

Agenda

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

Thursday, 28 July 2022 at 6.00 pm
At Committee Room 2 - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

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

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Minutes

7 - 12

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 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 2021/2022 Financial Outturn

13 - 54

To consider the 2021/22 Financial Outturn report.



6 **Energy Rebate payments update** 55 - 58

To consider the update on the Energy Rebate payments within Sandwell.

7 **Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-2022** 59 - 86

To consider and comment on the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2021 – 2022.

Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL
Managing Director Commissioner

Sandwell Council House

Freeth Street

Oldbury

West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Moore (Chair)

Councillors Anandou, Fenton, E M Giles, Shackleton and Simms

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Minutes of Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

Wednesday 13 July 2022 at 6.00 pm
In Committee Room 2 - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Moore (Chair);
Councillors Shackleton, Fenton, Akhtar, E M Giles, Hinchliff,
Simms and Taylor.

In attendance: Neil Cox (Director of Business Strategy and Change), Surjit
Tour (Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring
Officer), Elaine Newsome (Service Manager of Democracy),
Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic Services Manager), Matt
Powis (Senior Democratic Services Officer) and Anthony
Lloyd (Democratic Services Officer)

23/22 Apologies for Absence

An apology was received from Councillor Anandou.

24/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest.



25/22

Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 16 March 2022 are approved as a correct record.

26/22

Additional Items of Business

There were no additional items of business to consider.

27/22

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2022-23.

The Chair presented an overview of the Board's work programme for the 2022-23 municipal year. It was noted that each Council directorate was invited to a work programming session on 30 June 2022 which allowed Members of the Board to discuss services, key issues and priorities.

The Board would be conducting a scrutiny review on the Council's 'Customer Journey' and as part of this, a visit to the Council's Contact Centre would be arranged by the Director of Business Strategy and Change.

Members also discussed the impact on staff as a result of the consequences of COVID-19 with particular focus on working from home. Members raised following questions in respect of the review item:

- had productivity increased or decreased since staff had begun working from home?
- how could the Council increase productivity, if required?
- with the majority of staff still working from home, did this present a saving to the local authority or cost more?
- how the council could support the health and well-being of staff?
- how could the Council improve communication with staff and future outlook of working from home employees.

It was agreed by the Board that the above concerns were to be collated into a new item for work programme.

Resolved that the work programme for the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for 2022-23 municipal year be approved.

Scrutiny Boards Work Programme 2022-23

The Chair invited each Scrutiny Chair to present their work programme for the 2022-23 municipal year which was outlined as follows:

Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board

The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board presented the 2022-2023 work programme. The Children's Services COVID Recovery Funds item was highlighted as an upcoming item.

As a result of the pandemic, members suggested that scrutiny should consider reviewing how the Council monitored home-schooled children. Concerns were raised around the well-being of the children as it appeared several may not be getting the support they need. The Senior Democratic Services Officer confirmed that this was an item to be scheduled and that conversations were taking place with the relevant officers to begin the process.

Members sought clarification on the safeguarding aspect of this issue. The Chair of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board reassured the Board that safeguarding concerns would be presented at the next meeting of the Board.

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment

The Chair of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board presented the 2022-23 work programme. It was noted that the Board had a mixture of strategic items of importance such as the Black Country Enterprise Partnership, Local Transport Plan and the Outcome of the E-Scooters Trial.

Health and Adult Social Care

The Chair of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board highlighted the work programme for the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board which remained under review pending further discussions with NHS and Black Country Partners.

It was proposed to include an item on men's mental health as a future Board item. Concerns were raised around the considerable

high rate of suicide in males and was therefore deemed a priority. Additionally, members discussed the possibility of expanding further on this topic by including a review into domestic abuse aimed towards men.

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities

The Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board presented the work programme for 2022-23. In particular, a scrutiny review in relation to Brandhall Golf Course was highlighted as a priority of the Board. Due to the vast number of items to be covered by the Scrutiny Board, it was agreed that further meetings could be scheduled if required.

Members offered a suggestion of reviewing current policies around loft conversions as part of the Housing Strategy review. Many Sandwell Council tenants had stated that the Council had refused to allow them to convert loft spaces. It was proposed that this may alleviate some of the issues currently faced when considering social housing shortages. This also prompted discussion around the need for more bungalows to help older citizens downsize during their later years. The Chair of the SNAC Scrutiny Board noted the recommendation.

SMB Chair Summary

The Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board reminded members that, this municipal year, each of the Scrutiny Boards will hold pre-meetings as well as agenda setting meetings. This would help officers in feeding information in a timely and effective manner to their respective Boards.

It was noted that the Scrutiny Recommendation Action Tracker had been implemented across all Scrutiny Boards and regularly presented to the Council's Leadership Team for monitoring.

The Chair encouraged Members to have regular meetings with Directors and Cabinet Members. The Director of Law and Governance & Monitoring Officer expressed how keeping good scrutiny practices would help play a key role in demonstrating to central government that the Council was making improvements with decision-making processes overall.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the work programme for the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board, the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Boards and the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board for 2022-2023 be approved;
- (2) that the Chair and Vice Chair of Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board, in consultation with the Chair of the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board, agree the work programme for Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 2022-23 following the work programming session with the Board;
- (3) that the Chairs of Scrutiny Boards be authorised to make any further amendments to their respective Scrutiny Board work programmes, as deemed necessary.

Meeting ended at 6.42pm.

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Report to Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Board

28 July 2022

Subject:	2021/22 Financial Outturn
Director:	Director of Finance Simone Hines
Contact Officer:	Head of Finance, Rebecca Maher Rebecca_Maher@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

That the Board considers and comments upon the 2021/22 Financial Outturn report which is attached as an appendix to this report.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board is required to consider and provide comments on the financial outturn report for the Council.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

The financial position for the Council underpins all objectives in the Corporate Plan.

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The overall outturn position for the General Fund is an underspend of £4.788m. 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.



