

### Agenda Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Thursday, 26 January 2023 at 5.45 pm At Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

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

#### 1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

#### 2 **Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

Members to declare any interests and party whips in relation to matters to be discussed at the meeting.

#### 3 Minutes

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 24 November 2022 and 10 January 2023 as correct records.

#### 4 Additional Items of Business

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



5	Launch- plan of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre	7 - 10
	To consider and comment the plan to prepare for the opening of Sandwell Aquatic Centre.	
6	Update of Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to Tackle the Cost of Living Crisis	11 - 26
	To consider and comment upon the reports relating to an update of Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to tackle the cost of living crisis.	
7	Playing Pitch Strategy	27 - 30
	To comment upon reports and consider the establishment of a short-life working group to support the completion, adoption and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy.	
8	Council House New Builds Programme Update	
	To receive an update from officers on the Council House New Builds Programme.	
9	Update from the Chair of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group	
	To receive an update from the Chair of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group.	
10	Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan	31 - 44
	To note and review the Reards Work Drearemme	

To note and review the Boards Work Programme 2022/23 and the Cabinet Forward Plan.

#### Kim Bromley-Derry CBE DL Managing Director Commissioner

Sandwell Council House Freeth Street Oldbury West Midlands

#### Distribution

Councillor Fenton (Chair) Councillors Akhtar, Ashman, Fisher, H Bhullar, Jalil, Kaur, Lewis, Mayo, Shaeen, J Webb and Brown

Contact: <a href="mailto:democratic\_services@sandwell.gov.uk">democratic\_services@sandwell.gov.uk</a>

#### Information about meetings in Sandwell



If you are attending the meeting and require assistance to access the venue, please contact Democratic Services (democratic services@sandwell.gov.uk).



If the fire alarm sounds, please follow the instructions of the officers present and leave the building by the nearest exit.



Only people invited to speak at a meeting may do so. Everyone at the meeting is expected to be respectful and listen to the discussion.



Agendas with reports with exempt information should be treated as private and confidential. It is your responsibility to ensure that any such reports are kept secure. After the meeting confidential papers should be disposed of in a secure way.



This meeting may be recorded and broadcast on the Internet. If this is the case, it will be confirmed at the meeting and further information will be provided.



You are allowed to use devices for the purposes of recording or reporting during the public session of the meeting. When using your devices they must not disrupt the meeting – please ensure they are set to silent.



Members who cannot attend the meeting should submit apologies by contacting Democratic Services (democratic\_services@sandwell.gov.uk)



All agenda, reports, minutes for Sandwell Council's meetings, councillor details and more are available from our <u>website</u>

This page is intentionally left blank



## Report to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

#### 26 January 2023

Subject:	Launch Plan of Sandwell Aquatics Centre
Director:	Director of Borough Economy – Alice Davey
<b>Contact Officer:</b> Ben Percival – Assistant Director – Contracts,	
	Projects, Strategy & Policy

#### 1 Recommendations

1.1 That the Board note the outline plan to prepare for the opening of Sandwell Aquatics Centre.

#### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Sandwell Aquatics Centre (SAC) is an aquatics facility of a scale and quality the region has never before seen. The SAC presents a huge opportunity to engage residents, to make them more active and improve health and wellbeing. The SAC also has the potential to build on the success of the Commonwealth Games, to further raise Sandwell's profile by attracting further large events.
- 2.2 Careful planning and preparation are essential to ensure the opportunities presented by SAC are optimised. The business plan will be critical to ensure that marketing, programming and pricing policies support broad community access alongside a vibrant events programme and a financially sustainable business model.
- 2.3 Alongside the business plan it is critical that a robust operational launch plan is implemented. This will need to ensure a smooth handover from contractors, careful preparation for community operation and an effective transition from the centres at Langley and Smethwick.

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



	Post start in life for shildren and young possio
×	Best start in life for children and young people The SAC will encourage access from all Sandwell children
	and help foster the habit of lifelong activity and participation.
C	People live well and age well
xxx	Encouraging active lifestyles is critical to improving the
	health and wellbeing of Sandwell residents.
-00-	Strong resilient communities
	The scale of the facilities at SAC combined with an effective
	launch and supporting programming and pricing policies
	should substantially increase participation from all the
	community.
.07	A strong and inclusive economy
	Effective launch of SAC is fundamental to ensuring a
	sustainable leisure service for residents. Physical activity is
	integral to supporting a healthy workforce.
	A connected and accessible Sandwell
	There is potential to link to range of activities within and
	beyond SAC – potentially including open spaces and active
	travel.

#### 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Following the successful delivery of the 2022 Commonwealth Games, the "Legacy Phase" of the construction project commenced. This phase sees the removal of the temporary seating and the creation of sports halls, fitness facilities and studio space to optimise community use. In summer 2023 the legacy phase of the works are scheduled to be complete and the SAC will be handed over to the Council for operation.
- 4.2 Substantial work has already been undertaken to plan for the operation of SAC. Outline plans, policies and programmes have been developed and partners engaged with a programme of events already taking shape. However, the next six months will see activity increase substantially as plans are refined and final preparations made.
- 4.3 Mark Braithwaite, the Chief Operating Officer of Sandwell's Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) started employment on 11 January. Mark will be supporting and evolving the business planning and leading on the operational preparations, including the legacy programme.



