

Agenda

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

Thursday, 8 February 2024 at 6.00 pm
At Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury,
B69 3DB

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

Members to declare any interests in matters to be discussed at the meeting.

3 Minutes

5 - 14

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 8 November 2023 as a correct record.

4 Additional Items of Business

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

5 Towns Fund Programme Update

15 - 34

To consider and comment upon the Towns Fund Programme Update.



6 **Tracking and Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations** 35 - 40

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

7 **Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme** 41 - 56

To note and review the Cabinet Forward Plan and the Board's Work Programme 2023/ 24.

Shokat Lal
Chief Executive
Sandwell Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands

Distribution
Councillor Taylor (Chair)
Councillors Owen, Akpoteni, Ashraf, Dhatt, Hemingway, A Hussain, Kordala, Rahman, J Singh and Davies

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Minutes of Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

8 November 2023 at 6.02pm
in the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Owen (Vice-Chair in the Chair);
Councillors Ashraf, Davies, Dhatt, Hemingway,
Hussain, Rahman and J Singh.

Officers: Andy Miller (Strategic Planning and Transportation
Manager); Samantha Holder (Senior Planner); Simon
Chadwick (Highway Network Development and Road
Safety Manager); Tony McGovern (Director of
Regeneration and Growth); Stephnie Hancock (Deputy
Democratic Services Manager) and Anthony Lloyd
(Democratic Services Officer).

35/23 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
Akpoteni, Kordala and Taylor.

36/23 Declarations of Interest

There were no declarations of interest made.

37/23 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 03
October 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

38/23 **Additional Item of Business**

There were no urgent additional items of business to consider.

39/23 **West Midlands Local Transport Plan**

The West Midlands Local Transport Plan was a statutory document that would be prepared by the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) which acted as the Integrated Transport Authority. The plan covered the seven West Midlands metropolitan local authorities and therefore, formed the adopted transport strategy for Sandwell.

In 2021, the Local Transport Plan (LTP) Green Paper was published and consulted on which helped inform the approach that the new LTP would take. The LTP Core Strategy was then consulted on in 2022, which set out the overarching approach and principles.

In response to the challenging social, economic and environmental issues faced by many local authorities, the LTP was framed around 5 “motives for change” to better support inclusive growth so that as many people as possible would be able to shape and benefit from transport in the West Midlands. The 5 motives were: tackling the climate emergency, becoming more active, supporting vocal communities and places, creating a fair society and sustaining economic success.

One of the most important aims of the Combined Authority was to connect people to opportunities. It was highlighted that the amount of opportunities accessible to those by cars far exceeded opportunities accessible via public transport. Decarbonisation was also included in the plan which set a target of becoming “net zero” by 2041; this was nine years ahead of the UK “net zero” target of 2050.

Members were minded that three vital outcomes were essential to help achieve the aims set out in the plan:-

- improve accessibility
- reduce traffic; and

- electrify the transport system

Both local and national policy was required to ensure that all authorities were moving in the same direction to improve transport access and usage for those who did not have alternatives. It was important to understand the challenges faced by residents and how travel behaviours can be changed. The WMCA was working with Sandwell Council to assist in public and officer engagement to review how the project pipeline works would impact on transport principles. The WMCA also assisted in clearly identifying priorities to ensure funding was received and used on projects across the West Midlands so that all works linked to one another.

The final development of the area strategies and implementation plans was due to conclude in December 2023 and the consultation engagement plan was due to be discussed by the Strategic Transport Board in early 2024. It was predicted that the final plan would be presented to WMCA Board for adoption in late 2024.

Following questions from members, the following points were made:-

- the plans would include investigations into the disproportionality negative impact on travel across the West Midlands Region;
- investment in cars made it difficult to persuade travellers to move to public transport however, making travel safer, more efficient and more reliable would help encourage people to use public transport;
- although plans were in place to help relieve “pinch-points” on Sandwell’s road network, previous experience highlighted that the capacity instead increases, re-introducing the problem later down the line;
- the target year for an all-electric bus fleet was 2030 with additional hydrogen vehicles being introduced for the Sprint network;
- the Government scheme to cap adult fares to £2 nation-wide had been extended until 2024 however, WMCA would consider the potential issues arising when this scheme ends;

- the plan would help justify the appropriate mode of public transport is in the right place taking into account costs, viability and time constraints;
- consultation would aim to target a vast array of groups to ensure that representations were fair and reflective of the area in question;
- multiple methods of consultation would be utilised including face-to-face discussions and simpler less technical documents would be provided to promote clarity of the topics.

