

# Agenda

## Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

**Monday, 18 December 2023 at 3.30 pm**  
**At the Friar Park Millennium Centre, Friar Park, WS10 0JS**

**1 Chair's Welcome and Introductions**

To receive welcoming remarks and make introductions for the inaugural meeting of the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board.

**2 Apologies for Absence.**

To receive any apologies for absence.

**3 Declarations of Interest**

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

**4 Appointment of a Vice- Chair**

To appoint a Vice- Chair of the Board.

**5 Background to Levelling Up Partnership**

7 - 130

To receive background information on the Levelling Up Partnership.



- |    |   |           |
|----|---|-----------|
| 6  | <b>Community Safety Project</b>   | 131 - 136 |
|    | To approve that delivery commence of the CCTV scheme and Business Crime Reduction Partnership.                              |           |
| 7  | <b>Greenspaces Project</b>  | 137 - 142 |
|    | To approve that delivery commence for the three greenspaces schemes.  |           |
| 8  | <b>Wednesbury Town Centre Masterplan and Public Realm Improvement</b>   | 143 - 148 |
|    | To consider and comment upon consultation proposals for the Town Centre Masterplan.   |           |
| 9  | <b>Millennium Centre</b>  | 149 - 154 |
|    | To consider and comment upon the design principles and consultation proposals.  |           |
| 10 | <b>Friar Park Urban Village Levelling Up Partnership Project</b>  | 155 - 162 |
|    | To receive an update on the Friar Park Urban Village Project and the role of the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board. |           |
| 11 | <b>Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board Forward Plan</b>   | 163 - 166 |
|    | To receive the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board Forward Plan.  |           |
| 12 | <b>Chair's Closing Remarks</b>  |           |
|    | To close the meeting with final remarks.  |           |

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

**Distribution**

Maria Jardine (Chair)  
Councillors Hughes, Chidley, Fitzgerald and L Giles.  
Shaun Bailey MP, Victoria Breakwell, Jas Dolphin, Joshua Fellows, Claire Geddes, Chief Inspector Paul Griffiths, Bisharat Hussain, Linda Matthews, Nicola Richards MP, Sandeep Shingadia, Kallianne Titley and Nicola Woodcock.

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## Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	Background to the Levelling Up Partnership
<b>Report Author</b>	Rebecca Jenkins Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To provide background information on Levelling Up Partnerships (LUP) including the process to develop the partnership, an overview of the LUP interventions, programme governance arrangements, and an overview of project delivery progress.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the WLUP Board note the information contained in this report.

### 3. Background

#### Background to Levelling Up Partnerships

- 3.1 In March 2023, the Chancellor of the Exchequer announced that Sandwell was one of 20 places to be invited to form a Levelling Up Partnership (LUP).
- 3.2 Levelling Up Partnerships are targeted interventions designed to identify practical, tangible actions to support priority places to 'level up' and to



help government develop a more holistic understanding of place. It is a programme within the Government's overall Levelling Up agenda which includes the Towns Fund Programme (£67.5m investment in Sandwell), the Levelling Up Fund (£58m investment in Sandwell), and Long Term Plan for Towns (£20m for Smethwick).

- 3.3 The twenty Levelling Up Partnership places were selected based on the following four indicators using a three-year average generally across January 2019 to December 2021:
- NVQ Level 3+ (% of total population)
  - Healthy Life Expectancy
  - Median Gross Weekly Pay (£)
  - Gross Value Added (GVA) per Hour Worked (ONS 2018 to 2020)
- 3.4 The priority list of twenty places were selected by the Government as they are all in the bottom quartile for three or more of the four indicators above. £400m capital funding has been set aside by the Government to support the 20 LUP areas. On average, each place could expect to secure £20m capital to be spent by March 2025.

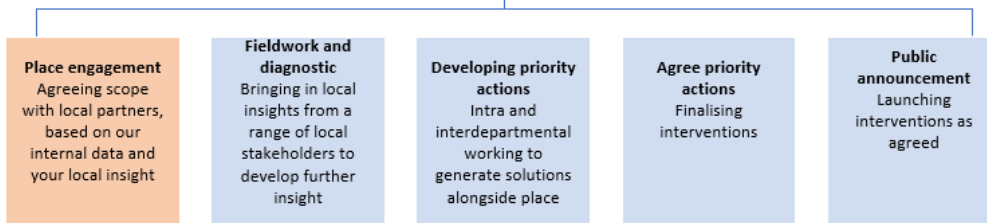
### **Development of the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership**

- 3.5 The development of a LUP between Government and Sandwell has been led by the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC). An initial deep dive was conducted including place engagement, field work and developing priority actions. The development of the LUP was set out in two phases.

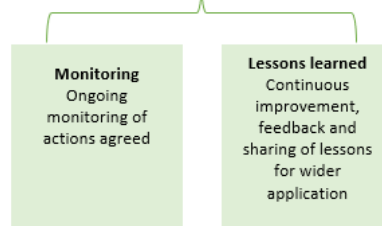




*The initial deep dive*



*Long-term partnership*



3.6 DLUHC undertook engagement with local stakeholders to gain a qualitative understanding of the issues faced in Sandwell and the LUP team conducted around 100 hours of Sandwell stakeholder interviews, including local government, business leaders, academics, third sector and small business owners.

3.7 As part of the deep dive work, DLUHC produced an analytical pack which is provided at Appendix 1.



- 3.8 The initial deep dive activity included joint exploration between DLUHC and Cabinet Members of the target geographical area for Sandwell's LUP taking into account a range of factors including the indicators used to select Levelling Up Partnership areas, interventions that may require cross government support to successfully deliver positive outcomes, major opportunities for capital spend, LUP funding criteria and local insight. The geographical area agreed between Sandwell Council Cabinet and DLUHC is Wednesbury.
- 3.9 In September, the details of the Levelling Up Partnership (£20.4m) were formally announced by Government. This followed a set of Cabinet approvals in September to establish governance arrangements, approve the target geography as Wednesbury, and to agree the set of interventions.

### Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Interventions

- 3.10 During the deep dive phase, a series of priority interventions have been discussed and agreed between Sandwell Council and DLUHC for the LUP. The interventions selected take into account the levelling up challenges for Wednesbury, the Council's strategic priorities, work already underway, the amount of capital funding available through the LUP and the ambitious two year delivery programme (to March 2025).
- 3.11 The interventions are set to compliment existing work including a set of public health programmes (focusing on life expectancy, infant mortality, obesity, economic wellbeing and mental wellbeing of children) and the launch of Sandwell Family Hubs in 2023.
- 3.12 A summary of the LUP interventions agreed is provided below with further detail set out in appendix 2. Project delivery progress is set out in appendix 3 and further detail is included in individual project reports to the WLUP Board.

	<b>LUP Funding</b>	<b>Project Summary</b>
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Wednesbury Town Centre Masterplan	£250K	Building on HAZ improvements to consider how to further enhance the public realm in Wednesbury Town Centre through a masterplanning process. This funding includes LUP programme management costs
Community Safety Scheme	£0.5m	Build on partnership work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by increasing the deterrents to crime and anti-social behaviour in Wednesbury.  This will include installing new and upgrading CCTV infrastructure in Wednesbury Town Centre and Friar Park, providing deployable cameras to tackle fly-tipping across Wednesbury, implementing a radio link scheme, and installing nuisance bike measures.
Wednesbury Town Centre Public Realm	£4.5m	Following the masterplanning process, the project will enable enhancements to the public realm and improvements to long standing derelict sites
Friar Park Urban Village	£11.5m	Fund land remediation viability gap to deliver Friar Park Urban Village Scheme enabling c.630 new homes.
Friar Park Millennium Centre	£2m	Extending the usable space within the existing community centre in Friar Park to meet the demands from extended community (as a result of proposed development of Friar Park Urban Village) and to enhance the skills delivery offer.  Tackling the skills challenges in the Friar Park ward, current position of 32.6% residents with no qualifications compared to a national rate of 15%. Increasing higher level skills which are 11.1% at Level 4 and above than the national rate at 29.7% (Nomis 08/23)



Greenspaces Improvements	£1.65m	Enhancing 4 existing green spaces in Wednesbury to improve safety measures, quality scores, accessibility and provide additional activities.
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3.12 The proposed interventions will enable:

- 630 new homes (157 affordable)
- Land acquisition for future housing delivery
- New and upgraded CCTV and environmental cameras
- Nuisance bike measures
- Improvements to 4 green spaces
- An extended community centre offer in Friar Park
- Improved public realm

3.13 This will deliver on Levelling Up outcomes of:

- Boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards through increasing skills and attainment levels and enabling new housing
- Spreading opportunity and improving public services through tackling crime and ASB hotspots and increasing skills and attainment levels and enabling new housing delivery
- Restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging through improving perceptions of safety and the quality of built environment and green spaces
- Empowering local leaders and communities through creating long term plans to revitalise Wednesbury Town Centre

### Funding package and Financial Approvals

3.14 In September, the details of the Levelling Up Partnership were formally announced by Government.

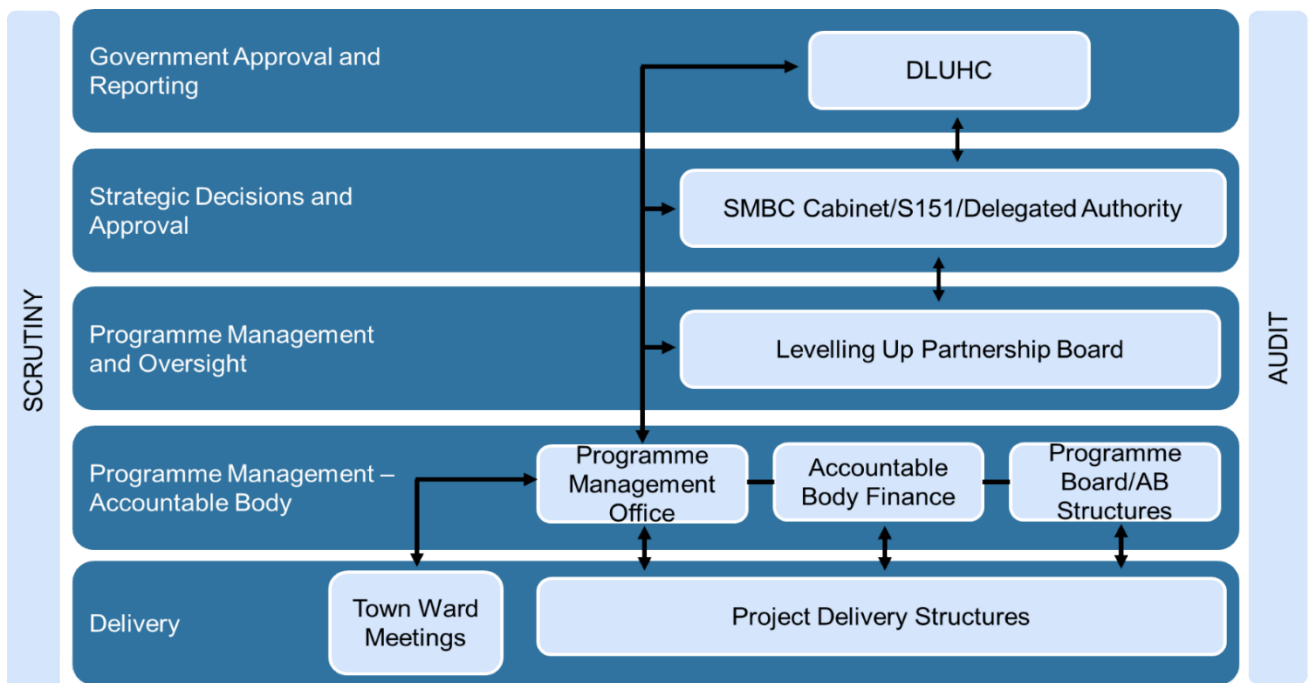
3.15 A grant determination letter was issued to the Council in October 2023 for the first financial allocation of £15m capital and £250K revenue. A second allocation of £5m capital and £50K revenue will be made at the start of next financial year. The grant determination letter sets out that spend must be made by March 2025 which presents a significant challenge for the council to deliver at pace.



3.16 The Council's S151 Officer is responsible for approving the commencement of project spend on the LUP projects in line with the grant determination letter and DLUHC's requirements. Each of the LUP projects will undergo an internal capital appraisal review to inform this decision. The first round of approvals was granted in November 2023, with the second round of capital appraisals due in early 2024. To manage the need to deliver at pace, pre-appraisal spend is being approved by the S151 Officer on a case by case basis.

### Delivery and Governance arrangements

3.17 The governance model is set out as follows:



3.18 Sandwell Council will be responsible for the delivery of the LUP Programme following Sandwell Council's standard arrangements for procurement, project delivery and delegations. All of the proposed interventions will be led by the Council. A Programme Manager has been appointed to oversee and manage the LUP Programme.

3.19 The Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board has been established to bring partners together to oversee the programme and to:



- Develop a shared understanding of the Levelling up needs in Wednesbury and add to the evidence base (informing future plans for Wednesbury)
- Input to and steer the development of LUP interventions
- Act as critical-friend challenge through project delivery
- Agree project change requests (within agreed limits); and
- Review monitoring and evaluation of project impact

Terms of reference for the WLUP Board and Membership list are set out at Appendix 4 and 5.

3.20 A programme level risk register is in place and this is reviewed monthly. At project level, red project risks have been identified and reported to DLUHC. The project risk registers are being reviewed as part of the capital appraisal for each project. Risks are identified and assessed using a scoring matrix of risk severity and likelihood and presented as Red (significant), Amber (moderate), or Green (low).

3.21 There are currently 2 red programme risks to bring WLUP Board’s attention as follows:

Risk Title and Description	<p><b>Grant Conditions: Delivery Timeline &amp; S151 project sign-off</b></p> <p>If programme delivery cannot be completed by 2024-25 financial year (March 2025) and/or there are concerns around project delivery from S151 assurance, there is a risk of grant clawback, reputational damage and missed opportunities to deliver the benefits of the programme</p>
Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seeking clarification from DLUHC around grant clawback position</li> <li>• Regular reporting on progress of project delivery and spend</li> <li>• Capital appraisal underway for all projects (phase 1 complete)</li> <li>• S151 sign-off of any spend needed in advance of capital appraisal</li> </ul>
Risk expected to reduce	When clarification is received from DLUHC around the clawback position / contingency in place



Risk Title and Description	<p><b>Delivery of Friar Park Urban Village Project</b></p> <p>Risk relates to delivery of project within March 2025 deadline due to risk of delays to obtaining EA licenses and/or delays to developer partner procurement process</p>
Controls	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Early engagement with EA has been undertaken and consultants (technical experts) are being procured to support the engagement process.</li> <li>• Legal review of proposed approach has been undertaken</li> <li>• Full risk assessment to take place to understand issues from proposed approach</li> <li>• Capital appraisal review</li> <li>• Seeking clarification from DLUHC around grant clawback position</li> <li>• Contingency options being explored should March 2025 deadline be exceeded</li> </ul>
Risk expected to reduce	When EA permitting process concluded and delivery partner is procured.

## Appendices

1. Sandwell Levelling Up Partnership Analytical Pack
2. Sandwell Levelling Up Partnership Project Core Information
3. Summary of LUP Project Delivery
4. Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board Terms of Reference
5. Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board Membership List

## Background papers

[Levelling Up Partnerships Methodology Note](#)  
[Sandwell Council Cabinet Report – Levelling Up Partnership 13 September 2023](#)



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Department for Levelling Up,  
Housing & Communities

# Sandwell – Analytical Snapshot

July 2023





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Physical capital	31
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# About this document

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This document presents analysis produced by DLUHC to support Levelling Up Partnership discussions in Sandwell. It does not make policy recommendations; it is intended to present challenges and opportunities for the Levelling Up Partnership programme.

- **The Spring Budget announced the rollout of new Levelling Up Partnerships, providing over £400 million and bringing the collective power of government to provide bespoke place-based regeneration in 20 of England’s areas most in need of levelling up over 2023 and 2024-25.** In each of these places, the government will work with local leaders and mayors in councils and combined authorities, local businesses from all sectors, community organisations and residents to identify and address the biggest barriers to levelling up.
- The following evidence pack is developed by DLUHC over a 12 week period in parallel to intensive engagement of local stakeholders to gather intelligence on local opportunities, challenges and priorities. Iterations of the evidence pack are delivered sequentially to support discussions and decision-making on policy prioritisation. This pack is one of multiple information sources used in decision-making.
- The evidence pack primarily utilises metrics and indicators set out in the [Levelling Up White Paper](#), all of which are publicly available. It is supplemented with analysis bespoke to the challenges and opportunities uniquely faced within Sandwell, which are revealed from discussion with local stakeholders.
- This is an analytical snapshot and thus does not take account of the implementation of current national or local policy interventions.
- All data sources used are the latest available as of 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023.
- The evidence pack consists of 3 sections:
  - 1. Key takeaways and overview of place:** covers the main features of Sandwell and provides a summary of the consistent analytical themes featured in the pack.
  - 2. Annex A:** assessment of Sandwell’s performance against the 12 Levelling Up Missions according to associated headline and supporting metrics.
  - 3. Annex B:** exploratory analysis of Sandwell’s relative strengths and weaknesses, using the 6 capitals framework as defined in the Levelling Up White Paper (physical, human, intangible, financial, social and institutional capital).

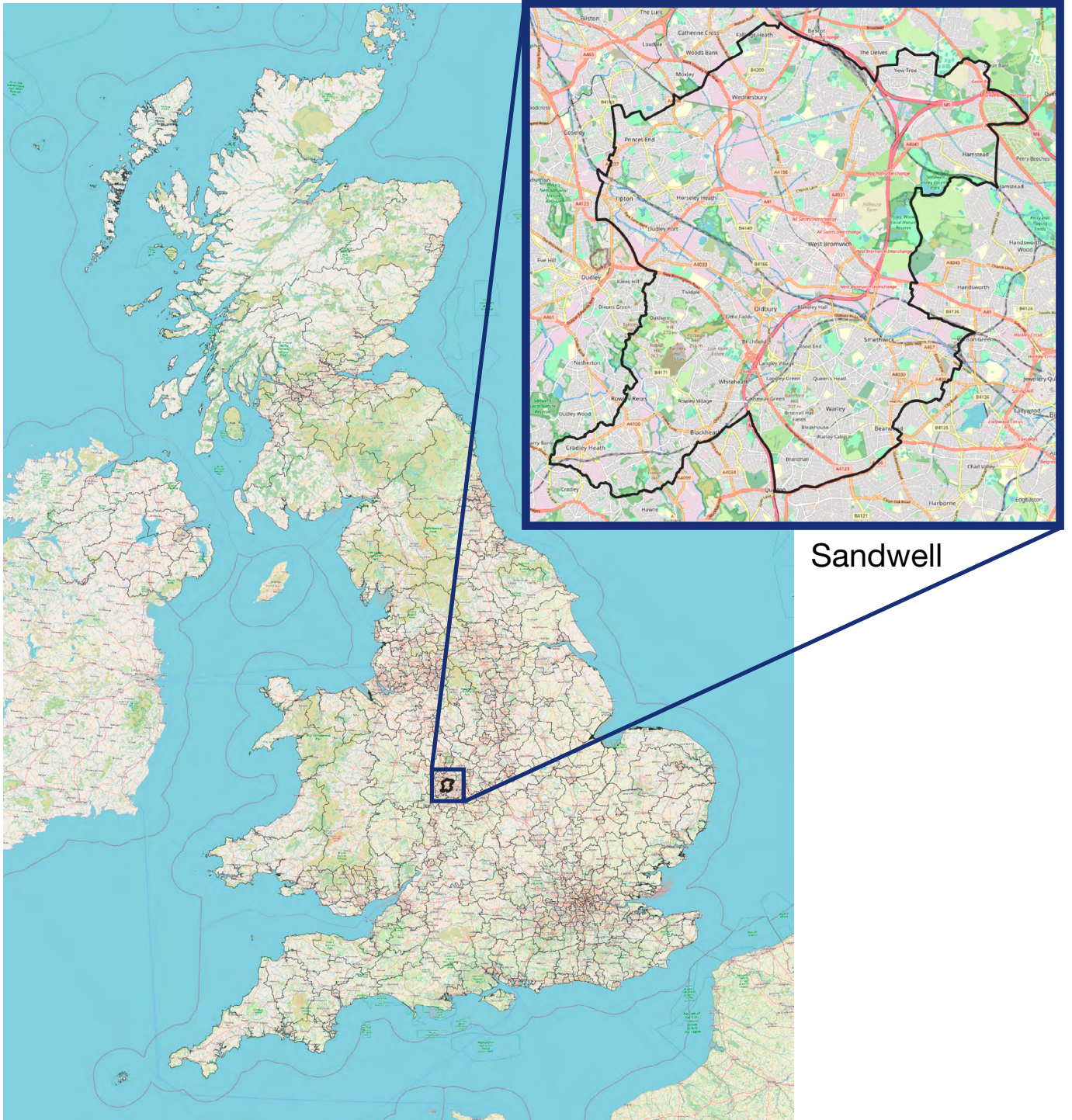
Place	Region
City of Kingston upon Hull	Yorkshire and The Humber
<b>Sandwell</b>	<b>West Midlands</b>
Mansfield	East Midlands
Middlesbrough	North East
Blackburn with Darwen	North West
Hastings	South East
Torbay	South West
Tendring	East of England
Stoke-on-Trent	West Midlands
Boston	East Midlands
Redcar and Cleveland	North East
Wakefield	Yorkshire and The Humber
Oldham	North West
Rother	South East
Torridge	South West
Walsall	West Midlands
Doncaster	Yorkshire and The Humber
South Tyneside	North East
Rochdale	North West
Bassetlaw	East Midlands

# Key takeaways

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**Sandwell is well placed to benefit from the high levels of planned investment in the West Midlands and strengthened institutions via the trailblazer devolution deal. However, major challenges in Sandwell include low levels of foundational skills and social trust, higher crime rates, and limited economic integration into the region.**

- **The wider region of the West Midlands has significant and diverse job opportunities, strong institutions and potential for economic growth.** However, jobs in Sandwell are more concentrated in lower paying, lower-productivity sectors. The share of employees in skilled or managerial occupations is well below national averages. Birmingham and the wider West Midlands Combined Authority has strength in local leadership and productivity growth, supported via recent interventions such as the trailblazer devolution deal and HS2 phase 1.
- **With a clear strategic vision, towns within Sandwell such as Wednesbury should be well placed to attract investment and development.** It is well connected to the economic centres of both Birmingham and Wolverhampton and is soon to be connected to Dudley via a metro extension. Despite this, commuter data indicates fewer people commute to Birmingham from Wednesbury relative to other towns in Sandwell.
- **Skills and education levels are a key issue limiting higher living standards.** Sandwell has high numbers of people with no qualifications, at the peak in 2016 this was 1 in 4 people. Primary education and secondary education attainment rates trail national averages, particularly at GCSE level.
- **Sandwell has the lowest levels in England on measures of social trust.** Violent crime without injury across Sandwell has increased by 15% in the year ending September 2022 and the towns of Sandwell are in the top 20% most deprived areas nationally. This limits the retention of skilled individuals and new businesses that might otherwise want to take advantage of the proximity to Birmingham.
- **The rate of new housing supply has diverged from national and regional levels since 2010.** An above average proportion of tenants live in social rented accommodation and 12% of these households are overcrowded.



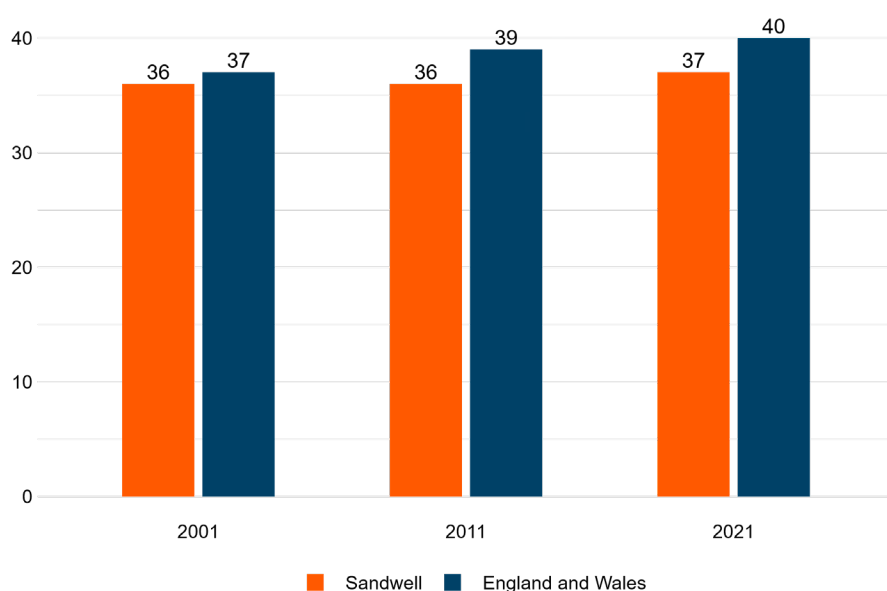
Sandwell

# Demographics: Age and population

Sandwell has a generally younger population than the average across England and Wales. Between 2011 and 2021, Sandwell's population increased at a greater rate than the West Midlands and England overall.

- The **median age in Sandwell is 37 years** (2021). Median age for England and Wales is 40. Median age for surrounding local authorities: Birmingham: 34; Dudley: 41; Wolverhampton: 38; Walsall: 38.
- The **median age in Sandwell increased slightly** between 2001 and 2021. The median age in England and Wales increased by a greater amount over the same period. (see *bottom left chart below*).
- Sandwell has a **population of 341,900** (2021). Between 2011 and 2021, Sandwell's **population increased by 11%**, which was higher than the overall **increase** for the West Midlands (6.2%) and England (6.6%).
- **Sandwell has a higher proportion of children aged 15 and under and 16-64 year olds** than the regional and national averages (mid-2021). The proportion of over 65 year olds in Sandwell is lower than the regional and national averages.

## Median age of population, 2001, 2011 and 2021 Census

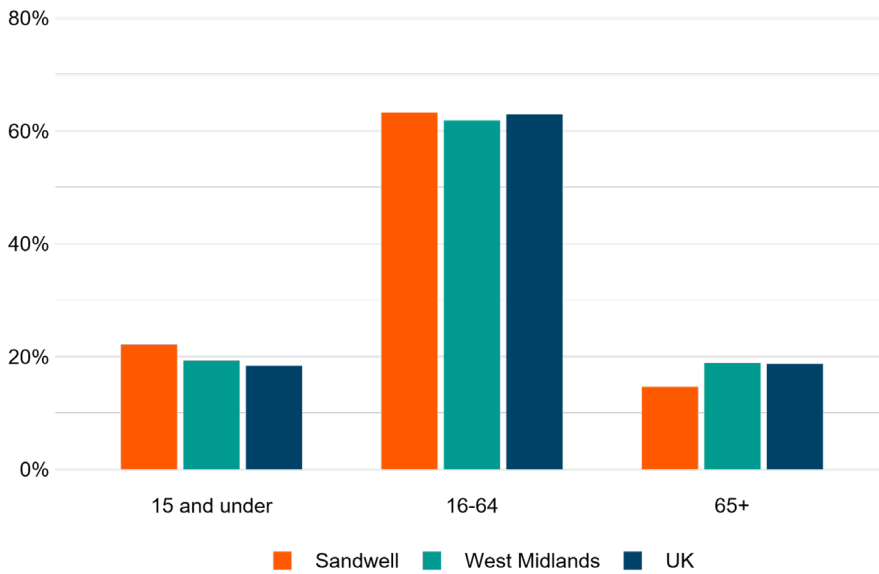


The legend is presented in the same order as the bars in the clusters.

Source: [ONS Census, 2021](#), [ONS Census, 2011](#), [ONS Census, 2001](#)

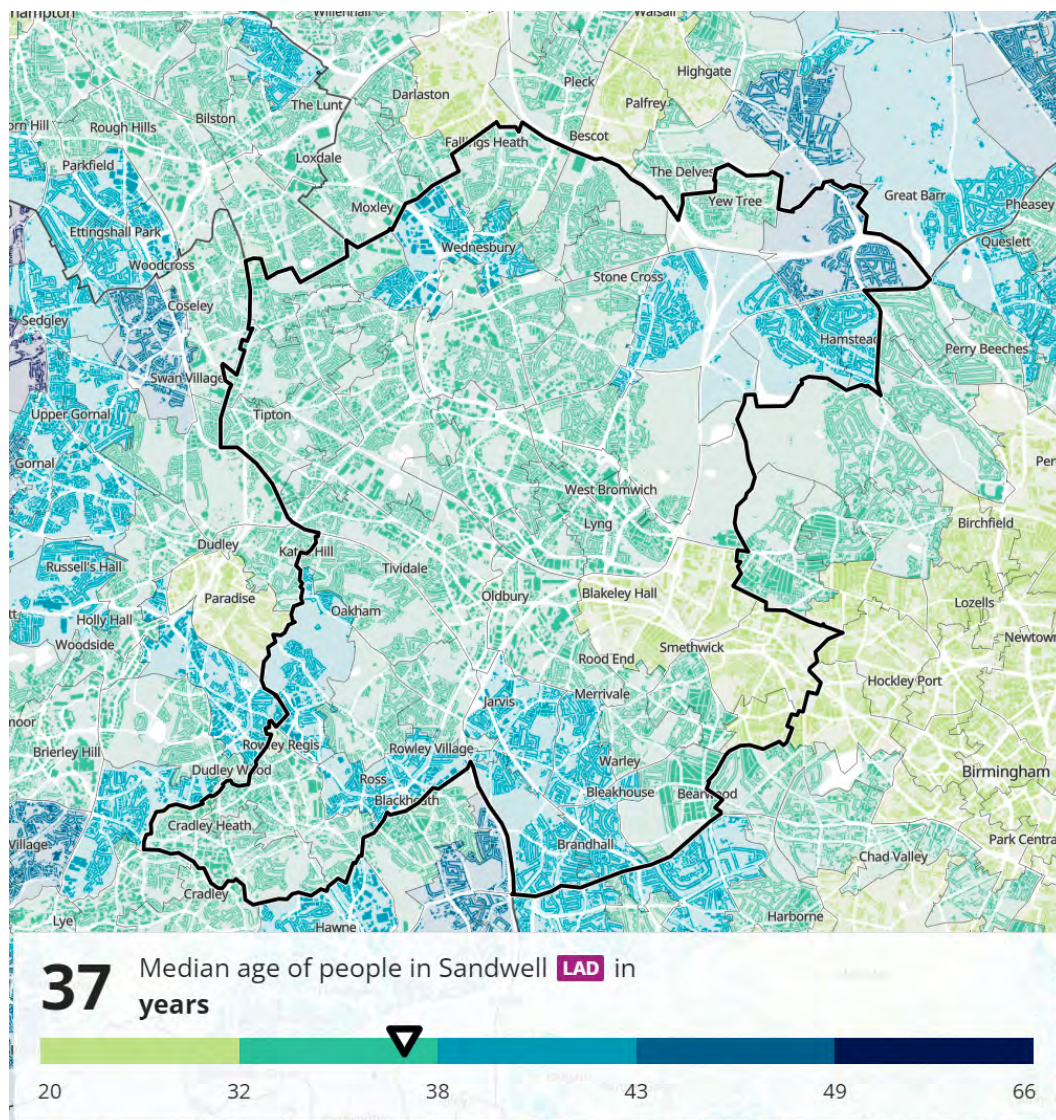


## Age profile by location, mid-2021 estimates



The legend is presented in the same order as the bars in the clusters.

Source: [ONS UK population estimates, 2022](#)



Source: [ONS Census, 2021](#)

# Deprivation: Sandwell

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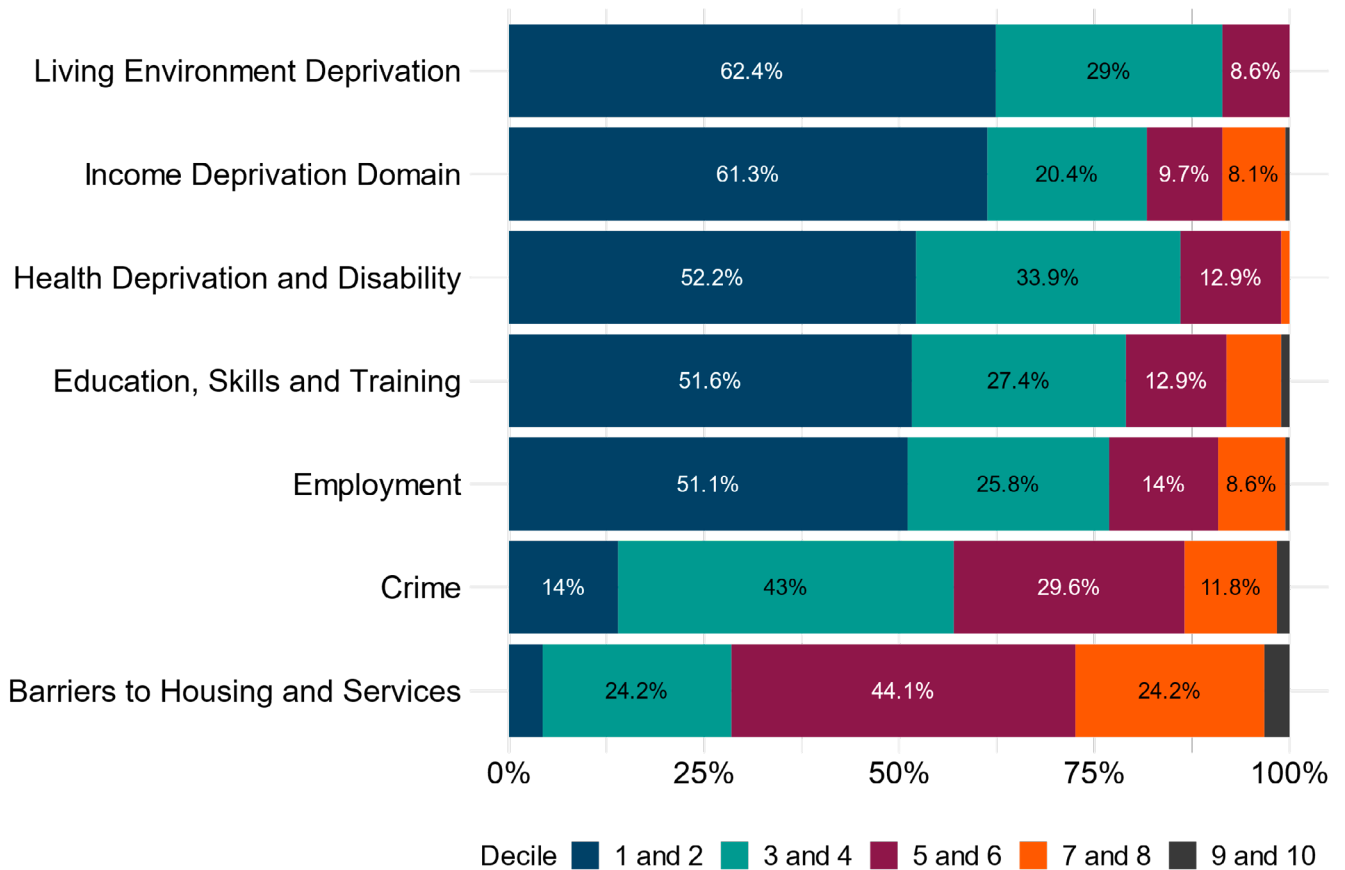
Sandwell is particularly deprived in overlapping domains such as 'education, skills and training', employment, health and income as well as living environment. As set out in the Levelling Up White Paper, deprivation prevailing across multiple of these domains can be re-enforcing and result in persistent negative economic outcomes.