#### **Business Planning**

- 4.4 As part of the business planning process a number of workstreams are underway:
- 4.5 **Marketing and Promotion** a plan has been drafted, outlining a series of launch events, pre-sales of both gym memberships and swimming lessons and following the same key campaign messages as the LATC: barriers to participation, exercise as the best medicine and mental health support.
- 4.6 **Programming** draft programmes of use have been developed, following engagement with key partners. One of the key benefits of the scale of SAC is that community access can be maintained alongside school swimming, club swimming, and higher education use. A vibrant events programme is already being assembled, which will see regional events hosted from SAC in the second half of 2023.
- 4.7 **Financial Modelling** work is underway to refine and confirm the business plan for SAC, to ensure the operating model optimises the benefits from SAC whilst ensuring the best value for money for the Council.

#### **Operational Planning**

- 4.5 **Operating Systems** much work has already been undertaken to draft operating procedures to ensure a safe and high-quality environment for SAC users. In addition, existing leisure staff have been providing ongoing operational support throughout the legacy phase.
- 4.6 **Commissioning and Handover** the Council has maintained a close working partnership with Wates (principal contractor) throughout the SAC construction. This will continue into the commissioning and handover stages. This will help ensure that the leisure team are trained and have a good understating of SAC operation prior to handover.
- 4.7 **Staffing** recruitment has commenced for the staffing at SAC. An offer of employment has been made to the Head Diving Coach and the advertisement for the General Manager and Aquatics Development Manager roles will be placed imminently. The rest of the recruitment will take place over the coming months. The process will ensure that there are



no redundancies as a result of staff being displaced from the closing centres at Langley and Smethwick.

4.8 **Transition and Mobilisation** – operational plans will be developed to ensure that the mobilisation of SAC post-handover is as short as possible. The plan will also ensure that the transition from Langley and Smethwick is as smooth as possible with minimum disruption to service provision.

#### 5 Implications

Resources:	Work to date is funded from additional resources. Further resource requirements may be identified as part of the next phase of work.
Legal and	None
Governance:	
Risk:	Risk registers will be included in the workstreams
	outlined in the report.
Equality:	Equality impacts will be considered and assessed as
	part of the workstreams
Health and	The launch of SAC will include a focus on
Wellbeing:	opportunities to improve residents' physical activity.
Social Value:	A report will be commissioned to assess social value.
Climate	As part of the business planning, an energy efficiency
Change:	audit and assessment for SAC has been
	commissioned.

#### 6 Appendices

None

#### 7. Background Papers

None





### **Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board**

#### 26 January 2023

Subject:	Cost of living work 2022/23
Director:	Director of Public Health
	Lisa McNally
<b>Contact Officer:</b> Consultant in Public Health, Liann Brookes-	
	Smith
	Liann_Brookes-Smith@sandwell.gov.uk

#### 1 Recommendations

1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the Cost of Living programme.

#### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

Information on what has been provided to the community of Sandwell.

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

××	Best start in life for children and young people
<b>XXX</b>	People live well and age well Providing people of Sandwell with support and information during the winter 2022/2023 as communities are impacted by the cost of living crisis.
ŶŶ	Strong resilient communities Providing people of Sandwell with guidance to support themselves and others during the winter 2022/2023 as communities are impacted by the cost of living crisis.
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods





A connected and accessible Sandwell

#### 4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The Public health team has put forward support for the community in a variety of areas to tackle the impacts of the cost of living increases during the winter months.

These included:

- Warm space grants
- Winter warm packs
- Cost of living champions
- Cost of living booklet.
- Supporting food banks and access to food.

#### 4.1.1 Warm space grants

Public Heath has agreed to provide a Grant to **Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)** to enable organisations to support the warm space charter.

No. of grants awarded: 34 Total value: £118,849

#### Sandwell Warm Spaces Charter

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200374/warm\_spaces/4978/warm\_spaces\_c harter

Stuart from SCVO said "this is the most successful and in demand grants process we've ever done. The pace and partnership working between public health and SCVO has been brilliant. The process received more bids in the first round than it ever has, from a wide range of organisations, including ones that have not been part of a funded council response before"

Some comments that we've received as part of ongoing feedback:

We had a Christmas sing-along with one of our volunteers playing the guitar. This was a lovely activity that people enjoyed very much.

We have seen a steady amount of people using the winter warmer .We have noticed that more men are using the service, then women.



Had a pianist come today to play and sing Christmas carols. The group were reminiscing about loved ones and past Christmases. A lovely time shared together. There were also sandwiches and cakes available. Several attendees live on their own and are in need of care and support.

Having a craft activity on our main communal table has really helped people connect. Even if they don't do the craft, it seems to be less pressure to 'talk' - although lots of natural chat happens!

This event is becoming increasingly popular and the free hot drinks make a big difference to people who are on tight budgets.

An elderly lady who's family came to the UK as refugees has started coming each week. She struggles with English but yesterday said to me: "Today I am happy. I am made happy because here are people with good hearts. I can sit and see people and they have good hearts. I am happy."

#### 4.1.2. Winter warm packs

Public Health ordered 600 winter warm packs, so far we have issued 536 packs, with 64 remaining due for distribution.