Although the public had not yet been consulted on what journey routes were most desired, the WMCA was attempting to understand what the key issues were and how they could be fixed. Members were also minded that it was impossible to satisfy all route requests due to the limited funding available to operate the public transport network. Funding issues had impacted work on the bus improvement plan and officers highlighted that there could potentially be a case for franchising in the West Midlands. This would have given the local authority greater ability to specify where routes would go however, this would pose a greater risk on the local authority, especially when considering the difficulties of keeping within the financial constraints.

40/23

Sandwell Local Plan - Consultation on the Draft Sandwell Local Plan

It was a statutory requirement for every Local Planning Authority to have an up-to-date Local Plan. Following the discontinuation of the development of the Black Country Plan in 2022, Sandwell Council was required to produce its own plan with aim of adoption by the end of 2025.

There were three statutory consultation periods required as part of the production and adoption of the local plan; the draft plan was currently in the options and issues consultation stage; this was referred to as Regulation 18. The Consultation would run for 6 weeks until 18 December 2023.

The plan was comprised of the spatial vision and strategy, the development strategy, the Local Plan policies, the site allocations and the policies map for the borough. It was also

highlighted that, following each consultation stage, the Local Plan policy would undergo several sustainability appraisals.

The main aim of the Sandwell Local Plan was to keep a healthy balance between housing provision and employment growth whilst remaining realistic and adhering to the Council's climate change commitments.

Housing need was determined by the standard method set by the Government. This indicated that an additional 29,773 homes needed to be provided across Sandwell over the period 2022-2041. Sandwell was only able to accommodate approximately 11,167 new dwellings during the same period. Therefore, this left the Council with a substantial shortfall in housing supply of approximately 18,606.

As Sandwell was an historic industrial area with various ground condition issues, the identification of new sites was difficult. New land was limited and due to Sandwell's relatively small amount of Green Belt and its significant constraints, such as Nature Conservation protection and Flood Zone restrictions, the Council would not be allocating any sites within the Green Belt.

In order to try to address some of the housing shortfall, the Council had been continuing with the Duty to Cooperate discussions with neighbouring authorities that were started as part of the Black Country Plan. Discussions with South Staffordshire, Shropshire, Lichfield and Telford and Wrekin councils had yielded potential housing and employment contributions of 295 homes and an amount of employment land yet to be determined. Despite these contributions, a substantial shortfall would remain.

In order to meet local needs, the Local Plan required that a sufficient proportion of new homes provided over the plan period should be affordable. The draft policy stated that the minimum proportion of affordable housing that should be provided, subject to viability, was 25%. In addition, 25% of the affordable homes required by the policy would be First Homes tenure, as defined in national guidance.

There were a significant number of House in Multiple Occupation (HMO) properties in Sandwell and it was recognised that an over-concentration of HMO properties

could lead to a loss of family-sized units in an area where this was the type of house in greatest need. This posed a serious issue for maintaining a mixed sustainable housing offer across Sandwell. The proposed HMO policy introduced a 10% threshold for HMOs which meant that no more than 10% of houses within a 100m radius of the planning application site could be HMOs. There was also a proposed new policy to protect family housing and prevent subdivision and conversion to small HMOs.

A total of 185 hectares of employment land was required. Only 42 Hectares was available to the Council, of which, only 29 Hectares was vacant. This was a significant shortfall and therefore, via the duty to operate, the Council would need to look to other authorities to assist in supporting employment land needs.

Work around regeneration town centres was also considered within the plan. The main priority for Sandwell was to ensure that town centres remained focused on serving the needs of their communities by delivering a balanced range of commercial, business, service and residential provisions. Policies on limiting hot food takeaways and gambling services were also highlighted to the Board to promote health and wellbeing in the borough.

