

Agenda

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Tuesday, 12 September 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

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

3 Additional Items of Business

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

4 Neighbourhood Partnerships Team Update

7 - 42

To consider and comment upon the update in relation to the development of the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team.



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|---|--|---------|
| 5 | Haden Hill Leisure Centre Rebuild Options | 43 - 60 |
| | To consider and comment upon the three presented options for the rebuild of Haden Hill Leisure Centre within the financial envelope available. | |
| 6 | Future Provision of Leisure Services | 61 - 66 |
| | To consider and comment upon the settlement of the Future Provision of Leisure Services until 2027. | |
| 7 | Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Action Tracker | 67 - 76 |
| | To consider and note progress on the implementation of actions and recommendations. | |
| 8 | Work Programme 2023- 24 and Cabinet Forward Plan | 77 - 98 |
| | Standing item to consider the work programme of the Board and 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, Younis and Brown (Co- opted Member)

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

12 September 2023

| | |
|-------------------------|---|
| Subject: | Neighbourhood Partnerships Team |
| Director: | Director of Housing Director Gillian Douglas |
| Contact Officer: | Housing Services Manager, Nigel Collumbell nigel_collumbell@sandwell.gov.uk Business Manager – Community Partnerships, Manny Sehmbi manny_sehmbi@sandwell.gov.uk Neighbourhood Partnerships Coordinator, Marcia Sandel-Massey marcia_sandelmasey@sandwell.gov.uk |

1. Recommendations


- 1.1 That the Board considers the update in relation to the development of the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team (NPT).

2. Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 Following a successful pilot in Rowley Regis and Wednesbury, a roll out across all six towns of Sandwell was implemented.

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

| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>Best start in life for children and young people</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Supporting to improve quality of life • Supporting children and young people to access services • Enabling services to be accessible • Supports development of grassroot services aligned to needs of children and young people locally |
|  | <p>People live well and age well</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Support to improve quality of life through codesign of services • Reduce loneliness and isolation through creating local engagement opportunities and activities • Capacity building through community development activity, training and information • Improving health and wellbeing through developing local, accessible community activity, events and services • Supporting resident-led initiatives • More empowered communities through development of community-based support groups |
|  | <p>Strong resilient communities</p> <p>Through community development activity, it will strengthen communities and enable:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Stronger relationships between the council and tenants and residents • Enhanced information and communication • An opportunity for tenants and residents to develop skills • Develop a greater sense of place within the community • Volunteering opportunities/development • Greater satisfaction with local area • Stronger neighbourhood infrastructure through strengthened and supported community and voluntary sector |

| | |
|---|---|
|  | <p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Improvement to services for tenants and residents • Better value for money • Improved customer experience and satisfaction • Improved customer loyalty |
|  | <p>A strong and inclusive economy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A more connected and joined up community and voluntary sector delivering services relevant to Sandwell |
|  | <p>A connected and accessible Sandwell</p> <p>Through community development activity, communities have become more empowered and confident to raise local issues but also develop local solutions:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Involvement with raising concerns about local road layout and infrastructure • Assisting with consultation regarding major works planned • Developing focus groups to ensure their voice is heard. |

4. Background

4.1 The Neighbourhood Partnerships Pilot was initiated in Rowley Regis in September 2020 and due to success was further developed in Wednesbury in April 2021. Within the first 12 months, it was evident that the pilot was making a significant impact at a neighbourhood level and a roll out was agreed. A full team, consisting of two officers per town, has been in place since November 2022. **See Appendix 1 – Neighbourhood Partnerships Team, Structure Chart.**

5. Current Delivery

5.1 The Neighbourhood Partnerships Team continue to work extensively with local communities, tenants and residents as well

as the voluntary and community sector (VCS), ensuring that our tenants and residents voices are heard.

- 5.2 The team are skilled at identifying local priorities and utilising the Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) approach to deliver neighbourhood management.
- 5.3 The work of the team is also aligned to the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 and in particular to strengthening the tenants voice, engagement within Housing Services and being treated with respect.
- 5.4 The team currently delivers across all six towns, supporting local residents, and acting as the catalyst to establish community-led activity in areas that have untapped social activists.
- 5.5 The team are supporting the cost of living agenda by developing 'Welcoming Spaces', enabling communities to access food and encouraging access to volunteering.

6. Impact

See Appendix 2, Neighbourhood Partnerships Team, End of Year Report, for more detailed examples.

- 6.1.1 The team complements the co-production agenda and has prioritised a 'doing with' rather than 'doing to' way of working with communities. By avoiding the 'top-down' style of neighbourhood management, the team are making a significant contribution to the council's Strategic Objectives, including *Strong Resilient Communities*.
- 6.1.2 The team continue to support key impacts of Covid by working closely with communities and VCS organisations to develop projects that support; improving mental health, combating social isolation and improving digital inclusion. The team enabled the delivery of Cost of Living training that was rolled out to all Warm Space providers across the borough.

- 6.1.3 The team are utilising previously inaccessible spaces and working in conjunction with Housing staff, passionate tenants and VCS groups who want to influence change and ensure that communal spaces are becoming more accessible and utilised by local people.
- 6.1.4 The team are delivering on key requirements as part of the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023 to ensure that Sandwell's tenants are being empowered to influence local services.
- 6.1.5 The team have developed strong relationships with the VCS and have supported many new groups. A total of 223 VCS groups have been supported in the last 12 months. The team have supported new groups to become formally constituted and receive funds from both the council and external grant giving bodies.
- 6.1.6 The team have led on establishing and guiding the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group (TLSG). In 16 months, this has enabled tenants and leaseholders to influence local services and hold senior officers to account. A total of 1,420 hours has been committed, with a monetary value of £22,393.
- 6.1.7 The team have worked collaboratively and for the first time have supported a TRA to successfully apply for Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) funding. This approach to co-production and community empowerment demonstrates a commitment to Asset Based Community Development.
- 6.1.8 The success and feedback from the program has led to the TRA continuing the service throughout the 6 weeks summer holidays. The scheme is currently underway and on average, 40 children from across Sandwell attend each day.
- 6.1.9 The TRA, supported by the team and WMCA Digital equipment funding have been able to help families become more digitally included by helping them to access the data bank facility, preloaded wireless dongles and access a computer to update their job searched and UC portal. Further relationships have been strengthened and forged with organisations such as LEAP, South

Staffs Water, Healthy Homes Sandwell, Sandwell FIS, The Albion Foundation.

- 6.2.1 The team worked tirelessly to alleviate the cost of living crisis.. For example, in Tipton working collaboratively with LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership), South Staffs Water and Welfare Rights, they delivered financial support totalling £113,606.50.
- 6.2.2 The team are instrumental on the Armed Forces Partnership Panel, ensuring that the Council is upholding its new Covenant Duty that came into force in November 2022. (The Armed Forces Act 2021 imposes a duty on local authorities when exercising certain aspects of public functions in the three key areas of Housing, Healthcare and Education)
- 6.2.3 The team have worked closely with several VCS groups to support and back their applications for the King's Awards for Voluntary Service, celebrating and recognising outstanding work delivered by Sandwell's VCS groups and volunteers.
- 6.2.4 Working with colleagues in Community Safety they supported the development of the Sandwell Hate Crime Awareness video. It was also developed in partnership with the VCS. The video is to support Voluntary organisations who can then support communities/victims. It can be found on Sandwell Council's YouTube channel.
- 6.2.5 At Coyne Road / Manifoldia Grange, the team assisted the local community in addressing neighbourhood development issues and also integrating new residents of Manifoldia Grange (temporary accommodation) into the community. They worked with local residents to develop a programme of activities at the centre, including family support, community health and social activities by utilising ABCD approach.
- 6.2.6 At Addenbrooke Court the team have worked to enable residents to utilise a community flat that had been closed for some time. They have built a strong relationship with some tenant volunteers

who have carried outdoor to work with other residents. The team have supported and nurtured the group throughout and connected them with another C.I.C in the area. They have organised regular drop-ins, arts and crafts and a series of litter picks. This has culminated in Member support and raising the profile of the area so that senior officers have recently been able to re-open a basketball court that had been closed for over 2 years.

6.2.7 The team have worked in a co-productive way with Housing Service Officers to encourage tenant and resident engagement on the Ridgeway Estate. Newsletters have been produced to ensure people on the estate know who to contact such as reporting fly-tipped waste. Historically involvement has been low but as a result of intensive work regular meetings and walkabouts now take place. Building trust and rapport in any community is difficult and this has taken time to break down barriers and suspicion, but the ice is melting and there now appears to be a positive mood. This way of working is also about to start on the Moat Farm estate in partnership with Black Country Housing Group (BCHG) and a launch litter pick event is due to take place during the Tipton Safer Six week in September 2023.

6.2.8 The Tipton Love Where you live project has evolved with partners such as Summerhill Primary Academy, Tibbington TRA, SERCO, Tipton Litterwatch, Tipton Neighbourhood Partnership Team, the Police and the local PCSO's have all been involved in regular litter picks across the Princes End Ward. Children from the school have also planted wildflower seeds and have worked closely as part of the ECO Council at Summerhill Primary School, the children were recently presented by the Mayor of Sandwell with a certificate of recognition and reading books donated by Mother Earth and Dog, Duck and Cat, environment education providers again as a way of saying "thank you". More events are planned for 2023 into 2024 to ensure continuity and to make sure the areas in which the children live, and play is safe and somewhere to be proud of.

7. Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Resources: | There are no specific resource implications arising from this report.. |
| Legal and Governance: | In relation to tenants it is set out in the Social Housing Regulation Act 2023. |
| Risk: | There are no specific risk implications arising from this report. |
| Equality: | The Neighbourhood Partnership Team have developed local relationships with communities and VCS which has strengthened local engagement, participation and development with all communities enabling inequalities to be addressed and challenging stigmatisation. |
| Health and Wellbeing: | There are no specific health and wellbeing implications arising from this report. |
| Social Value: | There are no specific social value implications arising from this report. |
| Climate Change: | There are no specific climate change implications arising from this report. |
| Corporate Parenting: | There are no specific Corporate Parenting implications arising from this report.. |

8. Appendices

Appendix 1. Neighbourhood Partnerships Team, Structure Chart

Appendix 2. Neighbourhood Partnerships Team, End of Year Report 2022/23.

9. Background Papers

None.



Neighbourhood Partnerships Team



OLDBURY

BAL DHILLON
 Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer
 bal_dhillon@sandwell.gov.uk
 07853 174949

JACQUES MATENSI
 Community Development Worker
 jacques_matensi@sandwell.gov.uk
 07789 814643

ROWLEY REGIS

ALEX POWELL
 Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer
 alex_powell@sandwell.gov.uk
 07774 660749

DEBORAH UFTON
 Community Development Worker
 deborah_ufton@sandwell.gov.uk
 07824 318645

SMETHWICK

MARIANNE MONRO
 Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer
 marianne_monro@sandwell.gov.uk
 07766 421438

TOSLIMA NASRIN
 Administration Officer
 toslima_nasrin@sandwell.gov.uk
 07774 658134

TIPTON

PAUL SMITH
 Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer
 paul3_smith@sandwell.gov.uk
 07884 547085

REBECCA NASH
 Community Development Worker
 rebecca_nash@sandwell.gov.uk
 07824 308931

WEDNESBURY

ALISON HARTSHORNE
 Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer
 alison_hartshorne@sandwell.gov.uk
 07976 960077

VEENA DEVI
 Community Development Worker
 veena1_devi@sandwell.gov.uk
 07554 820717

WEST BROMWICH

FRANKIE WILLIAMS
 Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer
 frankie_williams@sandwell.gov.uk
 07385 490864

MARIANNE KULL
 Community Development Worker
 marianne_kull@sandwell.gov.uk
 07884 504020

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Neighbourhood Partnership Team

END OF YEAR REPORT

JUNE

20
23



Neighbourhood Partnership Team

The Neighbourhood Partnership Team are multi-skilled and experienced officers with a track record of success and delivery across Sandwell’s vibrant and diverse communities. The team has been delivering borough-wide since 2022, following a successful pilot in Rowley Regis and Wednesbury.

The team is guided and managed by Marcia Sandel-Massey with two officers in each of the borough’s six towns. Each town team consists of a Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer and a Community Development Worker.

The team are passionate about Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) and they are committed to engaging with and building the capacity of the people, places and organisations within their towns. They have worked with and supported a total of 223 community and voluntary sector organisations this year alone.



The teams work aligns to Vision 2030 and the Council’s Strategic objectives. There is strong dialogue with our voluntary and community sector partners to explore new ways of doing things. They are keen to explore creative approaches about what can be done differently, and they empower tenants, residents, and local groups to identify local need and help people to help themselves.

| | | | |
|---|---|--|--|
| |  <p>THE BEST START IN LIFE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE</p> |  <p>QUALITY HOMES IN THRIVING NEIGHBOURHOODS</p> |  <p>PEOPLE LIVE WELL AND AGE WELL</p> |
|  <p>STRONG RESILIENT COMMUNITIES</p> |  <p>A STRONG AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMY</p> |  <p>A CONNECTED AND ACCESSIBLE SANDWELL</p> | |

They work effectively as catalysts within their neighbourhoods to bring people and organisations together so that they can work co-productively. This report highlights some of their excellent work over the last 12 months.

Community Partnerships and Support Services Team

“Building strong and sustainable neighbourhoods through creating partnerships, developing prevention-focused services and empowering local communities.”

