

Agenda

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

Tuesday, 3 October 2023 at 5.30 pm
At Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

1 Apologies for Absence

2 Declarations of Interest

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

3 Minutes

5 - 10

To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13 July 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

11 - 26

To receive and comment upon the Towns Fund Programme Update.



- 6 **Europa Avenue Cycle Path and Associated Consultation - Considerations and Conclusion - Report of the Working Group** 27 - 74

To consider the findings of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Working Group in relation to the Europa Avenue Cycle Path Consultation.

- 7 **Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme** 75 - 90

Standing item to consider the Cabinet Forward Plan and the Board's Work Programme for 2023/24.

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

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

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Minutes of Economy Skills Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

13 July 2023 at 5.47pm
in the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Owen (Vice- Chair in the Chair);
Councillors Dhatt, Kordala, Rahman, J Singh and
Taylor.

Also Present: Mr S Singh (Residents of Europa Avenue
Representative).

Officers: Andy Miller (Strategic Planning and Transport
Manager), Talvinder Sandhu (Transportation Team
Manager), Johane Gandiwa (Committee and
Constitutional Services Lead Officer), John Swann
(Democratic Services Officer) and Prabjot Multani
(Business and Member Services Officer).

20/23 **Apologies for Absence**

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors
Ashraf, Chapman, Hemingway and Hussain.

21/23 **Declarations of Interest and Party Whip**

Councillor Taylor declared a personal interest in the matter
referred to at Minute No. 24/23; Europa Avenue Cycle Route
Towns Fund Scheme in that she was the Cabinet Member
for Sustainable Transport who oversaw the scheme in 2021.

22/23

Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meetings held on 28 February and 20 April 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

23/23

Additional Item of Business

There were no urgent additional items of business to consider.

24/23

Europa Avenue Cycle Route Towns Fund Scheme

Further to Minute No's. 20/22 (7 December 2022), 4/23 (18 January 2023), 8/23 (1 March 2023) and 12/23 (21 June 2023) of Cabinet Petitions Committee; the Board received a summary of the Europa Avenue Cycle Route Towns Fund Scheme which had been referred to scrutiny to consider whether consultation with residents had been conducted at the time.

The Strategic Planning and Transport Manager outlined that the cycle path was longstanding in nature, having been an adopted highway since the 1970s and that the upgrades were financed via National Lottery funding from cycling charity Sustrans.

In 2017, the government published a cycling and walking investment strategy which had aimed to ensure cycling and walking were the natural choices when planning journeys. This model required local authorities to produce local cycling and infrastructure plans and set out that segregated cycle paths were the preferred choice of bike lane as it was separate from the carriageway utilised by motor vehicles.

The widening of the cycle path was in line with existing Sandwell Council policy since 2020 and proposed the widening of the highway from 2.5m to 4.3m.

Local consultation had taken place in 2021 and included writing to 350 properties within the Europa Avenue, West Bromwich locality, 44 responses had been received being of equal split in favour and against the proposed scheme.

Following the consideration of the responses received by residents in March 2022, the Cabinet Member had approved the scheme as originally proposed on 28 June 2022.

Residents were contacted via post following the approval of the scheme which had resulted in a petition against the proposals with 146 signatories having been recorded by the Council.

Cabinet Petitions Committee had subsequently referred the matter to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board for further consideration.

The Residents of Europa Avenue Representative was in attendance who expressed reservations regarding the scheme. In particular, the following points were highlighted:-

- 146 residents had objected to the proposal which had been received by the Cabinet Petitions Committee;
- some residents were of the opinion that the time period between the consultation concluding and works commencing had been too brief;
- the public consultation could have been more extensive in nature;
- the link to the online questionnaire had been inaccessible to some residents.

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

- the Towns Funding needed to be utilised by March 2025;
- the cycle path had formed part of the National Cycle Route No. 5;
- there was no legal requirement to consult as these were classified as permitted works regarding an existing highway;
- proposals did not include any changes to roads accessible to motor vehicles;

- it was proposed that the four trees which would be removed as part of the works would be replaced on a two- for- one basis;
- the questionnaire sent to residents was specifically designed for this scheme;
- an environmental impact assessment had not been conducted which was in line with Sandwell Council policy for planned works of this scale;
- that a working group of the Scrutiny Board be established and conduct a site- visit to better understand the scheme.

Resolved that a Working Group comprised of Councillors Dhatt, Kordala, Owen, Rahman, J Singh and Taylor be established and a site visit be arranged to consider the Europa Avenue Cycle Route Towns Fund Scheme.

25/23 **Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Action Tracker**

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

26/23 **Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/ 24**

The Board received an overview of the Board's Work Programme for the 2023/ 24 municipal year. It was noted a work programming session had taken place on 12 June 2023 which allowed the Board to discuss services, key issues and priorities.

The Board would be conducting a scrutiny review on the 2017- 2022 Strategic Road Safety Plan and had established a working group accordingly.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the work programme for the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board for the 2023/ 24 municipal year be approved;
- (2) that a Working Group comprised of Councillors Dhatt, Kordala, Owen, Rahman, J Singh and Taylor be established to conduct a scrutiny review on the 2017- 2022 Strategic Road Safety Plan.

27/23 Cabinet Forward Plan

The Board received the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Meeting ended at 6.23pm

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Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

3 October 2023

Subject:	Towns Fund Programme Update
Director:	Regeneration & Growth, Tony McGovern
Contact Officer:	Towns Fund Programme Manager, Rina Rahim Rina_Rahim@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board considers and comments upon the Towns Fund Programme Update.

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 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 Issues

- 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 agreed 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
- 4.3 Projects proceeded with the delivery phase with the first monitoring returns for the period 1st April to 31st September 2022 submitted on 9th December 2022 and subsequently approved by DLUHC. The progress



return for the period of 1st October to 31st March 2023 was submitted to DLUHC on 6th June 2023 and is currently awaiting formal approval. Payments will be released annually subject to a satisfactory performance assessment by DLUHC.

4.4 The timeline for the next progress reports is as follows:

10 October 23	Submission of project returns to SMBC covering the period Apr 23 – Jun 23
31 October 23	Update to Leadership Team
22 nd - 29 th November 23	Towns Fund Board Meetings
6 December 23	Progress returns to DLUHC

4.5 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.

4.6 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.

4.7 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.

4.8 The DLUCH 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.

4.9 Seven projects are currently rated as high risk due to either slippage of milestones or cost inflation pressures:

Town Hall Quarter – Final cost plan submitted 15 Sept being reviewed to ensure project can proceed.

Retail Diversification Project – Land acquisition delays for key sites in West Bromwich. Final cost plan for West Bromwich Indoor Market submitted 15 Sept being reviewed to ensure project can proceed.

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

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

Britannia Park – Procurement will start in October 23 for play equipment, skatepark and changing rooms which will determine the work packages that can be delivered within budgets.

Cradley Heath Skills Centre – Existing procurement process via Pagabo has expired resulting in restarting the procurement process. This will require slippage of funds and milestones to Autumn 25.

Blackheath Bus Interchange – Ongoing communication with Market traders and Ward members to determine scheme design which will have an impact on the final cost of scheme.

4.10 The Quarter 2 returns due 10 October will provide 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 30 June 23 is included in Appendix A of this report.

4.11 A key priority highlighted by the recent Town Board meetings is Local Spend and Social Value outcomes. Guidance for projects to incorporate Local Spend/Social Value within project delivery has been adopted by the Towns Boards. Discussions with contractors and project leads are currently taking place to set targets in place with ongoing monitoring to report on deliverables. Current social value targets envisaged to be delivered through the programme are highlighted in Appendix C.



- 4.12 Projects are supported by SMBC Comms team to undertake publicity and press releases promoting key achievements throughout the programme.
- 4.13 The Regeneration Team in May 2023 published the Regeneration Pipeline Brochure, articulating the scale of regeneration opportunity Sandwell can deliver. Monitoring is taking place to capture the deliverables throughout the pipeline. In addition, the Regeneration & Growth team have also launched a new website – www.regeneratingsandwell.gov.uk which showcases the project pipeline and progress.

