

Agenda

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Tuesday, 11 July 2023 at 5.45 pm
In the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

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

7 - 18

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 23 March 2023 as a correct record.

4 Additional Items of Business

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

5 Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy

19 - 54

To consider and comment upon the draft Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy.



6 **Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Action Tracker** 55 - 62

To consider and note progress on the implementation of actions and recommendations.

7 **Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/ 24** 63 - 70

To approve the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/ 24

8 **Cabinet Forward Plan** 71 - 84

To note and review the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Shokat Lal

Chief Executive

Sandwell Council House

Freeth Street

Oldbury

West Midlands

Distribution

Councillor Fenton (Chair)

Councillors Lewis (Vice- Chair), Davies, Dhatt, Fisher, Khan, Maycock,
Shaeen, Trumpeter, Webb and Younis

Ms Brown (Co- opted Member)

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Minutes of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

23 March 2023 at 6pm

In the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Fenton (Chair);
Councillors Bhullar, Fisher and Lewis;
Phillippe Brown (Co-opted Member and Chair - Tenant
and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group).

Also present: Chief Superintendent Maria Fox (West Midlands
Police).

Officers: Gillian Douglas (Director of Housing), Nigel Collumbell
(Service Manager – Housing Maintenance), Tom
Hogan (Operations Manager – Tenancy Services), Karl
Robinson (Business Manager – Housing Solutions),
Tessa Mitchell (Business Manager – Community Safety
and Resilience), Manny Sehmbi (Business Manager –
Community Partnerships), Stuart Hall (Home
Improvement Manager), Alexander Goddard (Scrutiny
Lead Officer) and John Swann (Democratic Services
Officer).

26/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
Ashman, Jalil, Kaur and Shaeen.

27/23 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

There were no declarations of interest made at the meeting.

28/23

Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 20 January and 23 February 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

29/23

Urgent Additional Items of Business

There were no urgent additional items of business to consider.

30/23

Implementation of the Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022- 2026

The Board was informed that the Safer Sandwell Partnership was a collaborative initiative between the Council, West Midlands Police and other key agencies to enhance community safety across the Borough.

The Chief Superintendent for Local Policing in Sandwell Maria Fox outlined that incidents of serious violence were rising, both in Sandwell and nationally. This had increased from 4,000 recorded incidents in the Borough 10 years ago, to over 20,000 per annum in 2022.

It was reported that serious youth violence had decreased in recent years, targeted interventions, multi-agency partnerships and a Police presence in schools were believed to have contributed to this decline.

Domestic Abuse remained a significant issue with a third of violent crimes being domestic in nature. A new sexual abuse and assault strategy was being introduced across the Borough as part of the work to address this. In addition, West Midlands Police had worked closely with the office of the Police and Crime Commissioner (PCC) via the Violence Reduction Partnership. Members noted that Black Country Women's Aid had recently been awarded a contract to deliver a training and awareness programme to tackle domestic violence and abuse.

Whilst sexual abuse was underreported, recorded levels had been rising, particularly crimes that had been committed online and against children. Early intervention methods were key in combatting sexual abuse and workshops in schools around healthy relationships and training for partner agencies on the topics of female genital mutilation and sexual assault had received positive feedback.

Modern Slavery remained an issue locally and nationally. It was a difficult and hidden crime but a good partnership approach was in place in Sandwell and a range of strategies were in place to help address this type of crime. Raising awareness of Modern Slavery was considered an important strand in helping to identify cases earlier and for the public to be aware of the signs.

Reducing offending and re-offending rates was a priority, providing prisoners with the skills and training so they could successfully integrate back into society. Programmes which aimed to break the cycle of criminality at a young age included mentoring and restorative justice schemes and treatment programmes for those with substance misuse issues.

Serious and Organised Crime was a constantly evolving issue. The Board was informed that people engaged in these types of crime moved from commodity to commodity depending on what was most lucrative – this could include drug trafficking, money laundering, people trafficking or arms dealing. Holistic plans were utilised to dismantle organised crime groups and to disrupt their activities as much as possible.

Local crime and anti-social behaviour issues were tackled through Sandwell's Tasking processes, both at a local town and strategic borough-wide level. The Board heard priorities at a local level included the Nuisance Bike Plan, CCTV mapping in strategic locations and ASB walkabouts to ensure Police had a visible presence on the street scene.

The Board received an overview of changes to policing structures, with four Chief Inspectors joining in early April to support this.

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

- There was sometimes a disparity between the expectations of someone reporting anti-social behaviour and what the Police and Council could do about it. The Anti-Social Behaviour Policy had been revised to highlight this and sought to provide clarity on which organisation was responsible for various matters.
- Additional support and mentoring wrapped around schools had been tried and tested in Smethwick and this was suggested as good practice that the Police could look at.
- High turnover of Police, such as local sergeants, was a frustration as it necessitated building relationships repeatedly. It was confirmed that changes were typically due to officers choosing to take up roles in other parts of the force or be promoted in rank.
- Data around domestic abuse and sexual abuse should be broken down by gender, age and location that could help determine any patterns that needed to be addressed.
- Issues were raised with the 101 reporting number, with calls dropping or taking too long to be answered. The Chief Superintendent was committed to improving this and resources had been allocated to increase capability.
- The recently published Casey Report needed to be fully understood with appropriate action taken to root out any institutional racism, sexism or other unacceptable behaviours.

31/23

Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy

The Board received an overview of the Council's Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy.

Under the Homelessness Act 2002, local authorities were required to produce a homelessness strategy that detailed the strategic direction of the Council to tackle homelessness.

The Council was performing well at preventing homelessness and had prevented 70% of cases in the Borough compared to the national average of 53%. Accommodation and support had been provided to 150 rough sleepers, with 84 permanently accommodated.

Whilst the prevalence of rough sleepers in Sandwell had reduced by 85% since 2019, it was estimated that 5,000 people, both homeless and at risk of homelessness, would receive support from the Council during the 2023/ 24 Municipal Year.

The Business Manager – Housing Solutions outlined the success of the Council's 'Call Before You Serve' scheme, through which landlords and tenants had received support prior to eviction notices being issued. The scheme had prevented 60% of over 200 cases from resulting in an eviction.

Collaborative work with private rented sector landlords had also taken place, to incentivise landlords to accommodate former rough sleepers as tenants. This scheme had secured 150 tenancies from 2021- 2023, with an additional 20 flats in the Cradley Heath area expected to be ready to let imminently.

During 2022, £250,000 of additional grant funding had been acquired by the Council, this money had been ringfenced to provide support for those without recourse to public funds. The Holly Grange site had capacity to accommodate 5 individuals without recourse to public funds and was the preferred option when compared to Bed and Breakfast facilities.

It was anticipated that the rising prevalence of rough sleeping nationally increased pressure on housing via resettlement schemes and cost of living pressures would increase demand on the Homelessness services provided by the Council.

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

- Individuals at risk of, or experiencing homelessness, may prefer speaking to staff face- to face. The basing of homelessness staff at Community Hubs would therefore be advantageous.
- The presence of Homelessness staff at libraries at suitable times would be considered.
- Reducing the number of households in temporary accommodation remained a key ambition for the Council.
- Applications for grants were submitted to central government regularly.
- Walk in services were available at Sandwell Council House, and homelessness staff could be reached both online and via the telephone.
- Caseworkers were assigned to those in need of homelessness assistance and were triaged by need and risk factors.
- The Council had recently hired more staff to increase service capacity which was consistently monitored.
- The Private Sector Enforcement team had supported private landlords to uphold high standards for tenants in private rented accommodation.

Resolved that:-

- (1) the Cabinet Member for Housing consider basing homelessness staff at Community Hubs and provide a presence at Sandwell libraries at suitable points throughout the week;
- (2) an update on Homelessness be brought to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in 6 months' time.

32/23

Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group – Home Checks Review

The Board received the second report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group; the Home Checks Review.

This piece of work focussed on Home Checks, which was a proactive tenancy management service. This involved officers visiting tenants and having conversations. It was proposed that all 27,000 tenants in Council accommodation would receive home checks, with 3,000 such checks having been carried out so far.

The Scrutiny Group had undertaken a survey and Group members had home checks themselves to obtain first-hand experience. The Group had identified practical suggestions on how to make the Home Check service better for tenants.

Recommendations made by the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group which Housing Management had agreed to implement include the following:-

- ensuring Home checks were accessible to all, including tenants who were at work during the day;
- the review of the main referral pathways to ensure these were most relevant;
- providing copies of completed home checks forms to tenants who had received a visit;
- the review of access to interpreter services.

The Chair of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group confirmed that information required to undertake the review had been made available and when Group members had interviewed staff, feedback had been positive around honesty and transparency.

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

- There was a three-year programme for the Home Checks to visit all Council tenants.
- Triggers had been developed to direct the visits to where they were most needed. This could include where there hadn't been contact for a long period of time, overcrowding, underoccupancy and high-rise blocks. Damp and mould reports automatically triggered follow up visits.
- A set of service standards were being developed.
- Home checks were offered 9am-5pm but this would be kept under review.