The role of the team is to transform and develop services by making the best possible use of Sandwell’s voluntary and community sector offer. It involves building strong partnerships and potentially redesigning services. The sections below set out some of this year’s highlights and the diverse range of work they have been involved in across Sandwell’s neighbourhoods.

Tenant Engagement work

The voice of tenants has been an integral part of the work of the team over the past year. It demonstrates how the team delivers the council’s strategic objectives: **Quality Homes in Thriving Neighbourhoods and Strong Resilient Communities.**

The team has led on the development of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group (TLSG) which consists of 8 tenants and 2 leaseholders, building their confidence and providing support to enable them to scrutinise and report on Housing Services, including the call centre and the home checks process. The team has delivered training and facilitated meetings with senior housing staff including service leads and the assistant director.



Members of the Tenant and Leaseholders Scrutiny Group, May 2023.



During the summer of 2022, the Neighbourhood Partnerships Team also recruited and developed a group of Tenant Auditors Group (TAG). TAG consists of 5 tenants. During the autumn of 2022, acknowledging gaps in the initial training of the group, team members also appointed a key partner, SCIPS, to provide additional support to the group. To date, the Tenant Auditors have completed one full Audit on how to end a Tenancy. They are currently finalising their second more in depth Audit on fire safety in high-rise blocks.

For both the TLSG and TAG, the team have ensured that the tenant volunteers have been provided with all the necessary information they needed in order to deliver a thorough assessment of services that enabled them to reach their own conclusions and recommendations.

The majority of recommendations made by both groups are due to be implemented during the next financial year.

In addition to these two formal structures, the team has supported tenants to be involved in other consultations including:

- Review of the Annual Report 2021/22
- Review of Housing Website design/layout
- Five Year Housing Strategy 2023-2028
- Planning for Sandwell Tenant Conference 2023
- Changes to Disabled Facilities Grant



The Team has also provided advice and guidance to colleagues in asset management, consulting residents of our high-rise buildings on building safety. Looking forward, they will in the coming year be recruiting more tenant auditors and providing further opportunities for tenants to engage in the improvement of housing services.

The Neighbourhood Partnerships Team deliver on all 6 of the council's Strategic Objectives with a particular focus on:



Strong, Resilient Communities

Asset Based Community Development (ABCD) in Action

The ABCD approach links in directly with the council's strategic objective to Build Strong and Resilient Communities. It focuses on the strengths and assets of a community and its own unique ability to understand and address its 'problems' and with the encouragement of an ABCD practitioner from the Neighbourhood Partnerships team, a community realised its own unique ability to manage and resolve an issue that concerned them.

The summarised case study below sets out the journey of how the ABCD approach was embraced by a Mosque in Rowley Regis and how the Neighbourhood Partnership's NPO was instrumental in ensuring this approach was adopted. A simple and non-ABCD way to address the problem might be **'let's find an external provider to deliver training'** but questions can be asked about how that approach serves, strengthens and builds resilience within a community in the longer term. This case study demonstrates how the team is delivering on ABCD and the council's strategic objectives: Strong and Resilient Communities and The Best Start in Life for Children and Young People.

ABCD Case Study - Rowley Regis

Mosque Elders asked the Neighbourhood Partnerships Officer (NPO) for assistance with a problem they had with young people feeling unsafe on their way to Mosque.



The group, which consisted of younger members of the Mosque, two local police officers and the NPO officer, had meetings over the next seven weeks. Rather than simply identifying an organisation who could deliver the training, the meetings adopted the ABCD approach. They realised that a 'personal safety' course would be more appropriate than 'self-defence' and they identified the strengths of those around the table, the type of content that the course needed and who should be involved in the delivery of the course.

Clear Vision and Objectives

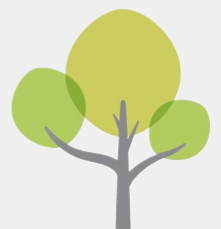
The NPO was able to assist the group in identifying the main issues and then develop clear objectives to address them. To enable the group to apply for funding, a constituted group 'The Sacred Chain' was established with assistance from the NPO.

Most importantly, emails, letters and funding applications were compiled by different members of the Sacred Chain Group and assistance was given by the NPO on an 'as required' basis and in a sensitive manner to encourage ownership.

The NPO encouraged the group to work together by embracing the already existing ‘brotherhood’ and appreciation of each other’s skills and abilities whilst learning from each other. The NPO assisted the group to devise a 10-week course, with an additional week for presentations, for young people aged 8 – 12.

By asking pertinent questions, the NPO assisted the group to identify costs including venue, resources, presentations and refreshments. Sources of funding were identified and the NPO offered guidance in the completion and submission of the forms.

The course commenced on 2nd November 2022 and concluded successfully on 18th January 2023 with a presentation evening attended by suggested parties given by the NPO along with the rationale for their invite, this included, partner organisations, current funders and possible future funders: the Director of Housing, Councillor for Cradley Heath, First Aid Course Director, uniformed services, the Fitness Instructor and representatives from SCVO.



Litter Pick with Blackheath Primary School



The Rowley Regis Community Development Worker (CDW) has been attending weekly tea and toast sessions with parents, carers, and young children at Blackheath Primary School's Tea and Toast sessions, run by the school's Parent Friends Association (PFA). This has been with the initial intent of providing Cost of Living Support and delivering a session on Better Off Sandwell/Supporting Sandwell/Resilient Residents/My Sandwell and reporting repairs. With a hope of further community development opportunities being created.

As the team works within the scope of Asset Based Community Development (ABCD), instead of organising a one off session that people may not turn up to or care about the content, the CDW has been attending regularly to build trusted relationships. This has enabled people to feel comfortable enough to open up about their own experiences, find out what resources they already access and would like to know about, and hear the voices of tenants and residents. This has encouraged local people to share their concerns and take action to address what matters to them.

By using ABCD questioning techniques, it became clear that there were parents of 'Lockdown babies' who felt isolated and wanted to strengthen relationships with other parents, concerns about the six weeks holiday being an expensively long time to fill with young children and an interest by one of the group to litter pick as a means to build social circles.

Partnering with Tipton Litter Watch, who loaned the equipment, the CDW organised a Litter Pick and invited the group to attend. Eight adults and five children, age range nine months to sixty plus, attended. It provided an opportunity for people to get outside and chat, side by side and to discuss issues that they were not comfortable sharing in the closed environment of the sessions.

Afterwards, one person suggested involving the school community in September, with a view to have regular litter picks and use as an opportunity to grow the PFA and to teach the children to take ownership of their local community. This is something a few have offered to be involved with, with support from the CDW. They also had ideas for a picnic in Britannia Park over the summer holidays and the CDW has offered to support with tea and toast sessions in the community room at St Giles court, with tenants of both St Giles and Moorlands Court invited too.

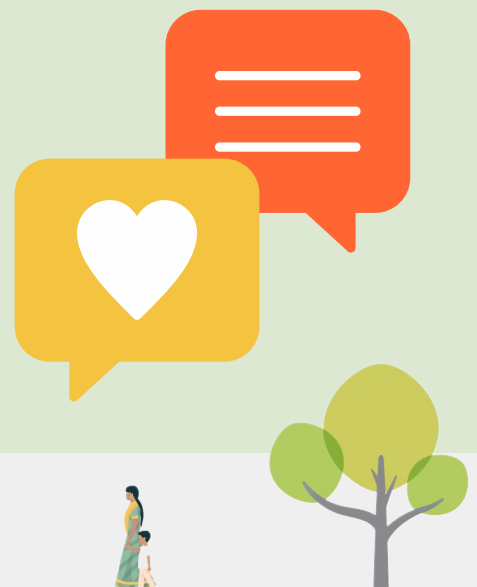
Reflection

On reflection, if a one-hour session on Cost of Living Support had been delivered at the school, without having built these trusted relationships, it might have had low attendance and not been relevant to those that attended. Now we can deliver a relevant Cost of Living session that can make a difference and build on the good foundations laid. Relationships have formed/ strengthened and there's a sense of stronger social cohesion within the group. There was also an added 'unforeseen benefit' as some of the parents shared conversations about their experiences with Autism and ADHD. This led to them setting up a new WhatsApp group to enable them to stay in contact and support each other.

With further opportunities of community development promised. This is a process that can be replicated and offered to other schools in Sandwell.

Feedback from the group

'It's useful to the group as a whole to have you there as you have the ability to access information more easily than some of the people at the club. You are an 'approachable face of the Council', and a welcome presence to the group.
Thank you'



Celebrating Volunteers Builds Strong Resilient Communities

The town teams are proactive in recognising the impact of local activism and voluntary time contributed in the community.

The Oldbury Neighbourhood Partnerships team initiated and organised the Oldbury Community Awards to celebrate and acknowledge the significant impact that the community and voluntary sector continue to make across the town. A total of 32 nominations were received; this demonstrates both the level of volunteer activity and the strong working relationships that have been established with the local community by the Oldbury Neighbourhood Partnerships team.



Oldbury Community Awards

Do you know someone whose voluntary work in Oldbury makes a difference to others?

Nominations are now open to recognise Oldbury volunteers who have helped others over the last two years.
You can nominate an individual or an organisation.
Individual nominations must be for someone who volunteers and lives in Oldbury or who volunteers to benefit the people of Oldbury.
Nominations for a group or organisation must be Oldbury based and benefit Oldbury people.

Deadline for nominations to be completed and submitted by Friday 19 May 2023 at 5pm.

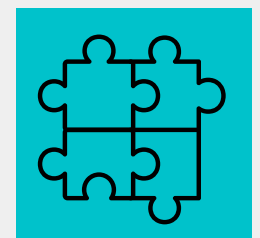
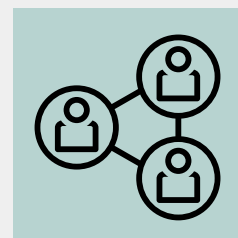
Resident-led initiatives

In Rowley Regis, the team were contacted by Housing Officers who requested their support for issues affecting Churchill Drive residents.

The residents requested *full* closure of the alleyway behind their homes; one end of the same alley had been closed for 10 years.

The work included:

- Supporting 19 residents to organise themselves into a group
- Supporting the group when setting up meetings with SMBC Officers and elected members
- Identifying the issues and the long and short-term solutions
- Supported residents to establish an ‘Alley Watch’ group using social platforms to contact each other when there were incidents in the alley. This was an alternative to ‘Street Watch’ which the group were critical of.
- This is an example of the team building strong and resilient communities and then empowering them to develop the skills and capacity to solve issues within their own communities.



Quality Homes in Thriving Neighbourhoods

Partnership Working

The Wednesbury team have taken part in several tenant/resident engagement sessions with Neighbourhood staff, the local Police team and the Community Transport initiative 'Let's Chat' bus. The team have carried out Fire Safety surveys in Russell House and assisted Neighbourhood staff with tenant engagement in Thorn Close. They engaged with local residents and carried out door-to-door surveys on behalf of Bilston Road TRA. They continue to support the group to attract new members.



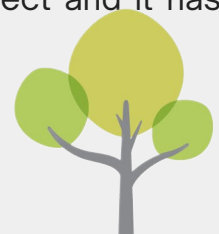
The team are proud of their strong relationships with partners in the town. A recent initiative alongside Public Health and Riverside Housing is to develop menopause support groups in all 3 wards known as 'Blooming Menopause.'

The Wednesbury Neighbourhood Partnerships team are a key part of the Multistory working group 'We are Wednesbury' which is a multi-agency group working on events throughout the year. The group also includes resident and local business representatives. The team supported 'Wednesbury Day' on 16th June which celebrated the town's history and re-development, and will also support a Lantern Parade and other events later in the year.

Surveys are also being completed with residents in Hill Top to identify their priorities for Hill Top Community Centre. It is hoped that the centre can be accessed by more residents in the local community in the future, with new activities for them to enjoy.

In Tipton, the team have worked towards strategic objective: People Live Well and Age Well. They supported Just Straight Talk to identify appropriate locations to deliver services to Tipton Residents in Ocker Hill.

Links and introductions were made with other networks including Beat it Percussion. This work has continued at Walker Grange where Just Straight Talk are tendering for funds to deliver digital project support in care homes in Tipton. The team are supporting the work as it enables and empowers residents to learn new skills including the importance of online safety, paying bills digitally, online shopping and making health appointments. The impact of this work has served to combat isolation, encourage local residents to reconnect and it has enabled Tipton's residents to stay connected and learn new skills.



Wednesbury Day

Wednesbury Day was a celebration of the history of the town with a focus on art, music and dance. It was organised by Multistory, with the assistance of partners and community groups in the town. The event was opened by the Mayor and local councillors were also present. The town centre had colourful stalls with competitions and activities, there were also performances by a brass band and a dance company - and there was street entertainment from Wednesbury favourites the Lollipop ladies, and 2 rather large pigeons! We engaged with various partners and the general public to make them aware of our role and to discuss priorities and opinions.



Wednesbury Library was the focal point for a celebration of all the arts and crafts produced by local groups. We were able to connect with the various groups who had items on display, make introductions and encourage partnership working, also to meet people attending the exhibition and encourage them to get involved in local groups.

Wednesbury Museum and Art Gallery also had displays of art and crafts – we spoke to providers to see how some of their work might be adapted to deliver a session with a local community group.

The day ended unexpectedly when we were called upon to assist staff from the Art Gallery to deal with a young man who was experiencing suicidal thoughts. We were unable to convince him to stay at the venue, but fortunately were able to track his movements and summon emergency services to attend the area to take him to a place of safety.



