expressed interest will be contacted to refer them in.
- 4.10 Public Health would like to make a further recommendation to look at options to extend current provision of the Tier2 Adult Weight Management service using available underspend from the current grant funding and/or Public Health grant. We are seeking authorisation for Public Health to explore the option of extending the current Everyone Health contract to potentially cover any gap in this service whilst a procurement as per the above recommendation is undertaken and contract entered. Subject to the recommendation above being explored and an extension is allowed as per the framework agreement and Public Contracts Regulations 2015 as well as internal procurement rules and the Director of Public Health and Director of Legal be authorised to enter into an extension agreement with the current provider Everyone Health.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 We do not commission a future adult weight management service. This will have implications for people locally that could widen health inequalities.

6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Resources: | Funding has been identified through the public health budget to cover the overall costs of the service (£200,000 per year). |
| Legal and Governance: | Local authorities' statutory responsibilities for public health services are set out in the Health and Social Care Act 2012 Local authority public health teams have, since 1 April 2013, been responsible for improving the health of their local population and for public health services. |



| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| | <p>Services should be commissioned based on evidence of need using the key indicators set out in the Public Health Outcomes Framework.</p> <p>Due to the total value of the contract (namely £600,000, which includes the optional extension period of one year), it constitutes a below threshold procurement under the Light Touch regime. As a result, the procurement process would not be caught by the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</p> <p>However, the contract will be procured and awarded in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>In view of the value of the contract, Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules states that a minimum of three tender submissions would be required. In the event that the required minimum number of tenders are not received, an exemption to Rule 8.7 of the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules would need to be secured to waive the requirement to obtain a minimum of three tender submissions and to proceed with the award of the contract to a successful tenderer.</p> <p>Should variations to the contract up to a maximum of 10% of the contract value be necessitated, an appropriate assessment would need to be undertaken to ensure compliance with relevant procurement rules, including the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <p>Risks to health of residents: The highest risk relates to doing nothing – which is likely to lead to adverse impact on the long-term health of residents.</p> |
| <p>Equality:</p> | <p>Evidence suggest that certain social groups experience greater barriers to accessing weight management services. These include families from</p> |



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | certain minority ethnic groups, low socio-economic communities and those living with intellectual and/or physical disabilities. The service specification will outline the need to engage marginalised groups in Sandwell to ensure the service is accessible and equitable. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | This service will support interventions that are designed to improve health outcomes for adults in Sandwell by encouraging regular physical activity, healthy eating and general wellbeing. |
| Social Value | The service specification will include criteria based on social value. Any provider will need to evidence how their service will meet the principles of social value. |

7. Appendices

Appendix A: EIA Adult Weight Management Service

Appendix B: PRIVATE - OHID grant letter February 2022

8. Background Papers

Decisions of Cabinet held April 2022



Decisions of Cabinet - 13 April 20



Cabinet Report - Adult weight manag



Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: May 2022

| | |
|--|--|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | Request to procure an adult weight management service |
| Directorate and Service Area | Public health |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Ricky Byrnes Communities and Partnerships Manager |
| Contact Details | Ricky_byrnes@sandwell.gov.uk |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | Anna Blennerhassett Consultant Public Health |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | N/A |
| Date EIA completed | 14/05/2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | Lisa McNally- Director of public health |
| 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)**

That cabinet approval be given to procure a two plus one-year behavioural (tier 2) weight management service for adults using either the public health budget, or external funding provided by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities.

2. Evidence used/considered

Obesity increases the risk of developing a whole host of diseases, such as type 2 diabetes and certain types of cancers. Societal changes associated with the pandemic may have increased the risk of weight gain and made it more difficult for people to access weight management services. Sandwell residents are also now more inactive than they were before the pandemic with just over 40% of adults doing less than 30 minutes of physical activity per week.

Sandwell's prevalence of overweight and obese adults is significantly higher than the England and West Midlands average, with 76.7% of our adult population being classified as overweight or obese in 19/20.

3. Consultation

Cabinet Member – Living Healthy Lives has been briefed on the intention to procure an adult weight management programme.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

Upscaling weight management services is part of a whole systems approach to addressing the issue of obesity and promoting a healthier weight.

This service will encourage and support people living with overweight or obesity to make positive changes and ultimately improve health outcomes. This will reduce the likelihood of residents developing preventable diseases such as type 2 diabetes.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | ✓ | | | The programme will have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of adults of all ages in Sandwell. This will be achieved by increasing levels of physical activity, reducing excess weight and improving self-esteem and social connectedness. |
| Disability | ✓ | | | The programme be accessible to all and the appointed service provider will be expected to ensure sessions are inclusive. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|--|
| Gender reassignment | | | √ | People of gender reassignment will be able to access the programme, but they won't be targeted. |
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | √ | This doesn't relate to the programme. |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | √ | This doesn't relate to the programme. |
| Race | √ | | | The provider will be expected to make the service accessible and equitable and will be required to engage people from more marginalised ethnic communities. |
| Religion or belief | | | | This doesn't relate to the programme. |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| Sex | √ | | | The service will be available to all genders. |
| Sexual orientation | √ | | | The provider will be expected to engage with people who have the highest rates of physical inactivity. According to a national study, people who identify as gay or lesbian have the lowest inactivity rates (21.5%). |
| Other | | | | |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No X

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 3 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-----------------------|--|
| Subject: | Sandwell Museums Accreditation Submission to Arts Council England |
| Cabinet member | Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism Councillor Laura Rollins |
| Lead Director: | Director Borough Economy, Alice Davey |
| Key Decision: | Yes Sets Strategic Direction for Museums |
| Lead Officer: | Service Manager – Tourism, Culture and Leisure, Jane Lillystone Jane.Lillystone@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That approval be given to the Director of Borough Economy to progress a submission from Sandwell Museums service towards potentially achieving full accreditation status – as part of Arts Council England’s (ACE) national Museum Accreditation Scheme.

2 Reasons for Recommendations




- 2.1 Sandwell Museums have been seeking full accreditation status since 2015. During this period, the Museum service has received Provisional Accreditation status across three previous submissions – and awarded a provisional status for a fourth time in March 2020. ACE has advised that a further extension of the provisional status will not be possible (the maximum allowed is normally three).
- 2.2 The current (fourth) Provisional Accreditation status was awarded to enable the Museum service sufficient time to undertake a service review and produce new forward/business plans and associated documents (as these were last reviewed/updated in 2012). The original deadline for



submission was April 2021. However – set against the backdrop of the Covid-19 pandemic this has subsequently been re-extended to 1 August 2022. Please note – this final submission will either result in Sandwell Council achieving full accreditation status or a fail.

2.3 Achieving full Museum Accreditation status supports those involved with a museum/service to deliver high quality services that are open and accessible and help people interact with the collections and protect/conservate them for the future. The Museum Accreditation scheme does this by making sure museums manage their collections properly, engage with visitors/key stakeholders, and are governed appropriately. It also opens-up opportunities for museums such as external funding opportunities and new partnerships – giving reputational confidence to potential donors (collections/funding) and other key supporters.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Best start in life for children and young people -</p> <p>The SMBC Museum and Heritage services seek to engage a broad range of children and young people through the events, collection presentation and educational opportunities offered within the service programmes.</p> |
|  | <p>People live well and age well -</p> <p>The service museums and heritage services seeks to engage across the community both through opportunities to participate and also through opportunities to volunteer within the services.</p> |
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>The service provision outlined in this report will include opportunities for community engagement through sustaining jobs in the sector, offering communities opportunities to participate and engage in events and services alongside opportunities to volunteer.</p> |



4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 In Autumn 2020 *A Strategic Overview Report of Sandwell Museums and Arts Services* was commissioned/undertaken through appointed consultants, Wafer Hadley in discussion with the Museum staff teams and key stakeholders. The review was tasked with the development/proposals for a new set of strategic aims – that sought to increase the Museums and Arts Services contribution to the *Sandwell Plan* (Council corporate aims) and the Council’s long-term ambitions through *Vision 2030*. It also explored (post-COVID) the potential for alternative (operational) delivery models towards future-proofing the services and further built on the work around the launch of the new *Sandwell Cultural Prospectus* from Spring 2020.

4.2 Completed by April 2021 the review has been used as the framework for a refresh of the Museums Forward Plan (from 2022 to 2025). In addition, the Museums Service is currently working on detailed activity plans aligned to, and as part of, the required policy documents for the Accreditation scheme. The approach is centred on a logic model, which ties each piece of museum activity to a specific outcome for Sandwell residents/communities and is summarised across six strategic aims for the Service up to 2025 as outlined below:

1. **Develop a new targeted programme for children, families and young people**
2. **Work with target communities and partners to co-create heritage-based experiences**
3. **Create signature projects in Commonwealth Games hosting, and in place-making**
4. **Improve sustainability of built assets management**
5. **Develop complementary approach for Museums and Libraries in Sandwell**
6. **Develop profile and reputation through external validation and funding**

4.3 It is a requirement of the national Museums Accreditation Scheme that all accredited museums have policies established which regulate their collection activities agreed by their governing body. As part of the submission process, the following required policies/documents for Sandwell have been reviewed/revisted:

- Collections Management Policy – 2021-2026
- Collections Development Policy – 2021-2026
- Collections Rationalisation Policy – 2018-2028
- Access, Learning & Engagement Policy – 2021-2026
- Documentation Plan – 2018-2028
- Forward Plan (new) – 2022-2025



All of the above draft policies and the Forward Plan have been shared with wider Museum staff teams and in addition, collections management documents have been shared with ACE, neighbouring museum services and heritage organisations in the Black Country. The scope of collection activity has been discussed with various Friends' groups. The Museum team have not consulted with local communities about the documents themselves as these policy documents are derived from the extensive consultation carried out with service users through regular surveys which reflect the needs, wants and desires of the Museum's local service users.

- 4.4** There are no strategic resource implications for the submission of an application. Acquisitions are made only when appropriate costs can be met from existing resources and/or external funding sources. Collection Management activity is carried out as a core function of the Museums and Arts Services and Policies, procedures and development plans are in place to manage and develop collections and service within the financial parameters established by the Council's annual budget planning process.
- 4.5** There are no legal or statutory implications. Participation in the Accreditation scheme is voluntary. The long-term commitments made by the Council in relation to the Policies and Procedures for Collection Management are voluntary and can be altered. In addition, the Policies make it clear that museum collections except in a few instances where there are charges placed on the Council because of the acceptance of gifts and/or funding for purchases are owned by Sandwell MBC, and that the Council has voluntarily accepted policies and procedures concerning the use and disposal of items in and from the collections.
- 4.6** Another key purpose of the Policies is to ensure that SMBC can demonstrate legal title to the Museum collections. The Collections Management Policy/Documentation Plan outlines the Council's legal obligations in relation to issues such as human remains and illicitly traded cultural property (including illegally traded archaeological or geological material or the spoliation of artworks). There are no consequences arising from the recommendation that in adversely affect or interfere with individuals' rights and freedoms – as set out in the Human Rights Act 1998.



5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 There are no direct financial implications of the application for accredited status.

6 Alternative Options

- 6.1 Do nothing

The current service is not accredited and there is an option to remain unaccredited. This is not recommended as there are clear benefits to achieving accreditation including the increased ability to raise external funding to support the service and the potential ability to support recruitment of staff and volunteers and to increase learning from other accredited museum services.

7 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resources: | There are no direct resourcing implications in terms of staff or budgets associated with the application for accreditation |
| Legal and Governance: | The scheme is delivered through ACE and supports governance through the requirement for the service to develop policies to support service management and delivery. |
| Risk: | A risk assessment has been carried out to identify and assess the risks associated with the decisions being sought. There is a small risk that remaining without accredited status may affect the recruitment of staff and volunteers and reduce learning and external funding potential. |
| Equality: | An equality impact assessment will be required for the services. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | The service provision supports health and wellbeing outcomes and accreditation has the potential to improve the quality of service delivery. |
| Social Value | Social value is supported through the education and life-long learning that this type of service is able to provide along with the opportunity to volunteer. |



8. Appendices

Appendix A - Museum Accreditation Background Information

9. Background Papers

None



Appendix A

About the Museum Accreditation Scheme – Background Information

Source: Arts Council England <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/supporting-arts-museums-and-libraries/uk-museum-accreditation-scheme>

The Museum Accreditation Scheme is the UK industry standard for museums and galleries

It tells everyone involved with a museum that they are doing the right things to help people to engage with collections and protect them for the future. The Museum Accreditation scheme does this by making sure museums manage their collections properly, engage with visitors, and are governed appropriately.

What is the Museum Accreditation Scheme for?

To encourage all museums and galleries to meet an agreed standard in:

- How they are run.
- How they manage their collections.
- How they engage with their users.
- To build people's confidence in how museums manage collections "*in trust*" for society.
- How they manage public resources – and,
- to reinforce a shared, ethical way of doing things for everyone involved in running a museum.

What is its Reach?

Accreditation covers all types and sizes of museums and galleries and there are currently more than 1700 museums participating in the scheme across the UK.

The scheme works for museums of all sizes: from the smallest volunteer-run museums to national museums.

Why does Accreditation Matter?

Arts Council England manages the scheme, building on 30 years of experience of what works best. This time has really made it clear how much strong museums matter to our country:

- Museums are at the very heart of our cultural identity: they're places for sharing stories, ideas and connections.
- Museum collections are much more than individual objects: they're irreplaceable public assets. They're our heritage, and people trust museums to safeguard them for the next generation.
- Museums shape communities: whether that's by bringing together people with shared interests or providing places and events that draw local communities together
- Museum Accreditation tells everyone involved with a museum that they're doing the right things to run it properly.

At its heart, it answers one simple question: how do you show that your museum is well run?

What Accreditation means to Local Authorities?

Museum Accreditation is the benchmark for a well-run museum. The award:

- helps authorities show that their museums meet their visitors' and users' needs;
- shows their museums are being managed and governed properly;
- can boost museums' reputations, win funding and give confidence to donors and other supporters;
- helps museums manage their collections fairly, ethically and legally;
- gives museums a set of minimum requirements they have to meet, which include accountability and performance management/monitoring progress;
- opens up opportunities for museums, including funding opportunities and new partnerships, and
- helps museums audit their collections and assess risks to them.

Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Exemption from Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules for Post-16 High Needs Education Provision |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Children and Education Councillor Simon Hackett |
| Director: | Michael Jarrett - Director of Children's Services and Education |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Erroll Blackwood, Post 16 Manager erroll_blackwood@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations


- 1.1 That approval be given for an exemption to the council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, to enable the Council to enter into individual contracts with Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) approved institutions and independent specialist institutions named in the approved list under Section 41 of the act.
- 1.2 Authorise this exemption under Contract Procedure Rule 15.8 to enable the course of action referred to in 1.1 above to proceed where 'genuine sole suppliers' for certain goods, service or works where it can be evidenced that there is no benefit in undertaking a procurement exercise', an automatic exemption is given to the following types of contract or activity - Patient or Pupil choice and Sole Suppliers/Providers
- 1.3 That the Director of Children's Services and Education be authorised to procure and award contracts to approved Education and Skills Funding Agency institutions.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 On 9 October 2019 (Minute No. 118/19 refers) Cabinet approved that, for the purposes of satisfying Section 38 (Preparation of an Education, Health and Care Plan by local authorities) of the Children and Families Act 2014, any necessary exemptions to the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules be approved, to enable the Council to enter into individual contracts with Education and Skills Funding Agency approved institutions and independent specialist institutions named in the approved list under Section 41 of the Act, up to a maximum of the level of grant awarded to the Council in any particular academic year.
- 2.2 The current arrangement ends on 8 October 2022, so an exemption is now required from 9 October 2022. This will enable a smooth transition between academic years and consistency of service.
- 2.3 This will allow the Council to make special educational provision to meet the special educational needs (SEN) of the young person; to secure the best possible outcomes for them across education, health and social care, and to prepare them for adulthood, as they grow older.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>The proposals in this report directly support the council's Vision 2030 relating to:</p> <p>Ambition 1 – By 2030, Sandwell will be a borough where families' aspirations are raised and that prides itself on equality of opportunity and resilience to change.</p> <p>Ambition 3 – By 2030, Sandwell's young people will have better skills and working people will have developed new skills, giving Sandwell a workforce geared up to respond to changes in business needs and the economy.</p> <p>Ambition 4 – Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families. By giving children the best start in life through a good quality, well-rounded education which is vital to increasing their life opportunities and social mobility'.</p> |
|---|---|



Post 16 children with Education Health Care (EHC) Plans may need specialist education or training provision to achieve their outcomes and make an effective transition into adulthood. Their EHC plan will allow them to access Post 16 provision, which supports them to build on their achievements at school and which helps them progress towards adulthood.

and contributes to:

- B11 of the Corporate Plan where *we will work with partners to make sure that vulnerable children in our community receive the right support to enable them to thrive and have successful adult lives.*
- B16 of the Corporate Plan where *we will ensure that children and young people with SEND can access high quality local services when they need them, by working with partners to ensure there is a comprehensive local offer available to children and families*
- E19 of the Corporate Plan - *We will work to ensure our young people have access to good jobs and we will work with all education institutions to guide young people to the pathways that enable them to meet their aspirations. We will do this through the provision of independent advice and guidance*

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 From 1 September 2014 major changes to services for young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND) were introduced. The reforms are part of a national programme of support for young people with additional needs set out in the Children and Families Act 2014. They extend the special educational needs system from birth to 25 years and place new legal duties on councils, schools, health services and other agencies to ensure that young people with SEND, and their families, get the support they need.



- 4.2 To address any public procurement issues arising from the commissioning of these services, we will issue contract notice an UK e-notification on the Government's Find a Tender service (FTS). It will state that we procure provision through the Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). It will also state which providers we use, how providers are selected in relation to individual learners and how providers can apply to become an ESFA provider and apply to be included on the section 41 list.
- 4.3 Independent special institutions wishing to apply to be included on the Secretary of State's approved list will find the application form, guidance and supporting information available at GOV.UK. There is also the 'high needs students' market entry process for those institutions wishing to apply to receive an ESFA education and training contract for services to deliver education and training for high needs students.
- 4.4 Sandwell Council will contract with Education and Skills Funding Agency funded institutions which include Further Education Colleges, Sixth Form Colleges, School/Academy Sixth Forms (including free schools) and approved independent specialist institutions named on the Section 41 (Children and Families Act 2014) list. Section 41 allows the Secretary of State, by order, to publish a list of approved independent special institutions (independent special schools – England and Wales and special post-16 institutions) for the purposes of satisfying Section 38 (Preparation of an Education, Health and Care plan by local authorities) of the Act.
- 4.5 In this context at the end of compulsory school age, commissioning and procurement of high-quality post 16 education provision for young people in Sandwell with high needs, is underpinned by the statutory obligations of the SEN Code of Practice (Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014).

The Code makes clear that local authorities, in carrying out their functions under the Act in relation to disabled young people and those with special educational needs, must have regard to:

- the views, wishes and feelings of the young person and their parents/guardians



- the importance of the young person and parents/guardians, in participating as fully as possible in decisions, and being provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions
- the need to support the young person and parents/guardians, to facilitate the development of the young person and to help them achieve the best possible educational and other outcomes, preparing them effectively for adulthood.

These principles are designed to support:

- the participation of young people and parents/guardians in decision-making
- the early identification of young people's needs and early intervention to support them
- greater choice and control for young people and parents/guardians over support
- collaboration between education, health and social care services to provide support
- high quality provision to meet the needs of young people with SEN
- a focus on inclusive practice and removing barriers to learning
- successful preparation for adulthood, including independent living and employment.

4.6 Local authorities must ensure that young people and parents/guardians are involved in discussions and decisions about their individual support and local provision.

4.7 Specifically, local authorities must ensure the young person or parents/guardians are fully included in the EHC needs assessment process from the start, are fully aware of their opportunities to offer views/information and are consulted about the content of the plan.

4.8 It is recognised that there is a tension between the legal framework regarding learner choice and the public procurement rules regarding



competition for the award of contracts following public advertisement. For example, from the age of 16, the law recognises young people have rights to take some decisions for themselves (provided they are capable of doing so).

- 4.9 In the academic year 2022/23 the Council still has a statutory duty (Children and Families Act 2014, section 42) to secure special educational provision and health care provision in accordance with the EHC Plan with Schools and other institutions named in the EHC plan: duty to admit.
- 4.10 Institutions that have successfully completed the Education and Skills Funding Agency due diligence process are required to approach the individual student's home Local Authority (LA) and request that the placement is funded by that LA from their "top up" funding for the academic year.
- 4.11 In the academic year 2021/22 the Council was required to contract with 15 providers for Post-16 High Needs provision for 241 individual learners. The total value of these individual learner contracts was £2.14m with the average cost per learner being £8,900.00.
- 4.12 Of the 241 learners there is already a potential number of 180 learners who are likely to continue their education with their provider of choice in September 2022. The value of the individual contracts for these continuing learner's totals approximately £1.6m*. The average cost per continuing learner being £9,000. *These figures may vary if individual students decide not to continue with their chosen education provision.
- 4.13 In academic year 2022/23, the Council's SEN team will also be working with 117 new learners (Current Year 11) taking the total number of Post 16 learners up to 297. These numbers are indicative only as the number of learners reflects the number of students who are currently working with the SEN team.



4.14 In academic year 2022/23 the Element 3 (top-up) funding is likely to cost the Council in the region of £2.673m* for these 297 learners, with the average cost per learner being £9,000.**

*Moving forward into the academic year 2022/2023 and future years beyond this, the total cost to the council for post 16 funding will only increase year on year as more learners move into post 16 education than leave.

**The approximate value for each learner may change in the academic year 2022/23 and for future years beyond this as costs for each learner are dependent upon their individual need and negotiated accordingly between the SEN Department and each individual provider.

4.15 Student numbers will change during each academic year as Education Health and Care Plans are issued every month (increasing the number of higher needs learners). Students also leave courses to pursue other opportunities.

4.16 Contracts with each provider are for individual learners. Each provider educates multiple learners and the numbers educated by each separate provider changes year on year depending on individual preferences. Individual learner contracts are added together in order that a total sum can be paid to each of the providers contracted with.

4.17 Variations to the individual learner contract arranged with each separate provider will need to be flexible. Individual contracts will vary dependent upon the needs of each individual learner and the number of learners on roll at any one point in time during each academic year. Additionally, a student's individual needs may also change once they have begun their education. It will therefore be necessary for the Director of Children's Services and Education to vary individual contracts within year.

4.18 The Education and Skills Funding Agency issued guidance that stated, *'Where a local authority has agreed a placement, it is not appropriate that a pupil or student should be placed there without a contract'*. If there are problems issuing contracts or receiving timely payments, the Education and Skills Funding Agency will examine cases and consider remedial action where there is clear evidence that a local authority is not meeting the required conditions as detailed above. An exemption to the council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules is therefore



required for each and every academic year to enable contracts to be signed to a maximum value of the provision in any academic year.

- 4.19 Each Education & Health care plan is monitored at student level rather than at provider level to ensure that the young person is making progress and is receiving everything they are entitled to. Individual payments can be stopped if they are not.
- 4.20 Young people who have EHCPs can potentially stay in education up to 25 years of age. The SEN code of practice gives clear and specific guidance on when an EHCP must remain active and when a plan can be closed.
- 4.21 Since 2018 all local authorities are seeing the number of new EHCP requests increase year on year.
- 4.22 In 2021/22 Sandwell has a slightly lower percentage of the whole school cohort with EHCPs when compared to neighbouring boroughs such as Dudley, Walsall and Wolverhampton.

| Percentage of whole school cohort with Education Health and Care Plans | 2019 | 2020 | 2021 |
|--|------|------|------|
| | % | % | % |
| Birmingham-Secondary Statements/EHC | 3.20 | 3.30 | 3.40 |
| Dudley-Secondary Statements/EHC | 3.10 | 3.60 | 4.20 |
| Sandwell-Secondary Statements/EHC | 2.80 | 2.90 | 3.10 |
| Walsall-Secondary Statements/EHC | 2.80 | 2.90 | 3.30 |
| Wolverhampton-Secondary Statements/EHC | 3.00 | 3.10 | 3.50 |
| West Midlands-Secondary Statements/EHC | 3.10 | 3.30 | 3.60 |
| England-Secondary Statements/EHC | 3.10 | 3.30 | 3.70 |

(source DfE – LAIT – April 2022)

However, in 2021 authorities such as Birmingham have a higher number of young people who have an EHCP when compared to Sandwell – see table below.



| Local Authority | Student Numbers |
|-----------------|-----------------|
| Birmingham | 6,821 |
| Dudley | 1,889 |
| Sandwell | 1,866 |
| Walsall | 1,774 |
| Wolverhampton | 1,698 |

(source DfE data: April 2022)

4.23 Although Sandwell has also seen the number of EHCP requests increase month by month based on comparative 2018 statistics, in 2020/21, Sandwell had the highest of proportion of EHCPs completed within 20 weeks compared to neighbouring Local Authorities.

| Percentage of Education Health and Care Plans approved within 20 weeks | 2020/21 |
|--|---------|
| | % |
| Sandwell-EHC - 20 weeks | 69.30 |
| Dudley-EHC - 20 weeks | 24.50 |
| Walsall-EHC - 20 weeks | 19.60 |
| Wolverhampton- EHC - 20 weeks | 24.40 |
| Birmingham – EHC - 20 weeks | 48.40 |

(source DfE – LAIT – April 2022)

5 Alternative Options

5.1 There are specific provisions laid down for the purposes of satisfying Section 38 (Preparation of an Education, Health and Care plan by local authorities) and there are therefore no other options as the proposal in this report follows council procedure for exemption to contract procedure rules.

6 Implications

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|-------------------|--|
| Resources: | High needs funding is provided to local authorities through the high needs block of the dedicated schools grant (DSG). Local authorities must spend that funding in line with the associated conditions of grant, and School and Early Years Finance (England) (No. 2) Regulations 2018. High needs funding is also provided directly to |
|-------------------|--|



| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| | <p>some institutions by the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).</p> <p>Element 3 top up funding is paid from local authorities' high needs budget to meet the individual needs of young people with high needs, over and above the funding provided to institutions through place led funding (element 1 and 2).</p> <p>The educational costs of the support package should be met through Elements 2 and 3. Other costs are met from contributions from health and social services where appropriate.</p> <p>The total cost of funding element 3 will increase from the academic year 2022/2023 onwards as more learners move into post 16 education than leave.</p> <p>It is difficult to estimate the costs for future years as costs for each learner are dependent upon their individual need and negotiated accordingly between the SEN Department and each individual provider.</p> <p>The commissioning local authority (the local authority in which the student is ordinarily resident) agrees top-up funding with the institution directly. (source DfE High Need Operational Guide 2021 – 22)</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>The Department for Education takes the view that an agreement between a local authority and institution to pay top-up funding to meet the costs of support for young people with an education, health and care plan (EHCP) should not be treated as a public service contract for the purposes of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, and therefore that such an agreement does not have to follow the procurement rules prescribed in those regulations.</p> <p>The Public Contracts Regulations 2015 are not intended to cover all expenditure of public funding, reflecting the intention of the EU Directive on public procurement. The public procurement rules only apply to contracts for the provision of public works, services or goods made for</p> |



“pecuniary interest” between an “economic operator” and a contracting authority. Other forms of public funding, such as funding provided through grants, usually fall out of scope. (source High Needs Funding Operational Guide 2021 to 2022).

Case-law from the European Court of Justice has established that public education organised within a national education system does not constitute economic activity, even in cases where tuition fees may be required to support placements. (source High Needs Funding Operational Guide 2021 to 2022).

When a local authority fulfils its statutory duties to make provision specified in an EHC plan funded from their high needs budget, it will be delivering public education organised within a national education system. (source High Needs Funding Operational Guide 2021 to 2022).