- The Council used a text message service to send reminders to tenants, this helped to avoid missed appointments.
- The Dynamic Scheduling System would, in the future, allow the Council to pick up instances where officers had not kept to appointments with tenants.

The Chair of the Scrutiny Board thanked the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group for its hard work on this review.

Resolved that the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board be requested to consider looking at performance management around Home Checks.

(Councillor Bhullar left the meeting following consideration of this item).

33/23 **Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing**

The Board was informed that the current Housing Assistance Policy was formed in June 2012. It was intended that a revised policy would reinforce a person-centred approach and a focus on prevention, helping to create home environments enabling disabled people to live full lives.

Since 2003, the Council had the discretion to develop and maintain its own housing financial assistance policy in compliance with relevant legislation. To do this, the Council had to publish and maintain a policy.

It was reported that Government funding for Disabled Facilities Grants (DFGs) had changed significantly in 2015/16 when it became part of the Better Care Fund, which was a single pooled budget to support health and social care services to work more closely. There was now an opportunity to better align the Council's policy with the aims of the Better Care Fund which were to provide more joined-up and customer-focussed services to reduce hospital and care admissions and enable people to return home more quickly.

A revised Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing would bring greater parity between the way

housing adaptations were managed through the housing revenue account and the DFG regime which applied to other social housing and the private sector.

Engagement sessions and workshops had taken place with staff groups including Adult Social Care and Housing Foundations, the national body for Home Improvement Agencies, had also helped provide a 'critical friend' role in the formation of policy. Consultation had also taken place with the voluntary sector and their service users, particularly those that provided a service to people with disabilities or mobility issues. Initial feedback was that residents and service users agreed with what was proposed and were supportive of the changes to policy.

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

- Where one member of a household was assessed as needing an adaptation but another household member's circumstances also changed and required an adaptation, this should be assessed by Adult Social Care and any equipment provided should be safe for all members of the household.
- It was proposed that members of the household with the same accessibility needs could have applications transferred to themselves. For example, in the event of a death to prevent a new application needing to be completed and to retain the adaptations in the property.
- For alterations made by tenants themselves, there would be certain circumstances where consent would be withheld; for example, removing a load bearing wall, or inappropriately-built extensions.
- Smart technologies had become a useful tool to aid those with access requirements and support individuals to maintain independent living.
- The Council was currently in the process of appointing new contractors. There would be two; one for the North of the borough and one for the South. A new Contract Management Team coming onstream would monitor this going forward.
- The first £15k of any means tested contribution would be disregarded; this amount covered the commonly required works for adapting bathrooms, so this would

enable these kinds of adaptations to be carried out more quickly.

- A separate policy for adaptations to Council housing was required so Council tenants would no longer be required to apply for a grant.

Resolved that:-

- (1) that the Director of Housing explore the use of assistive smart technology to support disabled tenants;
- (2) that the Director of Housing investigate the feasibility of transferring applications to other individuals in the property with the same accessibility needs;
- (3) that a working group be held in early June to further consider the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing prior to its consideration by Cabinet.

34/23 Update from the Chair of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group

The Chair of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group advised the Board that a workshop had been held recently to work collaboratively to build and move forward with tenant scrutiny. This workshop was felt to have been insightful and open and honest questions and discussion had taken place.

35/23 Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Action Tracker

The Board noted the status of actions and recommendations it had made. Further updates would be reported to future meetings of the Board.

Work Programme and Cabinet Forward Plan

The Board noted its Work Programme for 2022/23 and received the Cabinet Forward Plan. The Chair advised the Board that collaborative discussions would take place around work programming for the 2023/24 municipal year.

Meeting ended at 9.05pm

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Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Tuesday 11 July 2023

Subject:	Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy
Director:	Director of Housing Gillian Douglas
Contact Officer:	Housing Policy and Strategy Lead Officer, Louis Bebb louis_bebb@sandwell.gov.uk Transformation Officer, Jennifer Collins Jennifer_Collins@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments on the draft Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy

2 Reasons for Recommendations




- 2.1 Our vision is for Sandwell to be a borough of sanctuary that welcomes those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and protects the rights of all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. A 'Borough of Sanctuary' is a borough which provides a welcoming place of safety for people who are asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.
- 2.2 We recognise that the way in which individuals and families arriving in Sandwell are supported to settle and integrate into their communities is critical to enable them to feel welcome and part of their local communities. This sees benefits for all of Sandwell's residents and communities across the borough.
- 2.3 This strategy sets out the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell network and Sandwell Council's commitments to welcoming and integrating





individuals and families who arrive in Sandwell. This strategy coordinates the approach of the council and other organisations, council-wide and borough-wide, delivering services to those arriving and settling in Sandwell.

2.4 The strategy is for five years with a review built in after the second year to ensure our approach continues to align with our vision and objects and best enables us to support those arriving in Sandwell. This will enable services to develop with the stability of a medium-term strategic directive while allowing the strategy to be responsive to any changes and progress.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>The Best Start in Life for Children and Young People The strategy will enable partnership working to best support children and young people newly arriving in the borough, such as language learning for children and young people. Uniquely to Sandwell, Thimble Library in Smethwick was recognised nationally as the first Library of Sanctuary and a tailored pathway of support is available to newly arriving children, young people, and families as part of Sandwell's Transition, Education and Partnership Service. As part of the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership, we want to continue to build our local offer to those seeking sanctuary in Sandwell and tailor services and provision to best meet the needs of existing and newly emerging communities across the borough.</p>
	<p>People Live Well and Age Well We want to ensure that asylum seekers, refugees and migrants can access a range of well-coordinated and effective services, including health. In addition, we want to improve the social and mental wellbeing of individuals and families arriving in Sandwell through reducing social isolation.</p>
	<p>Strong Resilient Communities Sandwell has a diverse population made up of differing races, ethnicities, cultures, languages and religions. The document recognises Sandwell's responsibility to invest in the Borough of Sanctuary in order to build strong relationships between local community groups and promoting safe and welcoming communities.</p>



	<p>Quality Homes in Thriving Neighbourhoods The Borough of Sanctuary Strategy links directly to this priority in the Corporate Plan and will provide a framework for offering a safe place for asylum-seekers and refugees to live, while recognising our leadership role in promoting integration and community cohesion.</p>
	<p>A Strong and Inclusive Economy Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy. We want to ensure we can bring newly-arrived individuals into the workforce and provide opportunities for language learning provisions and to transfer skills.</p>

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The working strategy is being developed between the Council and Sandwell’s local Borough of Sanctuary network. The network is made up of local organisations (particularly the voluntary and community sector and public sector organisations), council officers, residents and councillors who support individuals and families arriving in the borough. Developing the strategy is a required step in the application process to become a recognised Council of Sanctuary.
- 4.2 Although not a statutory document, it is nevertheless a key strategy in articulating what actions we will take to work towards Sandwell becoming a welcoming borough for all. The strategy will interlink with the council’s equality, diversity, and inclusion priorities and feed into the Sandwell New Arrivals Partnership. An action plan will be developed to sit beneath the strategy, with actions relating to key themes that relate to Sandwell’ six strategy objectives.
- 4.3 As part of developing the draft strategy, we have engaged with officers across the council that are delivering relevant services such as Housing Solutions, Equality, Diversity & Inclusion, Public Health, Adult Social Care, Community Safety, Libraries, Childrens, Education, Employment & Skills and Community Partnerships. An internal working group has been set up which receives updates and continues to input into the strategy.
- 4.5 The local Borough of Sanctuary network was established in 2020 (<https://sandwell.cityofsanctuary.org/>) and is a network of organisations,



groups and individuals pledging to build a culture of welcome across the borough as part of the national City of Sanctuary network. The network leads have been engaged throughout the process and were involved in the decision to create a partnership strategy. Through the local network, we have engaged with individuals with lived experience of seeking sanctuary in the borough and will continue to build upon this throughout the delivery of the strategy.

4.6 We have also engaged with Wolverhampton Council, Liverpool City Council, Lambeth Council and Newcastle City Council to discuss their own experiences in creating and implementing their own Council of Sanctuary strategies and what some of the challenges and lessons that have been learnt during and after this project. This has produced some really informative feedback through collaboration with other local authorities.

4.7 **The following joint objectives have been developed and agreed by Sandwell Council and the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell local organisations:**

- The partnership will work together as a network to make Sandwell a Borough of Sanctuary. We will strive to build a welcoming place for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, whilst also promoting integration and community cohesion.
- The partnership will promote a culture of inclusion between Sandwell residents and support a mutual understanding in which longer-standing communities feel able to understand and welcome migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.
- The partnership will enhance opportunities for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers to utilise and develop their skills, to access opportunities to support themselves and their families which contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the borough.
- The partnership will advocate the engagement of those seeking sanctuary in decision making processes at all levels and in all activities.