Communal Spaces

The team have engaged with tenants and explored opportunities to reinvigorate and reclaim communal spaces where they live. This has been especially evident in high-rise blocks. In Rowley Regis the team engaged with tenants of a high-rise block to raise awareness that they fund the community flat through their rents and therefore should play a more pivotal role in deciding what happens in their communal spaces. The team engaged with tenants about the spaces and produced some model protocols and community room risk assessments that would enable colleagues from the team to share good practice that will in turn empower council tenants and enable them to explore their communal areas and how they can be utilised to meet the needs of the surrounding community.

In Oldbury, the team identified an under-utilised community room in Lancaster House. They organised an inclusive coffee afternoon in March to invite all residents in the block. They began conversations to find out which tenants wanted to get involved in planning and make a difference in how the community space could be used.

Supporting Councillors

The Neighbourhood Partnerships Team support their local councillors in variety of ways. Councillor Suzanne Hartwell (Oldbury) contacted the Tipton Neighbourhood Partnership Team about a neighbour who wanted to recognise the fantastic work of another neighbour who regularly cleans neighbours' bins, tends to flowerbeds, disinfects bins, and put them out for collection.



The team from Tipton organised a visit from the Mayor and they worked closely with the family and local community to ensure that a co-ordinated event took place that celebrated the achievements of this individual.



People Live Well and Age Well

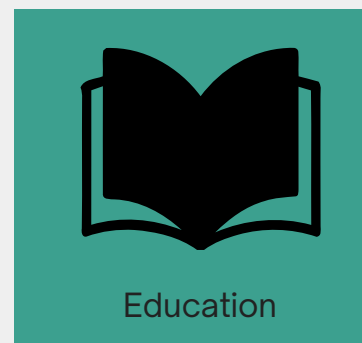
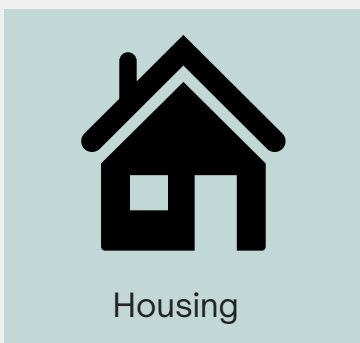
Wellbeing, Mental health and Suicide Prevention

A combination of factors, including the strain of the macro-economic situation, has increased demand on household incomes. Along with other factors, this had a ripple effect, placing increased demand on both voluntary sector and the NHS mental health services.



Armed Forces

The Armed Forces Act 2021 is new legislation that imposes a duty on local authorities when exercising certain aspects of public functions in the three key areas:



The Covenant Duty came into force in November 2022 and it seeks to raise awareness of how Service life can impact on the Armed Forces community and how disadvantages can arise when members of that community are trying to access key services that are often provided by local authorities.

The NPO within the Oldbury team continues to work closely with the Armed Forces Partnership Panel and Sandwell MBC officers to ensure consideration is given to the Armed Forces Covenant duty and the requirement to provide due regard to the Armed Forces Community.

The impact of the new Armed Forces Act and work of the NPO across the borough is delivering on the council’s strategic objectives: The Best Start in Life for Children and Young People, by supporting children and young people to access services and improve their health and wellbeing; People Live Well and Age Well, by supporting communities to access suitable housing so that they stay independent for longer; Strong and Resilient Communities, by supporting the integration of communities and building cohesive neighbourhoods.



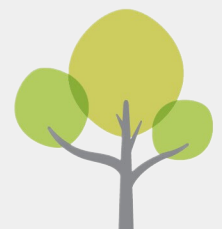
Tanhouse Community Centre Fun Day

Over a period of several months the West Bromwich Community Development Worker (CDW) has been working with and supporting the Management Committee at Tanhouse Community Centre. During this time the management committee discussed the need to increase and develop the usage of the centre. To understand the views of local residents, the CDW suggested to the committee that a Fun Day, held at the centre, would be an opportunity to showcase the existing activities on offer and to talk to residents to determine what additional activities they would access if they were available at the centre. It was also an opportunity for organisations to promote their services. A short questionnaire would be developed which would help to identify potential future activities and centre users.

Following the agreement to hold a fun day that should attract children and families, the CDW established a planning group to develop the event. She invited partner organisations to come along on the day to promote their services and she also developed a short questionnaire seeking the views of visitors coming along on the day. The questionnaire will be used to support the committee to develop activities and services at the centre.



On the day more than 100 people attended the centre, many of whom were unaware of the activities currently on offer there. The team distributed the centre's programme of activities to all who attended and during the day people moved around the various rooms which enabled them to see what space was available for hire, visit the library and take part in the activities on offer during the event.



To ensure people spoke to the service providers, they were handed the names of organisations promoting their services. The CDW used a sticker system which she designed so that visitors had to collect a stamp from each of the organisations for them to enter into the prize draw. As a result, Barnardo's registered 8 new families to their service. Parents who were unaware of the Youth Service and Powered by Can, an organisation which works with young people at the centre were able to speak with the leaders of both services to find out more about how their children could access the sessions. The Albion Foundation expressed an interest in running activities from Tanhouse Community Centre.

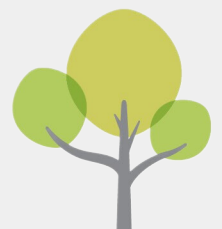
As a result of the fun day, new people were introduced to what Tanhouse Community Centre offers and the CDW has been able to identify that health and wellbeing activities, sporting activities and social/ friendships groups are of interest to local residents. These are activities that can be discussed and developed with the committee and partner organisations. The Albion Foundation are also looking to run Fit Baggies Sessions at the centre from September 2023. The Fun Day also helped to raise the profile of the centre as well as demonstrated the need to promote the centre and the activities which take place there.



One of our raffle prize winners



Children at the craft table being run by the Youth Service with a helping hand from the Police Community Support officers



Funding Leveraged

The team have supported groups to apply for funds from both the council and external grant giving bodies.

In Oldbury, the team have helped leverage in a total of £22,526 between 5 voluntary sector organisations. They have helped with the application process and provided information on a range of initiatives including fundraising opportunities, getting involved with local events and being part of the Oldbury Network.

In Wednesbury, the team have worked consistently to ensure that local groups have received information about appropriate grants, and they have been supported by the team with the application process. The team are proud to have supported a total of 30 local groups and organisations to access funding this year. Some of the highlights in Wednesbury include:



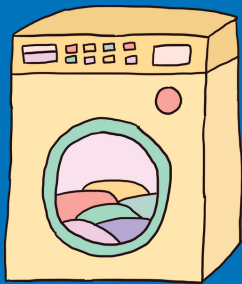
| Organisation | Funding | Status |
|---|--|--|
| Wednesbury Bowling Club | £1,150 | Completed- Portable toilets & shed/shelter to protect players in bad weather |
| Scouts 617 | £2500 | Successful for camping equipment |
| St Francis Church Friar Park | £3,500 Awards for All | Completed – Awaiting group to purchase chairs & tables |
| Wednesbury Cultural Hub | £3,000 Healthy Lifestyle Grant | Ongoing |
| Wednesbury SOR | £3,200 Awards for All | Completed - Equipment & chairs |
| Let’s Dance Again, Barlow Rd Allotments, Leabrook Church, Millennium Centre, St Mary’s Church, St Bart’s Church Hall, Knights of Wednesbury | £3,500 Kings Coronation, 7 applications, £500 each | Successful bids for King’s Coronation events |

In Tipton, the team have worked alongside LEAP (Local Energy Advice Partnership), South Staffs Water and Welfare Rights and by doing so they have been able to deliver financial support totalling £113,606.50. This has been achieved through signposting, empowering residents to talk and ensuring that an increasing number of residents are able to access the services that have enabled them to make such significant savings.

WHITE GOODS AND BOILER REPLACEMENT SAVINGS

63
Referrals

57
Home visits



| Free Replacement White Goods | Free additional White good Replacement | Free Boiler Replacement | Additional Support with prepayment credit (£150) | Additional Misc Support |
|---|--|------------------------------|--|-------------------------|
| 45 | 34 | 2 | 35 | 57 |
| 45 x £249 = £11,205 | 34 x £699 = £23,766 | 2 x £1200 = £2,400 | 35 x £150 = £5,250 | |
| TOTAL SAVINGS £42,621 (Estimated) | | | | |



NB. Old White goods are taken away by LEAP during replacement

Average Fridge Freezer Cost **£249.00** Average Washer/Dryer Cost **£699.00**

WHITE GOOD/ BULKY ITEM DISPOSAL COST SAVINGS (SMBC RATES VIA MY SANDWELL)

| 1 item | 2 items |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|
| 11 x £15.10 = £166.10 | 34 x £22.60 = £768.40 |

TOTAL SAVINGS

£934.50



COMPOST BINS

57 x £25

£1425



£113,606.50

Total financial support via signposting & empowering residents to talk

HAF SAVINGS (AVERAGE)

(HAF - Holidays, Activities and Food)

| | |
|--|-----------------------|
| Cost to buy and cook a nutritious hot meal and provide fresh fruit | £4 |
| Cost of an activity | £15 |
| Savings on utilities | £5 |
| Total savings average per person | £24 Per Day |

HAF places on average 30 spaces per day Total estimated savings: **£2880**

WATER SAVINGS

| Unmetered | Metered | Water Saving Devices | Support with Debt |
|-----------|---------|----------------------|-------------------|
| £6,880 | £5,720 | £826 | £55,200 |

TOTAL WATER SUPPORT

£68,626



The Best Start in Life for Children and Young People

The Smethwick team supported local councillors and delivered on strategic objective: **The Best Start in Life for Children and Young People.**



The Neighbourhood Partnerships Team have actively engaged and made themselves accessible to elected representatives to triage complaints and concerns that are reported to them. They have taken ownership of issues to ensure that enquiries are dealt with diligently from the initial report through to resolution. The team have endeavoured to become the ‘go to’ team for elected representatives who want to see action on local issues.

In response to crime, anti-social behaviour, and a lack of organised activity in Victoria Park, local Councillors established the ‘Victoria Park Partnership’ that included a range of council officers and the police.

The Smethwick team were tasked by Councillors to carry out a community consultation to find out residents’ perception of the park, if they felt safe and what type of activities they would like to see. The team ensured a quick turnaround and devised a community questionnaire that was delivered face to face in the park and by a range of voluntary sectors organisations and faith groups within the locality.

In total, 13 different organisations returned completed surveys with their service users, these included community centres, places of worship and schools. Due to the team’s positive working relationships with local organisations, they were able to both engage and rely on the local voluntary sector to assist with reaching communities across the area, in addition to the face to face questionnaires carried out by the team.



The Smethwick team collated 222 surveys and Youth Services collated an additional 56. The team then worked with the council’s in-house Business Excellence team who produced a detailed analysis of the consultation that was shared with the Partnership.

The responses to the survey helped inform a programme of holiday activities for children and young people and on-going work within the park. It also helped to get a more accurate and balanced picture of residents both positive and negative perceptions of safety within the park.

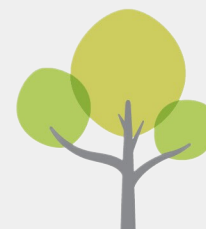
A Strong and Inclusive Economy

Early in 2023 Tipton was successful in securing **£20 million** of “Levelling Up Funding” to regenerate the shopping precinct, increase social housing and to future proof accommodation that will be more energy efficient.



Sandwell MBC Planning department have undertaken a number of consultation events with local businesses to discuss how the proposed demolition and regeneration work will affect the businesses over the next two years, whilst building works take place.

The Tipton Neighbourhood Partnership Team will meet with a local charity that has assisted families across Tipton for a number of years. The first meeting will seek to identify a number of co-production ways of working and to identify possible alternative locations in and around Tipton to ensure the group remain operational throughout the build. The team will work to enable the charity to find a new base. They will support with exploring empty units and low cost rentals within the local shopping area and utilise their relationships with planning and regeneration officers within the Council.



The Tipton Neighbourhood Partnership Team have recently worked with two community groups that operate within a 5-minute walk of each other. Interestingly the two groups, St. Pauls Community Association and “The Well” knew very little about each other even though they operate in close proximity and both have been long established. The two groups have now met on a number of occasions to discuss the possible relocation of the “The Well” (Black Country Foodbank) to St. Paul’s Community Centre, Brick Kiln Street in Tipton.



The room and facilities on offer at St. Paul’s Community Centre are ideal and offer greater scope for future development along with the potential for joint partnership working between the two groups. Negotiations are currently taking place regarding rental agreements and financial assistance with this will be available through Sandwell MBC discretionary grant fund via the council’s ascendant portal that is due to go ‘live’ before the end of August 2023. The Levelling Up re-development in Union Street is due start March/ April 2024, it is hoped that “The Well” will relocate if all goes to plan in October/ November or before Christmas 2023.

The Tipton Neighbourhood Partnership Team are now in regular contact with the Strategic Lead for Assets, Land & Commercial and have offered further support to him and his team regarding future business and community consultation events regarding the “Tipton Levelling Up Fund”. The Tipton Neighbourhood Partnership Team have recently received a request for similar assistance in terms of support for the relocation of “The Murray Hall Trust Charity Shop”, a meeting is due to take place before the end of August 2023 to progress this.



