

Agenda

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

Wednesday, 13 July 2022 at 6.00 pm
in 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 16 March 2022.

4 **Additional Items of Business**

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

5 **Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2022-23**

13 - 20



To approve the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board work programme 2022-23.

6 **Scrutiny Boards Work Programme 2022-23**

21 - 36

To consider and approve the work programme for 2022-23 for each Scrutiny Board.

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 16 March 2022 at 6.00 pm
at Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury**

Present: Councillor L Giles (Chair);
Councillors E M Giles and Shackleton.

In attendance: Councillor Gavan;
Neil Cox (Director of Business Strategy and Change), Surjit
Tour (Director of Law & Governance), Charlie Davey (Adults
Business Partner), Chris Jones (Project Director), Abi
Asimolowo (Finance Business Partner), Sarah Sprung
(Senior Lead Officer), Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic
Services Manager) and Matt Powis (Senior Democratic
Services Officer).

13/22 Apologies for Absence

Apologies were received from Councillors Anandou and Moore.

14/22 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.



15/22

Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 8 February 2022 are approved as a correct record.

16/22

Additional Items of Business

There were no additional items of business to consider.

17/22

Q3 Budget Monitoring 2021/22

The Cabinet, at its meeting on 23 February 2022, considered the 2021/22 Budget Monitoring report for Quarter 3 and referred the report to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board for consideration and comment.

The Board was informed of the financial monitoring position as on 31 December 2021 which confirmed an overspend of £5.233m against allocated budgets. However, there was an underspend of £7.822m when the budgets were adjusted against the Council's reserves including the use of wider corporate resources and Covid-19 grant funding.

It was noted that the Cabinet had approved the budget virements of £7.366m in relation to Adult Social Care, Regeneration and Growth, Borough Economy and Housing.

Each directorate variance and pressure points were outlined to the Board. There had continued to be a financial impact to the Council due to the Covid-19 pandemic as a result of suspended or reduced services. However, there was continued flexibility to manage pressures through the unused Covid-19 grant funding.

In relation to the Council's Capital Programme, it was confirmed that £400k would be transferred to the programme in relation to the West Bromwich Town Hall Quarter project. In addition, a virement of £68k was approved by Cabinet from the Blackheath Library Project to the West Bromwich Town Hall project.

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

- in response to the Blackheath Library project virement, it was confirmed that the project cost had been overestimated. Therefore, it was agreed that the unused funds should be allocated to the West Bromwich Town Hall Quarter project;
- clarification was sought on the Council's position on funding for non-statutory SEND Home to School Transport. In response, it was confirmed that a response would be provided to the Board in writing;
- there were concerns about the length of time the Community Infrastructure Levy (CIL) funds remained unspent. The Board were reassured that Elected Members were consulted and involved in the planned use of CIL funds;
- Adult Social Care overspends had been allevated from additional funding in respect of the NHS discharge to assess funding for external placements and a one-off increase in the Better Care Fund contribution to the Joint Equipment Store.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, thanked the Adults Business Partner for his attendance.

Resolved that the Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring report for 2021/22 be noted.

18/22

Corporate Plan Achievements 2021

The Board considered a report on the Corporate Plan Achievements 2021, which was presented by the Director for Business Strategy and Change.

The Board were informed that the Council's Corporate Plan was adopted by Council on 12 October 2021. This refreshed plan was based on analysis of the impact of the Covid pandemic on the Borough and an acknowledgement of the Council's current priorities. The Council had recommitted to the Sandwell Plan and Vision 2030 as well as approving the 10 ambitions over the period 2021 to 2025.

Despite the challenges from the pandemic, the Council had made progress in the following priority areas:

- Best start in life for children and young people;
- People Live Well;
- Strong Resilient Communities;
- Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods;

- A strong inclusive economy;
- A connected and accessible Sandwell;
- One Council, one team.

The plan outlined the delivery model on how each strategic priority would be achieved and summarised the necessary timescales.

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

- the Corporate Plan Refresh had not been directly impacted by the recent intervention by the Government and external auditors. However, it had allowed the Council's to focus on aspects of the improvement plan to factor in delivery timescales within the new Corporate Plan;
- there were proposals for a performance and management strategy across the Council to ensure all directorates had the required support to improve performance and standards;
- the Council recognised the actions as set out in the improvement plan and was working to achieve each objective. However, it was noted that a critical part of the improvement plan was about building confidence across the workforce to deliver change;
- the Board would continue to have oversight of the Corporate Plan and monitor the process of each directorate action.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, thanked the Director for Business Change and Strategy and the Senior Lead Officer for their attendance.

Resolved that the Corporate Plan Achievements 2021 be noted.

19/22

Cabinet Forward Plan

The Board noted the Cabinet Forward Plan as at the time of the meeting.