## Insights:

- **Sandwell has a greater prevalence of deprivation** than the national average across all domains **except for crime and barriers to housing and services**.
- There are particularly high levels of deprivation in terms of **living environment\*, income, health deprivation and disability, education, skills and training, and employment**, which underpin the overall index of multiple deprivation scores. Over 50% of LSOAs in Sandwell are in the top 20% most deprived (deciles 1 and 2) in England for these domains.
- **26% of LSOAs in Sandwell are top 10% most deprived in England** for the **income deprivation** domain.
- The surrounding local authorities of Birmingham, Wolverhampton and Walsall have a **higher proportion of LSOAs in the top 10% most deprived** in England for the **income deprivation** domain. However Sandwell has a **higher proportion of LSOAs in the top 20% most deprived for the same domain**. Sandwell has a **greater prevalence of income deprivation than neighbouring local authority Dudley**, indicating that Sandwell has a higher proportion of its population experiencing deprivation relating to low income.
- **Gross weekly pay (2022, by place of residence)** in Sandwell is **£549.80**, which is lower than the Great Britain average (£642.20).

*\* The Living Environment Deprivation Domain measures the quality of the local environment. The indicators fall into two sub-domains. The indoors living environment measures the quality of housing; while the outdoors living environment contains measures of air quality and road traffic accidents.*

**Deprivation levels across LSOAs within Sandwell Ranked by Decile (Decile 1 = Top 10% most deprived in England), 2019**



The legend is presented in the same order as the categories within the bars.

*Note:* Deciles have been paired together for more accessible viewing. Deciles 1 and 2 are the most deprived in England, whereas deciles 9 and 10 are the least deprived in England.

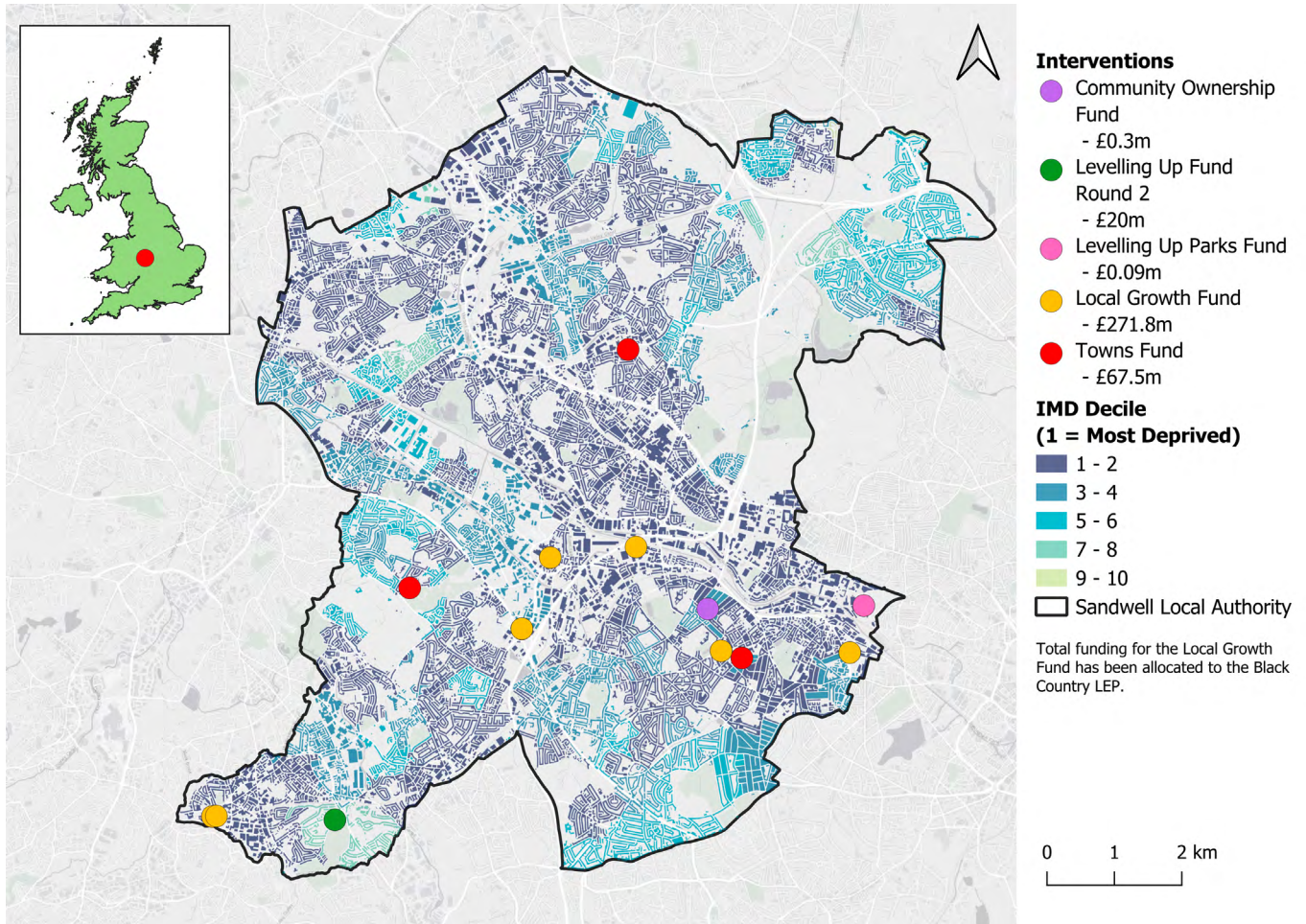
*Source:* [MHCLG IMD, 2019](#)

# DLUHC Place-based policy in Sandwell

There are a range of placed based policies already being delivered in Sandwell. Delivering levelling up in Sandwell needs to build on and complement what is already happening there.

## Place-based interventions/initiatives in Sandwell:

- **Levelling Up Fund** (2021-2023) - £20m awarded to areas within Sandwell in Round 2 of allocations. This will target regeneration of Tipton town centre and create new homes and new business in the area.
- **UK Shared Prosperity Fund** (2022) - £9.8m of funding for investment in Sandwell over the next 3 years.
- £67.5m allocated to Sandwell as part of the **Towns Fund**.
- As part of the **2023 Spring budget**, the West Midlands Combined Authority will receive £4m for Digital Devices and £2.7m for Metro lifecycle and renewals.
- In addition to these, the **2023 Spring budget** announced administrative changes. As part of the trailblazer devolution deals, the West Midlands will now receive a single departmental-style budget, rather than piecemeal government grants, giving more flexibility and the ability to make long-term, strategic decisions. West Midlands has been allocated a £1.1bn investment fund through **previously existing devolution deals**.
- £20m granted to Sandwell as part of **the grants for 16 regeneration projects (2023)** across England
- **Community Ownership Fund Round 2 Window 2 (2023)** awarded £300,000 to Sandwell
- **Local Growth Fund** - Sandwell is currently covered within the Black Country LEP area which, as a whole, received £271.8m Local Growth Deals from 2015/16 to 2020/21
- Sandwell has been granted £1.4m and £85,000 from the **Community Renewal and Levelling up Parks Funds** respectively.
- Sandwell is within the West Midlands Combined Authority membership, which was recipient of support through its £66m **Getting Building Fund** programme in 2020.



Source: MHCLG IMD, 2019

# Annex A – Assessment against Levelling Up Missions

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# Pride in Place, Housing and Crime

Sandwell has the lowest social trust score nationally. Hospital admissions due to violent crime are worse than regional and national levels and risk perpetuating low social trust.

## Pride in Place:



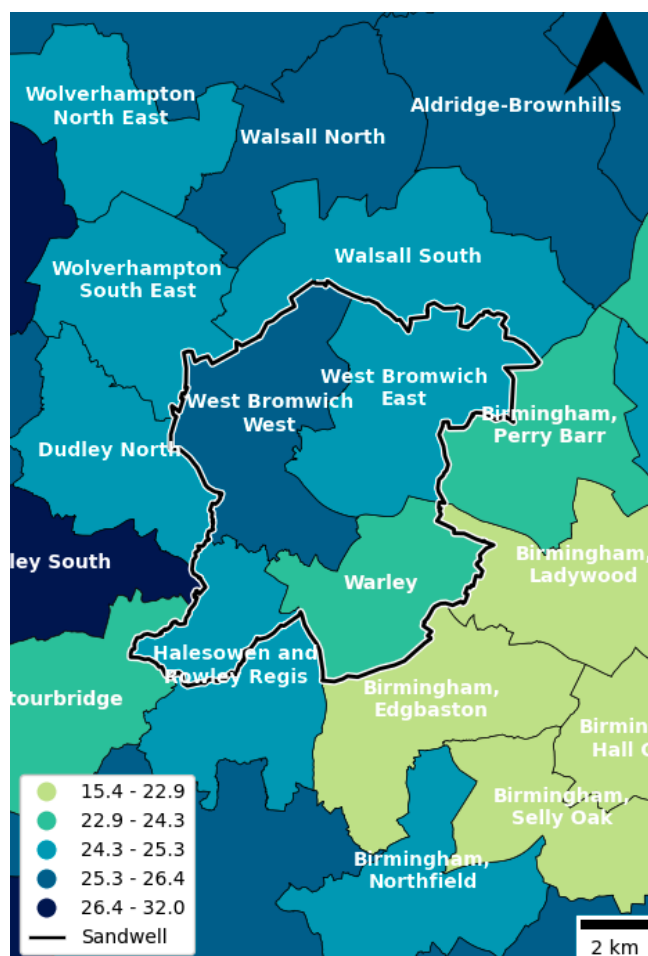
**By 2030, pride in place, such as people’s satisfaction with their town centre and engagement in local culture and community, will have risen in every area of the UK, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.**



### Indicators

- According to *Onward (2023)*, **Sandwell has a social fabric score of 0.37**, which is lower than the national median score of 0.47. The highest score recorded by a local authority is 0.65.
- According to *Onward (2023)*, **Sandwell has a social trust score of -19.2%**, which is **the lowest in England**. England has an average of -3%.
- Based on *Legal and General’s Place Satisfaction Index, 2020*, people in Halesowen and Rowley Regis and West Bromwich West think that the most important priority for improvement in their local area is good local shops, whilst people in Warley and West Bromwich East prioritise supportive communities and pleasant streets.
- The negative place satisfaction index was 24.1% in Warley, 24.9% in West Bromwich East, 25.1% in Halesowen and Rowley Regis and 25.4% in West Bromwich West. In 2022, Warley was lower than Great Britain average (24.5%) while West Bromwich East, Halesowen and Rowley Regis, and West Bromwich West were all higher.

### Population with negative place satisfaction index (%)



Source: *Legal and General, 2020*

## Housing:



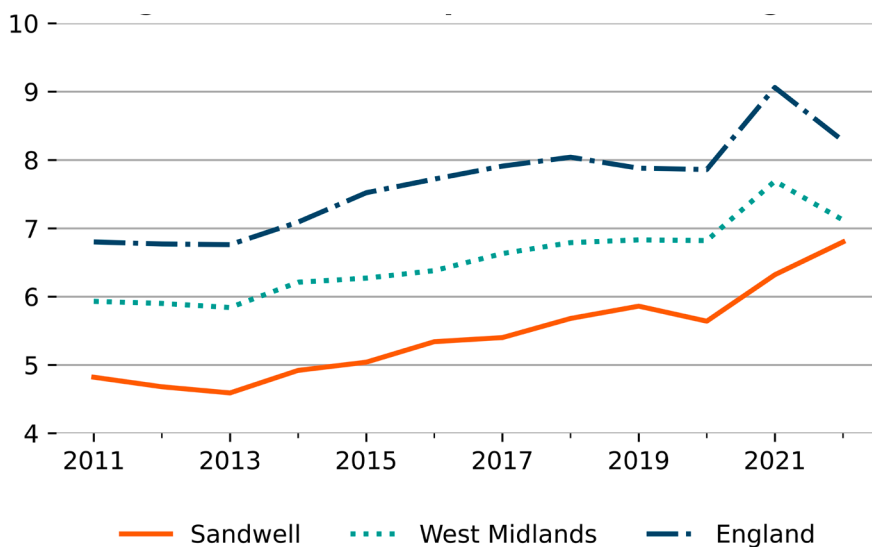
**By 2030, renters will have a secure path to ownership with the number of first-time buyers increasing in all areas; and the government's ambition is for the number of non-decent rented homes to have fallen by 50%, with the biggest improvements in the lowest performing areas.**



### Indicators

- The ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earnings in Sandwell has been lower than the England ratio for the last 12 years. In 2022, the ratio in Sandwell (**6.80**) was lower than West Midlands (**7.12**) and England (**8.28**). This means **housing is typically more affordable**.
- The proportional net additional dwellings from the 2010 baseline in Sandwell has been lower than the England percentage for the last 7 years. In 2021-22, the percentage in Sandwell (**6%**) was lower than West Midlands (**9%**) and England (**10%**).

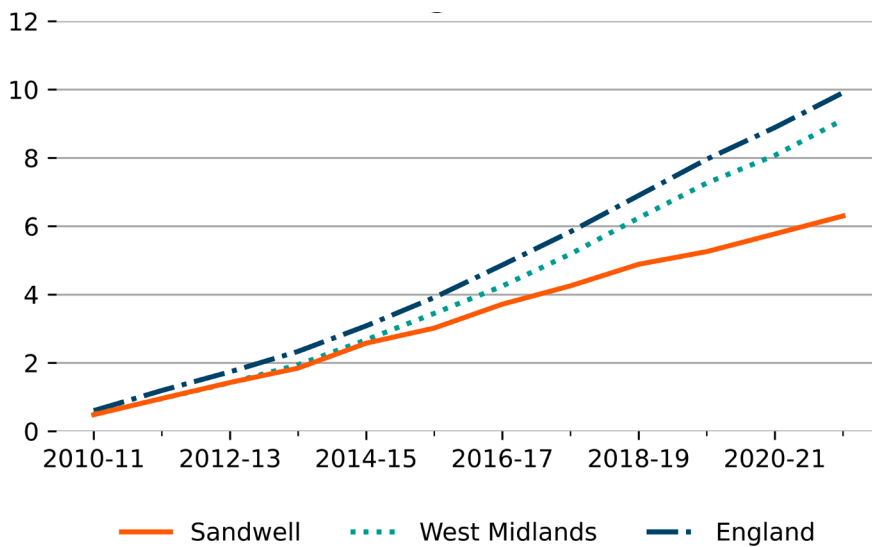
### Ratio of median house price to median gross annual workplace-based earning



Source: [ONS, 2021](#)



## Net additional dwellings (%), from 2010 baseline



Source: [DLUHC, 2021-22](#)

## Crime:



**By 2030, homicide, serious violence, and neighbourhood crime will have fallen, focused on the worst-affected areas.**



## Indicators

- For the year ending September 2022, the percentage change for recorded crimes in **Sandwell** was **+15%** for Violence without injury, whilst the rate of recorded Sexual offence and Robbery crimes were relatively unchanged from the year before. The rate of recorded Sexual offence and Robbery crimes were similar to the England rate.
- In 2018/19-20/21, Hospital admissions due to violent crime in Sandwell (**47.6 per 100,000**) was higher than West Midlands region (**37.7 per 100,000**) and England (**41.9 per 100,000**).

# Living Standards and Research & Development

The Sandwell employment rate is 12 percentage points lower than the GB average and the proportion of children in low-income families is almost double the national average. Whilst productivity remains far lower than the national average, it has improved towards the regional average over the last 5 years.

## Living Standards:



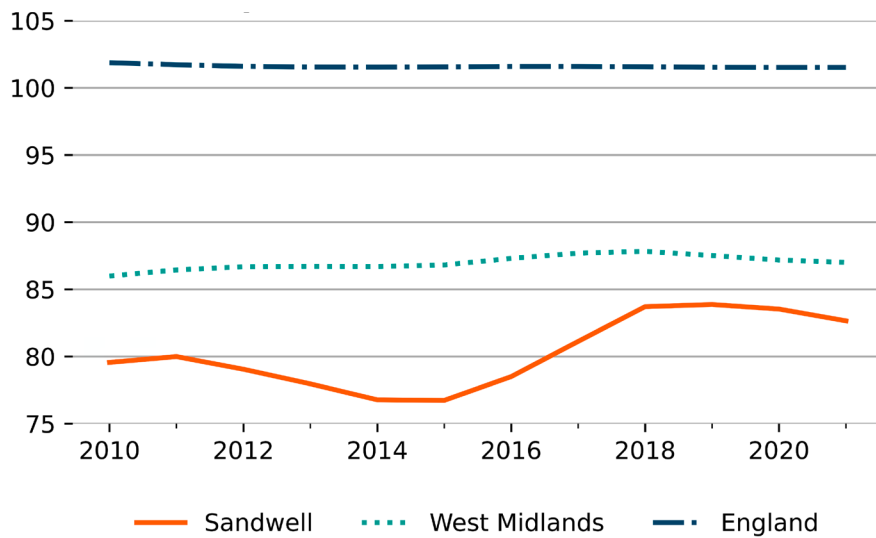
**By 2030, pay, employment and productivity will have risen in every area of the UK, with each containing a globally competitive city, with the gap between the top performing and other areas closing.**



## Indicators

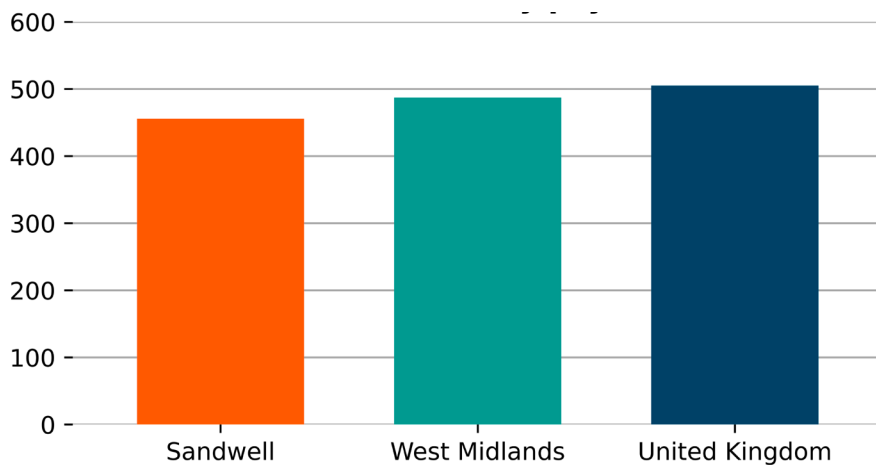
- The gross median weekly pay (2021) in Sandwell (**£455.70**) was lower than West Midlands (**£487.40**) and the United Kingdom median (**£505.10**).
- The gross value added per hour worked (2021) in Sandwell **has been lower than the England average for the last 18 years**. In 2021, the average in Sandwell (**£31.68**) was lower than West Midlands (**£33.35**) and England (**£38.91**).
- The employment rate (age 16 to 64) in Sandwell was **lower than the Great Britain average**. In the year up to September 2022, the rate in Sandwell (**64%**) was lower than the West Midlands (**74%**) and Great Britain averages (**76%**).
- The proportion of children under the age of 16 in (relative) low income families (2020/21) in Sandwell (**32.7%**) was higher than West Midlands region (**24.6%**) and England averages (**18.5%**).

### GVA per hour worked (index, UK=100)



Source: [ONS, 2023](#), [ONS, 2023](#)

### Gross median weekly pay (£), 2021



Source: [ONS, 2022](#)

# Research & Development:



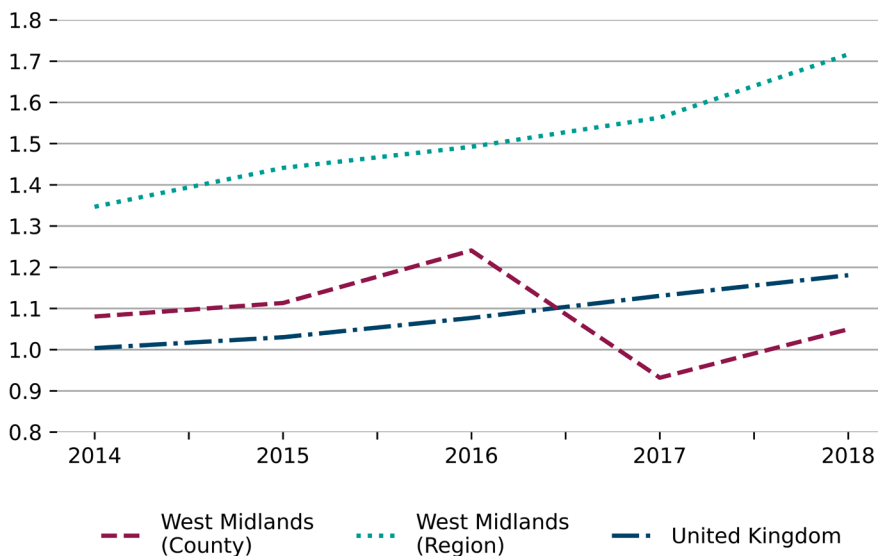
**By 2030, domestic public investment in Research & Development outside the Greater South East will increase by at least 40% and at least one third over the Spending Review period, with that additional government funding seeking to leverage at least twice as much private sector investment over the long term to stimulate innovation and productivity growth.**



## Indicators

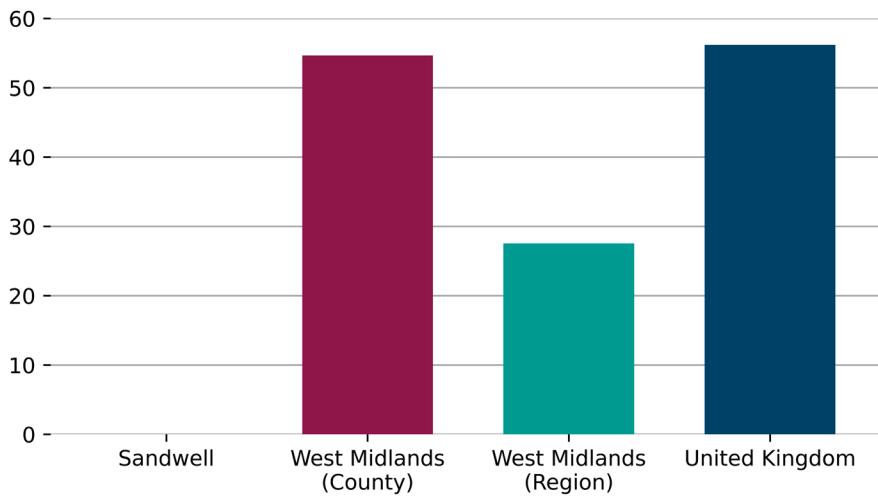
- There was no research council spend in Sandwell in 2020-21, however the West Midlands County (metropolitan boroughs surrounding Birmingham, Coventry and Wolverhampton, including Sandwell) research council spend per person was **£54.65**, which was higher than the wider West Midlands region (**£27.54**), but slightly lower than the United Kingdom as a whole (**£56.17**).
- R&D intensity (private sector R&D as a proportion of total economic output) in West Midlands (County) has been **lower than the United Kingdom percentage for the last 2 years**. In 2018, the percentage in West Midlands (County) (**1.0%**) was lower than West Midlands (Region) (**1.7%**) and the United Kingdom average (**1.2%**).

## R&D intensity (R&D expenditure by businesses as a proportion of regional GDP) (%)



Source: [BEIS, 2020](#)

## Research councils spend per person (£), 2020-2021



Source: [UKRI, 2021](#)

# Health and Well-being

---

Over 70% of adults and over one third of children in Sandwell are classed as overweight or obese. Sandwell fares worse than the regional and national averages for all subjective measures of wellbeing but anxiety for the past 6 years. Unlike other places with low subjective wellbeing, hospital admissions for self-harm in Sandwell are lower than regional and national levels.

## Health:



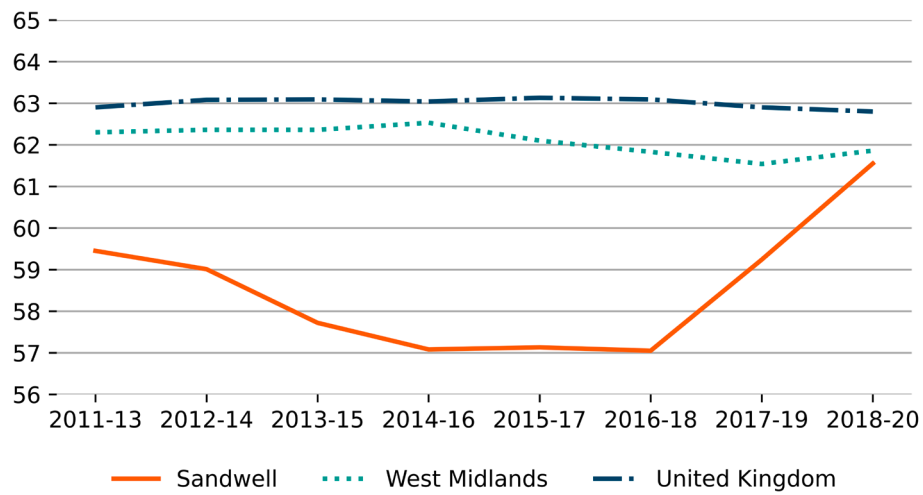
**By 2030, the gap in Healthy Life Expectancy between local areas where it is highest and lowest will have narrowed, and by 2035 Healthy Life Expectancy will rise by 5 years.**



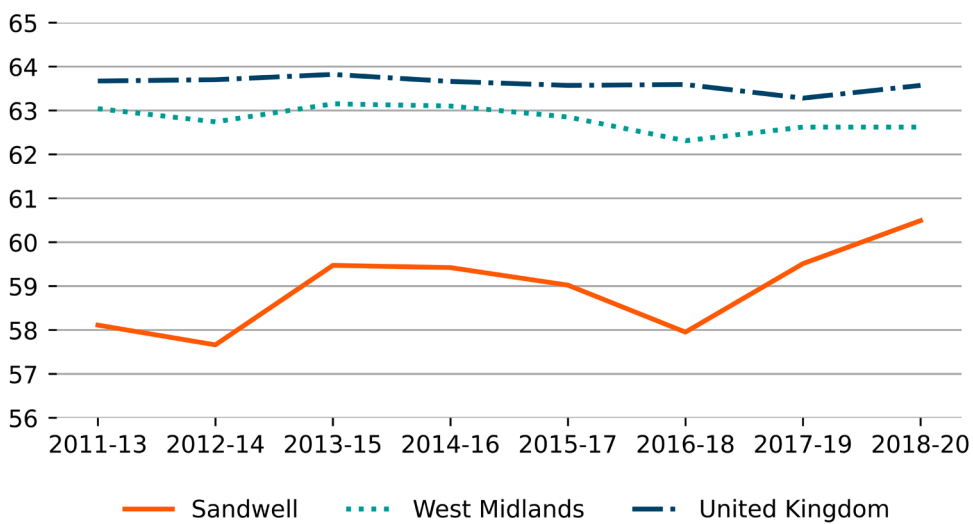
## Indicators

- Healthy life expectancy (2018-20) for females and males in Sandwell (**60.5 years** and **61.5 years** resp.) were both lower than West Midlands (**62.6 years** and **61.9 years** resp.) and the United Kingdom averages (**63.6 years** and **62.8 years** resp.).
- The under 75 mortality rate from cardiovascular diseases (2021) in Sandwell (**110.9 per 100,000**) was higher than West Midlands region (**83.5 per 100,000**) and England (**76.0 per 100,000**).
- The Smoking prevalence in adults (2021) in Sandwell (**18.1%**) was higher than West Midlands region (**13.8%**) and was higher than England (**13.0%**).
- The proportion of adults classed as overweight or obese (2020/21) in Sandwell (**70.8%**) was higher than West Midlands region (**66.8%**) and England (**66.3%**).
- Obesity (including severe obesity) prevalence in year 6 children (2021/22) in Sandwell (**34.0%**) was higher than West Midlands region (**26.2%**) and England (**23.4%**).

## Male Healthy Life Expectancy



## Female Healthy Life Expectancy



Source: [ONS, 2018-20](#)

## Well-being:



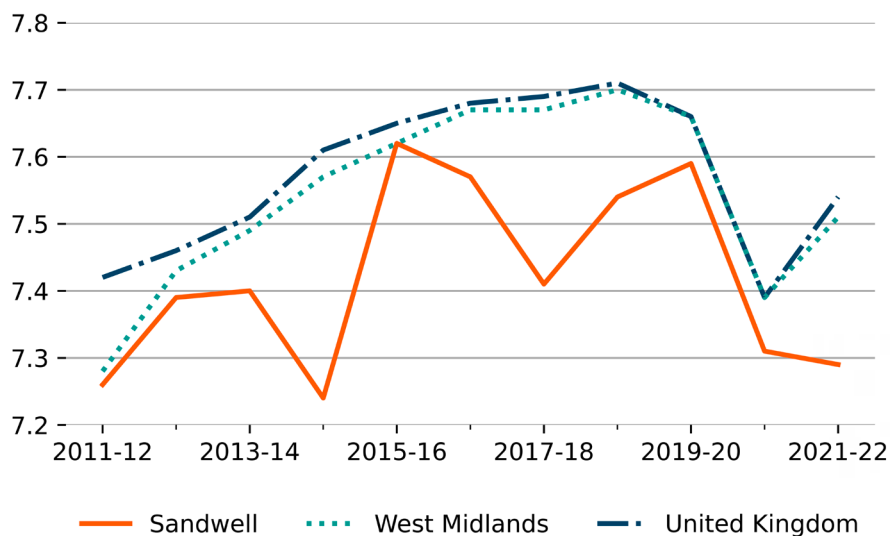
**By 2030, well-being will have improved in every area of the UK, with the gap between top performing and other areas closing.**



### Indicators

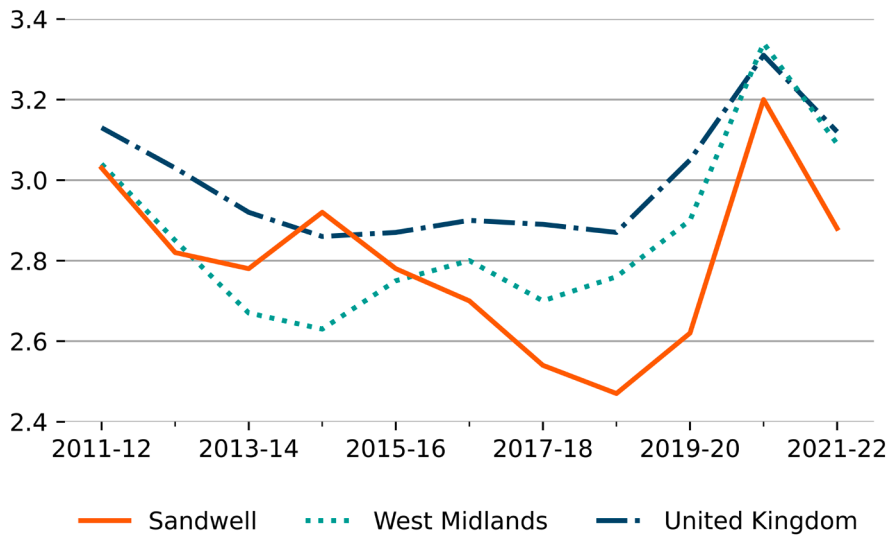
- **Sandwell has fared worse than the UK and the West Midlands** for life satisfaction, happiness and worthwhile for the past 6 years. However, during this time, Sandwell is estimated to have **lower prevalence of anxiety**.
- The rate of emergency hospital admissions for intentional self-harm (2020/21) in Sandwell (**160.0 per 100,000**) was lower than West Midlands region (**166.6 per 100,000**) and England (**181.2 per 100,000**).
- The suicide rate (2019-21) in Sandwell (**11.2%**) was slightly higher than the West Midlands region (**10.7%**) and England (**10.4%**).