5 Implications

<p>Resources:</p>	<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>
<p>Legal and Governance:</p>	<p>Governance and Legal arrangements are in place phase 3 – delivery and the role of the council as Accountable Body.</p>
<p>Risk:</p>	<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 - Publicity Forward Plan

Appendix C - Social value outcomes

7. Background Papers

Regeneration Pipeline

<https://regeneratingsandwell.co.uk/resources/>



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Towns Fund Programme Financial Profiles

	West Bromwich	Smethwick	Rowley Regis	Total
Spend to date (£m)	£7.2	£2.6	£2.4	£12.2
23/24 forecast (£m)	£10.1	£6.7	£2.7	£19.5
24/25 forecast (£m)	£6.9	£12.1	£8.5	£27.5
25/26 forecast (£m)	£0.8	£2.1	£5.4	£8.3
Total	£25.0	£23.5	£19.0	£67.5

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 21

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 22

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

Project	Jul-23	Aug-23	Sep-23	Oct-23	Nov-23	Dec-23	Jan-24	Feb-24
Digital Den	DLUHC Site Visit				PR: To promote number of learners supported since launching in Aug 2022.			
Sandwel MEC	DLUHC Site Visit			Event: Opening Ceremony PR: Promote project construction completion, opening ceremony and how to enrol.				
Urban Greening	DLUHC Site Visit	Milestone: Phase 3 works commence	PR: Green roots culutral programme upcoming events completed so far	PR: Phase 3 works progress and completion of phase 2				
Town Hall Quarter	DLUHC Site Visit			Milestone and PR: Restoration works commence				
Retail Diversification Project	DLUHC Site Visit			Milestone and PR: Restoration works commence				
West Bromwich Connected				PR: Consultation for Phase 3 is live.				
Ron Davis Centre	DLUHC Site Visit				PR: Project launch and classrooms operating			
Midland Met Learning Campus	PR: Planning application submitted				PR: Planning application determination and build commencement date Milestone: Building practical completion date confirmed.			
Grove Lane Regeneration								
Rolfe St Regeneration				Milestone and PR: Pre-site works commence				

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Report to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

3 October 2023

Subject:	Europa Avenue Cycle Path and Associated Consultation – Considerations and Conclusion – Report of the Working Group
Director:	Director of Regeneration & Growth Tony McGovern
Contact Officer:	Democratic Services Manager and Statutory Scrutiny Officer Suky Suthi-Nagra Suky_suthinagra@sanwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations

1.1 That in connection with the Europa Avenue Cycle Path Consultation, the following findings of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Working Group, in relation to whether sufficient and appropriate consultation had been carried out in line with existing council policies, practices and procedures, be approved by the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board:-

- (1) That having listened and considered the views of local residents, the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Board:-
 - (a) note that the Working Group are satisfied that consultation on the Europa Avenue cycle path, which was carried out both online and by letter drops to households, was conducted in accordance with Council processes, however, communication with residents could have been improved further;



- (b) note that in future, where simultaneous improvement works are being carried out within the vicinity by different departments, internal communication between departments should be undertaken to avoid confusion and disruption to residents;
- (c) suggest that the Council consider all platforms, including Citizenspace and neighbourhood forums, for communicating with residents, taking into consideration digital deprivation across the borough;
- (d) acknowledge that the Overview and Scrutiny function should be used to consider matters of strategic importance within the borough and not local ward issues in order to ensure value is added.


1.2 That the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board refers its findings to the next available Cabinet Petitions Committee.

2 Reasons for Recommendations





2.1 At its meeting on 13 July 2023, the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board established a working group to investigate concerns raised by petitioners regarding the Europa Avenue Cycle Towns Fund Scheme Consultation process.

2.2 Following further considerations and a site visit to the Cycle Path on 4 August 2023, the working group are now ready to report its findings to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board for further consideration.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>People live well and age well: The proposals contribute to providing safe and efficient access to the cycling and walking network and the wider transport network, include improved access to Sandwell Valley Country Park for local people and visitors, and contribute to the health benefits of sustainable active travel.</p>
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	<p>Strong resilient communities: Successful communities need access to jobs, services, and facilities to enable them to remain healthy and vibrant. Improving access to Sandwell Valley Country Park, the local cycling and walking network, and the wider transport network is an important enabler of this.</p>
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods: Both new and existing residential developments rely on good quality access and links to shops, services, as well as leisure facilities such as those provided within Sandwell Valley Country Park for them to be successful. Measures by which access to leisure facilities and the wider transport network, including the cycling and walking network is improved and maintained is key to this.</p>
	<p>A strong and inclusive economy: Transport plays a vital role in connecting people to jobs and learning opportunities. Health-promoting transport systems are pro-business and support economic prosperity. They enable optimal travel to work with less congestion, collisions, pollution, and they support a healthier workforce. The provision of improved high-quality cycling and walking connectivity will therefore play a key role in connecting Sandwell residents and businesses to economic and social opportunities.</p>
	<p>A connected and accessible Sandwell: The provision of high-quality cycling and walking links and improved access to the transport network is vital to enable Sandwell residents to access jobs, education, and services both within and beyond the Borough's boundaries.</p>

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Following the approval of the Cycle Route Proposal 2 by the Cabinet Member for Environment on 28 June 2022, a petition was received by the Council on 2 November 2022 containing 150 signatures. This petition was against upgrading the cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley via Middleway path however, residents were generally supportive of the resurfacing the path. On receipt of the petition, Cabinet Petitions Committee referred the matter to the Economy, Skills, Transport and



Environment Scrutiny Board to determine if the Council's consultation process was carried out adequately.

- 4.2 On 13 July 2023, the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board received a report on the Europa Avenue Cycle Path Scheme. Representations were made by both the Council and petitioners alike. Subsequently, the Board established a working group to investigate whether the Council's consultation process was in line with the procedures in place.
- 4.3 On 4 August 2023, the working group, alongside Council officers, visited the site of the Europa Avenue Cycle Route and noted the issues raised by residents. It was highlighted to residents that the path in the locality would be extended with separate sections for cyclists and pedestrians. The planned works were also in accordance with the government cycling and walking infrastructure plan which recommended that cyclists were not sharing the carriageway with motor vehicles. Minimal impacts were expected to residents as a result of resurfacing.
- 4.4 A final working group meeting occurred on 18 September 2023, where working group members considered all of the data available before agreeing their final recommendations to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board.
- 4.5 The working group noted the issues raised by residents in previous sessions and agreed that better communications could have been made to keep residents updated. Separate works had also started in the area shortly after the end of the consultation process which caused confusion for residents. Members agreed that several lessons could be learned from this consultation process and suggested that consultations in future attempt to gain as much feedback and data as possible, regardless of whether works were considered minor or not.



5 Implications

Resources:	Loss of Towns Funding which was reallocated for the Europa Avenue highway improvement scheme should the scheme not proceed as planned.
Legal and Governance:	Funding agreements for this project are governed by and construed in accordance with the Law of England and Wales and the Parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts.
Risk:	Leaving the Middleway path as it is, shared between pedestrians and cyclist could mean there is a risk of pedestrian and cyclist conflict in comparison to providing a segregated path as was proposed.
Equality:	This scheme is part of Cycle Route Proposal 2 within the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, an equality impact assessment was carried out during the development of the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan of which this scheme and the proposed infrastructure adheres to latest Government Guidance.
Health and Wellbeing:	The proposed walking and cycling route aim to have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local communities as it aims to encourage Active Travel. Not delivering the improvement scheme could have the opposite effect.
Social Value:	The proposed cycle route will form part of a network that will link communities to employment, education, transport hubs, town centres and services.
Climate Change:	Sandwell Council has joined other councils in England that have declared a Climate Emergency and as a result developed and adopted a Climate Change Strategy 2021-2041. Within Sandwell's Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 3 for Transport states that Sandwell Council will "Implement highway measures and transport facilities that fully accommodate and promote the use of public transport, cycling and walking, making journeys by such methods easier, faster and safer, alongside measures to discourage car use. The Europa Avenue scheme aims to do this.