Under section 38 of the Children and Families Act 2014, where a local authority is required to secure that an EHC plan is prepared for a young person, it must consult the young person or parents/guardians and give the young person or parents/guardians notice of their right to request the authority to secure a placement at a particular school or other institution, which will include those institutions approved by the Secretary of State under section 41 of that Act.

Under Sections 33 and 39 of the Children and Families Act 2014, The child’s parent or the young person has the right to request a particular school, college or other institution to be named in their EHC plan where they have been approved for this purpose by the Secretary of State.

Section 41 of the Act allows the Secretary of State to publish an approved list of independent educational institutions, independent special schools and special post-16 institutions and widen the scope of institutions that can be specified on an Education Health and Care plan (EHCP).



This process by which an institution applies to be on the Secretary of State's approved list relates only to consideration to be listed and will not automatically entitle the institution to receive funds or a contract from the Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA).

An ESFA contract will be subject to local authorities' commissioning decisions and a separate high needs student market entry process. But, the Council will only contract with ESFA approved institutions and approved Independent specialist institutions named on the section 41 list.

Under Schedule 3 of the Public Contracts Regulations 2015, contracts for educational services should be let by competitive tender in accordance with these Regulations when the life time value of the contract is, or exceeds, EUR 750,000 (approximately £589,000). In addition, where the contracting authority has a requirement for a series of contracts of the same type, the figure should be based on total annual aggregate spend. Whilst it is considered that the rules on aggregation of spend do not apply to contracts in respect of individual learners, a procurement process as outlined in this report would help ensure compliance where the threshold is reached.

Furthermore, procurement of high quality provision for young people with high needs is underpinned by the statutory obligations of the SEN Code of Practice (section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014) which makes clear that local authorities, in carrying out their functions under the Act in relation to disabled young people and those with special educational needs, must have regard to the views, wishes and feelings of the young person and their parents/guardians and it is important for the young person and the parents/guardians to participate as fully as possible in decisions and be provided with the information and support necessary to enable participation in those decisions.

The institution is named in the student's Education and Health Care Plan (EHCP) which is put together/agreed by



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | <p>the SEN Team in full consultation and agreement with the student and the student's parents/guardians. This process covering the EHCP is set out in legislation, and if an institution is named in an EHCP the Council is bound to agree it.</p> |
| Risk: | <p>The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with – to identify and assess the significant risks associated with this decision / project. This includes (but is not limited to) political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputation risks. Based on the information provided, it is the officers' opinion that no significant risks have been identified.</p> <p>For example, a local authority may cease to maintain an EHC plan only if it determines that it is no longer necessary for the plan to be maintained, or if it is no longer responsible for the child or young person. To mitigate that risk, funding will be only be provided on an annual basis and regularly monitored by the SEN team.</p> |
| Equality: | <p>An Equality Impact Assessment screening has been completed. It shows that the recommendations, if implemented, will have a significant positive effect on the lives of young people with high level learning difficulties or disabilities.</p> <p>There will be no adverse impact on people or groups with protected characteristics. The proposal will seek to maintain the current arrangements for Post 16 EHC plans.</p> <p>By ensuring that there are clear robust contracting arrangements in place, contracted provision will meet the required education, health and care needs of those learners, and should enable them to make the best possible progress at all stages of their education and into adult life.</p> <p>A full EIA is not therefore required.</p> |
| Health and Wellbeing: | <p>These proposals, if agreed, contribute towards individuals' wellbeing as they offer them greater opportunities to access education and employment.</p> |



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | It also ensures that children can attend a Post 16 institution from September 2022 that meets their needs as planned. |
| Social Value | <p>This proposal is intended to enable young people to progress fairly to further education, training and employment.</p> <p>Community – Improving life’s by creating aspirational and resilient communities.</p> <p>Wellbeing – Improving the lived experience of children and young people within the communities that they live.</p> <p>Inequalities – Challenging inequalities.</p> <p>Opportunities – Ensuring that Young people have opportunities to develop and maintain friendships and relationships. They can access their community and feel safe and confident.</p> <p>Employment – Developing opportunities for work experience and employment</p> |

7. Appendices

Appendix A – EIA.

8. Background Papers

8.1 [SEN Code of Practice.](#)

8.2 [ESFA High Needs Funding 2021/22 Operational Guide](#)

8.3 Supporting SEND - Supporting SEND - GOV.UK

(<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/supporting-send/supporting-send>)

8.4 SEND Strategy – 2021-24

<https://fis.sandwell.gov.uk/kb5/sandwell/directory/site.page;jsessionid=80B78AA67AF85AAA07BB39E80421CAD0?id=FpFgX9xMeS8>



Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 3: January 2013

| | |
|--|--|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | Exemption from Procurement and Contract Regulations for Post-16 High Needs Education Provision |
| Directorate and Service Area | Education Skills and Employment Directorate – Post-16 Education and Skills |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Erroll Blackwood |
| Contact Details | 0121 569 8480 |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | None |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | None |
| Date EIA completed | 10 May 2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | |
| Date EIA considered by Cabinet Member | |

1. The purpose of the proposal or decision required

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

(Please provide as much information as possible)

To request Cabinet to approve a permanent exemption to the council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules to enable the Council to enter into individual contracts with Education and Skills Funding Agency (ESFA) approved institutions and independent specialist institutions named in the approved list under Section 41 of the Act.

2. Evidence used/considered

- Sections 19/38/41 of the Children and Families Act 2014
- SEND Code of Practice (Section 19 of the Children and Families Act 2014).
- Case-law from the European Court of Justice
- ESFA High Needs Funding 2019/20 Operational Guide
- Equality Act 2010
- The Special Educational Needs and Disability Regulations 2014

3. Consultation

Legal Services
Procurement Services

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | ✓ | | | <p>By ensuring that there are clear robust contracting arrangements in place, contracted provision will meet the required education, health and care needs of learners aged 16-25 with high level learning difficulties or disabilities, and should enable them to make the best possible progress at all stages of their education and into adult life.</p> <p>Approval of the recommendations in the report will have a significant positive effect on the lives of young people.</p> |
| Disability | ✓ | | | <p>By ensuring that there are clear robust contracting arrangements in place, contracted provision will meet the required education, health and care needs of learners aged 16-25 with high level learning difficulties or disabilities, and should enable them to make the best possible progress at all stages of their education and into adult life.</p> |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|---|
| | | | | Approval of the recommendations in the report will have a significant positive effect on the lives of young people. |
| Gender Reassignment | ✓ | | | <p>This will guarantee equal access irrespective of whether they are male or female.</p> <p>Approval of the Cabinet report will have a significant positive effect on the employment prospects of young people</p> |
| Marriage and civil partnership | ✓ | | | <p>Equality of opportunity will be granted for all young people irrespective of whether they are single, divorced, separated, living together or married or in a civil partnership.</p> <p>Approval of the Cabinet report will have a significant positive effect on the employment prospects of young people</p> |
| Pregnancy and maternity | ✓ | | | <p>Equality of opportunity will be granted for all young people irrespective of whether they are pregnant or a young parent.</p> <p>Approval of the Cabinet report will have a significant positive effect on the employment prospects of young people</p> |
| Race | ✓ | | | <p>This initiative will benefit young people regardless of race/religion/sex/sexual orientation.</p> <p>Approval of the Cabinet report will have a significant positive effect on the employment prospects of young people</p> |
| Religion or belief | ✓ | | | |
| Sex | | | ✓ | |

[ILO: UNCLASSIFIED]

| | | | | |
|---------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Sexual orientation | | | ✓ | |
| Other | | | | |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? Yes No

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

7. Monitoring arrangements

1. EHC plans will be used to actively monitor access and the young people's progress towards their outcomes and longer term aspirations.
2. Reviews will focus on the child or young person's progress towards achieving the outcomes specified in the EHC plan. The review will consider whether these outcomes and supporting targets remain appropriate.
3. Involvement activities. This data might be disaggregated for all relevant equality groups and can cover, for example:
 - a. Levels of service take-up by different groups.
 - b. Outcomes for different groups.

8. Action planning

You may wish to use the action plan template below

| Question no. (ref) | Action required | Lead officer/ person responsible | Target date | Progress |
|--------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------|-------------|----------|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

9. Publish the EIA

This EIAs will be published via CMIS.

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | SEND Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) |
| Cabinet Member: | Cabinet Member for Children and Education, Councillor Simon Hackett |
| Director: | Director of Children's Services and Education Michael Jarrett |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Senior Commissioning Manager, Peter Forth peter_forth@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 Following the appropriate procurement processes and in line with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure rules, that the Director Law and Governance be authorised to agree and enter into a new contract with the successful tenderer for the provision of a Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) for a three year period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2026 (with the option to extend for a further year) on terms to be agreed by the Director of Children's Services and Education.
- 1.2 That the Director Law and Governance be authorised to make any necessary exemptions to the Council's Procurement and Contract procedure rules to allow action in point 1 to be undertaken.


2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to provide children with Special Educational Needs or Disabilities (SEND) for whom they are responsible with impartial information and advice about matters relating to their SEND.



- 2.2 On 8 October 2014 Cabinet duly approved the establishment of a new SENDIASS service in Sandwell (Minute No 58/14 refers).
- 2.3 The current contract with Action for Children for the delivery of the SENDIASS service expires on 31 March 2023.
- 2.4 This report seeks approval to go out to tender again to identify a suitable agency to operate the service.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <p>The service has a focus on ensuring that that children, young people and their families receive the independent information, advice and support that they require in respect of their children’s Special Educational Needs and Disabilities.</p> |
|---|---|

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Service has an annual budget of £125,000 and consists of a small team including a co-ordinator and three part-time workers.
- 4.2 The Service seeks to give information and advice to children, young people and their parents/carers in order to help them make informed choices and decisions about the content and development of their Education, Health and Care Plan (EHCP). The service will support young people and parents to challenge and address issues in relation to their SEND assessment or provision that they are unhappy about.
- 4.3 Over the past two years the service has established a dedicated website which has been successful in giving families access to good quality information. In 2021/22 that website was viewed over 1800 times. The impact of this has been that staff have been released from dealing with general queries and therefore there is greater staff capacity available for intensive work with families.
- 4.4 In 2021/22 the Service managed direct support to over 200 families. This figure is expected to continue to rise following the pandemic.



4.5 The Service strives to help families and agencies to resolve disputes at an early stage.

4.6 Parental feedback

4.7 Feedback from parents about the SENDIASS service provided has consistently been good as these examples evidence:

*I am a parent who has used the SENDIASS service and I have to say they were absolutely brilliant nothing was too much trouble they were helpful, polite, knowledgeable and if they weren't sure about anything they would go off and find out the answer. I couldn't have got through my issues without them and would recommend them to anyone. They also call for updates after to see how things are going they are just brilliant in my eyes. **KM, Parent, 2022***

*What can I say about SENDIASS, they are a brilliant service. We have been using SENDIASS for nearly 3 years and during that time the service we have received is second to none. There are not enough words to show our appreciation for the help we have received and continue to receive. I would recommend SENDIASS 100% **JP, Parent, 2022***

After the initial disappointment and worry after receiving our child's school placement, the team at SENDIASS and in particular J were at hand to help and reassure us. From the initial call J* was a contact we could lean on for advice, of which she gave vast amounts of. Without this help, support and advice from J* and the SENDIASS team we would not have been able to get to the wonderful resolution we did. Thank you, J* and the SENDIASS team. **RJ, Parent 2022***

4.8 The service continually collates feedback from service users to ensure that the quality of support being delivered is meeting the needs of the locality. SENDIASS consistently receives satisfaction rates from service users of between 98-100%, with 100% of respondents stating that they would happily recommend the service to others.

4.9 Timescales

4.10 It is anticipated that if approval is given to the report, work will commence on the necessary procurement documents with a view to going out to tender in late autumn and decisions made about the



successful agency by the end of 2022. This will allow time for preparation to transition to another agency if necessary during the early part of 2023.

- 4.11 It is expected that there will be interest in the tender opportunity from both local and national agencies.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 In some local authorities the service has been provided internally. This has led to problems about how the service is viewed by parents. In addition, this approach has led to problems internally in addressing issues and determining roles. This option has been discounted as it fails to give the necessary impartiality for families.