A Connected and Accessible Sandwell

Support to local organisations (including new build projects)

The team are highly experienced in practising Asset Based Community Development and their in-depth knowledge and understanding of the areas they cover means that they can easily recognise opportunities for co-production. One of the team's strengths is their ability to take a pro-active approach to neighbourhood working.



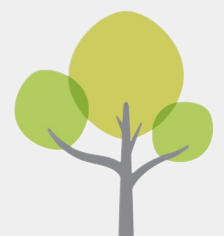
In Smethwick, the team have worked towards the council's strategic objective: **A Connected and Accessible Sandwell** by helping to address community concerns about road layout and infrastructure.

After a number of years of unanswered and unaddressed concerns, the team encouraged residents to raise concerns and articulate their questions about the road layout, increased traffic and parking issues in relation to the building of a new Place of Worship in Smethwick and the new Midlands Metropolitan University (MMU) Hospital.

The site of the new MMU hospital had been exacerbating local concern and questions around how the congestion and parking issues and infrastructure in the area will impact on the local community. The team supported residents to build their confidence and capacity to influence and understand the process that needs to be taken with local Councillors and senior officers. The team advocated for residents and requested Highways attend Ward Partnership meetings to explain more about the rationale and how they expect the concerns to be alleviated.



In addition to this, the team supported the 'Near neighbours' meetings that were organised by the new hospital's engagement team and they helped the hospital reach more local residents. In turn, this enabled the local community to both raise their concerns and have an opportunity for face to face dialogue with hospital directors.



Community Partnership Team The Innovation Fund



The Community Partnership Innovation Fund offers an opportunity to work collaboratively within the voluntary sector to develop and deliver projects that are original and creative and are co-designed, community focused and responding to communities’ needs.



A diverse range of projects received a grant from the Community Partnership Innovation Fund. The funding has enabled projects to begin delivery within 4 weeks of the project being agreed, reducing delays in delivery and enabling team members and grassroots organisations to have access to funds that support innovative projects within their towns and neighbourhoods.






All applicants have needed to demonstrate how they meet community partnership objectives:






- To help communities become more resilient
- Demonstrate an innovative approach to service delivery
- Strong emphasis on partnership working
- Project demonstrates sustainability
- Deliver services that bridge gaps in the current market
- Meets identified local need (improve quality of life, reduce demands in service)
- Project offers value for money

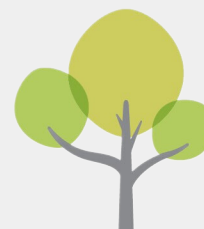


Community Partnership Grants awarded 2022/23

| Organisation | Strategic Objective | Activity |
|--|---|---|
|  <p>Page 38</p> |  | <p>Langley Falls prevention</p> <p>A holistic service to support older people in the community and in the home with exercise safety and wellbeing. The project has developed into a partnership with Wolverhampton University and the local Hospital Trust that now sees young trainee Physiotherapists gain experience in community-based therapy.</p> |

| Organisation | Strategic Objective | Activity |
|--|---|--|
|  |  | <p>Hate Crime project (toolkit)</p> <p>Toolkit developed to help address Hate Crime, raise awareness and provide support to vulnerable communities. Developing a number of videos aimed at welcoming new communities in their own language and helping them to access support and knowledge around Hate Crime.</p> <p>The grant helped fund the design and facilitation of 6x workshops in each of Sandwell’s towns that engage, inform, build capacity on reporting and gathering intelligence to help further inform Hate Crime strategy and policy.</p> |
| <p>The Sacred Chain</p> |  | <p>Planning and delivery of an 11-week course aimed at young people aged 7-15 years who attend the Cradley Heath Masjid. The course was developed due to the tragic outcome of a Hate Crime incident that led to local young people feeling unsafe when they travelled to and from their local mosque.</p> |
|  <p>Page 39</p> |  | <p>Developing both energy efficiency and renewable energy options reports across 20 Sandwell voluntary sector managed community buildings.</p> <p>Giving organisations (and the Local Authority where relevant) information and detailed knowledge about how to reduce costs, maximise assets and access to resources, in order to improve efficiency.</p> |

| Organisation | Strategic Objective | Activity |
|---|---|---|
|  |  | <p>Wellbeing youth club based in Wednesbury town centre. The project is based around creating a youth club that has a focus on mental health. Since the Covid-19 pandemic, the youth club experienced a significant increase of young people attending sessions who needed support with their mental health.</p> <p>The group aims to meet every 3 weeks (this was suggested by the young people), enabling the club to become established within the local area.</p> |
|  |  | <p>Homework club The team are regularly supporting up to 20 families to ensure young people can enjoy both extracurricular activity and also benefit from homework support.</p> <p>The club ensure all students have access to both the internet and digital equipment to support learning.</p> |
| <p>Yew Tree Community Association</p> |  | <p>Yew Tree Community Orchard</p> <p>This project will develop a community fruit garden adjacent to the external fencing at the Community Centre.</p> <p>Once trees are developed, the fruit will be available for local residents to pick and consume, supporting both local cost of living, food poverty and healthy eating.</p> |

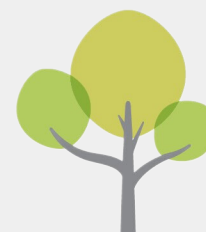


| Organisation | Strategic Objective | Activity |
|---|---|---|
|  |  | <p>Youth activity in Rowley Regis Developing activities for young people in the Rowley area. The project delivers a variety of activity to safely engage young people. Activities include cooking, music and dance.</p> <p>The grant helped fund play and stay sessions/youth provisions and resources for these sessions. An average of 25 young people have attended each session since start up and over 350 families also received corporate Zoo passes to attend Dudley Zoo for free.</p> <p>Participants have fed back that the sessions are a fun way to make new friends and cook food.</p> |

Looking ahead to 2023/24

The team will continue to build on what’s been achieved this year, embracing the ABCD approach and identifying opportunities to meet the council’s strategic objectives. This in turn will ensure the team continues to deliver on Vision 2030.

For Sandwell’s residents and voluntary sector organisations, it’s been an incredibly challenging 12 months. With inflationary pressures, a growing demand for affordable housing and the energy crisis, the year ahead will no doubt be a testing time. The team will endeavour to tailor their work, pro-actively and collaboratively to utilise the ABCD approach and the relationships they have established within their respective towns.



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Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

12 September 2023

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Haden Hill Leisure Centre Rebuild Options – Levelling Up Fund (LUF) |
| Director: | Director for Borough Economy Alice Davey |
| Contact Officer: | Assistant Director for Borough Economy Ben Percival ben_percival@sandwell.gov.uk |

1 Recommendations



- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon from the three presented options for the rebuild of Haden Hill Leisure Centre within the financial envelope available.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The opportunity to utilise the £20m LUF2 allocated funding to renew Haden Hill Leisure Centre will resolve the long-term future of this well used but ageing asset. Once renewed Sandwell will be in the position of not having a public swimming pool in its portfolio that is more than 10 years old.
- 2.2 The recent Sport England Facilities Planning Model assessment of swimming pool provision in Sandwell confirmed that with the continuation of provision at Haden Hill Leisure Centre, the Borough will have sufficient swimming pool supply to meet population demand inclusive of projected housing growth.
- 2.3 Construction inflation means that the original LUF2 scheme for Haden Hill Leisure Centre cannot be delivered within the original funding envelope. The three schemes developed present members with a range of options to progress the substantial renewal of leisure provision at Haden Hill Leisure Centre within the financial envelope available.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?



| | |
|---|--|
|  | <p>People Live Well and Age Well The replacement of Haden Hill Leisure Centre in Rowley Regis will ensure the long-term provision of a sustainable leisure off for the local community, support residents to become and remain physically active.</p> |
|  | <p>A Strong and Inclusive Economy The replacement of Haden Hill Leisure Centre in Rowley Regis will provide opportunities for local spend and job creation.</p> |

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Background of Haden Hill Leisure Centre

The current Haden Hill Leisure Centre is 47 years old, having opened to the public in 1976. The Centre is managed as a part of the Sandwell Leisure Trust portfolio of facilities currently has the following facility mix:

- 25m x 10m (5 lane) swimming pool
- 20m x 7.5m swimming pool
- Sauna and steam
- 40 station gym
- 1 x 476sqm dance studio
- 1 x 132sqm dance studio
- 31 station group cycling studio
- 1 x squash court
- 6 court sports hall
- 173 space car park

4.2 Of the facilities with swimming pools in the Borough, Haden Hill Leisure Centre has historically been the most revenue efficient in Sandwell Leisure Trust's (SLT) portfolio. The net operating costs of the facilities with swimming pools (inclusive of apportionment of head-office costs) are:

- Haden Hill Leisure Centre - £191k
- Portway Lifestyle Centre - £625k
- Tipton Leisure Centre - £585k
- Wednesbury Leisure Centre - £435k

4.3 The centre has benefited from several enhancements including the creation of a large dance studio and spinning studio which are the basis of a well-used class programme. The Centre is based in a more affluent demographic of Sandwell and attracts a significant amount of usage from Halesowen and the wider Dudley Borough.

4.4 The current centre is awkwardly configured, over three floors with lots of stairs and corridors. Not only is this inefficient (at 4,865m² Haden Hill Leisure Centre is large for the facilities it contains) but the layout creates disability access issues and a less-than welcoming environment.



- 4.5 Whilst there has been investment into the site, the building is still aging. A condition survey of the building was undertaken by Strategic Leisure in 2015 which gave it an Average 'Quality Audit Score' with a Moderate 'Need for Investment'.
- 4.6 In addition to the £191k operating deficit, an assessment of the maintenance costs (borne by Sandwell Council as landlord) has identified:
- £574k expenditure in the last 5 years
 - £400k urgent works required in the next 2 years
 - £883k works required in 2-5 years
 - £319k works required in 5-10 years
- 4.7 An emergency closure of the pools was required in March 2023 following the collapse of an area of the suspended ceiling. The pools have remained closed since whilst repair options have been investigated.
- 4.8 An option was explored to suspend a mesh / net over the pool to catch further falling debris and allow the pools to re-open on a temporary basis. This would reduce the risk of injury from large debris striking staff and swimmers below. The cost of this repair was estimated as £78k and there were several significant risks associated with this option such as small amounts of debris would still pass through the mesh. Chemical analysis of the debris has indicated that the components are not considered "hazardous substances". However, recommended first-aid treatment is specified for contact with the skin, eyes or mouth. The decision was therefore taken by the Cabinet Member for Leisure and Tourism (6 July 2023) to not proceed with the temporary repair and bring forward the pool closure in preparation for the LUF2 project.
- 4.9 There is a requirement to replace the facility to ensure the long-term sustainability of sport and leisure provision in Rowley Regis. Failure to replace this facility would compromise the Council's ability to meet the demand for sport and leisure facilities in the Rowley Regis area, especially in terms of swimming pool and sports hall provision.
- 4.10 Successful Bid to LUF and approvals
At the cabinet meeting on 22 June 2022, the recommendation to submit a bid to LUF for a replacement for Haden Hill Leisure Centre was approved. Due to the time constraints associated with the LUF process, Mott MacDonald were engaged to develop the project and application.
- 4.11 The proposed facility mix as submitted to LUF included;
- Main 6 lane pool (25 x 12.5m)
 - Learner pool (13 x 10m)
 - Wet change village
 - Sports hall (4 court)
 - Gym (100 station)
 - Spin studio (27 station)
 - Dance studios (x2)
 - Sauna and Steam Room
 - Dry change
 - Reception/office



- Café

4.12 The LUF2 application assessed the capital project cost at **£23.7m** to be funded as follows:

- £20,000,000 LUF
- £2,000,000 SMBC
- £1,700,000 Sport England – speculative application

4.13 On 19 January 2023, the Council received notification that the bid to LUF to secure £20m of funding to build a new facility at Haden Hill had been successful.

4.14 At the Cabinet meeting on 15 March 2023, the recommendations for the Director of Borough Economy to have authorisation to formally accept the grant awarded, and for the Director of Regeneration and Growth to procure and appoint architects via an industry frame work and to incur necessary expenditure on designing the scheme were approved.

4.15 Funding & timescale pressures

Following the successful LUF2 funding award the Council’s Urban Design and Building Services team (UBDS) reassessed the project costs, conscious of high inflation in the construction market. The revised project estimate was **£30m** (total project cost, inclusive of fees etc.).

4.16 Roberts Limbrick Architects has been engaged by the Council to take the project to initial concept design. Following an initial meeting on 18 April 2023, officers have developed options to manage the project within the available budget. Further options discounted include:

- Complete rebuild to deliver the original project submitted to LUF. This has been discounted due to the requirement to remain within the budget envelope and not to incur additional borrowing to enhance the leisure facilities in this area of the Borough, and also to contain the risk of income variation in leisure services over the period required to service the borrowing.
- Complete refurbishment with minimal rebuild. This has been discounted due to the risks of future asset failure in relation to the wet-side (pool) facilities.

3 options are under consideration:

1. Part rebuild and part refurbishment – rebuild wet facilities, refurbish the dry
2. Part rebuild and part refurbishment – rebuild dry facilities, refurbish the wet
3. Demolish and rebuild to a reduced scope to fit the available funding

4.17 The “Project Inception” meeting was held with representatives of LUF on 4 May 2023. Officers outlined the cost pressure and options to be explored. LUF acknowledged these pressures and reflected that they were common to many LUF funded projects. LUF were supportive of the approach – as long as project outcomes are not adversely impacted. Any substantive changes to the project will need to be approved by LUF via



a Project Adjustment Request Form – these forms must also receive the approval of the constituency MP.

