

# Agenda

## Smethwick Partnership Board

Tuesday 7 May 2024 at 9.00am

This meeting is hybrid (Held online and in-person)

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 Welcome and Apologies**  
The Chair will welcome attendees to the meeting and make opening remarks.
- 2 Apologies**  
To receive any apologies for absence.
- 3 Introductions**  
Board members will introduce themselves to the board.
- 4 Minutes and Action Log** 7 - 18  
To agree the minutes of the last meeting and review open actions.
- 5 Declarations of Interest**  
To receive any declarations of interest from members relating to any item on the agenda.
- 6 Governance Arrangements** 19 - 32  
To receive and agree the draft Terms of Reference.



- |     |                                                                                                                                                                   |           |
|-----|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------|
| 7   | <b>Introduction to Long Term Plan</b><br>To receive an introduction to the Long Term Plan Programme.                                                              | 33 - 40   |
| 8   | <b>Long Term Plan Programme Management Plan</b><br>To receive the programme plan for the Long Term Plan programme.                                                |           |
| 9   | <b>Long Term Plan Engagement Strategy</b><br>To receive and input into the proposed engagement strategy.                                                          |           |
| 10  | <b>Towns Fund Introduction</b><br>To receive a summary of Towns Fund Projects and their status of delivery.                                                       | 41 - 52   |
| 11  | <b>Towns Fund Project Reporting</b><br>To receive an update on project progress and monitoring information for the period of January to March 2024.               | 53 - 116  |
| 12. | <b>Grove Lane Regeneration and Rolfe Street Canalside Project Focus Update</b><br>4<br>To receive an update specifically on Grove Lane and Rolfe Street projects. |           |
| 13  | <b>Forward Plans</b><br>To review Forward Plans for meetings, press and media.                                                                                    | 117 - 118 |
| 14  | <b>Any Other Business</b><br>To receive any other business raised by members for discussion.                                                                      |           |
| 15  | <b>Closing Remarks</b><br>The Chair will make closing remarks and close the meeting.                                                                              |           |

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**Chief Executive Officer**  
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**Distribution**

A Taylor (Chair), J Thompson, Cllr F Shaeen, Cllr P Hughes, D Gould, D Holden, I Iqbal, J Haydon, J Spellar MP, J Wood, K Patel, K Maddil, M Sibi, R Lake, S Taylor, S Shingadia and Z Hussain

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## Minutes of Smethwick Town Deal Board

**Thursday, 29 February 2024 at 10.00 am**  
**This meeting will be held online.**

**Present:** A Taylor (Chair), J Thompson (Vice-Chair), Cllr A Lewis, Cllr B Piper, Cllr F Shaeen, Cllr J Uddin, D Holden, J Wood, L Bird and S Shingadia

**Also present:** A Bell, E Parkes, H Cashmore, J Dolphin, J Langford, K Harris, M Wragg, R Rahim and T Stokes

### **10** Welcome and Opening Remarks

The Chair welcomed board members to the meeting and outlined the agenda items for discussion. The Programme Management Office confirmed the meeting is quorate.

### **11** Apologies

Apologies were received by the following board members: -

- Councillor K Carmichael – Sandwell Council Leader
- G Brown - Raglan Road Christian Church
- S Howells - Sandwell and West Birmingham CCG
- K Willets - West Midlands Police
- R Flatley - Sandwell Visually Impaired



## **12 Minutes and Action Log**

### Minutes of the last meeting

Board members agreed minutes of the Town Deal Board held on 15 November 2023 were a correct record.

### Action Log

Updates recorded on the attached Action Log.

## **13 Declaration of Interests**

The Chair asked board members to raise any declarations of interests. None were forthcoming. The chair asked board members to raise any declarations during discussions should they need to.

## **14 Governance**

As outlined in the Terms of Reference, Board Membership is reviewed annually. The approach to review membership is for the Programme Management Office to contact members to ask if they wish to remain as a member.

Smethwick Town Deal Board overall, has good attendance. Apologies have been received regularly by some board members due to meeting clashes. The Programme Management Office have advised they can send a representative, or email comments and queries to the Town Deal mailbox.

The review for the Smethwick Town Deal Board has been delayed, due to the announcement of the Smethwick Long Term Plan, as board membership will likely include some Town Deal Board members.

In regard to young person representatives, the Programme Management Office attend SHAPE Forum to discuss project progress and colleagues can feedback their comments to the Town Deal Board. The SHAPE Forum currently meet fortnightly.

In addition, discussions are being held with Sandwell College to explore consultation with their Student Forum. The Programme Management Office/ Project Leads can attend the Forum and feedback to the Town Deal Board.

### Scrutiny

As part of governance requirements, the Towns Fund Programme report project progress to the council's Scrutiny Board. At the meeting held on 8 February, a report was presented providing detail of progress, project red rag rated risks and budget pressures.

Scrutiny members were understanding of issues resulting in progress delays and the budget pressures that were flagged due to cost inflation. Scrutiny Members asked the Programme Management Office to report at the next scrutiny, to confirm timescales of delivery and if they will be delivered within the Towns Fund delivery timeline, by March 2026.



## **15 Long Term Plan**

Board members received information on the Long Term Plan as part of the agenda pack. A summary of the Long Term Plan was presented to members, which included: -

In October 2023, Government announced funding of £20m endowment style funding over a 10 year period. Funding would be issued to Local Authorities as the accountable body.

Funding is set to be 25% Revenue and 75% Capital. The funding has freedom and flexibilities, meaning funds can roll forward between financial years within the delivery period. Capacity Funding to assist the initial set up has been provided to the council.

The programme is focused around three investment themes: Security and Safety, High streets, heritage and regeneration interventions and Transport and Connectivity. DLUHC have worked up pre-approved interventions to refer to as 'on menu' which means a Business Case is not required to peruse pre-approved intervention under investment themes. If it is a more tailored project, this would be referred to an 'off menu' option and an Outline Business Case would be required to be submitted to DLUHC. Examples of pre-approved was provided to board members for each theme.

Timescales were shared with Board Members, including the requirement to establish a Long Term Plan Board by 1 April 2024. Draft Terms of Reference and governance arrangements would need to be in place. Governance would be based on the arrangements for the Towns Fund governance model. The Long Term Plan board would review and finalise the Terms of Reference. This would then be submitted to the Assistant Director of Legal, the council's S151 officer and Councillor P Hughes as cabinet member for sign off.

An update was provided on the Smethwick Boundary Map provided by DLUHC for the Long Term Plan, and how this does not translate to the Smethwick Ward Boundary. The council can present a revised boundary map to DLUHC. The deadline for this is 1 April. Details of the revised boundary map was shared with board members. Subject to Town Deal Board views and subsequent Cabinet approval, the revised boundary map would be submitted to DLUHC by 1 April for consideration and approval.

In regard to programme management, board members were informed the Towns Fund Programme Management Office would support the Long Term Plan Programme.

The proposed approach, of which is based on advice received from DLUHC, the council's Legal Team regarding the process as we enter Purdah period, was confirmed with Board Members. Proposals will be presented to Cabinet on 13 March, subject to the views of Town Deal Board members.

Subject to Cabinet approval, preparation will commence to develop the Long Term Plan that has a submission deadline to DLUHC of 1 August 2024. The plan will provide a 10-year vision with a 3-year investment plan. The council have been encouraged to submit the Smethwick Long Term Plan as soon as possible.