What was in the Pack:

- Socks · fleece scarf/neck warmer
- thermal gloves
   · thermal hat
- 120 x 150 cm fleece blanket · insulated travel mug 420 ml

I wanted to share with you 3 resident's comments who got in touch regarding the winter warmth bags they had received.

- really grateful items came in use.
- I only needed a couple of the items, so I shared with my neighbour you could of blown me away cant thank the council enough.
- Can you pass on my gratitude for my gift I now use the throw instead of my heating, I make use of the neck warmer (scarf) and I have my hot drinks in the flask to keep them warmer also its nice to know the council are thinking of us never known it.



#### Table 1: distribution of winter warm packs

			1	
Date	Number of packs	Event / venue	Target Group	Name
05/12/2022	16	Just Straight Talk – West Bromwich	Those who access the warm space	Erinn Beech
05/12/2022	24	Millennium Centre, Friar Park	Must only go to people and families who need them	Mandy Williams
05/12/2022	12	Holy Trinity Church, Old Hill	Must only go to people and families who need them	Matt Hill
05/12/2022	12	Irish Community Association	Must only go to people and families who need them	Matt Hill
09/12/2022	16	Life in Community CIC	Must only go to people and families who need them	Irandeep Mann
09/12/2022	1	Brook Street Community Centre	Must only go to people and families who need them	Irandeep Mann
09/12/2022	1	Glebefields Library	Must only go to people and families who need them	Irandeep Mann
15/12/2022	8	Cllr Jalil	Must only go to people and families who need them	Caroline clarke
16/12/2022	40	Cllr Hartwell	Must only go to people and families who need them	Liann BrookesSmith
19/12/2022	56	Oldbury Library	Tthese will go to all other library sites	Ricky Byrnes
21/12/2022	20	Smethwick Bearwood Community Hub	High foot fall location	Lyndsey Smalley
21/12/2022	20	Smethwick new beginnings	High foot fall location	Lyndsey Smalley
20/12/2022	15	Wednesbury community association	High foot fall location	Mandy Williams
20/12/2022	5	Wednesbury sons of rest	High foot fall location	Mandy Williams
20/12/2022	20	West Brom 4 community trust	High foot fall location	Lyndsey Smalley
20/12/2022	20	West Brom Dartmouth Park Cricket Club	High foot fall location	Ricky Byrnes
20/12/2022	20	Oldbury Brandhall community hub	High foot fall location	Matt Hill
20/12/2022	20	Oldbury St James's Church	High foot fall location	Matt Hill
22/12/2022	20	Tipton community association	High foot fall location	Matt Hill
20/12/2022	20	Tipton jubilee park	High foot fall location	Matt Hill
20/12/2022	20	Oldbury salvation army	Open over xmas	Matt Hill
20/12/2022	20	Lea brook Methodist church	Open over xmas	Matt Hill
20/12/2022	20	Jamia mosque anwar trust	Open over xmas	Ricky Byrnes
20/12/2022	20	Llieys	Open over xmas	Ricky Byrnes
03/01/2023	16	Wednesbury St Barts Hall	Open over xmas	Mandy Williams
11/01/2023	50	Cllr Khatun	Must only go to people and families who need them	Irandeep Mann

#### 4.1.3 Cost of living champions

Following on from the COVID champions model which enabled Public health to win the national award and building on the information from the Sandwell Wellbeing survey, which showed that most residents will turn to friends and family for advice.

The launch of Cost of Living champions to enable every day citizens to become trained in making every contact count and using the social connections to educate and inform on what channels of support are available. Further sessions are planned across the NHS and local partners.

Table 2: sessions of cost of living champions delivered so far.

Total number of sessions delivered	12
Total number of presenters	7
Total number of attendees	153

#### 4.1.4 Cost of living booklet.

information which contains potentially lifesaving advice and support. The cost of living booklet provided up to date information on support available across the borough in order to reduce the impact of the cost of living increases. It was a reference guide for our residents.

The booklet has so far been distributed to:



- 134,000 residents
- 2,000 care home residents
- 500 copies for public buildings (including libraries)
- 100 assigned for HR event for Sandwell Council employees, 250 assigned to Lion Farm Action Centre, 50 to Vidal Lee, Community Transport, 300 to Rood End Medical Centre
- 500 for our public health development officers to distribute to other key locations in the six towns.

An easy read version of the document was also created for use by Sandwell Visually Impaired (SVI) which will work with voice screen reader software.

Furthermore a digital version was created:

https://view.publitas.com/renaissance-creative/23394-sandwell-cost-of-livingbooklet/page/1

We also gave residents the option request the booklet in other languages via Sandwell Council website:

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200371/cost\_of\_living\_help/5012/sandwell\_c ost\_of\_living\_booklet

#### 4.1.5 Supporting the foodbank network

We offered a top up grant of  $\pounds 10,000$  to foodbanks to support the foodbank network, during difficult times the network had received lower donations and were looking to cut back on their food and hygiene supplies, usual need is  $\pounds 2000$  per month to keep stocks at the levels needed.  $\pounds 10,000$  was awarded to the Black County Foodbanks, for use on their Sandwell sites only and other food banks have been offered partnership to share this resources as an when they need it.