- 4.18 During the Project Inception meeting, LUF officers identified that all LUF funds must be spent by the **end of March 2025**. This is understood to have been a requirement of the LUF2 funding and the Haden Hill LUF2 application – prepared by Mott MacDonald on behalf of the Council – did include a programme and cost plan that achieved £20m spend by the end of March 2025.
- 4.19 The current project programme options would not see that level of expenditure achieved until the end of 2025/26, a full year after the LUF2 deadline. There are several reasons for this:
- The programme presented in the original LUF2 bid was very ambitious and not validated by Urban Design and Building Services (UDBS) – the application window was extremely tight and coincided with Commonwealth Games delivery.
 - The programme included in the LUF2 application had a project start in September 2022; delays in funding decisions and LUF administration meant the project inception meeting did not take place until May 2023 – a loss of 8 months.
 - The funding pressure requires a significant options appraisal to get the project scope and feasibility confirmed (RIBA stage 1) – an additional 4 months.
- 4.20 Attempting to reduce the programme to fit the deadline is likely unachievable – the site works alone are estimated as 104 weeks (26 weeks demolition, 78 weeks construction). Attempting to truncate approvals, surveys and procurement would present very substantial risk to both the project and the Council.
- 4.21 Stakeholder management / LUF change process
Officers held a follow-up meeting with the LUF Black Country Area Lead in May and articulated the programme and financial pressures with the request to better understand how absolute the March 2025 deadline is.
- 4.23 Following discussion with the national LUF Team, the Black Country Area Lead confirmed that there were other LUF2 projects in a similar position in terms of both finance and programme. It was agreed that once officers had a better understanding of a chosen revised option for the scheme, a Project Adjustment Request Form would require completion and be approved by the constituency MP before submission.
- 4.24 The Assistant Director for Borough Economy met with James Morris MP on 2 June, 17 July and 29 August 2023 to brief on the financial and timescale issues as the constituency MP is required to formally sign off all project adjustment requests. James Morris was supportive of the approach officers were taking.

5 Development of the 3 options

The 3 options under consideration to manage the project within the available budget have been developed by a design team comprising Council officers, Roberts Limbrick



Architects, Sport England and Council appointed technical design support consultants. The 3 options are described below and presented in more detail in Appendix 1.

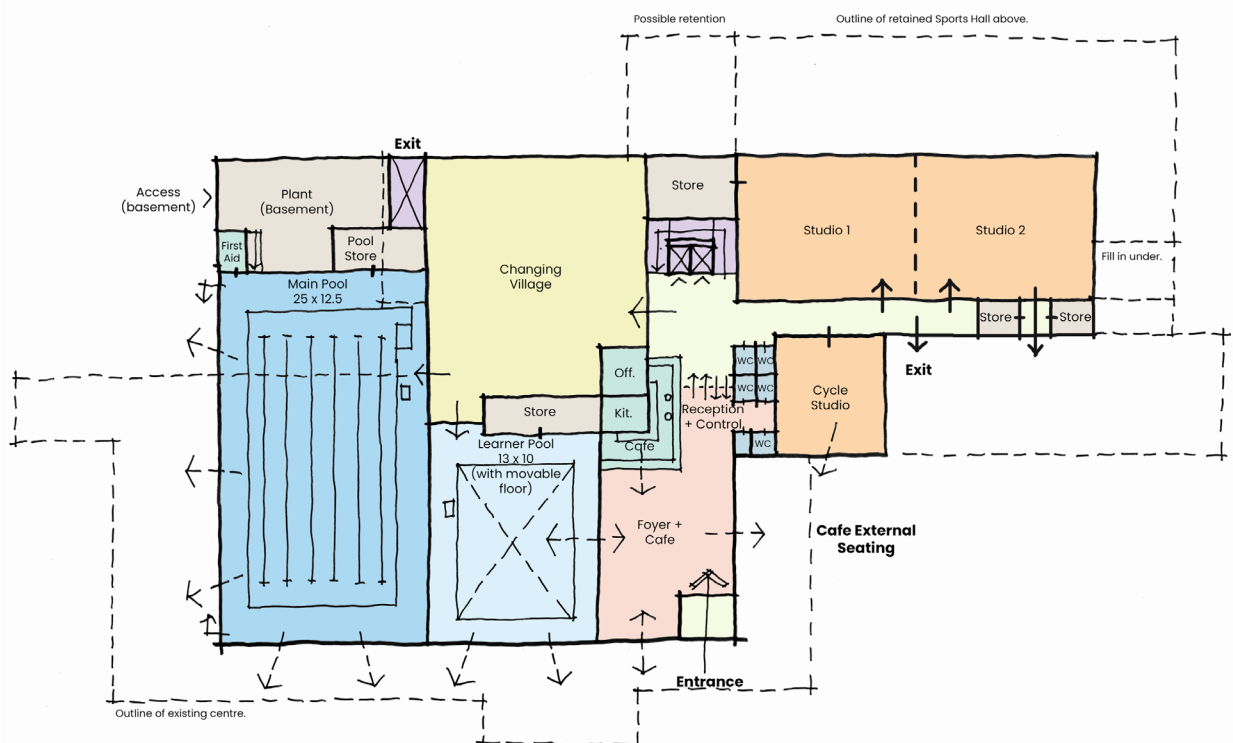
5.1 Option 1 Part rebuild and part refurbishment – rebuild wet facilities, refurbish the dry

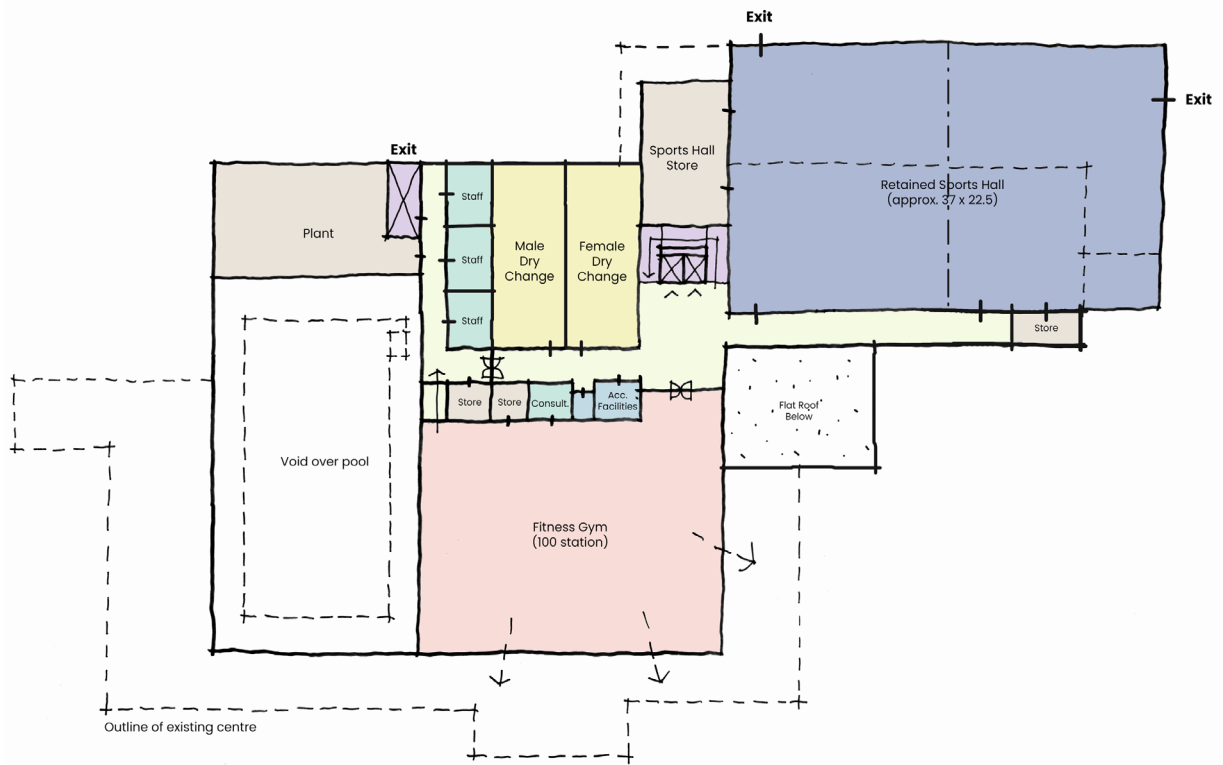
This option achieves the replacement of the pool facilities and also provides a new 100-station fitness gym, new changing facilities plus a reconfigured reception with café. The studios and sports hall will be retained and refurbished; the sauna and steam and squash court will be lost.

5.1.1 This option has the benefit of new pool provision – where asset liability is greatest and quality of provision most sensitive. It also provides a substantially larger fitness gym – critical to driving the revenue model. The retention of the dry facilities presents less risk, although the age of the facilities still means the refurbishment costs are substantial.

5.1.2 This option is recommended as it only marginally reduces the site facilities mix from that proposed within the original LUF bid submission (no sauna or steam room) and it also reduces the risks around the aged wet (pool) facilities through the replacement of these in full while providing a beneficial revenue position.

The outline plans for this option are presented below.



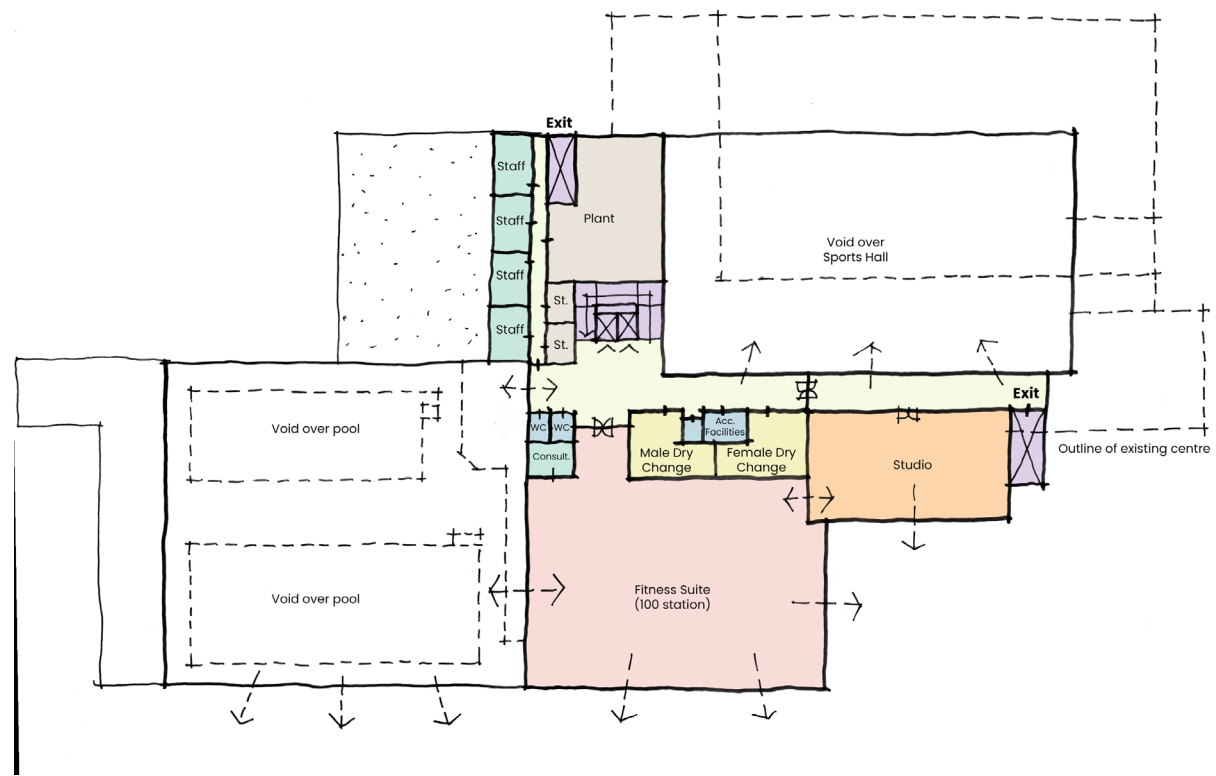
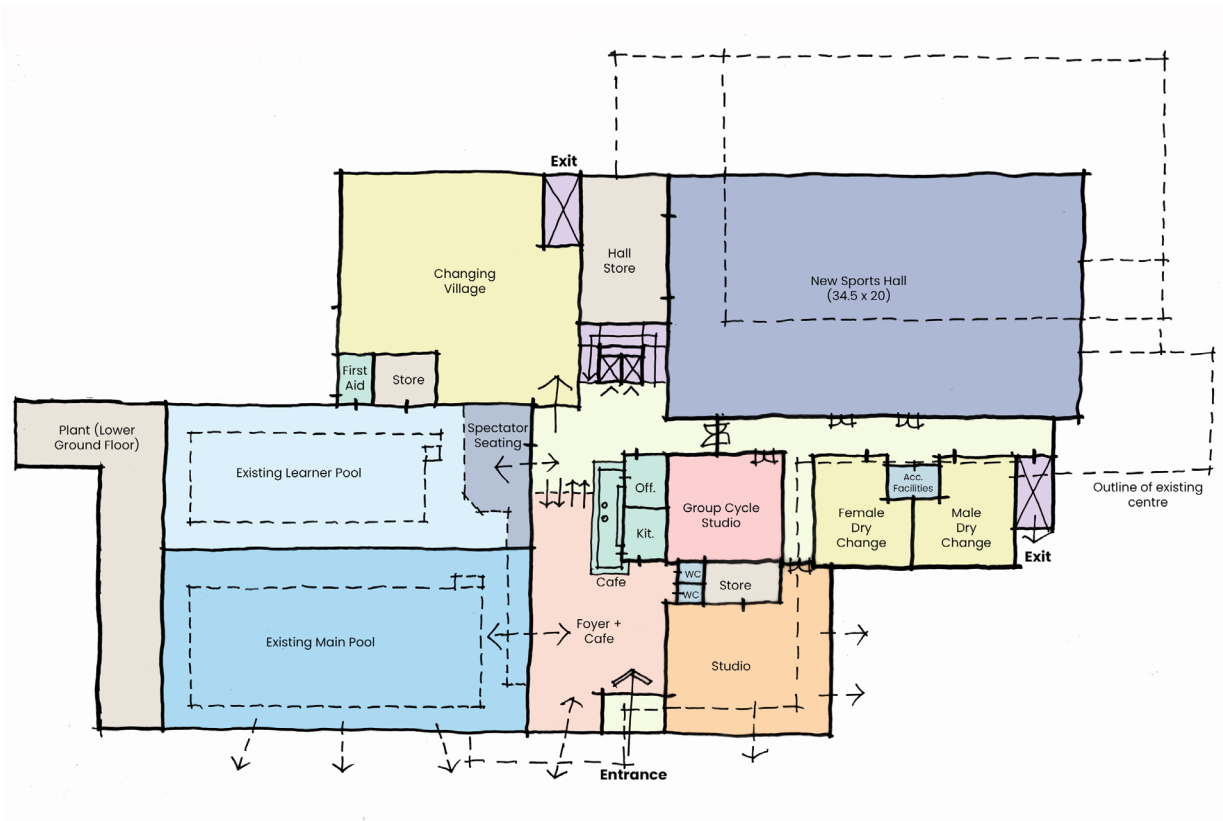