The role and responsibility of the Smethwick Long Term Plan Board was outlined to board members and a discussion was held regarding which representatives from the Town Deal Board would need to transfer to the Smethwick Long Term Plan board. This included the

Chair, Vice-Chair, Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth, Local MP, Smethwick Town Lead Member.

In addition, the Police and Crime Commissioner and Community Group Representatives (Grass Roots) are required.

A number of community groups within the investment area had been identified and was shared with board members. However, guidance has outlined the Long Term Plan board should host a maximum of 15 members.

Progress to date was shared with board members that included activities undertaken since November 2023 and the discussions held at workshops, meetings and DLUHC.

The recommendations for the board were shared on screen, of which sought endorsement on the proposed approach to establish a board for the Smethwick Long Term Plan and to submit the Long Term Plan to DLUHC.

The Chair asked board members to raise their hand to make any comments or raise queries. The discussion included: -

A board member voiced his support for this programme and the proposed approach and asked for confirmation on the arrangements of board membership and how the Town Deal Board members would be selected to transfer.

Board members were advised discussions need to be had with the Chair and Vice-Chair of the Town Deal Board on how this would work. As the maximum vacancies for the Long Term Plan is 15, it is crucial to ensure community organisations are represented as outlined by DLUHC guidance. There is opportunity to have subgroups of the Long Term Plan to include Town Deal Board members and community groups that cannot commit to the Long Term Plan Board to discuss projects or investment themes, similar to how the Towns Fund Programme was set up initially with the Superboard and three Local Boards.

Board members were asked to send contact details to the PMO of community groups they feel may be interested to put forward a project/ sit on the Long Term Plan Board.

A discussion took place regarding the representation of local councillors and how they are community representatives, therefore limiting to 2 may be challenging. Board members were reminded the proposal to have 2 x councillors as Long Term Plan board members has been set by DLUHC and not the Town Deal Board/ PMO. Discussions would be held to explore the flexibility of this.

Board members agreed it's important to engage with smaller community groups too, not just larger scale groups. This is opportunity to help smaller scale groups grow, expand and offer something to communities that they couldn't before.

The Chair and Vice-Chair acknowledged the process for setting up the Smethwick Local Board/ Town Deal Board and that a number of community groups were committed, until funding was not issued directly to fund their proposals, therefore any community groups that express an interest should ensure they are committed for the Smethwick Long Term Plan programme and not just for funding for their project proposal.

Board members were reminded the Terms of Reference for Towns Fund includes the process for elected member updates and consultation, which is via Smethwick Ward

Member Meetings. This approach would be adopted for Long Term Plan, with both Towns Fund and Smethwick Long Term Plan being a standing agenda item. This forum is then used to feedback into the boards.

A board member emphasised the need to ensure commitment is monitored and if board members are not attending meetings or engaging, they would be removed.

A question was asked if the upcoming elections would result in changes made to the funding announcement. Board members were advised the council were informed the funding has been agreed across parties.

A question was asked if the community groups list shared with board members were the same as the list shared for Towns Fund at the beginning of the programme in 2019. Board members were advised this is a recent list of community groups that have been identified by colleagues and community contacts. Board members were also informed Government have approached community groups directly to have discussions.

Board members commented on how the proposed boundary for investment is more representative of the Smethwick town.

The Chair thanked all for their input and asked board members if they support the proposed approach for the Smethwick Long Term Plan. No objections were forthcoming.

The Chair asked the secretary to record that all members in attendance were in agreement of the following recommendations: -

**Agreed:** The proposed Governance arrangements for the Smethwick Long Term Plan

**Agreed:** The proposed boundary for Smethwick Long Term Plan

**Action: Board members to send contact details to the PMO of community groups they feel may be interested to put forward a project/ sit on the Long Term Plan Board.**

**Action: J Thompson to send contact details to the PMO of community groups they have spoken with to date.**

## **16 Project Reporting**

Board members received Item 7a - Smethwick Town Deal Board Reporting October 2023 – December 2023 prior to the board meeting.

### Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration

An update was provided by the project lead. This included: -

- An overview of progress to date and works completed since the last board meeting
- An update on the planning application status and current challenges associated with this, resulting in the withdrawal of the application
- The proposed approach to resolve the challenges, an overview of options to consider if they are not resolved promptly and detail subsequent changes to the delivery timescales

- A summary of project risks, budget and financial forecast

The project lead was asked if there was an alternative plan should works not progress. Board members were informed alternative options would need to be considered. Board members could discuss matters via email or call an urgent meeting where detailed discussion and decision and approval is required.

Board members were reminded new projects can no longer be submitted, therefore funding could be reallocated to other projects within the Town but this would require DLUHC approval. There would be discussions required with DLUHC where a project has already received the maximum funding offer limit set out in the Smethwick Heads of Terms.

A board member asked if the grant funding for Rolfe Street could be reallocated to the Midland Met Learning Campus project, if WMCA funding was not awarded. Board members were informed that if the WMCA co-funding was not awarded, the Midland Met Learning Campus would be delivered but not achieve net-zero ambition. Should Rolfe Street not proceed, discussions would take place to determine the options for funding.

#### Midland Met Learning Campus

An update was provided by the project lead. This included: -

- An update on the WMCA funding application and timescales associated with determination. An investment panel is scheduled for 18 March.
- Confirmation of arrangements between the council and NHS Trust in relation to the partnership agreement
- An update on the arrangements with training providers for the learning campus; Discussions are in place with Sandwell college regarding lease and training arrangements. A meeting would also take place with Aston University in due course.

A comment was made regarding the importance of ensuring social value is achieved for this project. Board members were reminded the project team have worked closely with the council's social value officers throughout the procurement process to ensure this is a key element and was incorporated into evaluation questions.

Board members were advised discussions with the successful contractor would take place in due course to tailor social value targets in more detail.

#### Ron Davis Centre Expansion

Board members were informed this project has now completed following the installation of the final IT equipment. The project has a slight underspend against the forecasted spend, however this is retention for snagging.

An award ceremony was held in November 2023 for learners who completed non-IT courses. This was attended by the Programme Management Office and Councillor P Hughes.

Moving forward, the project will report on outputs and outcomes that focus on number of learners enrolled.

### Grove Lane Regeneration

Board members were reminded of the process being undertaken for this project and as a result, not much progress has been made since the last meeting. An overview of the timescales, risks and financial forecast were provided.

### Smethwick Connected

Board members were informed this project is ahead of schedule, with phase 3 being completed and phase 5 works partially complete (CRT element). An update on project timescales, financial forecasts, risks, achievements of outputs and outcomes were presented.

### Town Level Summary

A summary of the spend to date and forecasted spend for 2023/24 was shared with board members, based on the information submitted by project leads on 10 January 2024.

The Chair asked the Programme Management Office if the overall financial slippage was within the 40% threshold set by DLUHC. The Programme Management Office confirmed the town level financial slippage with 28% and a large amount of spend is forecasted for next financial year.

## **17 Forward Plans**

Board members received the Press Release and Media forward plan within the agenda pack. Board members were informed of an additional entry, where the Programme Management Office would draft a Press Release for the Midland Met Learning Campus regarding co-funding from WMCA. This would then be published on 18/19 March, subject to the determination of the investment panel

## **18 Any other Business**

### Meet the Buyer Events - Social Value

Board members were informed two Meet the Buyer events taking place in March. The first being construction based and the second being NHS based.