#### 4.1.6 Update from the Neighbourhood Partnership Team

There have been 83,495 visits to library Warm Spaces since October 2022, 10,761 hot drinks served, 736 devices charged there were 36,632 visits during December 2022

Our libraries opened for a total of 150 hours over the Christmas and New Year period. This included at least one library being open on Christmas Day, Boxing Day and New Year's Day

- 1,879 customers used a Warm Space in our libraries during this time
- 99 customer enquiries were dealt with by staff
- 1,450 hot drinks were served and 120 devices were charged
- 37 customers came to Central Library on Christmas Day



- 34 food parcels were handed out from local food banks
- Donations of Christmas presents and jumpers were distributed
- Staff supported customers with enquiries including homelessness and emergency food provision

Examples of events:

- Live music events
- Family theatre
- Christmas grotto events,
- Author talks
- Learning in libraries,
- School class visits
- Black Country Toy Appeal
- Stand United Curry Kitchen

Training has been arranged for all warm space providers, to include voluntary sector partners. The training was delivered by our own welfare rights team and with citizens advice bureau. Training was offered in person and online with feedback being extremely positive. Providers of warm spaces feel much more able to support tenants and residents that attend warm space provision.

Warm spaces have provided a vital and lifeline for many tenants and residents of all ages and backgrounds. We have people who work visiting them on their way home to have a hot drink, stay warm a little and have social interaction they don't usually get as they live alone or their personal circumstances mean they can't look to other things in the area to socialise whether this is financial reasons or the lack of amenities for their interest. We have single parents, families, unemployed, part time workers, people with disabilities in attendance of all races and religions.

We have supported the development of a "friendship group" of residents that has formed via the warm space provision. They meet most days for a chat, watch tv, play a board game then on days where further provision is available they all go up to the next warm space continue the chat, watch a film and grab a light bite to eat before returning home at 7pm when the venue closes. This has presented opportunity to refer into other services when part of their conversation to support with things like food, utilities, free school meals, HAF and support with referrals to get the help needed. Ie. Local pantry, LWP,



Water company debt support and discounts, LEAP energy advice referrals for support with white goods, energy efficiency In their home and free money saving devices.

We have taken the opportunity to use communal spaces as additional warm spaces in one of our high-rise blocks with the forming of a tenant group and the effectiveness of this in tackling issues of isolation and supporting each other with information on benefits, managing traumas and finding solutions to feelings of feeling unsafe and vulnerable.

Warm spaces are an invaluable asset to our community and provide not just warmth and a hot drink but a sense of belonging and equality to those who use them

#### **Food Network Info**

The neighbourhood partnerships team have lead on the development of several food networks and further work is now being developed to support this. We will also be supporting the development of a boroughwide network to ensure that resources are managed well.

#### 4.1.7 Response to previous SNAC recommendations

(1) that Directors ensure that the marketing of support services is strengthened; including making use of multi-media, billboards, communications to parents via schools and a roadshow event.

This was sent out as a Herald Cost of Living centre piece, Cost of Living booklet to all households, at many community areas, on line and in multiple languages.

(2) that Directors produce a map of support services via location and geographical coverage and share this through a range of media including print and online.

This was sent out in the Herald Cost of Living centre piece, Cost of Living booklet to all households, and available online



(3) that Directors investigate ways to better coordinate the existing foodbank network in Sandwell to ensure best use of available food resources.

This was completed though the neighbours link work and the addition top up funding.

(4) that the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board hold discussions with representatives from the Directorate of Public Health to discuss period poverty and access to sanitary products.

This has been ongoing with schools, we have also rolled out a programme of poverty proofing schools which means that schools are more inclusive of children from more deprived background. Such as giving notice on financial requests for school trips, allowing children to attend school events without asking for financial input and language used.

#### 5 Implications

Resources:	The various programmes have been supported by the public health budget and wider council funds.
Legal and	None.
Governance:	
Risk:	None.
Equality:	Those who are most likely to have been impacted by inequality at this time have be prioritised and targeted.
Health and	We have supported improved health and wellbeing
Wellbeing:	during this difficult time for our communities.
Social Value:	The support has been provided by local charities and organisations.
Climate	Having hubs/space open to the public for longer hours
Change:	will have had an impact on the energy use and climate impact.

#### 6 Appendices

Cost of Living Public Health Presentation

#### 7. Background Papers

None.





# The Cost of living

Public Health Update















## Warm spaces grants

Public Heath has agreed to provide a Grant to **Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations (SCVO)** to enable organisations to support the warm space charter.

No. of grants awarded: 34

Total value: £118,849

For the period 19<sup>th</sup> December 2022 to 8<sup>th</sup> January 2023 (for sites who made complete returns ), a total of 328 people as accessing warm spaces.

#### Sandwell Warm Spaces Charter

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200374/warm\_spaces/4978/warm\_spaces\_charter

Stuart from SCVO said "this is the most successful and in demand grants process we've ever done. The pace and partnership working between public health and SCVO has been brilliant. The process received more bids in the first round than it ever has, from a wide range of organisations, including ones that have not been part of a funded council response before"

> ~~~ 111F

## Warm spaces grants

Some comments that we've received as part of ongoing feedback:

We had a Christmas sing-along with one of our volunteers playing the guitar. This was a lovely activity that people enjoyed very much.

We have seen a steady amount of people using the winter warmer .We have noticed that more men are using the service, then women.