### Life Satisfaction (individual score out of 10)

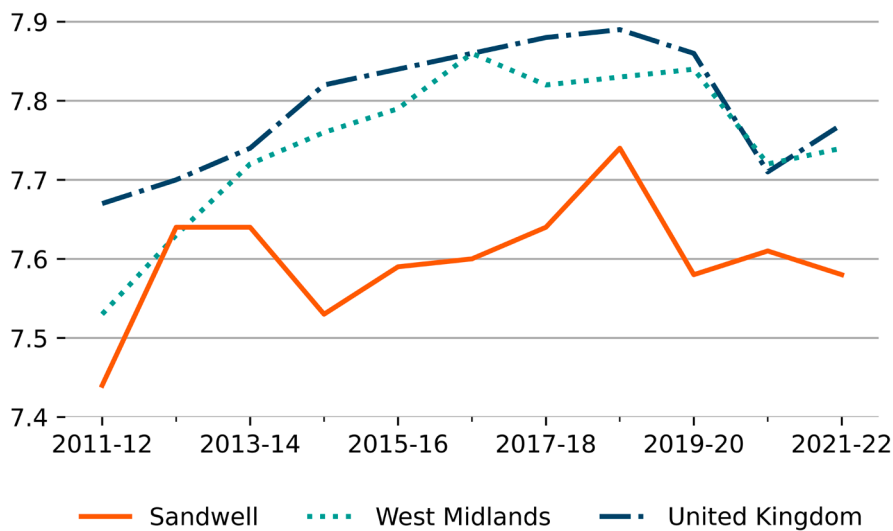




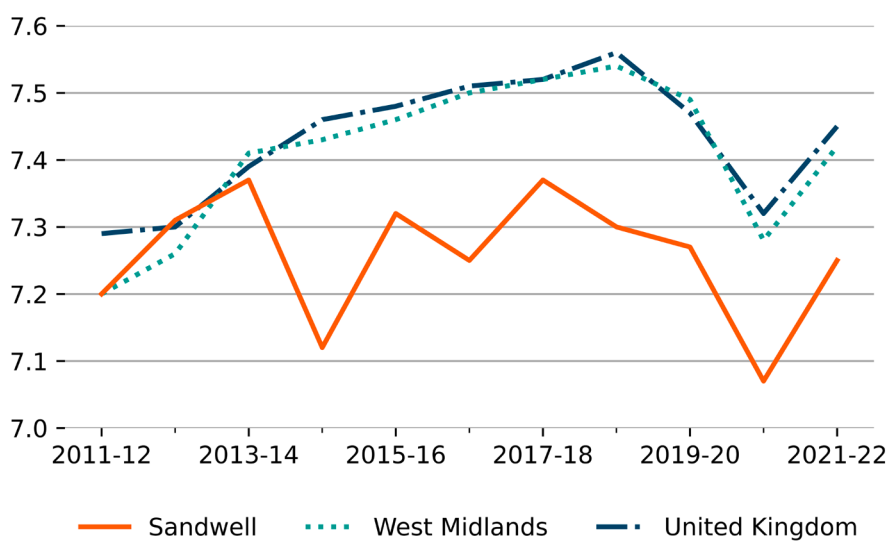
### Anxiety (individual score out of 10)



### Worthwhile (individual score out of 10)



### Happiness (individual score out of 10)



Source: [ONS Annual Personal Wellbeing Estimates, 2021-22](#)

# Education and Skills

---

Sandwell performs below national averages at all stages of educational attainment. In 2016, 1 in 4 people in Sandwell had no qualifications. Sandwell has closed the gap with national and regional rates since, but the number of highly skilled individuals (NVQ3+) remains relatively low.

## Education:



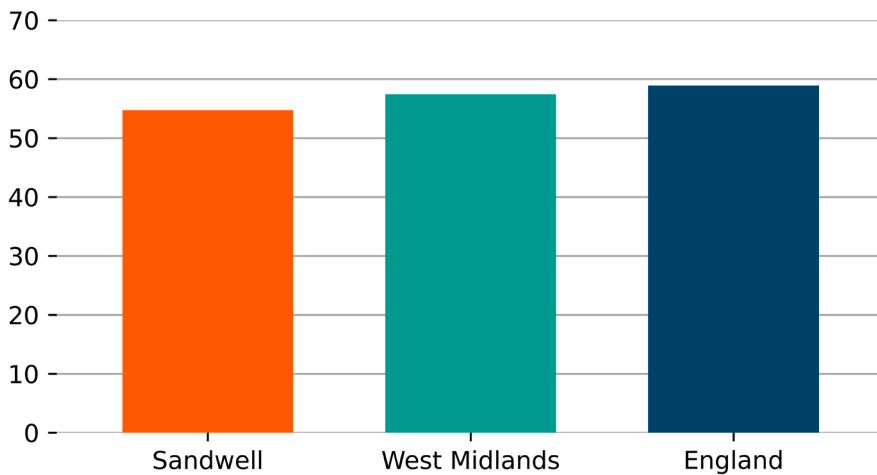
**By 2030, the number of primary school children achieving the expected standard in reading, writing and maths will have significantly increased. In England, this will mean 90% of children will achieve the expected standard, and the percentage of children meeting the expected standard in the worst performing areas will have increased by over a third.**



## Indicators

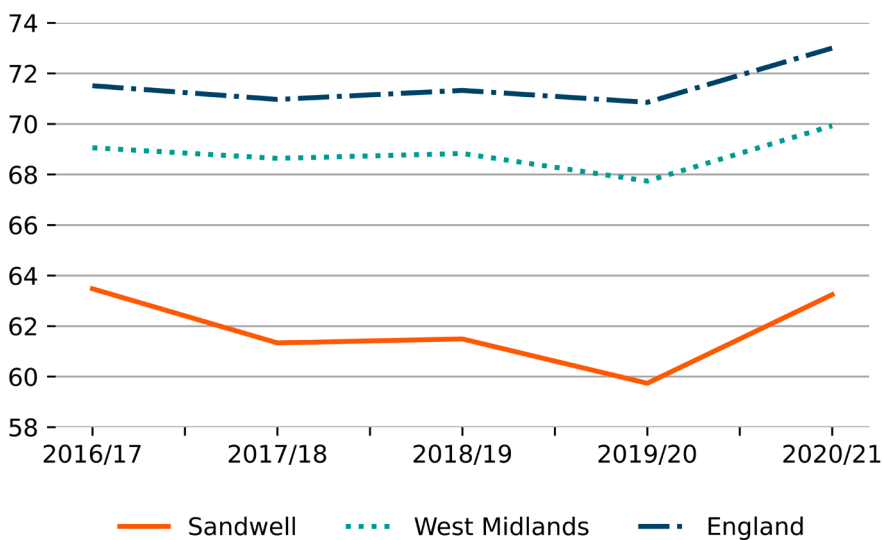
- The percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths by the end of primary school (2021/22) in Sandwell was **lower than the England percentage**. In 2021/22, the percentage in Sandwell (**55%**) was only slightly lower than West Midlands (**57%**) and England (**59%**).
- The percentage of young people achieving GCSEs (and equivalent qualifications) in English and maths by age 19 in Sandwell was **lower than the England percentage for the 5 years up to 2020/21**. In 2020/21, the percentage in Sandwell (**63%**) was lower than West Midlands (**70%**) and England (**73%**).

## Pupils meeting expected standard in RWM by end of primary school (%), 2021/22



Source: [DfE, 2022](#)

## Students achieving GCSEs in English and Maths by age 19 (%)



Source: [DfE, 2022](#)

## Skills:



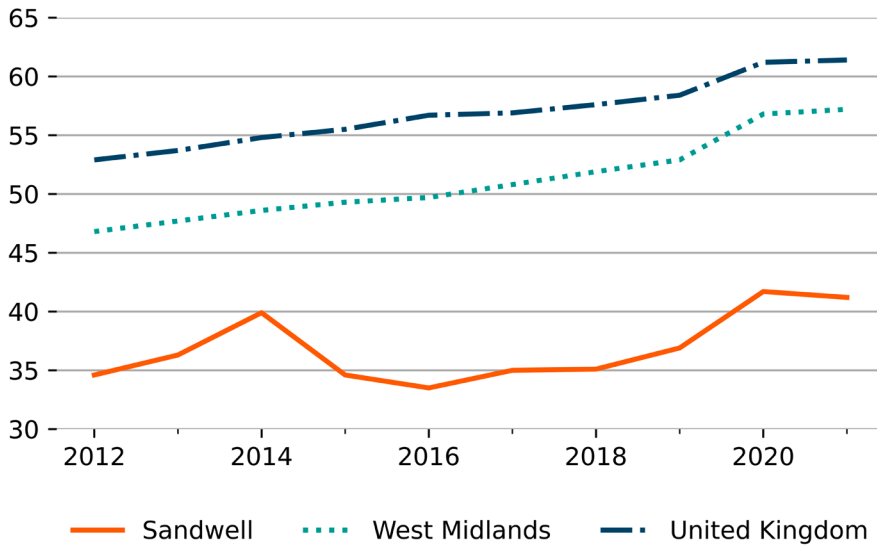
**By 2030, the number of people successfully completing high-quality skills training will have significantly increased in every area of the UK. In England, this will lead to 200,000 more people successfully completing high-quality skills training annually, driven by 80,000 more people completing courses in the lowest skilled areas.**



## Indicators

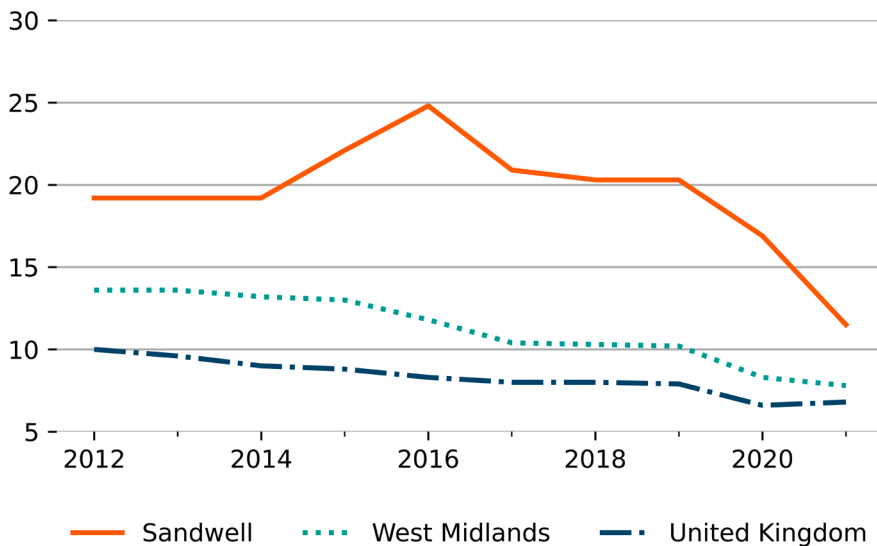
- The percentage of 16-64 year olds with no qualifications in Sandwell has been higher than the United Kingdom percentage for the last 10 years. In 2021, the percentage in Sandwell (**12%**) was only slightly higher than West Midlands (**8%**) and the United Kingdom (**7%**).
- The proportion of the population aged 16 - 64 with level 3+ qualifications in Sandwell has been lower than the United Kingdom percentage for the last 10 years. In 2021, the percentage in Sandwell (**41%**) was lower than West Midlands (**57%**) and the United Kingdom (**61%**).

### People with NVQ 3+ qualifications (%)



Source: APS survey, 2022

### People with no qualifications (%)



Source: APS survey, 2022

# Transport and Digital connectivity

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The mix of transport modes used for commuting in Sandwell differs to national averages, with a higher proportion of people using buses and relatively fewer people using rail and active travel. Measures of digital connectivity in Sandwell are above regional and national averages.

## Transport:



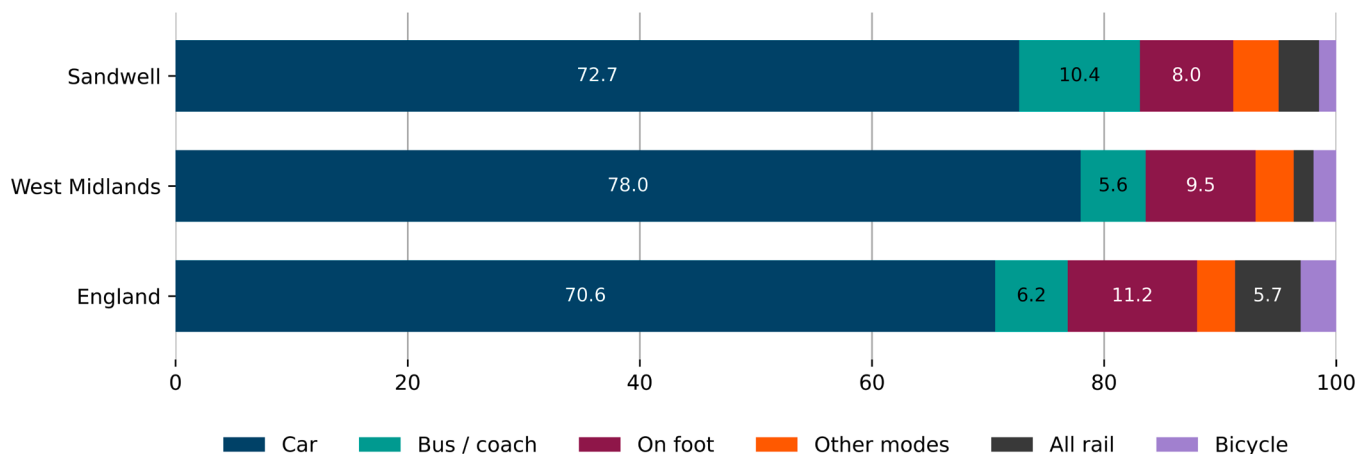
**By 2030, local public transport connectivity across the country will be significantly closer to the standards of London, with improved services, simpler fares and integrated ticketing.**



## Indicators

- The proportion of people who travel to work by bus/coach is higher in Sandwell compared to the West Midlands and England averages. A smaller proportion of people travel to work by rail in Sandwell compared to England (Census 2021).
- The proportion of people who work from home in Sandwell (**18.7%**) was lower than West Midlands (**25.7%**) and England (**31.5%**) (Census 2021).
- The time taken to travel to employment centres with 500-4,999 employees for car, cycling, public transport or walking, and walking in Sandwell (**7 mins, 9 mins, 10 mins, and 11 mins** resp.) were all lower than West Midlands (**8 mins, 10 mins, 12 mins, and 15 mins** resp.) and England (**8 mins, 10 mins, 11 mins, and 15 mins** resp.) (2019).

## Method of travel to work (%)



The legend is presented in the same order as the categories within the bars. We have excluded the “Work mainly at or from home” category from this chart to make it easier to clearly see the methods used to travel to work. Percentages do not include those working from home.

Source: [ONS, 2022](#)

## Digital connectivity:



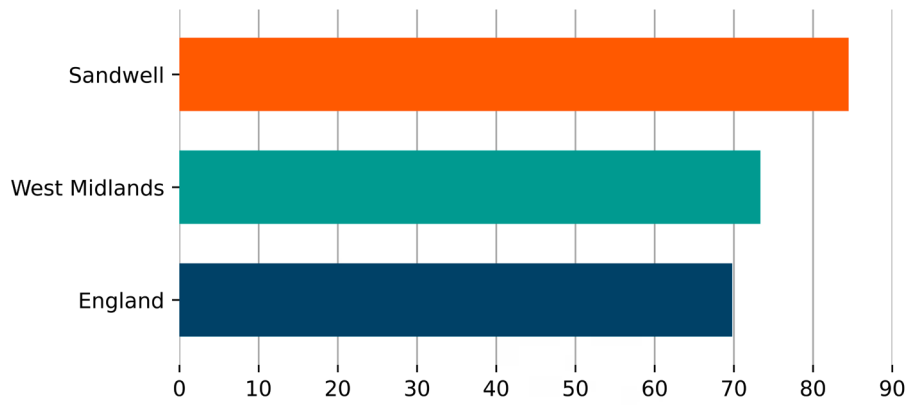
**By 2030, the UK will have national gigabit-capable broadband and 4G coverage, with 5G coverage for majority of the population.**



### Indicators

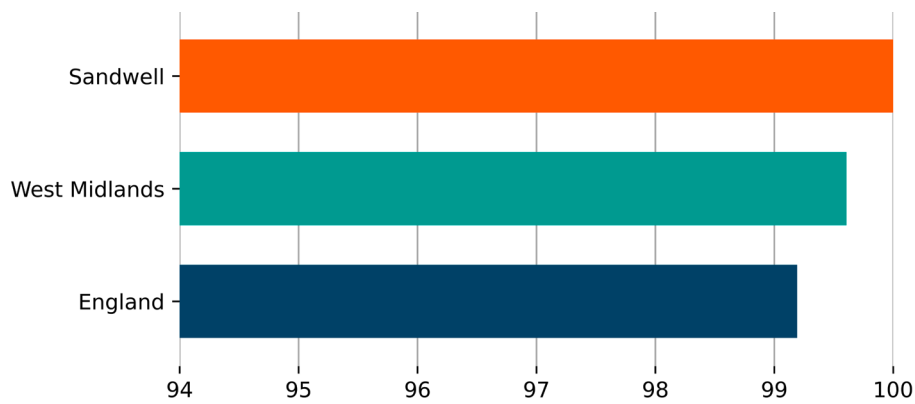
- The percentage of premises with gigabit capable broadband in Sandwell was **higher than the England percentage**. In September 2022, the percentage in Sandwell (**85%**) was higher than West Midlands (**73%**) and England (**70%**).
- The outdoor 4G coverage in Sandwell was **higher than the England percentage**. In September 2022, the percentage in Sandwell (**100%**) was the same as West Midlands (**100%**) and was only slightly higher than England (**99%**).

### Gigabit availability (% of premises)



Source: Ofcom, 2022

### Good outdoor 4G availability from at least one operator (%)



Source: Ofcom, 2022

# **Annex B – Assessment against the six capitals**

---

**Physical Capital**

**Human Capital**

**Intangible capital**

**Financial capital**

**Social Capital**



# Physical capital

Physical capital comes in several forms – transport, housing and digital, as well as the machines and other capital stock used by industry.

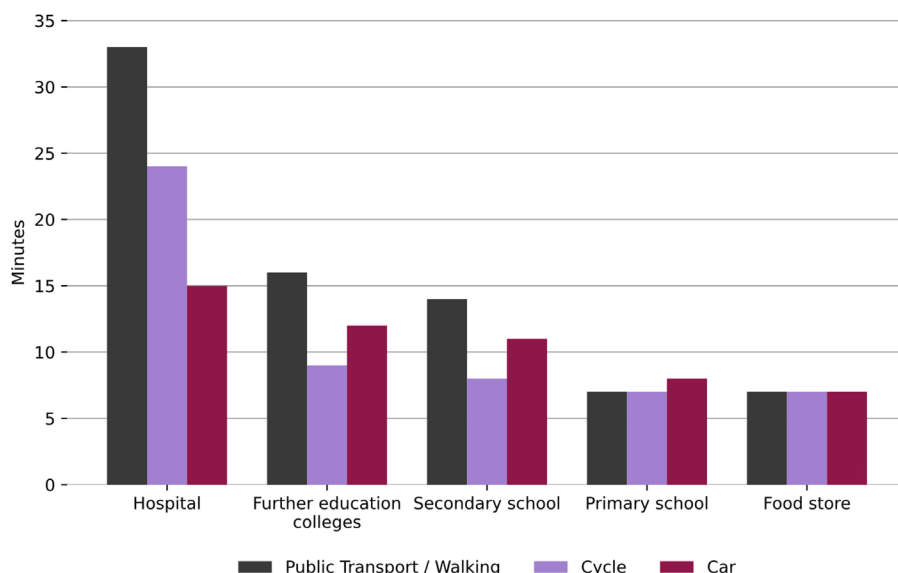


# Access to key services in Sandwell

There is a longer travel time to access most key services in Sandwell when using public transport compared to using a car. Sandwell has shorter average minimum travel time to all key service when cycling or using public transport/walking, than regional and national averages.

- Public transport commonly has the **longest travel time to key services in Sandwell**, with the exception of primary schools. All transport modes have the same travel time of 7 minutes to food stores. Car has the shortest travel time for hospitals, whilst cycling is the shortest for secondary schools and further education colleges.
- In Sandwell, hospitals have the longest travel time by any mode of transport, compared to other key service, with public transport taking over twice the travel time of the journey by car.
- However, when compared to regional and national averages, **Sandwell has shorter average minimum travel time to all key services when cycling or using public transport/walking**.
- Travel times to hospital using a car is shorter in Sandwell than regional and national averages. Travel times using cars are longer for other key services (with the exception of food stores) in Sandwell, compared to regional and national averages.

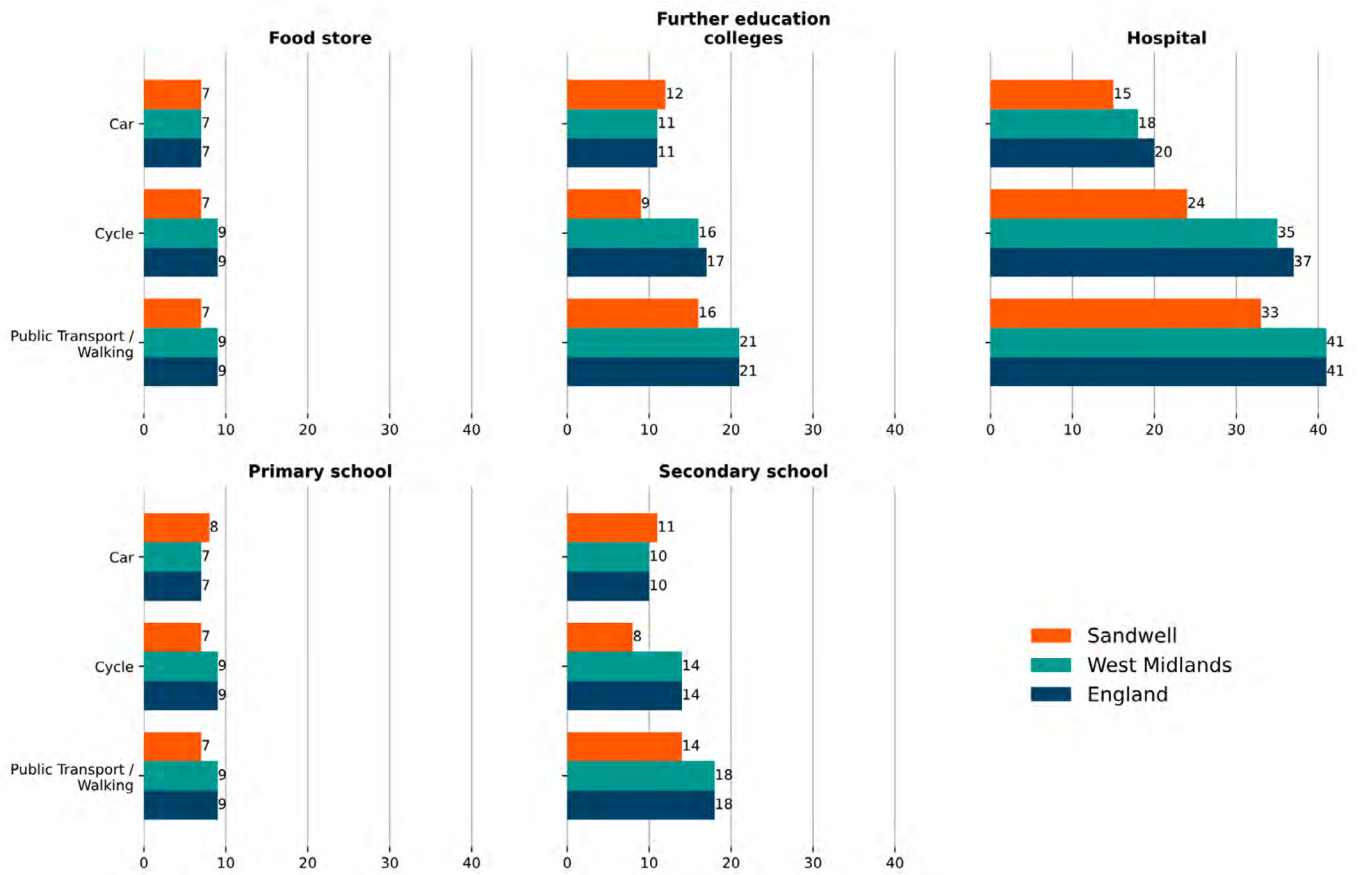
## Average minimum travel time to key services in Sandwell (minutes), 2019



The legend is presented in the same order as the bars in the clusters.

Source: [Department for Transport, 2021](#)

## Average minimum travel time to the nearest key services (minutes), 2019



The legend is presented in the same order as the bars in the clusters.

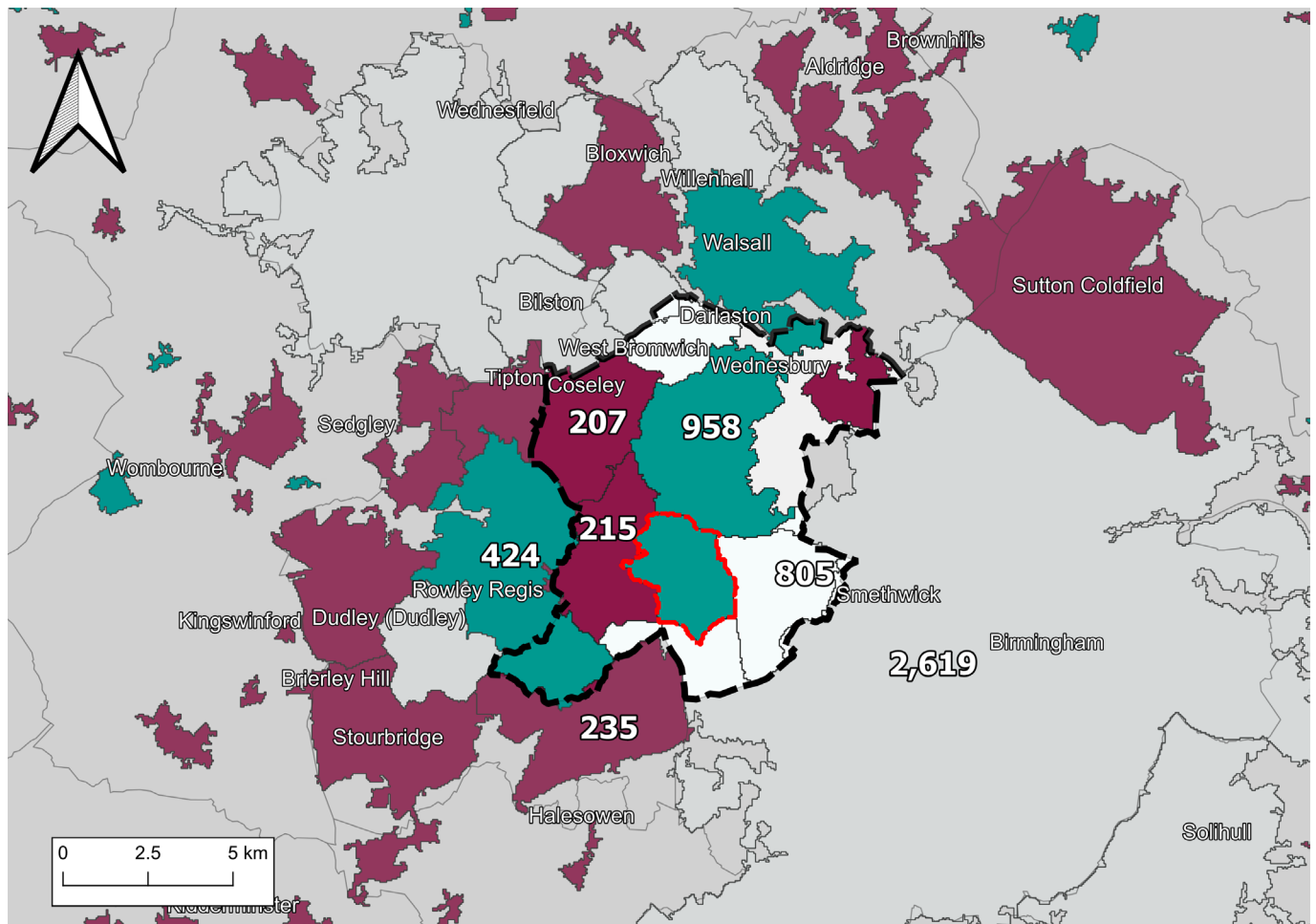
Source: [Department for Transport, 2021](#)

# Sandwell commuter flows

Oldbury (Sandwell) built-up area (BUA) is a net importer of people, attracting workers from nearby towns and Birmingham. The number of people incoming to Oldbury (Sandwell) is double the number of people outgoing the BUA.

## Outgoing

Numbers represent the flows of people leaving Oldbury (Sandwell) BUASD to their respective BUAs



**Settlements**

**Commuter ratio**

- 0 - 0.75 Net exporters
- 0.76 - 1.25 Balanced fluxes
- 1.26- 193.17 Net importers

**Local Authorities**

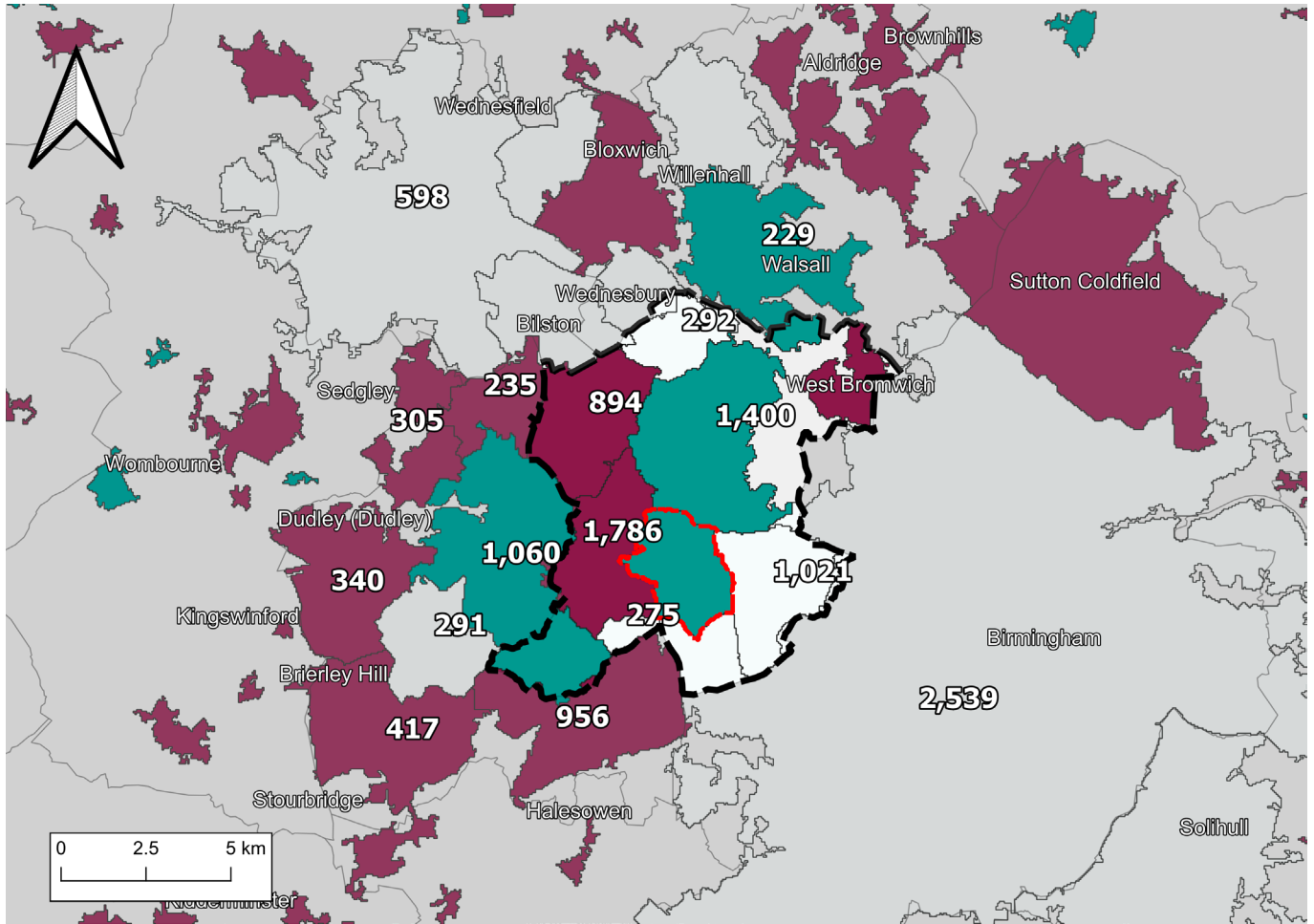
- Sandwell City Council
- Other Districts

**Built-Up Area**

- Oldbury (Sandwell) BUASD

## Incoming

Numbers represent the flows of people entering Oldbury (Sandwell) BUASD from their respective BUAs



**Settlements**

**Commuter ratio**

- 0 - 0.75 Net exporters
- 0.76 - 1.25 Balanced fluxes
- 1.26- 193.17 Net importers

**Local Authorities**

- Sandwell City Council
- Other Districts

**Built-Up Area**

- Oldbury (Sandwell) BUASD

Source: DLUHC internal analysis on Census 2011 data Note: Flows have been filtered to only show flows of 50 or more people

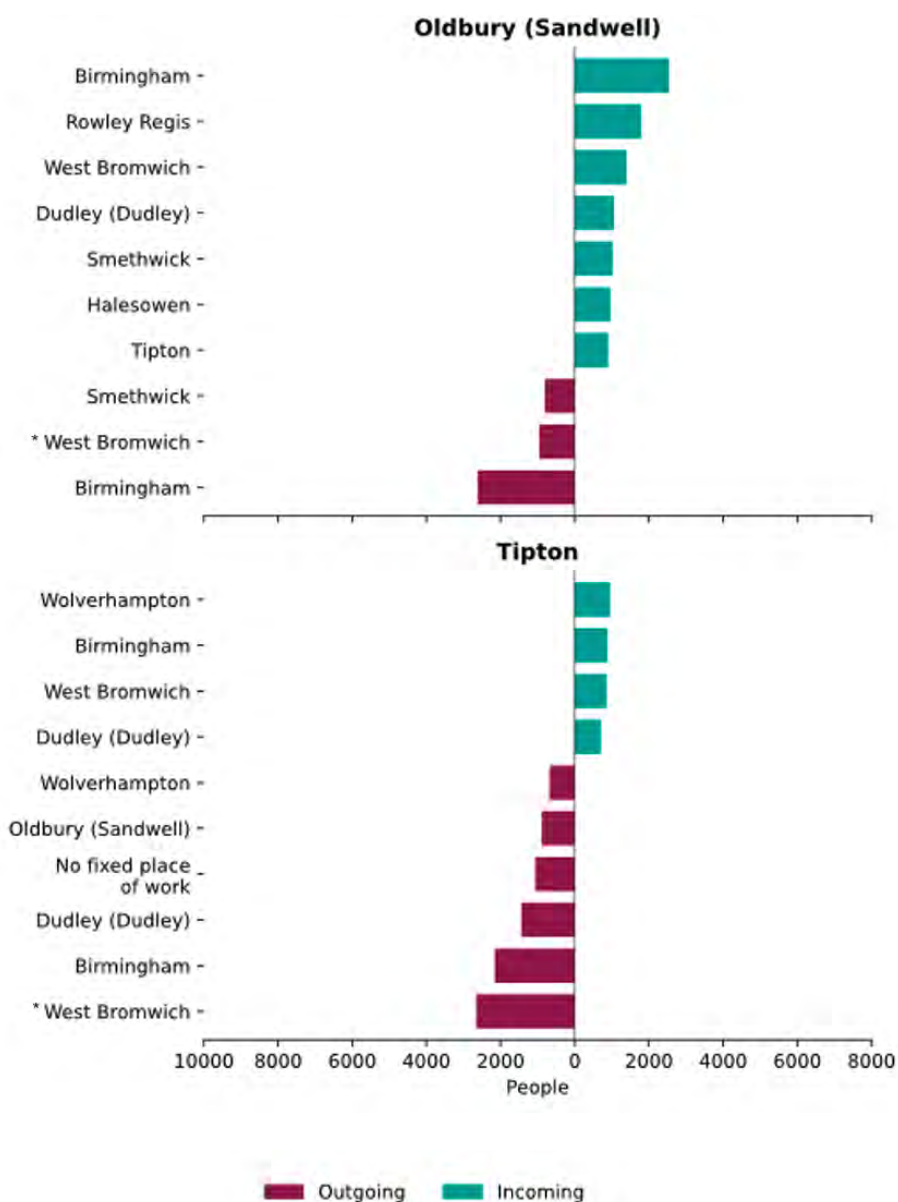
Name of built-up area	2011 Population	Incoming	Outgoing	Working local
Oldbury (Sandwell)	23,964	15,674	7,793	2,329

**Top 20 residence – work connections between BUAs where Oldbury (Sandwell) BUASD is involved**

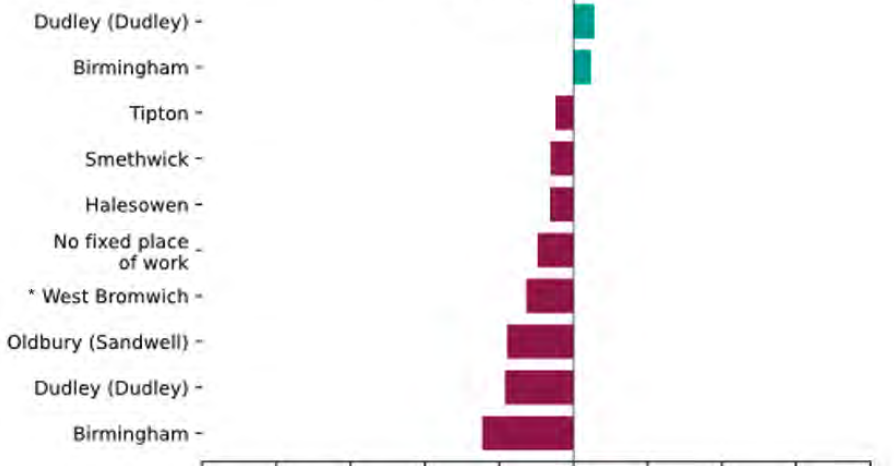
Place of residence	Place of work	People
Oldbury (Sandwell)	Birmingham	2,619
Birmingham	Oldbury (Sandwell)	2,539
Oldbury (Sandwell)	Oldbury (Sandwell)	2,329
Rowley Regis	Oldbury (Sandwell)	1,786
West Bromwich	Oldbury (Sandwell)	1,400
Dudley (Dudley)	Oldbury (Sandwell)	1,060
Smethwick	Oldbury (Sandwell)	1,021
Oldbury (Sandwell)	West Bromwich	958
Halesowen	Oldbury (Sandwell)	956
Tipton	Oldbury (Sandwell)	894
Oldbury (Sandwell)	Smethwick	805
Oldbury (Sandwell)	No fixed place of work	635
Wolverhampton	Oldbury (Sandwell)	598
Oldbury (Sandwell)	Dudley (Dudley)	424
Stourbridge	Oldbury (Sandwell)	417
Kingswinford	Oldbury (Sandwell)	340
Sedgley	Oldbury (Sandwell)	305
Wednesbury	Oldbury (Sandwell)	292
Brierley Hill	Oldbury (Sandwell)	291
Blackheath	Oldbury (Sandwell)	275

# Sandwell commuter flows: towns

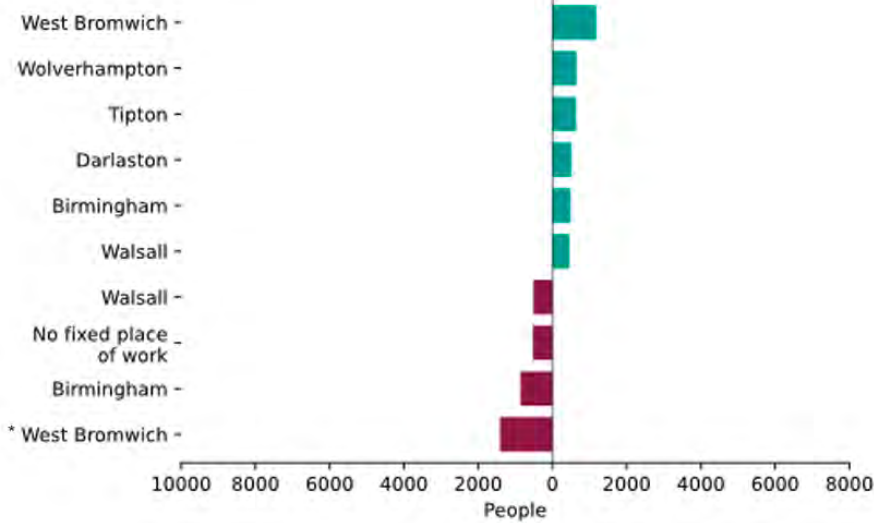
Sandwell is comprised of six towns, all experiencing different levels of commuting flows. Smethwick and West Bromwich have high flows of people going to and from Birmingham, whilst the residential town of Rowley Regis has high levels of outgoing commuter flows.