## **19 Closing Remarks**

The Chair thanked board members for their attendance and contributions to the meeting and closed the meeting at 11:59.

## **20 Action Log - Smethwick Town Deal Board**

Contact: [town\\_deal@sandwell.gov.uk](mailto:town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk)

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## Smethwick Town Deal Board Action Log

### Open Actions

Date	Description	Responsible Officer(s)	Update
29.02.24	Board members to send contact details to the PMO of community groups they feel may be interested to put forward a project/ sit on the Long Term Plan Board.	Board Members	
29.02.24	J Thompson to send contact details to the PMO of community groups they have spoken with to date.	J Thompson	
07.09.23	Programme Management Office to look into Birmingham's Active Travel (cycle) delivery plans that link to the new Hospital and timescales and report this back to the board.	R Rahim	<p>Ongoing</p> <p>The Towns Fund PMO attended a meeting with the Active Travel Team in 2023. Further works to be undertaken to look at delivery plans and footfall monitoring.</p> <p>There is a requirement to monitor footfall for Town Fund transport projects and discussions are in place to implement this. The aim is to confirm requirements prior to the next active travel meeting.</p> <p>There is a black country wide scheme, so want to ensure coordinating work to make best effective use of resources and funding for monitoring transport schemes.</p>

### Closed Actions

Date Raised	Date Closed	Description	Responsible Officer(s)	Update
15.11.23	29.02.24	PMO to forward Government Prospectus to Board Members	PMO	Complete
7.9.23	15.11.23	Programme Management Office to collate original FBC costs and costs to date for Midland Met Learning Campus design works and share this with board members.	R Rahim	Complete
7.9.23	15.11.23	Councillor Hughes to email key contacts and board members to seek interest and support for an active travel campaign, to promote the Smethwick Connected project.	Cllr P Hughes	Completed – Cllr Hughes emailed Active Travel team with elected members now attending the working group
28.2.23	15.11.23	PMO to circulate baseline footfall data for Smethwick Connected	PMO	Complete.

## Closed Actions

Date Raised	Date Closed	Description	Responsible Officer(s)	Update
23.5.23	07.09.23	PMO to add forward planning of the next meeting to the end of the Agenda so it can be decided who is to be invited for the next meeting.	PMO	Completed – on Agenda for 7 September 2022 and ongoing
23.5.23	07.09.23	Introduce A Ali to Ron Davis Centre Project Lead.	PMO	Completed
23.5.23	07.09.23	PMO to confirm whether Smethwick Connected Phase 2 formal completion of works or whether it is to be moved to align with the milestones.	PMO/Rina Rahim	Completed – milestone changed to formal completion June 2023
23.5.23	07.09.23	PMO to organise a site visit for Smethwick Connected.	PMO	Completed – undertaken on 11 <sup>th</sup> August
23.5.23	07.09.23	PMO to share concerns/comments with Project Manager for Smethwick Connected.	PMO/Rina Rahim	Completed – updated Project Lead with concerns
28.2.23	23.5.23	MMLC to provide further information pertaining to costs to board members.	Project Lead – Austin Bell via PMO	Circulated to Board Members.
28.2.23	23.5.23	PMO to look at assurance and come forward with a proposal regarding lowering threshold for board approval.	Rina Rahim	Update provided at Board Meeting 23.5.23
28.2.23	23.5.23	PMO to approach WMCA for Board representative.	Rina Rahim/ Maaria Farid	WMCA will attend Board as when required. Forward planning to be picked up at the end of each meeting to decide who is to be invited at the next meeting.
29.11.22	23.5.23	PMO to request detailed activities against spend for the Midland Met Learning Campus project and report back to Town Deal Board members.	Rina Rahim/ Maaria Farid	Update provided at Board meeting 23.5.23.
29.11.22	28.2.23	PMO to feedback concerns regarding the absence of director/ executive officers and ensure at least one executive officer is in attendance at future meetings.	Rina Rahim/ Emma Parkes	Raised concern to director/executive officers
29.11.22	28.2.23	Cllr Peter Hughes to feedback comments raised by Board Members to SMBC Procurement Services and to seek input regarding what can/ cannot be done in regard to penalising contractors should social value not be met.	Cllr P Hughes	Updated provided at Board meeting 28.2.23
29.11.22	28.2.23	PMO to request detailed activities against spend for the Midland Met Learning Campus project and report back to Town Deal Board members.	Rina Rahim/ Emma Parkes	Response emailed separately. Project update to be provided at Board meeting.
29.11.22	28.2.23	PMO to invite Midland Met Learning Campus project lead to attend the next Town Deal Board meeting.	Emma Parkes	Completed



## Closed Actions

Date Raised	Date Closed	Description	Responsible Officer(s)	Update
29.11.22	28.2.23	PMO to update future meeting appointments to a duration of two hours.	Emma Parkes	Completed
28.06.22	29.11.22	PMO to contact board members to confirm their interest to continue as a board member.	R Rahim/ E Parkes	Complete
28.06.22	29.11.22	Terms of Reference to be updated to include 50% attendance annually is mandatory and would trigger individual board member review.	R Rahim/ E Parkes	Complete
28.06.22	29.11.22	PMO to circulate short survey to capture board member preference on board meeting day/ time.	R Rahim/ E Parkes	Complete

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## Smethwick Partnership Board Terms of Reference

V1 March 2024

### **1. Purpose of Document**

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to outline the governance arrangements for the Towns Fund Programme and the Smethwick Long Term Plan.
- 1.2. This document was originally developed to set out the Terms of Reference for the Towns Fund Programme and to reflect the latest Towns Fund Guidance (released by DLUHC December 2020, April 2021 and December 2021).
- 1.3. It has been updated to include the Smethwick Long Term Plan programme and to reflect the latest Long Term Plan guidance released by DLUHC in December 2023.
- 1.4. The document includes Roles and Responsibilities, Code of Conduct for Board Members, Decision Making arrangements, Scrutiny arrangements, Transparency and Accountability and a list of Members of the three Town Deal Boards.

### **2. Context**

- 2.1. Governance was provided to the Towns Fund Programme through the Towns Fund Superboard and three Local Boards, and the Council as the Accountable Body for Phases 1 and 2.
- 2.2. For Phase 3 – Delivery of the Towns Fund Programme, the work of the Town Deal Boards (historic Local Boards) will involve reviewing progress of the Towns Fund Programme and projects, assessing change requests and ensuring compliance with Heads of Terms. In accordance with the Towns Fund Guidance published June 2020 and updated guidance in, the Local Boards will each act as the Town Deal Board for their respective Towns.
- 2.3. DLUHC guidance outlines the following responsibilities for the Town Deal Boards: -
  - 2.3.1. Phase 3 of the Programme (project delivery) - that the Town Deal Board should ensure an element of independent ‘on-the-ground’ monitoring of the

deal delivery and act as a 'critical friend' throughout the programme lifecycle.