Had a pianist come today to play and sing Christmas carols. The group were reminiscing about loved ones and past Christmases. A lovely time shared together. There were also sandwiches and cakes available. Several attendees live on their own and are in need of care and support.

Having a craft activity on our main communal table has really helped people connect. Even if they don't do the craft, it seems to be less pressure to 'talk' - although lots of natural chat happens!

This event is becoming increasingly popular and the free hot drinks make a big difference to people who are on tight budgets.

An elderly lady who's family came to the UK as refugees has started coming each week. She struggles with English but yesterday said to me: "Today I am happy. I am made happy because here are people with good hearts. I can sit and see people and they have good hearts. I am happy."

\*\*\*



ழ

(+)

44.8%

 $\blacksquare$ 

**.** 

er 2022

**↑** 

- Black Country Toy Appeal
  Stand United Curry Kitch
- Stand United Curry Kitche (Smethwick Library )



since launch 19 October 2022

**7,900** hits Warm Spaces

le 23

**6,400** hits **Energy** 

6.300 hits Bills

**4,900** hits Food ┉

🛑 hits



4,300 hits **£** Money matters

310+

Whatsapp sign ups

**1,200** hits Tips and advice

PLUS Supporting Sandwell homepage

## Winter warm packs

Public Health ordered 600 winter warm packs, so far we have issued 536 packs, with 64 remaining due for distribution.

What was in the Pack:

- Socks · fleece scarf/neck warmer
- thermal gloves

- · thermal hat
- 120 x 150 cm fleece blanket  $\cdot$  insulated travel mug 420 ml

I wanted to share with you 3 residents comments who got in touch regarding the winter warmth bags they had received.

- really grateful items came in use.
- I only needed a couple of the items so I shared with my neighbour you could of blown me away cant thank the council enough.
- Can you pass on my gratitude for my gift I now use the throw instead of my heating, I make use of the neck warmer (scarf) and I have my hot drinks in the flask to keep them warmer also its nice to know the council are thinking of us never known it.