Resolved that the Cabinet Forward Plan be noted.

20/22

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2021-22

The Scrutiny Management Board noted its work programme for the remainder of the 2021-22 municipal year.

Resolved that the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme for 2021-22 be noted.

21/22

Exclusion of the Public and Press.

Resolved that the public and press be excluded from the rest of the meeting to avoid the possible disclosure of exempt information under paragraph 3 of Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act, 1972, as amended, by the Local Government (Access to Information) (Variation) Order 2006, relating to the financial and business affairs of any person, including the authority holding that information.

22/22

Sandwell Aquatics Centre Budget Update.

The Board considered an update report on the Sandwell Aquatics Centre budget.

The Project Director gave an overview of the phase 4 project plan which included the following updates:-

- drone footage outlined the capital build works with before and after footage of development;
- budget breakdown costs for the capital works which included reference to partner funding, contract technicalities and project governance and assurance;
- preparation and implementation of the Phase 4 – Legacy Construction;
- risks and management of the project including mitigation;
- impact of the project from COVID-19.

The Project Director confirmed that whilst progress on the construction and build of the project had been challenging, the Aquatics Centre was on target to be delivered on time and on budget for the Birmingham 2022 Commonwealth Games.

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

- in response to the Council funding for the project, it was confirmed that funding could only be used in respect of the Commonwealth Games and could not be allocated to any other projects or services;
- several partners organisations had committed to contribute funding to aspects of the Aquatics Centre. It was expected that all partners deliver on their committed funding for the project;
- the Council had ensured that the Aquatics Centre would maintain strong ties with Wolverhampton University, which would enable Sandwell be home to leading sports development programmes;
- the Aquatics Centre had been designed to prioritise the legacy of the centre. This involved balancing a premium leisure offer to maximise income generation to allow the facility to be maintained at minimal cost to the Council;
- members requested a site visit to the Aquatics Centre.

The Chair, on behalf of the Board, thanked the Project Director for his attendance.

Meeting ended at 7.13pm.

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

Report to Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

13 July 2022

Subject:	Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2022-23
Director:	Surjit Tour, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Suky Suthi-Nagra, Democratic Services Manager

1 Recommendations that the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board:







- 1.1 approves the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board work programme 2022-23 as set out in the Appendix.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to approve its work programme for 2022-23 taking into account where scrutiny can add value, strengthen decision making to enhance services that the Council delivers and aligns to the Vision 2030 and objectives of the Corporate Plan.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		Effective governance arrangements support the delivery of all corporate objectives
		
		

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The relevant Director(s) had been invited to attend a work programming session on 30 June 2022 to provide the Board with an overview of the services, key issues and priorities relevant to the Board's terms of reference.
- 4.2 A list of items identified during the year for scrutiny and pre-decision items and any suggestions received from the public were considered during the work programming events by the individual Scrutiny Boards.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not determine a work programme, the opportunity to review policies and services will not be realised meaning that improvements, savings and income generation possibilities may be missed.

6 Implications

Resources:	The Scrutiny function is directly supported by the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officers within the Council's Law and Governance directorate. Additional technical expertise and evidence on specific matters will be provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.
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	The strategic resource implications of the topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to members on a case by case basis.
Legal and Governance:	Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees. Further powers relating to overview and scrutiny are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Localism Act 2011, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
Risk:	Any risks identified of scrutiny work programme items will be reported to members on a case by case basis.
Equality:	There are no equality implications arising from this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.
Social Value	There are no social value implications arising from this report.

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Budget & Corporate Scrutiny Management Board Work Programme 2022-23



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Work Programme 2022/23

Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

Meeting Date	Item	Links with Strategic Aims	Notes (Director Lead)
13 July 2022	Scrutiny Boards Work programmes		To formally approve all Scrutiny Boards work programmes
28 July 2022	Outturn 2021/22		Details of 2021/22 financial outturn including reasons for variances against budget for each directorate
	Scrutiny Annual Report 2021/22		To be approved by Council in October
14 September 2022	Qtr 1 Budget Monitoring 2021/22		Projected outturn for 2022/23 and reasons for projected variances
6 October 2022			
10 November 2022	Provisional budget setting proposals		

Meeting Date	Item	Links with Strategic Aims	Notes (Director Lead)
12 January 2023	Provisional budget setting proposals		
	Qtr 2 Budget Monitoring 2022/23		As Qtr 1
2 February 2023	The impact on the registration of births when the new Midland Metropolitan hospital opens in 2024		Surjit Tour/Mark Satchwell
	Update on review of Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules, including the implication on SEND transport and how social care implications will be incorporated into future contracts		Simone Hines/Michael Jarrett
29 March 2023	Q3 Budget Monitoring 2022/23		As Qtr 1