Borough of Sanctuary - Partnership Strategy Workshop

4.7 In April 2023, the partnership undertook a consultation exercise with over 40 attendees to understand what a 'welcoming Sandwell' looks like and to establish the approach we need to take to become a borough of sanctuary for all. The consultation workshop included representation from local and national groups, residents, the council, and people with



lived experience of seeking sanctuary in Sandwell to understand what issues meant the most to them.

4.8 During the workshop we aimed to gather thoughts and feedback on the proposed content of the Partnership Sanctuary Strategy and work together to build on suggested actions for the Council and local network organisations that will form the action plan that sits within the strategy. The consultation highlighted a need to further explore issues related to accessing healthcare, housing conditions, and communication with services and local authorities, as well as access to ESOL classes.

4.9 Summary of workshop feedback:

- Overall, support across the strategy document and action plan was relatively high, with a large proportion of the respondents either tending to agree or strongly agreeing with the strategy's overarching objectives. Please note we are still in the process of documenting all the feedback from the workshop session.
- A large cohort of attendees were from organisations operating in either Smethwick, West Bromwich, Wednesbury or Oldbury – there were no attendees from Rowley Regis or Tipton. Therefore, we intend to run additional workshops to involve partner organisations from these towns.
- Partners felt asylum resettlement across wards in Sandwell needs to be more even, as there is currently a high concentration in particular areas, such as Smethwick and St. Pauls, but less so in areas such as Newton and Blackheath. It is important to acknowledge the different identities and needs of the 6 towns in the strategy's overarching vision and also to recognise where the current infrastructure is that supports asylum-seekers and refugees including key voluntary sector groups and faith based organisations.
- Within the narrative in the strategy about Sandwell's history of resettlement and inward migration, partners felt we need to ensure we acknowledge that international migration has helped to shape Sandwell's population, communities and identity for decades.
- Partners felt anything proposed needs to be actionable and realistic.
- The Borough of Sanctuary Strategy should include more content that celebrates the partnership work that goes on in the area.
- Partners wanted Sandwell Council to play a greater role in national campaigns around migration and resettlement and the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees.



5 Implications

Resources:	Delivery of the strategy will be through existing resources where possible. Council-wide resources may also need to be identified to deliver the strategy.
Legal and Governance:	Whilst there is not a legal framework for migrants, refugees and asylum-seekers have “specific needs and rights which are protected by a particular legal framework”. The Sandwell Sanctuary Strategy Action Plan will provide oversight ensuring the local authority and stakeholders support this legislation, in addition to monitoring of the delivery of actions against the key objectives. Unless there are major legislative changes or significant service changes this strategy will be reviewed every five years.
Risk:	<p>Many migrants, refugees and asylum seekers come from minority ethnic groups (and refugees and asylum seekers may have fled persecution in their homeland because of their race). People from minority ethnic groups can be at particular risk of discrimination and persecution.</p> <p>Because migration and resettlement is such a contentious issue both in local and national government, there is the potential risk of some political backlash from residents. In more extreme cases, we may also need to consider hostile behaviour from local far-right political groups.</p>
Equality:	<p>The strategy will interlink with the council’s equality, diversity, and inclusion priorities.</p> <p>Race- The strategy aims to make Sandwell a more welcoming place for all ethnic minority groups, including newly arrived and well-established communities.</p> <p>Religion/ belief- The strategy will link into the work Public Health are carrying out with Sandwell’s Faith Network. The local Borough of Sanctuary Network works closely with faith groups and communities</p>



	<p>across the borough, which will feed into developing the strategy.</p> <p>Age- A strategic approach is necessary to meet the housing needs of Sandwell’s growing younger population, whilst also considering Sandwell’s older population too. The action plan will include actions that benefit individuals and families of all ages arriving in Sandwell. There are actions that relate to each of Sandwell’s six strategic objectives, that focus on the Best Start in Life for Children and Young People and actions that relate to people of working age for instance.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	<p>The proportion of those in poor health in Sandwell is significantly higher than the national average. With the significant health issues in the borough, we know the strategy can play a key role in ensuring individuals and families access to the support and services they need to improve their quality of life.</p> <p>Indirectly, the benefits of positive partnership working will contribute to improving levels of social isolation seen throughout communities and encourage social integration between newly arrived and existing communities.</p>
Social Value:	<p>A large part of social value in this strategy is about creating communities in which people feel safe and welcome. The strategy aims to enhance and build upon existing community cohesion and inclusivity. Working in partnership with the local Borough of Sanctuary Network will improve service delivery and increase the reach and accessibility of services. Engaging with local community groups and individuals with lived experience throughout the process has generates social value through empowering the community and building positive working relationships.</p>
Climate Change:	Not applicable.
Corporate Parenting:	Promoting the integration of possible unaccompanied asylum seekers and young refugees.



6 Appendices

- Appendix One: Sandwell's Sanctuary Strategy - draft
- Appendix Two: Sandwell's Sanctuary Strategy in draft – SNAC Presentation

7 Background Papers

- City of Sanctuary Local Authority Network
<https://la.cityofsanctuary.org/>
- Council of Sanctuary Award Procedure and Criteria
<https://cdn.cityofsanctuary.org/uploads/sites/166/2021/08/Council-of-Sanctuary-Award-Minimum-Criteria.pdf>
- National Census 2021 England and Wales
<https://www.ons.gov.uk/visualisations/censusareachanges/E08000028/>
- Migrant Health in the West Midlands, Public Health England
https://www.birmingham.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/7890/phe_migrant_health_in_the_west_midlands_february_2017.pdf
- Migration Statistics Briefing, West Midlands Migrant Strategic Partnership
<https://www.wmsmp.org.uk/data/>
- Politics, Governance and the Shaping of Smethwick Since 1945
<https://etheses.bham.ac.uk/id/eprint/6890/>
- Social and Public Service Impacts of International Migration at the Local Level
https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/210324/horr72.pdf





Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy

Partnership strategy between Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell's local organisations and Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council

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Introduction

The aim of this strategy is to establish and deliver a partnership between Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell's local organisations and Sandwell Council.

Our vision is for Sandwell to be a sanctuary borough, that welcomes those fleeing violence and persecution in their own countries and protects the rights of all migrants, asylum seekers and refugees. A 'Borough of Sanctuary' is a borough which provides a welcoming place of safety for people who are asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. **Appendix one** details key definitions for the purpose of this strategy.

We want Sandwell to be a welcoming place of safety for those arriving in the borough. We recognise that how individuals and families arriving in Sandwell are supported to settle and integrate into their communities is vitally important to enable them to feel welcome and part of their local communities. A welcoming place for all will bring benefits for all of Sandwell's residents and communities across the borough.

This strategy sets out the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell local organisations and Sandwell Council's commitments to welcoming and integrating individuals and families who arrive in Sandwell. This strategy co-ordinates the approach of council officers and organisations, council-wide and borough-wide, delivering services to those arriving and settling in Sandwell.

That's why we're committed to becoming a Borough of Sanctuary, and for Sandwell Council to be an equal and active member of the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell partnership. We want to make sure that Sandwell is inclusive and welcoming, that we are meeting people's specific needs, and that we listen to and amplify the voices of refugees, asylum seekers and migrants.

The strategy is for five years with a review built in after the second year to ensure the strategy best enables us, as a partnership, to support individuals and families arriving in Sandwell. This will enable services to develop with the stability of a medium-term strategic directive while allowing the strategy to be responsive to any changes and progress.



What welcome means to Sandwell

Across the borough we have a wide range of third-sector partners and community groups providing specialist support and delivering community events and activities. Thimblemill Library in Smethwick was recognised nationally as the first Library of Sanctuary and a tailored pathway of support is available to newly arriving children, young people, and families as part of Sandwell's Transition, Education and Partnership Service- Sandwell's first School of Sanctuary. As part of the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership, we want to continue to build our local offer, both as a council and through community-led actions, to those seeking sanctuary in Sandwell and tailor services and provision to best meet the needs of existing and newly emerging communities across the borough.