6 Implications

| | |
|-------------------------------------|--|
| <p>Resources:</p> | <p>The SENDIASS service currently has a budget of £125,000 per annum. This comes from the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Budget.</p> <p>The staff currently employed by Action for Children as part of SENDIASS would have the right to TUPE transfer to the new provider of the service subject to meeting the conditions of that process.</p> <p>There has been some initial contact with colleagues in Health Services about making a financial contribution to SENDIASS.</p> |
| <p>Legal and Governance:</p> | <p>Under section 32 of the Children and Families Act 2014 the local authority must make arrangements for the provision of information and advice to children, young people and their parents for whom it is responsible relating to the special educational needs and disabilities of the children and young people concerned.</p> <p>All information should be at 'arms-length' from the local authority to ensure impartiality. (This is detailed in section 2 of the Department of Health and</p> |



| | |
|---------------------|--|
| | <p>Department of Education SEND Code of Practice 2015 which is statutory guidance).</p> <p>Under section 1 of the Local Government (Contracts) Act 1997 the local authority may enter into contracts for the purposes of or in connection with the discharge of its statutory functions.</p> <p>Contracts must be awarded in in accordance with the local authority's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and the Public Contracts Regulations 2015.</p> |
| <p>Risk:</p> | <p>The Corporate Risk Management Strategy (CRMS) has been complied with to identify and assess risks associated with this decision. This includes (but is not limited to) crime and disorder, political, legislation, financial, environmental and reputational risks. Based on the information provided, it is the officers' opinion that there are no current "red" risks that need to be reported with regards to this proposal.</p> <p>A risk register is in place and has identified some risks. Suitable measures have been identified to mitigate these risks to an acceptable level.</p> <p>The greatest risk to the Service is the volume of work that it undertakes. The establishment of the website has had a major impact on releasing staff capacity. Further work on specific issues on the website will help to address further queries through that route.</p> <p>All direct case work is assessed on receipt and resources allocated accordingly. The Service will continue with that approach which enables clear decision-making on priorities.</p> <p>In providing impartial advice and support there is always a risk of the Service getting too close to agencies and compromising their relationships with families. There is good evidence that this has not been the case as demonstrated by this comment from Peter Lee, Head of School at Q3 Academy, Langley:</p> |



| | |
|-------------------------------------|---|
| | <p><i>“On behalf of everyone at Q3 Langley thank you so much for all your advocacy on behalf of our students and parents/carers! It has been a pleasure working with you – whatever the trials and tribulations along the way”.</i></p> <p>As an independent organisation the successful bidder will be responsible for conducting their own health and safety assessments and giving consideration to the necessary insurance implications. (Minimum insurance requirements will be stipulated in the service specification).</p> |
| <p>Equality:</p> | <p>The service must be available for children, young people and their parents/carers in relation to Special Educational Needs and Disabilities for whom Sandwell has responsibility.</p> <p>Current monitoring of the take-up of the service is undertaken on the basis of disability, gender, ethnicity, school, town and source of referral as well as intervention levels. Reports are received by the local authority as part of the quarterly monitoring arrangements. Where gaps are identified the service will explore the issues and actions are duly agreed as necessary.</p> |
| <p>Health and Wellbeing:</p> | <p>The service provides an independent and impartial service to support families on a range of issues. It offers the opportunity for parents to build their self-confidence so that they can express their views and concerns at formal meetings.</p> <p>Parents are also encouraged to become part of the Sandwell Parents Voice United scheme which is an independent group of parents and carers who work together to raise awareness and aspire to improve outcomes for children and young people with SEND in Sandwell.</p> |



| | |
|---------------------|---|
| | The Service has close links with other service providers in the borough to be able to ensure families can access the support that they require. |
| Social Value | Consideration will be made to the added social value that can be derived from this contract during the procurement process. |

7. Appendices

Appendix A - EIA

8. Background Papers

List source/background documents



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Equality Impact Assessment Template

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

Version 4: January 2019

| | |
|--|---|
| Title of proposal (include forward plan reference if available) | SENDIASS |
| Directorate and Service Area | Children and Education |
| Name and title of Lead Officer completing this EIA | Peter Forth, Senior Commissioning Manager |
| Contact Details | peter_forth@sandwell.gov.uk |
| Names and titles of other officers involved in completing this EIA | |
| Partners involved with the EIA where jointly completed | |
| Date EIA completed | 7 June 2022 |
| Date EIA signed off or agreed by Director or Executive Director | |
| Name of Director or Executive Director signing off EIA | |
| 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)

The Children and Families Act 2014 requires local authorities to provide children with SEN or disabilities for whom they are responsible with impartial information and advice about matters relating to their SEN or disability.

Sandwell agreed the establishment of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) in 2014.

The contract for the provision of the existing SENDIASS service in the borough ends on 31.3.23.

This report seeks approval to commence a new procurement process and then in line with Council's Procurement and Contract procurement rules award a contract for the provider of the Special Educational Need or Disability Information, Advice and Support Service (SENDIASS) within Sandwell.

2. Evidence used/considered

The current SENDIASS contract has been in place for the last three and a half years. During that time the service has generated evidence of the impact of the service on children, young people with SEND and their families.

Monitoring reports give evidence of the take-up of the service and the progress made on addressing issues raised by families.

Reports are considered in quarterly contract meetings with the local authority and details are fed through to the SEND Board.

A breakdown of data for 2021/22 for example shows:

Gender: Male 69%; Female 31%

Age: 0-5 years 8%; 5-11 years 52%; 11-16 years 33%; 16-25 years 7%

Ethnicity: White British 59%; Indian 8%; Pakistani 8%; White/Black Caribbean 6%; Black African 5%; Others (with less than 5% per ethnicity) 14%.

SEN/Disability: Autism 34%; Undiagnosed 19%; ADHD 8%; MLD 8%; Anxiety 7%; Medical 7%; Others (with less than 5% per SEN/Disability) 17%

Geographical spread: West Bromwich 27%; Oldbury 19%; Rowley 17%; Tipton 14%; Smethwick 12%; Wednesbury 11%.

3. Consultation

All users of the service are consulted when their case is closed (The agreed consultation point).

In the 2021/22 the satisfaction rate with the service per quarter was 98-100% of respondents. 100% said that they would recommend the service to others.

4. Assess likely impact

Please give an outline of the overall impact if possible.

The report seeks approval to go out to tender to identify a suitable agency to run the SENDIASS service from 1 April 2023. This will ensure that the council is able to meet its legal obligations to provide the service and there is no gap in service provision.

The existing staff would have transfer rights to the successful bidder under the TUPE regulations. This should ensure that there is consistency of practice through this transition phase and there should be minimal impact on service delivery.

The specification for the service from 1 April 2023 will not be greatly amended to the existing specification to again give us consistency of practice.

As a result of the above there is likely to be no adverse impact on people or groups with protected characteristics.

Please complete the table below at 4a to identify the likely impact on specific protected characteristics

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 | ✓ | | | The Service has a broad remit working with children and young people 0-25 years. |
| Disability | ✓ | | | The Service is targeted at children and young people with Special Educational Needs and Disability and their families. The Service provides families with the information and advice that they require; will support them as necessary in developing their self-confidence and will assist in addressing matters through conflict resolution processes. |
| Gender reassignment | | | ✓ | |

| | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|--|--|---|--|
| Marriage and civil partnership | | | √ | |
| Pregnancy and maternity | | | √ | |
| Race | | | √ | |
| Religion or belief | | | √ | |
| Sex | | | √ | |
| Sexual orientation | | | √ | |
| Other | | | | |

Does this EIA require a full impact assessment? **No**

If there are no adverse impacts or any issues of concern or you can adequately explain or justify them, then you do not need to go any further. You have completed the screening stage. You must, however, complete sections 7 and 9 and publish the EIA as it stands.

If you have answered yes to the above, please complete the questions below referring to the guidance document.

5. What actions can be taken to mitigate any adverse impacts?

6. As a result of the EIA what decision or actions are being proposed in relation to the original proposals?

7. Monitoring arrangements

The successful agency will be required to closely monitor access to the service and report back quarterly to the local authority through the quarterly meetings. The agency will be expected to have analysed the data and devised an action plan to address any issues that have been identified.

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Report to Cabinet

20 July 2022

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | 2021/22 Financial Outturn |
| Cabinet Member: | Cllr Bob Piper Cabinet Member for Finance & Resources |
| Director: | Simone Hines, Director of Finance |
| Key Decision: | Yes |
| Contact Officer: | Rebecca Maher – Head of Finance Rebecca.Maher@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations

That Cabinet:

- 1.1 Receive the financial outturn reports of the Capital Programme (Appendix D), Key Performance Indicators (Appendix E), each service area (Appendices F to L), Housing Revenue Account (Appendix M), Schools (Appendix N), and Treasury Management (Appendix O) and refer them to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and comment.
- 1.2 Approve the allocation of £0.141m to Sandwell Children’s Trust to fund Covid-19 pressures, which is in addition to the transfers made during the year and represents total funding of £1.124m from the Covid Emergency Grant in 2020/21, as reflected within the Children’s Services Outturn report (Appendix 1K).
- 1.3 Approve the Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay (RCCO) and reserve transfers of £5.542m set out on Appendix 1 and Appendix 4.
- 1.4 Note the new grants that have been received during the final quarter of 2021/22 as shown on Appendix 5.



2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 Section 151 of the 1972 Local Government Act requires the Chief Financial Officer to ensure the proper administration of the council's financial affairs. Budgetary control, which includes the regular monitoring and reporting of budgets is an essential element in discharging this statutory responsibility. The recommended treatment of the year end variances supports the financial sustainability of the council.

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

The Council's financial status helps to underpin the Council's Corporate Plan and the associated aspirations.

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 General Fund Outturn

4.2 The overall outturn position for the General Fund is an underspend of £4.788m.



| Area | Appendix | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance from Budget £'000 | (Use of) Reserve & RCCO £'000 | Variance £'000 |
|--|----------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------|
| Corporate Management | 1A | (254) | (824) | (570) | 0 | (570) |
| Borough Economy | 1B | 62,934 | 60,312 | (2,621) | 1,812 | (809) |
| Adult Social Care | 1C | 82,481 | 75,781 | (6,700) | 4,236 | (2,464) |
| Regeneration & Growth | 1D | 10,399 | 6,989 | (3,410) | 1,039 | (2,371) |
| Housing | 1E | 2,850 | 2,780 | (70) | (90) | (160) |
| Children's Services | 1F | 84,837 | 85,266 | 429 | (434) | (5) |
| Business Strategy & Change | 1G | 12,938 | 11,945 | (994) | 728 | (266) |
| Finance | 1H | 10,664 | 9,755 | (909) | 425 | (484) |
| Law & Governance | 1I | 1,570 | (904) | (2,474) | 1,678 | (796) |
| Net Service Expenditure (ex PH) | | 268,419 | 251,099 | (17,320) | 9,394 | (7,926) |
| Public Health | 1J | 277 | (866) | (1,143) | 1,143 | 0 |
| Total Net Service Expenditure | | 268,696 | 250,233 | (18,462) | 10,537 | (7,925) |
| Capital Charge Adjustment | | (27,588) | (27,580) | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| External Interest Payments | | 16,290 | 15,456 | (834) | 0 | (834) |
| Interest/Dividend Receipts | | (3,246) | (2,709) | 537 | 0 | 537 |
| West Midlands Transport Levy | | 12,887 | 12,866 | (21) | 0 | (21) |
| West Midlands Magistrates Court | | 41 | 25 | (16) | 0 | (16) |
| Environment Agency (Flood Defence) | | 88 | 88 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Service Expenditure before use of balances | | 267,168 | 248,379 | (18,788) | 10,537 | (8,251) |
| Use of Balances/RCCO/Central Items | | (53,856) | (44,598) | 9,258 | (5,793) | 3,465 |
| Council Tax | | (114,573) | (114,574) | (1) | 0 | (1) |
| Business Rates | | (98,738) | (98,739) | (1) | 0 | (1) |
| Total Net Expenditure (inc Central Items and use of balances) | | 0 | (9,532) | (9,532) | 4,744 | (4,788) |

4.3 The overall net directorate outturn variance, excluding the HRA, is an underspend of £7.925m following reserve transfers. The variance for each service area is summarised in the following table and analysed in more detail within Appendix 1.

4.4 The council has continued to see the impact of the COVID pandemic although this has not been as significant as in the last financial year. Reduced income in areas such as car parking and Residential Education Centres remain affected together with a backlog of work that ceased during times when restrictions were in place. COVID emergency funding and Contain Outbreak Management funding were brought forward into 2021/22 and this has been used to offset these costs. Where it is considered that the impact is likely to be long-term, this has been built into the budget planning process for 2022/23 onwards.

4.5 There have also been a number of vacancies during the year which has contributed to the overall underspend. A piece of work is ongoing to identify if any of these vacancies can be taken as long term savings,



whilst being mindful of the impact that recruitment difficulties is having in a number of service areas.

- 4.6 Individual outturn reports for each directorate, the Housing Revenue Account and the Individual Schools Budget can be found in Appendices 1A to 1K.

Corporate Management (1A)

- 4.7 The outturn for Corporate Management is an underspend of £0.570m. The main reason for this is due to a write off of historical items from the Council's balance sheet which has resulted in windfall income for the service.

Borough Economy (1B)

- 4.8 The variance against budget for Borough Economy (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £2.621m. The main reasons for this underspend are: -

- Variations in the collected tonnage and recycling rates within the Waste contract.
- Additional vehicle repair income within Fleet Services.
- Receipt of Covid funding which will be used as a contribution towards the capital costs of the Aquatic Centre.
- A reduction in the Sandwell Leisure Trust management fee to reflect changes in the contract.
- Staffing vacancies across a number of service areas;

- 4.9 Reserve transfers of £1.812m are requested for a number of items including Sandwell Valley Invest to Save, Libraries and Red Risk Carriageways. Following these reserve transfers, the final outturn position for Borough Economy is an underspend of £0.809m.



Adult Social Care (1C)

4.10 The variance against budget for Adults Social Care (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £6.700m. The main reasons for this are: -

- There have been additional contributions to and reduced expenditure from the Better Care Fund Pool Budget; the yearend balance will be transferred to the ring-fenced reserve.
- Transfers from the NHS (Discharge to Assess) funded the first four weeks of support for people moving from hospital into the social care system.
- Additional responsibilities linked to the Covid related Clinically Extremely Vulnerable Grant were delivered from within existing resources.
- In year grants to meet new Domestic Abuse responsibilities were able to fund existing activity.
- In-house services continued to operate below capacity as services transitioned from Covid and we prepared to move to the new development at Willow Gardens.
- The service brought forward an under spend from previous years to manage expected budget pressures in 2021/22, given the issues highlighted above this wasn't fully used.

4.11 Most of the issues which have contributed to the underspend relate to one-off funding or circumstances which are not expected to reoccur in future years. Significant financial pressures linked to national initiatives such as the Fair Cost of Care and the Social Care Funding Reforms and uncertainty around the level of Government funding to manage the emerging issues present a significant risk within the council's Medium-Term Financial Plan.

4.12 Reserve transfers of £4.236m are requested for a number of items including the Better Care Fund, Digital Investment Strategy and Appointeeship Unit commitments. Following these reserve transfers, the final outturn for Adult Social Care is an underspend of £2.464m.

Regen & Growth (1D)

4.13 The variance against budget for Regen and Growth (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £3.410m. The main reasons for this are: -

- Vacancies across service areas;



- Income from other Black Country authorities which has been transferred into a reserve for use in future years
- Lower running costs of office buildings following reduced use after COVID;
- Additional income generated for hiring of premises as COVID testing sites
- Slippage on projects to be funded against the Property Maintenance account.

4.14 Reserve transfers of £1.039m are requested for a number of items including Black Country Core Strategy, Regeneration Pipeline and Towns Fund PMO costs. Following these reserve transfers, the final outturn for Regen and Growth is an underspend of £2.371m.