Corporate Parenting:	There are no specific corporate parenting implications arising from the contents of the report.
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6 Appendices

- Appendix A – Cycling and Walking Investment Plan
- Appendix B – Europa Avenue Middleway
- Appendix C – Europa Avenue Proposal
- Appendix D – Cabinet Petitions Progress Report
- Appendix E – Public Consultation Letter
- Appendix F – Europa Avenue – Consultation Plan
- Appendix G – Europa Avenue Letter
- Appendix H – Europa Avenue Consultation Leaflet
- Appendix I – Europa Avenue Questionnaire
- Appendix J – Europa Avenue Consultation Date Letter
- Appendix K – Europa Avenue Petition Plan
- Appendix L – Europa Avenue Consultation Area
- Appendix M – Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board – 13 July 2023

7. Background Papers



3.5 Cycle Route 2 NCN Route 5 Improvements, linking to WMLCWIP route

Cycle Route 2 creates links to an existing network. It forms a part of the National Cycle Network (NCN) Route 5 and has connections to the West Midlands LCWIP routes. The length of the SCWIP route is approximately 1km. The link runs through a residential area consisting of a connecting road, a local road and segregated off road pathway. NCN Route 5 incorporates Sandwell Valley Country Park in the route and as such provides off carriageway cycling for leisure and transport purposes. The route does vary in terms of gradient, however, the distance of the gradient would not necessarily discourage people from using the route as it is not excessive. As such the SCWIP route was realigned from the existing route to provide a more direct connection to Sandwell Valley Country Park and take advantage of off-carriageway infrastructure. Approximately half of the route falls into a regeneration corridor and provides good links with existing and planned cycle infrastructure:

- Route 2 is part of NCN Route 5
- WM LCWIP considers improvements to the southern section of this scheme
- Connects to Sandwell Valley Country Park

The results from the RST show that with the improved infrastructure the route:

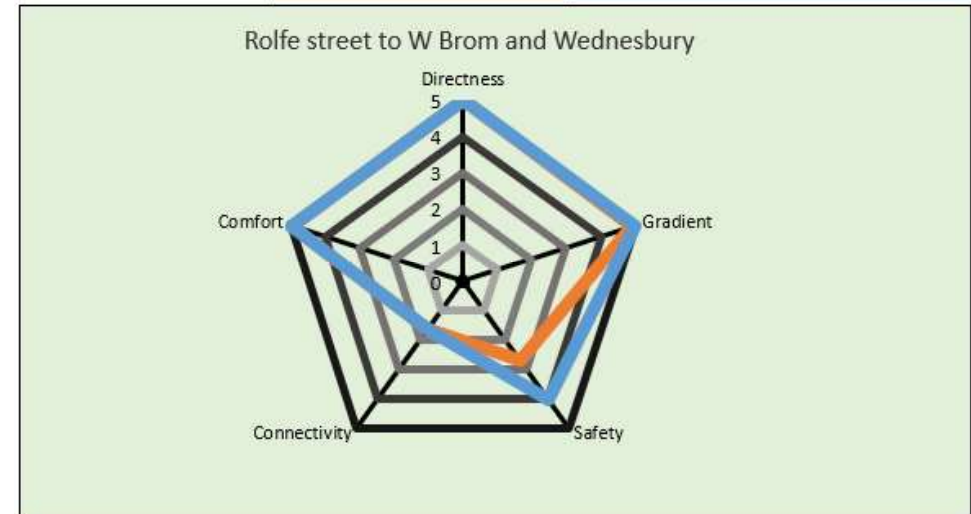
- Scored slightly better in directness, having shorter distance to travel than the original route
- Gradient scoring remained the same as re-routing the alignment made no significant difference to the score
- Scored much higher for safety which would naturally improve on comfort (although, as comfort previously scored high, this is not reflected in the RST scoring), due to segregating cyclists from

motor vehicles for the entire route and improving infrastructure on potential conflict points such as junctions

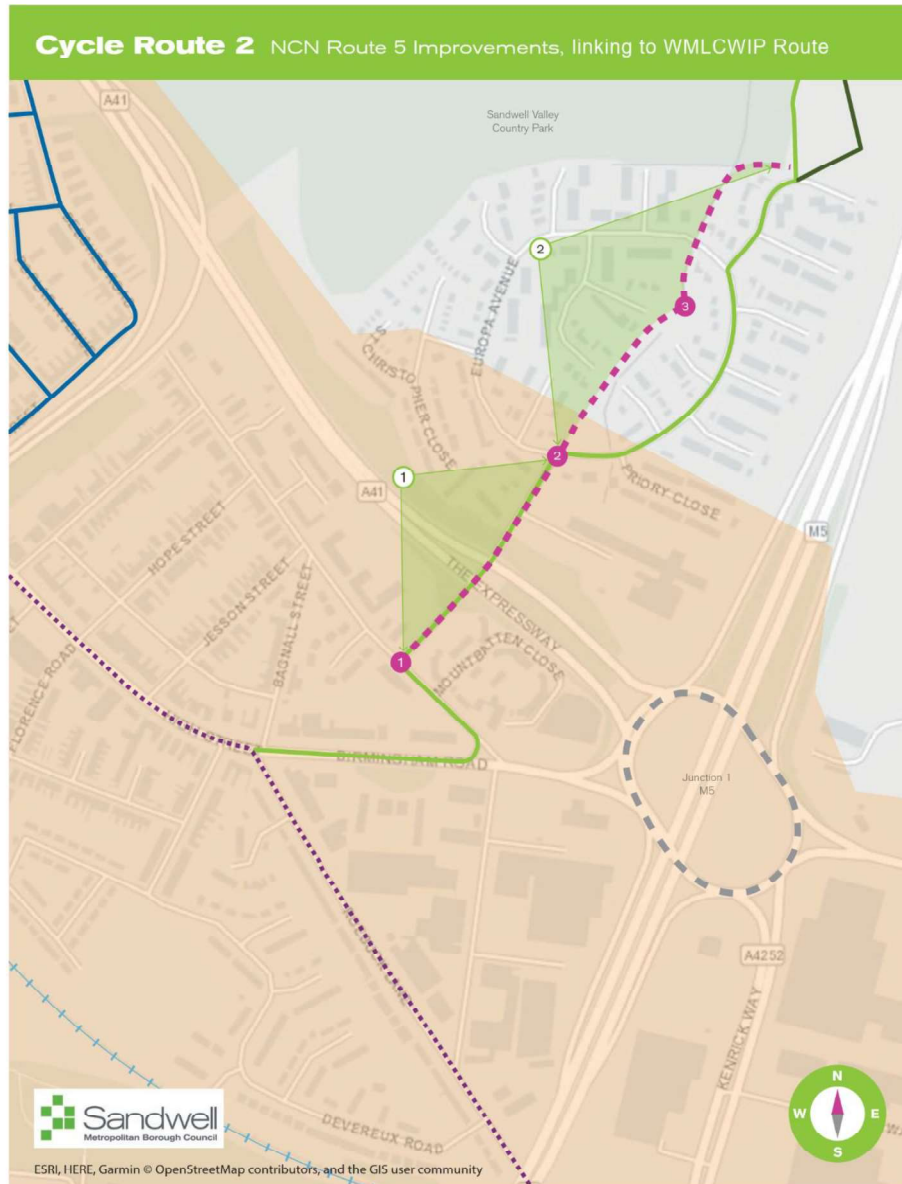
- The score for connectivity remained the same as no new links were identified by realigning the route

Figure 3.10 Route 2 RST scores

Criterion	Performance Scores	
	Existing	Potential
Directness	5.00	5.00
Gradient	4.89	5.00
Safety	2.67	4.01
Connectivity	1.65	1.65
Comfort	5.00	5.00



Number of Existing Critical Junctions/Crossings	8
Number of Potential Critical Junctions/Crossings	0



Europa Avenue Middleway



Europa Avenue Middleway footpath is in poor condition and a potential trip hazard



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Europa Avenue Middleway



National Cycle Network Route 5 in Warwick, which is similar to the Europa Avenue proposal



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Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee

21 June 2023

Subject:	Petitions Progress Report
Contact Officer:	Trisha Newton Trisha_newton@sandwell.gov.uk







1 Recommendations

That the Cabinet Petitions Committee approve the action taken or proposed as details in the third column below.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

To receive petitions and approve action taken/proposed in response.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

		Petitions are one of the many ways in which people who live and work in the Borough can influence the decision-making process. Many of the issues typically raised by petitions underpin the Council's Vision. Petitions alert members and officers to current local issues and ensure that services are being targeted appropriately in delivering the Council's priorities.
		
		



4 Context and Key Issues

Section 46 of the Localism Act 2011 removes the requirements for principal local authorities in England and Wales to make, publish and comply with a scheme for the handling of petitions made to the authority, with effect from 1 April 2012. At its meeting on 22 May 2012, the Council decided to retain a petitions scheme, although there was no longer a statutory requirement to have such a scheme.