### Rowley Regis

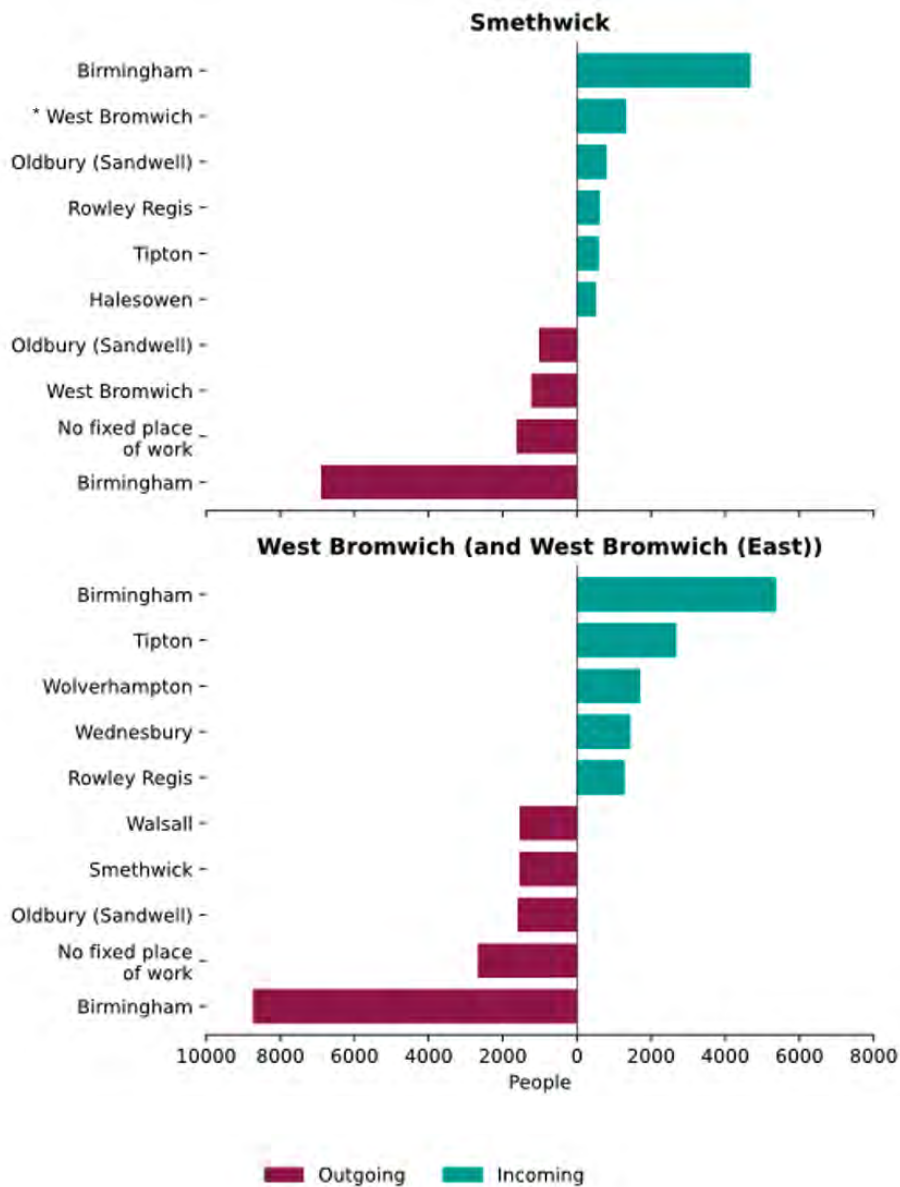


### Wednesbury



■ Outgoing ■ Incoming





Source: DLUHC internal analysis on Census 2011 data

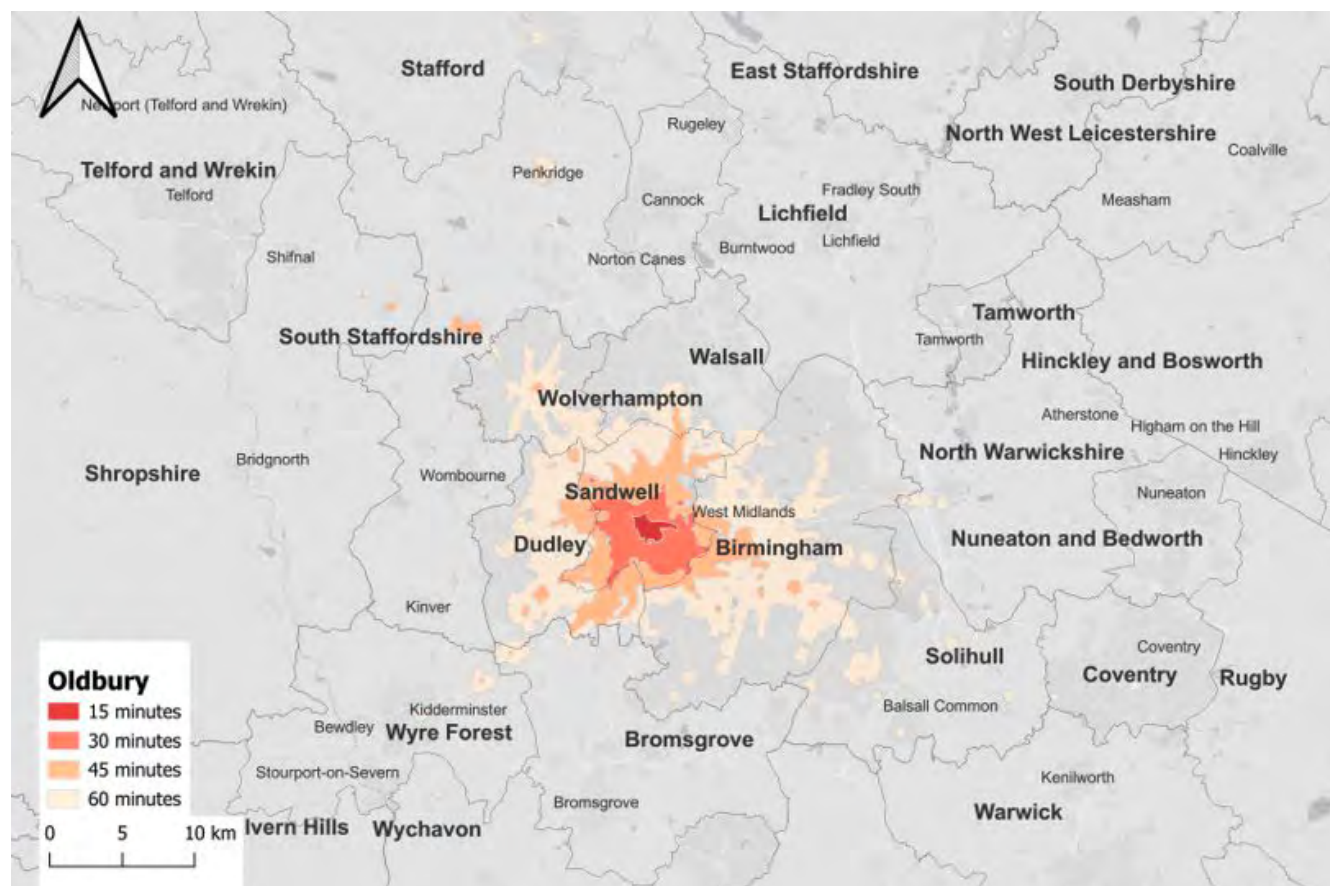
Note: West Brgraphomwich is divided into two separate built-up areas; West Bromwich and West Bromwich (East). The above has combined the statistics of both built-up areas to produce overall statistics for West Bromwich.

\* These statistics only contain West Bromwich, not West Bromwich (East)

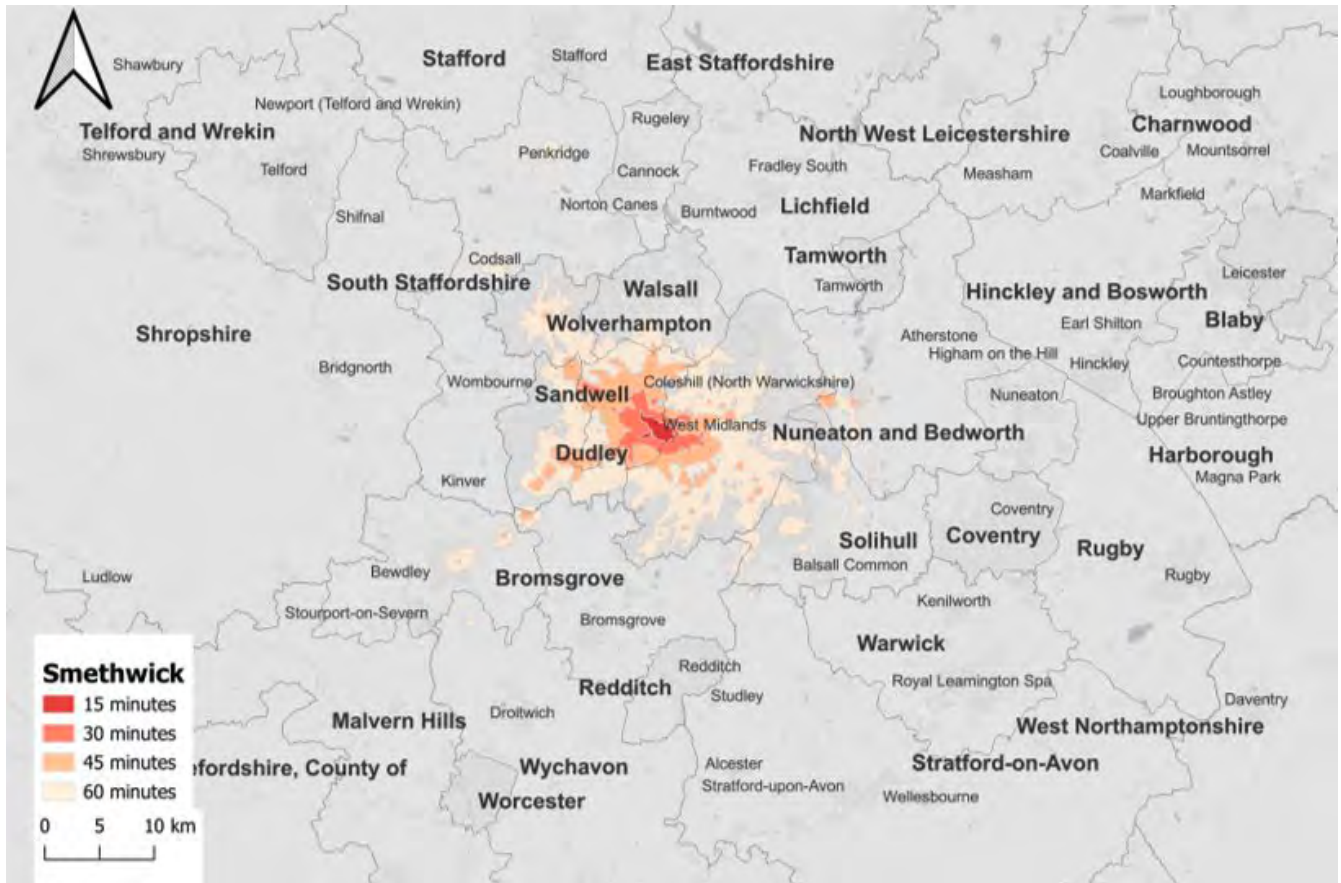
# Travel time isochrones

The towns of Oldbury, West Bromwich and Smethwick have the best accessibility to the employment centre of Birmingham. From Wednesbury, it is possible to reach the employment centres of Birmingham, Walsall and Wolverhampton within 45 minutes.

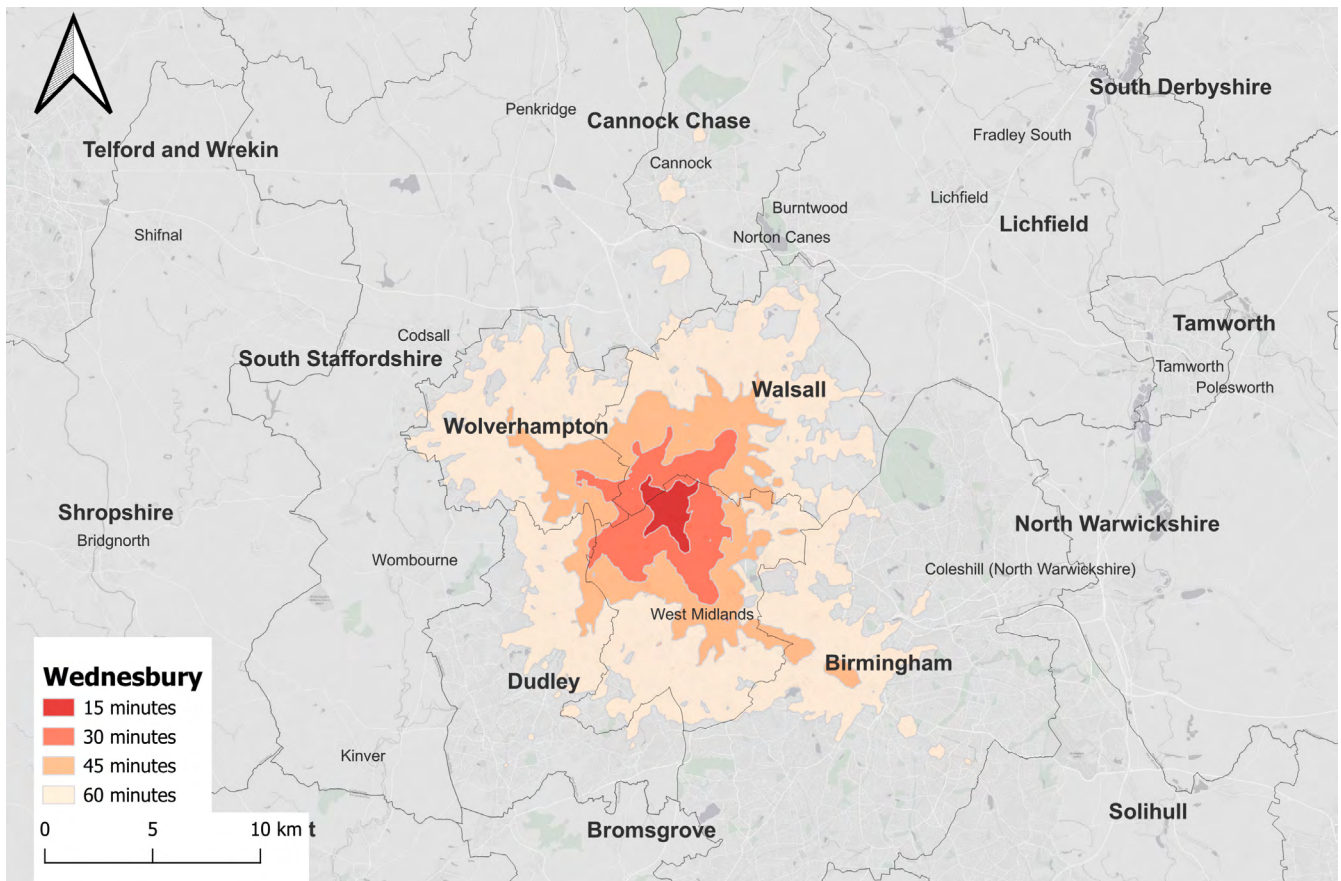
Public transport accessibility by journey time from Oldbury high street, between 7:15am and 9:15am



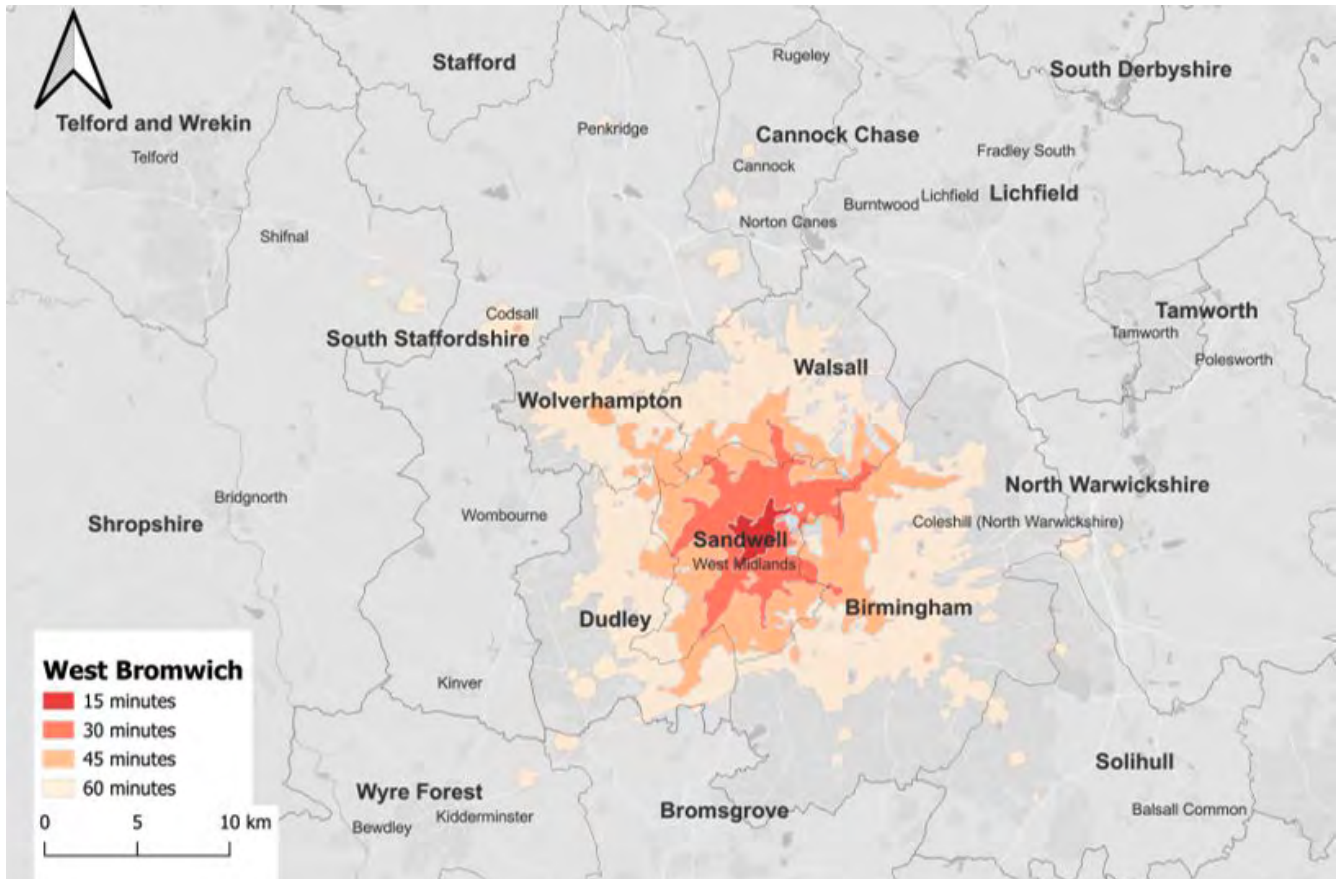
**Public transport accessibility by journey time from Smethwick high street, between 7:15am and 9:15am**



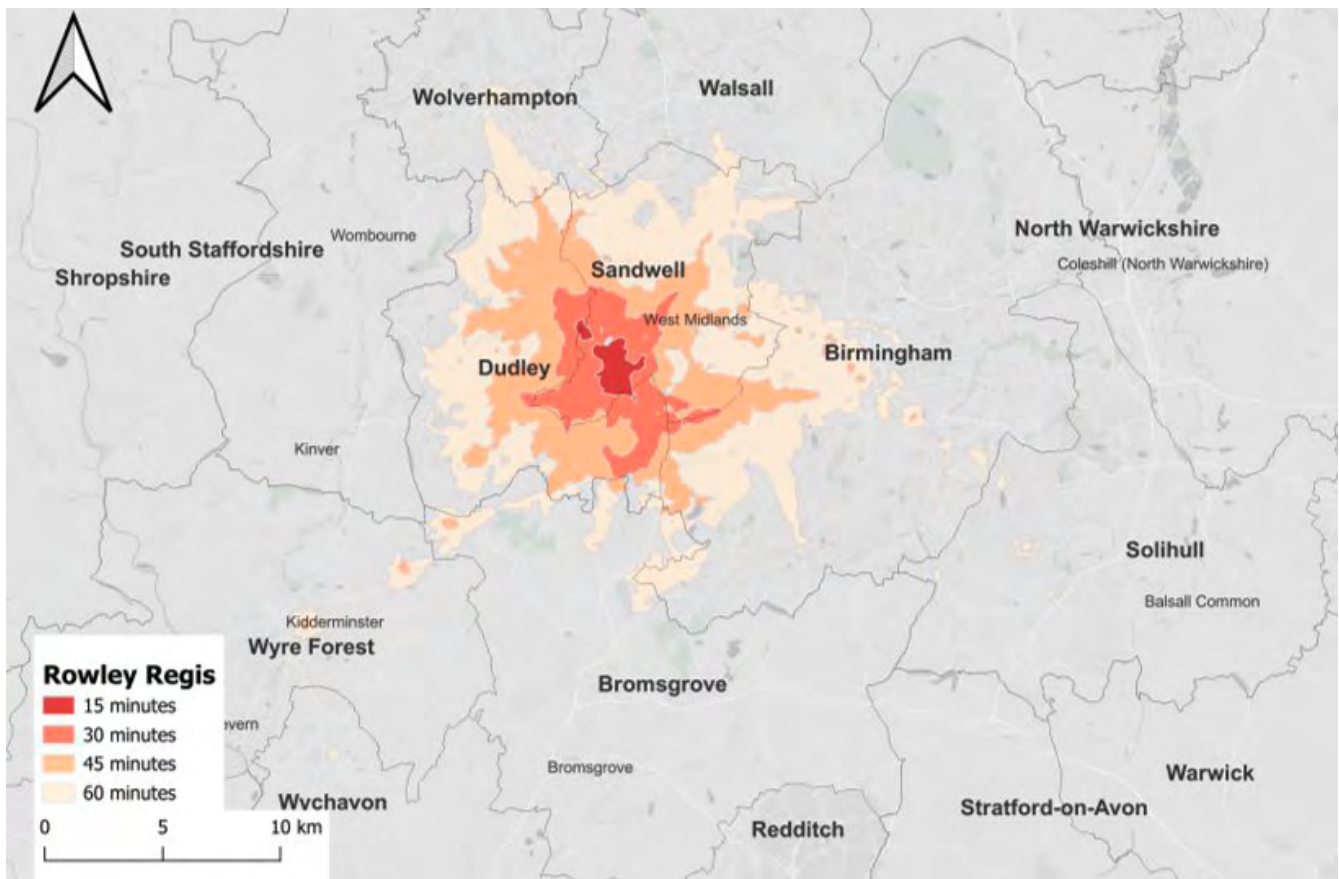
**Public transport accessibility by journey time from Wednesbury high street, between 7:15am and 9:15am**



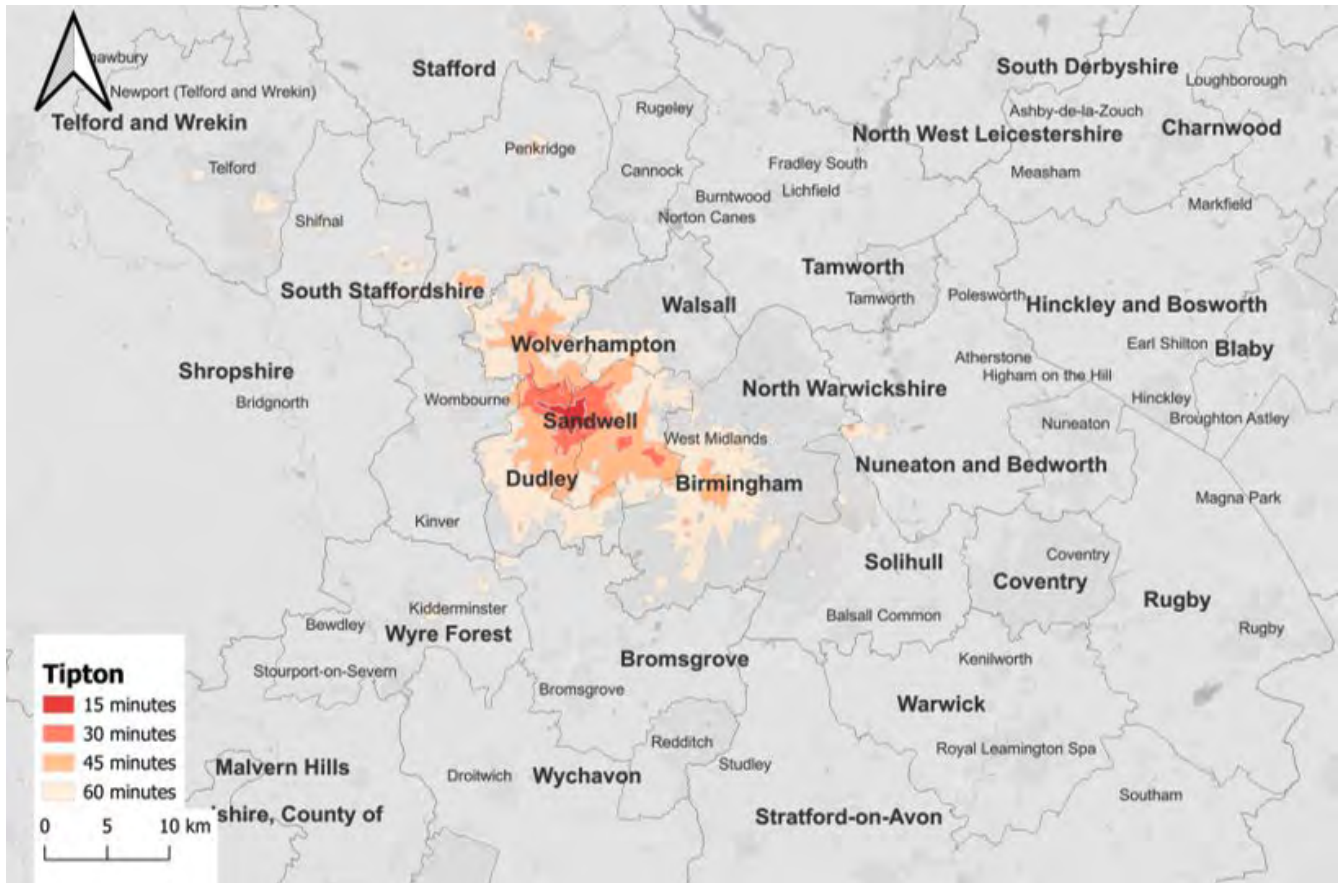
**Public transport accessibility by journey time from West Bromwich high street, between 7:15am and 9:15am**



**Public transport accessibility by journey time from Rowley Regis high street, between 7:15am and 9:15am**



## Public transport accessibility by journey time from Tipton high street, between 7:15am and 9:15am



Source: [ONS, 2023](#)

# Sandwell – access to broadband

---

**Over three-quarters of premises in Sandwell are gigabit capable, however, there are pockets of areas with only 0-20% premises which are gigabit available.**

In September 2022, 84% of premises in Sandwell were gigabit capable, which was above the England average of 70% ([Ofcom, 2022](#)).

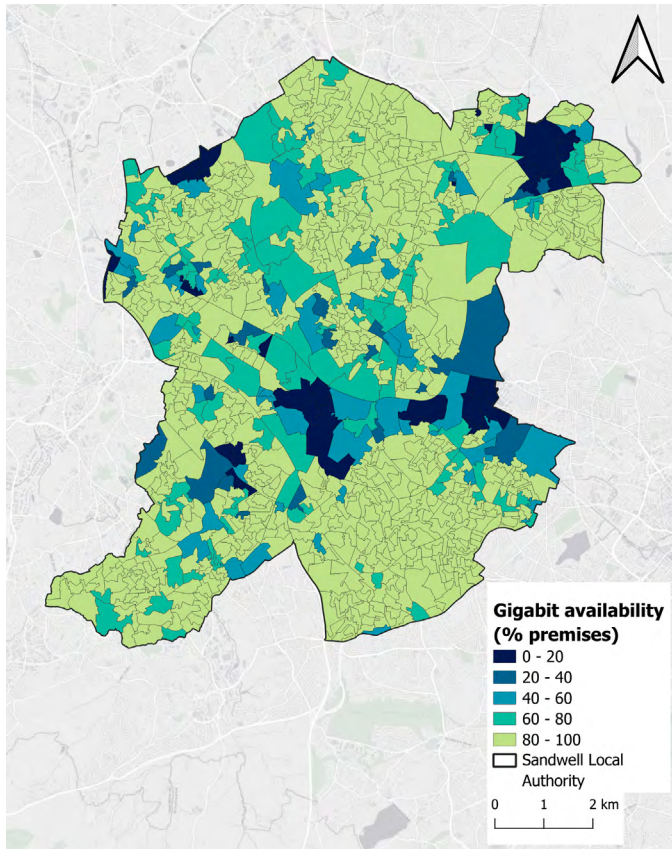
## **In Sandwell:**

- Less than 1% of premises (715 premises) were unable to receive decent broadband (with at least 10Mbit/s download, 1Mbit/s upload speeds)
- 13 premises were eligible for [Broadband Universal Obligation](#)\*
- 99% of premises (142,183 premises) had superfast download speeds of at least 30Mbit/s
- 87% of premises had ultrafast download speeds of at least 300Mbit/s, whilst 36% of premises had access to full fibre.

Whilst 44 output areas showed less than 20% of premises had gigabit availability, postcode-level data indicates the lack of gigabit availability is widespread across Sandwell. This is especially prevalent in Smethwick and Oldbury.