Additional, plans were also place that identified key transport priorities in the area to improve the fundamentals of Sandwell's transport network. This included the potential for extending the light rail network and also introducing bus services in key corridors.

Furthermore, the plan also committed to meeting the Council's biodiversity duty under the Natural Environment and Rural Communities Act (2006) by delivering a Biodiversity Net Gain of at least 10% across the borough.

Following site assessments by officers, members were minded that several key sites were to be noted:-

- Brandhall Golf Course;
- Lyng Industrial Estate – allocated for employment with support to change to residential if future viability issues were overcome;

- Lion Farm Playing Fields – allocated for mixed use with a proportion of the site being retained as open space including football pitches.

The plan existed under the old planning system and not under the newer system that been considered by parliament. Following consultation, representations would be reviewed, and amendments would be made to the plan where required. The plan would then be submitted to the Secretary of State before further consultation which would be considered by the Secretary of State and not the Council.

Following discussion from members, the following points were made:-

- a record of contaminated land was kept by the Council and the majority of funding to treat the contaminated areas was obtained via the West Midlands Combined Authority;
- supporting documents to the plan would support the need for the introduction of compulsory infrastructure such as schools;
- separate Council policies were in place to ensure that new developments were accessible and accommodating;
- any shop operating a takeaway element which was ancillary would not be covered by the policy and would be regarded as a restaurant;
- 25% affordable homes was difficult to achieve and therefore, any figure higher would not be viable;
- officers would consider co-operation ownership models and the social value that they delivered.

Officers were thanked for their hard work on creating the Draft Sandwell Local Plan.

Highway Strategic Road Safety Plan 2024-2030 – Report of the Working Group

At its meeting on 18 January 2022, Council requested the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board to conduct a review into the Strategic Road Safety Plan. The Strategic Road Safety Plan covered the period 2017-2022 and was therefore due for renewal.

On 23 October 2023, members of the working group, alongside officers from the Council's Highways department, met for a final time to consider the contents of the Strategic Road Safety Plan 2024-2030.

The Working group had noted the importance of ensuring the safety of roads and how enabling sustainable mobility played an important role in providing for basic humans needs as well as helping mitigate the impact of climate change. It was highlighted that a "Safe System" approach was built on the principle of Vision Zero whereby no one should be killed or seriously injured whilst using the road network. It also recognised that human bodies were fragile, and minds are prone to making mistakes. Consequently, a Safe System approach considered road safety to be a responsibility shared by all those that use the road, those that design, manage, construct and maintain the network, those that enforce highway laws and those who provided post-crash care.

The new Sandwell Strategic Road Safety Plan 2024-2030 would continue to utilise and build on the previously successful Sandwell Safe System approach to support and complement the refreshed West Midlands Regional Road Safety Strategy at a local level. Sandwell's new Strategic Road Safety Plan would stretch its casualty reduction targets to complement the regional and UN aspiration, as well as embracing Vision Zero. It was deemed unrealistic to expect that Vision Zero could be achieved within the timeframe of this new strategy, but it was noted that it was vital that the right building blocks be put in place for the future.

The findings of the Board would be noted by Cabinet when considered the approval of the Road Safety Plan in December 2023.

Resolved that the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board endorses the Highway Strategic Road Safety Plan 2024-2030 to Cabinet.

42/23 **Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme**

The Board noted the Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme.

Meeting ended at 8.12pm

Contact: democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk

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Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

8 February 2024

Subject:	Towns Fund Programme Update
Director:	Assistant Director, Spatial Planning & Growth, Tammy Stokes
Contact Officer:	Towns Fund Programme Manager, Rina Rahim Rina_Rahim@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board note the contents of the report.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 This report affords an update on the Towns Fund Programme to provide assurance that the programme is proceeding in line with Government requirements and the agreed local assurance process.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?



Best start in life for children and young people

Projects within the Towns Fund areas will create new and improved facilities for young people including new education and learning spaces.





People live well and age well

Projects within the Towns Fund areas will deliver new housing, new education spaces, improvements to community assets, public realm and green spaces, improvements to transport links, and will support the creation of new jobs and learning opportunities.