5.2 Option 2: Part rebuild and part refurbishment – rebuild dry facilities, refurbish the wet

This option would effectively see a new centre built with just the existing swimming pools retained and refurbished. The layout of the centre would also be substantially improved, with less corridor space and an easier customer flow.

- 5.2.1 The key concern is the retention of the existing swimming pools. If as the refurbishment works commenced on the pools, this uncovered significant defects to the pool, this could impact on the ability to deliver elements of the new build scheme.
- 5.2.2 This option is not recommended as the risk of aged wet (pool) facilities is retained with this option presenting the prospect of future unforeseen closures and increasingly high maintenance risks.



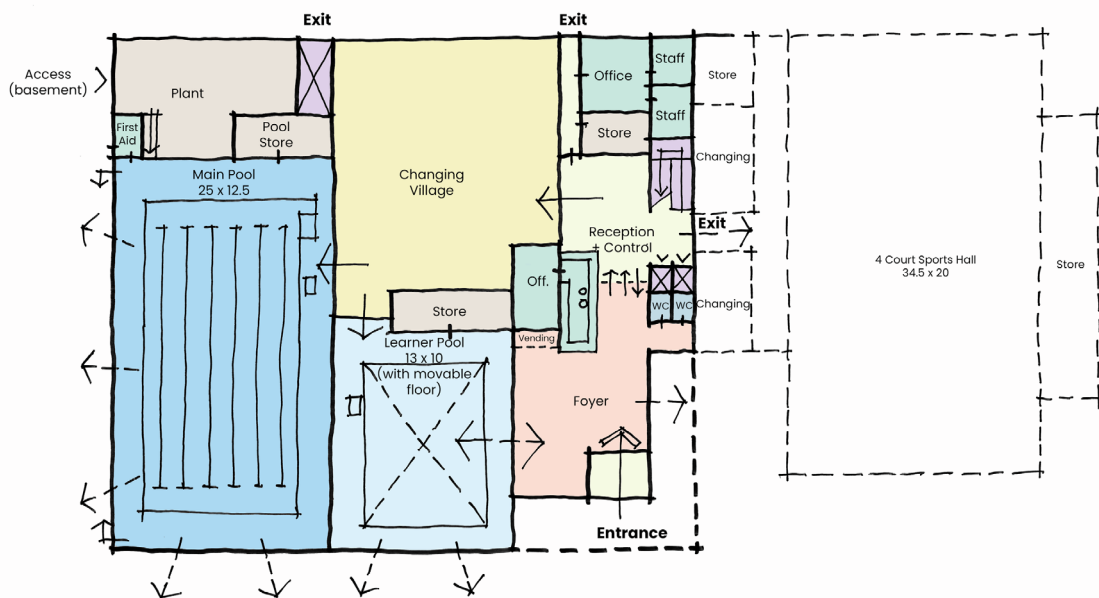


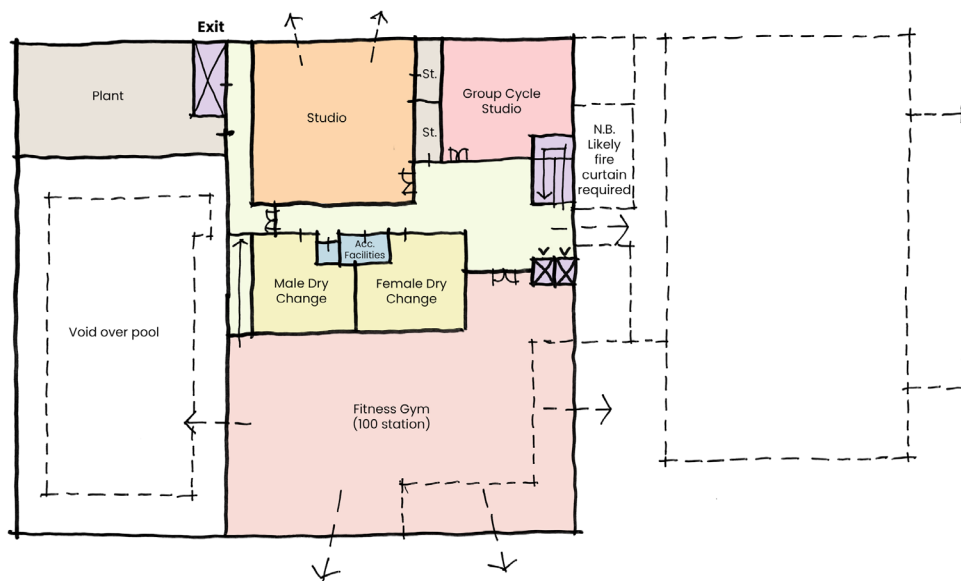
5.3 Option 3: New build to a reduced scope



This option seeks to deliver a new-build project within the available funding. The priority (based on supporting resident physical activity) would be to rebuild the swimming provision, which would also allow the development of a large (100 station) fitness gym plus studio provision on the first floor.

- 5.3.1 This option would outturn a brand-new facility, but at a significantly smaller scope than both the current HHLC and the proposed LUF project. The lost facilities (sports hall, reduced studio provision) could lead to a reduction in footfall when compared with the current HHLC.
- 5.3.2 This option is not recommended as the reduction in facilities from the submission made to LUF is not proportionate to the reduced capital and revenue impact, the public interests would be compromised with the reduced facilities remaining.





6 Financial Implications - Capital Funding

- 6.1 As outlined £20m has been awarded from the Levelling Up Fund Round 2. As part of the application, the Council agreed to provide £2m of match funding. There were also discussions with Sport England regarding funding support, with a figure of £1.7m discussed. Due to the timescale for LUF2 submission, it was not possible to confirm the Sport England contribution.
- 6.2 The £1.7m funding from Sport England remains unsecured. Sport England has transitional capital funding available in 2023/24 to support projects. This includes an opportunity to consider LUF2 projects which have a sport and physical activity element and are aligned with the principles of their [Future of Public Leisure Report](#).
- 6.3 To access this funding, Local Authorities are required to submit an application with the timescale for this being determined by when the Local Authority is in a position to meet the funding criteria. This is not an open fund; Sport England will invite a local authority to apply where they are already engaged with the project and know it can meet the criteria for investment. Once the application been submitted, Sport England will then decide on whether to support the project with any capital investment following an internal assessment and decision-making process.
- 6.4 Sport England has remained engaged throughout the project development, including being represented at design team meetings. Once a preferred option is identified an application to Sport England will be prepared for submission.



6.5 Based on the initial assessment of capital costs the options can be summarised as follows:

- Option 1 – within allocated budget (assuming Sport England funding secured)
- Option 2 – beyond allocated budget – if this option is preferred, additional resources would be required or the changing of project scope to decrease the amount of new-build and increase the amount of refurbishment would be required to bring within the allocated budget.
- Option 3 – likely to be within budget with only the upper estimate of costs beyond the allocated budget.

6.6 As outlined below, all of the rebuild options are projected to deliver a revenue saving when compared to the current operation. Risk factors relating to leisure income still need to be considered:

- The revenue savings is feasible, however – as has been evidenced in recent years – leisure centre trading performance is vulnerable to external market fluctuations. As the sensitivity analysis indicates, it would only take a 10% swing in performance (10% increased spend, 10% reduced income) for the net position to be altered.
- In revenue terms Option 1 is the recommended option – which can be delivered within the current funding envelope, without the requirement for additional borrowing.
- The Council’s spend on Leisure Centres is high as identified by CiPFA benchmarking analysis. Any surpluses generated from the HHLC project would need to be considered in this context.

6.7 Revenue Funding

Outline business cases have been prepared for all the options. They are presented in Appendix 2 and summarised in table 1 below:

Table 1 – Revenue Implications

| | Total Income | Total Expenditure | Net Surplus/ (Deficit) | Saving |
|----------|--------------|-------------------|------------------------|----------|
| Current | £1,660,318 | £1,851,671 | -£191,353 | |
| Option 1 | £2,430,500 | £2,133,236 | £297,264 | £488,617 |
| Option 2 | £2,205,519 | £2,143,882 | £61,637 | £252,990 |
| Option 3 | £1,974,150 | £1,875,910 | £98,240 | £289,593 |

6.8 As has been evidenced in recent years, leisure centres’ revenue performance can be extremely volatile.

- Trading income is inevitably susceptible to market fluctuations. Whilst post-Covid industry recovery has been encouraging, income and usage patterns have not fully



returned to pre-Covid levels and there remains some uncertainty about what a long-term post-Covid “normal” will look like.

- Leisure expenditure is principally staffing and utility costs. With substantial pay awards and ongoing volatility in energy markets, ongoing spending pressures are likely.

6.9 A sensitivity analysis of the revenue projections has indicated that 5% and 10% swings in performance will have profound impacts on the net revenue cost of HHLC and any potential revenue saving. This is summarised in table 2 below.

Table 2 – Revenue sensitivity analysis

| | 10% increase costs, 10% reduction income | 5% increase costs, 5% reduction income | 5% decrease costs, 5% increase income | 10% decrease costs, 10% increase income |
|----------|--|--|---------------------------------------|---|
| Option 1 | -350,463 | 69,077 | 525,450 | 753,637 |
| Option 2 | -564,656 | -155,833 | 279,107 | 496,577 |
| Option 3 | -478,120 | -94,263 | 290,743 | 483,246 |

6.10 The Council’s current spend on leisure centre provision is high. The LG Futures benchmarking report on 2021/22 expenditure indicated that the Council’s per-resident spend on recreation and sport was £15.91 per resident, 56.8% higher than the average of Sandwell’s statistical neighbours (£10.14).

6.11 As the Council seeks to set a balanced budget in coming years it will be necessary to focus on high cost discretionary services such as sport and leisure. The potential to use the improved revenue performance from the new HHLC to reduce this high spend is substantial.

7 Risks

7.1 A high level risk assessment of the 3 options has been undertaken to consider both construction risk and project risk. Four principal risks are common to all the options:

- **Procurement** – whilst the project costs have been reassessed by the Council’s Principal Lead Quantity Surveyor, given the level of construction inflation, there is a risk that the schemes when procured may exceed the available funding. This risk may be slightly lower for options 1-2 as the level of refurbishment could be flexed to meet the project budget.
- **MP Approval** – under the LUF scheme, and Project Adjustment Request (PAR) will need to be signed off by the constituency MP (James Morris). All 5 schemes will need to submit a PAR to change the project scope and timeline. James Morris has been kept apprised of the situation and remains supportive of the project.



- **LUF Approval** – all 3 schemes will require approval of a PAR to change scope and timeline. It is understood that many LUF projects are in similar situations to the HHLC project with both cost and timescale pressures and LUF have been willing to be flexible in both regards. However, until the Council have agreed a preferred option of the 3 presented and this has been approved by the MP, a formal approach cannot be made to LUF to close this risk.
- **Sport England Funding** – as outlined in 6.2, the £1.7m Sport England remains unsecured. Sport England are assembling a funding scheme to specifically support the significant number of sport-related LUF2 projects and Sport England Officers remain supportive of the project and encouraging regarding funding. However there remains a funding application process to secure these funds.