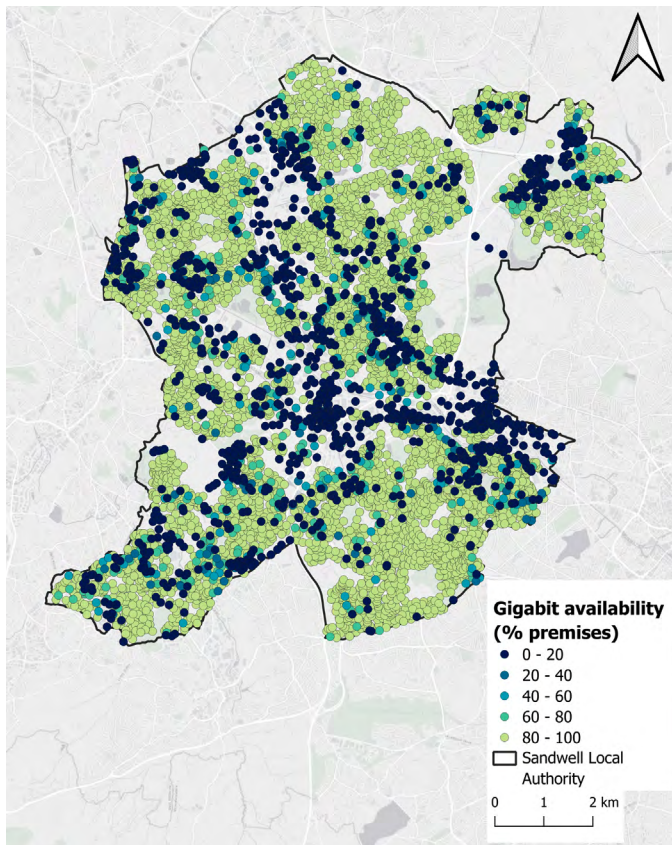
*\* A home or business is eligible for Universal Service Obligation if it has no access to existing decent broadband and if it will not be covered by a public broadband scheme offered by the UK or devolved governments in the next 12 months.*

## Gigabit availability (% premises) by output area



Source: [Ofcom, 2022](#)

## Gigabit availability (% premises) by postcode



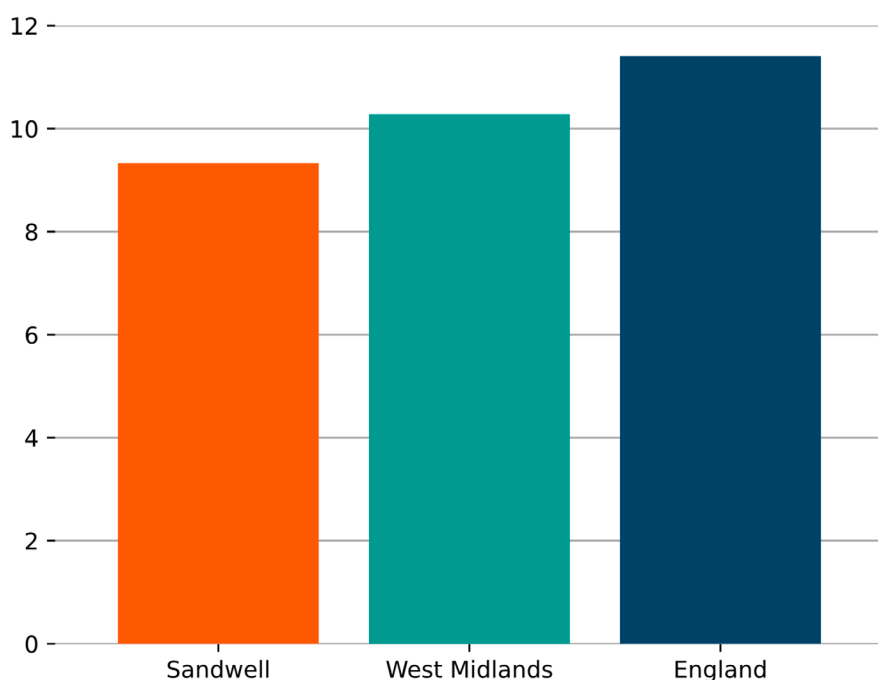
Source: [Ofcom, 2022](#)

# Housing – quality, overcrowding, homelessness

**Social renters are more prevalent in Sandwell relative to other types of tenure, and 8% of homes are overcrowded.**

- In Sandwell the majority of household own their own home – either outright (28%) or with a mortgage (26%) – however the rate of ownership is lower than the wider West Midlands region and England. 27% of household are social renters, which is higher than the England average but the private rental market does not follow this trend.
- In Sandwell the rate of households owed a duty under the homelessness reduction act is lower than the England and West Midland averages.
- Over 8% of households are overcrowded, this is above the England and Wales average as is expected within a densely populated urban area. For social and private rented properties 12% and 13% of households are overcrowded, respectively, whereas owned properties are less overcrowded (6%).

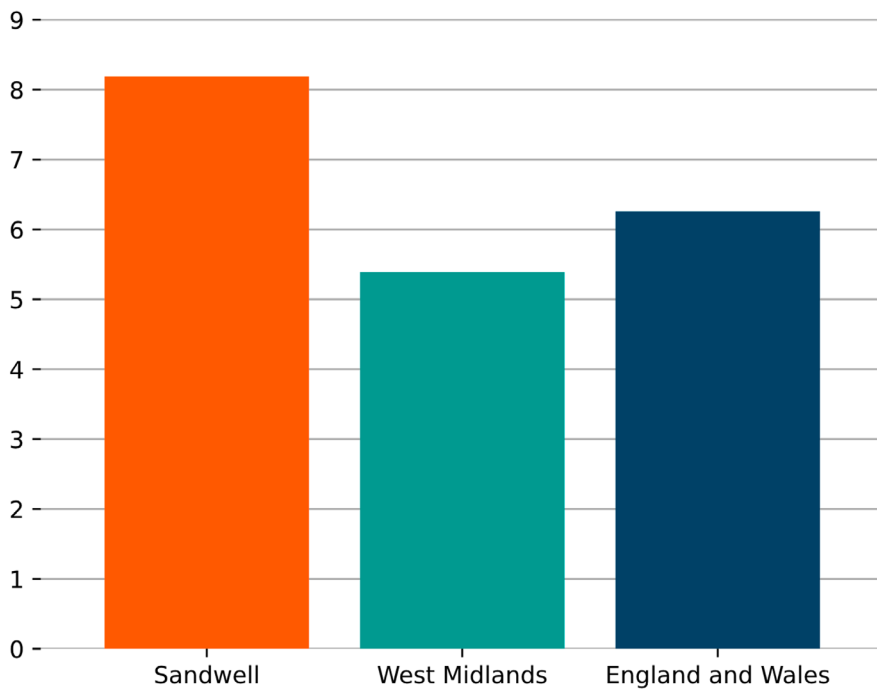
## Households owed a duty under the homelessness reduction act, rate per 1,000 (2020-21)



Source: [DLUHC, 2021](#)



## Overcrowded households (%), with an occupancy rating of -1 or less



Source: [ONS Census, 2021](#)

## Housing tenure in Sandwell (%)



Source: [ONS Census, 2021](#)

Note: The legend is presented in the same order as the bars in the clusters.

# Human capital

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Human capital is typically defined as the stock of knowledge, skills, competencies, health and other attributes embodied in people that are acquired during their life.

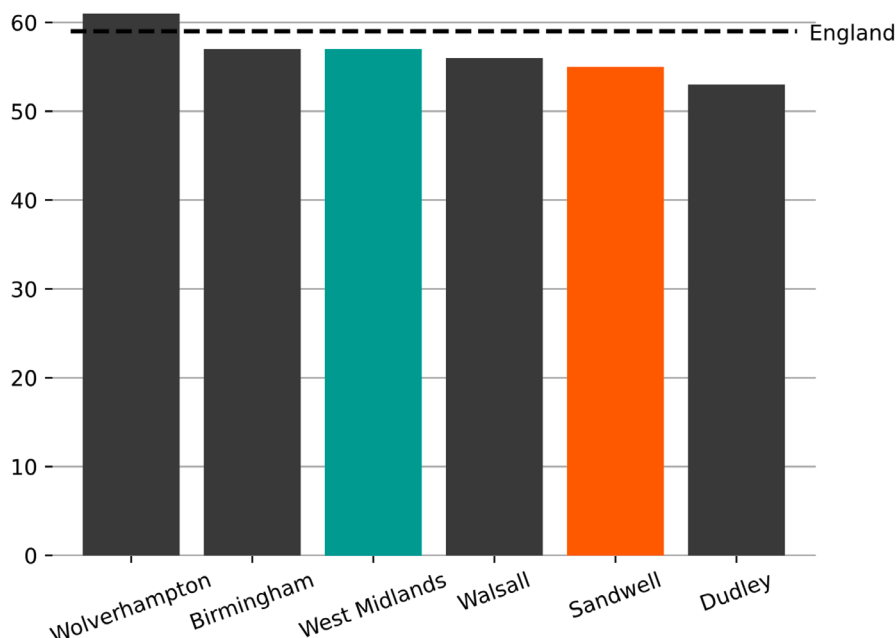


# Education inequalities in Sandwell

In the most recent Key Stage 2 results, Sandwell fared worse than regional and national averages, which constituted a significant drop from previous years. In the most deprived areas of Sandwell, less than two-thirds of pupils met the expected standard in reading, writing and maths in 2018/19.

- As of 2022, there are 143 schools and colleges in Sandwell, 114 of which are primary schools.
- The average percentage of pupils meeting the expected standard in reading, writing and maths by the end of primary school in Sandwell was 55% in 2021-22. This is lower than the averages of neighbouring local authorities of Wolverhampton (61%), Birmingham (57%), and Walsall (56%) but higher than the average in Dudley (53%).
- The Sandwell average (55%) was lower than the West Midlands (57%), and the England (59%) averages. Primary school attainment dropped in all areas following the COVID-19 period.
- As shown on the map on the right, many schools that had a lower percentage of students meeting the expected standard at Key Stage 2 outcomes in 2018/19 are located in pockets of multiple deprivation within Sandwell.

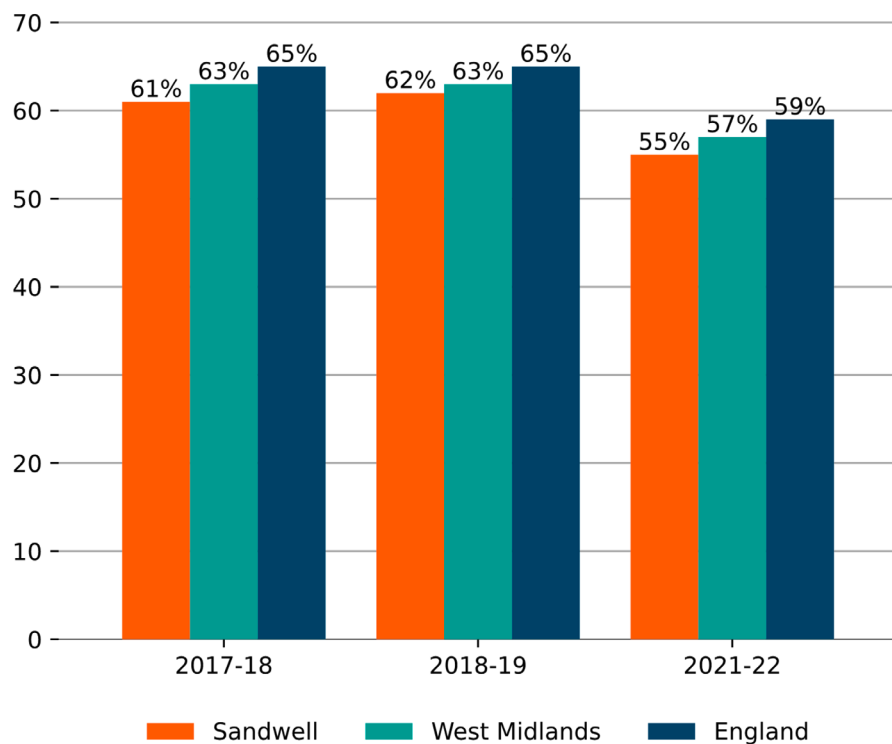
## Pupils meeting expected standard in RWM by end of primary school (%), 2021/22



Source: DfE, 2022

Note: Graph compares Sandwell to neighbouring local authorities

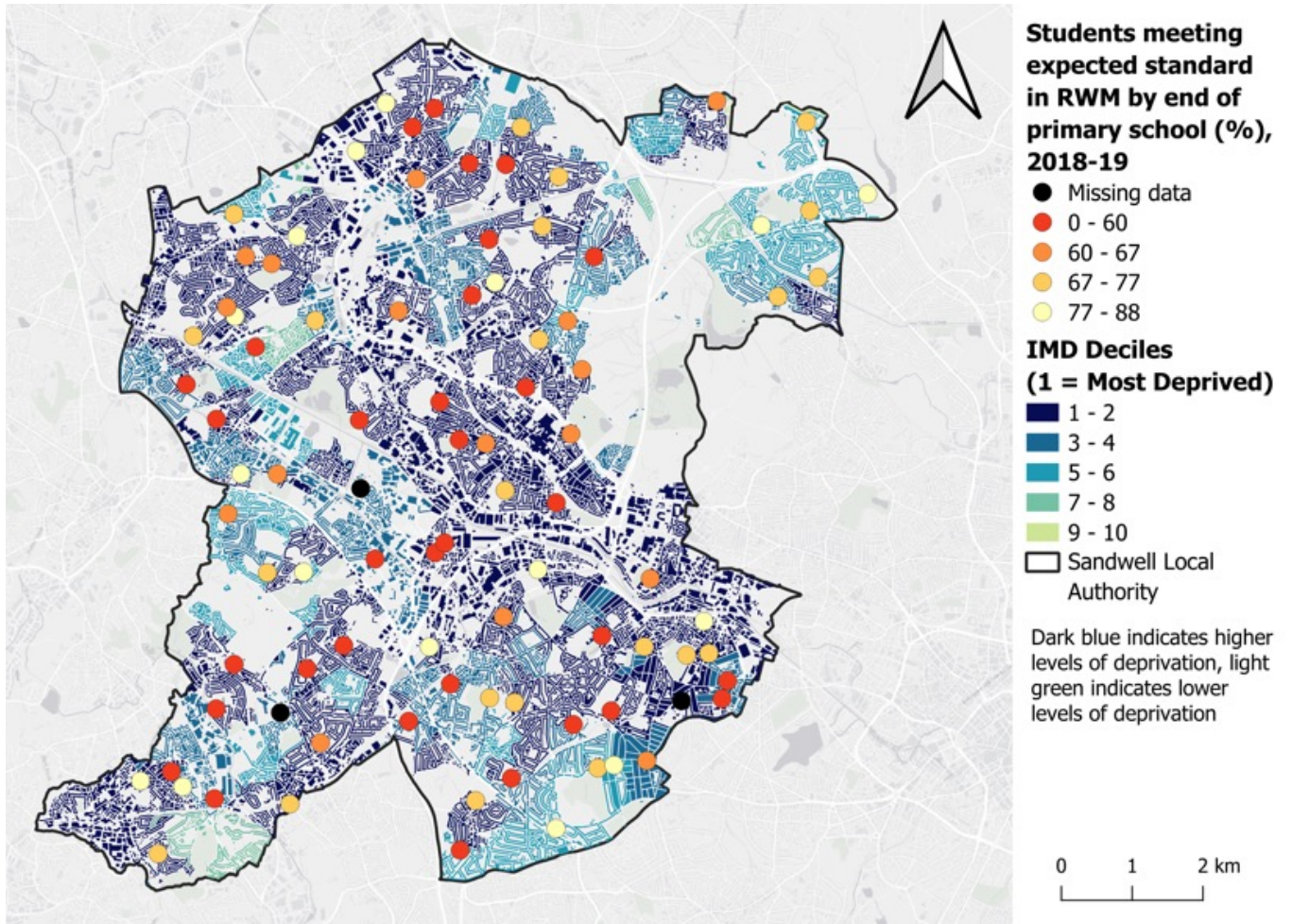
## Percentage of pupils meeting expected standard in RWM by end of primary school, 2018 to 2022



*The legend is presented in the same order as the bars in the clusters.*

Source: [DfE, 2022](#)

Note: Academic years 2019-20 and 2020-21 are missing because of no examinations during COVID restrictions



Source: DfE, 2022

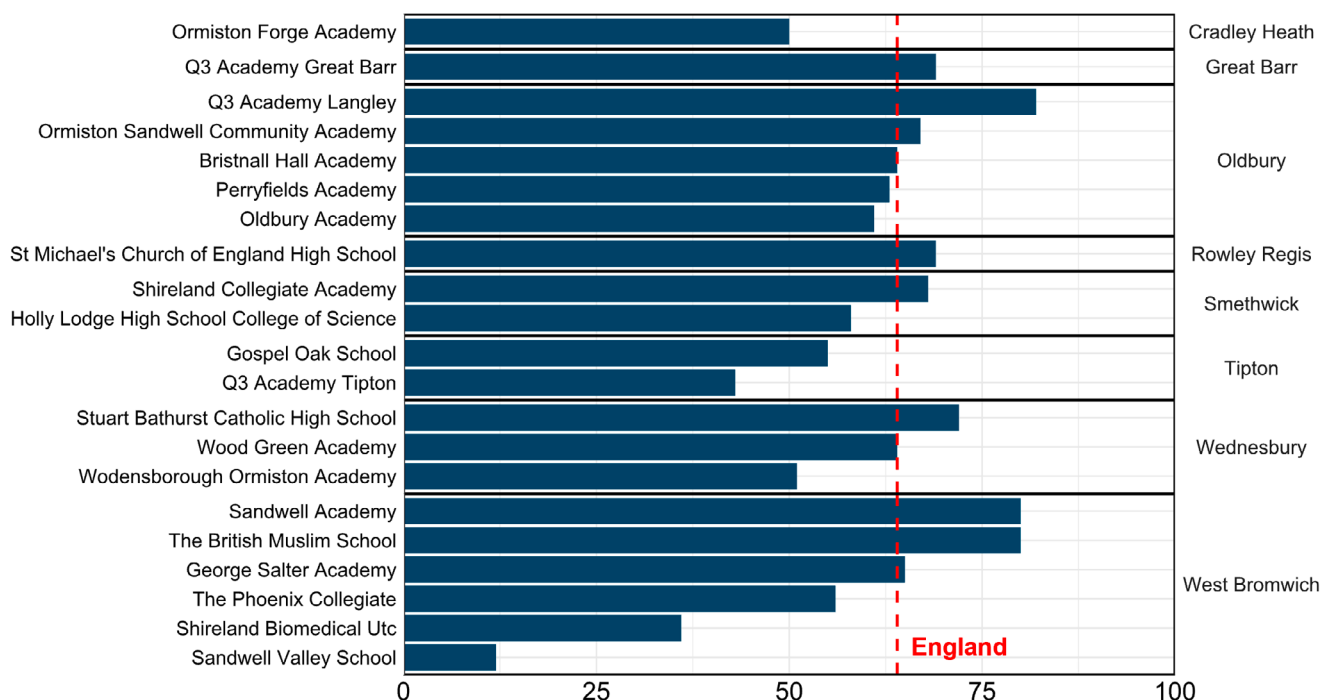
Note: The latest Key Stage 2 results at school-level is for 2018-19

# Education inequalities in Sandwell

In Sandwell, the percentage of pupils passing GCSEs in both English and Maths varied greatly by school and town. There are particularly high levels of attainment disparity in West Bromwich, with schools' results varying by 68 percentage points.

- In 2021/22, **10 out of the 21** mainstream schools (with examination results) in Sandwell had a **lower percentage of pupils passing GCSEs in both English and Maths than the national average (64%)**.
- **All schools in Cradley Heath and Tipton had a lower percentage** of pupils passing GCSEs in both English and Maths than the England average. In comparison, **all schools in Great Barr and Rowley Regis had a higher percentage** than the England average.
- In **West Bromwich, the percentage of pupils passing both English and Maths GCSEs varied greatly by school**. For example, 80% of pupils passed GCSEs in both English and Maths at Sandwell Academy and the British Muslim School, compared to just 12% of pupils at Sandwell Valley School.

## Percentage of pupils passing GCSEs in English & Maths, by school (%)



Note: This chart shows data for mainstream schools only. Data is not available for West Bromwich Collegiate Academy as the school is new and has no examination results currently.

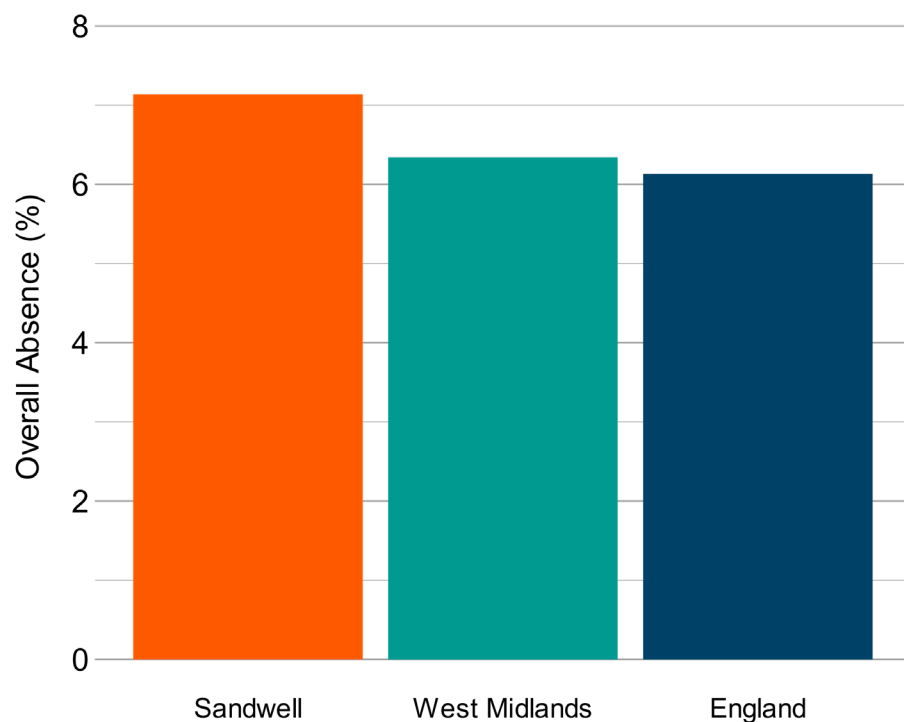
Source: [DfE, 2022](#)

# Primary school attendance analysis

**Sandwell has one of the highest levels of primary school overall absences in 2022/23.**

- The percentage of overall primary school absences (2022/23 academic year to date up to 21st April) in **Sandwell is 7.1%**, which is greater than the regional (6.3%) and national (6.1%) averages. Additionally, Sandwell has the **7th highest overall primary school absence percentage** out of all local authorities in England. Newham has the highest percentage of overall absences (7.7%), whilst Rutland has the lowest (4.8%). *Note: Data for City of London is not included.*
- In the 2018/19 academic year, **52 out of 98 primary schools in Sandwell had a higher percentage of overall absences than the national average** at the time (4%).
- The percentage of overall absences varied by primary school. The highest percentage of overall absences was 15.6% at Shenstone Lodge School and the lowest was 2.5% at Lightwoods Primary School. Shenstone Lodge School is a special school. All primary schools in Sandwell that had a percentage of overall absences higher than 10% were special schools. Not including special schools, Tameside Primary Academy had the highest percentage of overall absences (6.8%).

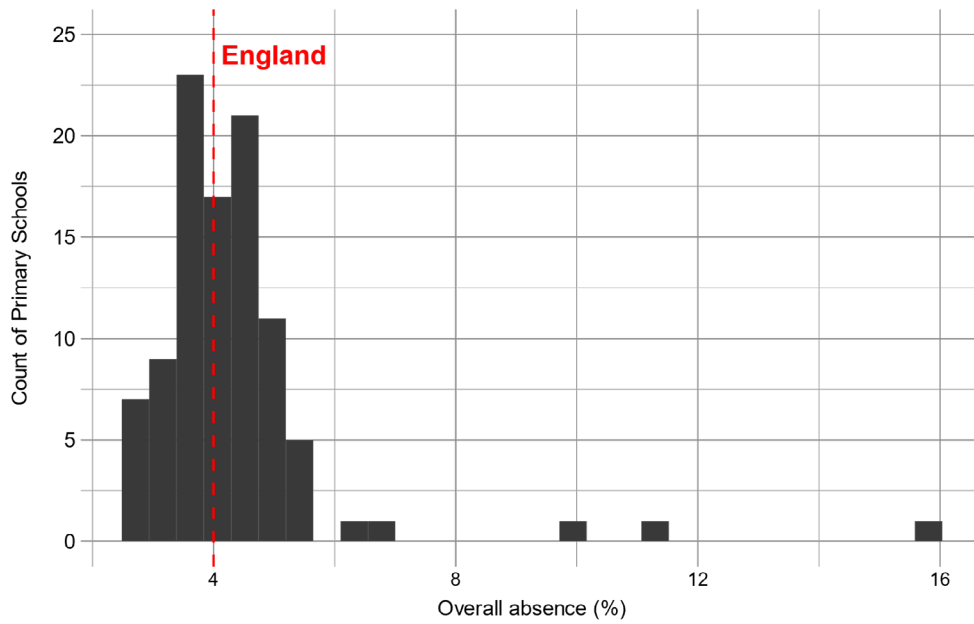
## Percentage of overall primary school absences, 2022/23 academic year to date up to 21st April



Source: [DfE, 2023](#)

*Note: These are experimental statistics. Aggregate figures include fee-paying schools where data is publicly reported by DfE.*

## Percentage of overall absences by primary school, 2018/19 academic year



Source: [DfE, 2018/19](#)

Note: School-level data includes fee-paying schools where data is publicly reported by DfE

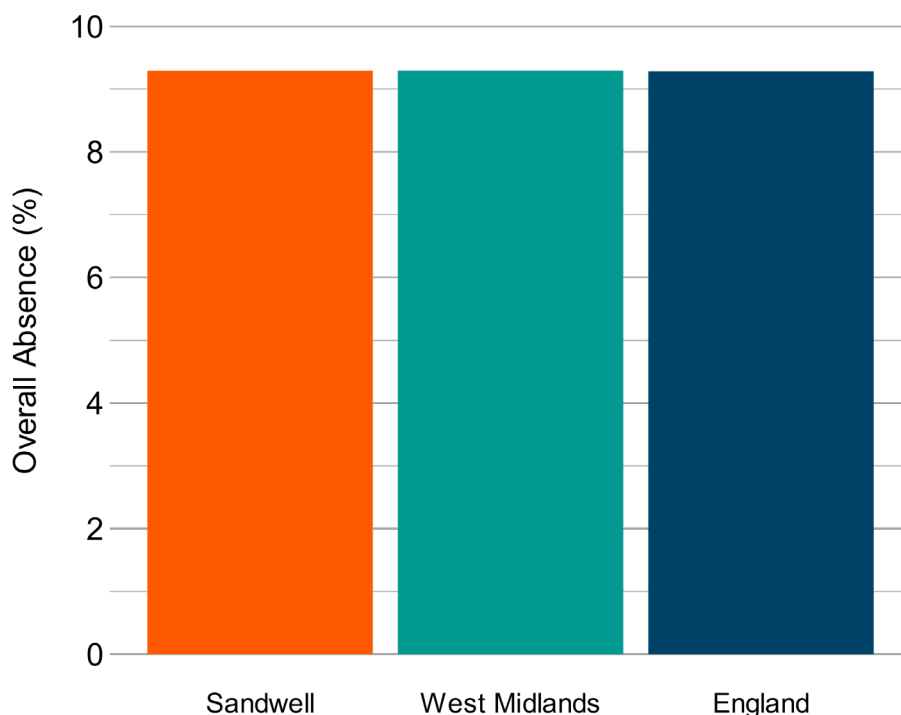


# Secondary school attendance analysis

Secondary school attendance in Sandwell is in line with regional and national averages.

- The percentage of overall secondary school absences (2022/23 academic year to date up to 21st April) is **9.3% for Sandwell, the West Midlands and England** as a whole. Bradford has the highest percentage of overall absences (13.2%), whilst Trafford has the lowest (6.4%). *Note: Data for Isles of Scilly is not included.*
- In the 2018/19 academic year, **8 out of 22 secondary schools in Sandwell had a higher percentage of overall absences than the national average** at the time (5.5%).
- The percentage of overall absences varied by secondary school. The percentage of overall absences was 15.6% at Shenstone Lodge School, but just 1.8% at Q3 Academy Langley. Shenstone Lodge School is a special school. Not including special schools, Shireland Biomedical UTC had the highest percentage of overall absences (9.1%).

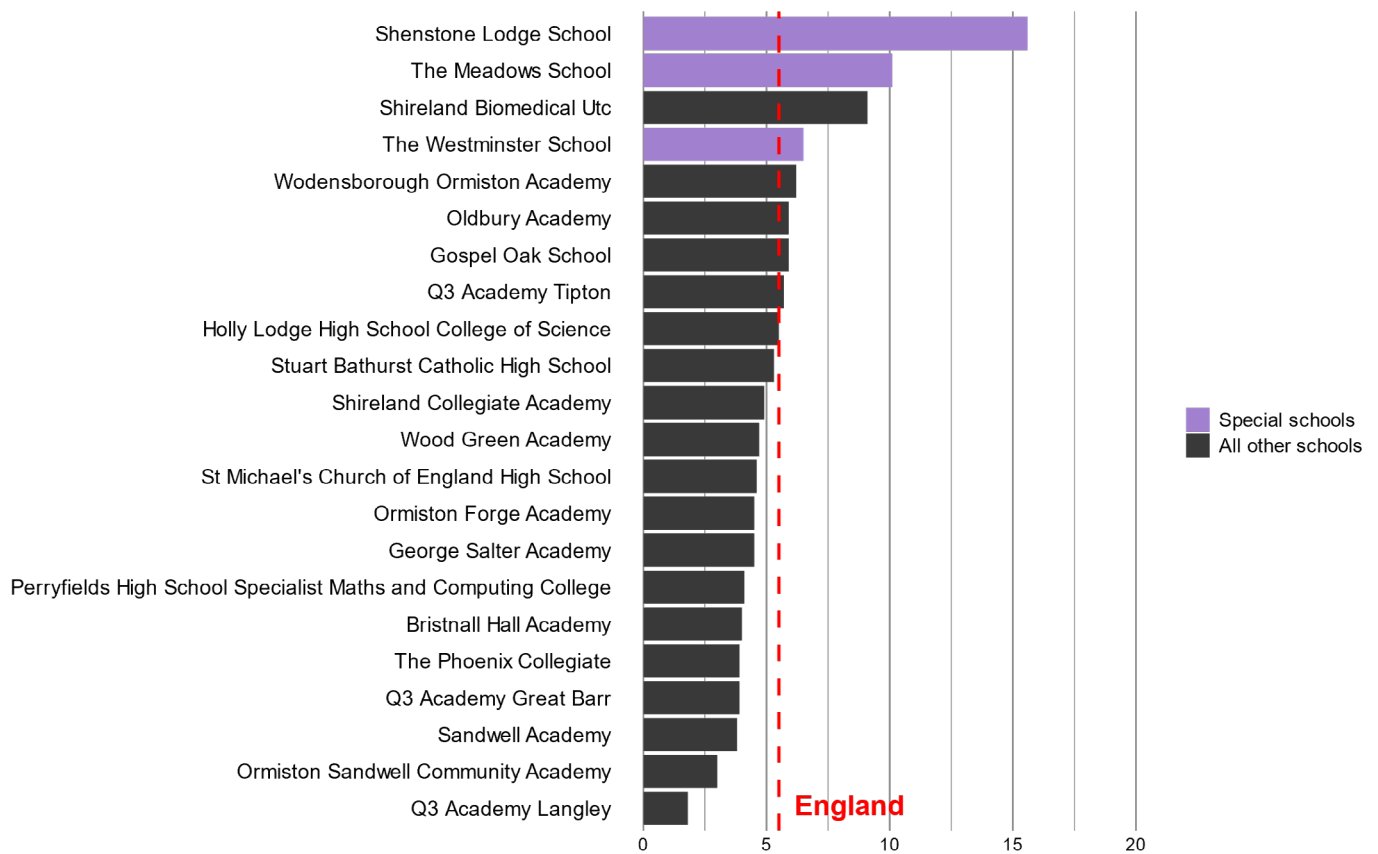
## Percentage of overall secondary school absences, 2022/23 academic year to date up to 21st April



Source: [DfE, 2023](#)

Note: These are experimental statistics. Aggregate figures include fee-paying schools where data is publicly reported by DfE.

## Percentage of overall absences by secondary school, 2018/19 academic year



Source: [DfE, 2018/19](#)

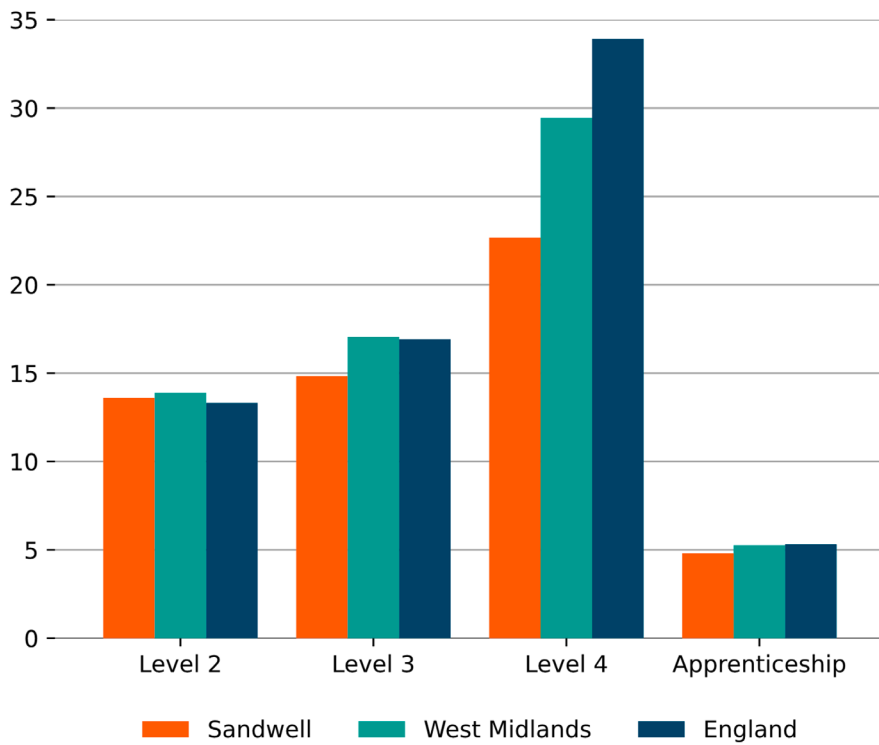
Note: School-level data includes fee-paying schools where data is publicly reported by DfE

# Education: Post-16 education

Sandwell fares worse than national and regional averages on higher-level qualifications, with a significantly lower proportion of people with Level 4 and above as their highest qualification. Although the total vacancies with skill shortages and gaps are lower than national averages across most occupancy types, there are higher than average skill gaps in high skilled vacancies.