/// 1111

# **Cost of Living champions**

Following on from the COVID champions model which enabled Public health to win the national award and building on the information from the Sandwell Wellbeing survey, which showed that most residents will turn to friends and family for advice.

~~~ 1111

The launch of Cost of Living champions to enable every day citizens to become trained in making every contact count and using the social connections to educate and inform on what channels of support are available.

Further sessions are planned across the NHS and local partners.

| Total number of sessions delivered | 12  |
|------------------------------------|-----|
| Total number of presenters         | 7   |
| Total number of attendees          | 153 |



# **Cost of Living Booklet**

**Cost of living booklet** – the Council have produced a booklet that contains vital health, safety and service information which contains potentially lifesaving advice and support. The cost of living booklet provided up to date information on support available across the borough in order to reduce the impact of the cost of living increases. It was a reference guide for our residents.

The booklet has so far been distributed to:

- 134,000 residents
- 2,000 care home residents
- 500 copies for public buildings (including libraries)
- 100 assigned for HR event for Sandwell Council employees, 250 assigned to Lion Farm Action Centre, 50 to Vidal Lee, Community Transport, 300 to Rood End Medical Centre
- 500 for our public health development officers to distribute to other key locations in the six towns.

An easy read version of the document was also created for use by Sandwell Visually Impaired (SVI) which will work with voice screen reader software.

Furthermore a digital version was created:

https://view.publitas.com/renaissance-creative/23394-sandwell-cost-of-living-booklet/page/1

We also gave residents the option request the booklet in other languages via Sandwell Council website: https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200371/cost\_of\_living\_help/5012/sandwell\_cost\_of\_living\_booklet

111



## Report to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

#### 26 January 2023

| Subject:                                                               | Playing Pitch and Outdoor Sport Strategy  |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------|
| Director:                                                              | Director of Borough Economy – Alice Davey |
| <b>Contact Officer:</b> Ben Percival – Assistant Director – Contracts, |                                           |
|                                                                        | Projects, Strategy & Policy               |

#### 1 Recommendations

1.1 That the Board considers the establishment of a short-life working group to support the completion, adoption and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy.

#### 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Playing pitches and outdoor sports facilities play a huge role in improving the quality of life for residents. These assets directly support organised physical activity and provide a range of informal recreational opportunities and give residents access to local greenspaces.
- 2.2 Playing pitches especially natural grass require substantial resources to maintain to a good standard. Activities may also need to be restricted if the playing surface is to be maintained to a good standard. It is critical that resources are optimised and used to best effect.
- 2.3 Member Scrutiny input into the development of the Playing Pitch Strategy will add real value and help to secure an ambitious but pragmatic approach to meeting residents needs within available resources. Adoption of the approved strategy will also support efforts to secure external funding for pitch developments / improvements.

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



| Å             | Best start in life for children and young people<br>A vibrant and sustainable playing pitch infrastructure will<br>support children's participation in sport and physical activity.<br>The increased use of playing pitches by junior leagues has<br>been a feature of sports development in the past decade. |
|---------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| XXX           | <b>People live well and age well</b><br>Encouraging active lifestyles – both formal and informal<br>recreational activity - is critical to improving the health and<br>wellbeing of Sandwell residents.                                                                                                       |
| OF CONTRACTOR | <b>Strong resilient communities</b><br>With the advent of activities such as "back to…" and walking<br>football, pitch sports can provide a positive impact on all<br>ages and demographics.                                                                                                                  |
| C3            | A strong and inclusive economy<br>Making optimum use of our physical assets alongside having<br>a planned approach to development are key to developing a<br>strong economy.                                                                                                                                  |
|               | A connected and accessible Sandwell<br>Outdoor activities – particularly informal recreation can help<br>support and encourage active travel.                                                                                                                                                                 |

#### 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 A Playing Pitch & Outdoor Sport Strategy (PPOSS) has been commissioned in accordance with Sport England guidance. The Strategy aims to address the facility needs of all identified sports and should assess both current and future demand issues reflecting both population growth and major regeneration areas. The Strategy should set out realistic aspirations which are implementable within the Council's budgetary position and procurement regime.
- 4.2 The key outputs of the Strategy should be:
  - A series of recommendations which provide a strategic framework for the improvement, maintenance, development and, as appropriate, rationalisation of the playing pitch and outdoor sport facility stock.
  - A series of sport by sport recommendations which provide a strategic framework for sport led improvements to provision.
  - A prioritised area-by-area Action Plan to address key issues on a siteby-site basis.



- 4.3 The commissioned strategy takes a very inclusive approach, assessing facilities for a broad range of sports:
  - Athletics
  - Cricket
  - Football (including 3G pitches)
  - Hockey (sand/water based AGPs)
  - Rugby union (including 3G pitches)
  - Tennis

- Bowls
- Cycling
- Golf
- Netball
- Rugby league (including 3G pitches)
- Water sports (e.g. sailing and water skiing)
- 4.3 The Strategy was commissioned concurrently with the other authorities, with the Black Country Consortium also commissioning an overarching framework. This will allow a coordinated approach and support opportunities for cross boundary facility provision.
- 4.4 The supply analysis identifies that in common with many authorities -Sandwell has a very large stock of playing pitches of limited quality with a continued heavy reliance on natural grass pitches. This starts to indicate the potential for strategic changes to both improve provision and make better use of resources and assets.

#### 5 Implications

| Resources:    | No immediate resource implications. The strategy and action plan will need to be costed and a resource plan developed. |
|---------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Legal and     | None                                                                                                                   |
| Governance:   |                                                                                                                        |
| Risk:         | A strong PPS supports the planning process, reducing                                                                   |
|               | the risk of challenge.                                                                                                 |
| Equality:     | Any proposals from the PPS will be subject to an                                                                       |
|               | equality impact assessment.                                                                                            |
| Health and    | Opportunities to encourage physical activity deliver                                                                   |
| Wellbeing:    | critical health and wellbeing benefits to residents.                                                                   |
| Social Value: | Social value will be considered as part of any                                                                         |
|               | proposed projects.                                                                                                     |
| Climate       | Climate, flood and ecological impacts of any proposed                                                                  |
| Change:       | projects will be assessed.                                                                                             |



#### 6 Appendices

None

#### 7. Background Papers

None





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

|   | Title/Subject                                                                                                               | Decision<br>Maker                          | Decision Date       | Pre-decision<br>Scrutiny to be<br>carried out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of documents<br>to be considered |
|---|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 3 | Community Hubs<br>Contact Officer: Director of Business<br>Strategy – Neil Cox and Director of<br>Housing – Gillian Douglas | Cabinet -<br>Communities<br>(Cllr Millard) | 15 February<br>2023 |                                                                       |                                       |
| 4 | Tenant Fees Act PolicyContact Officer: Liz Nembhard/NicolaPlantDirector: Alice Davey – Director ofBorough Economy           | Cabinet -<br>Communities<br>(Cllr Millard) | 15 February<br>2023 |                                                                       | Þ                                     |