Strong resilient communities

The Town Board membership is drawn from a range of organisations and sectors and provides input and direction to the Towns Fund programme at a strategic and local level.

Projects within the Towns Fund areas will bring forward sites to deliver new housing, new education spaces, improvements to community assets, public realm and green spaces, improvements to transport links, and will support the creation of new jobs and learning opportunities.



Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods

Projects within the Towns Fund areas will deliver new housing and bring a range of improvements that support thriving neighbourhoods.



A strong and inclusive economy

Projects within the Towns Fund areas will deliver new jobs and learning opportunities. Improvements to transport connections will improve residents' ability to access key transport hubs and hence their access to employment and education prospects, contributing to attracting and retaining businesses in Sandwell.



A connected and accessible Sandwell

Projects within the Towns Fund areas will deliver improvements in cycling and walking infrastructure, and transport connections.



4 Context and Key Issues

Funding Background

- 4.1 Following the Government announcement that 101 Towns had been identified to benefit from the Towns Fund, Heads of Terms were offered (1 per Town) offering West Bromwich £25m; Smethwick £23.5m and Rowley Regis £19m, making Sandwell's total Towns Fund allocation £67.5m. This was confirmed in a Grant Offer, received on the 20 August 2021.
- 4.2 On the 23 March 2022, Cabinet approved the Regeneration Strategy, Regeneration Project Pipeline, and the Inclusive Recovery Action Plan for Business. Taken together, they set out the corporate regeneration priorities for the period 2022 to 2027. The pipeline comprises of 66 live projects with an estimate total investment value of £2.8b by 2027. This investment includes £67.5m from the Towns Fund Programme.
- 4.3 Business Cases for 16 projects were submitted and approved by Government resulting in Sandwell securing the full £67.5 million. Each town was committed to deliver DLUHC defined outputs as well local measures agreed with the Towns Fund Boards. The full list of deliverables is included in Appendix A. The mandatory outputs to be delivered as per the Heads of Terms with DLUHC are as follows:
- 337 temporary construction jobs supported
 - 3129 learners gaining certificates or completing courses at a new or improved training facility
 - 42117 sqm of rehabilitated land
 - 14.22 km of new cycleways
 - 4.km of new/improved pedestrian paths
 - 57 jobs safeguarded
 - 39 new jobs created



Monitoring and Evaluation

- 4.4 As all 16 projects within the programme proceeded to Delivery Phase, monitoring is a key aspect to ensure the Accountable Body and DLUHC track progress of the fund and the projects it is delivering.
- 4.5 To ensure the Accountable Body and Town Deal Boards receive reporting on a regular basis to monitor project progress, expenditure and risks, it is a requirement set by the Programme Management Office that West Bromwich, Smethwick and Rowley Regis project leads must submit Monitoring, Evaluation and Claim Returns on a quarterly basis, as a minimum.
- 4.9 Two previous returns which have been submitted to DLUHC have been approved resulting in the release of funding for 23/24. The latest return for the period up to 30th September 2023 was submitted to DLUHC on 16th December 2023 and is currently awaiting formal approval.
- 4.10 The Quarter 3 returns submitted 10th January provides updated financial profiles for the remainder of the programme highlighting any slippage of funds to future years. A summary of the progress, output delivery and financial spend per town as of 31 December 23 is included in Appendix B of this report.
- 4.11 The timeline for the next progress reports is as follows:

10 April 24	Submission of project returns to SMBC covering the period to March 2024
May 2024	Update to Leadership Team
May 2024	Towns Fund Board Meetings
June 24	Progress returns to DLUHC

Project Risk Reporting and Budget Pressures



- 4.12 The Towns Fund Programme continues to be governed by SMBC as the Accountable Body and the three Towns Fund Boards, who meet on a quarterly basis to review project progress and approve financial returns to Government.
- 4.13 Although projects are at various stages of delivery, cost pressures due to the changes and cost increases in the construction industry pose a high risk on project delivery. Where applicable, projects have been required to value engineer to ensure they can be delivered within the funding envelope.
- 4.14 DLUHC are aware of the cost pressures on projects across all Towns Fund Programmes. Although, no further funding is being offered to meet shortfalls, there have been changes made to the project adjustment request thresholds, enabling some flexibility to reduce outputs to support projects facing these challenges.
- 4.15 The DLUHC change request process delegates authority to the Towns Fund Boards and Accountable Body to rescope projects approve project changes, including reduction of outputs and outcomes due to budget pressures, subject to the reduction being no more than 30%, and the project still offering value for money.
- 4.16 The following projects are low risk and have either completed or near completion ahead of schedule:

Low Risk Projects
Digital Den – Project completed and now delivering outputs in learners supported
Central St Michael Science & Technology Centre - Build complete with additional funding obtained by DfE. Site opened for learners from Sept 23. Opening ceremony planned for early March 24
Urban Greening – Capital elements of works completed with pocket parks, seating, and upgrading of High St now finalised.



Canal Network Connectivity- Cycle and pedestrian pathways near completion with final tarmac works expected in April/May. Publicity to be undertaken to promote the scheme.

Ron Davis Centre – New extension completed with IT equipment now in place. First cohort of learners enrolled to use facilities from Sept 23.

Smethwick Connected - project works on target with completion due earlier than expected

4.17 The following projects are delayed due to either slippage of milestones or cost inflation pressures:

Town Hall Quarter – Delays to project due to detailed review of final cost plan. Refurbishment works has now started.

Retail Diversification Project – Land acquisition delays for key sites in West Bromwich. Final cost plan for West Bromwich Indoor Market exceeded project budget resulting in seeking alternative options.

Grove Lane Regeneration – CPO approach approved by Cabinet. This process takes 12-18 months to complete therefore slippage of funds has been requested.

Rolfe Street – Planning objections received resulting in delay with project

Midland Met Learning Campus – Cost inflation pressures to deliver net zero carbon building therefore, project has applied for additional matchfunding from West Midlands Combined Authority.

Britannia Park – Changing rooms tenders exceed project budget. Review currently taking place to descope scheme.

Cradley Heath Skills Centre – Delays to project due to resource pressures which has now been resolved with cost plan being finalised and contractor expected to be on site in May 24.

Blackheath Bus Interchange – Redesign of scheme following consultation with market traders. Consultation planned for late February.



4.18 Details of the project Risks, consequences and mitigation as submitted to DLUHC are detailed in Appendix C. A breakdown of costs per project and additional budget requirements are detailed in Appendix D.

4.19 Projects are supported by SMBC Comms team to undertake publicity and press releases promoting key achievements throughout the programme. A forward plan is attached as Appendix E.

5 Implications

Resources:	<p>Resources are in place for the existing Governance arrangements and phases 3 of the Towns Fund Programme via the Programme Management Office.</p> <p>There are resource requirements for the Council to fulfil its responsibility as Accountable Body, and these are being considered by the Director for Regeneration & Growth and the Director of Finance.</p> <p>The Towns Fund represents an opportunity to attract £67.5m regeneration investment which has been conditionally offered by Government through 3 Town Deals.</p>
Legal and Governance:	<p>Governance and Legal arrangements are in place phase 3 – delivery and the role of the council as Accountable Body.</p>
Risk:	<p>The strategic risk to the council was reported to Audit Committee on the 29 Sept 22. The risk has a score of 6 (amber) with a downward trajectory, forecasting 4 (green). Project risks are currently being reviewed following procurement activity and final cost submissions exceeding Towns Fund budgets.</p>
Equality:	<p>The revised Governance arrangements consist of three Town Fund Boards, with membership drawn from a range of organisations and sectors.</p>



	<p>The investment gained through the Towns Fund offers the opportunity for Towns to ‘level up’ and put in place building blocks for economic prosperity.</p> <p>Specific equality and diversity implications have been assessed for each project within the programme.</p>
Health and Wellbeing:	Projects within the Towns Fund Programme will deliver health and wellbeing benefits and are outlined as part of the Full Business Cases for each project.
Social Value	Social Value is a priority within the Regeneration Programme and performance against Social Value outputs and outcomes will be monitored by the Regeneration Programme Board.
Climate Change:	Climate Change measures are considered as part of regeneration projects, with sustainability being a category of projects on the pipeline.
Corporate Parenting	There are no implications arising from this report. All projects to be added will be reviewed and assessed to ensure follows SMBC Corporate Parenting requirements