5 Background Details

5.1 Petitions received since last reporting period

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.1.1 16 – residents of Park Lane West, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for resident only parking spaces outside of 173-184 Park Lane West.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 12/03/2023)
5.1.2 211 - against the withdrawal of the No. 45 bus service, Yew Tree and Charlemont Estates, West Bromwich (Charlemont with Grove Vale)	Petition against the withdrawal of the No. 45 bus service, Yew Tree and Charlemont Estates, West Bromwich.	TfWM is now funding the 45 bus service which will continue to be operated by Diamond Bus and remains unchanged. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 28/03/2023)



5.1.3 138 – residents of Thomas Cox Wharf and Alexandra Grange, Tipton (Great Bridge)

Request for the adoption of roads by Sandwell Council.

The responsibility to progress the adoption of any new roads on a development falls solely on the land owner (typically the Developer) who must initially offer any new roads to the Authority for adoption and, importantly, then enter into a legal adoption agreement with the Local Highway Authority (typically an agreement under Section 38 of the Highway Act). The Council has no powers to force a developer to enter into any adoption agreement. In this instance, the Developer gave the Authority every impression that they were going to enter into the necessary Section 38 agreement for adoption on numerous occasions and took discussions well beyond the cut off time allowable to undertake enforcement under Section 220. However, the Developer did not complete the necessary Section 38 agreements for the adoption of the roads, or complete the necessary process. Consequently, the roads on these sites were retained as private roads. The head petitioner has been informed.
(Received 21/04/2023)



- | | | | |
|-------|---|--|--|
| 5.1.4 | 26 – residents in and around Farran Way, Great Barr (Great Barr with Yew Tree) | Request for the pruning of trees and removal of leaves in the area on an annual basis. | The Council recently adopted a new trees strategy which was approved by Cabinet in March 2023. This includes the commitment to complete a full inspection of all council owned trees in red risk areas within the next 18 months. Farran Way is scheduled for inspection in July 2023, and any remedial works identified from this inspection will be scheduled to take place after bird nesting season. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/04/2023) |
| 5.1.5 | 23 – residents in the vicinity of Charlemont Avenue, West Bromwich (Charlemont with Grove Vale) | Request for the maintenance of trees on Charlemont Avenue and Charlemont Crescent. | The Council recently adopted a new trees strategy which was approved by Cabinet in March 2023. This includes the commitment to complete a full inspection of all Council owned trees in red risk areas within the next 18 months. Charlemont Avenue is scheduled for inspection in July 2023, and any remedial works identified from this inspection will be scheduled to take place after bird nesting season. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/04/2023) |



5.1.6	77 – residents in support of Warley Baptist Church, Oldbury (Old Warley)	Request for double-yellow or red lines on Castle Road East, Oldbury.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 05/06/2023)
5.1.7	19 – Residents of Field Road, Tipton (Princes End)	Request for speed bumps on Field Road, Princes End, Tipton.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 12/06/2023)

5.2 Progress on outstanding petitions

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.2.1 141 – Convenience Store Customers, Toll End Road, Smethwick (Smethwick)	Request for a ramp outside a convenience store to enable easy access for customers.	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 4/10/2022)
5.2.2 146 - residents in and around Europa Close, West Bromwich (West Bromwich Central)	Concerns with the proposed cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley	Following representations made by the petitioners in relation to their concerns around the consultation process and the cycle route proposals, officers will submit a report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board. An update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 1/11/2022)
5.2.3 175 – residents in and around Wellington Road, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for the easing of traffic problems on Wellington Road, Tipton	Petitioners raised concerns regarding parking problems in the area. A request to utilise a nearby pot of land in the area to ease parking was made. An update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 14/02/2023)



5.2.4	97 – residents in and around Wolverhampton Road, Oldbury (Old Warley)	Concerns regarding road safety on the junction of Wolverhampton Road/Queensway	This matter is being investigated by officers and an update will be submitted to a future meeting. (Received 31/01/2023)
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5.3 Petitions requiring final approval

Signatories	Subject	Action Taken/Proposed
5.3.1 128 – residents of Lightwoods Hill, Smethwick (Abbey)	Request for traffic calming measures	In December 2022 a report was submitted to the Cabinet Member for Environment for a decision on how to progress the proposals for Lightwoods Hill. The report highlighted the findings from the two previous consultations Highways had carried out with affected residents on the two different proposals for Lightwoods Hill. Subsequently, petitioners had created and presented a report to Highways. A response had been submitted to the petitioners in relation to their report. A further updated briefing session was held with the Cabinet Member which contained the additional details of the findings from the petitioner’s report. After considering all the information presented, the Cabinet Member concluded that the correct course of action would be to approve the extension of the Bearwood



			20mph zone and the installation of Digital Vehicle Activated Speed signs on Lightwoods Hill, to help satisfy some of the community concern raised over perceived excessive speed in the area. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 19/7/2021)
5.3.2	692 – users of Carnegie Building, Tipton (Tipton Green)	Request for community use of the Carnegie Building	Tipton Carnegie building currently forms part of a Council plan around locally based council services which are subject to the outcomes of the ongoing customer strategy review. The Carnegie building is being considered for use as a library. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 29/11/2022)
5.3.3	31 – Residents of Hales Crescent, Smethwick (Smethwick)	Request for removal of a large portion of grass area and for further parking bays to be identified, including designated disabled parking spaces.	APCOA have reviewed all of the Penalty Charge Notices issued to ensure they were issued correctly. Officers hand delivered letters in January to all households within the Crescent, inviting them to meet to see if there was interest in pursuing a community-led solution, possibly a local responsible parking charter. Unfortunately, only two responses were received. Officers do not believe that there was enough community buy-in to take things forward. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 21/11/2022)



5.3.4	35 – residents from various addresses across Sandwell	Concern regarding green waste collection charges and surrounding communications involving the matter.	A petition regarding the introduction of charges was received and a response provided to the Committee at its meeting on 18 January 2023 (Minute No. 4.23 refers). The Council has access to suppliers that can translate communication in various languages upon request. The head petitioner has been informed. (Received 20/2/2023)
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6 Source Documents

Copies of petitions from various groups of residents (exempt information).



My Ref:

Your Ref:

Please ask for: Trevor Chatwin

Telephone No. 0121 368 1177

Email : trevor_chatwin@sandwell.gov.uk

Date: 16th February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam

Proposed Cycle Scheme - Europa Avenue

We would like to inform you of proposed improvements to the existing footpath along Europa Avenue which will make provision for both pedestrians and cyclists who would like to gain access into Sandwell Valley. We do not expect there to be any adverse impact on residents, however, we wanted to share this information with you. Enclosed is a plan showing the outline proposals and should you have any feedback or require further information please complete and return the enclosed request for information form in the prepaid envelope and we will contact you as soon as possible.

The footpath along Europa Avenue is currently shared by all users, both pedestrians and cyclists. The proposed scheme aims to widen the existing footpath along Europa Avenue under the A41 Expressway and provide a dedicated cycle lane so that pedestrians are separated from cyclists which will reduce potential conflicts between the two. The new cycling facilities also take the route through the existing wooded area between the rear gardens of St Martins and St Valentines Close, where the existing footway will also be widened.

These proposals are only a small section of a much wider cycling and walking route which will improve access to Sandwell Valley.

Yours faithfully

T.Chatwin

Trevor Chatwin
Principal Engineer – Development

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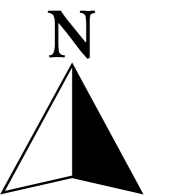
**Project Name: Towns Fund
National Cycle Network Route 5**

Details: Resurface & widen existing footway to create a segregated pedestrians & cycle route & take cyclists off the existing on-road route into Sandwell Valley to improve road safety

Footway 1.8 metres wide

Two way cycleway 2.5 metres wide

Date: 14/11/2021



KEY

- Walking Route —
- Proposed two-way Cycle Route —
- Existing Cycle Route - - -
- Bollards ●
- Uncontrolled Crossing ○

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Sandwell Council
Directorate of Regeneration & Growth
Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 3DB
W: www.sandwell.gov.uk
E: transport@sandwell.gov.uk

Dear Resident,

Pathway Improvements along Middleway

Two public consultations took place on the Europa Village Estate. The first was between 16th February and 2nd March 2021. This resulted in some adverse reaction. As a result, a second round of consultation, between 1st and 29th November was carried out. This involved 350-properties across the whole of the Europa Village Estate receiving a letter, proposals plan and questionnaire. There were 44 (12.5%) responses, 22 in favour and 22 opposed.