7.2 The risks – plus scoring relating to the 3 options are summarised in table 3 below.

Table 3 – Risk Summary

| | Option 1 | | Option 2 | | Option 3 | |
|-------------------|---|-------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|
| | Rebuild wet, refurbish dry | | Rebuild dry, refurbish wet | | Reduced scope new build | |
| | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability |
| Construction risk | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | The risk of this option again, reflects the high degree of refurbishment. The risk probability is lower than option 3 due to the complete rebuild of the swimming pools - the highest liability assets. | | The risk of this option again, reflects the high degree of refurbishment. The risk probability is higher than option 2 due to the retention of the 1976 swimming pools - the highest liability assets. | | The risk of this option is lower due to the greater simplicity and clarity of 100% rebuild. The risk is principally due to the demolition and sloping site. | |
| | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability |
| Project risk | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| | Requires LUF and MP approval for change of project scope and extension (12mth) of spend deadline. | | Requires LUF and MP approval for change of project scope and extension (12mth) of spend deadline. | | Requires LUF and MP approval for change of project scope and extension (12mth) of spend deadline. Risk heightened as project outputs (throughput) likely to be lower due to smaller facility. | |



8 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Resources: | <p>The scheme commits the Council to 10% partnership funding, with £2m currently agreed.</p> <p>The facility will close for a period of up to 2 years whilst demolition and building work takes place.</p> <p>There may be implications on staff who will need to be redeployed to other leisure sites within the portfolio whilst the facility is closed.</p> |
| Legal and Governance: | <p>The Council is committed to the grant terms and conditions as set out by DLUHC.</p> <p>Planning permission will be required for any demolition and construction works.</p> |
| Risk: | <p>There will be a loss of service provision once the facility closes during which time customers could seek alternative provision outside of Sandwell. Strategies will be developed to ensure the customer base returns and to signpost customers to other Sandwell facilities.</p> <p>The need to approve Project Adjustment Requests with LUF and have these signed off by the constituency MP, presents a further risk to the project.</p> <p>Risks are summarised in section 7 of the report. The preferred option once selected will be subject to a full risk review.</p> |
| Equality: | <p>There are no equality implications to this report</p> |
| Health and Wellbeing: | <p>A new or refurbished sustainable leisure facility will ensure the long-term provision of Sport and Physical Activity opportunities in Sandwell. This will also support the financial sustainability of the Council's leisure service overall, ensuring efficient and effective operation.</p> |
| Social Value: | <p>There will be opportunities for local employment and procurement of local traders.</p> <p>Improved leisure provision will also support addressing local health inequalities supporting the reduction of the burden on local health services.</p> |



| | |
|-----------------------------|--|
| Climate Change: | A new, modern building, either in full or part shall provide improved efficiencies in relation to a reduction in carbon footprint. |
| Corporate Parenting: | There are no corporate parenting implications to this report. |

9 Appendices

Appendix 1: Options Summary

Appendix 2: Business Case for all Options

10 Background Papers

N/A



Appendix 1 – Options Summary

| | Option 1 | | Option 2 | | Option 3 | |
|--------------------------------|--|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|
| | Rebuild wet, refurbish dry | | Rebuild dry, refurbish wet | | Reduced scope new build | |
| | Low | High | Low | High | Low | High |
| Capital Cost (range) | £20,568,435 | £22,897,805 | £26,514,098 | £29,264,788 | £22,337,277 | £24,205,419 |
| Estimated revenue saving | £488,617 | | £252,990 | | £289,593 | |
| Performance 10% worse | -£350,463 | | -£564,656 | | -£478,120 | |
| Performance 5% worse | £69,077 | | -£155,833 | | -£94,263 | |
| Performance 5% improved | £525,450 | | £279,107 | | £290,743 | |
| Performance 10% worse | £753,637 | | £496,577 | | £483,246 | |
| Facilities | New | Refurb | New | Refurb | New | Refurb |
| Area (m ²) | 2,428 | 1,326 | 3,379 | 1,054 | 3,146 | |
| Main 6 lane pool (25 x 12.5m) | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Main 5 lane pool (25 x 10m) | | | | ✓ | | |
| Learner pool (13 x 10m) | ✓ | | | | ✓ | |
| Learner pool (20m x 7.5m) | | | | ✓ | | |
| Wet change village | ✓ | | | ✓ | ✓ | |
| Sports hall (4 court) | | | ✓ | | | |
| Sports hall (6 court) | | ✓ | | | | |
| Gym (100 station) | ✓ | | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Gym (40 station) | | | | | | |
| Spin studio | | ✓ | ✓ | | ✓ | |
| Dance studios (x2) | | ✓ | ✓ | | | |
| Dance studio (x1) | | | | | ✓ | |
| Sauna and Steam Room | | | | | | |
| Squash Court | | | | | | |
| Dry change | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Reception/office | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Café | ✓ | | ✓ | | | |
| Key facility considerations | No sauna & steam | | Old swimming pools Smaller sports hall than 1 & 2 | | No sports hall Only 1 studio No café No sauna & steam | |
| | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability |
| Construction risk | 3 | 2 | 3 | 3 | 2 | 2 |
| | The risk of this option again reflects the high degree of refurbishment. The risk probability is lower than option 3 due to the complete rebuild of the swimming pools - the highest liability assets. | | The risk of this option again reflects the high degree of refurbishment. The risk probability is higher than option 2 due to the retention of the 1976 swimming pools - the highest liability assets. | | The risk of this option is lower due to the greater simplicity and clarity of 100% rebuild. The risk is principally due to the demolition and sloping site. | |
| | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability | Impact | Probability |
| Project risk | 4 | 2 | 4 | 2 | 4 | 3 |
| | Requires LUF and MP approval for change of project scope and extension (12mth) of spend deadline. | | Requires LUF and MP approval for change of project scope and extension (12mth) of spend deadline. | | Requires LUF and MP approval for change of project scope and extension (12mth) of spend deadline. Risk heightened as project outputs (throughput) likely to be lower due to smaller facility. | |
| Delivered within LUF timescale | No | | No | | No | |



Appendix 2 – Business Case

| Item | | | | |
|--|------------------|------------------|------------------|------------------|
| Income: | Base | Option 1 | Option 2 | Option 3 |
| Fitness Membership | 775,109 | 1,201,419 | 1,162,663 | 1,007,641 |
| Fitness Casual | 71,707 | 82,463 | 82,463 | 71,707 |
| Swimming | 613,783 | 920,675 | 736,540 | 859,297 |
| Food & Beverage | 41,806 | 62,709 | 60,619 | |
| Resale | 22,816 | 35,365 | 35,365 | 35,365 |
| Equipment Hire | 365 | 438 | 438 | |
| Weighing Machines | 136 | 140 | 140 | 140 |
| Lockers | 3,797 | | | |
| Hall Hire | 105,415 | 121,227 | 121,227 | |
| Squash | 7,496 | | | |
| Sauna Steam Room | 12,375 | | | |
| Childrens Activities | 5,513 | 6,064 | 6,064 | |
| Total income | 1,660,318 | 2,430,500 | 2,205,519 | 1,974,150 |
| Expenditure: | | | | |
| Staffing | 1,097,473 | 1,316,968 | 1,316,968 | 1,152,347 |
| Utilities | 212,918 | 234,210 | 244,856 | 191,626 |
| Premises | 33,520 | 45,252 | 45,252 | 40,224 |
| Supplies | 32,344 | 56,602 | 56,602 | 25,875 |
| Equipment (other expenditure) | 95,779 | 100,568 | 100,568 | 86,201 |
| Central Management (central costs) | 31,901 | 31,901 | 31,901 | 31,901 |
| Operations (central costs) | 36,747 | 36,747 | 36,747 | 36,747 |
| Marketing (central costs) | 99,236 | 99,236 | 99,236 | 99,236 |
| Finance (central costs) | 164,425 | 164,425 | 164,425 | 164,425 |
| HR (central costs) | 47,328 | 47,328 | 47,328 | 47,328 |
| Total Operating Costs | 1,851,671 | 2,133,236 | 2,143,882 | 1,875,910 |
| Net Surplus/(Deficit) | -191,353 | 297,264 | 61,637 | 98,240 |
| Saving | | 488,617 | 252,990 | 289,593 |
| Sensitivity analysis on saving | | | | |
| 10% increase costs, 10% reduction income | | -350,463 | -564,656 | -478,120 |
| 5% increase costs, 5% reduction income | | 69,077 | -155,833 | -94,263 |
| 5% decrease costs, 5% increase income | | 525,450 | 279,107 | 290,743 |
| 10% decrease costs, 10% increase income | | 753,637 | 496,577 | 483,246 |



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Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

12 September 2023

| | |
|-------------------------|--|
| Subject: | Future Provision of Leisure Services |
| Director: | Director for Borough Economy Alice Davey |
| Contact Officer: | Assistant Director for Borough Economy Ben Percival ben_percival@sandwell.gov.uk |


1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the settlement of the future provision of leisure services to 2027.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The 2021 Grant Thornton Governance Review raised concerns regarding the management of the contract with Sandwell Leisure Trust (SLT) – particularly the culture of the relationship and a lack of service innovation. The subsequent review of future provision of leisure services has sought to address these concerns.
- 2.2 Following the assessment and development of alternative delivery options within the medium-term operating environment, an extension with SLT on revised terms has been secured as the optimal solution for the provision of leisure services to 2027. This will allow for a period of service stability to embed key service changes – notably the launch and establishment of the Sandwell Aquatics Centre (SAC). This period will be used to consider the long-term settlement of the provision of leisure services.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

| | |
|---|---|
|  | People Live Well and Age Well A sustainable leisure offer for Sandwell residents is critical to support residents to become and remain physically active. |
|---|---|



4 Context and Key Issues

SLT contract termination and establishment of a Local Authority Trading Company

4.1 The Sandwell Council leisure estate operated by SLT under a Management and Funding Agreement (MFA) comprises the following facilities:

- Haden Hill Leisure Centre
- Hadley stadium
- Harry Mitchell Leisure centre
- Langley Swimming Centre (closed July 2023)
- Portway Lifestyle Centre
- Tipton Leisure Centre
- Tipton Sports Academy
- Sandwell Aquatics Centre (open July 2023)
- Smethwick Swimming Centre (closed July 2023)
- Wednesbury Leisure Centre

West Bromwich Leisure Centre is operated by Places Leisure under a separate agreement and is not subject to this report.

4.2 At their meeting 9 February 2022, Cabinet resolved to not approve Sandwell Leisure Trust's business plan and to serve notice of termination; this notice was served for SLT's operation of the leisure centres to cease on 1 May 2023. At their meeting 22 June 2022, Cabinet resolved to progress the establishment of a Local Authority Trading Company (LATC) to operate the Council's leisure facilities.

4.3 The LATC was established as a Company Limited by Guarantee (CLG). A CLG is owned by its members. As the sole member of the company, the Council will have control over the direction and significant decisions of the company and will enjoy the various rights granted to it as member under the Companies Act 2006. These matters will be confirmed in both the operating contract and reserved matters. Following consultation with members the company name **LiveWell Leisure** was agreed. The LATC was incorporated as LiveWell Leisure Limited on 6 February 2023, company number 14643657. To allow preparations for the transfer of services the company has been formed on model Articles of Association with two Council officers (Ben Percival and Mark Braithwaite) named as company directors.

Energy Costs and extension of SLT notice period

4.4 As large consumers of energy, leisure centres have been seriously impacted by the increases in utility costs over the last year. UKActive, (the not-for-profit body comprised of members and partners from across the UK active lifestyle sector), has indicated that 40% of authorities are considering facility closures and restrictions as a result of increased energy costs. In 2021 – pre energy cost increases – SLT entered longer-term energy supply contracts. This effectively insulates SLT from the increases in energy tariffs; gas to September 2026 and electricity to March 2027.



- 4.5 The process to transfer services to the LATC identified that one of the key risks around utility tariffs could be managed through the retention of the SLT secured fixed energy tariffs that sheltered SLT from the increases in energy costs experienced through 2022. However an extensive legal options appraisal identified that these energy tariffs could not be novated to the LATC without significant risk.
- 4.6 The cost pressure of losing the fixed tariffs for the 9 centres in the portfolio reducing to 7 centres during 2023 was estimated in January 2023 as **£3.42m** over the next 2 years. It was also recognised that utility tariff stability is beneficial over the coming 3 years given market instability and the scale of the Sandwell leisure estate.
- 4.7 The Leader, Cabinet Member and Executive have received regular progress updates to ensure they are sighted and support the approach being taken. Based on the cost pressure and the improved relationship with SLT, the termination notice with SLT was extended for the period covered by SLT's fixed tariffs; an extension of 3 years and 11 months **from 1 May 2023 to the end of March 2027**. This extension was executed by the Director of Borough Economy under delegated authority from Cabinet 9 February 2022 in consultation with the Leader, Cabinet Member and Executive.

Governance / Contract Management

- 4.8 Key to the extension of the partnership with SLT was resolving the concerns identified by Grant Thornton. This has been achieved both structurally and practically. Structurally the governance regime has been updated, implementing a clear contract management framework comprising:
 - 4.8.1 The **Quarterly Leisure Contract Review Board** the strategy forum for the services which will agree the strategic development of the service, based on requirements of Cabinet and SLT Board. The first of these took place 5 September 2023.
 - 4.8.2 The **Quarterly Finance Reconciliation** to review the SLT accounts and commentary from the previous quarter, identify any substantial variances to budget and – in partnership with the Monthly Contract Management Meeting – propose corrective action.
 - 4.8.3 The **Quarterly Property / Estates Update** to review property and estates issues including: compliance works, planned preventative maintenance, significant defects and energy consumption.
 - 4.8.4 The **Monthly Contract Management Meeting** the principal forum to support the effective and efficient operation of the service.
- 4.9 A Deed of Variation (DoV) to the MFA with SLT has also been agreed to formalise the change in governance. A key change in the DoV is that any operating surplus from improved trading is now retained by the Council rather than SLT – which was the case in the previous MFA. This substantially mitigates the financial risk to the Council and creates the potential for financial savings.