6 Appendices

Appendix A	Towns Fund Financial Profile and Outputs
Appendix B	Project Key risks
Appendix C	Towns Fund Cost pressures
Appendix D	Publicity Forward Plan

7. Background Papers

N//A



West Bromwich Towns Fund - Outputs

Key Deliverables	Total Approved	23/24 Forecast	Total to Date
Number of temporary jobs supported through project delivery	90	15	79
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created	4.5	0	0.5
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs safeguarded	47	37	0
Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	1,000	260	410
Number of learners/trainees/students enrolled at new education and training facilities/ enrolled in new education and training courses	512	260	410
Number of closer collaborations with employers	25	5	0
Number of improved community/ sport centres	2	0	0
Number of heritage buildings renovated/ restored	2	0	0
Amount of new parks/ greenspace/ outdoor space (m2)	2,480	0	1,005
Amount of public realm improved (m2)	1,005	0	1,005
Number of trees planted	33	13	26
Total length of new cycle ways (km)	2.00054	1.74	2.54
Total length of new pedestrian paths (km)	0.728	0.448	0.728
Total length of resurfaced/ improved road (km)	2	0	0
Number of sites cleared	3	0	0
Amount of rehabilitated land (m2)	12,117	0	0
Amount of floor space rationalised (m2)	7,590	0	0

Smethwick Towns Fund - Outputs

ge 24

KEY DELIVERABLES	Total Approved	Total to date Actual	23/24 Forecast
Number of temporary jobs supported through project delivery	155	15	75
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created	31	0	1
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs safeguarded	10	0	0
Amount of capacity of new or improved training or education facilities	2,380	0	300
Number of learners/trainees/students enrolled at improved education and training facilities	2,380	0	100
Number of learners/students/trainees gaining certificates, graduating or completing courses at new or improved training or education facilities, or attending new courses	2,142	0	80
Number of closer collaborations with employers	15	0	0
Total length of resurfaced/ improved road (km)	2.7	1.5	1.2
Total length of new cycle ways (km)	2.7	1.5	1.2
Total length of new pedestrian paths (km)	3.6	2	1.6
Amount of rehabilitated land (m2)	30,000	0	0
Number of residential units provided	260	0	0

Rowley Regis Towns Fund - Outputs

ge 25

KEY DELIVERABLES	Total Approved	Total to date Actual	23/24 Forecast
Number of temporary jobs supported through project delivery	87	77	10
Number of full-time equivalent (FTE) jobs created	4	0	0
Number of new community/ sports centres	1	1	0
Amount of existing parks/ greenspace/ outdoor space improved (m2)	59,500	40,000	0
Number of trees planted	100	50	0
Amount of public realm improved (m2)	700	0	0
Total length of resurfaced/ improved road (km)	2.36	1	0
Total length of new cycle ways (km)	9.52	4.78	3.35
Total length of new pedestrian paths (km)	0.78	0.5	0
Total length of pedestrian paths improved	7.13	3.78	3.35
Number of improved public transport routes	10	0	0
Number of transport nodes with new multimodal connection points	1	0	0
Automatic / manual counts of pedestrians and cyclists (for active travel schemes)	57,620	0	0
Road traffic flows in corridors of interest (for road schemes)	5	0	0

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	Project	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Towns Fund	Digital Den	PR: To promote number of learners supported since launching in Aug 2022.								
Towns Fund	Sandwell MEC			PR/Event - Opening ceremony						
Towns Fund	Urban Greening	Multistorey workshops completed				Multistory - 13-17 May one week course on Wildlife Habitat & Maintenance				
Towns Fund	Town Hall Quarter	Milestone and PR: Restoration works commence								
Towns Fund	Retail Diversification Project			Acquisition of Wilko						
Towns Fund	West Bromwich Connected	Phase 3 Consultation			Consultations in April					
Towns Fund	Ron Davis Centre	New cohort of courses?								
Towns Fund	Midland Met Learning Campus	Milestone: Planning application approved		Spade in ground, works start						
Towns Fund	Grove Lane Regeneration									
Towns Fund	Rolfe St Regeneration									
Towns Fund	Smethwick Connected	Milestone: Phase 4 pre-site works commence						Milestone: Phase 4 works complete		
Towns Fund	Britannia Park	Herald - Works commence on allotments	Milestone: Works commence on Play Area and Tree Planting	Milestone: Allotments complete	Milestone: Sports drainage works commence					