As part of the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership, we want to ensure that asylum seekers, refugees and migrants can:

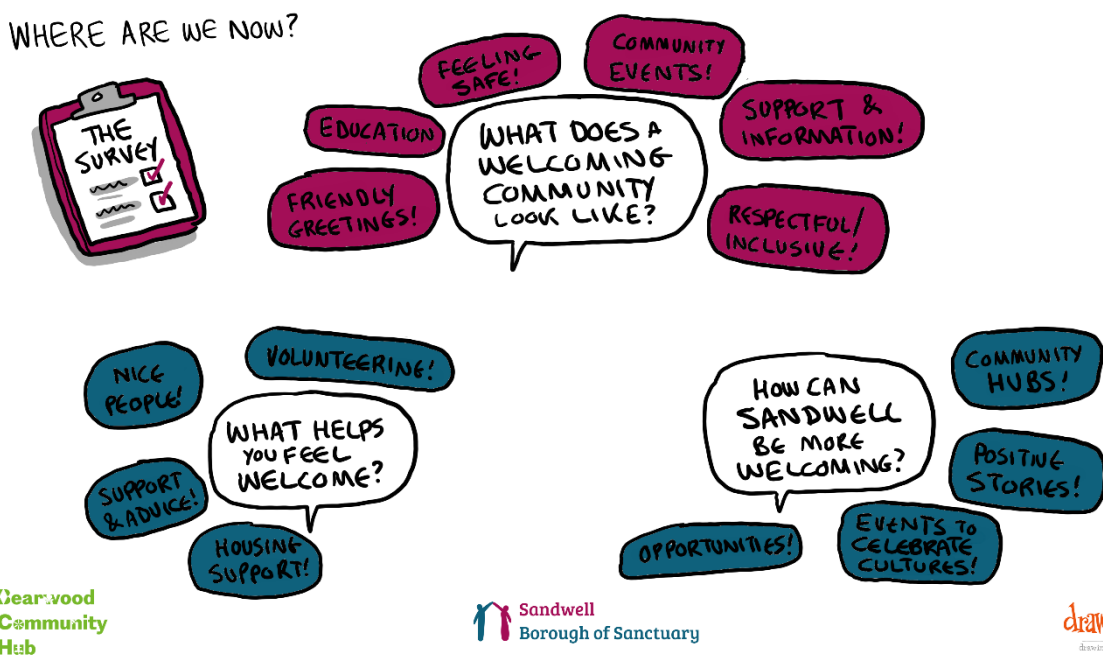
- thrive safely in their communities
- build diverse positive relationships locally
- understand their rights, responsibilities, and entitlements
- access well-coordinated and effective services
- and inform local policy and programmes where individuals wish to be more involved.

The overall aim of the partnership is to make Sandwell a welcoming place for individuals and families seeking sanctuary in the Borough, by working to:

- strengthen collaboration and partnerships between local businesses, schools, the council, healthcare providers, and other organisations to support the integration and inclusion of refugees and migrants in the community
- develop training and support programs for volunteers and community members to promote understanding and empathy for the experiences of refugees and migrants, and to equip them with the skills needed to support these individuals
- promote and protect the mental health and wellbeing of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants, who may have experienced trauma and face significant challenges adjusting to a new environment
- advocate for policy changes at the local, regional, and national levels that support the rights and needs of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.



In April 2023, the partnership undertook a consultation exercise with over 40 attendees to understand what a 'welcoming Sandwell' looks like and to establish the approach we need to take to become a borough of sanctuary for all. The consultation workshop included representation from local and national groups, residents, the council, and people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary in Sandwell to understand what issues meant the most to them. The consultation highlighted a need to further explore issues related to accessing healthcare, housing conditions, and communication with services and local authorities, as well as access to ESOL classes. The following drawings capture some of the discussions from the session:



Sandwell's Local Context

Over the past decade, the population size in Sandwell has grown by 11% from 308,100 in 2011, to 341,832 in 2021.



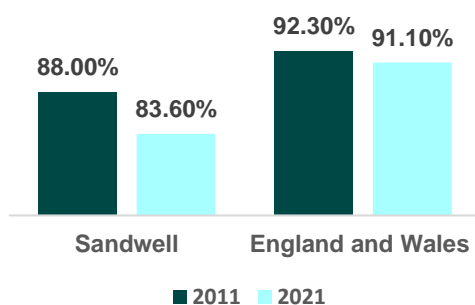
The overall population increase was much greater in comparison to the West Midlands (6.2%) and the rest of England and Wales (6.6%)¹.

In Sandwell, almost one in four (23.6%) usual residents were born outside the UK, compared with one in six nationally.

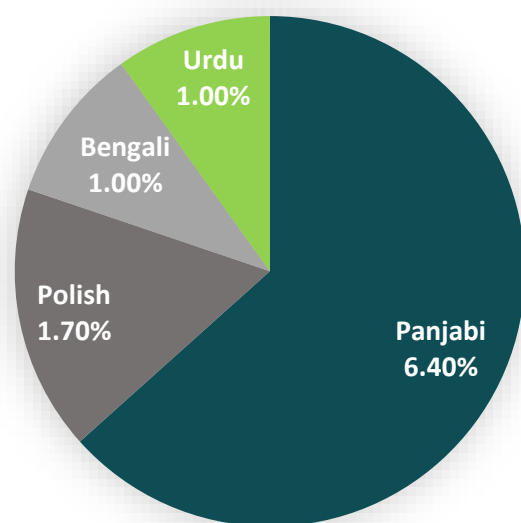


This proportion puts the borough in the top 50 Local Authorities across England & Wales for this measure².

In 2021, 83.6% of Sandwell's population, aged three years and over, had English as a main language, compared with 91.1% in England & Wales. The Sandwell figure is down from 88.0% in 2011³.



The most common main languages spoken in Sandwell (other than English)



¹ National Census 2021 England and Wales

² National Census 2021 England and Wales

³ National Census 2021 England and Wales

Welcoming resettlement in Sandwell

Sandwell has a proud history of supporting individuals resettling. Everyone who seeks to make our borough their home is welcome here – no matter where you are from in the world. We are proud to celebrate the achievements and contributions that refugees, migrants and asylum seekers have made. Across the borough, you'll see their influence everywhere you go.

You'll come across individuals from across the world in every walk of life. You might be treated by nurses and doctors in our hospitals or taught by teachers in our schools. You could be supported by carers in care homes, driven in buses and trains, served in shops, or cared for in hospices. Refugees, asylum seekers and migrants have helped shape our borough in so many profound ways.

Sandwell's History of Migration and Resettlement

International migration has helped to shape Sandwell's population, communities and identity for decades. Mass migration, primarily from countries in the New Commonwealth, arose through the 'pull' of UK labour shortages in the 1950s and 60s with many arriving from the Indian subcontinent – a significant number of Afro-Caribbean immigrants also settled in the local authority too⁴. Areas such as Smethwick attracted a high concentration of immigration in the post-war years because of plentiful employment opportunities and accessible private housing, in addition to its proximity to Birmingham. In recent decades, free movement of labour has resulted in increased migration to Sandwell from European Union countries. As a result, Sandwell is a diverse borough with many well-established migrant communities across Sandwell's six towns and continues to welcome the emergence of new communities⁵.



A black and white photograph of the Sikh Temple, High Street, Smethwick, formerly Congregational Church. Interior view showing some of the members. 9th June 1963. *Sandwell Archives (PHS/8621)*.

⁴ Politics, Governance and the Shaping of Smethwick Since 1945, Adam John Carey

⁵ Social and Public Service Impacts of International Migration at the Local Level

Migration and Resettlement in Sandwell Today

International migration has been a major driver of population change, first from the Commonwealth then from Europe and globally, including asylum seekers and refugees. Over the past decade, the population size in Sandwell has grown by 11% - from 308,100 in 2011, to 341,832 in 2021 - the overall population increase was much greater in comparison to the West Midlands (6.2%) and the rest of England and Wales (6.6%)⁶.

In Sandwell, the 2021 Census found that almost one in four (23.6%) usual residents were born outside the UK, compared with one in six nationally - this proportion puts the Borough in the top 50 Local Authorities across England & Wales for this measure. In the last decade, this proportion has increased by 7.7%.

Refugees and Asylum Seekers

Armed conflict and human rights abuses has seen many families and individuals fleeing their own countries to seek a welcoming place of safety.

The West Midlands is currently the 4th largest of all 12 UK regions for welcoming asylum seekers and refugees⁷. Sandwell has been accommodating people through the Home Office's contracted dispersal programme for decades – most recent projects include the Afghanistan resettlement and Homes for Ukraine schemes. Sandwell has around 1,100 asylum seekers dispersed in the Borough⁸.

For the cohort of asylum seekers who have resettled in the past two and a half years, the most common country of origin was Iran with 31.1%, followed by Iraq with 19.8%. The remaining countries include Albania (9.3%), Afghanistan (7.1%), Syria (5.4%) Sudan (5.1%), El Salvador (4.5%), Eritrea (3.1%), India (2.3%) and Turkey (2.0%)⁹.

For a further breakdown of language composition, migration and asylum statistics please see **appendix two**.

⁶ National Census 2021 England and Wales

⁷ Migrant Health in the West Midlands, Public Health England

⁸ Migration Statistics Briefing, West Midlands Migrant Strategic Partnership

⁹ Serco



Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell

The Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell network of partners aims to engage individuals and organisations across the borough to join us in enacting the principles of the Cities of Sanctuary movement.

We are working to become a recognised Borough of Sanctuary, working alongside partners to take practical steps to welcome and include refugees, asylum seekers and migrants in our activities, and to actively seek ways of supporting them wherever we can.

Borough of Sanctuary Charter

The following Borough of Sanctuary Charter has been agreed by Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell.