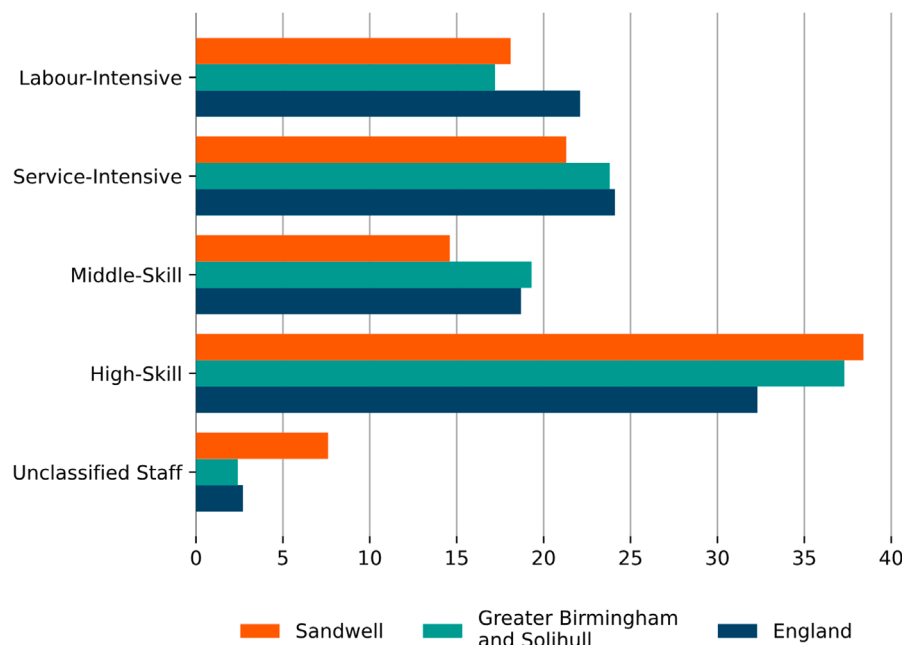
- The percentage of post-16 sustained education, apprenticeships or employment was (75.2%) in Sandwell in 2020/21, lower than the England average (79.4%) and the West Midlands average of (78.7%).
- When compared to the England, has a higher **percentage of people** who have **level 2 (13.6%)**, but **lower** for **Level 3 (14.8%)** and **apprenticeships (6.9%)** as their highest qualification.
- Sandwell has a **significantly lower proportion of people with level 4 qualifications and above (22.7%)** relative to the England and Wales **(33.8%)** and West Midlands average. This is in part driven by the observed disparities and relative low education attainment prior to post-16 education.
- In 2019, **(31.3%) and (21.4%) of Sandwell employment was classified as employed in high-skilled and middle-skilled occupations, respectively.** This is compared to (37.6%) and (20.1%) for England, whilst the greater Birmingham and Solihull had an average of (35.3%) and (20.5%) respectively.
- In 2019, (12%) of all Sandwell establishments had either a skill gap or skill shortage vacancy, lower than the national (17%) and regional (14%) average.
- Sandwell has a **higher proportion (38%) of skills gap or shortage vacancies in high skill employment** compared to England (32%). **This suggests skill gaps in high-skill jobs** in the local population, whilst rates of skills gap or shortage vacancies in middle-skilled, labour intensive, and service-intensive are **lower than the England averages.**

### Highest level of qualification achieved (%), 2021



Source: [ONS Census, 2021](#); [ONS Census, 2023](#)

### Profile of skill shortage and skill gap vacancies by occupation type (%), 2019



Source: [DfE, 2019](#)

# Health: Sandwell

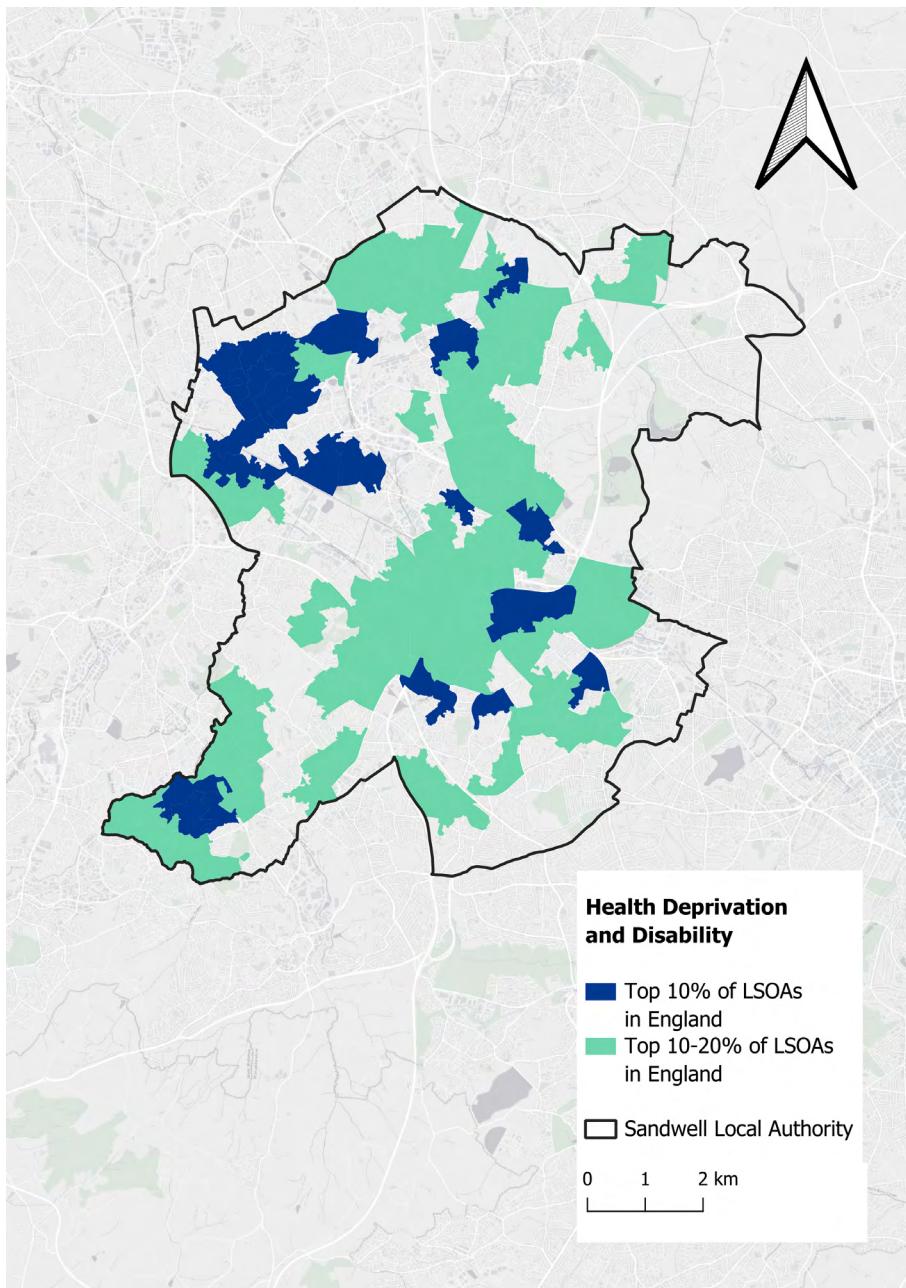
**Sandwell has high levels of health deprivation. This is reflected by low healthy life expectancy and life expectancy at birth. Sandwell performs poorly on associated behavioural metrics, with an above average prevalence of obesity and smoking.**

The Health Deprivation and Disability Domain measures the risk of **premature death and the impairment of quality of life through poor physical or mental health**. The domain measures morbidity, disability and premature mortality but not aspects of behaviour or environment that may be predictive of future health deprivation.

Insights:

- **52% of Sandwell's LSOAs are in the top 20% most health deprived nationally** indicating a significantly greater prevalence of health deprivation in Sandwell compared to England. 13% of Sandwell's LSOAs are in the top 10% most deprived nationally.
- **Healthy life expectancy (HLE)** in Sandwell was **lower** than the regional and national averages between 2018-2020 (see slide 7). Additionally, **life expectancy at birth (2021) for males and females in Sandwell, is the second and third lowest**, respectively, in the **West Midlands**. **Life expectancy at birth for males** in Sandwell is also the **10th lowest in England**.
- Prevalence of **obesity** is an **issue** in Sandwell, particularly in year 6 **children** (See slide 7). **59.9% of adults in Sandwell are physically active**, which is lower than the regional (63%) and national (65.9%) averages.
- Smoking prevalence in adults is **higher in Sandwell** than regional and national levels (see slide 7). Despite this, **admission episodes for alcohol-related conditions** (per 1,000) is **less** in Sandwell (427) than England (494).
- **Under 75 mortality rate from cancer** (2021) in Sandwell (142.4 per 100,000) is **higher** than the regional average (124.7) and the national average (121.5). Sandwell has the **fourth highest rate** in West Midlands.
- Sandwell **fared worse** than the UK and the West Midlands averages for life satisfaction, happiness and worthwhile. However, Sandwell is estimated to have a lower prevalence of anxiety (see slide 7).

## Most deprived areas in Sandwell, in comparison to England (Health), 2019



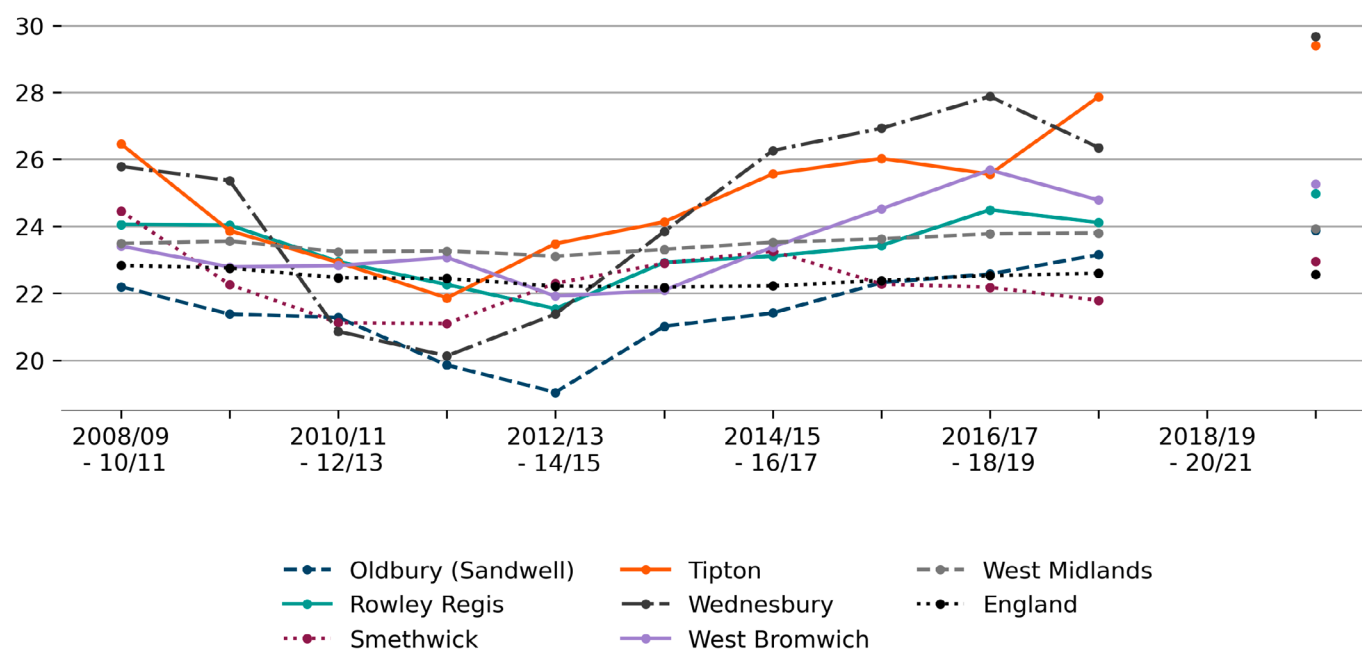
Source: [MHCLG Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2019](#)

# Health: overweight (including obesity) prevalence in school-aged children

**Overweight (including obesity) prevalence in both reception and year 6 children is higher in Sandwell compared to regional and national averages**

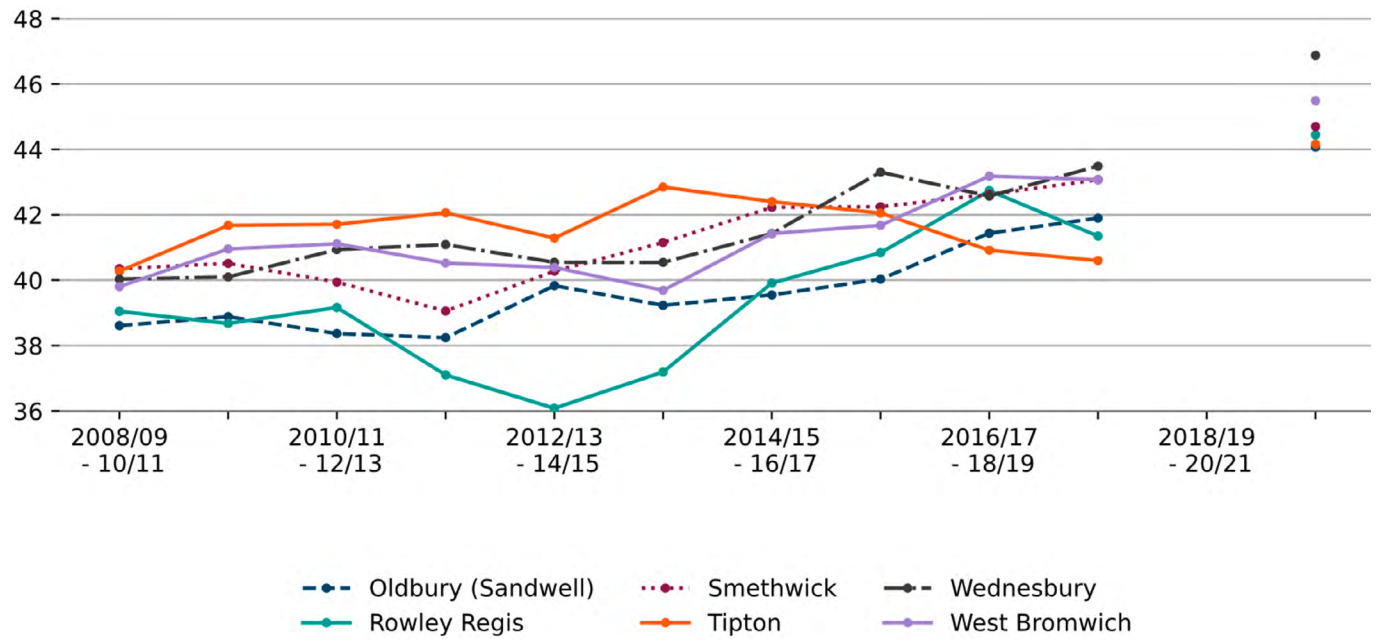
- Overweight (including obesity) prevalence in reception year children (2019/2020-21/22) in Sandwell (**25.7%**) was higher than West Midlands (**23.9%**) and England (**22.6%**).
- Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) in reception aged children has been higher in most Sandwell BUAs than the England and West Midland value since 2008/09-10/11.
- Overweight (including obesity) prevalence in year 6 children (2019/2020-21/22) in Sandwell (**45.2%**) was higher than West Midlands (**38.9%**) and than England (**35.8%**).
- Prevalence of overweight (including obesity) in year 6 children has been higher in every Sandwell BUA than the England and West Midland value since 2008/09-10/11.
- In the most recent 3-year period, 2019/20-21/22, the prevalence of overweight (including obesity) in reception aged children (**29.7%**) and in year 6 children (**46.9%**) was highest in Wednesbury.

## Prevalence of children in Reception (aged 4-5 years) classified as overweight (including obesity)



Source: [Fingertips, 2022](#)

## Prevalence of children in Year 6 (aged 10-11 years) classified as overweight (including obesity)



Source: [Fingertips, 2022](#)

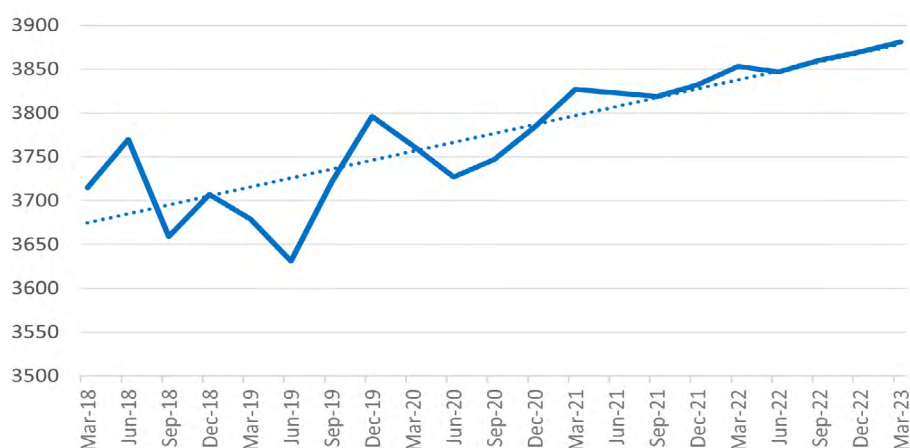


# Health: primary care coverage

Sandwell's share of primary care coverage per 100,000 patients is similar to the national average.

- Sandwell sits within the NHS Black Country Integrated Care Board.
- **The Black Country has a lower headcount of general practice staff per 100,000 patients** compared to national levels.
- **The share of GP's** (73.96 per 100,000 patients) is less than neighbouring ICB Birmingham and Solihull (81.75) but higher than Staffordshire and Stoke-on-Trent (72.93) **and the England average** (73.24).
- The NHS workforce in the Black Country has been sharply increasing in size in recent years.

## NHS workforce headcount in Black Country

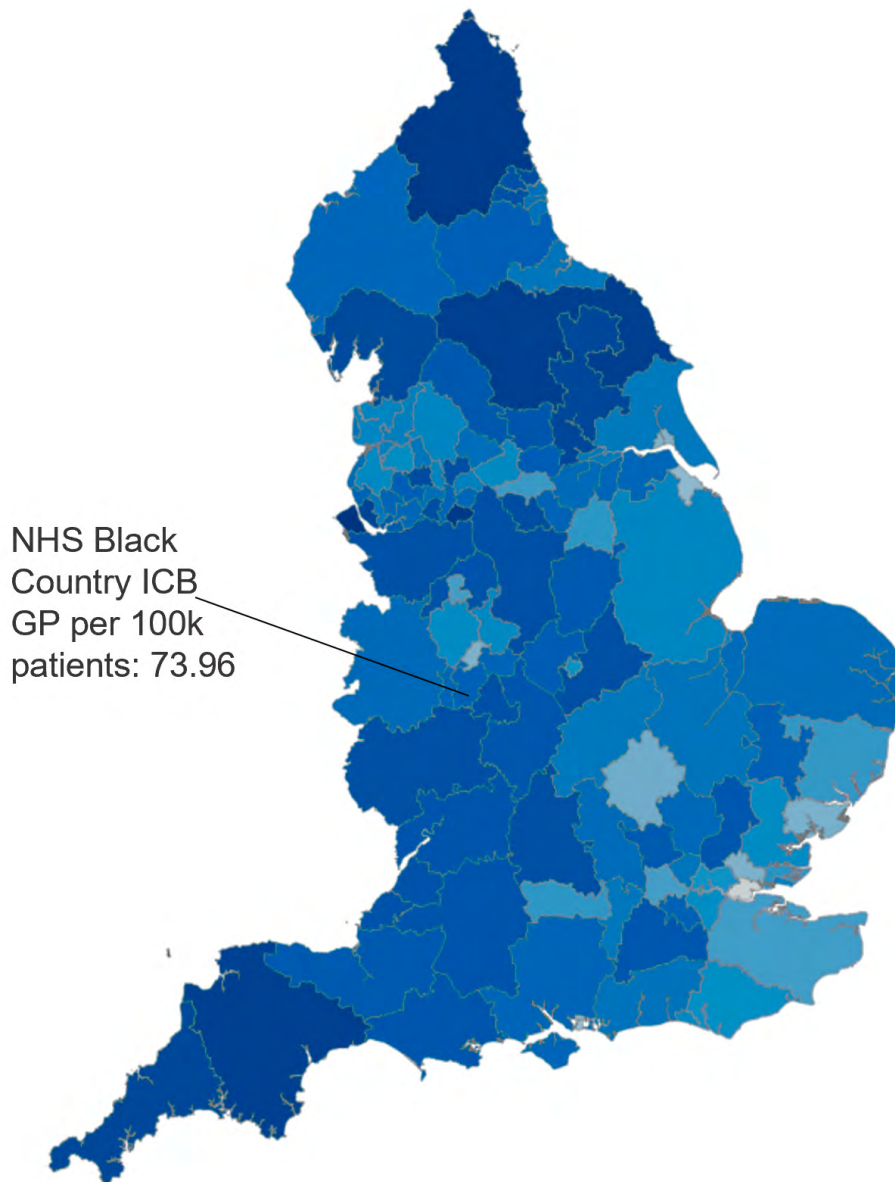


Source: [NHS, 2023](#)

## NHS workforce headcount in Black Country

Staff Group	Headcount per 100k patients	
	Black Country	England
All	295.72	308.15
Admin/ Non-Clinical	162.95	162.95
Direct Patient Care	30.13	35.42
Nurses	36.23	37.47
GP	73.96	73.24

## GP headcount per 100k patients in England by ICB (Integrated Care Board)



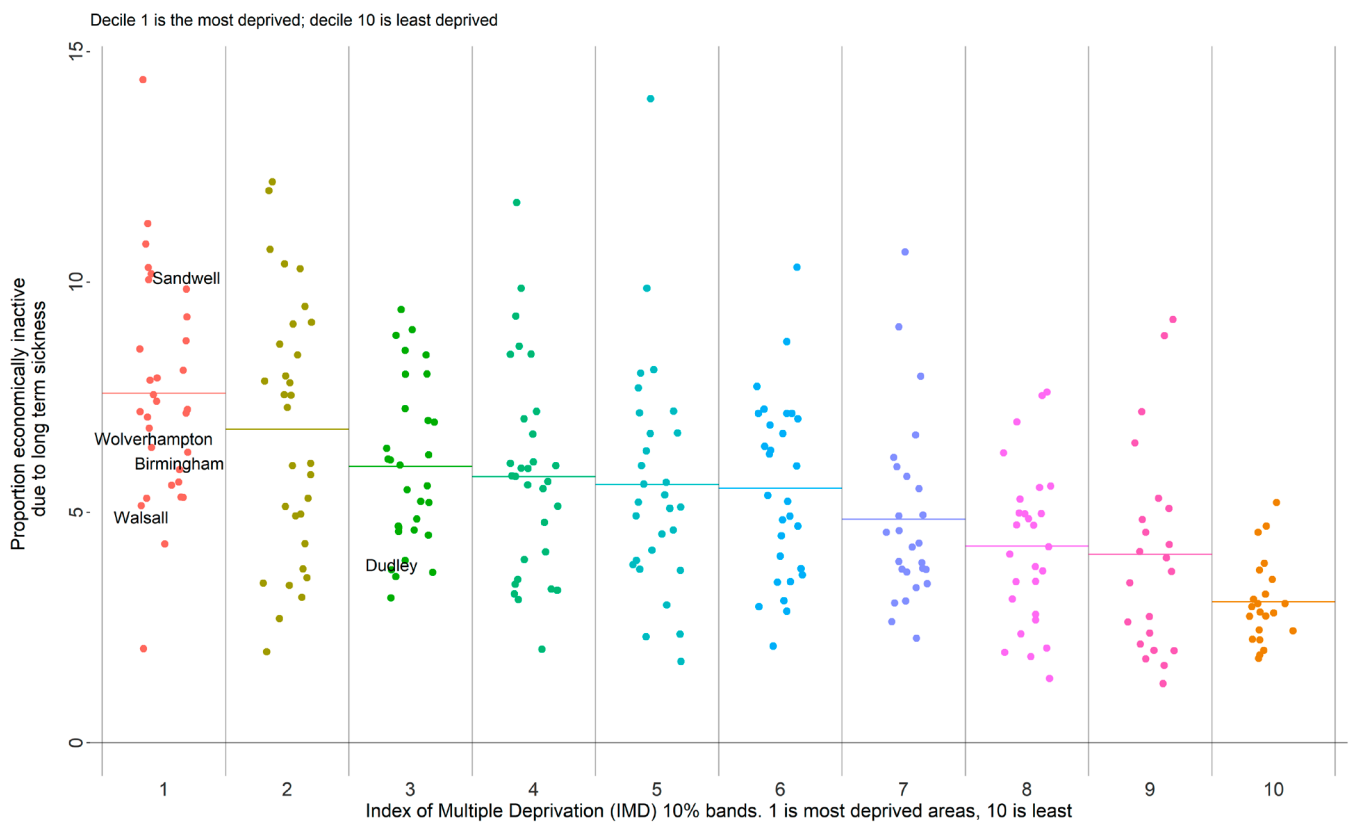
Source: [NHS, 2023](#)

Note: *The darker the shade, the higher the count.*

# Sandwell economic inactivity due to sickness

Sandwell has one of the highest levels of economic inactivity due to long term sickness relative to other local authorities in the most deprived 10%, and is significantly above that seen in neighbouring areas.

## Economic inactivity and IMD



Source: [NOMIS](#), [MHCLG IMD \(2019\)](#)

# Intangible capital

Intangible capital is made up of formal forms of investment, such as intellectual property, software and patents, and informal forms, such as embedded processes and practices. Stock of this capital is a key determinant of productivity.



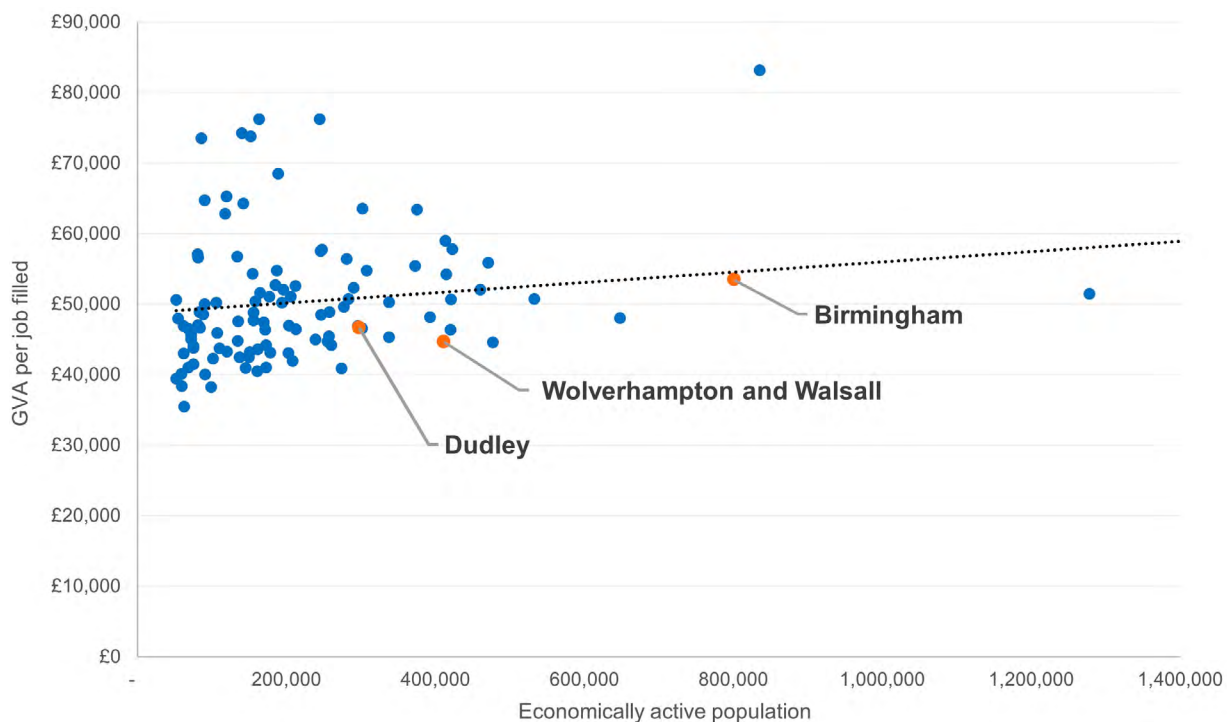
# Functional economic geography of Sandwell

Sandwell's proximity to Birmingham, which is only slightly below the national trend for productivity per worker given its size, is a clear asset given it is one of the largest functional economic areas in the country.

- Sandwell is located in the Travel to Work Areas (TTWAs) of both Dudley and Birmingham. Both of these TTWAs show below national trend for productivity per worker. Dudley and Birmingham TTWAs have an estimated output gap of £1.6bn and £3.5bn in GVA per annum respectively, if productivity moved towards the national trend.
- The nearby functional economic area of Wolverhampton and Walsall is also below the national trend for productivity per worker given its size.
- In 2019, Sandwell local authority contributed £6,736m in GVA to the Economy. GVA grew 41% between 2010 and 2019, higher than the national growth rate in that period (37.6%).
- In 2019, the Built Up Area Sub-division of Wednesbury contributed £399m in GVA to the economy and since 2010 was the 4th fastest growing area of the 11 within Sandwell.

Source: ONS, 2021.

## TTWA productivity by size (2019)



Source: ONS, 2021

Note: London TTWA has been cropped from the scatter plot due to its high productivity and economically active population. It is still featured in the trendline.

# Sandwell's economy in the context of West Midlands

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This slide explores how Sandwell's economy compares to the West Midlands and Great Britain:

- **Productivity in Sandwell** (£32.8 per hour) is **less** than the West Midlands average (£33.7) and Great Britain (£37.7).
- **Average weekly pay in Sandwell is significantly lower** than in the West Midlands and Great Britain.
- **Sandwell has lower economic activity rates for males and females.** However, the proportion of workless households is similar to regional and GB levels, implying **less people** are looking for work.
- **It has disproportionately more employment in lower-skilled jobs** (such as sales and customer service occupations) and **less employment in higher-skilled jobs** (such as managerial occupations).
- The proportion of the population with **qualifications** (at all levels) is **consistently less** than the regional and GB average. The proportion with **no qualifications** in Sandwell is almost **double** the GB average.

Measure	Sandwell	West Midlands	Great Britain
<b>Productivity:</b> GVA per hour (W)	£32.8	£33.7	UK = £37.7
<b>Employment:</b> Economic activity rate – males (R)	73.2%	82.2%	82.2%
<b>Employment:</b> Economic activity rate – females (R)	63.6%	72.9%	74.7%
<b>Employment:</b> Percentage of households that are workless (R)	14.2%	14.2%	14.0%
<b>Employment:</b> Claimant count (R)	6.2%	4.8%	3.7%
<b>Occupations:</b> Employment in SOC 1-3 (managers, directors and senior officials; professional occupations; associate professional & technical) (R)	41.9%	46.8%	51.6%
<b>Occupations:</b> Employment in SOC 6-7 (caring, leisure and other service occupations; sales and customer service occupations) (R)	17.7%	13.8%	14.5%
<b>Skills:</b> Population with NVQ4 and above (R)	27.2%	38.9%	43.6%
<b>Skills:</b> Population with NVQ3 and above (R)	41.2%	57.2%	61.5%
<b>Skills:</b> Population with No Qualifications	11.5%	7.8%	6.6%
<b>Earnings:</b> Weekly pay (R)	£549.8	£613.3	£642.2
<b>Earnings:</b> Weekly pay (W)	£537.9	£617.5	£642.0

R = residence-based measure    W = workplace-based measure

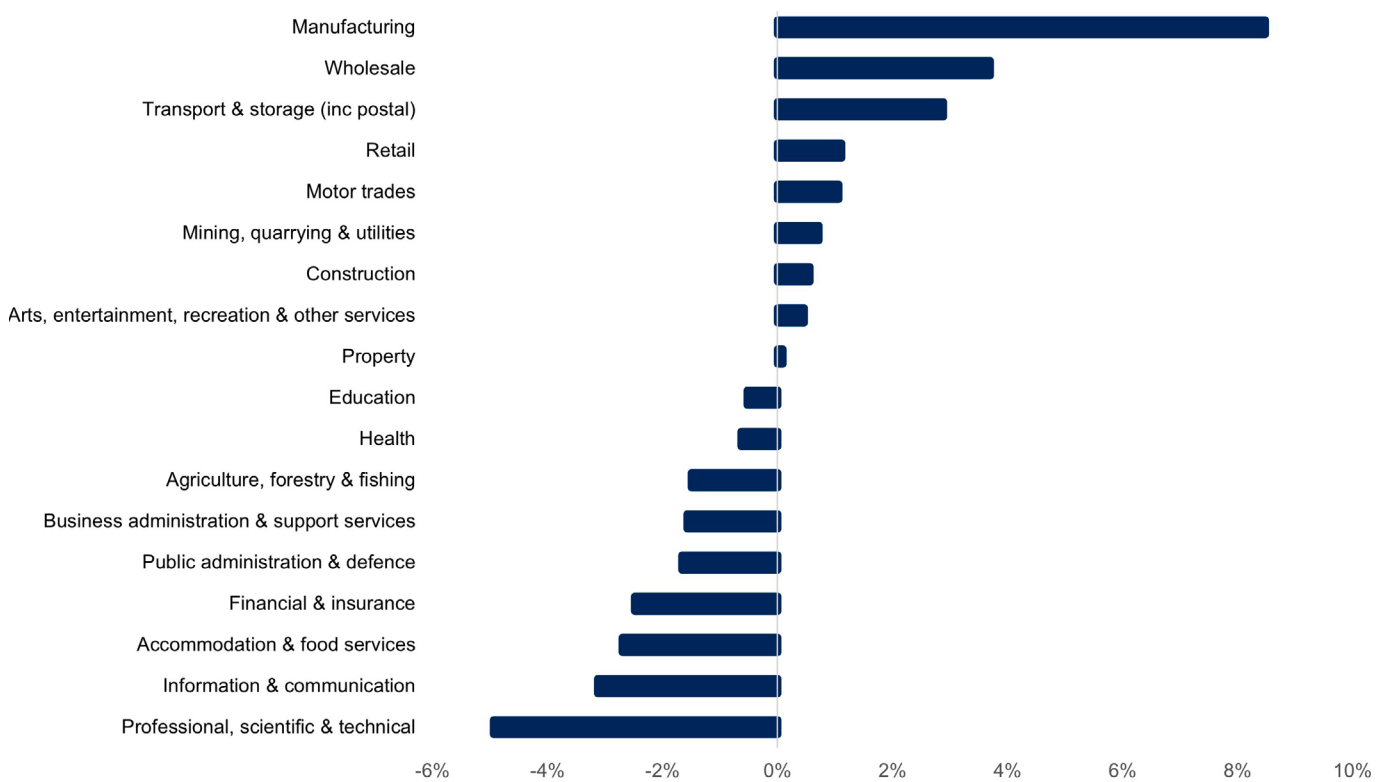
Source: [NOMIS Labour Market Profile, 2021-2022](#), [ONS Subregional productivity, 2020](#)

# Economy: Local Industrial Profile

The local economy is highly dependent on jobs and revenue streams from businesses operating in the manufacturing sector.