- 4.2 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.
- 4.3 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.
- 4.4 Individual outturn reports for each directorate, the Housing Revenue Account and the Individual Schools Budget can be found in the Cabinet Report attached.

5 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.

6 Appendices

Financial Outturn Report 2021/22 – Cabinet 20th July 2022

7. Background Papers

None



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
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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

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

Service Area	Total Budget	Outturn	Variance	(Use of) Reserves/ RCCO	Outturn Variance
	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'000	£'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

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)

Regeneration and Growth

APPENDIX 1D

Service Area	Annual Target Budget £'000	Outturn £'000	Variance £'000	(Use of) Reserves/ RCCO £'000	Outturn Variance £'000
Growth and Spatial Planning Service	2,149	1,360	(788)	208	(580)
Development Planning and Building	507	386	(121)	0	(121)
Strategic Assets and Land Service	6,699	4,736	(1,964)	(494)	(2,458)
Management	1,044	507	(537)	1,325	788
			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
			0	0	0
			0	0	0
			0	0	0
			0	0	0
TOTAL	10,399	6,989	(3,410)	1,039	(2,371)

6,423

Housing & Assets

APPENDIX 1E

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

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

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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)

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

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

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

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

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	Town	Development Agreement Number	Service Area	Description of Project	Balance Available @ 01/04/21	01/04 Available @ 2021/22	Expenditure for 2021/22	Balance Remaining @ 31/03/22
Wetherbury Town Centre	Wetherbury	DC044209	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	92,294.11	-	-	92,294.11
Wetherbury North east (Wetherbury Memorial and Brownfield)	Wetherbury	DC044520	Leisure - Parks	Leisure and Open Space	3,947.23	-	-	3,947.23
Wetherbury South east	Wetherbury	DC115016	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	47,434.63	-	-	47,434.63
Willesborough Green (Willesborough Road Path, Hill Top park)	Wetherbury	DC074874 & DC084842	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	3,237.83	-	-	3,237.83
Blue Tame (under north (Wetherbury))	Wetherbury	DC115030	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	16,417.73	-	-	16,417.73
Princes End east	Tipton	DC044507	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	2,083.87	-	-	2,083.87
Victoria Park	Tipton	DC115038	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	21,800.30	-	-	21,800.30
Julian Park	Tipton	DC115027	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	28,832.19	-	-	28,832.19
Julian Park	Tipton	DC115039	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	2,894.39	-	-	2,894.39
Julian Park	Tipton	DC115050	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	21,377.35	-	-	21,377.35
Good Bridge West	Tipton	DC115058	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	15,733.66	-	-	15,733.66
Wetherbury Oak Road, Tipton	Tipton	DC145703	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
Wetherbury Oak Road, Tipton	Tipton	DC145703	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	10,000.00	-	-	10,000.00
Wetherbury Oak Road, Tipton	Tipton	DC145703	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	18,756.76	-	-	18,756.76
Borough side	Tipton	DC115021	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	167,159.40	-	-	167,159.40
Borough side	Tipton	DC115027	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	102,000.00	-	-	102,000.00
Borough side	Tipton	DC115044	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	26,493.32	-	-	26,493.32
Borough side	Tipton	DC115048	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	193,000.00	-	-	193,000.00
Borough side	Tipton	DC115049	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	230,568.00	-	-	230,568.00
Alexander Rd Upper Church Lane (20 application site)	Tipton	DC045026	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	32,228.45	-	-	32,228.45
Coventry Green & Marsh Lane open space (as plan)	Red Bank	DC044333	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	54,762.40	-	-	54,762.40
Coventry Green & Lung wood	Red Bank	DC084555	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	14,916.72	-	-	14,916.72
100 Birmingham Road (vicinity of site)	Red Bank	DC084556	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	17,170.98	-	-	17,170.98
Five Tree scheme	Red Bank	DC115419	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	6,638.88	-	-	6,638.88
Karolus Park	Red Bank	DC115963	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	104,388.00	-	-	104,388.00
Cherwell playing fields	Red Bank	DC145617	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	99,202.95	-	-	99,202.95
Greenhill (vicinity of site)	Red Bank	DC145617	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	132,763.80	-	-	132,763.80
Borough side	Red Bank	DC084646	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	400.34	-	-	400.34
Air Quality consultant	Red Bank	DC1150747	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	20,000.00	-	-	20,000.00
Green Mary Estate Open Space	Red Bank	DC084530	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	22,383.42	-	-	22,383.42
Ruby Hill Park	Red Bank	DC084538 & DC115040	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	5,666.90	-	-	5,666.90
Mary Macarthur Gardens	Red Bank	DC115170	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	4,117.32	-	-	4,117.32
Tulside Ward	Red Bank	DC115027	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	16,477.62	-	-	16,477.62
Stonewall Ward	Red Bank	DC044552	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	16,588.00	-	-	16,588.00
Stonewall Ward	Red Bank	DC084518	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	28,163.84	-	-	28,163.84
Borough side	Red Bank	DC115042	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	586,205.00	-	-	586,205.00
Borough side	Red Bank	DC115011	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	79,000.00	-	-	79,000.00
Green Open Space	Oldbury	DC084396	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	4,760.76	-	-	4,760.76
Norman Road Dams	Oldbury	DC084558	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	2,976.64	-	-	2,976.64
Langley Ward	Oldbury	DC084560	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	46,106.46	-	-	46,106.46
Brewer's Park & Ward	Oldbury	DC115684	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	32,835.00	-	-	32,835.00
Borough side	Oldbury	DC044507	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	90,000.00	-	-	90,000.00
Borough side	Oldbury	DC115170	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	260,771.66	-	-	260,771.66
Borough side	Oldbury	DC115172	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	210,000.00	-	-	210,000.00
Air Quality Consultant	Oldbury	DC115087	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	23,642.44	-	-	23,642.44
Victoria Park	Oldbury	DC044703	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	21,831.23	-	-	21,831.23
Old Memorial - Cape Hill site	Oldbury	DC044703	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	7,281.14	-	-	7,281.14
St Pauls Ward	Oldbury	DC115059	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	38,309.03	-	-	38,309.03
West Stonehuck Park	Oldbury	DC084640	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	112,451.31	-	-	112,451.31
Stonehuck Hill Park	Oldbury	DC084543	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	46,148.75	-	-	46,148.75
Stonehuck Ward	Oldbury	DC115641	Leisure - Parks	Leisure - Parks	8,763.90	-	-	8,763.90
	Oldbury	DC115634	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%)	Service Area	Description of Project	Balance Available @ 01/04/21	Expenditure for 2021/22	Balance Remaining @ 31/03/22
	Regeneration & Town		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%)	Service Area	Description of Project	Balance Available @ 01/04/21	Expenditure for 2021/22	Balance Remaining @ 31/03/22
Oldbury	Regeneration & Town	Urban Scheme	158,961.35	6,007.70	152,953.65
Stourbridge	Regeneration & Town	Urban Scheme	73,200.00	11,360.36	61,839.64
Walsley	Regeneration & Town	Urban Scheme	29,409.29	19,249.37	10,159.92
Tipton	Regeneration & Town	Urban Scheme	62,100.00	17,416.06	44,683.94
Walsley	Regeneration & Town	Urban Scheme	86,801.00	13,500.00	73,301.00
Walsley	Regeneration & Town	Urban Scheme	114,756.76	18,402.21	96,354.55
Total Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL)			486,188.40	66,936.69	419,251.71