- Vision** We hold the vision that the UK, and specifically Sandwell will be a welcoming place of safety for all and is proud to offer sanctuary to people fleeing violence and persecution.
- Our Values** Borough of sanctuary Sandwell will be guided and informed by commitment to the following values:-
- Inclusiveness:*** We welcome and respect people from all backgrounds, place the highest value on diversity and are committed to equality.
- Openness:*** We are committed to a culture of working collaboratively and in partnership with others.
- Participation** Those who support our vision work together with people seeking sanctuary. We value and recognise the contribution of all involved. We aspire to ensure people seeking sanctuary are fully involved in decision making processes and are supported to become leaders within the Borough of Sanctuary organisation and network as well as within the wider movement.
- Inspiring** We work with enthusiasm and positivity and are determined to surpass what has already been achieved to welcome refugees and people seeking sanctuary. We act as a catalyst for change by being open to new and innovative ideas and through sharing knowledge gained with others and working in partnership.
- Integrity** We aspire to high standards of honesty and behaviour, and always to act in the interests of people seeking sanctuary.

Additional information on the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell, and details of how organisations can join, can be found at: <https://sandwell.cityofsanctuary.org/>

Sandwell Council's strategic vision

Sandwell Council recognises that providing a welcoming place of safety is about more than just how people arrive in Sandwell, and are welcomed, and that how they settle and integrate in the borough is just as important.

Sandwell Council's corporate plan details how we are working to create a fairer Sandwell through investing locally, doing things with the community, being green in everything we do and ensuring no one gets left behind.

We must be proactive to ensure we work in partnership to create a welcoming place of safety for individuals and families arriving in Sandwell. Following the framework of this strategy ensures the council takes a joined-up 'One Council, One Team' approach to best support individuals and families accessing services and formalises the council's role in wider work on sanctuary across the borough.

Sandwell Vision 2030

Sandwell has a clear vision for what the borough should look and feel like by 2030. In 2030, Sandwell is a thriving, optimistic and resilient community. It's where we call home and where we're proud to belong. Our vision for Sandwell:



Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience.



We have excellent and affordable public transport that connects us to all local centres and to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands.



Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for.



We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes.



Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy.



Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families.



Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families.



Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of the future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow.



Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods.



Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities.

Sandwell Vision 2030 is inclusive of all residents whether they were born in Sandwell or have recently arrived from other parts of the world as refugees, asylum seekers or migrants. We want those arriving in the borough to feel Sandwell is a place they want to bring up their families, to feel safe and cared for, to enjoy good health and rewarding work, be confident in the future and feel connected and valued in our neighbourhoods and communities.

Objectives for the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership

The following joint objectives have been developed and agreed by Sandwell Council and the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell local organisations. They are recognised by senior management, frontline officers delivering services and political leaders within the council alongside being recognised by local charities, organisations, residents, and services that form Sandwell's multi-agency local Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership.

A detailed action plan will be developed by the Borough of Sanctuary partners, identifying the specific actions required, who is responsible, and timeframes involved which will be monitored to evidence impact the action plan. The action plan template can be found in **appendix three**.

The partnership will work together as a network to make Sandwell a Borough of Sanctuary. We will strive to build a welcoming place for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers, whilst also promoting integration and community cohesion.

- The partnership will build strong and resilient communities through cohesion and support. Furthermore, we want groups to contribute their decades of experience and expertise to our collaborative vision and draw on the individual strengths of each partner.
- The partnership will constantly strive for excellence and best practice in our service delivery and partnership working. We will seek to uphold the dignity and worth of every migrant, refugee and asylum seeker in the borough.
- The partnership will work to identify gaps in provision and encourage the diverse range of refugee and asylum support organisations in the borough to work together.

The partnership will promote a culture of inclusion between Sandwell residents and support a mutual understanding in which longer-standing communities feel able to understand and welcome migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers.

- The partnership will not tolerate a hostile environment towards individuals resettling in the Borough. Rather, we will celebrate and be strengthened by our diversity and the values we hold which enable and empower it.
- The partnership will challenge the negative perceptions and misleading narratives of migrants, refugees and asylum seekers in the media, through facts and positive stories of integration.
- The partnership will challenge and question policy changes at a local, regional, and national level that support the rights and needs of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. We will assist and educate those seeking sanctuary as to what rights and entitlements they do have.



The partnership will enhance opportunities for migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers to utilise and develop their skills, to access opportunities to support themselves and their families which contributes to the social and economic wellbeing of the borough.

- The partnership will provide opportunities for resettled individuals to apply their skills, determination, and enthusiasm within the local Sandwell economy.
- The partnership will help support those facing discrimination and lack of equal opportunities in labour markets and in work. We will actively engage in developing pathways for people who are resettling with leave to stay and the right to work in the UK into a number of different programmes.
- The partnership will support those who do not have the right to work in order to access volunteering opportunities that meet their aspirations and increase their employability.

The partnership will advocate the engagement of those seeking sanctuary in decision making processes at all levels and in all activities.

- The partnership wants our sanctuary-seekers to feel like their resettlement status does not limit their access to support and that they feel both heard and a valued part of our communities.
- The partnership will engage people seeking sanctuary in all activities to promote understanding of migrant, refugee and asylum-seeker issues, especially by enabling voices to be heard directly.
- The partnership will play a proactive role as a network in empowering key stakeholders across the borough to make changes to the systems that affect them to ensure that the issues affecting migrants, asylum seekers and refugees are raised and addressed.

A statement from Sandwell Council

As a local authority, we will commit to doing everything in our power to make Sandwell a welcoming place of safety for people who are asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants. By working proactively, we can make our neighbourhoods places of sanctuary, where everyone can build a life, be part of the community and get the support they need. We will demonstrate strong local leadership through working proactively with national and local government, the voluntary and community sector, faith bodies and our local communities on Borough of Sanctuary initiatives.

We wholeheartedly endorse this strategy, and we are committed to its successful delivery; we will set a standard that the council will honour and build-on as we continue our journey as part of a Borough of Sanctuary.



Embedding Sanctuary as a partnership

All six of Sandwell's strategic objectives relate to the aims of the partnership. The following strategic outcomes, which are outlined in the council's Corporate Plan, have formed the basis of our framework. Through applying the six strategic outcomes, we have defined our approach to ensuring that the work we do, and services we provide, as a local authority and local organisations contributes to creating a welcoming place of safety for individuals and families who arrive in Sandwell as asylum seekers, refugees and migrants.

The partnership has applied the strategic outcomes to creating a welcoming place of safety for those arriving in the borough.

Strategic Outcome



We will support families to be able to engage with relevant providers of services such as childcare, family support, schools and activities for children and young people.

- Education and language learning for children and young people
- Dedicated support for newly arrived children and young people in school environments
- Early years support
- Family support
- Activities for children and young people outside of school



We will enable individuals and families to settle in Sandwell by sharing information and signposting to wellbeing activities, healthcare, and welfare provisions.

- Support for individuals to know their rights and access healthcare and welfare benefits
- Creating safe places to engage and access information
- Language learning for adults (ESOL)



We will work with communities to build relationships, support each other, and celebrate communities and culture.

- Building welcoming communities
- Taking part in community activities
- Create more opportunities for community enterprise
- Sharing and celebrating communities and cultures

Strategic Outcome



QUALITY HOMES IN
THRIVING
NEIGHBOURHOODS

We will take a holistic approach and support individuals throughout their housing journey.

- Wrap around support for transition from temporary accommodation
- Support individuals and families to feel safe and at home
- Provision of affordable and quality homes
- Provision of move-on accommodation



A STRONG AND INCLUSIVE
ECONOMY

We will advocate for and promote services that offer opportunities for individuals to use their skills and access employment and language support.

- Sharing opportunities to engage in employment that utilises individuals experience, qualifications, and transferrable skills
- Employment and volunteering opportunities
- Recognition of migrant expertise in the workforce and sharing with young people
- ESOL classes and language support for work purposes



A CONNECTED AND
ACCESSIBLE SANDWELL

We will work to ensure there is a cohesive transport model across the six towns that helps to promote social connectedness.

- Social connectedness and accessibility to services
- Access to and affordability of public transport
- Clear information about public transport and how to get around the Borough
- Signposting to wider support services and community activities



Action Planning

This strategy will inform actions for local organisations and directorates within the council. The action plan will set out how the council and Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell local organisations will work in partnership to create a welcoming place of safety for individuals and families seeking sanctuary in Sandwell.

Governance

The aims of this strategy and actions detailed within the action plan will be monitored by Sandwell's Borough of Sanctuary Partnership Group. The partnership group consists of representatives from local organisations alongside the council's Resettlement Co-Ordinator and representation from council directorates.

The Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership Group enables collaborative working between the council and local organisations, residents, and local businesses. As part of the group, partners can collectively engage with national organisations and respond to policy changes at a local, regional, and national level to support the rights and needs of asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.

Local organisation and council leads will need to ensure that their organisation or directorate within the council are working on their actions and will be accountable to the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership Group.