Given the even nature of the responses for and against the proposal it is recommended that the scheme proceed as originally proposed as this represents the best layout to achieve the objectives of the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan and meets the requirements of the Department for Transport Local Transport Note (LTN)1/20: Cycling Infrastructure, which is the overarching guidance for the development of cycle projects.

Cabinet Member for Environment Services, Councillor Ahmed has granted approval to construct phase 2 of the proposed upgraded cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley via Middleway Path. The proposal is to widen and resurface with tarmac an existing path that currently runs through a wooded area known as the Middleway. This will create a segregated pedestrian and cycle route into Sandwell Valley

Key issues resulting from the consultation and the responses to them are:

Concern: The removal of several trees to widen the path

Response: These will be replaced at a ratio of two to one with new semi mature trees.

Concern: The improvement to the path along the Middleway will attract anti-social behaviour;

Response: There is evidence that when a path is improved and attracts more use it can decrease the incidents of anti-social behaviour by increasing natural surveillance.

Concern: There will be conflicts between pedestrians and cyclists;

Response: The path will be widened, and a demarcation line, tactile paving, logos, signage and bollards will segregate pedestrians and cyclists. This is a common arrangement throughout the Country and fully accords with the provisions of LTN/20.

Yours Sincerely

Transportation Planning Team

Funding was unexpectedly made available to implement the identified improvements along Middleway, but with very strict time conditions. Consequently, letters were only distributed to households directly adjacent by the scheme to hopefully allow work to start as quickly as possible. Work to upgrade the stretch of cycle route from the Beeches Road junction to the T Junction with Europa Avenue had already begun.

Upon reflection and with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport, the decision has been made to undertake further wider consultation on the new cycle scheme proposed for the 'Middleway' off-highway Section, to gauge interest and receive comments from all residents of the estate before any further work continues.

Will trees be removed as part of this scheme resulting in the loss of trees in the area?

Unfortunately, the proposals will result in the loss of 4 trees. However, the Council will plant 8 well established trees in their place, along the route, in as close a position as possible to the original trees. Therefore, overall the scheme will result in having more trees in the area than are there at the moment.

But what's the point of doing this scheme in the grand scheme of things, what difference is it going to make?

The route connects Sandwell Valley to West Bromwich Town Centre, Parkway pedestrian and cycle route to Hawthorns, NCN81 (where the towpath has recently been resurfaced on Birmingham Canal) and Smethwick Galton Bridge Railway Station. This is considered the first phase of a continuous off-road segregated pedestrian and cycle route on NCN5 that will eventually connect Sandwell Valley to places such as Birmingham City Centre, Oldbury Town Centre, Galton Bridge and Rolfe Street Railway Stations, the new Midland Hospital and the new Smethwick Aquatic Centre.

The aim of the overall project is to reduce car trips and provide alternative safe, attractive and sustainable travel options for the residents of Sandwell, whether they be for commuter journeys or for leisure trips. This scheme will also improve health and wellbeing and help to address Sandwell's high levels of obesity, particularly in children. In addition, the wider scheme will help reduce road congestion and improve the borough's air quality whilst contributing to Sandwell's Cabinet approved Climate Change Strategy and Transport Action Plan.

Therefore, the route will:

- Improve overall cycling and walking connectivity
- Improve road safety for both pedestrians and cyclists
- Offer an alternative, cleaner, healthier way of travelling than using the car.

For more information:
??????@sandwell.gov.uk



Europa Avenue Cycling Scheme Public Consultation 2021



Background

Cycling and Walking are important activities that are proven to improve health and wellbeing, reduce traffic congestion and improve air quality. Recently the Government has made it clear that only those Local Authorities who have an approved Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP) would be prioritised for additional funding to improve their cycling and walking infrastructure.

Sandwell's Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (SCWIP) was given Cabinet Approval in January 2020. Consequently, the Council successfully gained funding in January 2021 through the Government's Accelerated Towns Fund programme, to provide better cycling and walking provision in line with the approved SCWIP.

Part of that funding was allocated to help improve SCWIP – Route 2 and National Cycle Network Route 5 which links Sandwell Valley through Europa Avenue estate, to the West Midlands Local Cycling & Walking Plan route in Smethwick.

Europa Avenue Scheme Proposals

Currently the existing National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5) runs down Europa Avenue from Beeches Road highway and then turns right along Europa Avenue on the road, through St John's Close and on into Sandwell Valley.

As part of the new proposals, the plan is to introduce a two-way off-road cycle route through the 'Middleway' area of Europa Avenue, by widening and realigning the existing path that is already used by both pedestrians and cyclists. The new proposals will separate cyclists and pedestrians, so they no longer have to share the same path help to avoid pedestrian and cyclist conflicts. As an added benefit, the path will also take cyclist away from the road and vehicles, making a much safer route for experienced and new cyclists alike, particularly children.

The work will also have the benefit of putting a brand-new surface on the existing path as well as providing a second dedicated path for the cyclists. In addition, the Middleway will be litter picked and cleaned and overgrown bushes and trees pruned and trimmed.



FAQ's

Will this scheme affect my property?

Much of the scheme is on the existing highway currently used by all road users and is along the National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5), so this will have no or minimal impact on properties.

The 'Middleway' part of the scheme will have minimal impact on properties as the upgraded cycling and pedestrian route will be on the same alignment as the existing path. The current path width is approximately 2.5m wide, which will be widened to approximately 4m, to give the space to separate cyclists and pedestrians already using this path to access Sandwell Valley.

Will this mean more people will be travelling past my property?

The new paths will carry the same amount of pedestrian and cycle traffic as currently travels through Europa Avenue area, but it will improve road safety by taking cyclists off road and also segregating them from pedestrians and vehicles. The aim of the proposal is to improve safety for all road users by separating motorists, cyclists and pedestrians. Those vulnerable, such as wheelchair users, the elderly, children or pushchairs will be separated from cyclists. In turn, those people who currently do not consider it safe to cycle on the road in the same space as motorists, will be provided a safe, separated route from traffic. Please note the proposals are NOT for the purpose of providing for racing cyclists, but for recreational and leisure users. Experienced and racing cyclists generally prefer to use the road system as they have the confidence to do so.

What consultation has taken place, I've not heard about this before?

Improvements to Middleway are included in Sandwell's Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (SCWIP) which was widely advertised prior to gaining Cabinet Approval in 2020. The SCWIP is a programme of projects used to attract funds to make improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure throughout the borough. Secondary consultation was scheduled to take place locally on a scheme by scheme bases. In late 2020 Sandwell was successful in bidding for Accelerated Towns Funds in West Bromwich, Rowley Regis and Smethwick (see press release from 15th January 2021).



If you wish to comment on the proposed pedestrian and cycle route improvements, please fill in this questionnaire and either post it in the return envelope or attach to an email and send to transport@sandwell.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can fill in a questionnaire online at <https://sandwellwalking-and-cycling.commonplace.is/>

1. The segregated pedestrian and cycle through the green space route will improve the safety for cyclists by taking them off the road and minimise accidents with motor vehicles

2.

Agree, mostly agree, do not agree or disagree, mostly disagree, disagree

3. The cycle route will improve the safety of the path through the green space by separating cyclists from pedestrians, providing a wider path and improving the lighting

Agree, mostly agree, do not agree or disagree, mostly disagree, disagree

4. More cycling journeys encourage a more active lifestyle with the associated health benefits

Agree, mostly agree, do not agree or disagree, mostly disagree, disagree

5. More cycling journeys help reduce car use, help with peak time congestion and improve air quality

Agree, mostly agree, do not agree or disagree, mostly disagree, disagree

6. Do you have any additional comments to make?

Sandwell Council
Directorate of Regeneration & Growth
Council House
Freeth Street
Oldbury
West Midlands
B69 3DB
W: www.sandwell.gov.uk
E: transport@sandwell.gov.uk

Dear Resident,

Funding was unexpectedly made available to implement the identified improvements along Middleway, but with very strict time conditions. Consequently, letters were only distributed to households directly adjacent by the scheme to hopefully allow work to start as quickly as possible. Work to upgrade the stretch of cycle route from the Beeches Road junction to the T Junction with Europa Avenue had already begun.

Upon reflection and with the agreement of the Cabinet Member for Environment, the decision has been made to undertake further wider consultation on the new cycle scheme proposed for the 'Middleway' off-highway Section, to gauge interest and receive comments from all residents of the estate before any further work continues.