- 2.3.2. Through project delivery, ensure regular catch ups with the Town Deal Board to enable the board to see through the town vision, take ownership of their proposed projects and provide a level of accountability.
- 2.3.3. The Town Deal Board should have an ongoing role and sight of decisions, the nature and degree of which should be agreed locally.
- 2.4. Following the Government announcement of the Long-Term Plan, the Towns Fund Programme governance arrangements have been adapted to include the Long Term Plan Programme. Governance is provided to this programme through the Smethwick Partnership Board (Previously referred to as the Smethwick Town Deal Board), Smethwick Sub-groups, and the council as the Accountable Body.
- 2.5. The Smethwick Sub-Groups are constituted as working groups of the Smethwick Partnership Board and have a remit to support the Board developing the Long-Term Plan.
- 2.6. DLUHC Guidance outlines the following responsibilities for the Smethwick Partnership Board: -
  - Develop a Long-Term Plan comprising a 10-year vision, which clearly identifies the longer-term priorities for the town, and a 3-year investment plan as an annex.
  - Identify a list of interventions that sit within the three investment themes set by DLUHC

### **3. Roles and Responsibilities**

#### **3.1. Smethwick Partnership Board**

- 3.1.1. The Partnership Board will be responsible for: -
  - Leadership/ Direction - Provide strategic direction across the Town Deal and Long-Term Plan programmes
  - Coherent Governance - Ensure a coherent approach across the three Town Deal Areas, maximising cross town initiatives where possible.
  - Consistency - Ensure interventions are not competitive and act to build the local economy.
  - Alignment to Strategic Priorities - Ensure alignment of projects to Local, Regional and National strategies.
  - Approve the Stakeholder Engagement Approach – ensuring that communities' voices are involved in shaping design and decision making at each phase of development, and ensuring diversity in its engagement with local communities and businesses.
  - Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)

- Ensure compliance with Heads of Terms Agreements
- Have sight of and be consulted over project change requests
- Act as a critical friend throughout the programme
- Fulfil any other duties and responsibilities required of the Partnership Board from funding bodies.

3.1.2. The Chair of the Partnership Board will be responsible for: -

1. Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)
2. Leading the Board to achieve its objectives, maintaining an overview of activity, and championing the supporting partnership working
3. Ensuring that decisions are made by the Board in accordance with good governance principles
4. Signing the submissions to Government on behalf of the Board, where applicable

### 3.2. **Smethwick Sub-Groups**

3.2.1. Where Smethwick Sub-Groups are established, they will be responsible for: -

- Providing views, opinions and ideas on options and proposals
- To input into and advise on proposed engagement and consultation plans to encourage and help ensure relevant, proportionate and timely engagement with stakeholders.
- To champion programmes and projects
- To act as a critical friend offering on the ground local knowledge and perspective
- To make recommendations/ create reports detailing the views of the Long-Term Plan to Smethwick Partnership Board and Project Leads (as required)

3.2.2. The chairs of the Smethwick Sub-Groups are responsible for: -

- Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)
- Leading the Sub-Groups to achieve their objectives, maintaining an overview of activity, and championing the supporting partnership working.
- Reporting progress to the Smethwick Partnership Board
- Acting as a Champion for the Long-Term Plan projects and the Town vision

1.1 Smethwick Long Term Plan Board Members will have an open invite to attend Smethwick Sub-Group meetings to engage and contribute to the development of projects.

### 4.1. **Sandwell Council**

4.1.1. Sandwell Council is the Accountable Body for Sandwell's Town Deal Programme and Long-Term Plan Programme.

#### 4.1.2. Sandwell Council is responsible for: -

- Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)
- Where required, developing a delivery team, delivery arrangements and agreements with partners and projects.
- Ensuring that decisions are made by the Boards are in accordance with good governance principles.
- Ensuring transparency through the publication of agendas and minutes of the Boards on Modern.Gov
- Where required, developing agreed projects in detail and undertaking any necessary feasibility studies.
- Undertaking any required Environmental Impact Assessments or Public Sector Equality Duties subject to funding and programme requirements.
- Monitoring and evaluating the delivery of Towns Fund and Long-Term Plan projects.
- Submitting monitoring reports, as required.
- Receiving and Accounting for funding allocation and capacity funds
- Engage with the Boards regarding project changes.
- Proactively consult with the DLUHC representatives on any potential changes to approved plans subject to Partnership Board approval
- Ensure that all templates submitted to DLUHC are accurate and complete representations of current circumstances.

## 5. **Board Vacancies**

### 5.1. **Smethwick Partnership Boards:**

**Mandatory Members** - Vacancies occurring are for the identified organisations to make an appointment to in line with their own governance procedures. Where no such representation is provided, the Board will review the membership to decide whether alternative organisations or community representation are to be invited.

#### **Sector based appointments**

A call for Expression of Interest will be circulated where vacancies occur within the membership term. An Independent Panel agreed by the Board and Accountable Body will be convened to score applications and appoint to Board.

- 5.2. **Elected Members (Smethwick Partnership Board)** – SMBC Full Council nominates Councillors and Cabinet Members to represent Smethwick Partnership Board on an annual basis (Appointments to other Bodies). To comply with the DLUHC Guidelines issued December 2023, the Board will include the Cabinet Portfolio for Regeneration and Growth and appointed Town Lead Member for Smethwick. Where these members cannot attend a board meeting, the appointee can nominate an Elected Member to attend on their behalf.

Elected members can attend Subgroups to support the development of project proposals.

- 5.3. The Town Lead Member is responsible for reporting progress back to Ward Members via Town Member Board Meetings. The Programme Management Office and supporting colleagues will have an open invite to attend monthly Ward Member Meetings.
- 5.4. **Smethwick Sub-Group Representatives** – Where required, the Board may delegate authority to subgroups of the Smethwick Partnership Board to support the development of project proposals and or Investment Plan. The Sub-Group appointments will be agreed by the Smethwick Partnership Board.

## 6. **Code of Conduct**

- 6.1. All Members of the Smethwick Partnership Board will sign the Councillor Code of Conduct which is based on the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles) and contained within Article 13 of the Council's constitution.
- 6.2. Members of the Smethwick Partnership Board as a whole will be required to declare and register any gifts and/ or hospitality which will be maintained by the Council.

## 7. **Decision Making**

- 7.1. The Council's Principles of Decision Making will apply to the Smethwick Partnership Board, as laid out in article 13 of the Council's Constitution. 'Elected Member' is taken to refer to a Board member: -

### 7.1.1. Article 13.02 Principles: -

- Proportionality (i.e. the action taken is proportionate to the desired outcome);
- Decisions are taken on the basis of due consultation and professional advice from officers (Decisions taken by elected members will be based on information provided in a written report prepared by the responsible officer/s);
- Respect for human rights and giving due regard to the Public Sector Equality Duty;
- A presumption in favour of openness (Reports will only be considered in private where they contain exempt information as defined in Schedule 12A to the Local Government Act 1972 (as amended) (see Part 4 Access to Information Rules – Rule 10);
- Clarity of aims and desired outcomes (The written reports submitted to elected members will contain a clear recommendation of the professional officer for every decision they are asked to take)

- 7.2. **Quorum** – the Boards will be considered quorate with one quarter of voting members present.
- 7.3. **Voting** – any matter will be decided upon by a simple majority of those members present in the room and eligible to vote. Where a decision cannot be concluded by a vote, the Chair will have the final decision making authority.
- 7.4. **Confirmation of minutes** - The Chair presiding shall put the question that the minutes submitted to the meeting be approved as a correct record.
- 7.5. **Declarations of Interest**
- 7.5.1. Members shall be required to declare interests in accordance with any relevant statutory provisions and the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Part 5 of the Constitution.
- 7.5.2. Where a Board member has a disclosable pecuniary interest or pecuniary interest in the business of the authority, he/ she must withdraw from the room or chamber where the meeting considering the business is being held unless the member has obtained a dispensation from the Council's Monitoring Officer.
- 7.5.3. Where a Board Member is nominated as the Lead Officer for a project and/ or is involved in project delivery, they may attend the Board discussion relating to the project in the capacity of providing and presenting information, but they may not participate in any deliberations or decision by the Board concerning that project.
- 7.6. In the event that the Board wishes to move to a vote, any matter will be decided upon by a simple majority of those members present in the room and eligible to vote.
- 7.7. The Chair shall have a casting vote.
8. **Scrutiny**
- 8.1. Scrutiny of Sandwell's Towns Fund Programme and Long-Term Plan Programme will be provided by the Council's Economic, Skills, Environment and Transport Scrutiny Board on a quarterly basis and through the critical friend challenge that will be provided by the Boards.
9. **Transparency and Accountability**
- 9.1. **Smethwick Partnership Board Agendas and Minutes**



- 9.1.1. The Council will publish Board meeting agendas on Modern.gov 5 clear days before the meeting.
- 9.1.2. Draft minutes of the Boards will be published within 10 clear working days; and
- 9.1.3. Approved minutes of the Boards will be published within 10 clear working days.