Within the council, the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership Group is one of the council's several thematic sub-groups that reports to the Sandwell New Arrivals Partnership (SNAP), which feeds into and receives updates from the West Midlands Strategic Migration Partnership (<https://www.wmsmp.org.uk/>).



Appendix 1: Definitions

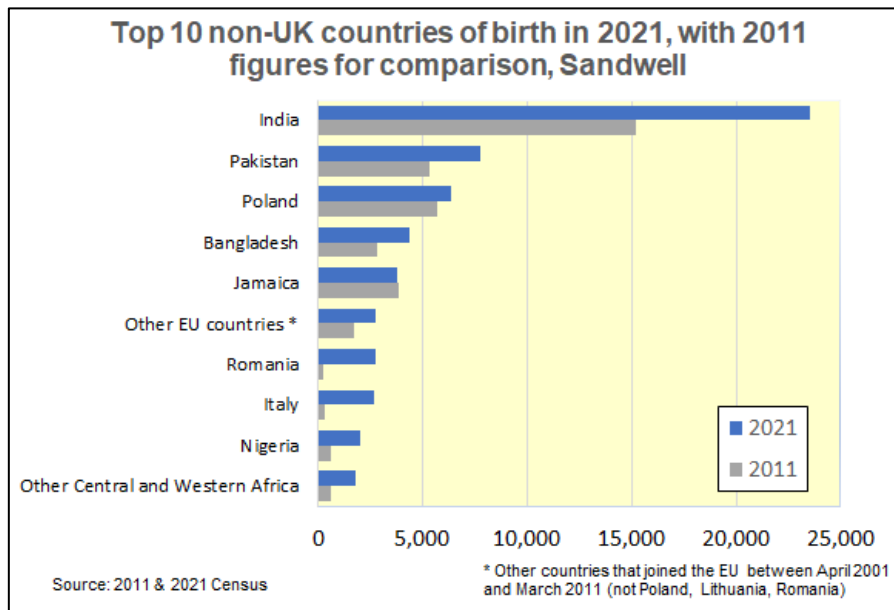
There are some core concepts that this strategy centres on which need to have a common meaning across the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership. These are defined for the purpose of this strategy as set out below:

- An **asylum seeker**, or a **person seeking asylum**, is someone who has left their country of origin and formally applied for asylum but whose application has not yet been concluded, where **asylum** is protection or safety given by a government to people forced to leave their own countries for fear of persecution.
- **UASC** stands for **unaccompanied asylum-seeking children** and refers to children who are outside their country of origin to seek asylum, are separated from parents and relatives, and are not in the care of someone who is responsible for them in a guardianship role.
- A **refugee** is someone who:
 - i. has a well-founded fear of being persecuted for reasons of race, religion, nationality, membership of a particular social group or political opinion; and
 - ii. is outside the country of their nationality; and
 - iii. is unable, or owing to their well-founded fear unwilling, to avail themselves of the protection of that country.
- In the UK, a person becomes a refugee when government agrees that their application for asylum meets this definition (taken from the Refugee Convention) and recognises them as a refugee. The other route for refugee status in the UK is to be accepted onto one of the dedicated resettlement schemes prior to arrival.
- The **Vulnerable Children's Resettlement Scheme, Vulnerable Person's Resettlement Scheme** (both up to 2020/21) or the **Global Resettlement Scheme** (from 2020/21) refer to specific programmes where the Home Office and United Nations Human Rights Committee identify the most vulnerable refugees for resettlement. The **refugee resettlement programme** is how we refer to this programme in the Council, where we accept referrals to welcome and resettle these families.
- A **migrant** is someone who has moved from one country to another, not for reasons of asylum or refuge. Often the move is for work, education or to be with family.

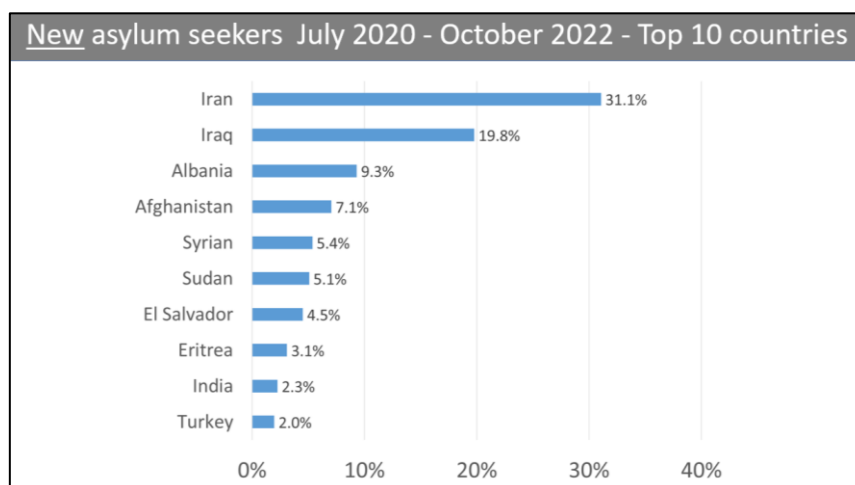


Appendix 2: Sandwell's Local Context- Data

The table below gives some breakdown to migration in Sandwell and their country of origin¹⁰:

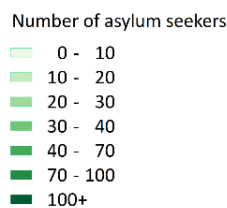


- India remained the most common country of birth outside the UK in 2021 with 6.9% of the population. Relatively large proportions of Sandwell residents were born in Pakistan (2.3%) and Bangladesh (1.3%).
- The number of people living in Sandwell who were born in Poland grew slightly 0.1% since the previous census, from 1.8% in 2011 to 1.9% in 2021. Whereas the number born in Romania saw a fairly significant increase from 0.1% in 2022 to 0.8% in 2021.
- 13.9% of Sandwell residents owned a non-UK passport; the most common non-UK passport held was Polish (2.0% of the population).
- 0.8% of the population had an address outside the UK one year before the census.



¹⁰ National Census 2021 England and Wales

Individuals and families seeking asylum in Sandwell are living across a number of wards within the Borough, most commonly in the areas of St. Pauls, Smethwick and Soho and Victoria. However, there are several wards within Sandwell where no asylum seekers are placed – including Great Barr, Newton, Princes End, Hateley Heath, Charlemont with Grove Vale and Blackheath¹¹. This suggests that there has been some disproportionate dispersal in the re-settlement of migrants in wards and towns in Sandwell.



Language Composition







- In 2021, 11.3% (14,750) of households consisted of members who had different main languages.
- In 2021, 83.6% of Sandwell’s population, aged three years and over, had English as a main language, compared with 91.1% in England & Wales. The Sandwell figure is down from 88.0% in 2011¹².
- A further 5.2% of Census respondents stated they were proficient in English (saying they speak it very well) but did not speak it as their main language.
- The most common main languages spoken in Sandwell, other than English were: Panjabi (6.4%), Polish (1.7%), Bengali (1.0%) and Urdu (1.0%).
- The largest increase was for people who specified Punjabi as a main language, rising by 2.1% in the past decade.

¹¹ Serco

¹² National Census 2021 England and Wales



Appendix 3: Template of thematic action plan

Strategic Outcome	Thematic areas of focus	Action	Lead Organisation	Evidence of impact and involvement of individuals with lived experience	Examples of support and services we currently offer and can build upon
 <p>THE BEST START IN LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Education and language learning for children and young people - Dedicated support for newly arrived children and young people in school environments - Early years support - Family support - Activities for children and young people outside of school 				
 <p>PEOPLE LIVE WELL AND AGE WELL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Support for individuals to know their rights and access healthcare and welfare benefits - Creating safe places to engage and access information - Language learning for adults (ESOL) 				
 <p>STRONG RESILIENT COMMUNITIES</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Building welcoming communities - Taking part in community activities - Create more opportunities for community enterprise - Sharing and celebrating communities and cultures 				
 <p>QUALITY HOMES IN THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wrap around support for transition from temporary accommodation - Support individuals and families to feel safe and at home - Provision of affordable and quality homes - Provision of move-on accommodation 				
 <p>A STRONG AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Sharing opportunities to engage in employment that utilises individuals experience, qualifications, and transferrable skills - Employment and volunteering opportunities - Recognition of migrant expertise in the workforce and sharing with young people - ESOL classes and language support for work purposes 				
 <p>A CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE SANDWELL</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social connectedness and accessibility to services - Access to and affordability of public transport - Clear information about public transport and how to get around the Borough - Signposting to wider support services and community activities 				



Contact us

If you have any questions about this strategy or the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership please email Bossandwell@gmail.com

To find out more, and for details of how to get involved, please visit www.sandwell.cityofsanctuary.org

Please visit the Settling in Sandwell webpage to find out about support for individuals and families settling in Sandwell www.sandwell.gov.uk/settlinginsandwell



Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary Strategy



**Safer Neighbourhoods and Active
Communities Scrutiny Board Presentation**



Overview

- A 'Borough of Sanctuary' is a borough which provides a welcoming place of safety for people who are asylum seekers, refugees, and migrants.
- As a council, we are working towards becoming an awarded Council of Sanctuary. As part of this:
 - We are working closely with local community groups and individuals with lived experience to work in partnership to make Sandwell a more welcoming place
 - A strategy is being developed which sets out the partnership's commitments to welcoming and integrating individuals and families who arrive in Sandwell
 - An action plan will be developed that community groups and teams across the council can work towards
 - Alongside developing the strategy, there is an application process for the council to undertake to achieve the award

Council of Sanctuary- application process

The council passes a full council motion and joins the national City of Sanctuary movement's Local Authority Network



The council engages with community groups, residents and people with lived experience to develop a partnership strategy



An action plan is developed for the council and local community groups to work towards



Award application is completed to evidence where we demonstrate, and where we are working towards, the 'learn', 'share' and 'embed' principles



The application is independently assessed by a panel of local community groups and people with lived experience- application form and presentation to the panel are assessed and a set of recommendations are given by the panel



Once successful, we will be a recognised Council of Sanctuary for three years. A review will take place after three years to assess our progress and renew the award to remain a recognised Council of Sanctuary



Celebration/media- public support for Borough of Sanctuary

Council of Sanctuary- Award Criteria

LEARN

- Training for staff
- Engage and learn
- Lived experience

EMBED

- Inclusive services
- Welcome at all levels
- Community cohesion

SHARE

- Make a public commitment to CoS Vision
 - Engagement with the Network
 - Collective representation to gov

Where we are now

Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Partnership

- ▶ Working together as equals
- ▶ 75 members in the wider partnership- 10 active members

Developing a partnership strategy

- ▶ In April 2023, the partnership undertook a consultation exercise with over 40 attendees to understand what a 'welcoming Sandwell' looks like and to establish the approach we need to take to become a borough of sanctuary for all
- ▶ The consultation workshop included representation from local and national groups, residents, the council, and people with lived experience of seeking sanctuary in Sandwell to understand what issues meant the most to them. A second workshop is planned to take place in September to develop an action plan to sit beneath the strategy
- ▶ Draft strategy is live on Citizen Space for a six-week public consultation period (Tuesday 20 June until Tuesday 1 August)- <https://consultationhub.sandwell.gov.uk/housing/sandwell-sanctuary-strategy>

Becoming an awarded Council of Sanctuary

- ▶ Conversations have taken place with teams across the council to capture evidence to include in our application, we are currently collating this information to include in the application form
- ▶ Updating our contact at the national City of Sanctuary movement who will support us throughout the process and be involved in the assessment of our application

Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary Partnership Strategy

- The draft strategy sets out the Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary Partnership's commitments to welcoming and integrating individuals and families who arrive in Sandwell
- The strategy co-ordinates the approach of council officers and organisations, council-wide and borough-wide, delivering services to those arriving and settling in Sandwell



Questions

- What does a ‘welcoming Sandwell’ mean to you and your constituents?
- Are there any barriers that stop Sandwell being a welcoming Borough of Sanctuary in your wards? What actions could be taken by the council or community groups to tackle these?
- What is your overall feedback on the draft Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary strategy?
- Are there any things you think are missing from the strategy?
- How would councillors like to be involved in the Borough of Sanctuary Partnership going forward?

If you have any further questions or comments about the Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary Strategy and our application to become a Council of Sanctuary, please email Louis_Bebb@sandwell.gov.uk and Jennifer_Collins@sandwell.gov.uk

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Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

11 July 2023

Subject:	Tracking and Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations
Director:	Law and Governance Surjit Tour Surjir_tour@sandwell.gov.uk
Contact Officer:	Alexander Goddard – Scrutiny Lead Officer Alexander_Goddard@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







That the Board considers the items within the recommendations tracker and notes the progress on their implementation.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 To facilitate the effective monitoring of progress on responses to and press with implementation of recommendations made by the Board and identify where further action is required.
- 2.2 Effective monitoring of recommendations facilitates the evaluation of the impact of the scrutiny function overall.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people	The scrutiny function supports all of the objectives of the Corporate Plan by seeking to improve services for the people of Sandwell. It does this by influencing the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services. Effective monitoring of recommendations made supports this and allows scrutiny to evaluate its impact.
	People live well and age well	
	Strong resilient communities	
	Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods	
	A strong and inclusive economy	
	A connected and accessible Sandwell	

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The attached Appendix details the responses to and progress on the implementation of recommendations made by the scrutiny function.

5 Implications

Resources:	The resource implications will be detailed in the responses to recommendations as detailed in the appendix.
Legal and Governance:	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000. The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on the Executive to respond to Scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them.



Risk:	Any risk implications have been considered with the relevant Officer/Director/Cabinet Member/Risk Owner at the time the recommendations were referred to them by the Board. Any specific risks for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Equality:	Any equality implications have been considered with the relevant Officer/Director/Cabinet Member/Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team at the time the recommendations were referred to them by the Board. Any specific equality implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Health and Wellbeing:	Any health and wellbeing implications have been considered with the relevant Officer/Director/Cabinet Member/Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team at the time the recommendations were referred to them by the Board. Any specific health and wellbeing implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Climate Change:	Any climate change implications have been considered with the relevant Officer/Director/Cabinet Member/Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team at the time the recommendations were referred to them by the Board. Any specific climate change implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Corporate Parenting:	Any corporate parenting implications have been considered with the relevant Officer/Director/Cabinet Member/Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team at the time the recommendations were referred to them by the Board. Any specific corporate parenting implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Recommendations Tracker.

7 Background Papers

None.



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Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities 22/23

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Date	Item	Recommendation/ Action	Responsible Person	Notes
23 MAR 23	Implementation of the Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022- 26	That a breakdown of data relating to recorded sexual assault figures by each of Sandwell six towns is provided to the Board.	Tessa Mitchell	
	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy	That the Cabinet Member for Housing consider basing homelessness staff at Community Hubs and provide a presence at Sandwell libraries at suitable points throughout the week	Cllr Rollins/ Gillian Douglas	
		That an update on Homelessness be brought to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in 6 months' time.	Gillian Douglas	
		How long is the average response time after making contact with the Homelessness team and having been triaged?	Nigel Collumbell	
		What percentage of Homelessness service users are accommodated in Council housing?	Nigel Collumbell	
	Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group – Home Checks Review	That the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board be requested to consider looking at performance management around Home Checks.	Cllr Moore/ Cllr Fenton/ Democratic Services	
	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing	That the Director of Housing explore the use of assistive smart technology to support disabled tenants.	Gillian Douglas/ Manny Sehmbi	
That the Director of Housing investigate the feasibility of transferring applications to other individuals in the property with the same accessibility needs		Gillian Douglas/ Manny Sehmbi		
That a working group be held in early June to further consider the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing prior to its consideration by Cabinet.		Democratic Services	Workshop established meeting on 01 JUN 23	
23 FEB 23	Tree Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023- 2028	Checkpoint reports throughout the first 18 months of the Tree Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023- 2028 are provided to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board	Matt Huggins	
		Feedback from the survey of trees, to include impact on light to habitable rooms is provided to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board	Matt Huggins	

26 JAN 23	Launch- Plan of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre	Working group to be established to meet via MS Teams, to support and guide both Operational and Business Planning areas.	Ben Percival/ Democratic Services	Established MAR 23
		What action is being taken to re- open Langley Swimming facilities to the public? (Currently only open for swimming lessons).	Ben Percival	
	Playing Pitch Strategy	Short- life Working group to be established to meet via MS Teams, to support the completion, adoption and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy.	Ben Percival/ Democratic Services	Established MAR 23
	Update of Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to Tackle the Cost of Living Crisis	The Director of Public Health provide a dedicated contact officer to answer queries, share information and support councillors in relation to foodbank coordination as part of the Cost of Living Crisis.	Lisa McNally/ Liann Brookes-Smith	
		That the Director of Public Health explores providing financial support to foodbanks. List of foodbanks to be sent to Directorate of Public Health.	Lisa McNally/ Liann Brookes Smith	List sent 27 JAN 23
		That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board refer poverty proofing and financial support provision for schools to the Children's Services and education Scrutiny Board.	Democratic Services (Connor Robinson)	
		That the Director of Borough Economy arrange for letter's to be sent to library staff operating warm banks in recognition for their hard work.	Alice Davey	Confirmed as sent 01 FEB 23
		Data on schools accessing financial support for school trips and poverty proofing exercises is cascaded to the board.	Liann Brookes-Smith	
That the distribution of the Sandwell Herald to 'all households in Sandwell' is looked into as part of the corporate contract.		Communications (Matt More)		
	That a list of warm space usage by town is cascaded to the board, providing a statistical breakdown.	Liann Brookes Smith		
10 JAN 23	Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan	That the Directors of Housing and Regeneration and Growth investigate the feasibility of turning Council owned non- residential properties into residential units.	Gillian Douglas/ Tony McGovern	
		What proactive action, prior to mould being discovered, does the Directorate of Housing take to mould- proof Council owned housing stock?	Gillian Douglas	