Housing General Fund (1E)

4.15 The variance against budget for Housing (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £0.070m. The main reasons for this are: -

- Vacancies across service areas;
- Additional income from fines levied by the Housing Quality Team;

4.16 Following the use of reserves, the final outturn for Housing is an underspend of £0.160m.

Childrens Services (1F)

4.17 The variance against budget for Children's Services (prior to reserve transfers) is an overspend of £0.429m. The main reason for this is an overspend of £1.531m against SEND transport which has been offset by various one-off savings across the directorate. These include (but not limited to) vacancies across some services including Educational Psychologist (EP), Early Year's, Schools Organisation and Director's office. These vacancies are being held ahead of the proposed restructuring within the Directorate.

4.18 In addition, there are savings arising from the flexible utilisation of Holiday Activities Fund (HAF) grant, training, supply and services and Community Transport Grant. Finally, the directorate received additional Social Care grant that was more than the original budget.



4.19 Following the use of £0.434m reserves, the final outturn for Childrens Services is an underspend of £0.05m.

Business Strategy & Change (1G)

4.20 The variance against budget for BSC (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £0.994m. The main reasons for this are: -

- An underspend on ICT projects which has been requested to be transferred into capital to fund future capital spend;
- Savings against some third-party contracts;
- Vacancies across service areas.

4.21 Reserve transfers of £0.728m are requested for a number of items including ICT and Cyber Security. Following these reserve transfers, the final outturn for BSC is an underspend of £0.266m.

Finance (1H)

4.22 The variance against budget for Finance (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £0.909m. The main reasons for this are: -

- Expenditure on the Oracle Fusion project which is funded from an existing reserve;
- Vacancies across service areas;
- Reduction in Council Tax and NNDR court costs.

4.23 Following a transfer to reserves of £0.425m, the final outturn for Finance is an underspend of £0.484m.

Law & Governance (1I)

4.24 The variance against budget for L&G (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £2.474m. The main reasons for this are: -

- Increased cost of elections which has been funded from government grants from the Cabinet Office and COVID funding;
- Increased income within Registration Services;
- Proceeds of Crime Income relating to a high-profile fraud case which has been transferred into a reserve prior to distribution.



4.25 Reserve transfers of £1.678m are requested for a number of items including the Corporate Improvement Plan, Proceeds of Crime Act income and work on various cemeteries and crematoria. Following these reserve transfers, the final outturn for Law and Governance is an underspend of £0.796m.

Public Health (1J)

4.26 Public Health is a ringfenced grant and therefore any underspend has to be transferred into a specific Public Health Reserve. The variance following reserves transfers is therefore nil.

4.27 The variance against budget for Public Health (prior to this transfer) is an underspend of £1.143m. The main reasons for this are: -

- Activity that was expected to be funded from the Public Health Grant has been funded from other sources, most significantly the Covid related Test & Trace Grant.
- The planned Health Checks Programme was suspended in response to a very low uptake.
- The Learning for Public Health programme (which Sandwell administers on behalf of other local authorities) received additional in-year contributions.

Housing Revenue Account (1K)

4.28 The variance against budget for the HRA (prior to reserve transfers) is an underspend of £3.345m. The main reasons for this are: -

- Delays in works being carried out due to resource issues with external contractors as a result of the pandemic;
- Vacancies within Housing Management;
- Transfer of PFI spend to capital and lower unitary fee for this area;

4.29 Following the use of reserves, the final outturn for the HRA is an underspend of £3.437m.

Central Items/RCCO/Use of Balances

4.30 The council has a number of centrally held budgets. The nature of these is such that they are not within a specific directorate's control. The council also makes use of balances towards one-off expenditure and as Revenue Contributions to Capital Outlay. The net outturn variance



against these budgets is an overspend of £3.465m and more detail is provided in Appendix 2.

Use of Reserves

- 4.31 At the end of 2020/21 £149.513m was held in earmarked reserves and during the year balances have increased by £5.818m. The year-end earmarked reserve balance is therefore £154.971m. Further detail is provided in Appendix 4.
- 4.32 A number of new reserves have been created as part of the year-end process to provide the council with resilience in the face of a number of one-off budget pressures. These are explained below: -
- Grant reserves have been created in several directorates due to a change in the required accounting treatment for unspent external funding.
 - Leadership Team approved carry forward requests for individual directorates to manage their own short-term expenditure commitments or investment requirements.
 - Corporate reserves have been set up to cover the following: -
 - Commonwealth Games
 - Corporate Improvement Plan
 - Climate Change

Capital

- 4.33 Expenditure on the Council's capital programme was £137.801m compared to the approved budget at Qtr 2 of £150.438m for the financial year 2021/22. Details are provided at Appendix 6.
- 4.34 Public consultation, procurement delays due to Brexit and COVID have all significantly impacted on the delivery of various large capital schemes which has caused slippage into future years. The main changes that have taken place since the Quarter 3 2021/22 monitoring are as follows: -
- Within Adults Social Care there has been a re-profiling of Resources of £3.864m into 2022/23 mainly in relation to the construction of the New Social Care & Health Centre in Rowley Regis. The scheme is due to be completed in the financial year 2022/23.



- Within Borough Economy expenditure on the acquisition of new vehicles has been less than expected leading to a reduction of £1.080m. However, expenditure on West Smethwick Park has increased by £2.619m and has been funded by previously agreed Heritage Lottery Funding.
- Within Regeneration & Growth there has been slippage of £2.336m for the Towns Fund into 2022/23. An additional £2.090m has been re-profiled from 2022/23 in relation to the Aquatics Centre and a new scheme has been added to the programme totalling £1.205m in relation to PSDS Heat Pump Technology that is being funded by Capital Grants.
- Within Childrens & Education there has been a slippage of resources into 2022/23 on various schemes within the Schools Capital Programme. The main ones being Q3 Langley Phase 3 (£1.182m) and Bristnall Hall Academy (£0.860m). Additional Resources have been added to the programme for various schemes funded from Devolved Formula Grant Funding (£0.809m) and School Contributions (£1.198m).
- There has been an overall decrease of £9.098m in the Housing Revenue Account (HRA) budget mainly in respect of the re-profiling of New Build and High Rise projects into 2022/23, due to COVID and Procurement delays effecting start on site. However, additional resources have been added in relation to Street Lighting Upgrades (1.122m).

Section 106/Community Infrastructure Levy

- 4.35 Section 106 monies are paid by developers towards the cost of providing community and social infrastructure but must be used for specific purposes.
- 4.36 The Community Infrastructure Levy is a charge that local authorities can set on new development to raise funds to help fund the infrastructure, facilities and services which are needed to support new homes and businesses in the areas.
- 4.37 Appendix 7 sets out the financial position on each of these sources of income.



General Fund Balance

- 4.38 At the end of 2021/22 the General Fund balance was £14.699m which equates to 4.17% of net General Fund expenditure and is within the prudent limits set by the Section 151 Officer. The aim from the 2022/23 budget strategy was to increase reserves to 5% of net expenditure, as the current level of unallocated balances is at the lower end of what is considered to be a prudent level. The underspend position for 2021/22 has enabled reserves to be increased to meet this aim.
- 4.39 The Council also anticipates that it will experience additional spend pressures during the current financial year due to the exceptionally high level of inflation. This is expected to have an impact on pay, utilities, capital expenditure and major contracts. The increase level of General Fund balance will provide some capacity to manage this pressure, although all efforts will be made to mitigate pressures as part of the budget monitoring process during the year.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 Cabinet could vary the proposed transfer to the Sandwell Children's Trust, the use of revenue to fund capital costs (RCCO) and the proposed treatment of the year end variances from budget.

6 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|---|
| Resources: | Resource implications are contained within the main body of the report. |
| Legal and Governance: | No direct implications arising from the recommendations. |
| Risk: | This information is contained within the main body of this report. |
| Equality: | No direct implications arising from the recommendations. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | No direct implications arising from the recommendations. |
| Social Value | No direct implications arising from the recommendations. |



7. Appendices

App 1 Outturn Summary for Directorates

App 2 Central Items

App 3 ISB

App 4 Reserves

App 5 New Grants

App 6 Capital

App 7 CIL & S106 Funding

App 8 Treasury Management Strategy Outturn Report

8. Background Papers

None



| Area | Appendix | Total Budget | Outturn | Variance from Budget | (Use of) Reserve & RCCO | Variance |
|--|----------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------------|-------------------------|----------------|
| | | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Corporate Management | 1A | (254) | (824) | (570) | 0 | (570) |
| Borough Economy | 1B | 62,934 | 60,312 | (2,621) | 1,812 | (809) |
| Adult Social Care | 1C | 82,481 | 75,781 | (6,700) | 4,236 | (2,464) |
| Regeneration & Growth | 1D | 10,399 | 6,989 | (3,410) | 1,039 | (2,371) |
| Housing | 1E | 2,850 | 2,780 | (70) | (90) | (160) |
| Children's Services | 1F | 84,837 | 85,266 | 429 | (434) | (5) |
| Business Strategy & Change | 1G | 12,938 | 11,945 | (994) | 728 | (266) |
| Finance | 1H | 10,664 | 9,755 | (909) | 425 | (484) |
| Law & Governance | 1I | 1,570 | (904) | (2,474) | 1,678 | (796) |
| Net Service Expenditure (ex PH) | | 268,419 | 251,099 | (17,320) | 9,394 | (7,926) |
| Public Health | 1J | 277 | (866) | (1,143) | 1,143 | 0 |
| Total Net Service Expenditure | | 268,696 | 250,233 | (18,462) | 10,537 | (7,925) |
| Capital Charge Adjustment | | (27,588) | (27,580) | 8 | 0 | 8 |
| External Interest Payments | | 16,290 | 15,456 | (834) | 0 | (834) |
| Interest/Dividend Receipts | | (3,246) | (2,709) | 537 | 0 | 537 |
| West Midlands Transport Levy | | 12,887 | 12,866 | (21) | 0 | (21) |
| West Midlands Magistrates Court | | 41 | 25 | (16) | 0 | (16) |
| Environment Agency (Flood Defence) | | 88 | 88 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Net Service Expenditure before use of balances | | 267,168 | 248,379 | (18,788) | 10,537 | (8,251) |
| Use of Balances/RCCO/Central Items | | (53,856) | (44,598) | 9,258 | (5,793) | 3,465 |
| Council Tax | | (114,573) | (114,574) | (1) | 0 | (1) |
| Business Rates | | (98,738) | (98,739) | (1) | 0 | (1) |
| Total Net Expenditure (inc Central Items and use of bal | | 0 | (9,532) | (9,532) | 4,744 | (4,788) |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | 1K | (29,300) | (32,645) | (3,345) | (92) | (3,437) |
| Individual Schools Budgets (ISB) | 3 | 0 | (2,325) | (2,325) | 890 | (1,435) |
| Total Net Expenditure | | (29,300) | (44,502) | (15,202) | 5,542 | (9,660) |

Directorate Corporate Management

APPENDIX 1A

Page 910

| Service Area | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Chief Executive | 349 | 576 | 227 | 0 | 227 |
| Corporate Management | (603) | (1,400) | (797) | 0 | (797) |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | (254) | (824) | (570) | 0 | (570) |

Borough Economy

APPENDIX 1B

Page 911

| Service Area | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|----------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Tourism, Culture & Leisure | 10,457 | 9,384 | (1,074) | 708 | (366) |
| Parks and Grounds | 2,330 | 2,780 | 450 | 0 | 450 |
| Regulated Services | 3,498 | 2,994 | (505) | (26) | (531) |
| Highways Services | 14,986 | 15,022 | 36 | 0 | 36 |
| Waste and Fleet Services | 31,513 | 30,044 | (1,468) | 57 | (1,411) |
| Directorate Management | 149 | 88 | (61) | 1,073 | 1,012 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 62,934 | 60,312 | (2,621) | 1,812 | (809) |

Directorate Adult Social Care

APPENDIX 1C

Page 912

| Service Area | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Management Team | 3,484 | 2,078 | (1,406) | 2,575 | 1,169 |
| Business Management | 571 | 562 | (9) | 0 | (9) |
| Social Work & Therapy | 4,417 | 4,052 | (365) | 0 | (365) |
| External Placements | 63,742 | 62,932 | (810) | 0 | (810) |
| Integrated Hub | 467 | 250 | (217) | 0 | (217) |
| Direct Services | 6,393 | 5,455 | (938) | 0 | (938) |
| Commissioning | 3,407 | 2,113 | (1,294) | 0 | (1,294) |
| Better Care Fund | 0 | (1,661) | (1,661) | 1,661 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 82,481 | 75,781 | (6,700) | 4,236 | (2,464) |

Housing & Assets

APPENDIX 1E

Page 914

| Service Area | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|---|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Community Partnerships and Support Services | 1,683 | 1,244 | (439) | 0 | (439) |
| Housing Solutions | 1,270 | 1,432 | 162 | (390) | (228) |
| Income Management and Money Advice | 359 | 396 | 38 | 0 | 38 |
| Tenancy & Estate Management | (331) | (358) | (27) | 0 | (27) |
| Management | (130) | 66 | 196 | 300 | 496 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 2,850 | 2,780 | (70) | (90) | (160) |

Directorate Children's

APPENDIX 1F

Page 915

| Service Area | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|--|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Director of Education and Education Support Services | 8,128 | 8,171 | 43 | 0 | 43 |
| Learning Improvement | 1,837 | 1,312 | (525) | 0 | (525) |
| Inclusive Learning | 3,279 | 2,484 | (795) | 0 | (795) |
| Director of Children's Childrens Trust | 6,384 | 7,771 | 1,387 | 0 | 1,387 |
| | 6,660 | 6,545 | (115) | 0 | (115) |
| | 58,549 | 58,983 | 434 | (434) | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 84,837 | 85,266 | 429 | (434) | (5) |