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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 £'m	General Fund £'m	Total £'m		HRA £'m	General Fund £'m	Total £'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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Report to Budget & Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

28 July 2022

Subject:	Energy Rebate payments update
Director:	Simone Hines – Director of Finance
Contact Officer:	Ian Dunn – Revenues and Benefits Service Manager ian_dunn@sandwell.gov.uk




1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the update on the Energy Rebate payments within Sandwell be noted.




2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board have requested a general update on the Energy Rebate payments.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people	The £150 energy rebate payments will provide all eligible households with financial support to help with the rising cost of living. The additional £70 for Sandwell's lowest income
	People live well and age well	
	Strong resilient communities	



	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods	households who are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction will provide further financial support
	A strong and inclusive economy	
	A connected and accessible Sandwell	

4 Context and Key Issues

Background

- 4.1 In February 2022, the government announced a package of support known as the Energy Bills Rebate to help households with rising energy bills, based on eligibility as at the 1st April 2022. This support includes providing a £150 non-repayable rebate for households in England in council tax bands A to D and discretionary funding for other households in council tax bands E-H.
- 4.2 Sandwell's Discretionary Scheme is set up to provide everyone who is eligible in council tax bands E to H with £150, and to provide some additional funding of £70 to our lowest income households who are in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.
- 4.3 In Sandwell, as at the 1st April 2022, we had 126,620 household eligible for the Energy rebate payment in council tax bands A to D. For Bands E to H we had 3,357 households eligible. We have 32,600 households in receipt of Council Tax Reduction.
- 4.4 The government have given councils until the 30th September 2022 to process the payments for council tax bands A to D and until the 30th November 2022 for the discretionary scheme.
- 4.5 Those households who pay their Council Tax via Direct Debit have had the majority of their £150 payments paid directly into their bank account without the need to apply (if the DD payer is the liable person for Council Tax).
- 4.6 Households are required to apply for the Energy Rebate payment where:
- The Direct Debit doesn't match



- They pay their council tax by another method, or
- They do not pay Council Tax.

4.7. Welfare Rights, Revenues and Benefits Customer Services and Corporate Customer Services are supporting residents to make the application if they are unable to do this themselves.

Energy Rebate update

4.8 As at the 8th July 2022:

- Overall:
 - 97,012 claims approved totalling £14,551,800 (includes 69,000 DD payers)
 - 2,153 claims pending awaiting a response from the customer
 - 4,640 requested to pay £150 onto their Council tax account (we are currently testing software to allow us to action these).

4.9 In June and July we issued reminder letters out in 3 batches to 28,500 households in Council Tax Bands A to D to apply for the energy rebate payment. If no response is received by the end of July 2022, we will credit their Council tax account with the £150 and issue a revised bill/instalments. If this payment puts the Council tax account into credit, we will issue refunds.

4.10 Letters have been sent out to 800 households in Council Tax bands E to H who do not pay their Council Tax by Direct Debit (part of the discretionary fund) so they can apply.

4.11 In relation to the number of days residents must wait from when they apply, on average this is about 34 days. We have put additional staff into processing the applications.

5 Implications

Resources:	Sandwell has received £20m to cover the cost of the energy rebate payments. In addition we have received £161,000 for administration costs.
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Legal and Governance:	Administration of the payments is being carried out in accordance with the guidance issued to councils by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities
Risk:	Additional resources have been added to deal with the increase in energy rebate applications and support provided for residents who need help to apply. For households who do not apply they will receive their energy rebate payment onto their council tax account so no one will miss out in receiving the financial support.
Equality:	No implications
Health and Wellbeing:	The energy rebate payments will provide additional financial support to households in Sandwell due to the rising cost of living
Social Value	No implications

6 Appendices

None

7. Background Papers

None



Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

28 July 2022

Subject:	Scrutiny Annual Report 2021 - 2022
Director:	Surjit Tour - Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Statutory Scrutiny Officer, Suky Suthi-Nagra Suky_suthi-nagra@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







- 1.1 That the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board consider and comment upon the draft Scrutiny Annual Report 2021 - 2022 as set out in the appendix.
- 1.2 That subject to 1.1 above, the Board recommend the Council to approve the Scrutiny Annual Report 2021 - 2022.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 In accordance with Article 6.03 (d) of the Council's Constitution, Scrutiny is required to report annually to the Council on its work.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		Effective scrutiny and governance arrangements support the delivery of all corporate objectives
		
		

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The attached annual report outlines work undertaken by Sandwell Council’s scrutiny function in 2021 - 2022 and highlights a number of activities and outcomes that contributed towards the objectives of the Corporate Plan.
- 4.2 Scrutiny Boards delivered the work programme using a variety of methodologies outlined in the report. Evidence was provided by a range of witnesses from the Council and partner organisations, and there was engagement with service users and providers.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 The Constitution requires Scrutiny to report to Council annually.