## 9.2. **Member profiles**

- 9.2.1. Profiles of Board Members will be published on Modern.gov.uk

## 9.3. **Conflicts of Interest**

- 9.3.1. Members of the Boards will be required to declare any conflicts of interest (commercial, actual and potential). This will be maintained by the council in a declaration of interest register which will be managed by Sandwell Council.
- 9.3.2. Board Members should take personal responsibility for declaring their interests before any decision is considered by the Boards. These will be formally noted within the published minutes of meetings of the Boards including action taken in response to any declared interest.
- 9.3.3. Board Members should take personal responsibility for declaring their interests prior to an item being discussed. These will be noted within the minutes including action taking in response to any declared interest. If any Member has any queries about their interests and the disclosure thereof, they should seek advice from the Monitoring Officer.

## 10. **The Boards relationship with Sandwell Council**

- 10.1. In accordance to the government guidance, Smethwick Partnership Board will have sight and endorse Accountable Body decisions in the delivery of the Towns Fund Programme and Long Term Plan Programme. Sandwell Council will remain the Accountable body for any Town Deal and Long Term Plan funding that is received, and any other funding received in future in relation to Town Deal and Long Term Plan projects.
- 10.2. These Terms of Reference do not change, replace, substitute for or amend in any way the statutory powers or duties or other responsibilities of any of the people or organisations represented on the Boards.
- 10.3. The procurement policies of Sandwell Council will apply. Where external professional advice is required, consultants will be identified using the procurement policies of Sandwell Council and contracts will be entered into between Sandwell Council and the relevant organisation in accordance with

Sandwell Councils policies and procedures including its contract procedure rules.

- 10.4. Where applicable, Sandwell Councils Cabinet will receive regular reports on progress of activities through regular performance monitoring.
- 10.5. Board Members shall make themselves available from time to time to meet Cabinet and/ or Portfolio Holder and to attend meetings of the Council's Scrutiny Committee if invited.
- 10.6. The council's Data Protection Officer and the Programme Management Office will support the Boards in dealing with any data protection questions. The councils framework can be found at Information Governance and Data Protection.

## 11. **Membership**

- 11.1. The Lead Council has responsibility for establishing the Boards for the development and implementation of the Town Investment Plans and Smethwick Long Term Plan.
- 11.2. The Boards will now assume responsibility for future governance under these Terms of References in consultation with the Accountable Body.
- 11.3. Membership will be reviewed annually and seek to continue to be representative of a diverse range of sectors, skills and interests in Sandwell in order for the Boards to be a valuable resource to draw on at all stages of the Town Investment Plan and Long-Term Plan implementation.
- 11.4. The updated membership will be reported to Cabinet at least on an annual basis to align with Annual appointments.
- 11.5. All Board members are expected to attend at least a minimum of 50% of the annual meetings held, unless exceptional circumstances which have been agreed by the Chair.
- 11.6. Advisors – Advisors are invited by Board Members and participate in the meetings but will have no voting rights or ability to make decisions on behalf of the Board.
- 11.7. S151 Officer – Sandwell Council is the Accountable Body for the Boards. The Council's S151 Officer or substitute will have a standing invite on the Boards to ensure compliance with all necessary financial regulations.
- 11.8. These terms of reference may be reviewed and modified at any time in consultation with the Monitoring Officer, Director of Law and Governance.

## 12. **Scheme of Delegation**

- 12.1. The Towns Fund Scheme of delegation in relating decision making are included as an A to these Terms of Reference.
- 12.2. A decision which is made in contravention of the process will be invalid based on non-compliance unless the Board has given prior approval for variation in the decision-making process.
- 12.3. Any financial decision must be signed off by Sandwell's S151 Officer as the Accountable Body. The Council's S151 Officer will ensure compliance with all necessary financial regulations, in order to protect the Accountable Body and ensure proper administration of all financial affairs.
- 12.4. The Chair of the Board can decide to convene a meeting where decisions need to be considered by the Boards which does not fit within the timeframe of the scheduled meetings. Where possible, the standard notice period will apply for any such meeting.
- 12.5. Where a meeting cannot be convened, urgent decisions can be endorsed by the Board through a written procedure.
- 12.6. Only in the most exceptional circumstances might it be considered necessary and appropriate for a matter of strategic importance usually reserved to the Main Board to be decided through this procedure. This will apply where a project cannot continue without a decision being approved, therefore posing a significant risk to project deliverability. This includes, but is not limited to:
  - (a) Time limited reallocation of funding
  - (b) Changes to Heads of Terms
  - (c) Changes to Mandatory Indicators and financial profiles
- 12.7. Written/Urgent Procedure: -
  - 12.7.1. Following consideration by Director of Regeneration and Growth/S151, a report in the usual meeting format and including reasons for urgency, will be circulated to the Chair/Vice chair to consider whether, due to the urgent nature of the decision to be made, it is necessary and appropriate for the decision to be made before the next meeting.
  - 12.7.2. The Chair/Vice Chair may consult with Director of Regeneration and Growth /S151 or other officers to provide further information where required.
  - 12.7.3. Within 5 working days of the report being presented, the Chair/Vice Chair will inform whether the decision is endorsed on behalf of the Board.
  - 12.7.4. For transparency the report, reasons for urgency, and decision will be presented to the next Board meeting.

**13. Objections following Consultations.**

- 13.1. Project Leads will present any objections that have been received following consultation on projects to the Boards. The Board will consider the objections and alternative options prior to making a decision in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet member.
- 13.2. In the event that a decision cannot be agreed between the Board and Cabinet member, a separate meeting will be held with the Leader, Cabinet Member, Chair of the Board and Director of Regeneration and Growth to discuss/resolve difference of view.
- 13.3. The project will not proceed in the delivery phase until a decision has been made.