24 NOV 22	Draft Housing Strategy 2023- 2028	That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board supports the implementation of Service Level agreements (SLAs) between the Council and temporary accommodation providers.	Gillian Douglas	Send to Cllr Padda
		That the Director of Housing explores the feasibility of a standardised response time for complaints.	Gillian Douglas	Send to Cllr Padda
		That the Directors of Housing, Borough Economy, and Regeneration and Growth work in collaboration to shape policy around neighbourhood development.	Gillian Douglas/ Alice Davey/ Tony McGovern	Send to Cllr Padda
		The Director of Housing considers Minute No. 47/22 (24 November 2022) as part of any formation of housing strategy and policy.	Gillian Douglas	Send to Cllr Padda
	Asset Management and Investment Programme for Housing 2023- 2024	That the Director of Law and Governance arranges training related to procurement exercises and local authority contracts to be offered to all councillors.	Surjit Tour	Update Cllr Allcock
		The Director of Housing reviews the robustness of the repairs triage process by the service with consideration for household and resident characteristics.	Gillian Douglas	
	Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group – Housing Hub Review	That the Director of Housing investigates means to reduce the cost of telephone calls to the Housing Hub, including the viability of a call-back service.	Gillian Douglas/ Nigel Collumbell	
		That the customer satisfaction levels of tenants receiving a service from the Housing Hub be monitored by the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.	Gillian Douglas/ Nigel Collumbell	
		What is the difference in costs between telephone service via Housing Hub and face- to- face service via Neighbourhood Office? Breakdown of costs to be provided.	Nigel Collumbell	Estimated average cost of transactions last year: Locals: £109 per transaction Telephone: £15 per transaction My Sandwell: £0.63 per transaction
	01 NOV 22	Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to	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.	Lisa McNally/ Leadership team

	Tackle the Cost of Living Crisis.	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.	Lisa McNally/ Leadership team	
		That the Cabinet Member for Children and Education be asked to conduct a review of demand and funding pressures on Youth Services across the borough.	Cllr Hackett/ Michael Jarratt	
		That the Directors of Borough Economy and Regeneration and Growth investigate the options for working with the Six Towns Credit Union to relocate into an empty property in West Bromwich, more central to the town centre and transport links.	Alice Davey/ Tony McGovern	
		That Directors investigate ways to better coordinate the existing foodbank network in Sandwell to ensure best use of available food resources.	Lisa McNally/ Leadership team	
		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.	Lisa McNally/ Liann Brookes Smith	
30 SEPT 22	Update on Review of Voluntary and Community Sector Grants	The Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board supports the development and introduction of an open and transparent Council funding process.	Gillian Douglas	
		The Director of Housing considers Minute No. 29/22 (30 September 2022) as part of any redesign of grant making processes.	Gillian Douglas	
		Working Group comprised of the members of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board be established to support and review the Council's approach to the cost of living crisis.		

Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

11 July 2023

Subject:	Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/24
Director:	Surjit Tour, Director of Law & Governance and Monitoring Officer
Contact Officer:	Alex Goddard, Scrutiny Lead Officer alexander_goddard@sandwell.gov.uk John Swann, Democratic Services Officer john_swann@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







- 1.1 That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/24 be approved.
- 1.2 That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board determine if it wishes to establish any working group(s) and, if so, the membership thereof.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to approve its work programme for 2023/24 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) were invited to attend a training and work programming session on 12 June 2023 for overview and scrutiny members. This included 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 topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.
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. Any legal and governance implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.
Risk:	Any implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.
Equality:	
Health and Wellbeing:	
Social Value:	
Climate Change:	
Corporate Parenting:	

7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/24.

8. Background Papers

None.



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Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/24



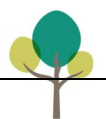
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Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities

Standing Items:-

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

Meeting Date	Item	Presented by
11 July 2023	Borough of Sanctuary	Louis Bebb/ Jennifer Collins
	Approval of 2023/ 24 Municipal Year Work Programme	Alex Goddard/ John Swann
12 September 2023	Asset Management Strategy	Sarah Ager
	Neighbourhood Management Model	Manny Sehmbi/ Marcia Sandel-Massey
	HMOs – Additional Licensing	Nigel Collumbell/ John Baker
	Future Provision of Leisure Services Update	Ben Percival
26 September 2023	Community Hubs	Helen Green
	Allotments Review and Strategy	Matt Huggins
	Green Spaces Strategy Annual Report 22/23. With Annual Programme of Works 23/24 as Appendix	Matt Huggins
9 November 2023	Sandwell Valley Masterplan Update	Matt Huggins



7 December 2023	Tenant Satisfaction Survey Outcomes	Nigel Collumbell
	Safer Green Spaces Strategy	Matt Huggins
11 January 2024	Heritage Strategy Journey Update	Dawn Winter
	Safer Sandwell Partnership	Chief Supt. Maria Fox/ Tessa Mitchell
14 March 2024	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing. HOLD.	Manny Sehmi/ Stuart Hall
	Fees & Charges (inc concessions) for LATC / Sandwell Aquatic Centre Update	Ben Percival

To be Scheduled

Reports of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group on:- (Nigel Collumbell/ Marianne Munro) – (Dependent upon T+LSG Work Programming – timescales TBC)

- Building Safety Review
- Responsive Repairs & Customer Satisfaction Review

Housing Hub Review (Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group) - Implementation of Recommendations Update. – Nigel Collumbell

Playing Pitch Strategy –OCT/ NOV 23 - working group to re-convene (Ben Percival)

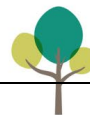
- To incorporate all weather sports facilities (Indoor/ Astro turf). TBC.

Working Group:

- Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing.

Annual Review 2023/ 24:

- HMO's – Additional Licensing

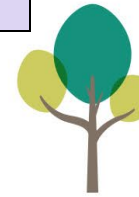




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The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive:-

	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
13	Award of Contract for use of Enforcement Agents Contact Officer: Carl Jones Director: Simone Hines – Director of Finance	Cabinet – Finance & Resources (Cllr Piper)		12 July 2023		



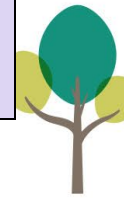
	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
15	<p>Green Spaces Strategy: 22/23 Annual Report</p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet – Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>12 July 2023</p>		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
16	<p>Green Spaces Annual Programme of Works 23/24</p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet – Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>12 July 2023</p>		



Page 74	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
17	Commonwealth Games Legacy Plan Contact Officer: Alexander Oxley Director: Tony McGovern, Director Regeneration and Growth	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		12 July 2023		
19	Community Hubs Contact Officer: Director of Business Strategy	Cabinet - Public Health and Communities (Cllr Khatun)		12 July 2023		

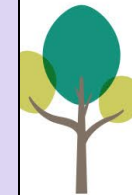


ONE COUNCIL
ONE TEAM

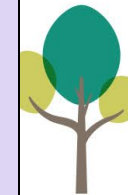
	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
25	<p>Octopus Affordable Housing Investment Scheme</p> <p>Contact Officer: Allison Blakeway</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet – Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>		<p>12 July 2023</p>		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
26	Animal Welfare Policy – Forge Mill Farm Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Leader of the Council (Cllr Carmichael)		13 September 2023		
33	Professional Services Contract PSP4 Contact Officer: Robin Weare Director: Alice Davey - Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet – Environment and Highways (Cllr Millard)	No	13 September 2023	No	Report



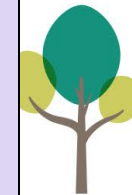
	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
35	Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary Strategy Contact Officer: Louis Bebb Director: Gillian Douglas - Director of Housing	Cabinet – Housing and Built Environment (Cllr Rollins)	Public	13 September 2023	Pre (SNAC July 11 th 2023)	Sandwell Borough of Sanctuary Strategy
36	Fishing Policy Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		September 2023		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
37	<p>Events Governance and Safety Advisory Group Terms of Reference</p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>13 September 2023</p>		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
38	<p>Safer Green Spaces Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>13 September 2023</p>		
39	<p>Allotments Review and Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>13 September 2023</p>		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
40	<p>Sandwell Valley Master Plan and 10 Year Business Plan</p> <p>Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>13 September 2023</p>		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
42	<p>Playing Pitch Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan / Ben Percival</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>13 September 2023</p>	<p>SNAC</p>	



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
43	Feasibility Reports – WMCA – cultural facilities & Cultural Development Fund Contact Officer: Dawn Winter Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		13 September 2023		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
44	<p>Haden Hill Rebuild</p> <p>Contact Officer: Gemma Ryan / Ben Percival</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p>	<p>Cabinet – Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p>		<p>13 September 2023</p>		



	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
46	<p>Future Use of Smethwick Swimming Centre – Options</p> <p>Contact Officer: Clinton Felicio</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern, Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>September 2023</p>	<p>N/A</p>	<p>Cabinet Report</p>