6 Implications

Resources:	There are no strategic resource implication arising directly from this report. Scrutiny Boards are obliged to take into consideration the financial implications of the matters they consider.
Legal and Governance:	Scrutiny Boards discharge the functions conferred by section 12 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the subsequent legislation.



	The report has been produced in accordance with Article 6.03 (d) of the Council’s Constitution, which states that the Scrutiny Function will report annually to the first meeting of the Council in the Municipal Year after the Annual Meeting.
Risk:	There are no risk implications arising from this report.
Equality:	There are no equality implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising directly from this report. Scrutiny reports and reviews consider added value when scoping topics and items to be considered.
Social Value	There are no social value implications arising from this report.

7. Appendices

Scrutiny Annual Report 2021 - 2022

8. Background Papers

None



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Scrutiny Annual Report 2021-2022



Good governance and scrutiny is at the heart of what we do.

It is about how the council ensures that it is doing things right, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable way.

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

One Council One Team - a modern council, one where our organisational structure, business systems, process and people and cultural working practices are fully aligned to deliver our strategic outcomes.



Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board



Best start in life for children and young people

Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board



People live well and age well

Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board



A Strong Inclusive Economy and a connected and accessible Sandwell







Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board



Strong Resilient Communities and Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods



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Foreword by Chair of the Scrutiny Management Board

I am pleased to present this report describing the work of Scrutiny during the 2021 – 2022 municipal year.

Over the past year, scrutiny has continued on its improvement journey and all boards have welcomed the opportunity to work closely with the Cabinet and the newly appointed chief officers as they lead the Council.

The return to face to face meetings in May 2021 brought some challenges with attendance but boards have continued to provide valuable and effective oversight for the Council, whilst providing input into policy development and service delivery, without need for any call-in of Cabinet decisions.

The boards have sought to focus on the critical issues for the Council and provide constructive input in finding ways to improve outcomes for residents.

I thank all Chairs and Vice Chairs for their help and support and working together on cross cutting issues and providing constructive challenge to the Cabinet, directors and partners.

I would also like to thank the wide range of officers who support all the boards and thank those external to the Council who gave up their time to attend meetings and who have contributed to the work of overview and scrutiny.

Cllr Luke Giles
Chair of Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board (2021-22)



Introduction

This annual report gives you an insight into the work of the Council's five Scrutiny Boards and in depth working groups over 2021-22 municipal year.

Our 2021-22 scrutiny journey started with a change in the Council's political makeup following the May 2021 elections. This created a new mix of experienced councillors with an institutional memory of what has gone before, and new opposition members keen to learn and ask questions, whilst also bringing new insights and experience into the Council.

We then saw the arrival of a new interim Chief Executive in the autumn, followed by a refresh of the Corporate Plan 2020-2025. In December 2021, the Council experienced a further change when Councillor Kerrie Carmichael was appointed as Leader.

In January 2022, our external auditor (Grant Thornton) published its findings following a Value for Money Governance Review, which had been carried out over the period August to October 2021. Whilst the report was disappointing, Grant Thornton also recognised that over the preceding few months, the Council had made progress towards resolving matters and improving the governance arrangements in place. In response the Council approved an Improvement Plan in January 2022 to address all 45 recommendations in the report as well as reporting mechanisms to ensure progress is managed effectively.

In January 2022 CIPFA undertook a review of the financial management and governance arrangements using the Financial Management Model. The report concluded that the Council is financially stable but lacks ambition and innovation and has a very traditional approach to financial management. The recommendations arising from the review have been incorporated into the Improvement Plan.

In late January/February 2022 we also received a visit from a team of peers from the Local Government Association. The report of the peer challenge team makes reference to the valuable contribution that scrutiny is making including the positive relationships that the new Leader has developed with scrutiny chairs whilst also acknowledging the improvements that are still to be made. Again, the recommendations made in the final report have been incorporated into the Improvement Plan.



In March 2022, the Secretary of State for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities decided to appoint a team of commissioners, led by the Interim Chief Executive, now *Managing Director Commissioner*, to take the lead on governance and scrutiny of strategic decision making by the Authority and functions relating to the appointment and dismissal of statutory officers. Actions to address the issues identified by the government are also set out in the Improvement Plan.

Despite these significant changes, scrutiny has continued on its positive trajectory, with the good work taking place being acknowledged by chief officers, members and the commissioners. Scrutiny is a fundamental part of the reporting mechanisms in place to ensure that progress is being made against the Plan. The Improvement Plan also provides a further platform to promote the work and the value of scrutiny, and a new impetus to take forward the recommendations arising from the scrutiny review that took place in 2019.



How scrutiny works

The Centre for Governance and Scrutiny (CFGs)'s Four Principles of Good Scrutiny

Provide constructive “critical friend” challenge

Scrutiny must be forensic and challenging – but it must also seek to support decision-makers to do their work better. We all have a collective responsibility to support high quality decision-making, and scrutiny is an integral part of the governance framework that works to make that happen.

Scrutiny isn't about opposition for opposition's sake, but in, democratic environments, it is inherently political. It involves scrutineers discussing matters of real contention and importance and, through debate, identifying novel solutions to complex problems. Being a “critical friend” involves understanding what decision-makers are trying to achieve and using evidence both to critique and refine these priorities and the methods proposed to achieve them.

Decision-makers also have to be friends to scrutineers, be open to scrutiny and create a culture which enables effective scrutiny to happen. The relationship is two-way.

Amplify the voice and concerns of the public

The use of new methods for public deliberation and participation have also increased the expectation of the public in how, where and when they will be involved.