## Appendix 1 Town Deal Scheme of Delegation

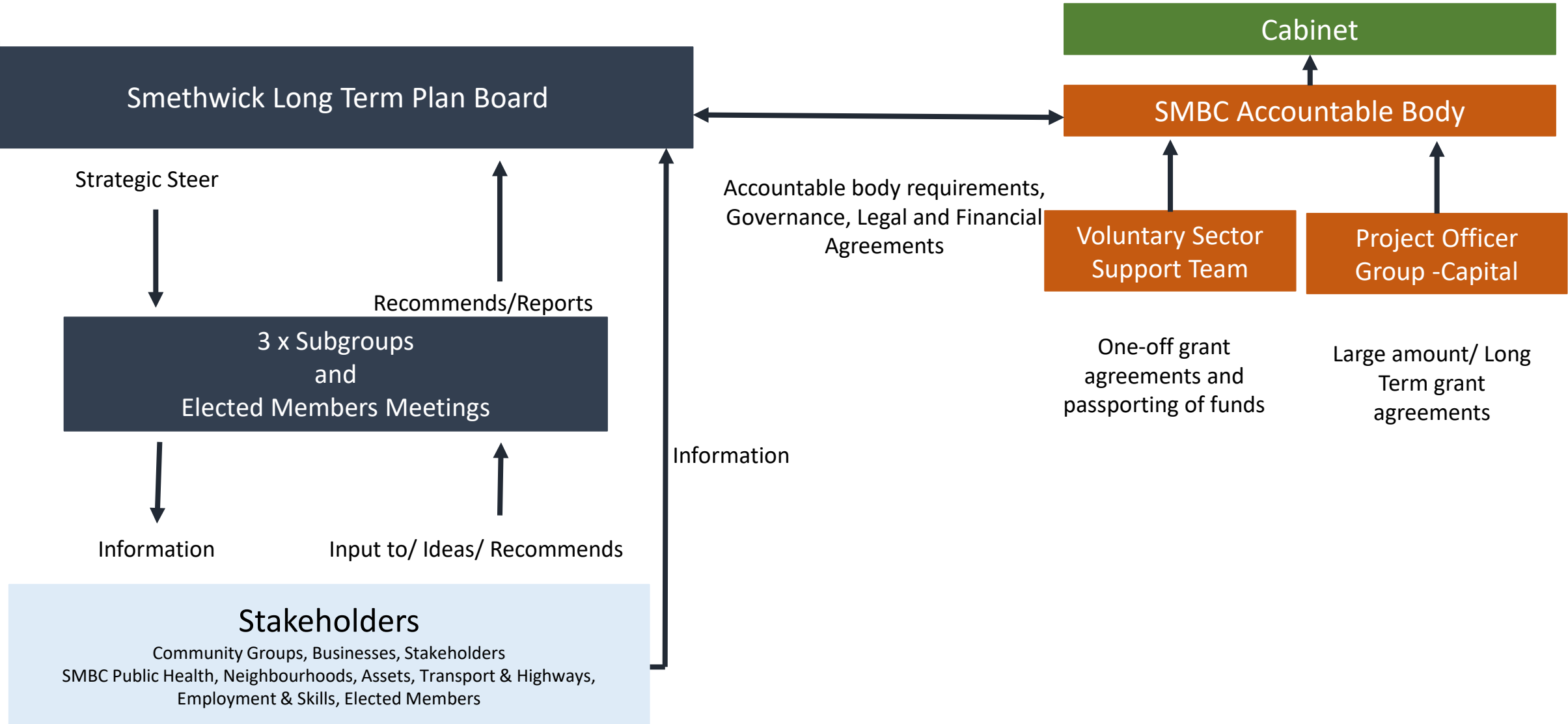
Type of Variation	Scale of Variation	Action Required	Requires Partnership Board endorsement?	Delegated Authority to approve	Approval required from DLUHC	Action following DLUHC approval
<b>Heads of Terms</b>	Any Changes to the Heads of Terms	Submit Project Adjustment Request	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth in consultation with Cabinet Member and S151 Officer	Yes S151 sign off required	Issue Deed of Variation
<b>Financial</b>	A decrease/increase of <b>grant funds</b> to be drawn down by the project which is less than £250,000					
	A decrease/increase of <b>grant funds</b> to be drawn down by the project which is greater than £250,000					
	Any decrease of match funding					
	An increase in the match funding cost of the project without impact to the agreed funding for the project, the outputs/ outcomes or project completion	Update PMO	n/a	Towns Fund Programme Manager	No	Issue Re-profile letter Report to Town Deal Board
<b>Time/ Schedule</b>	Slippage of milestones with no effect on total grant, completion date, outputs/outcomes	Update PMO	No	Towns Fund Programme Manager	Tbc	Issue Re-profile letter Report to Town Deal Board
	Slippage of outcomes and/ or grant claim profile, requiring re-profiling across future financial years with no overall change to project	Submit Project Adjustment Request	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth in consultation with S151 Officer*	Yes S151 sign off required	Issue Re-profile letter Report to Town Deal Board
<b>Outcomes/Outputs</b>	An increase in the outputs and outcomes of the project.	Quarterly reporting by project lead	No	Towns Fund Programme Manager	No	Report to Town Deal Board
	Any decrease to Mandatory indicators outputs and outcomes of the project.	Submit Project Adjustment Request	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth, in consultation with S151 Officer and Cabinet Member	Yes S151 sign off required	Issue Deed of Variation
	Any decrease to Local Measures	Submit Project Adjustment Request	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth	No	Issue Re-profile letter
<b>Other</b>	Changes to project contact information, administrative errors and others which have no impact to approved outcomes, outputs or grant.	Inform Project Lead/PMO	No	Towns Fund Programme manager	No	Update documentation and Board where applicable

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# Governance

## Smethwick Partnership Board and Accountable Body including Cabinet and Scrutiny

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Scrutiny and Audit

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# Smethwick Long Term Plan Programme Introduction



# Programme Overview

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## Programme Criteria

- Long Term Plan will include a 10-year vision and a 3-year investment plan
- 3 x Investment Themes: -
  - Safety and Security
  - High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration
  - Transport and Connectivity
- 'On Menu' (Pre-Approved by DLUHC)
- 'Off-Menu' (Business Cases Required)

# 3 x Investment Theme Examples

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## Safety and Security

- New and improved security infrastructure such as CCTV and streetlights
- Additional hotspot policing
- Local Authority wardens

## High Streets, Heritage and Regeneration

- Preserving and improving heritage sites
- Creating and maintaining parks and green spaces
- Establishing Business Improvement Districts
- Running High Street rental auctions

## Transport and Connectivity

- New infrastructure schemes
- Road improvements, such as fixing potholes or improving congested junctions
- New programmes to encourage cycling
- Making the town centre more walkable and accessible