You will have recently received an information pack and a questionnaire with a return envelope. This consultation will end on **Monday 29th November at 5pm.**

If you wish to comment on the proposed pedestrian and cycle route improvements, please fill in the questionnaire that was previously sent and either post it in the return envelope or attach to an email and send to transport@sandwell.gov.uk. Alternatively, you can fill in a questionnaire online at

<https://sandwellwalking-and-cycling.commonplace.is/>

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Key

● Petition signed by households

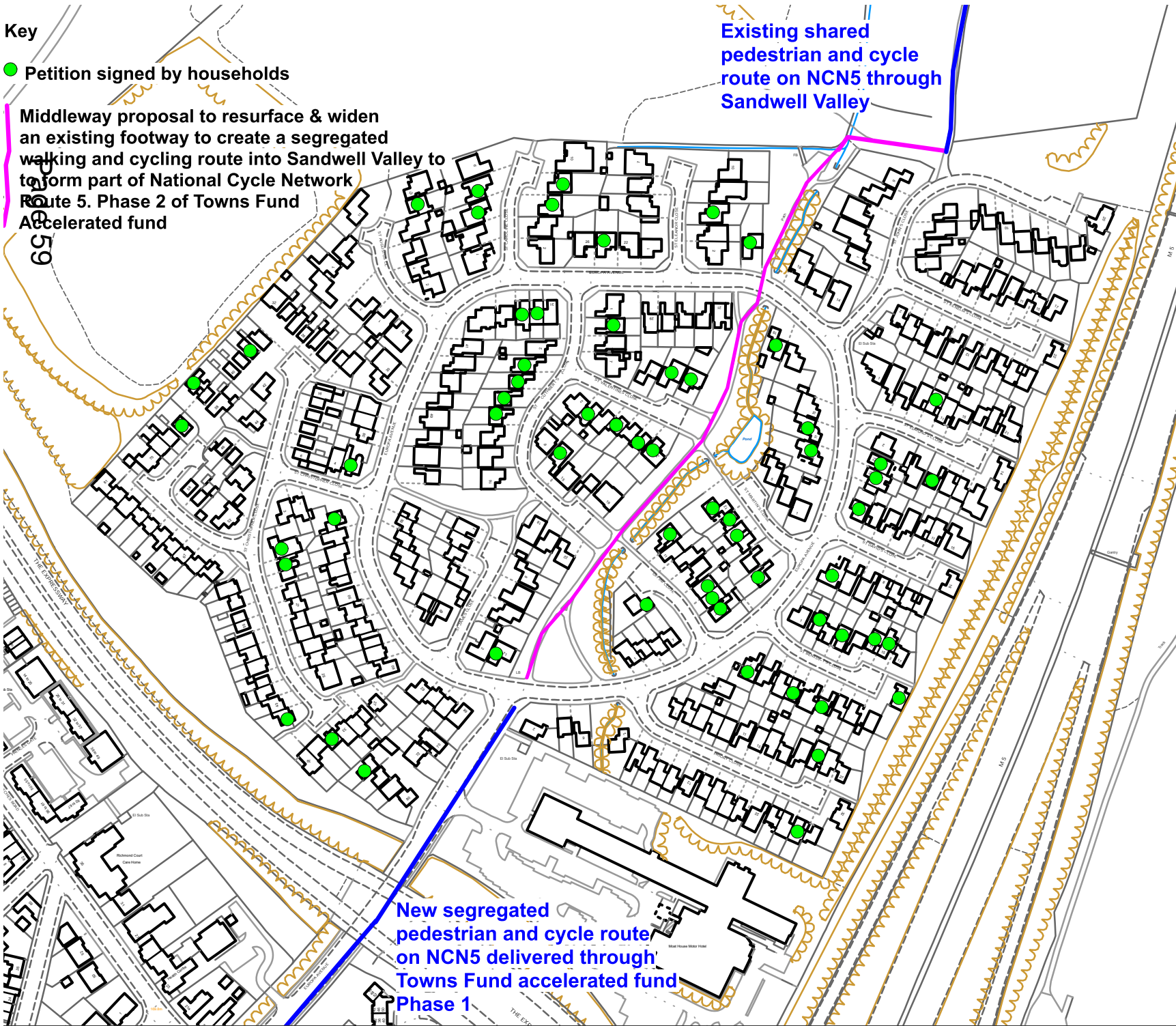
Middleway proposal to resurface & widen an existing footway to create a segregated walking and cycling route into Sandwell Valley to form part of National Cycle Network Route 5. Phase 2 of Towns Fund Accelerated fund

Existing shared pedestrian and cycle route on NCN5 through Sandwell Valley

New segregated pedestrian and cycle route on NCN5 delivered through Towns Fund accelerated fund Phase 1

Petition Plan of
Europa Avenue
proposed
Walking & Cycling
Route Improvements

Date: 17/11/2022



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Mercure Birmingham West

Europa Ave

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Report to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

13 July 2023

Subject:	Europa Avenue Cycle Route Towns Fund Scheme
Director:	Director of Regeneration & Growth Tony McGovern
Contact Officer:	Strategic Planning & Transportation Manager, Andy Miller andy_miller@sandwell.gov.uk

1 Recommendations




- 1.1 That the Board considers and comments upon the Europa Avenue Towns Fund highway improvement scheme and the associated consultation which has been undertaken for a proposed cycle and walking route, including continuing the route through Middleway on Europa Avenue, West Bromwich
- 1.2 That the Board considers whether sufficient and appropriate consultation has been carried out in line with existing council policies, practices, and procedures prior to reaching the previous decision to proceed with the scheme as proposed.





2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 At present, there is Cabinet Member approval in place to complete the Cycle Route Proposal 2 which connects to the West Midlands LCWIP route proposals to Sandwell Valley via Europa Avenue to its full extent as initially proposed so that an end to end cycle and walking route can be delivered in accordance with the route proposals in Sandwell's Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (SCWIP) which was approved by Cabinet in January 2020 and in line with the submission for Accelerated Town Funding that was awarded to Sandwell MBC by government for this scheme.
- 2.2 Following the approval by the Cabinet Member for Environment on 28th June 2022, a petition was received by the Council on 02 November 2022 containing 150 signatures. This petition was against upgrading the cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley via Middleway path whilst generally supportive of the resurfacing the path. On receipt of the petition, Cabinet Petitions Committee referred the matter to this Board for consideration.
- 2.3 The Board is therefore requested to consider and comment on the scheme, and the consultation carried out, to enable Cabinet Petitions Committee to reach a decision on what action, if any, should be taken in respect of the petition.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

	<p>People live well and age well: The proposals contribute to providing safe and efficient access to the cycling and walking network and the wider transport network, include improved access to Sandwell Valley Country Park for local people and visitors, and contribute to the health benefits of sustainable active travel.</p>
	<p>Strong resilient communities: Successful communities need access to jobs, services, and facilities to enable them to remain healthy and vibrant. Improving access to Sandwell Valley Country Park, the local cycling and walking network, and the wider transport network is an important enabler of this.</p>
	<p>Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods: Both new and existing residential developments rely on good quality access and links to shops, services, as well as leisure facilities such</p>



	as those provided within Sandwell Valley Country Park for them to be successful. Measures by which access to leisure facilities and the wider transport network, including the cycling and walking network is improved and maintained is key to this.
	A strong and inclusive economy: Transport plays a vital role in connecting people to jobs and learning opportunities. Health-promoting transport systems are pro-business and support economic prosperity. They enable optimal travel to work with less congestion, collisions, pollution, and they support a healthier workforce. The provision of improved high-quality cycling and walking connectivity will therefore play a key role in connecting Sandwell residents and businesses to economic and social opportunities.
	A connected and accessible Sandwell: The provision of high-quality cycling and walking links and improved access to the transport network is vital to enable Sandwell residents to access jobs, education, and services both within and beyond the Borough's boundaries.

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 Cycling and Walking are important activities that are proven to improve health and wellbeing, assist in reducing traffic congestion and improve air quality. In 2017 the Government published 'The Cycling and Walking Investment Strategy' (CWIS), which outlines the government's ambition to make cycling and walking a natural choice for shorter journeys, or as part of longer journeys by 2040. This has resulted in the development of Local Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (LCWIPs), as set out in the Government's CWIS, which are a new a strategic approach to identifying cycling and walking improvements required at the local level. They enable a long-term approach to developing local cycling and walking networks, ideally over a 10-year period, and form a vital part of the Government's strategy to increase the number of trips made on foot or by cycle. Recently the Government has made it clear that only those Local Authorities who have an approved Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (LCWIP)



would be prioritised for additional funding to improve their cycling and walking infrastructure.