Scrutineers have a dual job here. Firstly, to ensure that the public's (and/or specific stakeholders) voice is heard generally in the way that decision-makers design and deliver services. How can we improve the way that we listen to and work alongside local people? Secondly, to improve the practice of scrutiny itself, by redesigning the way that we work so that we face outwards, looking at the issues that are important to local people in a way that makes sense to them, and using this relevance to improve our profile.

Be led by independent people who take responsibility for their role

Scrutiny is intensely political. Scrutineers, in the local government context, are politicians. But they have a unique perspective to bring to the scrutiny process, a different point of view which brings something distinct to both policy development and



post-decision scrutiny. By setting their own work programmes and asserting their independence, these councillors can look at things from angles that might not be apparent to Cabinet members, or senior officers.

Drive improvement in public services.

What is the point in scrutiny if it doesn't lead to any changes? In many ways, this is one of the most vexing things about good scrutiny. A high quality, punchy report may sink without trace if a mercurial Cabinet decides it dislikes it. Scrutiny may be dissuaded, or driven off, from important work. Scrutiny may lack resources, and councillors may lack the skills and time, to design and deliver work that counts.

This doesn't mean that scrutiny itself is flawed, more that there are structural barriers to its operation in many councils. When it does work, it works well – and we will later this year be demonstrating just that through the publication of our (COVID-delayed) “Scrutiny frontiers” publication, highlighting some of the best scrutiny work from the past year or so.

Scrutiny members can require officers, or representatives from partner organisations to attend Board meetings, working groups or inquiry sessions to provide information and respond to questions as part of in-depth reviews into issues that are important to local residents and businesses, or individual reports that boards request.

Scrutiny boards also carry out pre-decision scrutiny of new policies and those being reviewed and refer comments and recommendations to the Cabinet to consider. Additionally, chairs attend Cabinet meetings to ask questions and challenge the key decision makers.

Work programming meetings took place remotely in June 2021, to minimise physical attendance as the pandemic continued. However, this did not impact on the quality of the work programmes developed and all boards developed varied and robust programmes, overseen by the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board.

The chairs and vice-chairs of the boards have continued to meet virtually on a monthly basis to discuss emerging issues and informally.



Since the review, scrutiny has continued to develop approaches and imbed them into the scrutiny function. These include the Chair and Vice Chair sessions, refresh of the review process and tools used, Question Time session and better use of social media campaign and surveys to engage the public.

A review of the scrutiny function took place in 2019, however, the pandemic impacted upon the delivery of the recommendations arising from the review. Whilst

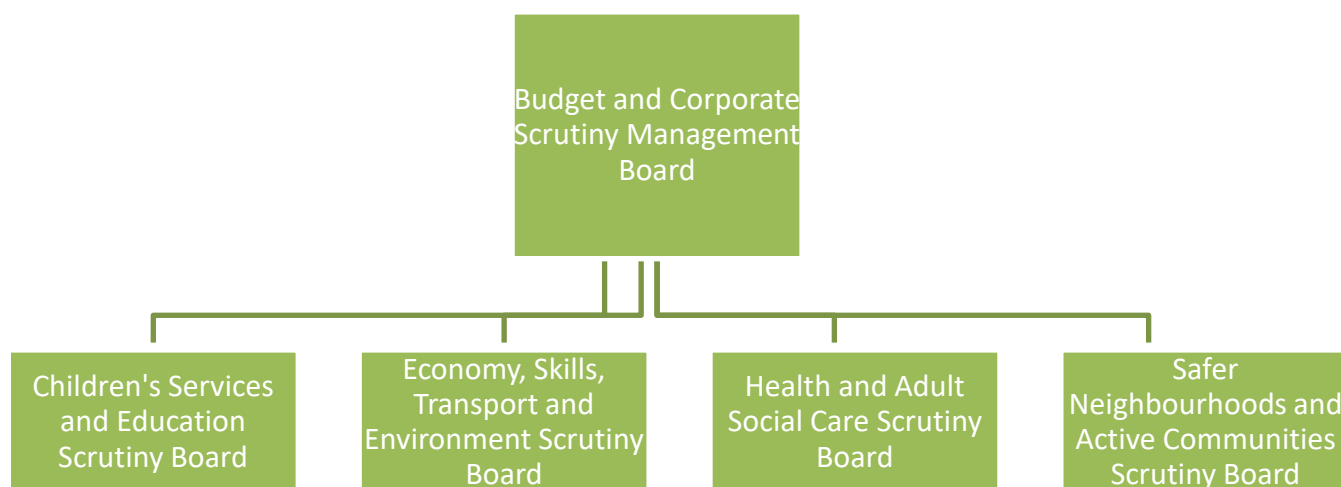


Scrutiny Structure

Overview and scrutiny is a key aspect of this Council's governance framework and is integral to decision making.

Scrutiny boards fulfil the statutory responsibility placed on local authorities to review and scrutinise decisions and actions taken in relation to the delivery of services, policy making and service shaping to deliver the Sandwell Vision 2030 ambitions and the Councils Corporate Plan '[Big Plans for a Great Place for the people of Sandwell](#)'.

Each year the Council appoints members to a Scrutiny Management Board and four thematic Scrutiny Boards, each Board has its own area of responsibility which are themed around the Council directorates.








The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board consists of a Chair and 4 Chairs of the thematic Boards, and each Board is made up of 11 non-executive members. Both Children's Services and Education and Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Boards also include co-opted members who serve on the Boards alongside elected members. You can see more about our scrutiny boards' membership and activity

The Scrutiny Boards terms of reference are approved by the Council and are set out in the Council's Constitution.



Scrutiny Activity Spotlight - 2021-22

	What we did	2021-22
	Scrutiny Board meetings	33
	Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny meetings held with Birmingham City Council	2
	Review Working Group meetings Site visits Meetings with service users	8
	Reviews carried out	3
	Pre-decision reports taken	4



How does Scrutiny make a difference?