Business Strategy and Change

APPENDIX 1G

Page 916

| Service Area | Total Budget | Outturn | Variance | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO | Outturn Variance |
|---------------------|---------------|---------------|--------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Director | 149 | 142 | (7) | 13 | 6 |
| ICT | 6,519 | 5,758 | (761) | 407 | (354) |
| Human Resources | 3,429 | 3,762 | 333 | 47 | 380 |
| Service Improvement | 1,940 | 1,726 | (214) | 117 | (97) |
| Business Excellence | 901 | 557 | (344) | 144 | (200) |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 12,938 | 11,945 | (994) | 728 | (266) |

Finance

APPENDIX 1H

| Service Area | Annual Target Budget £'000 | B/fwd from Previous Year £'000 | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|-----------------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|
| Director | 148 | | 148 | 62 | (86) | 964 | 878 |
| Financial Management | 4,021 | 20 | 4,041 | 4,923 | 882 | (710) | 172 |
| Revenues and Benefits | 2,937 | 414 | 3,351 | 1,918 | (1,433) | 171 | (1,262) |
| Business Management | 3,123 | | 3,123 | 2,851 | (272) | 0 | (272) |
| | | | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 10,230 | 434 | 10,664 | 9,755 | (909) | 425 | (484) |

Law and Governance

APPENDIX 11

Page 918

| Service Area | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Directorate | 360 | 380 | 20 | (18) | 2 |
| Governance Services | 1,646 | 1,484 | (162) | 354 | 192 |
| Registration Services | (1,576) | (2,585) | (1,009) | 370 | (639) |
| Legal | 1,140 | (183) | (1,323) | 972 | (351) |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 1,570 | (904) | (2,474) | 1,678 | (796) |

Public Health

APPENDIX 1J

Page 919

| Service Area | Total Budget | Outturn | Variance | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO | Outturn Variance |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Communicable Disease | 3,220 | 3,676 | 456 | (976) | (520) |
| Long Term Conditions | 2,414 | 1,695 | (719) | 0 | (719) |
| Childrens | 10,055 | 9,955 | (99) | 30 | (69) |
| Substance Misuse & Smoking | 3,547 | 3,305 | (242) | 178 | (64) |
| Wider Determinants | 4,142 | 3,732 | (410) | 195 | (215) |
| Public Health Management | 2,231 | 1,883 | (349) | 97 | (252) |
| Public Health Grant | (25,111) | (25,110) | 0 | 1,619 | 1,619 |
| Public Health Saving Target | (222) | 0 | 222 | 0 | 222 |
| | | | | 0 | |
| TOTAL | 277 | (866) | (1,143) | 1,143 | 0 |

HRA

APPENDIX 1K

| Service Area | Total Budget | Outturn | Variance | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO | Outturn Variance |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Asset Management & Maintenance | 39,031 | 35,423 | (3,608) | 0 | (3,608) |
| Business Excellence | 3,357 | 3,955 | 598 | (480) | 118 |
| Commercial Services | 4,374 | 4,536 | 162 | 0 | 162 |
| Corporate HRA | 19,776 | 21,159 | 1,383 | (250) | 1,133 |
| Housing Management | 12,205 | 10,595 | (1,610) | 0 | (1,610) |
| PFI | (471) | (1,635) | (1,164) | 638 | (526) |
| Rents & Other Charges | (115,007) | (114,365) | 642 | 0 | 642 |
| SLA's | 7,435 | 7,687 | 252 | 0 | 252 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | (29,300) | (32,645) | (3,345) | (92) | (3,437) |

Central Items

APPENDIX 2

Page 921

| Service Area | Total Budget | Outturn | Variance | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO | Outturn Variance |
|------------------------------------|--------------|----------|----------|-------------------------|------------------|
| | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 | £'000 |
| Local Authority Subscriptions | 104 | 107 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| Wolverhampton: WMCC and WMRE | 45 | 24 | (21) | 0 | (21) |
| Combined Authority | 1,373 | 1,505 | 132 | 0 | 132 |
| External Audit Fee | 144 | 151 | 7 | 79 | 86 |
| New Homes Bonus Grant | (1,254) | (1,254) | (0) | 0 | (0) |
| No Recourse to Public Funds | 531 | 834 | 303 | 0 | 303 |
| Business Rates Compensation Grant | (50,143) | (52,696) | (2,553) | (3,494) | (6,047) |
| Corporate Projects | 1,000 | 997 | (3) | 0 | (3) |
| Insurance | (395) | 181 | 576 | (1,643) | (1,067) |
| Bank Charges | 335 | 400 | 65 | 0 | 65 |
| Airport Rent Income | (100) | (94) | 6 | 0 | 6 |
| Apprenticeship Levy | 480 | 453 | (27) | 0 | (27) |
| Past Service Pension Costs | 5,387 | 5,384 | (3) | 0 | (3) |
| Local Welfare Provision | 0 | 203 | 203 | 0 | 203 |
| Housing Benefits | 501 | 606 | 105 | 0 | 105 |
| Pensions General | 4,560 | 4,207 | (353) | 0 | (353) |
| Coroners | 346 | 418 | 73 | 0 | 73 |
| Members Allowances | 1,446 | 1,368 | (78) | 0 | (78) |
| Public Law Fees | 366 | 320 | (46) | 0 | (46) |
| Special Events | 25 | 2 | (23) | 0 | (23) |
| Templink | (429) | (429) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| COVID-19 Emergency Funding | 0 | (4,517) | (4,517) | 2,517 | (2,000) |
| COVID-19 Containing Outbreak | 0 | (1,533) | (1,533) | 1,533 | 0 |
| COVID-19 Omicron Hospitality and | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| COVID-19 Local Council Tax Support | 0 | (1,074) | (1,074) | 1,073 | (1) |

| | | | | | |
|------------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|----------------|-----------|----------------|
| COVID-19 Household Support Fund | 0 | (0) | (0) | 0 | (0) |
| COVID-19 Local Restriction Support | 0 | 3 | 3 | 0 | 3 |
| BSF FM Contribution | 400 | 400 | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| Lower Tier Services Grant | (566) | (566) | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | (35,845) | (44,598) | (8,753) | 65 | (8,688) |

| Service Area | Total Budget £'000 | Outturn £'000 | Variance £'000 | (Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000 | Outturn Variance £'000 |
|---------------------------|-----------------------|------------------|-------------------|--|------------------------------|
| Individual Schools Budget | 0 | (2,325) | (2,325) | 890 | (1,435) |
| | 0 | | 0 | 0 | 0 |
| TOTAL | 0 | (2,325) | (2,325) | 890 | (1,435) |

Earmarked Reserves

Appendix 4

| | Revised Balance (Q3 Monitoring) | Use of/(Contribution to) Reserves 2021/22 | Remaining Balance 2021/22 | Transfers to Corporate Reserves | £000 | |
|---|---------------------------------|---|---------------------------|---------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------|
| Corporate Mgt | | | | | | |
| Brexit Funding | (73) | 0 | (73) | 73 | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| Total Corporate Mgt | (73) | 0 | (73) | 73 | 0 | |
| Borough Economy | | | | | | |
| BE General Reserve | (129) | (1,523) | (1,652) | | (1,652) | |
| BE Grant Reserve | 0 | (11) | (11) | | (11) | |
| Portway Lifestyle Centre | (658) | (72) | (730) | | (730) | |
| Dartmouth Park HLF | (318) | 53 | (265) | | (265) | |
| Aquatics Centre UOW | (100) | 0 | (100) | | (100) | |
| SERCO | (3,816) | 0 | (3,816) | | (3,816) | |
| Commonwealth Games | 0 | (202) | (202) | 202 | 0 | Corporate Commonwealth Games |
| Total Borough Economy | (5,021) | (1,755) | (6,776) | 202 | (6,574) | |
| Adult Social Care | | | | | | |
| Adult Social Care General Reserve | (1,218) | (2,575) | (3,793) | 47 | (3,746) | |
| Better Care Fund | (8,952) | (1,661) | (10,613) | (47) | (10,660) | |
| Total Adult Social Care | (10,170) | (4,236) | (14,406) | 0 | (14,406) | |
| Regen & Growth | | | | | | |
| Sinking Fund RBC Building | (591) | 591 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Sinking Fund Central 6th Building | (999) | (97) | (1,096) | | (1,096) | |
| R&G General Reserve | (434) | (1,577) | (2,011) | (291) | (2,302) | |
| R&G Capital Project Support Reserve | (8,411) | 252 | (8,159) | 1,382 | (6,777) | |
| R&G Grant Reserve | 0 | (208) | (208) | | (208) | |
| Commonwealth Games | (500) | 0 | (500) | 500 | 0 | Corporate Commonwealth Games |
| Forge Mill Farm Demolition | (230) | 0 | (230) | | (230) | |
| School Repair Reserve | (120) | 0 | (120) | | (120) | |
| Total R&G | (11,285) | (1,039) | (12,324) | 1,591 | (10,733) | |
| Housing | | | | | | |
| H&A Grant Reserve | (1,077) | 390 | (687) | | (687) | |
| H&A General Reserve | (142) | (300) | (442) | | (442) | |
| Total Housing | (1,219) | 90 | (1,129) | 0 | (1,129) | |
| Children's Services | | | | | | |
| Children's Services General Reserve | (1,589) | 0 | (1,589) | | (1,589) | |
| SCT Reserve | (3,070) | 434 | (2,636) | | (2,636) | |
| SIPS Reserve | (52) | | (52) | 52 | 0 | Exit Payments |
| External Review - SEND Contract | (50) | 0 | (50) | 50 | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| Total Children's Services | (4,761) | 434 | (4,327) | 102 | (4,225) | |
| Business Strategy & Change | | | | | | |
| ICT Refresh | (1,000) | 0 | (1,000) | (747) | (1,747) | |
| BSC General Reserve | 0 | (715) | (715) | | (715) | |
| Corporate Improvement Plan | 0 | 74 | 74 | (74) | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| Graduate Scheme | 0 | (87) | (87) | 87 | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| Total BSC | (1,000) | (728) | (1,728) | (734) | (2,462) | |
| Finance - Main | | | | | | |
| Finance General Reserve | (2,000) | (171) | (2,171) | | (2,171) | |
| Oracle | (639) | 639 | 0 | | 0 | |
| POCA | (39) | 39 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Corporate Improvement Plan | 0 | (964) | (964) | | (964) | |
| Sandwell Children's Trust | (77) | 32 | (45) | | (45) | |
| Total Finance | (2,755) | (425) | (3,180) | 0 | (3,180) | |
| Law & Governance | | | | | | |
| R&G General Reserve | (718) | (518) | (1,236) | | (1,236) | |
| POCA | 0 | (833) | (833) | | (833) | |
| Corporate Improvement Plan | 0 | (228) | (228) | 228 | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| Leaders Office | 0 | (100) | (100) | | (100) | |
| Total Law & Governance | (718) | (1,679) | (2,397) | 228 | (2,169) | |
| Public Health | | | | | | |
| Learning for Public Health | (405) | (97) | (502) | | (502) | |
| Public Health Grant Reserve | (7,862) | (1,619) | (9,481) | | (9,481) | |
| Public Health Earmarked Reserves | (976) | 573 | (403) | | (403) | |
| Total Public Health | (9,243) | (1,143) | (10,386) | 0 | (10,386) | |
| Total Directorate Reserves | (46,245) | (10,481) | (56,726) | 1,462 | (55,264) | |
| Finance - Central Items | | | | | | |
| Insurance Reserve | (8,875) | 1,643 | (7,232) | | (7,232) | |
| COVID Emergency Funding | (20,245) | 3,314 | (16,931) | | (16,931) | |
| S31 Relief Grant | (34,390) | 3,494 | (30,896) | | (30,896) | |
| Finance Grant Reserve | (9,190) | (2,685) | (11,875) | | (11,875) | |
| Total Finance Central Items | (72,700) | 5,766 | (66,934) | 0 | (66,934) | |
| ISB | | | | | | |
| BSF FM Sinking Fund | (2,983) | (382) | (3,365) | | (3,365) | |
| BSF PFI Sinking Fund | (4,286) | (394) | (4,680) | | (4,680) | |
| Post LAC Pupil Premium Grant | 0 | (114) | (114) | | (114) | |
| Total ISB | (7,269) | (890) | (8,159) | 0 | (8,159) | |
| Corporate Items | | | | | | |
| General Capital Reserve | (7,000) | 0 | (7,000) | 3,000 | (4,000) | Oracle Fusion |
| New Asset System | (500) | 0 | (500) | | (500) | |
| Exit Packages | (2,000) | 0 | (2,000) | (52) | (2,052) | |
| Pay Award | (1,000) | 0 | (1,000) | | (1,000) | |
| Oracle Fusion | (231) | 0 | (231) | (3,000) | (3,231) | |
| Business Rates Volatility Reserve (NEW) | (7,000) | 0 | (7,000) | | (7,000) | |
| Invest to Save Reserve (NEW) | (3,000) | 0 | (3,000) | | (3,000) | |
| Corporate Improvement Plan | 0 | 0 | 0 | (572) | (572) | |
| Climate Change (NEW) | 0 | 0 | 0 | | 0 | |
| Commonwealth Games | 0 | 0 | 0 | (1,793) | (1,793) | |
| Business Rates Growth | (131) | 0 | (131) | 131 | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| Brushstrokes | (27) | 0 | (27) | 27 | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| SLaP Closure | (50) | 0 | (50) | 50 | 0 | Corporate Improvement Plan |
| Workplace Vision | (2,000) | 2,000 | 0 | | 0 | |
| ICT RCCO Reserve | 0 | (747) | (747) | 747 | 0 | |
| Cemetery RCCO Reserve | 0 | (1,466) | (1,466) | | (1,466) | |
| Total Corporate Items | (22,939) | (213) | (23,152) | (1,462) | (24,614) | |
| Total Earmarked Reserves | (149,153) | (5,818) | (154,971) | 0 | (154,971) | |

| Additional Specific Grants Announced during the Quarter | £'000 |
|---|---------------|
| <u>Adult Social Care</u> | |
| Covid 19 Vaccine Support Grant | (59) |
| <u>Borough Economy</u> | |
| Welcome Back Fund | (515) |
| <u>Housing</u> | |
| Afghan Resettlement | (278) |
| <u>Public Health</u> | |
| Community Testing Lateral Flow - Additional Income | (293) |
| Community Champions LA Fund - Tranche 2 | (185) |
| <u>Finance - Target</u> | |
| Test & Trace COVID Additional Admin Support Grant | 11 |
| New Burdens - Omicron Hospitality & Leisure Grant | (27) |
| New Burdens - 5 Post Payment Assurance | (26) |
| New Burdens - Cost of implementing improvements to supported accommodation and TA | (5) |
| <u>Finance - Central Items</u> | |
| Energy Rebate - Main Grant | 19,187 |
| Energy Rebate - Discretionary Grant | 887 |
| Redmond Review (Audit Fees) | 79 |
| Omicron Hospitality and Leisure Grant | 1,494 |
| Restart Grant | 12,955 |
| Household Support Fund | 1,803 |
| <u>Law & Governance</u> | |
| Covid 19 Secure Elections - Cabinet Office | (52) |
| Total Grants | 34,976 |