- 4.10 Practically, the relationship between the Council and SLT has been transformed. As highlighted by Grant Thornton, previously the relationship had “broken down”. However, both changes in personnel at both the Council and SLT plus the establishment of a shared goal of service transformation have provided an opportunity to reset the relationship. The culture of the relationship is now one of partnership with the above formal contract management structure augmented with regular (daily) informal liaison and shared working.
- 4.11 Council officers and SLT officers and board members are actively working in partnership to develop the service, commercialise the offer and deliver service innovation. The first joint service planning day with SLT officers and board members took place 31 August 2023.
- 4.12 As part of the preparations for the transition to LiveWell Leisure, SMBC appointed Mark Braithwaite as Chief Operating Officer (COO) to manage the company. The SLT Board have agreed that Mark is seconded to SLT to act as their Chief Executive from 1 May 2023 Officer for the duration of the extended termination period. Has further strengthened the relationship between the Council and SLT.

5 Financial Implications

- 5.1 Working with SLT, officers have agreed a management fee for 23/24. This modelling is based on work initially developed by external consultants (Continuum Leisure and Prominent Leisure Services) alongside officers from Borough Economy and Finance. This is an increase compared to 22/23 reflective of the requirement to launch and develop SAC. The business planning process modelled a number of scenarios based on risk and ambition.
- 5.2 As outlined in section 4, financial monitoring and reconciliation now forms a key facet of the contract governance and performance management. The agreement for trading surpluses to be returned to the Council (paragraph 4.9) potentially means that if the service is delivered with optimum efficiency actual cost of the service could be substantially less than the agreed management fee.

5 Implications

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Resources: | Provision is made for the management fee as set out in the report. |
| Legal and Governance: | The Deed of Variation to the Management and Funding Agreement has been completed. A lease for Sandwell Aquatics Centre has been agreed to mirror those in place for the other facilities. |



| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| | An assessment has been undertaken to ensure the arrangement with SLT is not a subsidy in scope of the Subsidy Control Act |
| Risk: | SLT maintain a comprehensive risk register to support the safe and effective operation of the service. |
| Equality: | There are no equality implications to this report |
| Health and Wellbeing: | <p>Physical activity makes a huge contribution to the health and wellbeing of residents and the local economy. Physical inactivity is the fourth leading risk factor for global mortality, accounting for 6% of deaths globally. Overweight and obesity are responsible for a further 5% of global mortality. For adults, doing regular exercise helps to prevent and manage over 20 chronic conditions, including coronary heart disease, stroke, type 2 diabetes, cancer, obesity, stress and mental health problems and musculoskeletal conditions.</p> <p>During the 2020/2021 pandemic, many people faced mental health challenges. Physical activity plays a key role in promoting mental health and well-being by preventing mental health problems and improving quality of life for those experiencing mental health problems and illnesses. Physical activity enhances psychological well-being, improving self-perception and self-esteem, mood, and sleep quality, and reducing levels of anxiety and fatigue.</p> |
| Social Value: | Improved leisure provision will also support addressing local health inequalities supporting the reduction of the burden on local health services. |
| Climate Change: | <p>There are no climate change implications to this report.</p> <p>Leisure Centres are very high consumers of energy and work is underway to assess the energy efficiency of the sites and to access funding to support decarbonisation opportunities.</p> |
| Corporate Parenting: | There are no corporate parenting implications to this report. |

6 Appendices

None

7. Background Papers

None



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Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

12 September 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?

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|---|--|--|
|  | 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. |



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| 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 23/ 24

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| Date | Item | Recommendation/ Action | Responsible Person | Notes |
|-------------|---|--|-----------------------------------|--|
| 31 AUG 23 | Additional Licensing and Article 4 – Options Appraisal | That the Directors of Housing; and Regeneration and Growth, aim for at least 1,000 responses per town from the planned Additional Licensing consultation in relation to Houses of Multiple Occupation. | Gillian Douglas/ Tony McGovern | Recommendations to be considered at Cabinet on 13 SEPT 23. |
| | | That the Directors of Housing; and Regeneration and Growth work collaboratively with external partners including West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service and Community Support Officers to identify un-regulated Houses of Multiple Occupation. | Gillian Douglas/ Tony McGovern | Recommendations to be considered at Cabinet on 13 SEPT 23. |
| 11 JUL 2023 | Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy | That the Director of Housing considers the feasibility of embedding ESOL tuition for asylum seekers and refugees into the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy. | Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb | |
| | | That the Director of Housing considers the inclusion of the educational needs of asylum seekers and refugees under eighteen years old within the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy including SEND, transport and language needs. | Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb | |
| | | That the Director of Housing explores the cascading of consultations via town based community teams to increase response rates and to all Members. | Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb | |
| | | That the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy is publicised as part of the Windrush and 50 years of Sandwell celebrations. | Matthew More | |
| | | That the Director of Housing explores the inclusion of female health care, including access to sexual health and period products within the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy. | Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb | |
| | | That training is provided to Members to increase awareness and better inform decision making in relation to the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy. | Member Services | |
| | | That the Director of Housing explores the adoption of a holistic approach when progressing the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy. | Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb | |
| 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 | |

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| | | 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 | Due to reduced demand and the ability to re- locate users to other pools in the Borough the centre closed permanently on 14 JUL 23 |

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| | 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 |

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| | | 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 Tackle the Cost of Living Crisis. | 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 | |
| | | | 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 | | |

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|---------------|--|---|---|--|
| | | 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. | | |

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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 |
| 31 August 2023 | HMOs – Additional Licensing and Article 4 Direction | John Baker/ Alison Bishop/ Carl Mercer |
| 12 September 2023 | Neighbourhood Partnerships Team Update | Manny Sehmbi/ Marcia Sandel-Massey |
| | Future Provision of Leisure Services Update | Ben Percival |
| | Haden Hill Leisure Centre Rebuild | Ben Percival |
| 26 September 2023 | Asset Management Strategy | Sarah Ager |
| | 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 |
| | Fees and Charges for Leisure Services | Ben Percival/ Alice Davey |
| 7 December 2023 | Tenant Satisfaction Survey Outcomes | Nigel Collumbell |
| | Safer Green Spaces Strategy | Matt Huggins |
| 11 January 2024 | Heritage Strategy Journey Update | Dawn Winter |
| | Green Spaces Strategy 2024/ 25 and Programme of Works 2024/ 25 | Matt Huggins |
| | Safer Sandwell Partnership | Chief Supt. Maria Fox/ Tessa Mitchell |
| 14 March 2024 | Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy and Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing. HOLD. | Nigel Collumbell |
| | Fees & Charges (inc concessions) for LATC / Sandwell Aquatic Centre Update | Ben Percival |

To be Scheduled

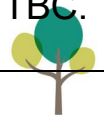
Reports of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group on:- (Nigel Collumbell/ Marianne Munro) – (Dependent upon T+LSG Work Programming – timescales TBC)

- 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/ Astroturf). TBC.



Working Group:

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

Annual Review 2023/ 24:

- HMO's – Additional Licensing

NOV 23 meeting of the board – proposed that this meeting is brought forward to the first week in NOV 23.

Spotlight session to be arranged on financial costs associated with the potential introduction of Article 4 and additional licensing.

Article 4 and Additional Licensing consultation outcomes to be brought before the Board when available.

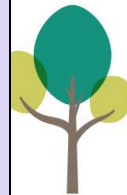


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The following items set out key decisions to be taken by the Executive:-



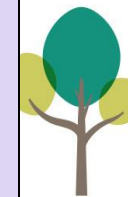
| | Title/Subject | Decision Maker | Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption | Decision Date | Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date) | List of documents to be considered |
|----|---|--|---|------------------|---|--|
| 13 | <p>HRA Capital Investment Procurement Strategy Procurement Strategy for HRA related Capital and Revenue contracts. Approval required for extension of contracts.</p> <p>Contact Officers: Phil Deery/Chris Hall</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing</p> | <p>Cabinet – Housing and Building Environment (Cllr Rollins)</p> | <p>Public</p> | <p>Sept 2023</p> | | <p>Report Risk Register</p> |



| Page 83 | 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 |
|---------|---|---|---|-------------------|---|--|
| 14 | 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 |



| | 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>Temporary Accommodation Tender Approval</p> <p>Approval to appoint providers after tender process. This is valued at c£3m over 4 years and is on intend at the moment and due to close on 4 August 2023</p> <p>Contact Officer: Karl Robinson – Head of Housing Solutions</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas</p> | <p>Cabinet – Housing and Built Environment (Cllr Rollins)</p> | <p>Pubic</p> | <p>13 September 2023</p> | <p>Post</p> | <p>Temporary Accommodation on tender approval Cabinet Report</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>Additional licensing proposals</p> <p>Options paper on proposed expansion of additional licensing within Sandwell for HMOs</p> <p>Contact Officer: Karl Robinson – Head of Housing Solutions</p> <p>Director: Gillian Douglas – Director of Housing</p> | <p>Cabinet – Housing and Built Environment (Cllr Rollins)</p> | Public | 13 September 2023 | Post | Additional Licensing Cabinet Report and associated appendices |



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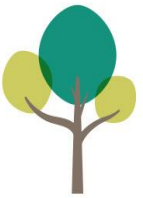
| | Title/Subject | Decision Maker | Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption | Decision Date | Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date) | List of documents to be considered |
|----|---|--|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 35 | <p>Building Safety and Compliance Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Phil Deery</p> <p>Director – Gillian Douglas, Director of Housing</p> | <p>Cabinet – Housing and the Built Environment (Cllr Rollins)</p> | | <p>18 October 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 |
|---|--|---|------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| <p>36 Future Provision of Leisure Services</p> <p>Contact Officer: Ben Percival</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p> | <p>Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p> | | <p>18 October 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>Playing Pitch Strategy</p> <p>Contact Officer: Robert Marlow / Ben Percival</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p> | <p>Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p> | | <p>18 October 2023</p> | <p>SNAC</p> | |



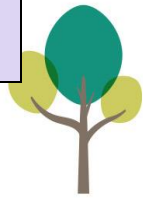
| | Title/Subject | Decision Maker | Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption | Decision Date | Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date) | List of documents to be considered |
|----|---|---|---|--------------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 42 | <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>18 October 2023</p> | <p>N/A</p> | <p>Cabinet Report</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 | <p>Haden Hill Rebuild to agree the scope of the project and preferred procurement route</p> <p>Contact Officer: Nicola Leavy / Ben Percival</p> <p>Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy</p> | <p>Cabinet – Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)</p> | <p>Private</p> | <p>18 October 2023</p> | | |



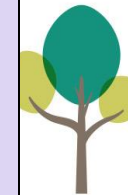
| | Title/Subject | Decision Maker | Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption | Decision Date | Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date) | List of documents to be considered |
|----|---|---|---|---|---|------------------------------------|
| 47 | <p>Sandwell Council Housing Asset Management Strategy 2024-2029 To agree the approach to invest in HRA assets for the next 5 years</p> <p>Contact Officer: Sarah Ager</p> <p>Director – Gillian Douglas, Director of Housing</p> | <p>Cabinet – Housing and the Built Environment (Cllr Rollins)</p> | | <p>15 November 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 |
|----|--|---|---|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 48 | 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) | | 15 November 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 |
|----|---|--|---|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 49 | Cultural Compact & Cultural Prospectus Contact Officer: Dawn Winter Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy | Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda) | | 15 November 2023 | | |
| 50 | Fishing Policy Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy | Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda) | | 15 November 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 |
|----|---|--|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 51 | <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>15 November 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 |
|----|---|--|---|-------------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| 52 | <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>15 November 2023</p> | | |



Annual Programme Reminder (these items are not added automatically)

| Page 96 | Title/Subject | Cabinet Portfolio Area | Decision Date | Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date) | List of documents to be considered |
|---------|--|------------------------|------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| | Review of Fees and Charges | | January | | |
| | Determination of Admission Priorities for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary Controlled Schools | | January/February | | |
| | Schools Funding | | December/January | | |
| | Quarter 3 Budget Monitoring | | February | | |
| | Council Finances | | February | | |
| | Financial Regulations | | February | | |
| | Business Plans | | February | | |
| | Highways Asset Management Plan | | March | | |
| | Local Transport Settlement | | March | | |
| | Revenues and Benefits Policy framework 2022/23 | | March | | |
| | Schools Capital Programme | | April to June | | |
| | Financial Outturn | | May | | |



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| Title/Subject | Cabinet Portfolio Area | Decision Date | Pre-decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date) | List of documents to be considered |
|---|------------------------|----------------------|---|------------------------------------|
| Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules | | July | | |
| Review of Fees and Charges Sandwell Residential Education Services Centre Charges | | May – July | | |
| Childcare Sufficiency Report | | July - September | | |
| Quarter 1 Budget Monitoring | | August | | |
| Model Schools Pay Policy | | October/ November | | |
| Winter Service Operational Plan | | October/November | | |
| Road Safety Plan | | November | | |
| Quarter 2 Budget Monitoring | | November | | |
| Council Tax Base Calculation | | December | | |
| Business Rates Retention Estimates | | December | | |
| Council Tax Reduction Scheme | | December | | |



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