There are many ways Scrutiny has had impact and added value over the last two years, some physical changes and actions and some cultural changes. Scrutiny has investigated a range of issues and every time it starts to look at an issue it starts to make a difference. How?

Holding a matter up for to scrutiny raises awareness...

Makes comments and recommendations to decision makers based on evidence gathered

Initiates 'the difficult conversation' between interested parties

Tells us why we do something; the way things work and how we perform.

Helps to develop relationships between services and partners, public and officers

Monitors and maintains oversight of issues that impact on residents and businesses of Sandwell

Invites people into the same space to hold an open and transparent discussion

Identifies good practice and share this more widely

Questions the issues, barriers or blockages.



What difference have we made?

Here are some examples of the excellent work carried out by scrutiny in 2021-22. You can read more about the work of each of the scrutiny boards by viewing the reports, presentations and minutes from each of their meetings here:

<https://sandwell.moderngov.co.uk/mgListCommittees.aspx?bcr=1>



One Council One Team - A Modern Council

Big Plans for a Great Place for the People of Sandwell

The Sandwell Plan 2020-25 sets out how the Council will deliver its part of Vision 2030 for the next five years focussing on six strategic outcomes: -

- The best start in life for children and young people;
- People live well and age well;
- Strong, resilient communities;
- Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods;
- A strong and inclusive economy;
- A connected and accessible Sandwell.

The outcomes cannot be delivered by one directorate alone, so would be delivered using a 'One Team, One Council' approach. This approach moves away from the previous system of individual directorate business plans and seeks to unite the Council as one team to deliver on the strategic outcomes.

Scrutiny fed comments and observations relating to 'Big Plans for a Great Place...For the People of Sandwell' to the Cabinet in 2021/22 and the boards continue to align their work programmes to the strategic outcomes.

The Budget - *Monitoring the Corporate Purse*

The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board has maintained overview and challenge of the Council's budget monitoring, business plans, outturns and proposed budgets throughout the year. This work has proven ever more vital in the face of the Government's continued austerity programme and the cost of Covid-19. The Scrutiny Management Board made a number of



recommendations arising from its regular monitoring and has identified topics for in-depth review as part of the Scrutiny Work Programme in 2019/20 and 2020/21.

Corporate Plan 2020-2025 - Refresh 2021 (Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management)

The board reviewed the refreshed corporate plan, which informed how each directorate would spend the target budget available to them. A series of engagement events consulting members, staff and partners took place to address issues affecting residents following the pandemic. It was identified that improving standards of cleanliness and ensuring people feel safe in their communities were borough wide priorities. The board subsequently proposed to go back to stakeholder, including all schools that had been visited during the consultation period to evidence that their feedback had shaped the plan. In particular it was suggested this represented an opportunity to develop a young person's version of the Corporate Plan. It was proposed that there would be greater member involvement to ensure that elements of the corporate plan would better serve individual wards and period reporting on the corporate plan to the Scrutiny board should be implemented.



Best start in life for children and young people

Scrutiny Review – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) Transport Models (Children's Services and Education)

The board conducted an in- depth review of SEND Transport across the borough, analysing data, speaking to parents, and reviewing the costs of options both internally and transportation out of the borough. It was identified that there are multiple models which are to be explored and that current procedures need to be adapted. Following this consultation period a number of recommendations were made by the Scrutiny Board including that Passenger Assistants are to be trained in first aid, non- verbal communication, safety harnesses and manual handling.



Proposals also asked the cabinet to review the feasibility of operating the SEND Transport Provision in- house, including costings and performance indicators.


Scrutiny Review – The impact of Lockdown on Children and Families (Children’s Services and Education)

The board established a working group to conduct a detailed review of the impact of lockdown through the Covid- 19 pandemic. The group assessed the impact via speaking to Mental health trusts and surveying parents throughout the borough. It was found that there were an increased number of referrals for children presenting with anxiety and struggling in social settings. The board also found it had a highly detrimental impact upon educational attainment by pupils as a result of learning from home, in particular those from low income households experiencing digital exclusion as well as an increase in safeguarding concerns. The board recommended that preparation is undertaken for the expected increase in Education, Health and Care Plan assessments.

Regional Adoption Agency Monitoring Report (Children’s Services and Education)

The board was presented the annual report and noted that the service had now been in place for two years, it was found that the workforce had now stabilised which was deemed to be positive. The board identified that there had been an increase of 24% of children receiving placements and that registrations of interests by potential adopters had increased by almost a third. It was suggested that the new agency was more effective than the previous in- house system, offering better support at a reduced cost. The board recommended that the process could be made more accessible, acknowledging that it was at present, intrusive and could be overwhelming,

Sandwell Children’s Trust Annual Review (CSE) Youth Facilities Review – Update (CSE)

	People live and age well
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Sandwell’s Air Quality Action Plan (Economy, Skills Transport and Education)

The board reviewed the implementation of green measures across the borough, including the introduction of air quality monitors and the vehicle strategy to reduce carbon footprint. Member’s assessed the progress made and identified Sandwell’s biggest emission source was from refuse collection vehicles, as such they recommended that a report is to be submitted to the next meeting of the Board proposals to replace its fleet with electric vehicles. In addition the board



proposed that the Council increases its lobbying activity with external stakeholders to ensure that it receives its fair share of funding towards improvements to highways infrastructure to support electric vehicles.

Smoke Control Area (Health and Adult Social Care)

The board was consulted on its opinion on establishing a Smoke Control Area in Sandwell, it was identified that 70% of residents feel that improving air quality should be a key area for improvement and that they were already established in the West Midlands with both Birmingham and Dudley having implemented them. It recommended that the whole of Sandwell should become a Smoke Control Area, citing the many health benefits to those who live and work in the borough. Members further recommended that if implemented an awareness campaign should be launched and that relief schemes available to those in fuel poverty need to be fully explored.