Items to be scheduled

Arrange 2 x additional meetings of SMB to consider the progress against Corporate Improvement Plan

Staff engagement results and impact on workforce since working from home – Neil Cox/Victoria Lee

Review the debt recovery process the Council undertakes including the use of enforcement agencies and their charges – Simone Hines

Income and expenditure for assets the council owns - Tony McGovern/Simone Hines

Joint session with Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board on the implications of charges and payments for adult social care and any ongoing pressure on budgets – Simone Hines/Rashpal Bishop

Quarterly budget reports to incorporate whether savings identified can be achieved – Simone Hines

Regular updates on Scrutiny Review – Surjit Tour/Suky Suthi-Nagra

Feedback on the budget consultation process to commence in the summer - report back on 28 July – Simone Hines

Resident engagement and panel – how are the views of the vast majority of residents in Sandwell being captured, from the Equality, Diversity & Inclusion perspective, how does the Council consult and engage with residents (Feb/March 2023) – Neil Cox/Surjit Tour

Scrutiny Review

Customer journey, how people access the building, customer portal, My Cllr Portal – Neil Cox and other Directors as appropriate

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Report to Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

13 July 2022

Subject:	Scrutiny Boards Work Programme 2022-23
Director:	Surjit Tour, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Suky Suthi-Nagra, Democratic Services Manager

1 Recommendations







- 1.1 That consideration be given to the work programme for 2022-23 for each Scrutiny Board, as set out in the Appendix.
- 1.2 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 on 18 July 2022.
- 1.2 That the Chairs of Scrutiny Boards be authorised to make any further amendments to their respective Scrutiny Board work programmes, as deemed necessary.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 22.1 The Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board contains within its terms of reference responsibility for approving an overview and scrutiny work programme. Attached to this report at Appendix 1 are the work programmes proposed by the Scrutiny Boards for consideration by the Management Board.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		Effective scrutiny arrangements support the delivery of all corporate objectives
		
		

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The Scrutiny Boards were established by Council at its annual meeting on 24 May 2022. The Boards met on 13 June and 30 June 2022 to discuss their proposals for work programmes. Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board will meet on 18 July 2022 to agree their work programme. This report draws together the proposed programmes into an annual overview and scrutiny work programme for consideration by the Scrutiny Management Board.
- 4.2 The Scrutiny page on the Council's website includes an online form that invites the public to send their suggestions, or suggest a topic, of what they would like the scrutiny boards to look into. This is available all year and advises the public that all suggestions will be passed on to members for consideration.
- 4.3 To assist members in this, the Sandwell Scrutiny Prioritisation Tool helped Boards to determine priorities for each topic and provided members with a structured method of creating a focussed work programme.

5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not determine a work programme, the opportunity to review policies and services will not be realised meaning that improvements, savings and income generation possibilities may be missed.



6 Implications

Resources:	<p>The Scrutiny function is directly supported by the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officers within the Council's Law and Governance directorate. Additional technical expertise and evidence on specific matters will be provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.</p> <p>The strategic resource implications of the topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to members on a case by case basis.</p>
Legal and Governance:	<p>Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees.</p> <p>Further powers relating to overview and scrutiny are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Localism Act 2011, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.</p>
Risk:	<p>Any risks identified of scrutiny work programme items will be reported to members on a case by case basis.</p>
Equality:	<p>There are no equality implications arising from this report.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	<p>There are no health and wellbeing implications arising from this report.</p>
Social Value	<p>There are no social value implications arising from this report.</p>

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 - proposed work programmes as submitted by the Scrutiny Boards.











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Work Programme 2022/23

Children's Services and Education

Scrutiny Board

Meeting Date	Item	Links with Strategic Aims	Notes
1 August 2022	Children's Services COVID Recovery Funds	 	Sally Giles (Strategic Partnerships and Commissioning Manager) Claire Tate (Senior Transformation Lead for Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health)
12 September 2022	Sandwell Children's Trust Annual Review		Emma Taylor (CEO of SCT)
	Annual Regional Adoption Report	 	Lynn Noble (Adoption at Heart)
14 November 2022	Virtual School and STEPS Centre	 	Michael Jarrett (Director for Children's Services) Balwant Bains Head of Virtual Schools. (STEPS)
9 January 2023			
20 March 2023	Sandwell Children's Trust 6 month review		Emma Taylor (CEO of SCT)



Items to be scheduled

- The impact of the lockdown on Children and Families – findings report following substantial work and investigation in 2021/22.
- Elective Home Education Report – Cabinet Response
- SEND Transport – updates to the Board.
- Outcome of trial of 16+ provision at the Westminster School and The Meadows.
- Children’s Emotional Wellbeing and Mental Health.
- Government White Paper - Opportunity for all - strong schools with great teachers for your child
- Government Green Paper - SEND & Alternative Provision - Summary of the SEND review: right support, right place, right time
- Education Investment Area and Priority Investment Area developments
- Youth Service Offer and Youth Facilities
- Childhood Obesity



Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2022/23

Economy, Skills Transport and Environment



Standing Items:-

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

Meeting Date	Item	Presented by
14 July 2022	Black Country Local Enterprise Partnership	Sarah Middleton (Chief Executive of Black Country Consortium Limited)
	Towns Fund Update	Rina Rahim (Towns Fund Programme Manager)
29 September 2022	Local Transport Plan	Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager)
	Bus Service Improvement Plan	Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager)
	Outcome of E-Scooters Trial	Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager)
16 th November 2022	Black Country Plan Consultation	Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager)
	Sandwell Development Plan	Andy Miller (Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager)
	Rewilding Strategy	Alice Davey (Director of Borough Economy)

9 th February 2023	Corporate Fleet Management	Gary Charlton (Waste and Fleet Service Manager)/ Alice Davey (Director of Borough Economy)
9 th March 2023	TBA	

Items to be scheduled:

Review of private hire and hackney carriage licensing policy – late 2022/early 2023.

Scrutiny Review/s**Review of the 2017-2022 Strategic Road Safety Plan**

Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2022/23

Health and Adult Social Care



Meeting Date	Item	Presented by
18 July 2022	Establishment of Joint Overview and Scrutiny Arrangements.	Democratic Services/Chair
	Adult Social Care Contributions Consultation	Kay Murphy (Divisional Manager – Brokerage)
	Work Programming 2022-23	Democratic Services/Chair
5 September 2022	West Midlands Ambulance Service Winter Plan 2022/23	West Midlands Ambulance Service
	Sandwell's Response to HIV Commission Findings	Maura Flynn (Sexual Health Project Manage)
	Re-development of Edward Street Hospital	Michelle Carr (Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust)

23 January 2023		
13 March 2023		

Items to be scheduled

Items to be considered in 2022/23:

- Day Services Transformation Plan Update (Changing Our Lives and Services Users to attend)
- Update on the Knowle Centre and Board Visit (when appropriate).
- Local Government Support Programme – Energy Savings Trust (Director of Borough Economy)
- Community Diagnostic Centres – Progress on Funding and Development
- Domestic abuse referrals
- Adult Social Care Complaints Annual Reports (Director of Adult Social Care)
- Establishment of Joint Health Scrutiny Arrangements with Black Country Councils??

Suggested review

- Review of current social care provision to vulnerable adults and elderly in their homes – Gaining assurance that agencies used by the council provide the quality of care required and identifying ways to improve quality of care to elderly/vulnerable adults.

Scrutiny Review

Mental Health Services

Building on the work that the Board commenced in 2020/21, the review will look at mental health services in Sandwell, the impact of covid-19 on people's mental health and the delivery and access to services, post-covid recovery, people's experience of services (including waiting times), equality of access to services.

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Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2022/23



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Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities

Standing Items:-

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

Meeting Date	Item	Presented by
20 July 2022	Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group Work Programme 2022/23	Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager Community Partnerships and Support Services)
	Housing Tenants' Annual Report 2021/22	Nigel Columbell (Service Manager Housing Management)
13 September 2022	Housing Needs Assessment	Nigel Columbell (Service Manager Housing Management)
	Voluntary and Community Sector Grants Review	Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing)
	Rents and Service Charges	Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing)
	Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group - Housing Hub & Contact Centre Review	Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager Community Partnerships and Support Services)



	Nature Reserves Funding	Matthew Huggins ((Interim) Service Manager Parks, Grounds, Sandwell Valley & Events)
24 November 2022	Housing Strategy	Nigel Columbell (Service Manager Housing Management)
	Empty Homes Strategy	Nigel Columbell (Service Manager Housing Management)
	Review of Voids Process	Nigel Columbell (Service Manager Housing Management)
	Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Plan	Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing)
26 January 2023	Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022-26 One Year On	Chief Supt Ian Green (Chair of Safer Sandwell Partnership)
	Green Spaces Strategy	Alice Davey (Director of Borough Economy)
	Heritage and Cultural Strategy	Alice Davey (Director of Borough Economy)
23 March 2023	Homelessness Strategy (Implementation)	Nigel Columbell (Service Manager Housing Management)
	Neighbourhood Management Model	Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager Community Partnerships and Support Services)



To be Scheduled

Reports of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group on:-

- Home Checks Review
- Building Safety Review
- Responsive Repairs & Customer Satisfaction Review

Future Provision of Leisure Services
Sandwell Valley Masterplan



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