	Project	Jan-24	Feb-24	Mar-24	Apr-24	May-24	Jun-24	Jul-24	Aug-24	Sep-24
Towns Fund	Canal Network		Milestone: Majority of works complete and paths open to the public		Top dressing will be laid down on pedestrian path					
Towns Fund	Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub		PR - Contractor appointed		Milestone - Construction period commences	Milestone - RIBA Stage 4 design complete				
Towns Fund	Blackheath Bus Interchange		Milestone: Public Consultation		Milestone: Detailed design works					
Towns Fund	Rowley Regis Connected	Milestone: Public Consultation for Oldbury Ringway	Milestone: Phase 1 pre-site works complete and contractor appointed		Milestone: Phase 2 pre-site works complete and contractor appointed		Milestone: Phase 1 works complete			Milestone: Phase 2 works complete

Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

8 February 2024

Subject:	Tracking and Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations
Director:	James McLaughlin Assistant Chief Executive James_McLaughlin@sandwell.gov.uk
Contact Officer:	Suky Suthi-Nagira Democratic Services Manager Suky_suthinagra@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







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

2 Reasons for Recommendations

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



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

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

4 Context and Key Issues

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

5 Implications

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



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

6 Appendices

Appendix A – Economy, Skills Transport and Economy Recommendations Tracker

7 Background Papers

None.



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Tracking and Monitoring of Actions and Recommendations of Scrutiny Board

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Tracker 22/23				
Date	Item	Recommendation/ Action	Responsible Person	Notes
08 Novem ber 2023	Sandwell Local Plan – Consultation on the Draft Sandwell Local Plan	To consider the potential use of co- operative ownership housing models and the social value that they can offer.	Andy Miller	Update 31 January 2024: Update provided to the Board in due course.

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Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

8 February 2024

Subject:	Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme
Director:	James McLaughlin Assistant Chief Executive James_McLaughlin@sandwell.gov.uk
Contact Officer:	Suky Suthi-Nagra Democratic Services Manager Suky_suthinagra@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations







- 1.1 That the Board notes the Cabinet Forward Plan, which sets out the matters programmed to be considered by the Cabinet.
- 1.2 That the Board notes its work programme, which sets out matters to be considered by the Board in 2023/24 and considers whether any changes are required to the programme.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 A strong and effective work programme underpins the work and approach of Scrutiny.
- 2.2 It is good practice for work programmes to remain fluid, to allow for scrutiny of new and emerging issues in a timely manner.



3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	Best start in life for children and young people	The scrutiny function supports all of the objectives of the Corporate Plan by seeking to improve services for the people of Sandwell. It does this by influencing the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services.
	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 Scrutiny is a member led and driven function, driven by members' commitment to improve services and thereby people's lives.
- 4.2 An annual work programming event, involving chief officers, executive members and key partners, was held in June 2023 and all boards approved their work programmes for 2023/24 at their first meeting of the municipal year.
- 4.3 Boards have responsibility for their own work programmes, and it is good practice to keep them under review, to allow for new and emerging issues to be scrutinised in a timely manner.
- 4.4 Scrutiny Procedure Rules allow any member to request that an item is added to a scrutiny board's work programme. Each request should be carefully assessed, using the agreed process, to ensure that resources can be prioritised and that the scrutiny activity will add value.