# Programme Overview

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## Funding Arrangements

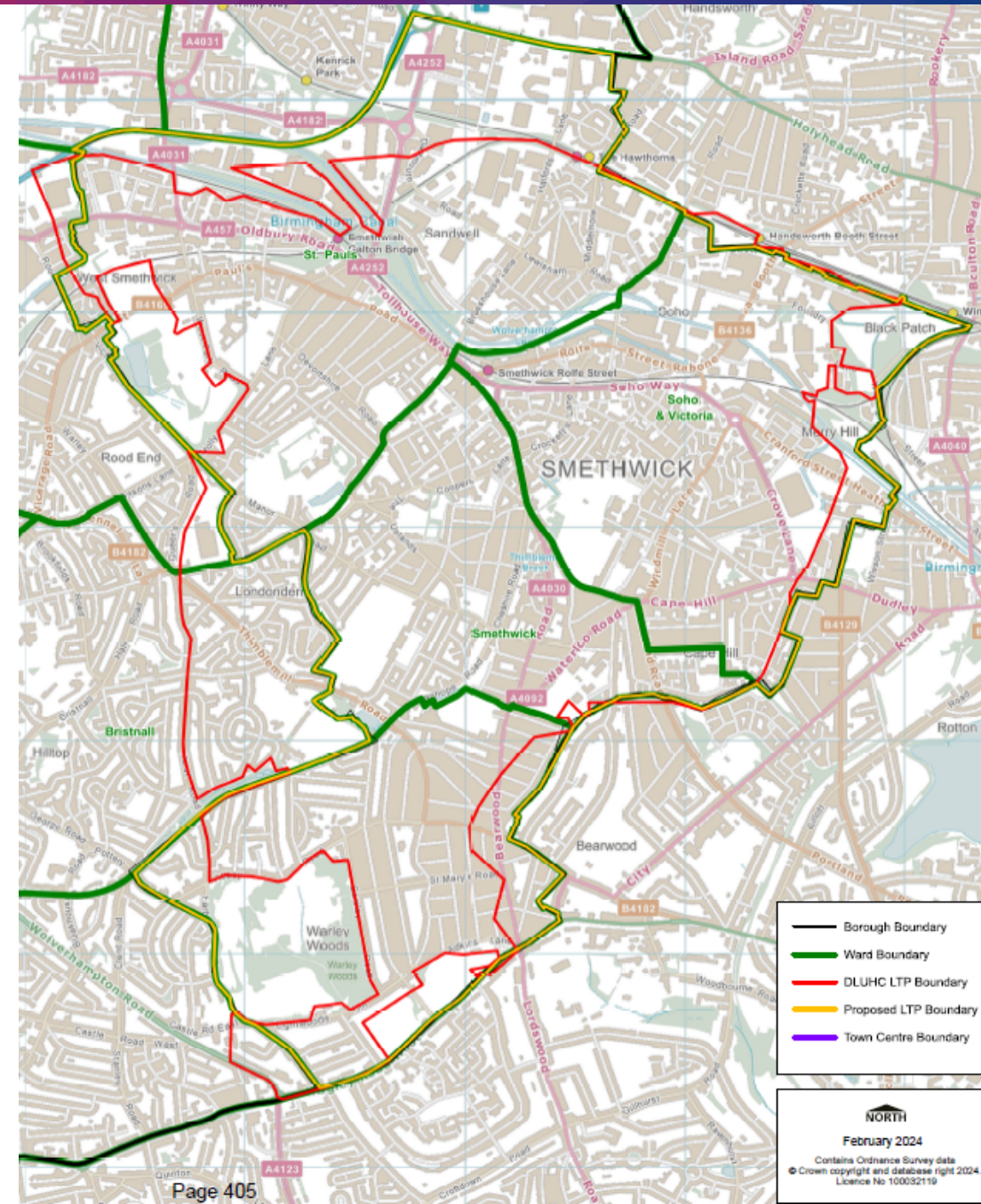
- £20 million endowment style funding
- Funding is issued to Local Authorities as the Accountable Body
- 25% Revenue and 75% Capital
- £400k Revenue and £1.6m Capital per annum over 7 years
- Flexibility to roll funding between financial years

# Investment Boundary

Government’s guidance advises the investment boundary must represent the town as intended.

- The Boundary provided by DLUHC included communities in the Bristnall ward that identify as being part of the Oldbury Town rather than Smethwick Town therefore, the inclusion of this area within the Smethwick Long Term Plan boundary could give rise to some confusion.
- The proposed revised investment boundary aligns to the Smethwick Town boundary, encompassing Abbey; Smethwick; Soho and Victoria; and St Pauls wards in their entirety. Open Spaces are also included.

*Note: Proposed Investment Boundary is pending approval from DLUHC.*



# DLUHC Deadlines

## **1 April 2024 – Confirm Governance Arrangements with DLUHC** *(All Completed)*

- Review and refresh Towns Fund Programme Governance Arrangements for Long Term Plan (February 2024)
- Seek Cabinet Approval of Governance Arrangements (March 2024)
- Expression of Interest to Community Organisations to become a member of the Smethwick Partnership Board (March/ April 2024)
- Submit Governance Checklist to DLUHC (April 2024)

## **1 August 2024 – Submit Long Term Plan to Government**

- 10-year vision with 3-year investment plan

# Long Term Plan Requirements

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- 250-word vision statement that articulated, at a high level, the vision for the future of the town and how success will be judged
- Strategic case for change, building on evidence in the pack provided by DLUHC and local data
- Outcomes and objectives the town is trying to meet and how these align with priorities of local communities
- The planned direction of travel for the regeneration of the town, across the 3 investment themes
- Clear evidence that the Town Board is community led, including through its membership, ways of working and distinction from the local authority, and evidence of buy-in from local businesses, civil society and communities
- How communities and key stakeholders have been engaged with to date, and how that engagement will continue going forward
- How the Board will attract and combine new and existing private, public and philanthropic investment, setting out the existing commitments and ambitions to secure further support going forwards.
- High level delivery milestones over the 10-year lifespan of the programme

# 3-year Investment Plan Requirements

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The Interventions and powers the Town Board wishes to use over the 3 years for each investment theme

- Whether the interventions are from the list of interventions or are 'off-menu'
- How the Town Board will use the interventions locally and how much they will cost
- How the interventions will address the outcomes set out in the 10-year vision, grounded in evidence and data



# Smethwick Town Deal

Sandwell Towns Fund Programme Approved Projects



# SMETHWICK TOWN DEAL CONFIRMED

## £23.5m SECURED FOR SMETHWICK TOWN DEAL

£23.5m funding for all five Smethwick regeneration projects given the go-ahead by the government.

The five Smethwick projects are:

- **Ron Davis Centre Expansion**  
(Sandwell Council)
- **Midland Met Learning Campus**  
(Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust)
- **Grove Lane Regeneration**  
(Sandwell Council)
- **Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration**  
(Sandwell Council)
- **Smethwick Connected**  
(Sandwell Council)

**Alan Taylor, Chair of Smethwick Local Board**, said: The Smethwick Towns Fund is a valuable opportunity to make a real difference to the people and businesses of Smethwick and the wider area of Sandwell. I believe that these investments, together with the Smethwick Connected transport infrastructure projects, will help Smethwick prepare to for the next successful part of its history".

# PROJECT DELIVERY TIMELINE

**AUGUST 2023**

Ron Davis Centre Expansion  
Project Complete

**MARCH 2025**

Midland Met Learning  
Campus Project Complete

**APRIL 2025**

Smethwick Connected Project  
Complete

**SEPTEMBER 2025**

Rolfe Street Canalside  
Regeneration Project  
Complete

**MARCH 2026**

Grove Lane Regeneration  
Project Complete



# Our Delivery Partners



HM Government

**HM Government**  
Towns Fund Programme Funder



**Sandwell and West  
Birmingham Hospitals**

**NHS Trust**

**Sandwell and West Birmingham NHS Trust**  
Project Lead for Midland Met Learning Campus Project

# Ron Davis Centre Expansion

## Delivery Organisation

Sandwell Council

## Project Value

£360,000 consisting 100% Towns  
Fund

This project is complete!



The **Ron Davis Centre Expansion** project will expand the Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Service (SAFL) Ron Davis Centre by providing two additional specialised digital classrooms.

The expansion of the Ron Davis Centre will increase capacity, provide a wider range of services and activities, often into the evenings and weekends, to help meet the needs of Smethwick families and the wider community.