Access to Primary Care (Health and Adult Social Care)

The board reviewed the access arrangement in Sandwell for Primary Care, acknowledging the challenges faces by Covid and the knock- on implications upon healthcare practices. It was identified that over- prescribing was an ongoing issue and that the Covid pandemic had meant that those waiting over a year for treatments had increased to 10,000 borough wide. The board recommended that the Cabinet Member for Adults, Social Care and Health establish a joint task force across Sandwell to communicate the methods Primary Care can be accessed to residents so pressures upon GP's can be reduced. It was further recommended that a briefing session takes place for all members so that they can be better informed to support residents of the borough.

Community Diagnostic Hubs (HASC)

Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust – Transformation Plan (HASC)

	Strong Resilient Communities
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Waste Services and Cleanliness of the Borough – Review (Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment)

An in- depth review of the Serco contract was conducted in response to concerns to ensure both high quality and value for money for the residents of Sandwell. Following reports from Serco senior management, engagement with community groups, speaking to Trade Unions and documenting the concerns of residents; several recommendations were made. Recommendations made were in relation to recycling rates, audit of operational capabilities and



advising that a 'Street Cleansing Improvement Plan' is submitted by March 2022. In addition, the board will receive regular updates on the response and implementation of these recommendations.

Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy (Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities)

The board reviewed Sandwell's domestic abuse strategy, as following the Domestic Abuse Act 2021 local authorities have a statutory duty to provide specialist support for victims of domestic abuse. It found that levels of documented psychological and financial abuse are rising and that there is an increase in victims of domestic abuse presenting with a need to access mental health supports, Covid is believed to be significant catalyst for these changes. Several recommendations were made by the board, particularly focused on the needs of the victims, with further training required for commissioned providers being a key proposal.

Sandwell's Anti- Social Behaviour Policy 2022 (Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities)

Following the new Anti- Social Behaviour policy developed in partnership with West Midlands Police, the Board reviewed this ahead of Public consultation. This Policy was found to have built on the previous introduction of the ASB Portal and the hub- based approach, it was also identified that the Council have achieved it first successful prosecution via a Community Protection Notice which was deemed to be a protective factor for residents. Several recommendations were made by the board including that procedural changes were yet to be incorporated into the revised policy and that data is to be collated from the ASB portal so that high risk area's within the borough can be identified, so that locations that require extra assistance receive a higher level of support.

	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods
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Black Country Plan Consultation (Economy, Skills, Transport and Education)

The board reviewed this plan to ensure that it met the boroughs needs of ensuring that new homes were built, setting out planning framework whilst ensuring that factors including climate change mitigation measures and access to primary healthcare were placed front and centre. Following public consultation and engagement with stakeholder groups, the board identified that Sandwell has he biggest shortfall of housing land within the region and that funding would be required from the WMCA to make plans viable. It was resolved that the Director of Regeneration and Growth undertakes targeted consultation with residents impacted by proposals to build on Green Belt land and provide an update to the board in due course.



Review of Property Age Designation (Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities)


The scrutiny board analysed the current procedure whereby some council properties are restricted on who can be accommodated by age bracket, it was agreed by members that removing the 25 year plus requirement for properties would assist in improving housing options for care leavers and noted that 74% of housing applicants surveyed believed more properties should be available to those under 40 years old. The board recommended that there was a need to promote social and community cohesion within council tenancies and that the council should carefully consider the make- up of each block before individuals are allocated a property. In addition, the it was recommended by members that officers develop a multi- agency approach as to better respond to the needs of residents.

Review of the Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy (Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities)

The board reviewed Sandwell's strategy in dealing with homelessness, the board were pleased that it had been identified that the council was dedicating more resources to preventing homelessness, to ensure people are supported before they end up in crisis. It was also found that 88% of Housing First tenants in the borough had successfully maintained their tenancy, however several recommendations were made, one being that the council uses its resources better and collaboration occurs across teams to pool assets. It was also recommended that the standard of support plans needs to be improved so that they are more tailored to the service user and is adapted to support with their specific needs.

Review of Tenancy Conditions (SNAC)

Tenant Engagement and Involvement Model (SNAC)

	A Strong and Inclusive Economy
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Mowing Season (Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment)

Officers updated the board with regards to the new tracking and performance system as well as raising issues related to the age of the machinery used. The board considered the schedule for the 2022 season and identified that plans on rewilding and converting green spaces into meadow land should be actioned. It was recommended that stakeholders are consulted and the draft strategy for rewilding is presented to the board in a future meeting; with appropriate locations for the creation of green spaces identified.



Levelling Up Fund (Economy, Skills, Transport and Economy)

The board reviewed the report on the Levelling Up Fund which identified that funding bids can be submitted for the three categories of investment – Transport, Cultural and Regeneration and Towns Growth. The board identified that 10% of the bid needs to be match funded and that the MP also has to agree to support the application. It was further identified that although Sandwell Council hadn't submitted any bids, the WMCA had submitted a £50m bid to upgrade the Metro depot in Wednesbury. Members recommended that capacity funding was utilised to recruit a manager to oversee the bidding process. It was further proposed that a long- list of areas to be bid on are submitted when the board next sits and that councillors are consulted about future developments via the towns for a mechanisms.

Towns Fund Projects (Economy, Skills, Transport and Growth)

The board considered reports and updates related to the Town's Funding which is available from central government, in particular the board identified that the towns for which applications are being submitted – West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis are focused on Sandwell Connected (Walking and Cycling) and will have considerable health and wellbeing benefits. Upon discussions related to the Urban Greening Project, aimed at connecting West Bromwich to Sandwell Valley, members had a range of recommendations, including concerns about the levels of maintenance to sustain such a project and proposal's to install bee gardens on bus shelters. The board further suggested that moving forward, business cases should have dedicated section devoted to climate change.