- Sandwell has a much **larger** share of employment in the **Manufacturing, Wholesale and Transport & storage** industries compared to the UK average.
- It has a **smaller** share in **Professional, scientific & technical, Information & communication** and **accommodation & food service** industries.

## Employment across Broad Industrial Groups in Sandwell compared to UK average, 2021



Source: [NOMIS Business and Register Employment, 2021](#)

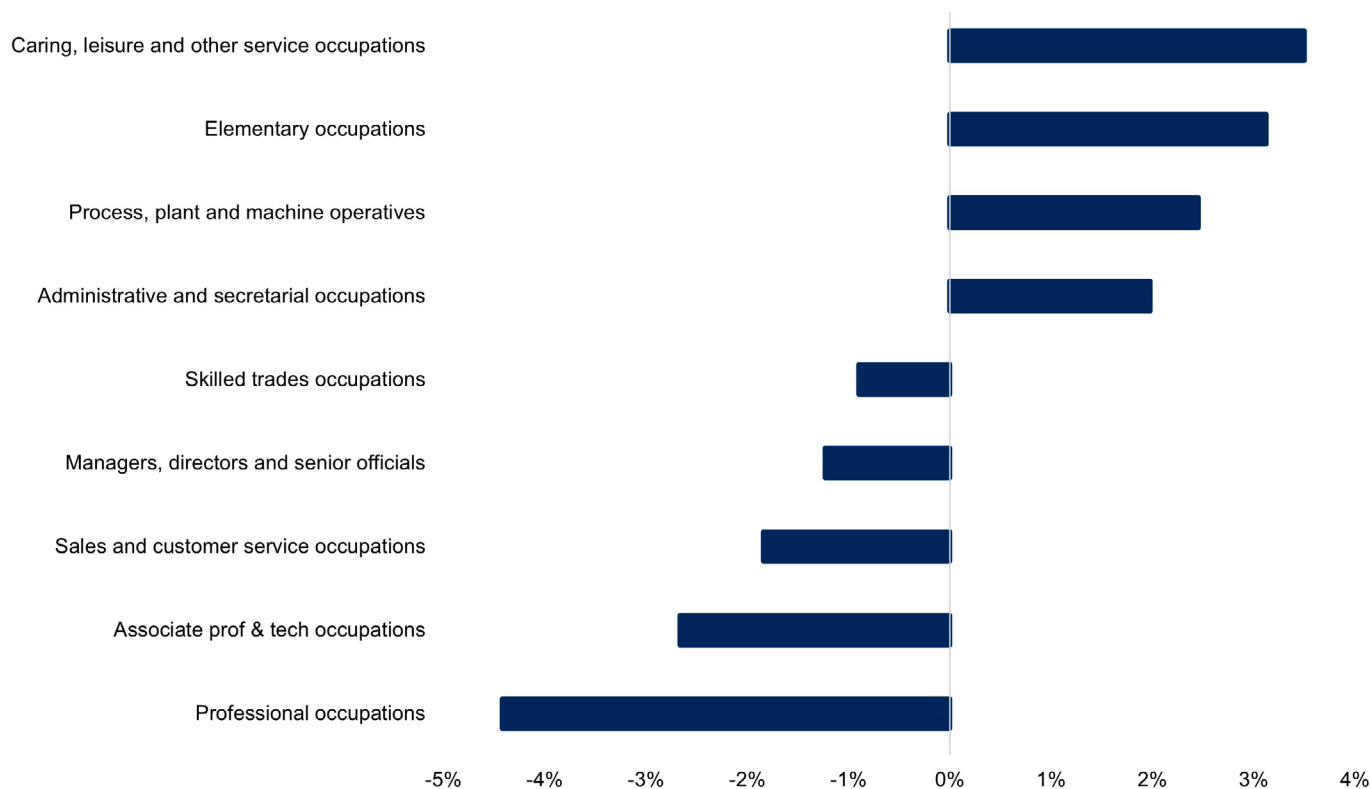


# Economy: Local Industrial Profile (Continued)

The local economy is dependent on low-skill employment including caring and leisure services, elementary and administrative occupations.

- Sandwell has a larger share of employment in caring, leisure and service occupations as well as elementary occupations compared to the UK average.
- In contrast, it has a smaller share of employees working in managerial, director and senior official occupations as well as professional & tech occupations.

## Employment across Standard Occupation Classes in Sandwell compared to UK average, 2021



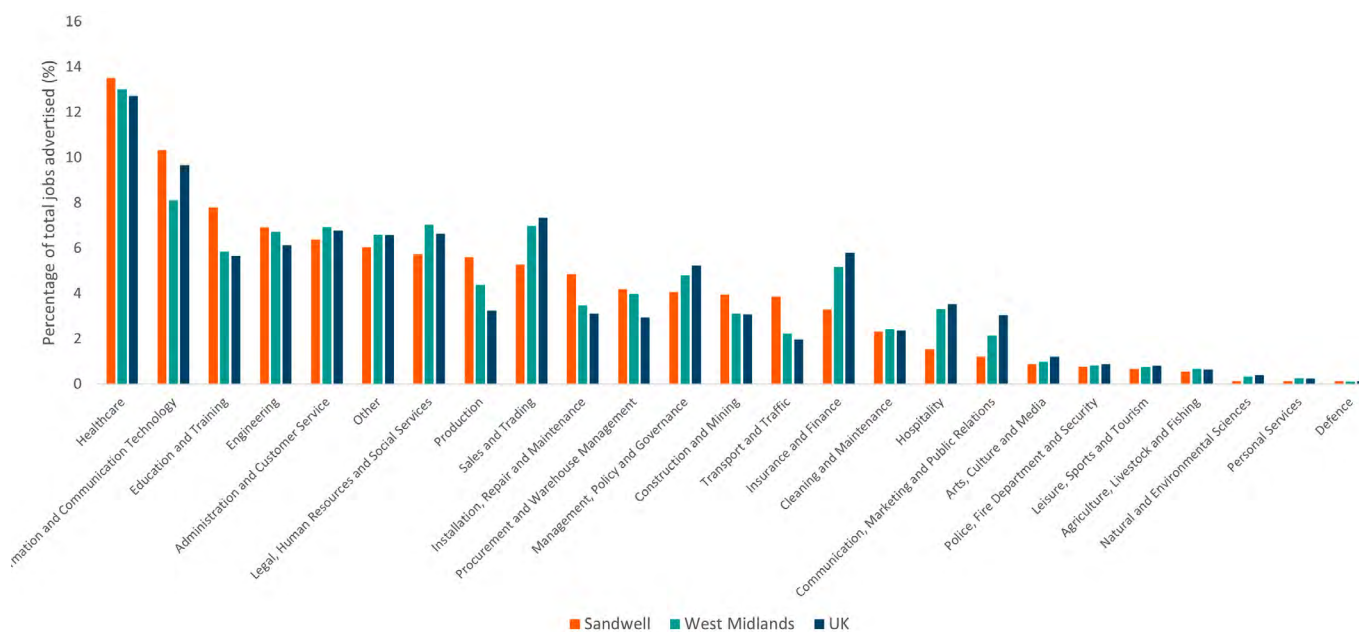
Source: [NOMIS Annual Population Survey, 2021](#)

# Skills and Labour market: Job Vacancy Analysis

Sandwell shows a higher-than-average proportion of job vacancies in ICT, education and training, and manual occupations such as production or installation.

- The highest sharer of jobs advertised is in the **Healthcare** sector.
- The proportion of jobs advertised in the **Information and Communication technology** sector and the **Education and Training** sector is **higher** than the regional and UK average.
- Conversely, the proportion of vacancies in **Sales and Trading** and **Insurance and Finance** in Sandwell is **considerably lower** than regional and UK levels.

## Percentage of total jobs advertised, by sector (December 2022)



The legend is presented in the same order as the bars in the clusters.

Source: [ONS, 2022](#)

# Financial capital

There are sharp differences in access to financial capital across different parts of the UK, with financial activity concentrated in relatively few areas. This actively contributes to spatial differences in productivity, jobs and living standards.



# Economy: Business

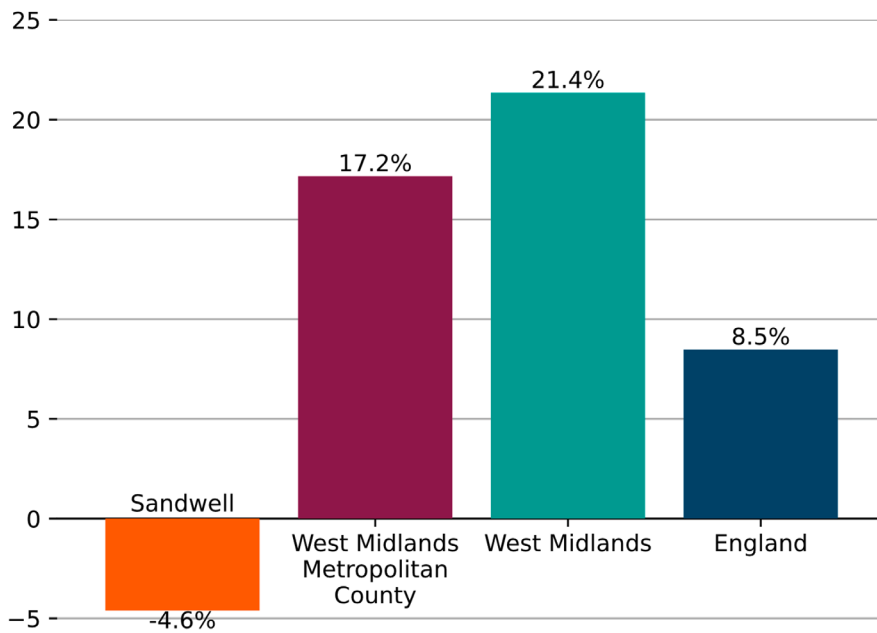
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**Sandwell fares significantly worse than national and regional averages for business births and patents, despite recent increases in 1 year business survival rates. It ranked 6th amongst 30 local authorities in the region for the number of high growth business enterprises, with recent growth higher than national levels.**

- A business birth is identified as a business that had either employment or turnover in year t, but did not exist in year t-1 or t-2.
- Sandwell **fares worse for business births**, with a **percentage decrease of (5%)**, whereas the **wider areas** of West Midlands Metropolitan County (17%) and West Midlands Region (21%) **had results which exceed the UK average (9%)**. This suggests that **Sandwell is failing to attract new businesses ahead of other regions**, including nearby areas.
- In Sandwell, the survival of newly born enterprises after 1 year in 2020 was 94.9%. This is **above the national average** and an **increase from 93.8% in 2016**. This **contrasts with the regional and national trend** which has seen the one-year survival rate of newly born enterprises fall.
- The total number of IPO and EPO patents\* per 100,000 was **significantly lower in Sandwell (2.31)** in 2020 compared to the England (15.05) average, suggesting a lower than average level of business innovation in Sandwell.
- Sandwell had the **joint 3rd highest number of high growth enterprises** in 2021 for employment **out of 30 local authorities** within the West Midlands region and the **3rd highest out of 7 local authorities** in the West Midlands Metropolitan County.
- In 2021, Sandwell (0%) had no rate of growth of high-growth enterprises, but **this is better compared to the regional (-10%), England (-10%) and the metropolitan county average (-11%)**.

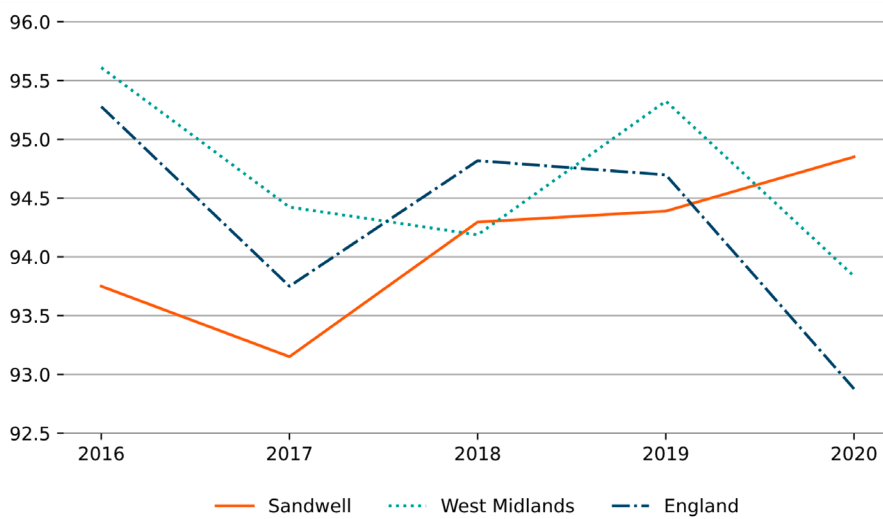
*\*Intellectual Property and European Property Office*

## Percentage change in business births (%), 2020-2021



Source: [ONS, 2021](#)

## 1-year survival rate of newly born enterprises (%), 2016-2020



Source: [ONS, 2021](#)

# Social capital

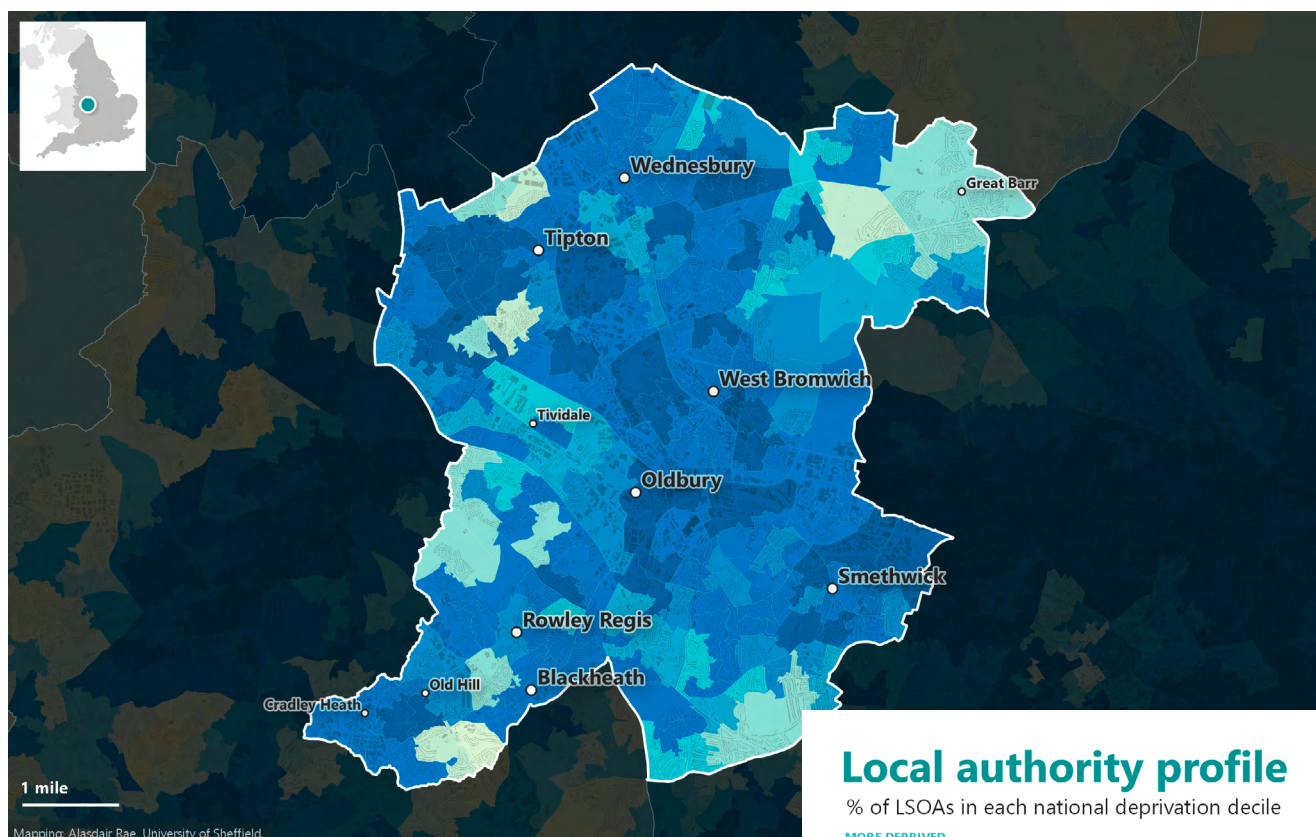
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Measures of social capital reflect social infrastructure, connectedness, the degree to which a community is active and engaged, and subjective indicators such as local satisfaction.



# Index of Multiple Deprivation for Sandwell

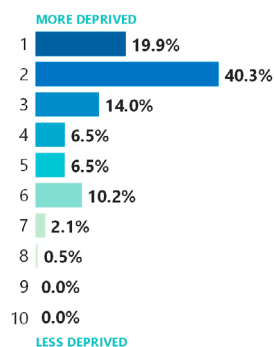
Sandwell is the second most deprived local authority in the West Midlands, behind only Birmingham.



Source: [MySociety, 2019](#)

## Local authority profile

% of LSOAs in each national deprivation decile



## What this map shows

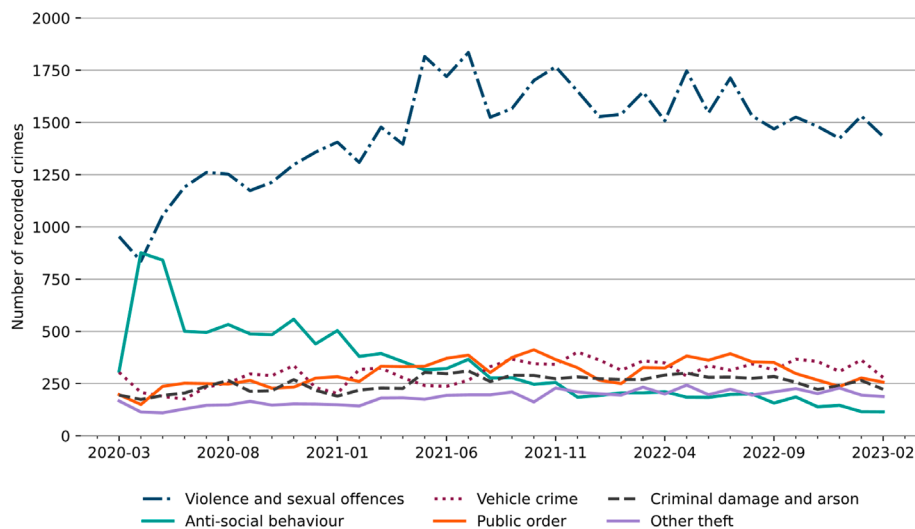
This is a map of Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) 2019 data for **Sandwell**. The colours on the map indicate the deprivation decile of each Lower Layer Super Output Area (LSOA) for England as a whole, and the coloured bars above indicate the proportion of LSOAs in each national deprivation decile. The most deprived areas (decile 1) are shown in blue. It is important to keep in mind that the data relate to small areas and do not tell us how deprived, or wealthy, individual people are. LSOAs have an average population of just under 1,700 (as of 2017).



# Crime: hotspots and types of crime

Over the past three years violence and sexual offences are the highest police reported crimes in Sandwell. Recorded anti-social behaviour has declined since 2020.

## Top 6 recorded crimes in Sandwell, March 2020 to February 2023

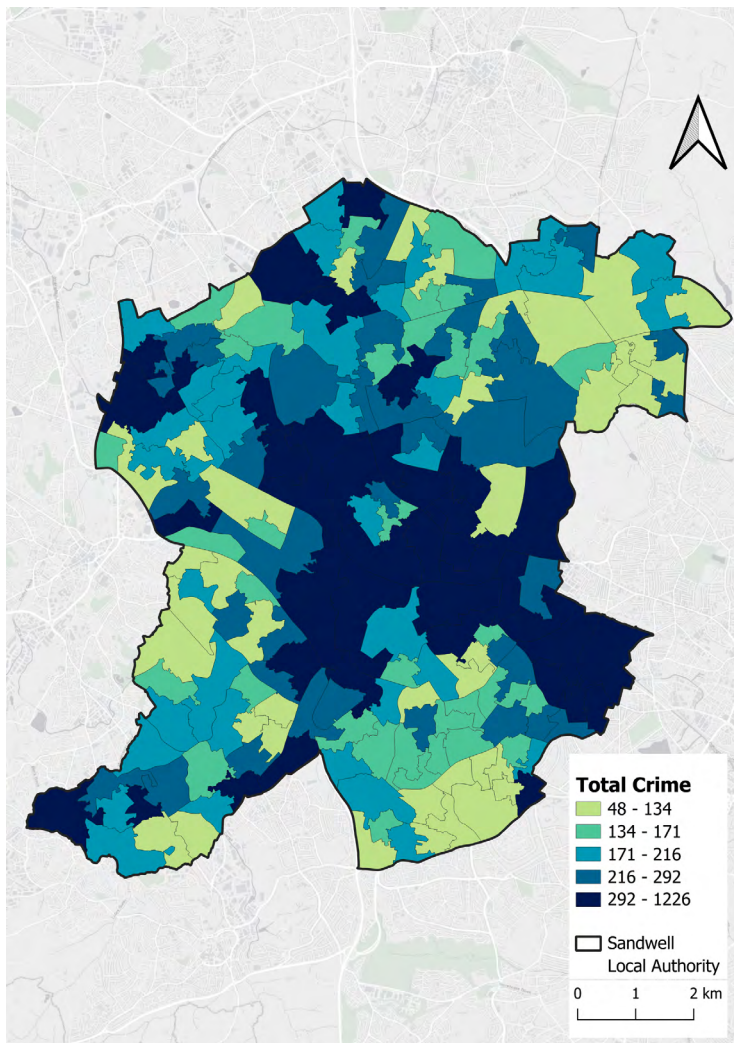


Source: [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk), 2023

Note: This data source uses counts reported to the police and therefore may be missing the true counts of crime from underreporting.



## Total recorded crime by LSOA in Sandwell, 2022



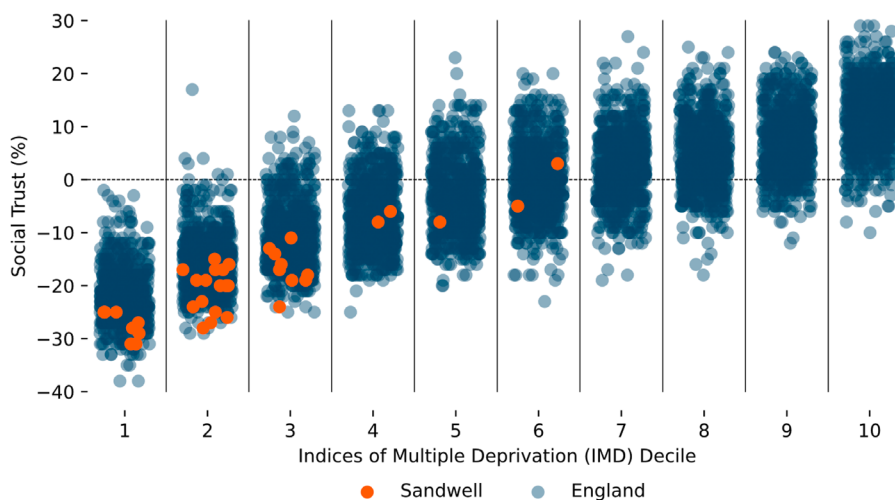
Source: [Police.uk](https://www.police.uk), 2022

# Social Trust

**Sandwell shows the lowest social trust levels of all local authorities in England. The lowest scores are recorded in areas of higher deprivation.**

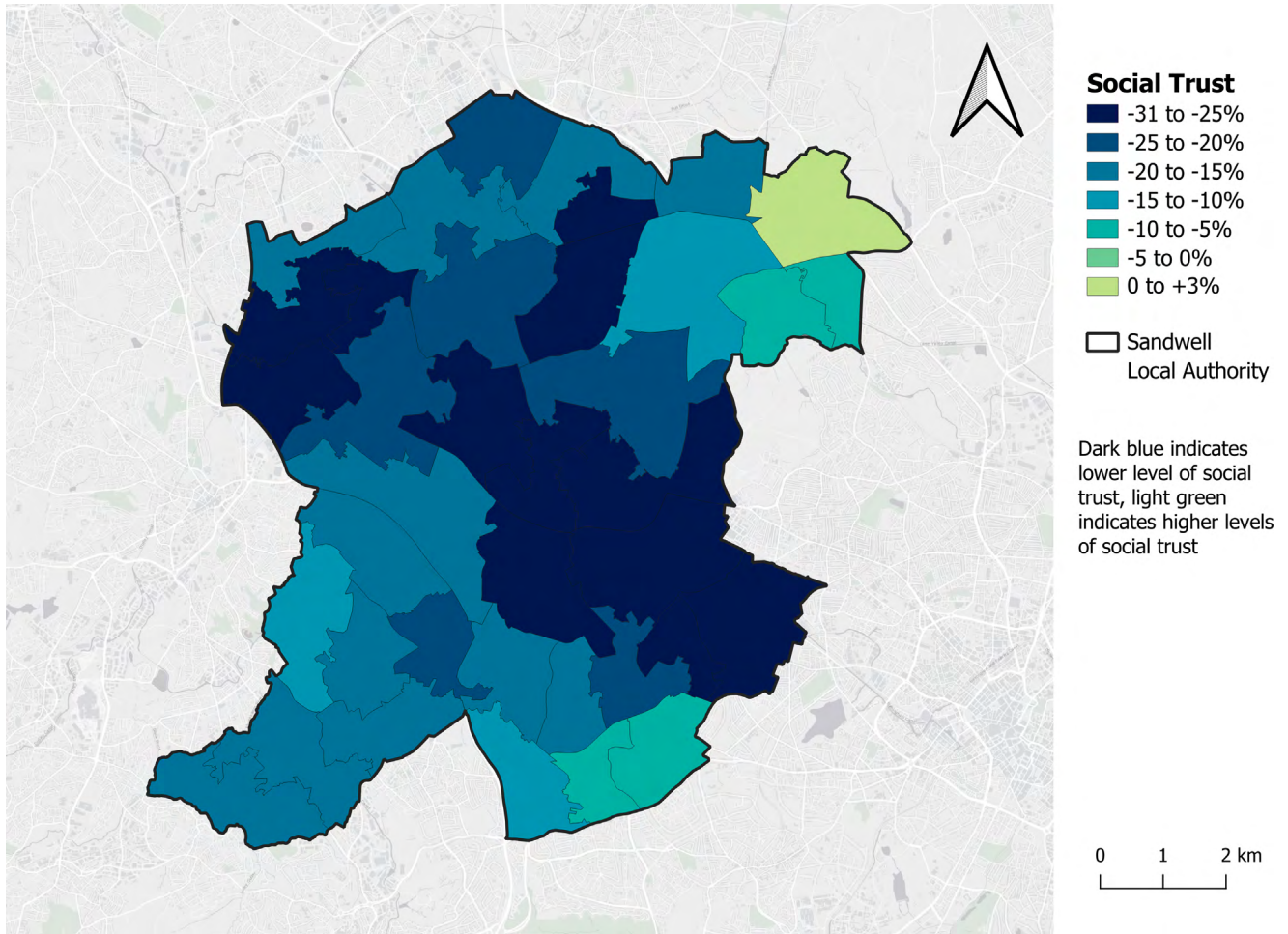
- Social Trust is a metric designed to understand whether people trust their neighbours. A high social trust score is indicative of a strong community ([UK Onward, 2023](#)).
- **Social trust across Sandwell is almost consistently negative**, with Sandwell having the lowest average social trust score (-19.2%) in England. England's average social trust was -3.1%, showing that Sandwell fared worse than the national average.
- However, **social trust is not spatially equal** within the local authority. The most negative MSOAs scored -31% (Sandwell 004; Sandwell 026), whilst the highest social trust score was the only positive social trust score in Sandwell, at +3% (Sandwell 006).
- Comparing social trust to IMD deciles shows that the more deprived areas of England have a lower social trust level, showing more distrust within those areas. **Most of Sandwell has a low social trust score and falls within the lowest IMD deciles.**

## Social Trust (%) and IMD Deciles (IMD Decile 1 = Most Deprived)



Source: [MHCLG IMD, 2019](#); [Onward, 2023](#)

Note: Data is at MSOA-level, resulting in multiple MSOAs per local authority. There was an average of 7 respondents per MSOA.



Source: [Onward, 2023](#)





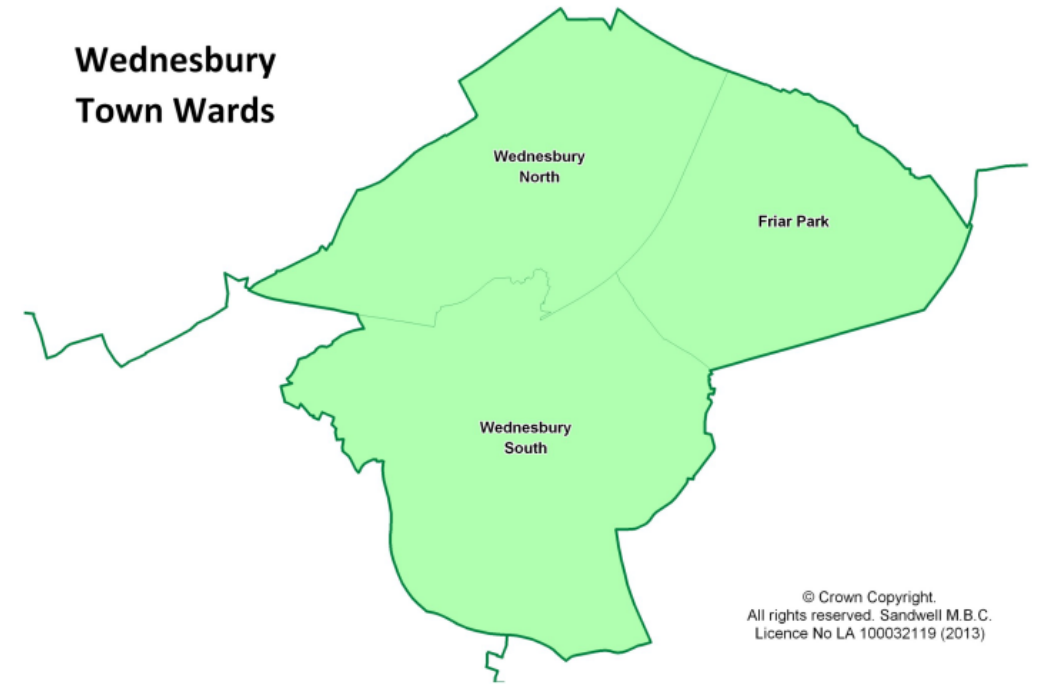
# Sandwell Levelling up Partnership

## Project Core Information



# Levelling up Challenges - Wednesbury

- Wednesbury suffers from high levels of **deprivation** and Friar Park is one of the most deprived wards in Sandwell
- Residents of Friar Park ward have **low healthy life expectancy** and **high levels of residents with no qualifications** (33% in Friar Park)
- Wednesbury has the highest proportion of residents who are **economically inactive** across Sandwell's Towns
- **Safety and perceptions of safety** are an issue for residents and young people
- **Large unmet housing need** across Sandwell – **land viability**. Largescale opportunity to deliver Friar Park Urban Village



# The LUP Opportunity: A unique partnership between Government and local stakeholders in Sandwell

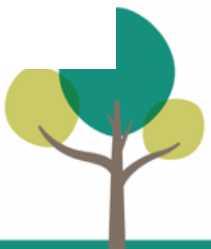
In 2 years time, with the active support of stakeholders, the LUP will facilitate:

- Good quality housing in Friar Park and be en-route to delivering more
- Improvement to long-standing derelict land in Friar Park and create new green spaces
- Improved residents' perceptions of crime and safety through reducing crime, and strengthening partnerships to address ASB and crime issues into the future
- Improvements in residents' skills and attainment through increasing the skills offer to Wednesbury residents
- Better health outcomes through revitalised green spaces in Wednesbury linked to existing plans for a range of health interventions
- More capacity for community facilities to support a growing population
- An improved public realm



# Delivering on Levelling Up Outcomes

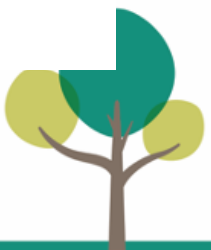
- **Boosting productivity, pay, jobs and living standards** through increasing skills and attainment levels and enabling new housing
- **Spreading opportunity and improving public services** through tackling crime and ASB hotspots and increasing skills and attainment levels and enabling new housing delivery
- **Restoring a sense of community, local pride and belonging** through improving perceptions of safety and the quality of built environment and green spaces
- **Empowering local leaders and communities** through creating long term plans to revitalise Wednesbury Town Centre





# How we will measure our success – LUP Programme Outcome Measures

1. Number of new homes enabled
2. Resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
3. ha new open space enabled
4. Business vacancy rate in Wednesbury Town Centre/ Business Growth Measure / equiv.
5. Residents Perception of Crime and Antisocial behaviour
6. Recorded crime and ASB in Wednesbury
7. Number of nuisance bike reports in areas with new measures installed
8. Quality score for green spaces
9. Skills/qualifications gained / equivalent measure
10. Numbers of participants in community activities / equivalent measure



# Summary of LUP Interventions

	Project Summary	LUP Funding	Output Measures
1. Masterplan (San_01)	<p>Building on HAZ improvements to consider how to further enhance the public realm in Wednesbury Town Centre through a masterplanning process.</p> <p>This funding includes LUP programme management costs</p>	£250K	<p>Completion of Masterplan for Wednesbury Town Centre</p> <p>LUP Programme Management Arrangements in Place</p>
2. Community Safety Scheme (San_02)	<p>Build on partnership work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by increasing the deterrents to crime and anti-social behaviour in Wednesbury.</p> <p>This will include installing new and upgrading CCTV infrastructure in Wednesbury Town Centre and Friar Park, providing deployable cameras to tackle fly-tipping across Wednesbury, implementing a radio link scheme, and installing nuisance bike inhibitors.</p>	£0.5m	<p>No. Of new/upgraded cameras in place</p> <p>New business radio scheme implemented</p> <p>No. Of deployable cameras new/upgraded</p> <p>No. of locations with improved preventative measures</p>



# Summary of LUP Interventions

	Summary	Funding	Output Measures
<b>3. Wednesbury Town Centre Public Realm</b>	Following a masterplanning process, the project will enable enhancements to the public realm and improvements to long standing derelict sites.	£4.5m	Improved pedestrian area No. Problem sites improved
<b>4. Friar Park Urban Village</b>	Fund land remediation viability gap to deliver Friar Park Urban Village Scheme enabling c.630 new homes.	£11.5m	Ha land remediated
<b>5. Friar Park Millennium Centre</b>	Improving the existing community centre in Friar Park to meet the demands from extended community (as a result of proposed development of Friar Park Urban Village) and enhance the skills delivery offer.	£2m	Improved library facility Extended meeting spaces Improved kitchen/storage facilities
<b>6. Greenspaces Improvements</b>	Enhancing 4 existing green spaces in Wednesbury to improve safety measures, quality scores, accessibility and provide additional activities.	£1.65m	Improved green space Improved play areas Improved sports facilities

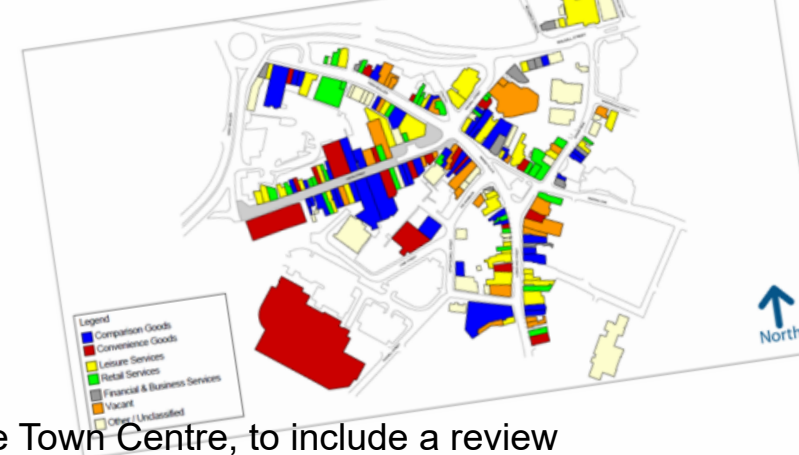


## LUP Project Descriptions



# Wednesbury Town Centre Improvements (Ref: San01 & San03)

This project will build on the Heritage Action Zone improvements in the Town Centre to further enhance Wednesbury Town Centre.