|   | Title/Subject                                                                                            | Decision<br>Maker                                     | Decision Date       | Pre-decision<br>Scrutiny to be<br>carried out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of documents<br>to be considered                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |  |
|---|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--|
| 6 | Revenues and Benefits Policy<br>Framework 2023-24<br>Contact Officer: Ian Dunn<br>Director: Simone Hines | Cabinet -<br>Finance and<br>Resources<br>(Cllr Piper) | 15 February<br>2023 |                                                                       | <ul> <li>Corporate Debt<br/>Recovery Policy</li> <li>Council Tax Award of<br/>Discount Policy</li> <li>Council Tax<br/>Discretionary<br/>Reduction Policy</li> <li>Flood Relief Policy</li> <li>Discretionary Housing<br/>Payments Policy</li> <li>Local Welfare<br/>Provision Policy</li> <li>Non-Domestic Rate<br/>Hardship Relief Policy</li> <li>Non-Domestic Rates<br/>Discretionary Rate<br/>Relief Policy</li> </ul> |  |
|   |                                                                                                          |                                                       |                     |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |
|   | OCO<br>IIIIIIIII<br>ONE COUNCIL<br>ONE TEAM                                                              |                                                       |                     |                                                                       |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |  |

Page 32

|    | Title/Subject                                                                                                                                         | Decision<br>Maker                                            | Decision Date       | Pre-decision<br>Scrutiny to be<br>carried out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of documents<br>to be considered |
|----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 9  | Adoption of Housing Revenue<br>Account 30 Year Business Plan<br>Contact Officer: Gillian Douglas<br>Director: Gillian Douglas, Director of<br>Housing | <b>Cabinet –</b><br>Housing<br>(Cllr Padda)                  | 15 February<br>2023 |                                                                       |                                       |
| 10 | Sandwell Museums – Approval of<br>Forward Plan and Policies<br>Contact Officer: Dawn Winter<br>Director: Alice Davey, Director of<br>Borough Economy  | <b>Cabinet -</b><br>Leisure and<br>Tourism<br>(Cllr Rollins) | 15 February<br>2023 |                                                                       |                                       |



|    | Title/Subject                                                                                                                                              | Decision<br>Maker                                      | Decision Date       | Pre-decision<br>Scrutiny to be<br>carried out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of documents<br>to be considered                       |
|----|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------|---------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------|
| 13 | Sandwell Local List of Non-<br>Designated Heritage Assets<br>Contact Officer: Mark Stretton<br>Director: Tony McGovern – Director<br>Regeneration & Growth | Cabinet -<br>Regeneration &<br>Growth<br>(Cllr Hughes) | 15 February<br>2023 |                                                                       | Sandwell Local List of<br>Non-Designated<br>Heritage Assets |
| 15 | Supply of Electricity 2024-2028<br>Contact Officer – Neil Whitehouse<br>Director -                                                                         | Cabinet -<br>Finance &<br>Resources<br>(Cllr Piper)    | 15 February<br>2023 | N/A                                                                   | Report                                                      |



|    | Title/Subject                                                                                                                        | Decision<br>Maker                                                                                | Decision Date | Pre-decision<br>Scrutiny to be<br>carried out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of documents<br>to be considered |
|----|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 16 | Trees Strategy and Policy<br>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins<br>Director – Borough Economy, Alice<br>Davey                          | Cabinet -<br>Environment<br>Service<br>(Cllr Ahmed)<br>Leisure and<br>Tourism<br>(Cllr Rolllins) | 15 March 2023 |                                                                       |                                       |
| 20 | Demolition Framework 2023-2027<br>procurement<br>Contact Officer. Mark Drake<br>Director: Tony McGovern -<br>Regeneration and Growth | Cabinet -<br>Regeneration &<br>Growth<br>(Cllr Hughes)                                           | 15 March 2023 |                                                                       |                                       |



|    | Title/Subject                                  | Decision<br>Maker    | Decision Date | Pre-decision<br>Scrutiny to be<br>carried out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of documents<br>to be considered |
|----|------------------------------------------------|----------------------|---------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 21 | Housing Strategy 2023 - 2028                   | Cabinet –<br>Housing | May 2023      | SNAC 24<br>November 2022                                              | Housing Strategy<br>2023 – 2028       |
|    | Contact Officer: Louis Bebb                    | (Cllr Padda)         |               |                                                                       |                                       |
|    | Director: Gillian Douglas, Director of Housing |                      |               |                                                                       |                                       |



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

| Title/Subject | Cabinet<br>Portfolio Area | Decision Date | Reason for<br>Exemption | List of<br>documents to<br>be considered |
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|
|---------------|---------------------------|---------------|-------------------------|------------------------------------------|



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

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



ONE COUNCIL ONE TEAM

| Title/Subject                                                                           | Cabinet<br>Portfolio Area | Decision Date    | Pre-<br>decision<br>Scrutiny to<br>be carried<br>out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of<br>documents to<br>be considered |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Revenues and Benefits Policy framework 2022/23                                          |                           | March            |                                                                              |                                          |
| Schools Capital Programme                                                               |                           | April to June    |                                                                              |                                          |
| Financial Outturn                                                                       |                           | May              |                                                                              |                                          |
| Procurement and Contract Procedure<br>Rules                                             |                           | July             |                                                                              |                                          |
| Review of Fees and Charges Sandwell<br>Residential Education Services Centre<br>Charges |                           | May – July       |                                                                              |                                          |
| Childcare Sufficiency Report                                                            |                           | July - September |                                                                              |                                          |
| Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring                                                             |                           | August           |                                                                              |                                          |



| Title/Subject                      | Cabinet<br>Portfolio Area | Decision Date    | Pre-<br>decision<br>Scrutiny to<br>be carried<br>out?<br>(Board and<br>date) | List of<br>documents to<br>be considered |
|------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------|
| Model Schools Pay Policy           |                           | October/         |                                                                              |                                          |
|                                    |                           | November         |                                                                              |                                          |
| Winter Service Operational Plan    |                           | October/November |                                                                              |                                          |
| Road Safety Plan                   |                           | November         |                                                                              |                                          |
| Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring        |                           | November         |                                                                              |                                          |
| Council Tax Base Calculation       |                           | December         |                                                                              |                                          |