	A Connected and Accessible Sandwell
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On Street Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Scheme (Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment)

It was reported to the board that the Council, in partnership with Black Country Transport, had been successful in a bid to the Department of Transport for £300,000 to deliver electric vehicle charging points across Sandwell. Members identified that residents need to be prioritised and it was confirmed that there would be no loss of parking spaces on any of the location identified. It was further resolved that the council would not enter into a contract with an operator until a



guarantee that matched funding would be met materialised. As a result the board recommended that a progress report on the installation and operation of the chargepoints be provided in 12 months.

E Scooters Trial (Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment)

The board reviewed the E- Scooter trial in West Bromwich and received updates now that the speed limit and operating hours have increased. It was identified by members that the reception had been largely positive, with no major injuries being reported and the low carbon footprint generated via usage. However, members of the board still had concerns around affordability and safety, resulting in the trial zone not being extended. It was therefore recommended that the board maintain oversight of the trial and receive regular updates.

Youth Bus Service Provision (Children's Services and Education)

The board discussed and reviewed the Youth Outreach provision, they noted that the current Youth bus is 24 years old and is often unreliable due to it's longevity of service. It was agreed that outreach is important for youth services to ensure accessibility across the borough, and although the Youth Bus had been successful it was identified that other mobile outreach models should also be considered. The board recommended that an electric bus is purchased, it acknowledged the increased costs, both with procurement and adapting facilities for charging purposes, but it was felt this would show a commitment to the green agenda. It was further proposed that young people are surveyed on what facilities they would like to see incorporated and that Public Health should also be consulted with a view to multi- purpose outreach being workshopped.

Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy (ESTE)
Movement for Growth Strategy (ESTE)

Work Programme 2022-23 and Looking Forward

The scrutiny work programme this year and over the next few years will focus on some big topics as the Council and Cabinet have to make some difficult decisions on what services are provided and how they are provided.

New policies will be required, and old policies will need to be reviewed and refreshed in light of changes post Covid.



There will be a need to maintain oversight and monitor the finances, performance and risks to the Council Services.

Big issues on the horizon:

- The Impact of Covid on the Council and Health Services
- NHS and Social Care Reform – White Paper
- Climate Change Strategy Implementation
- Education Excellence Everywhere – White Paper
- Elective Home Education
- Children’s Mental Health

Some topics will also be rolled forward from previous work programmes and a public consultation exercise highlighted matters that are of concern to the public and businesses in Sandwell to be considered for inclusion in the work programme.

Good governance and scrutiny is at the heart of what we do.

It is about how the council ensures that it is doing things right, in the right way, for the right people, in a timely, inclusive, open, honest and accountable way.



Summary of Topics Considered 2021-2022

<p>Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board</p> <p>Financial Outturn</p> <p>Evaluating outcomes of the Corporate Plan</p> <p>Digital platforms for council services</p> <p>Budget monitoring 21/22</p> <p>Scrutiny of Senior Management Structure</p> <p>Impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on employee's productivity and well-being</p> <p>Sandwell Leisure Trust Business Plan 2021-2024</p> <p>Budget Proposals 2022/23</p>	<p>Children's Services and Education</p> <p>Scrutiny Review – Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND)</p> <p>Transport Models</p> <p>Sandwell Children's Trust Annual Review</p> <p>Regional Adoption Agency Monitoring Annual Report</p> <p>Scrutiny Review - The Impact of the Lockdown on Children and Families</p> <p>Elective Home Education</p> <p>Holiday Activities and Food Programme</p> <p>Youth Facilities Review</p> <p>Temporary Accommodation Elm Tree Primary Academy at Connor Education Centre, West Bromwich</p> <p>SEND Operational and Strategic Boards and the Parent/Carer Forum</p> <p>Youth Bus and Service provision</p>
<p>Economy Skills Transport and Environment</p> <p>Black Country Plan Consultation</p>	<p>Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities</p> <p>Review of Property Age Designation</p>



Local Transport Plan (Movement for Growth) Review Green Paper	Domestic Abuse Safe Accommodation Strategy
Black Country Ultra Low Emission Vehicle Strategy	Tenant Engagement and Participation
Sandwell's Air Quality Action Plan	Upgrade and Expansion of the CCTV & Concierge Service
West Bromwich E-Scooter Trial	Review of Tenancy Conditions
Waste Services and the Cleanliness of the Borough Review	Safer Accommodation and Homelessness Strategy
Towns Fund Programme	Community Safety
Fleet Management Overview	Safer Sandwell Partnership
Levelling Up Fund	Garage Rental Charges
Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre	SMBC Anti-Social Behaviour Policy 2022
Urban Greening project	
Emergency Active Travel Fund	
2022 Mowing Season	
Scrutiny Review - Performance and Management of the Waste Partnership Contract	
On Street Residential Electric Vehicle Charging Scheme	
Towns Fund Tranche 3 Full Business Cases	
West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Projects	



<p>Scrutiny Review of the Strategic Road Safety Plan 2017-2022</p>	
<p>Health and Adult Social Care</p>	<p>Joint Health Overview and Scrutiny Committee</p>
<p>Mental Health Services in Sandwell</p>	<p>Delivering Solid Tumour Oncology Services for Sandwell and West Birmingham</p>
<p>Re-Establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements with Birmingham City Council</p>	<p>Primary Care Networks – Impact of West Birmingham Locality Move to Birmingham and Solihull Integrated Care System</p>
<p>Healthwatch Sandwell Priorities 2021-2022</p>	<p>Black Country Provider Trust Collaboration</p>
<p>Smoke Control Area</p>	<p>Report on Waiting Times for Elective Treatment</p>
<p>Access to Primary Care</p>	<p>Midland Metropolitan University Hospital</p>
<p>Community Diagnostic Hubs</p>	<p>Solid Tumour Oncology Services Briefing</p>
<p>Day Services Transformation Plan</p>	
<p>West Midlands Ambulance Service Winter Plan 2021/22</p>	
<p>Air Quality Action Plan</p>	
<p>Overview of Phlebotomy Service</p>	
<p>Targeted Lung Health Check Programme</p>	
<p>Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust Transformation Plan</p>	