5 Implications

<p>Resources:</p>	<p>Any resources implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.</p> <p>Any specific implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>
<p>Legal and Governance:</p>	<p>The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.</p> <p>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.</p> <p>NHS service commissioners and providers have a duty to respond in writing to a report or recommendation where health scrutiny requests this, within 28 days of the request. This applies to requests from individual health scrutiny committees or sub-committees, from local authorities and from joint health scrutiny committees or sub-committees.</p>
<p>Risk:</p>	<p>Any risk implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.</p> <p>Any specific risks for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>
<p>Equality:</p>	<p>Any equality implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.</p> <p>Any specific equality implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>
<p>Health and Wellbeing:</p>	<p>Any health and wellbeing implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.</p> <p>Any specific health and wellbeing implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>



Social Value	<p>Any social value implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.</p> <p>Any specific social value implications for the Board’s attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>
Corporate Parenting	<p>Any corporate parenting implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.</p> <p>Any specific corporate parenting implications for the Board’s attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>
Climate Change	<p>Any climate change implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.</p> <p>Any specific climate change implications for the Board’s attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>

6 Appendices

Appendix A – Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix B – Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Work Programme

7. Background Papers

None.



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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
1	Regional Speed Enforcement Contact Officer: Mervyn Bartlett Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Environment & Highways (Cllr Millard)		13 March 2024		



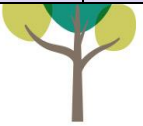
	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
2	<p>Levelling Up Partnership Programme Update</p> <p>To receive an update on the delivery of the Levelling Up Partnership for Wednesbury following Cabinet approval in September 2022</p> <p>Contact Officer: Rebecca Jenkins</p> <p>Assistant Director: Tammy Stokes – Assistant Director</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>13 March 2024</p>	<p>TBC</p>	



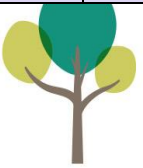
	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt – state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
3	<p>City Region Sustainable Transport Settlement Grants – Delegation of authority to accept grants.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Andy Miller – Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager</p> <p>Director: Tammy Stokes – Assistant Director Growth & Spatial Planning</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>13 March 2024</p>	<p>No</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
4	<p>West Bromwich Indoor Market</p> <p>Cost Pressures Brief description Report to agree funding package for the delivery of West Bromwich Indoor Market and approval to procure contractor.</p> <p>Contact Officer: Alexander Oxley</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>		<p>13 March 2024</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
5	<p>Long Term Plan for Towns - Smethwick</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>13 March 2024</p>		
6	<p>Levelling Up Fund Round 3 bid submission</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>13 March 2024</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
7	<p>Sandwell Design Code - Supplementary Plan</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jenna Langford</p> <p>Director: Tammy Stokes (Assistant Director – Spatial Planning and Growth)</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>13 March 2024</p>		<p>Cabinet Report EQIA</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
8	<p>Levelling Up Zone</p> <p>Contact Officer: Bart Shirm</p> <p>Assistant Director: Tammy Stokes – Assistant Director Spatial Planning and Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>		<p>13 March 2024</p>		



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Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/ 24

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment





Standing Items:-

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

Meeting Date	Item	Presented by
13 July 2023	Cycle Route (Europa Avenue – Sandwell Valley) – referral from Cabinet Petitions Committee	Andy Miller/ Wayne Moore/ Tony McGovern/ Robin Weare (delivery of project/ Talvinder Sandu
	Work Programme 2023/24 and establishment of Scrutiny Review Working Group	Alex Goddard
03 October 2023	Towns Fund Update	Rina Rahim
	Europa Avenue Cycle Path and Associated Consultation – Considerations and Conclusion	Councillor Owen (Vice-Chair of Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board)
8 November 2023	Sandwell Local Plan – Draft Plan Consultation	Andy Miller
	Local Transport Plan	TfWM Officers (Via Andy Miller)
	Highway Strategic Road Safety Plan 2024-2030 – Report of the Working Group	Chair of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board
8 February 2024	Towns Fund Update	Rina Rahim

7 March 2024	Lion Farm Playing Field Proposals	Tony McGovern
	Mixed Used Community Spaces in Town Centres	Alexander Oxley

<p>Items to be scheduled:</p> <p>Grass verge parking policy (2024/2025 municipal year)</p> <p>Cycle-path schemes current position and policy</p>

<p>Scrutiny Review/s</p> <p>Local Centres – revitalisation and diversification</p>  

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