| Business Rates Retention Estimates |                           | December         |                                                                              |                                          |
| Council Tax Reduction Scheme       |                           | December         |                                                                              |                                          |



### Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2022/23

## Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities

ONE COUNCIL ONE TEAM



- Tracking and Monitoring of Recommendations to the Executive
- Work Programme (including Cabinet Forward Plan)

| Meeting Date          | Item                                                               | Presented by                                                                      |
|-----------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 02 August 2022        | Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group Work Programme 2022/23       | Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager<br>Community Partnerships and<br>Support Services) |
|                       | Housing Tenants' Annual Report 2021/22                             | Nigel Collumbell (Service Manager<br>Housing Management)                          |
| 30 August 2022        | Council House New Builds Programme                                 | Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration and Growth)                               |
| Additional<br>Meeting | The Appropriation of Various Disused Former Garages in the Borough | Tony McGovern (Possible input from Gillian Douglas)                               |
| 30 September<br>2022  | Housing Needs Assessment                                           | Nigel Collumbell (Service Manager<br>Housing Management)                          |
|                       | Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review                       | Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing)                                             |
| ۵ ا                   | Rents and Service Charges                                          | Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing)                                             |
|                       |                                                                    |                                                                                   |

1 🖬 Ì

| 01 November<br>2022                      | Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to Tackle the Cost of Living Crisis                 | Lisa McNally (Director of Public Health). SCIPS. SCVO.                            |
|------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| o Additional<br>श्र Meeting              | Review of Voids Process                                                                             | Nigel Collumbell (Service Manager<br>Housing Management                           |
| Meeting<br>4                             | Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Plan                                                                | Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing                                              |
|                                          | Empty Homes Strategy                                                                                | Nigel Collumbell (Service Manager<br>Housing Management)                          |
| 24 November<br>2022                      | Housing Strategy                                                                                    | Nigel Collumbell (Service Manager<br>Housing Management) Louis Bebb.              |
|                                          | Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group -<br>Housing Hub Review                         | Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager<br>Community Partnerships and<br>Support Services) |
|                                          | Fees & Charges (inc concessions) for LATC / Sandwell<br>Aquatic Centre                              | Alice Davey/ Ben Percival                                                         |
|                                          | 2023-24 Asset Management Investment Programme for<br>Housing                                        | Jonathan Rawlins/ Gillian Douglas                                                 |
| 10 January 2023<br>Additional<br>Meeting | Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Plan Update                                                         | Gillian Douglas                                                                   |
| 26 January 2023                          | Playing Pitch Strategy – ITEM 3                                                                     | Ben Percival                                                                      |
|                                          | Council House New Builds Programme Update – ITEM 4                                                  | Tony McGovern (Director of Regeneration and Growth)                               |
|                                          | Update of Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to Tackle the Cost of Living CrisisITEM 2 | Liann Brookes Smith SCIPS. SCVO                                                   |
| Γ.                                       | Launch plan of Sandwell Aquatic Centre – ITEM 1                                                     | Ben Percival/ Mark Braithwaite                                                    |
|                                          |                                                                                                     |                                                                                   |
| -                                        | COOOO<br>TITITO<br>ONE COUNCIL<br>ONE TEAM                                                          |                                                                                   |

| 23 F<br>202 | February<br>23.            | Nature Reserves Funding and Green Spaces Strategy                                          | Matt Huggins Asst. Director Parks,<br>Grounds Maint. & Events                     |
|-------------|----------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| - Add       | ditional                   | Heritage and Cultural Strategy                                                             | Dawn Winter Asst. Director<br>Libraries, Archives & Heritage                      |
| a mee       | eting at<br>ndwell Valley. | Future Provision of Leisure Services Update                                                | Ben Percival Asst. Director<br>Contracts & Projects                               |
| 43          | ,                          | Sandwell Valley Masterplan                                                                 | Alice Davey (Director of Borough<br>Economy)                                      |
|             |                            | Enforcement activity in relation to housing, particularly ASB                              | Nigel Collumbell/ Gillian Douglas                                                 |
|             |                            | Reports of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group -<br>Home Checks Review               | Manny Sehmbi/ Marianne Munro                                                      |
|             |                            | Tree Strategy and Policy                                                                   | Matthew Huggins                                                                   |
| 23 1        | March 2023                 | Homelessness Strategy (Implementation). Incorporating a Deep dive - Manifoldia Grange site | Nigel Collumbell (Service Manager<br>Housing Management)                          |
|             |                            | Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan                                                             | Alice Davey/ Ben Percival                                                         |
|             |                            | Neighbourhood Management Model                                                             | Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager<br>Community Partnerships and<br>Support Services) |
|             |                            | Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 One Year On                                     | Chief Supt Maria Fox (Chair of Safer<br>Sandwell Partnership)                     |



|     | To be Scheduled                                                                                               |
|-----|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
|     | Reports of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group on:-                                                     |
| J   | <ul> <li>Building Safety Review</li> </ul>                                                                    |
| age | <ul> <li>Responsive Repairs &amp; Customer Satisfaction Review</li> </ul>                                     |
| Ð   | Fees & Charges (inc concessions) for LATC / Sandwell Aquatic Centre Update PROVSIONAL                         |
| 4   | Community Hubs – Neil Cox/ Gillian Douglas (15 FEB 23 Cabinet)                                                |
|     | For Municipal year 2023/24:                                                                                   |
|     | Quarter 1:                                                                                                    |
|     | Safer Parks and Green Spaces – Alice Davey                                                                    |
|     | Housing Hub Review (Report of the T and L Scrutiny Group) - implementation of recommendations update. – Nigel |
|     | Collumbell                                                                                                    |
|     | Quarter 2:                                                                                                    |
|     | Quarter 3:                                                                                                    |
|     | Built Facilities Strategy Alice Davey/ Ben Percival                                                           |
|     | Quarter 4:                                                                                                    |