SANDWELL METROPOLITAN BOROUGH COUNCIL

CAPITAL MONITORING 2021/2022 - PERIOD 12 MARCH

| SUMMARY MARCH 2021/22 | Approved Budget Period 9 £ | Outturn £ | Variance £ | New Approvals / Adjustments | Re-profile To Future Years £ |
|----------------------------------|---|----------------------|-----------------------|--|---|
| Director of Finance | 6,000 | 0 | (6,000) | 0 | (6,000) |
| Law & Governance | 1,100,000 | 1,224,723 | 124,723 | 0 | 125,000 |
| Business Strategy & Change | 325,000 | 531,749 | 206,749 | 0 | 207,000 |
| Adults Social Care | 12,455,000 | 8,590,704 | (3,864,296) | 0 | (3,864,000) |
| Borough Economy | 12,383,000 | 14,195,099 | 1,812,099 | 2,614,000 | (803,000) |
| Regeneration & Growth | 39,753,000 | 40,954,630 | 1,201,630 | 1,678,000 | (476,000) |
| Housing & Assets | 4,516,000 | 2,688,304 | (1,827,696) | 0 | (1,828,000) |
| Children & Education | 12,523,000 | 11,338,427 | (1,184,573) | 1,719,000 | (2,904,000) |
| Housing Revenue Account (HRA) | 67,377,000 | 58,277,028 | (9,099,972) | 3,133,000 | (12,231,000) |
| GRAND TOTAL | 150,438,000 | 137,800,666 | (12,637,335) | 9,144,000 | (21,780,000) |

| Section 106 - Capital | Year | Development Agreement Number | Service Area | Description of Project | Balance Available @ 01/04/21 | 2021/22 Available @ 2021/22 | Expenditure for 2021/22 | Balance Remaining @ 31/03/22 |
|---|-------------|------------------------------|-----------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| Widborough Town Centre | Widborough | DC044209 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 92,294.11 | - | - | 92,294.11 |
| Widborough North east (Widborough Memorial and Broadland) | Widborough | DC044202 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure and Open Space | 3,947.23 | - | - | 3,947.23 |
| Widborough South east | Widborough | DC135176 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 47,434.63 | - | - | 47,434.63 |
| Widborough Green park/Hydes Road Path, Hill Top park | Widborough | DC074874 & DC084842 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 3,237.83 | - | - | 3,237.83 |
| Blue Tame corner north (Widborough) | Widborough | DC135200 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 16,417.73 | - | - | 16,417.73 |
| Princes End east | Epson | DC044207 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 2,083.87 | - | - | 2,083.87 |
| Victoria Park | Epson | DC115378 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 21,800.30 | - | - | 21,800.30 |
| Julian Park | Epson | DC115327 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 28,832.19 | - | - | 28,832.19 |
| Julian Park | Epson | DC135559 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 2,894.39 | - | - | 2,894.39 |
| Julian Park | Epson | DC135560 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 21,377.35 | - | - | 21,377.35 |
| Good Bridge West | Epson | DC135558 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 15,733.66 | - | - | 15,733.66 |
| Widborough Oak Road, Tipton | Epson | DC145703 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 10,000.00 | - | - | 10,000.00 |
| Widborough Oak Road, Tipton | Epson | DC145703 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 10,000.00 | - | - | 10,000.00 |
| Widborough Oak Road, Tipton | Epson | DC145703 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 18,754.76 | - | - | 18,754.76 |
| Borough wide | Epson | DC135921 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 167,158.40 | - | - | 167,158.40 |
| Borough wide | Epson | DC135927 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 102,000.00 | - | - | 102,000.00 |
| Borough wide | Epson | DC135944 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 26,493.32 | - | - | 26,493.32 |
| Borough wide | Epson | DC135948 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 193,095.00 | - | - | 193,095.00 |
| Borough wide | Epson | DC135949 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 230,568.00 | - | - | 230,568.00 |
| Almonds Hill Upper Church Lane (CIL application site) | Epson | DC044205 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 32,228.45 | - | - | 32,228.45 |
| Country Green & Marsh Lane open space (as plan) | Red Burnish | DC044203 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 54,762.40 | - | - | 54,762.40 |
| Country Green & Lung wood | Red Burnish | DC084555 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 14,916.72 | - | - | 14,916.72 |
| 100 Birmingham Road (vicinity of site) | Red Burnish | DC084556 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 17,170.98 | - | - | 17,170.98 |
| Five Tree scheme | Red Burnish | DC115419 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 6,638.88 | - | - | 6,638.88 |
| Kendrick Park | Red Burnish | DC115963 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 104,388.00 | - | - | 104,388.00 |
| Cherwell playing fields | Red Burnish | DC145917 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 99,202.95 | - | - | 99,202.95 |
| Greenhill (vicinity of site) | Red Burnish | DC145917 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 132,763.83 | - | - | 132,763.83 |
| Borough Wide | Red Burnish | DC084646 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 433.34 | - | - | 433.34 |
| Air Quality consultant | Red Burnish | DC135747 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 20,000.00 | - | - | 20,000.00 |
| Green Mary Estate Open Space | Red Burnish | DC084530 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 22,383.42 | - | - | 22,383.42 |
| Ruby Hill Park | Red Burnish | DC084538 & DC135493 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 5,685.90 | - | - | 5,685.90 |
| Mary Macanthur Gardens | Red Burnish | DC135170 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 4,117.32 | - | - | 4,117.32 |
| Tulside Ward | Red Burnish | DC135927 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 16,477.82 | - | - | 16,477.82 |
| Stonewall Ward | Red Burnish | DC044582 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 16,588.00 | - | - | 16,588.00 |
| Stonewall Ward | Red Burnish | DC084518 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 28,153.84 | - | - | 28,153.84 |
| Borough Wide | Red Burnish | DC135942 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 588,295.00 | - | - | 588,295.00 |
| Borough Wide | Red Burnish | DC145911 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 79,000.00 | - | - | 79,000.00 |
| Green Open Space | Osney | DC084398 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 4,763.75 | - | - | 4,763.75 |
| Norman Road Dams | Osney | DC084558 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 2,976.64 | - | - | 2,976.64 |
| Langley Ward | Osney | DC084560 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 46,106.46 | - | - | 46,106.46 |
| Broadwell Park & Ward | Osney | DC135934 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 32,835.00 | - | - | 32,835.00 |
| Borough Wide | Osney | DC044207 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 90,000.00 | - | - | 90,000.00 |
| Borough Wide | Osney | DC135943 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 260,771.88 | - | - | 260,771.88 |
| Borough Wide | Osney | DC145912 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 210,000.00 | - | - | 210,000.00 |
| Air Quality Consultant | Osney | DC135987 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 23,842.44 | - | - | 23,842.44 |
| Victoria Park | Osney | DC044203 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 21,831.23 | - | - | 21,831.23 |
| Old Mansel - Cape Hill site | Osney | DC044203 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 7,281.14 | - | - | 7,281.14 |
| St Pauls Ward | Osney | DC135939 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 38,308.00 | - | - | 38,308.00 |
| West Stonewall Park | Osney | DC084640 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 112,451.31 | - | - | 112,451.31 |
| Stonewall Hill Park | Osney | DC084543 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 45,148.75 | - | - | 45,148.75 |
| Stonewall Ward | Osney | DC125411 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 8,763.90 | - | - | 8,763.90 |
| | Osney | DC135934 | Leisure - Parks | Leisure - Parks | 122,380.59 | - | - | 122,380.59 |
| Total Section 106 | | | | | 3,228,773.37 | 181,143.36 | | 3,389,897.73 |

| Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Capital Element (10%) | Year | Development Agreement Number | Service Area | Description of Project | Balance Available @ 01/04/21 | 2021/22 Available @ 2021/22 | Expenditure for 2021/22 | Balance Remaining @ 31/03/22 |
|--|------|------------------------------|--------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| CIL Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Balance in CIL fund to date - not allocated to individual projects | | | | | 2,872,800.00 | | | 2,872,800.00 |
| Total Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) | | | | | 2,872,800.00 | | | 2,872,800.00 |

| Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) - Revenue Element (10%) | Year | Development Agreement Number | Service Area | Description of Project | Balance Available @ 01/04/21 | 2021/22 Available @ 2021/22 | Expenditure for 2021/22 | Balance Remaining @ 31/03/22 |
|---|------|------------------------------|----------------------------|------------------------|------------------------------|-----------------------------|-------------------------|------------------------------|
| CIL Scheme | | | | | | | | |
| Osney | | | Regeneration & Improvement | Osney Scheme | 158,961.35 | 5,007.70 | 87,493.66 | 76,475.39 |
| Osney | | | Regeneration & Improvement | Osney Scheme | 73,203.94 | 11,369.36 | 51,842.61 | 32,671.69 |
| Osney | | | Regeneration & Improvement | Osney Scheme | 29,409.29 | 19,249.37 | 10,800.00 | 28,858.66 |
| Osney | | | Regeneration & Improvement | Osney Scheme | 62,130.58 | 17,416.06 | 39,512.74 | 40,033.90 |
| Osney | | | Regeneration & Improvement | Osney Scheme | 86,881.03 | 13,500.00 | 59,527.84 | 40,853.19 |
| Osney | | | Regeneration & Improvement | Osney Scheme | 114,758.76 | 18,492.21 | 96,268.12 | 36,982.85 |
| Total Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) | | | | | 486,185.95 | 85,895.60 | 385,432.87 | 100,648.68 |

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Annual Report on the Treasury Management Service and Actual Prudential Indicators 2021/22

Purpose

The council is required by regulations issued under the Local Government Act 2003 to produce an annual treasury management review of activities and the actual prudential and treasury indicators for 2021/22. This report meets the requirements of both the CIPFA Code of Practice on Treasury Management, (the Code) and the Prudential Code for Capital Finance in Local Authorities, (the Prudential Code).

The regulatory environment places responsibility on members for the review and scrutiny of treasury management policy activities. This report is, therefore, important in that respect, as it provides details of the outturn position for treasury activities and highlights compliance with the Council's policies previously approved by members.

Executive Summary

During 2021/22 the council complied with its legislative and regulatory requirements. The actual prudential indicators for the year along with prior year comparators are as follows:

| | 2020/21 £'m | 2021/22 £'m |
|--|----------------|----------------|
| Actual Capital Expenditure | 132.616 | 137.800 |
| Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) | | |
| General Fund | 326.715 | 321.690 |
| HRA | 468.374 | 487.431 |
| Total | 795.089 | 809.121 |
| Financing Costs as a Proportion of Net Revenue Stream | | |
| General Fund | 5.5% | 6.1% |
| Housing Revenue Account | 22.6% | 22.2% |

Other prudential and treasury indicators are to be found in the main body of this report. The Director of Financial also confirms that borrowing was only undertaken for capital purposes and that the statutory borrowing limit (Authorised Limit) was not breached.

At 31 March 2022, the council's external debt was £475.588m (£481.593m at 31 March 2021) and its short-term investments totalled £51.101m (£37.306m at 31 March 2021).

The financial year 2021/22 continued with the challenging environment of previous years, mainly low investment.

Recommendations

The council is recommended to:

- Approve the actual 2021/22 prudential and treasury indicators in this report.
- Note the annual treasury management report for 2021/22.

1. The Council's Capital Expenditure and Financing 2021/22

1.1. The council undertakes capital expenditure on long term assets. These activities can either be:

- Financed immediately through the application of capital or revenue resources (capital receipts, capital grants, revenue contributions etc) which has no resultant impact on the council's borrowing need; or
- If insufficient financing is available, or a decision is taken to not apply resources, the capital expenditure will give rise to a borrowing need.

1.2. Actual capital expenditure is one of the required prudential indicators. The table below also shows how this expenditure was financed.

| | 2020/21 | 2021/22 | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|----------------|
| | Actual £'m | Estimate £'m | Actual £'m |
| Capital Expenditure | | | |
| General Fund | 82.301 | 94.804 | 79.523 |
| HRA | 50.315 | 70.808 | 58.277 |
| Total | 132.616 | 165.612 | 137.800 |
| Resourced by: | | | |
| Capital Receipts | 18.869 | 32.836 | 18.351 |
| Capital Grants & Contributions | 58.737 | 44.591 | 53.964 |
| Revenue Contributions | 24.107 | 18.536 | 25.723 |
| Capital Expenditure Financed from Borrowing | 30.903 | 69.649 | 39.762 |

2. The Council's Overall Borrowing Need

2.1. The council's underlying need to borrow for capital expenditure is called the Capital Financing Requirement (CFR).

2.2. **Gross borrowing and the CFR** – in order to ensure that borrowing levels are prudent over the medium term and only for a capital purpose, the Council should ensure that its gross external borrowing does not, except in the short term, exceed the total of the capital financing requirement in the preceding year 2021/22, plus the estimates for any additional capital financing requirement for the current 2022/23 and next two financial years. This essentially means that the Council is not borrowing to support revenue expenditure. This indicator allowed the Council some flexibility to borrow in advance of its immediate capital needs in 2021/22. The table below highlights the Council's gross borrowing position against the CFR. The table below shows Council has complied with this prudential indicator:

| | 31 March 21 | 31 March 22 Mid | 31 March 2022 | | |
|--|----------------|-----------------|----------------|---------------------|----------------|
| | Actual | Year Indicator | HRA Actual | General Fund Actual | Total |
| | £'m | £'m | £'m | £'m | £'m |
| Opening Capital Financing Requirement | 792.260 | 795.089 | 468.374 | 326.715 | 795.089 |
| add: Capital Expenditure funded from Borrowing | 30.903 | 69.649 | 30.381 | 9.381 | 39.762 |
| less: MRP | -28.074 | -25.732 | -11.324 | -14.406 | -25.730 |
| add: Movement on Other Long Term Liabilities | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| adj: Appropriation of Assets | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 |
| Closing Capital Financing Requirement | 795.089 | 839.006 | 487.431 | 321.690 | 809.121 |
| Gross Borrowing Position | 481.593 | 476.728 | 336.868 | 138.720 | 475.588 |
| Under/(Over) Funding of CFR | 313.496 | 362.278 | 150.563 | 182.970 | 333.533 |

The Authorised Limit – This is the ‘affordable borrowing limit’ required by section 3 of the Local Government Act 2003. Once this has been set, the Council does not have the power to borrow above this level. The table below demonstrates that during 2021/22 the council has maintained gross borrowing within its authorised limit.