- 4.2 Sandwell published its own Sandwell Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plans (SCWIP) in 2020, following public consultation and cabinet approval. It was also presented and discussed at Sandwell's Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board in October 2019 where it received support. The document focusses on local walking and cycling infrastructure connecting communities to town centres, transport hubs, employment, education, and services. The SCWIP aims to assist Sandwell in securing government funding to improve the cycling and walking network within the borough. It also aligns with the Black Country Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (BCLCWIP) and the West Midlands Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (WMLCWIP).
- 4.3 The West Midlands Local Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (WMLCWIP) entails primary corridors where there are high flows of cyclists forecast along desire lines that link large residential areas to trip attractors such as a town or city centre. Routes were also prioritised based on links to other schemes and upcoming developments. One of the primary corridors that falls within the borough of Sandwell is the route running from Smethwick Galton Bridge to Wednesbury Town Centre via West Bromwich. Part of this corridor coincides with National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5) from Galton Bridge, where it links with Birmingham Canal/NCN5 to Birmingham City Centre at Centenary Square and through Sandwell Valley via Roebuck Lane. Birmingham Canal/NCN5 had towpaths upgraded in 2018 as part of the Managing Short Trips programme. The West Midlands LCWIP route aims to continue NCN5 improvements from Galton Bridge to High Street/Birmingham Road via Telford Way and Roebuck Lane. Subsequently the Roebuck Lane to West Bromwich Town Centre element of this route secured central government funding via the West Bromwich Towns Fund project 'West Bromwich Connected' and is due to be delivered over 2023 and 2024.



- 4.4 National Cycle Route 5 (NCR 5) is a 360 miles route within the National Cycle Network, running from Reading to Holyhead, via Birmingham, Sandwell, Walsall, Stoke on Trent and Chester. The National Cycle Network began with a National Lottery Grant from the Millennium Commission in 1995 and NCN5 through Sandwell was delivered in 1999 and this runs from the Birmingham Canal, across Birmingham Road and to Sandwell Valley via Europa Avenue. The route eventually ends at Holyhead in North Wales. The original goal was to create 5,000 miles of signposted cycle routes by 2005, with 50% of these not being on roads, and all of it being "suitable for an unsupervised twelve-year-old. By mid-2000, 5,000 miles of route was signposted to an "interim" standard. Much has changed in the world of cycle infrastructure since NCN5 was delivered. Most notably the publication of Local Transport Note (LTN) 2/08 Cycling Infrastructure Design, which itself was superseded by LTN 1/20 Cycling Infrastructure Design published in July 2020. This guidance has been developed in partnership with a range of stakeholders and experts to ensure it reflects the latest developments in cycle infrastructure design, including proven design elements pioneered in London under Transport for London.
- 4.4. The Black Country LCWIP entails proposals to upgrade the cycle route from Europa Avenue to Walsall Town Centre. This aims to create a traffic free cycle route from Birmingham City Centre, to Walsall via Galton Bridge, West Bromwich High Street, Europa Avenue, Sandwell Valley and Yew Tree.
- 4.4. Cycle Route Proposal 2 within the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan connects to the West Midlands LCWIP route proposals to Sandwell Valley via Europa Avenue. Currently this section of NCN5 is not to current cycling infrastructure standards, as the route is on highway and not segregated from traffic. It's also part of the route included within the Black Country LCWIP. Therefore, the Europa Avenue highway improvement scheme, which is the subject of this report, is included as an improvement route within all three LCWIPs; the SCWIP, the BCLCWIP and the WMLCWIP. Furthermore, it's part of the existing National Cycle Network Route 5 (NCN5) which passes through Europa Avenue from



Beeches Road and then turns right along Europa Avenue on-road, through St John's Close and then on into Sandwell Valley Country Park.

- 4.5 The West Midlands Strategic Transport Plan "Movement for Growth" addresses the transport challenges from the current pressures on the local transport system, the demands of new developments and our growing population. Approximately 41% of journeys made by car are under 2 miles in the West Midlands. There is therefore great scope for the increased role of sustainable travel including cycling and walking as a viable solution to address challenges in congestion and air quality. The Strategic Cycle Network (SCN) in Movement for Growth identifies the main corridors for cycling which includes 274 km of roads in the region. The Metropolitan Cycle Network includes all routes including on-road (including shared use bus lanes, segregated, quiet streets), off-road (including green and canal towpaths), and shared use routes. Routes within the SCWIP, the BCLCWIP, and the WMLCWIP form part of the West Midlands Metropolitan Cycle Network.
- 4.6 There has been significant investment nationally in delivering cycling and walking schemes in what are called Active Travel corridors. This is part of objectives within the Government's Cycling and walking plan for England called 'Gear change: a bold vision for cycling and walking'. Any funding for active travel infrastructure stipulates that only those schemes which aim to deliver high quality, off road, segregated cycle lanes, new footways, and pedestrian crossings in accordance with the national cycle design standards called LTN 1/20 Cycling Infrastructure Design published in July 2020 would receive funding. Active travel projects would also be overseen and monitored to ensure they comply with national design standards by Active Travel England; the government's executive agency responsible for making walking, wheeling and cycling the preferred choice for everyone to get around in England.

Funding

- 4.7 In September 2019, the government invited 101 places to develop proposals for a Town Deal, as part of the £2.4 billion Towns Fund. The



Towns Fund is part of the government's plan for Levelling Up the UK economy. Towns across England have been working with the Government to address their growth constraints, deliver economic benefits and improve the lives of people within their communities. The overarching aims of the Towns Fund are to drive sustainable economic regeneration and productivity across the UK.

4.8 Sandwell Transport Planning Team, working with the Planning Regeneration and Highway Services teams put forward 5 SCWIP schemes for the West Bromwich Towns Fund Bid. On 22nd July 2020 Cabinet delegated authority to approve the Town Investment Plan (TIP) for West Bromwich to the Sandwell Towns Fund Super Board. Super Board approved the projects to be included in the Accelerated Towns Funding programme on 14th August 2020. The Accelerated Funding was an early draw down of the overall West Bromwich Towns Fund for projects that could be delivered relatively quickly over a short period of time. All projects were subject to consultation and final approval through an assurance process that included sign off by Super Board. On 2nd October 2020 Super Board approved shortlisted projects to be included in the Town Investment Plan (TIP). This included the Cycle Route Proposal 2 within the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan which connects to the West Midlands LCWIP route proposals to Sandwell Valley via Europa Avenue.

Europa Avenue Scheme Proposals

4.9 As part of the proposals, the plan is to introduce a two-way off-road cycle route through the 'Middleway' area of Europa Avenue, by widening and realigning the existing path that is already used by both pedestrians and cyclists. The new proposals will separate cyclists and pedestrians, so they no longer need to share the same path help to avoid pedestrian and cyclist conflicts. This aligns with the national design guidance LTN1/20. As an added benefit, the path will also take cyclists away from the road and vehicles, making a much safer route for experienced and new cyclists



alike, particularly children. The work will also have the benefit of putting a brand-new surface on the existing path as well as providing a second dedicated path for the cyclists. In addition, the Middleway will be litter picked and cleaned and overgrown bushes and trees pruned and trimmed.

Consultations

- 5.0 Improvements to Middleway are included in Sandwell's Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan (SCWIP) which was widely advertised prior to gaining Cabinet Approval in 2020. It was also presented and discussed at Sandwell's Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board in October 2019 where it received support. The SCWIP is a programme of projects used to attract funds to make improvements to walking and cycling infrastructure throughout the borough. Secondary consultation was scheduled to take place locally on a scheme by scheme basis. In late 2020, Sandwell was successful in bidding for Accelerated Towns Funds in West Bromwich, Rowley Regis and Smethwick and there was a press release on the 15th January 2021.
- 5.1 In December 2020 a change request was submitted to the Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government (MHCLG) to substitute the Europa Avenue scheme in replacement of the West Bromwich Town Hall project, which could no longer proceed as it was being used as a Covid19 centre at the time. Due to the unexpected substitution, delivery timescales for the Europa Avenue scheme had to be accelerated further. As a result of very short timescales for delivery as stipulated by the funding guidance, site preparation works, and public consultation took place simultaneously in February 2021.
- 5.1 Due to funding being made available unexpectedly to implement the identified improvements along Middleway, with very strict time conditions, letters were distributed to only those households directly adjacent by the scheme to hopefully allow work to start as quickly as possible. Work to upgrade the stretch of cycle route from the Beeches Road junction to the



T Junction with Europa Avenue had already begun in tandem with the letter consultation but not along the Middleway. The initial consultation received some adverse reactions from some of the residents on the Europa Village Estate.