In creating a vibrant community hub through the provision of additional multipurpose space, closer working with partner organisations is realised, with a wider and more inclusive age range of users



LEARNING AT THE  
**RON DAVIS CENTRE**

IN PARTNERSHIP WITH SAFL  
(SANDWELL ADULT AND FAMILY LEARNING)

English

Maths

Digital Skills & ICT

Arts & Crafts

Family Learning

Employability

Business  
Administration

Education &  
Training

Health & Wellbeing

Modern Languages & Culture

Leadership & Management

To find out more and enrol, visit

**[www.learnsafl.ac.uk](http://www.learnsafl.ac.uk)**

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**Ron Davis Centre, Ballot Street, Smethwick B66 3HH**

# Midland Met Learning Campus

## Delivery Organisation

Sandwell and West Birmingham  
NHS Trust

## Project Value

£18.5million consisting £12.9million  
Towns Fund, £4.9million co-funding  
from West Midlands Combined  
Authority and £650k from the Trust



The **Midland Met Learning Campus** project will deliver a major new skills resource providing training in healthcare and healthcare related positions from entry level to level 7 skills and will be situated on site next to the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) being developed in Smethwick.

The new building will bring together multiple facilities, providing a single centre for the community promoting access to training, development, and employment opportunities within the NHS. The largest growth in education provision will be in three areas: Additional Clinical Services, Allied Health Professionals and Nursing and Midwifery.

# Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration

## Delivery Organisation

Sandwell Council

## Project Value

£2million consisting 100% Towns Fund.



The **Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration** project will demolish existing structures located at Smethwick Enterprise Centre, Rolfe Street and remediate the land to provide a stand-alone development ready site.

The development ready site will then provide much needed housing and potential space for small enterprises, to support the wider regeneration of the town and link to the opportunities around the Midland Met University Hospital and the Towns Fund Midland Met Learning Campus project.





# Smethwick Connected

**Delivery Organisation**  
Sandwell Council

**Project Value**  
£3.872million consisting 100%  
Towns Fund.



The **Smethwick Connected** project will create cycle and pedestrian links from two railway stations to the town centre and local hospital and aims to achieve uplift in the number of people using active travel modes within Smethwick, the wider borough and region to assist in reducing congestion, poor air quality and other health inequalities.

The location of interventions includes Smethwick High Street, A457 Transport Corridor including Oldbury Road, Tollhouse Way, Soho Way, Grove Lane and B41236 Cranford Street situated within the St Pauls, Smethwick and Soho and Victoria Wards.

# Grove Lane Regeneration

## Delivery Organisation

Sandwell Council

## Project Value

£4.35million consisting 100% Towns Fund



The **Grove Lane Regeneration** Project will regenerate the Grove Lane development site at the centre of Smethwick, a largescale mixed-use and housing development on the industrial site directly adjacent to the hospital.

Investment will assist the acquisition and remediation of a selected site within the Grove Lane area to accelerate regeneration for housing delivery, the first phase of a comprehensive major regeneration project to deliver new homes and associated infrastructure.



# Other Towns Fund Projects

West Bromwich and Rowley Regis were also invited to submit a Town Investment Plan for the Towns Fund Programme.

6 Projects were approved for West Bromwich and 5 for Rowley Regis.

Find out more, visit  
<https://regeneratingsandwell.co.uk/about/towns-fund-programme/>

# Other Projects in Sandwell

There are many more projects planned for Sandwell as part of the Regeneration Pipeline.

Find out more, visit  
[www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk](http://www.regeneratingsandwell.co.uk)

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## Smethwick Town Deal Board 7 May 2024

<b>Subject:</b>	<b>Project Reporting</b>
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Rina Rahim, Towns Fund Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of the Report

- 1.1. To receive an update on project progress and monitoring information for the period of January 2024 to March 2024.

### 2. Background and Main Considerations

- 2.1. As West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis Towns Fund Programmes are in Phase 3 – Delivery, monitoring is a key aspect to ensure the Accountable Body and DLUHC track progress of the fund and the projects it is delivering.
- 2.2. To ensure the Accountable Body and Town Deal Boards receive reporting on a regular basis to monitor project progress, expenditure and risks, it is a requirement approved by Cabinet that West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis project leads must submit Monitoring, Evaluation and Claim Returns on a quarterly basis, as a minimum.
- 2.3. Report on project performance are submitted to DLUHC on a bi-annual basis due every June and December. The next performance return is due by 28 May 2024 reporting on spend and progress from 1 September 2023 to 31 March 2024.
- 2.4. The latest quarterly returns from projects for the period of January 2024 – March 2024, are currently being processed. A detailed report per projects is attached as Appendix A with a summary of project progress to date below:
- **Ron Davis Centre Expansion** – Computer equipment has now been installed enabling full usage of the rooms. Other courses taking place includes English, Maths and Paediatric First Aid. First cohort of learners using the facility with the computers started in January 2024 with 101 learners enrolled.
  - **Midland Met Learning Campus** – Preliminary works continue to determine the final costs. WMCA match funding was approved on 18 March, works expected to start on site June 2024 following finalising cost plan and entering into contractor agreement.
  - **Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration** – Objections to project demolition works received following submission of planning application. Heritage impact assessment is being undertaken prior to planning application re-submission.

- **Grove Lane Regeneration** – Although Cabinet have approved to progress with Compulsory Purchase Order, contact will be made with the landowner to engage with them throughout the process.
- **Smethwick Connected** – Works on A457 Soho Way dual carriageway, Grove Lane and B41236 Cranford Street Works (Phase 4) started in February 2024 with a 4-month work plan expected. Canal and River Trust works to deliver phase 5 Grove Lane, National Cycle Network Route 5, Cape Arm Branch is near completion.

### 3. Project Slippage and Risks

- 3.1. The last return to DLUHC in December 2023 included a forecast spend for the year ending March 2024.

Spend forecast - last report to DLUHC	8,627,079
Actual Spend including contractual commitment	5,618,168
Slippage	34.8%
Forecast for 2024/25	15,596,025
Forecast for 2025/26	2,619,264

- 3.2. Following processing of recent claims, spend achieved by the end of March 2024 a slippage of 38% has occurred due to delays to project spend. When considering the contract already committed for Smethwick Connected, this slippage is reduced to 34.8%.
- 3.3. A slippage of more than 40% against previous forecast can trigger a performance audit review from DLUHC.
- 3.4. The forecast spend for 2024/25 is £15.59m, with the remaining amount of £2.6m forecasted for 2025/26. All Towns Fund programme grant must be spent and defrayed by March 2026.
- 3.5. The top 3 red risks reported by projects are submitted to DLUHC and are included in the private pack. An overall summary of Smethwick project risk is attached as a separate document as Appendix B

### Appendices

- Appendix A Smethwick Reporting January 24 – March 24 (Private Item)
- Appendix B Project overall Risk (Private item)

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

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By virtue of paragraph(s) 4 of Part 1 of Schedule 12A  
of the Local Government Act 1972.

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Project	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24	Oct-24	Nov-24	Dec-24
<b>Ron Davis Centre</b>		Sandwell Herald - Update on progress					<b>PR</b> - Promote number of learners assisted to date
<b>Midland Met Learning Campus</b>	Milestone & PR: Spade in ground, works start	Sandwell Herald - Update on progress					Sandwell Herald - Update on progress
<b>Grove Lane Regeneration</b>							
<b>Rolfe St Regeneration</b>					Milestone: Site works commence		Milestone: Site works complete
<b>Smethwick Connected</b>		Milestone: Phase 4 works complete					

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