The Operational Boundary – This is the expected borrowing position of the Council during the year. Periods where the actual position is either below or over the boundary is acceptable subject to the authorised limit not being breached.

Actual financing costs as a proportion of net revenue stream - This indicator identifies the trend in the cost of capital (borrowing and other long-term obligation costs net of investment income) against the net revenue stream.

| | 2021/22 £'m |
|---|----------------|
| Original Indicators | |
| Authorised Limit | 809.121 |
| Operational Boundary | 557.892 |
| Actual Performance | |
| Maximum Gross Borrowing Position | 498.417 |
| Average Gross Borrowing Position | 473.832 |
| Financing Costs as a Proportion of Net Revenue Stream | 12.2% |

3. Treasury Position at 31 March 2022

- 3.1. The Council’s treasury management debt and investment position is organised by the treasury management service in order to ensure adequate liquidity for revenue and capital activities, security for investments and to manage risks within all treasury management activities. Procedures and controls to achieve these objectives are well established both through member reporting detailed in the summary, and through officer activity detailed in the Council’s Treasury management practices.
- 3.2. The figures in this report are based on the principal amounts borrowed and invested and so may differ from those in the final accounts by items such as accrued interest.
- 3.3. During 2021/22 the Director of Finance managed the debt position to £475.588m; the treasury position at the 31 March 2022 compared with the previous year was:

| | 31 March 2021 | | | | 31 March 2022 | | | |
|--|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|--------------|
| | Principal | | | Average Rate | Principal | | | Average Rate |
| | HRA | General Fund | Total | | HRA | General Fund | Total | |
| £'m | £'m | £'m | % | £'m | £'m | £'m | % | |
| Actual Borrowing Position | | | | | | | | |
| Fixed Interest Rate Debt | 353.950 | 75.299 | 429.249 | 4.43 | 336.868 | 90.978 | 427.846 | 4.12% |
| Variable Interest Rate Debt | 0.000 | 52.344 | 52.344 | | 0.000 | 47.742 | 47.742 | |
| Total Debt | 353.950 | 127.643 | 481.593 | | 336.868 | 138.720 | 475.588 | |
| Capital Financing Requirement (CFR) | 468.374 | 326.715 | 795.089 | | 487.431 | 321.690 | 809.121 | |
| Borrowing Above / (Below) CFR | -114.424 | -199.072 | -313.496 | | -150.563 | -182.970 | -333.533 | |
| Investment Position | | | | | | | | |
| Fixed Interest Investments | 0.000 | 0.000 | 0.000 | | 0.000 | 0.250 | 0.250 | |
| Variable Interest Investments | 0.000 | 37.056 | 37.056 | | 0.000 | 50.851 | 50.851 | |
| Total Investments | 0.000 | 37.056 | 37.056 | | 0.000 | 51.101 | 51.101 | |
| Net Borrowing Position | 353.950 | 90.587 | 444.537 | | 336.868 | 87.619 | 424.487 | |

The maturity structure of the debt portfolio was as follows:

| | 31 March 2021 | 2021/22 | 31 March 2022 | |
|--------------------------------|----------------|----------|----------------|----------------|
| | Actual | Original | Actual | £'m |
| | % | % | % | |
| Under 12 months | 15.29% | 10.00% | 14.68% | 69,824 |
| 12 months and within 24 months | 1.45% | 10.00% | 2.49% | 11,853 |
| 24 months and within 5 years | 9.17% | 20.00% | 8.31% | 39,503 |
| 5 years and within 10 years | 10.29% | 20.00% | 9.91% | 47,136 |
| 10 years and above | 63.80% | 90.00% | 64.61% | 307,272 |
| | 100.00% | | 100.00% | 475,588 |
| | | | | |

4. The Strategy for 2021/22

4.1 **Investment** returns remained close to zero for much of 2021/22. Most local authority lending managed to avoid negative rates and one feature of the year was the continued growth of inter local authority lending. The expectation for interest rates within the treasury management strategy for 2021/22 was that Bank Rate would remain at 0.1% until it was clear to the Bank of England that the emergency level of rates introduced at the start of the Covid-19 pandemic were no longer necessitated.

The Bank of England and the Government also maintained various monetary and fiscal measures, supplying the banking system and the economy with massive amounts of cheap credit so that banks could help cash-starved businesses to survive the various lockdowns/negative impact on their cashflow. The Government also supplied huge amounts of finance to local authorities to pass on to businesses. This meant that for most of the year there was much more liquidity in financial markets than there was demand to borrow, with the consequent effect that investment earnings rates remained low until towards the turn of the year when inflation concerns indicated central banks, not just the Bank of England, would need to lift interest rates to combat the second-round effects of growing levels of inflation (CPI was 6.2% in February).

While the Council has taken a cautious approach to investing, it is also fully appreciative of charges to regulatory requirements for financial institutions in terms of additional capital and liquidity that came about in the aftermath of the financial crisis. These requirements have provided a far stronger basis for financial institutions, with annual stress tests by regulators evidencing how institutions are now far more able to cope with extreme stressed market and economic conditions.

Investment balances have been kept to a minimum through the agreed strategy of using reserves and balances to support internal borrowing, rather than borrowing externally from the financial markets. External borrowing would have incurred an additional cost, due to the differential between borrowing and investment rates as illustrated in the charts shown above and below. Such an approach has also provided benefits in terms of reducing counterparty risk exposure, by having fewer investments placed in the financial markets.

4.2 **Borrowing**; during 2021/22, the Council maintained an under-borrowed position. This means that the capital borrowing need (the Capital Financing Requirement) was not fully funded with loan debt as cash supporting the Council's reserves, balances and cash flow was used as an interim measure. This strategy was prudent as investment returns were very low and minimising counterparty risk on placing investments also needed to be considered.

A cost of carry remained during the year on any new long-term borrowing that was not immediately used to finance capital expenditure, as it would have caused a temporary

increase in cash balances; this would have incurred a revenue costs – the difference between (higher) borrowing costs and (lower) investment returns.

The policy of avoiding new borrowing by running down spare cash balances has served well over the last few years however, this was kept under review to avoid incurring higher borrowing costs in the future when this authority may not be able to avoid new borrowing to finance capital expenditure and/or the refinancing of maturing debt.

Interest rate forecasts expected only gradual rises in medium and longer-term fixed borrowing rates during 2021/22 and the two subsequent financial years until the turn of the year, when inflation concerns increased significantly. Internal, variable or short-term rates, were expected to be the cheaper form of borrowing until well in the second half of 2021/22.

PWLB rates are based on gilt (UK Government bonds) yields through H.M.Treasury determining a specified margin to add to gilt yields. The main influences on gilt yields are Bank Rate, inflation expectations and movements in US treasury yields. Inflation targeting by the major central banks has been successful over the last years lowering inflation and the real equilibrium rate for central rates has fallen considerably due to the high level of borrowing by consumers: this means that central banks do not need to raise rates as much now, to have a major impact on consumer spending, inflation etc. This has pulled down the overall level of interest rates and bond yields in financial markets over the last 30 years. We have seen over the last two years, many bond yields growth rates and inflation up from the low levels. In addition, there has at times, been an inversion of bond yields in the US whereby 10-year yields have fallen below shorter-term yields. In the past this has been a precursor of a recession. Recently yields have risen since the turn of the year on the back of global inflation concerns.

Borrowing Outturn

- 4.1. **Borrowing** – One short term-loans increased by £0.155m, two short-term loans decreased by £4.717m and two new short-term market loans were raised totalling £20.000m in 2021/22 to fund the net unfinanced capital expenditure and naturally maturing debt.

The Council has not borrowed more than or in advance of its needs, purely in order to profit from the investment of the extra sums borrowed.

- 4.2. **Rescheduling** – No rescheduling of debt was undertaken during 2021/22.
- 4.3. **Repayment** – Two debts matured during 2021/22 (two long-term) totalling £19.228m. Five debts partially matured during 2021-22 (five long term) totalling £2.034m. No early repayment of debt was undertaken during 2021/22.

5. Investment Position

- 5.1. **Investment Policy** – the Council's investment policy is governed by DLUHC investment guidance, which has been implemented in the annual investment strategy approved by the Council 9 March 2021. This policy sets out the approach for choosing investment counterparties and is based on credit ratings provided by the three main credit rating agencies, supplemented by additional market data. The investment activity during the year conformed to the approved strategy and the Council had no liquidity difficulties.
- 5.2. **Resources** – The council's longer-term cash balances comprise primarily revenue and capital resources, although these will be influenced by cash flow considerations. The

council's core cash resources include the council's balances, earmarked reserves, provisions and capital receipts.

5.3. Investments Held by The Council

Below shows the Council's investment portfolio for 2021/22:

| Treasury Portfolio | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---|--|---|
| | Average Balance 31/03/2022 £'000 | Average Return 31/03/2022 % | Balance 31/03/2022 £'000 |
| Treasury Investments | | | |
| Banks | 883 | 0.010% | 651 |
| Temporary Deposits | 0 | 0.000% | 0 |
| Local Authorities | 0 | 0.000% | 0 |
| 6 Towns Credit Union | 250 | 1.490% | 250 |
| Total Managed In House | 1,133 | 1.500% | 901 |
| Money Market Funds | 87,280 | 0.061% | 50,200 |
| Total Managed Externally | 87,280 | 0.061% | 50,200 |
| Total Treasury Investments | 88,163 | 0.064% | 51,101 |

The council maintained an average balance of £88.163m of internally and externally managed funds. The internally managed funds received an average return of 1.50% and the externally managed funds received an average return of 0.061%. The comparable performance indicator for internally managed funds is the average 7-day backward looking SONIA un-compounded rate as at 31 March 2022, which was 0.1355% and for externally managed funds is the average 7-day backward looking SONIA compounded rate as at 31 March 2022 which was 0.1392%. The SONIA replaced the LIBID rate as a comparable performance indicator in 2021/22.

6. The UK Economy and Interest Rates

6.1. **UK Economy** – Over the last two years the coronavirus outbreak has done huge economic damage to the UK and to economies around the world. After the Bank of England took emergency action in March 2020 to cut Bank Rate to 0.10%, it left Bank Rate unchanged at its subsequent meetings until raising it to 0.25% at its meeting on 16 December 2021, 0.50% at its meeting on 4 February 2022 and then to 0.75% in March 2022.

The UK economy has endured several false dawns through the 2021/22 but with most of the economy now opened up and nearly back to business-as-usual, the GDP numbers have been robust (9% y/y Q1 2022) and sufficient for the MPC to focus on tackling the second-round effects of inflation, now that the CPI measure has already risen to 6.2% and is likely to exceed 8% in April.

Gilt yields fell towards the back end of 2021 but despite the war in Ukraine gilt yields have shot higher in early 2022. At 1.38%, 2-year yields remain close to their recent 11-year high and 10-year yields of 1.65% are close to their recent six-year high. These rises have been part of global trend as central banks have suggested they will continue to raise interest rates to contain inflation.

Historically a further rise in US Treasury yields will probably drag UK gilt yields higher. There is a strong correlation between the two factors however, the squeeze on real

household disposable incomes arising from the 54% leap in April utilises prices as well as rises in council tax, water prices, and many phone contract prices, are strong headwinds for any economy to deal with. In addition, from 1 April 2022, employees also pay 1.25% more in National Insurance tax. Consequently, inflation will be a bigger drag on real incomes in 2022 than in any year since records began in 1955.

- 6.2. **Average inflation targeting** – this was the major change in 2020/21 adopted by the Bank of England in terms of implementing its inflation target of 2%. The key addition to the Bank's forward guidance in August 2020 was a new phrase in the policy statement, namely that "it does not intend to tighten monetary policy until there is clear evidence that significant progress is being made in eliminating spare capacity and achieving the 2% target sustainably". That mantra now seems very dated. Inflation is the "genie" that has escaped the bottle and a perfect storm of supply side shortages, labour shortages, commodity price inflation, the impact of Russia's invasion of Ukraine and subsequent Western sanctions all point to inflation being at elevated levels until well in 2023.

7. Other Issues

- 7.1 **IFRS 9 fair value of investments** – following the consultation by the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government [MHCLG] (now renamed the Department of Levelling Up, Housing & Communities) on IFRS 9 the Government previously introduced a mandatory statutory override for local authorities to reverse out all unrealised fair value movements resulting from pooled investment funds. This was effective from 1 April 2018. The statutory override applies for five years from this date. Local authorities are required to disclose the net impact of the unrealised fair value movements in a separate unusable reserve throughout the duration of the override in order for the Government to keep the override under review and to maintain a form of transparency.
- 7.2 **IFRS 16 Leases** HM Treasury and the Financial Reporting Advisory Board (FRAB) have decided that IFRS 16 implementation in the public sector will be deferred for a further two years, to 2024/25.

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