- 5.2 Councillor Jackie Taylor, as the Cabinet Member for Sustainable Transport at the time, was briefed about the consultation and some of the objections received and it was decided that further wider consultation should take place on the new cycle scheme proposed for the 'Middleway' off-highway section, to gauge interest and receive comments from all residents of the estate before any further work continues. Therefore, further consultation took place in November 2021. All 350 addresses on the Europa Village Estate were consulted by letter, a proposals leaflet and questionnaire. The Transport Planning Team received 44 replies, with 22 in favour and 22 opposed.
- 5.3 At a briefing session on 15th March 2022 with the Cabinet Member for Environment, Councillor Ahmed Bostan considered the responses received and stated that we should proceed with the scheme as originally proposed given the split in responses received from the consultation. However, due to a change in the portfolio holder covering Transportation Planning and Highway Services from Councillor Ahmed Bostan to Councillor Zahoor Ahmed, further briefings were undertaken and on 31st May 2022 a Delegated Report was taken to Councillor Zahoor Ahmed as the Cabinet Member for Environment at a briefing session where the scheme was given approval to proceed as planned. On the 28th June 2022, the Delegated Report was officially signed by Councillor Zahoor Ahmed as the Cabinet Member for Environment and subsequently, on the 16th September 2022, letters were sent to residents informing them that approval had been given to proceed with the scheme as planned.
- 5.4. In response to the letters sent to residents 16th September 2022 informing them of the decision to proceed with a scheme, a petition was received by the Council on 02 November 2022 containing 150 signatures. This petition was against upgrading the cycle route between Europa Avenue and Sandwell Valley via Middleway path whilst generally supportive of the



resurfacing the path. On receipt of the petition, Cabinet Petitions Committee referred the matter to this Board for consideration. The Europa Avenue petition and has been discussed at the following meetings: -

- 7 December 2022;
- 18 January 2023;
- 1 March 2023;
- 21 June 2023.

5.5 Following representations made by the petitioners in relation to their concerns around the consultation process and the cycle route proposals, officers agreed to submit a report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board (ESTE).

6 Implications

Resources:	Loss of Towns Funding which was reallocated for the Europa Avenue highway improvement scheme should the scheme not proceed as planned.
Legal and Governance:	Funding agreements for this project are governed by and construed in accordance with the Law of England and Wales and the Parties irrevocably submit to the exclusive jurisdiction of the English and Welsh courts.
Risk:	Leaving the Middleway path as it is, shared between pedestrians and cyclist could mean there is a risk of pedestrian and cyclist conflict in comparison to providing a segregated path as was proposed.
Equality:	This scheme is part of Cycle Route Proposal 2 within the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan, an equality impact assessment was carried out during the development of the Sandwell Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan of which this scheme and the proposed infrastructure adheres to latest Government Guidance.
Health and Wellbeing:	The proposed walking and cycling route aim to have a positive impact on the health and wellbeing of local communities as it aims to encourage Active Travel.



	Not delivering the improvement scheme could have the opposite effect.
Social Value:	The proposed cycle route will form part of a network that will link communities to employment, education, transport hubs, town centres and services.
Climate Change:	Sandwell Council has joined other councils in England that have declared a Climate Emergency and as a result developed and adopted a Climate Change Strategy 2021-2041. Within Sandwell's Climate Change Strategy Action Plan 3 for Transport states that Sandwell Council will "Implement highway measures and transport facilities that fully accommodate and promote the use of public transport, cycling and walking, making journeys by such methods easier, faster and safer, alongside measures to discourage car use. The Europa Avenue scheme aims to do this.
Corporate Parenting:	There are no specific corporate parenting implications arising from the contents of the report.

7 Appendices

- APPENDIX A: SCWIP Cycle Route 2 Plan & Route Proposal.
- APPENDIX B: Existing Europa Avenue Middleway Path Photos
- APPENDIX C: Existing Example of Similar Scheme along NCN5
- APPENDIX D: Report to Cabinet Petitions Committee, Petitions Progress Report, 21 June 2023
- Letter and consultation leaflet sent to residents November 2021
- Delegated Report 28th June 2022
- Letter sent to residents 16th September 2022

8. Background Papers

Sandwell's Cycling & Walking Infrastructure Plan

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/29952/sandwell_cycling_and_walking_infrastructure_plan_2020.pdf

Sandwell's Climate Change Strategy 2021-2041



https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/download/downloads/id/31151/climate_change_strategy.pdf

Sandwell Towns Fund

https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/info/200193/council/4490/sandwell_towns_fund



Report to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

03 October 2023

Subject:	Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme
Director:	Law and Governance Surjit Tour Surjir_tour@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 health and wellbeing 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 health and wellbeing implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.</p>

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix 2 – 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	Highway Winter Operational Plan Contact Officer: Robin Weare Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet – Environment & Highways (Cllr Millard)		18 October 2023		



Page 80	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	Highway Infrastructure Funding Plan for 2024/25 Contact Officer: Robin Weare Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Environment & Highways (Cllr Millard)		18 October 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
3	<p>Sandwell Local Plan – Approval to Consult on the Draft Plan (Regulation 18)</p> <p>Contact Officer: Philippa Smith</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet - Regeneration & WMCA (Cllr Hughes)</p>	<p>Public</p>	<p>18 October 2023</p>	<p>TBC</p>	<p>Report, Draft Plan, associated evidence base</p>



Page 82	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>Tipton Town Centre Redevelopment Options To agree funding package for the delivery of Tipton Town Centre Redevelopment Scheme and enter into a Funding Agreement with DLUHC</p> <p>Contact Officer: Alexander Oxley</p> <p>Director: Tony McGovern – Director of Regeneration and Growth</p>	<p>Cabinet – Regeneration and Growth (Cllr P Hughes) Housing and Built Environment (Cllr Rollins)</p>	<p>Private – Financial or Business Affairs</p>	<p>18 October 2023</p>		<p>Cabinet Report</p>



ONE COUNCIL
ONE TEAM

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
5	Single Use Plastics Policy Contact Officer: Phil Kingston Director: Tony McGovern	Cabinet	Public	18 October 2023	N/A	Cabinet Report Single Use Plastics Policy



Page 84	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
6	<p>Endorsement of the Tackling Poverty Plan To endorse the partnership-led plan to address poverty in Sandwell, following its launch at the Cost of Living Summit in October 23</p> <p>Contact Officer: Jane Alexander/ Heather Chinner</p> <p>Director: Shokat Lal, Chief Executive</p>	<p>Cabinet – Leader of the Council (Cllr Carmichael)</p>	Public	15 November 2023	7 December – SNAC	Tackling Poverty Plan



ONE COUNCIL
ONE TEAM

Page 85	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	Highway Strategic Road Safety Plan 2023-2028 Contact Officer: Robin Weare Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Environment & Highways (Cllr Millard)		15 November 2023		
8	Household Waste Collection Review Contact Officer: Ben Percival Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet – Environment & Highways (Cllr Millard)		6 December 2023		



Page 86	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
9	Regional Speed Enforcement Contact Officer: Robin Weare Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Environment & Highways (Cllr Millard)		6 December 2023		



Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/ 24

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment



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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)
	Mixed Used Community Spaces in Town Centres	Alexander Oxley
8 February 2024	Towns Fund Update	Rina Rahim

7 March 2024	Lion Farm Playing Field Proposals	Tony McGovern

Items to be scheduled:
<p>Suggested: Illuminated Green Man – Pedestrian Crossings</p> <p>Working Group: Road Safety Strategy Review</p> <p>Watching Briefs: Private hire and hackney carriage licensing policy Corporate Fleet Management Development of Brownfield Sites Congestion/ULEZ</p>

Scrutiny Review/s

Review of the 2017-2022 Strategic Road Safety Plan



To include grass and tree maintenance and any associated impacts.

Once the above review is concluded, the Board has identified the following item to be the subsequent review:

Local Centres – revitalisation and diversification



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