Wednesbury Town Centre does not currently have a Masterplan in place. A strategic review of the Town Centre, to include a review of its current uses and future opportunities would provide a solid base for future intervention.

Wednesbury Town Centre is structured similar to a traditional market town centre, with a Market Place and Clock. A large Morrison's supermarket anchors the centre with traditional shops aligning the Town Centre pedestrian and highway networks.

The Town Centre has recently benefitted from public realm improvements and the relocation of an outdoor market to the traditional Market Place. However, this investment (Heritage Lottery Fund) was geographically constrained to the Conservation Area, which is a small area around the Clock Tower on Market Place. The appearance of Wednesbury Town Centre is also impacted by a number of long term derelict sites and some poor-quality buildings which are unoccupied.

One of the key strategic benefits of Wednesbury Town Centre is its connectivity; with a Bus Station in the centre, and a Metro Station a few minutes' walk away. Some improvements have already been implemented to improve the quality of the access arrangements from the Town to the Metro, including a new cycle way. However, the main route remains isolated and somewhat unwelcoming.

Intervention to improve this route via urban greening and other measures will be explored further (via a Masterplan). The Masterplan would also provide an urban realm strategy identifying the best locations for urban greening initiatives and pocket parks. Funding from the LUP will be used to implement the proposals in the masterplan.



# Community Safety

(Ref: San02)

This project will build on partnership work to tackle crime and anti-social behaviour by increasing the deterrents to crime and anti-social behaviour in Wednesbury.

Perceptions of safety are an issue in Wednesbury with the lowest proportion of residents across all Sandwell Towns feeling unsafe at daytime, and more than 1/3 of Wednesbury residents feeling unsafe at night-time (Sandwell Residents Survey 2022). Assaults and thefts from shops and stores have been consistently the highest recorded offences in Wednesbury.

Resident feedback identified common themes of concerns around ASB and crime, including drug use and dealing, off-road bikes, more police presence/visibility, improved safety at the bus station, groups hanging around the streets. In the Young People's Corporate Plan a commitment has been made to have more CCTV cameras and to have detached youth workers in key public spaces to help young people feel safe. (Residents' Survey, SHAPE young people's survey, and specific engagement around crime and safety issues.

The project will include installing new and upgrading CCTV infrastructure in Wednesbury Town Centre and Friar Park, providing deployable cameras to tackle fly-tipping across Wednesbury, implementing a radio link scheme, and installing nuisance bike inhibitors.



## Friar Park Urban Village (ref: San4)

This project will fund land remediation viability gap to deliver Friar Park Urban Village Scheme enabling c.630 new homes.



Friar Park Urban Village site is the most challenging brownfield site in the West Midlands.

With an agreed masterplan in place, the [Friar Park Urban Village scheme](#) is currently the largest Council-led residential development opportunity in the borough and the indicative proposals suggest that c.630 homes could be achieved on the site as well as significant areas of landscaping and open space.

The site is highly constrained and suffers not only from the low land values shared across other areas of Sandwell, but also acutely suffers from high levels of land remediation required to bring forward development. Primarily this is a result of the former uses of the site which included a former sewage works. Costs to remediate these works are significant.

The LUP presents an opportunity to bridge these viability issues through LUP funding and enable the Council and its partners to bring forward this major development.



## Friar Park Millennium Centre (Ref: San5)

This project will extend the usable space in existing community centre in Friar Park to meet the demands from extended community (as a result of proposed development of Friar Park Urban Village) and enhance the skills delivery offer.

The Friar Park Millennium Centre currently provides a range of activities and facilities for local community use.

The proposed development of the Friar Park Urban Village means that the future capacity of the centre is likely to restrict its ability to meet extended community needs. This has been raised as a key concern amongst existing residents through the public consultation exercises undertaken in relation to the proposed development. In addition, key service providers have identified the potential to extend the existing services to meet existing and new demands from the community.

The aim would be to extend the Centre to accommodate a range of new facilities for community use, as well as the provision of a permanent library.





# Wednesbury Greenspaces Improvements (ref: San6)

This project will enhance 4 existing green spaces in Wednesbury to improve safety measures, quality scores, accessibility and provide additional activities.

Much of the investment into Green Spaces within Sandwell has been focussed on the Main Town Parks. All of these Town-level sites have achieved the Green Flag award to highlight their quality and success.

Other green spaces in Sandwell have not seen similar investment and are lagging behind. Neighbourhood and local level green spaces, such as the ones identified for funding within this proposal serve the more deprived residents without daily access to travel to borough level parks.

This project will see a host of improvements across four Green Spaces with the lowest quality scores in Wednesbury (Hydes Road Playing Fields, Balls Hill Open Space, Wytnor Lane Open Space, Lakeside and Norbury Road Open Space).

This will bring physical and mental health benefits for residents by providing a better quality and improved access to green spaces. The green spaces will benefit from improved safety measures to improve safety and perceptions of ASB and safety in Wednesbury.



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**Appendix – Summary of LUP Project Delivery as at end November 2023**

<b>Project</b>	<b>Progress Commentary</b>	<b>Spend to date</b>	<b>Red Project Risks</b>
1. Masterplan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital appraisal approved</li> <li>• Consultants appointed</li> <li>• Contract issue under discussion. Likely impact on date for completion of strategy.</li> </ul>	£nil	Timescale for masterplan approval. No impact on spend deadline
2. Community Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital appraisal approved</li> <li>• Nuisance bike measures identified, and costings requested.</li> <li>• Recruitment underway for Business and Community Engagement Officer. First recruitment unsuccessful.</li> <li>• Delivery of CCTV and Business Crime Reduction Partnership due to commence from December, subject to WLUP Board approval.</li> </ul>	£nil	No red risks
3. Public Realm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Preliminary works (site investigation and designs) underway</li> <li>• Impacted by masterplan likely slippage. Profile is within March 25 spend deadline and impact is being managed by commencing preliminary works</li> </ul>	£nil	Timescale for masterplan approval. Potential impact managed through commencing preliminary works
4. Friar Park Urban Village	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Consultant appointed to progress EA permitting process.</li> </ul>	£7.5K	Red project risks around delays to EA licenses and delays to

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Legal input to structure of disposal contracts and regulatory implications.</li> <li>• JV Board to approve structure of disposal contract.</li> </ul>		<p>developer partner procurement process. Escalated as programme risk</p>
5. Millennium Centre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Initial designs and cost assessment completed</li> <li>• Detailed cost planning underway to aid final designs</li> <li>• Preparations being made for public consultation.</li> </ul>	£nil	No red risks
6. Greenspaces	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Capital appraisal approved subject to recommendations.</li> <li>• Designs for 3 schemes produced. Delivery due to commence from December, subject to WLUP Board approval and budget review.</li> <li>• Initial design work underway for Hydes Rd project</li> </ul>	£nil	<p>Project budget – impact of inflation. Controls in place to review project budget following receipt of tenders</p>

# Wednesbury Levelling up Partnership Board Terms of Reference

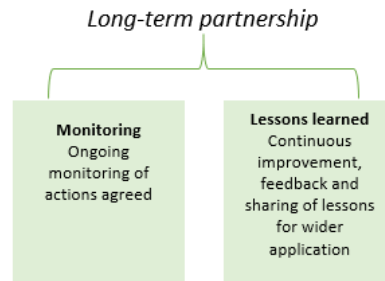
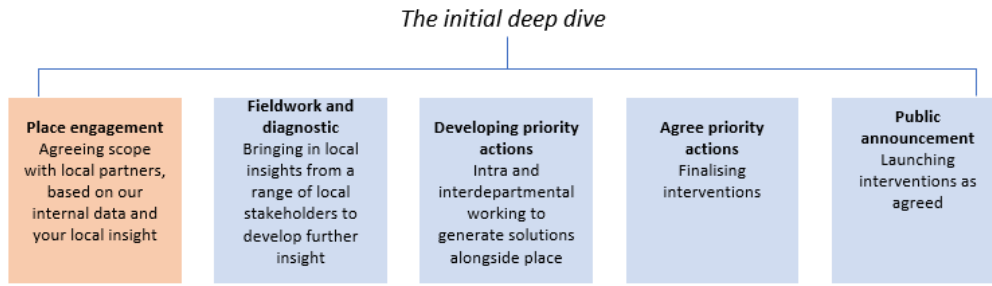
V1 September 2023

## **1. Purpose of Document**

- 1.1. The purpose of this document is to outline the governance arrangements for Sandwell's Levelling up Partnership (LUP).
- 1.2. The governance arrangements are based on learning from the Towns Fund Governance arrangements and reflect the requirements of the Levelling up Partnership from the Department for Levelling Up Housing and Communities (DLUHC).
- 1.3. The document includes Roles and Responsibilities, Code of Conduct for Board Members, Decision Making arrangements, Scrutiny arrangements, Transparency and Accountability and a list of Members of the Wednesbury Levelling up Partnership Board (WLUP Board).

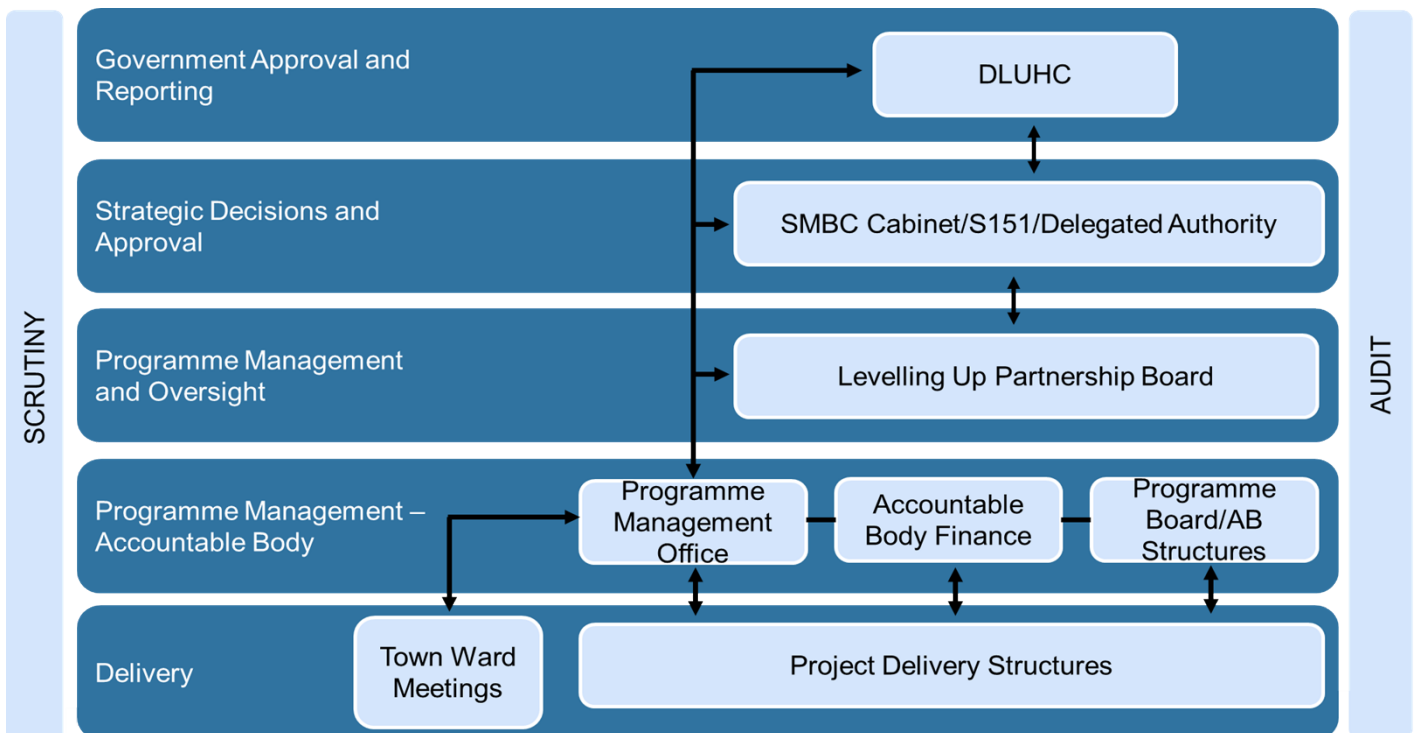
## **2. Context**

- 2.1. Levelling Up Partnerships are targeted interventions designed to identify practical, tangible actions to support priority places to 'level up' and to help government develop a more holistic understanding of place. The aim is to develop a deeper understanding of the unique challenges and opportunities in priority areas, and via a partnership approach harness collective powers to tackle the most pressing issues. Sandwell is one of the twenty places in England selected to have a Levelling Up Partnership.
- 2.2. Given the nature of the Levelling up Partnership and its focus on co-production, any governance arrangements need to take into account stakeholder input and views not only to the project development process, but to harness stakeholder energy to come together to address the levelling up issues faced by the Town.
- 2.3. The Levelling up Programme stages are set out by DLUHC as follows:



2.4. A bespoke governance board referred to as the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board (WLUP Board) will be established to oversee the delivery of the LUP programme and bring partners together. The Board will be established towards the end of the Initial Deep Dive activity.

### 3. Governance Model



## **4. Roles and Responsibilities**

### **4.1. Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board (WLUP Board)**

4.1.1. The WLUP Board will be responsible for:

- Leadership/ Direction - Provide strategic direction across the LUP
- Coherent Governance - Ensure a coherent approach to governance within the town (managing interfaces with the Town Tasking Boards and Town Member Meetings)
- Consistency - Ensure interventions are not competitive and act to build the local economy
- Alignment to Strategic Priorities - Ensure alignment of projects to Local, Regional and National strategies
- Stakeholder Engagement – ensuring that communities' voices are involved in shaping design and decision making and ensuring diversity in its engagement with local communities and businesses
- Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)
- Ensure compliance with any Heads of Terms Agreements / Grant Conditions / other Agreement issued by DLUHC
- Have sight of and be consulted over project change requests
- Act as a critical friend throughout the programme
- Fulfil any other duties and responsibilities required of the WLUP Board by Central Government

4.1.2. The Chair of the WLUP Board will be responsible for: -

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

### **4.2. Sandwell Council**

4.2.1. Sandwell Council is the Accountable Body for Sandwell's LUP Programme.

4.2.2. Sandwell Council is responsible for: -

- Upholding the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles)
- Developing a delivery team, delivery arrangements and agreements
- Ensuring that decisions made by the WLUP Board is in accordance with good governance principles.
- Ensuring transparency through the publication of agendas and minutes of the WLUP Board on Modern.Gov
- Developing agreed projects in detail and undertaking any necessary feasibility studies
- Undertaking any required Environmental Impact Assessments or Public Sector Equality Duties

- Monitoring and evaluating the delivery of LUP projects and impact
- Submitting monitoring reports to Central Government, as required
- Receiving and Accounting for the LUP grant
- Engage with the WLUP Board regarding project changes
- Proactively consult the DLUHC representative on any potential changes to approved plans
- Ensure that all templates submitted to DLUHC are accurate and complete representations of current circumstances

## 5. Board Vacancies

- 5.1. **WLUP Board** - Vacancies occurring within the WLUP Board are for the identified organisations to make an appointment to in line with their own governance procedures. Where no such representation is provided, the Board will review the membership to decide whether alternative organisations or community representation are to be invited.
- 5.2. **Elected Members** – SMBC Full Council nominates Councillors and Cabinet Members to represent on the WLUP Board on an annual basis (Appointments to other Bodies). Where the appointed nominees for the WLUP Board does not represent the appropriate Town/wards for the funding programme, an additional elected member can express their interest, to ensure all Wards are covered. The Chair and Town Lead will make the decision should there be more than one elected member expressing interest for the same Ward. WLUP Board members will cast votes where a decision cannot be agreed.
- 5.3. The Town Lead Member is responsible for reporting progress back to Ward Members via Town Member Board Meetings.
- 5.4. **Young People’s Representatives** - Vacancies occurring in young people’s representation at WLUP Boards will be identified and appointed to via Sandwell Council Youth Service in consultation with the Chair of the WLUP Board, as appropriate.

## 6. Code of Conduct

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

## 7. Decision Making – WLUP Boards

- 7.1. The Council’s Principles of Decision Making will apply to the WLUP Board, as laid out in article 13 of the Council’s Constitution. ‘Elected Member’ is taken to refer to WLUP Board member: -
- 7.1.1. Article 13.02 Principles: -



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

7.2. **Quorum** – the WLUP Board will be considered quorate with one quarter of voting members present.

7.3. **Voting** – any matter will be decided upon by a simple majority of those members present in the room and eligible to vote. Where a decision cannot be concluded by a vote, the Chair will have the final decision making authority.

7.4. **Confirmation of minutes** - The Chair presiding shall put the question that the minutes submitted to the meeting be approved as a correct record.

#### 7.5. **Declarations of Interest**

7.5.1. Members shall be required to declare interests in accordance with any relevant statutory provisions and the Members' Code of Conduct as set out in Part 5 of the Constitution.

7.5.2. Where a WLUP Board member has a disclosable pecuniary interest or pecuniary interest in the business of the authority he/ she must withdraw from the room or chamber where the meeting considering the business is being held unless the member has obtained a dispensation from the Council's Monitoring Officer.

7.5.3. Where a WLUP Board Member is nominated as the Lead Officer for a project and/ or is involved in project delivery, they may attend the WLUP Board discussion relating to the project in the capacity of providing and presenting information but they may not participate in any deliberations or decision by the WLUP Board concerning that project.

7.6. In the event that WLUP Board wishes to move to a vote, any matter will be decided upon by a simple majority of those members present in the room and eligible to vote.

7.7. The Chair shall have a second or casting vote.

## 8. **Scrutiny**

8.1. Scrutiny of the Levelling Up Partnership Programme will be provided by the Council's Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board and/or Economic, Skills, Environment

and Transport Scrutiny Board, as required by scrutiny and through the critical friend challenge that will be provided by the WLUP Board.

## **9. Transparency and Accountability**

### **9.1. WLUP Board Agendas and Minutes**

- 9.1.1. The Council will publish WLUP meeting agendas on Modern.gov 5 clear days before the meeting.
- 9.1.2. Draft minutes of the WLUP Board meetings will be published within 10 clear working days or a meeting and
- 9.1.3. Approved minutes of the WLUP Board meetings will be published within 10 clear working days of formal approval.

### **9.2. Member profiles**

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

### **9.3. Conflicts of Interest**

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

## **10. The Board's relationship with Sandwell Council**

- 10.1. The Board will have sight and endorse Accountable Body decisions in the delivery of the Levelling Up Partnership Programme. Sandwell Council is the Accountable body for any LUP funding that is received, or any match funding received in relation to LUP projects.
- 10.2. These Terms of Reference do not change, replace, substitute for or amend in any way the statutory powers or duties or other responsibilities of any of the people or organisations represented on the WLUP Board.
- 10.3. The procurement policies of Sandwell Council will apply. Where external professional advice is required, consultants will be identified using the procurement policies of

Sandwell Council and contracts will be entered into between Sandwell Council and the relevant organisation in accordance with Sandwell Councils policies and procedures including its contract procedure rules.

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

## **11. Membership**

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

## **12. Scheme of Delegation**

- 12.1. The Scheme of delegation in decision making is included as an annex to these Terms of Reference. It will be reviewed, and if necessary, updated, following receipt of Government LUP Grant and/or other grant conditions.
- 12.2. A decision which is made in contravention of the process will be invalid based on non-compliance unless the WLUP Board has given prior approval for variation in the decision-making process.

- 12.3. Any financial decision must be signed off by Sandwell's S151 Officer as the Accountable Body. The Council's S151 Officer will ensure compliance with all necessary financial regulations, in order to protect the Accountable Body and ensure proper administration of all financial affairs.
- 12.4. The Chair of the WLUP Board can decide to convene a meeting where decisions need to be considered by the WLUP Board which does not fit within the timeframe of the scheduled meetings. Where possible, the standard notice period will apply for any such meeting.
- 12.5. Where a meeting cannot be convened, urgent decisions can be endorsed by the WLUP Board through a written procedure.
- 12.6. Only in the most exceptional circumstances might it be considered necessary and appropriate for a matter of strategic importance usually reserved to the Main Board to be decided through this procedure. This will apply where a project cannot continue without a decision being approved, therefore posing a significant risk to project deliverability. This includes, but is not limited to:
- (a) Time limited reallocation of funding
  - (b) Changes to Heads of Terms / Grant Conditions
  - (c) Changes to Mandatory Indicators and financial profiles
- 12.7. Written/Urgent Procedure: -
- 12.7.1. Following consideration by Director of Regeneration and Growth/S151, a report in the usual meeting format and including reasons for urgency, will be circulated to the Chair/Vice chair to consider whether, due to the urgent nature of the decision to be made, it is necessary and appropriate for the decision to be made before the next meeting.
- 12.7.2. The Chair/Vice Chair may consult with Director of Regeneration and Growth /S151 or other officers to provide further information where required.
- 12.7.3. Within 5 working days of the report being presented, the Chair/Vice Chair will inform whether the decision is endorsed on behalf of the Board.
- 12.7.4. For transparency the report, reasons for urgency, and decision will be presented to the next Town Deal Board meeting.
- 13. Objections following Consultations**
- 13.1. Project Leads will present any objections that have been received following consultation on Levelling up Partnership projects to the WLUP Board. The WLUP Board will consider the objections and alternative options prior to making a decision in consultation with the appropriate Cabinet member.

- 13.2. In the event that a decision cannot be agreed between WLUP Board and Cabinet member, a separate meeting will be held with the Leader, Cabinet Member, Chair of WLUP Board and Director of Regeneration and Growth to discuss/resolve difference of view.
- 13.3. The project will not proceed in the delivery phase until a decision has been made

## ANNEX 1 WLUP Board Membership List

<b>Voting Members</b>
Independent Chair
Elected Members x4 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Cabinet Member representative</li> <li>- Town Lead Member</li> <li>- Deputy Town Lead Member</li> <li>- One Member from each Ward (Friar Park, Wednesbury North, Wednesbury South) not covered by Town Lead and Deputy Town Lead appointments</li> </ul>
Business Community Representatives x1
Voluntary and Community Sector Representative x2 <i>To include Chair of the Friar Park Millennium Centre as one of the LUP projects</i>
Organisations in Wednesbury representing residents with protected characteristics and of different faiths x3
Public Sector Organisations x3 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Homes England</li> <li>- West Midlands Police</li> <li>- TfWM</li> </ul>
Young People's Representative x1
MPs x2  <i>MPs relevant to Wednesbury Town geography (Wednesbury North, Wednesbury South and Friar Park)</i>
<b>Non-Voting Board Members</b>
DLUHC Representative x1  <i>To be identified by DLUHC</i>
Accountable Body Representatives  S151 Officer Director Regeneration & Growth Director Public Health Director Borough Economy Monitoring Officer <b>Or their nominated deputies</b>

**ANNEX 2**

Type of Variation	Scale of Variation	Requires LUP Board endorsement ?	Delegated Authority to approve	Approval required from DLUHC
<b>Financial</b>	A decrease/increase of <b>grant funds</b> to be drawn down by the project which is less than £250,000	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth in consultation with Cabinet Member and S151 Officer	TBC – dependent on grant conditions / DLUHC processes
	A decrease/increase of <b>grant funds</b> to be drawn down by the project which is greater than £250,000			
	Any decrease of match funding			
	An increase in the match funding cost of the project without impact to the agreed funding for the project, the outputs/ outcomes or project completion			
<b>Time/ Schedule</b>	Slippage of milestones with no effect on total grant, completion date, outputs/outcomes	No	LUP Programme Manager	
	Slippage of outcomes and/ or grant claim profile, requiring re-profiling across future financial years with no overall change to project	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth in consultation with S151 Officer	
<b>Outcomes/Outputs</b>	An increase in the outputs and outcomes of the project	No	LUP Programme Manager	
	Any decrease to outputs and outcomes of the project	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth, in consultation with S151 Officer and Cabinet Member	
	Any decrease to Local Measures	Yes	Director of Regeneration & Growth	
<b>Other</b>	Changes to project contact information, administrative errors and others which have no impact to approved outcomes, outputs or grant.	No	LUP Programme manager	





### Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board Member List – at November 2023

Bisharat (Bash) Hussain	Choice Cars (Business Community Representative)
Cllr Jenny Chidley	Wednesbury Deputy Town Lead and Member Representative for Wednesbury South Ward
Joshua Fellows	Young People's Representative
Kallianne Titley	Kickstart Dance & Wednesbury 2000 (VCS Representative)
Linda Matthews	Chair of Friar Park Millennium Centre (VCS Representative)
Cllr Luke Giles	Wednesbury Town Lead and Member Representative for Wednesbury North Ward
Maria Jardine	Independent Chair
Nicola Richards MP	MP West Bromwich East
Nicola Woodcock	Open Heavens Church (EDI Representative of Sandwell Faith Forum)
Chief Inspector Paul Griffiths  (Named Deputy: Inspector Glyn Tomlinson)	West Midlands Police Representative
Cllr Peter Hughes	Cabinet Member for Regeneration and WMCA
Sandeep Shingadia	Transport for West Midlands Representative
Shaun Bailey MP	MP West Bromwich West

Cllr Terry Fitzgerald	Member Representative for Friar Park Ward
Victoria Breakwell & Claire Geddes	Breakthru CIC (EDI Representatives)

## Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

**18 December 2023**

<b>Subject:</b>	LUP Community Safety Update Report
<b>Report Author</b>	Tessa Mitchell – Business Manager Community Safety and Resilience  Rebecca Jenkins- Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To set out the progress of the LUP Community Safety Project

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 To approve that project delivery commence for the CCTV and business crime reduction partnership components of the community safety project

2.2 To note that no significant project risks are reported.

### 3. Background

3.1 The community safety project aims to improve community safety and perceptions of safety within Wednesbury

3.2 The project includes:

- Upgrading and expansion of CCTV infrastructure in Wednesbury Town Centre and Friar Park



- Purchase of new deployable cameras to tackle fly tipping across Wednesbury
- Introduction of Radio Link Scheme for local businesses
- Installation of Nuisance Bike Inhibitors in Friar Park area
- Recruitment of a Community & Business Engagement Officer

3.3 A breakdown of the budget is provided below:

Upgrade and expansion of CCTV and new deployable cameras	£0.25m
Nuisance Bike Measures	£0.15m
Community & Business Engagement Officer and other revenue costs	£0.1m
Total	£0.5m

3.4 The project work to date has included commencing recruitment of the Community & Business Engagement Officer, obtaining quotes for CCTV, establishment of task and finish group to consider nuisance bike measures and site visits with Design Out Crime Officer from West Midlands Police.

3.5 Following a capital appraisal undertaken by the Council as part of project assurance arrangements, the Council’s S151 Officer has approved that project spend can commence.

## Consultation and Engagement

3.6 Consultation with Ward Members is due to take place on 04/12 and information was included in Safer 6 week events. Input from the WLUP Board will be sought at their meeting on 18/12. Once appointed, the Community and Business Engagement Officer will play a key part in engagement and consultation moving forwards.

## Monitoring and Evaluation



- 3.7 Project output measures were submitted to DLUHC as part of a return made prior to the Grant Funding agreement being issued. The measures were proposed but were not quantified.
- 3.8 Based on the project development to date, the expected outputs are:
- 26 New/upgraded cameras
  - 8 deployable cameras upgraded/new
  - 1 new business radio scheme implemented
  - 6 locations with improved preventative measures
- 3.9 Once quotations have been received for nuisance bike preventative measures, the project budget will be reviewed. If there is sufficient budget remaining (including contingency allowances) up to an additional two locations for preventative measures will be considered. The WLUP Board will be updated as part of ongoing monitoring.
- 3.10 The community safety project is expected to contribute to the LUP programme outcome measures of:
- Resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
  - Residents perception of crime and antisocial behaviour
  - Recorded crime and ASB in Wednesbury
  - Number of nuisance bike reports in areas with new measures installed
  - Business vacancy rate in Wednesbury Town Centre/ Business Growth Measure / equiv.

#### 4. Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	<p>£0.5m has been granted for the community safety project.</p> <p>A capital appraisal has been undertaken and project spend approved by the Council's S151 Officer.</p>
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	The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025. All project capital spend is due to be spent by mid 2024.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Procurement for the project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts. Cabinet gave delegated approval to undertake all necessary procurement processes (including entering into contracts for the provision of goods and services and any direct contract awards) necessary to deliver the Levelling Up Partnership interventions. (Ref 96/23/12)
<b>Risk:</b>	A project risk register is in place and this has been reviewed as part of the project capital appraisal. As a result of the capital appraisal review, additional risks have been added to the register to reflect the risk of displacing crime and ASB.  There are no significant project risks to report.
<b>Equality:</b>	The Equality Impact Assessment for the CCTV services does not identify any adverse impact for those with protected characteristics. The services are provided for all residents and businesses and does not discriminate against any protected characteristic.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	The underpinning objective of the LUP is to 'level up' and reduce inequalities. The proposed interventions focus on tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way and compliment public health programmes.  Improvements to community safety measures are expected to lead to improvements in residents' perceptions of crime and safety.
<b>Social Value</b>	The proposed interventions will be delivered in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and will deliver social value in line with the council's requirements.



<b>Climate Change</b>	There are no implications for climate change
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	<p>Young peoples' views and opinions (voice of the child) have been considered through a suite of insight which informed the project's inclusion in the LUP. These included the Residents' Survey, SHAPE young people's survey, and specific engagement around crime and safety issues. Common themes of concerns were raised around ASB/drug use and dealing, off-road bikes, more police presence/visibility, improved safety at the bus station, groups hanging around the streets.</p> <p>Within the Council's Young People's Corporate Plan, a commitment is made to have more CCTV cameras. This intervention will help deliver on the commitment.</p>



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## Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	LUP Greenspaces Project Update Report
<b>Report Author</b>	John Satchwell – Green Spaces Projects Manager  Rebecca Jenkins – Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To set out the progress of the LUP Greenspaces Project

### 2. Recommendations

2.1 To approve that project delivery commence for the following greenspaces projects: Wyntor Road Open Space, Balls Hill Playing Fields, Norbury Rd and Lakeside Open Space subject to S151 Officer sign-off

2.5 To note the project risk around increased costs and the controls in place

### 3. Background

3.1 The greenspaces project aims to improve safety measures, quality scores, accessibility and provide additional activities. This will make a



contribution to improve the wellbeing in Wednesbury and will improve the connectivity of walking and cycling routes.

3.2 The project comprises improvements to 4 greenspaces in Wednesbury. The greenspaces were selected based on their low quality scores.

3.3 An outline of the proposed works and budget per scheme is provided below:

Hydes Road Playing Fields	Refurbished changing rooms, resurfaced car park, improved football pitch, improved furniture and infrastructure, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£1.225m
Balls Hill Open Space	Refurbished play area, improved furniture and infrastructure, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£0.112m
Wyntor Lane Open Space	New community garden, improved furniture and infrastructure, new footways, signage, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£0.149m
Lakeside and Norbury Road Open Space	Improved furniture and infrastructure, new footways, signage, improved green infrastructure and a new planting scheme	£0.164m
	<b>Total</b>	<b>£1.65m</b>

3.4 The project work to date has included preparation of designs for the first round of schemes and obtaining quotations (Balls Hill Open Space, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Lakeside and Norbury Road Open Space). A tendering process has commenced ahead of work commencing on site early in the new year.

3.5 Work has commenced to prepare designs for the Hydes Road scheme. The Hydes Rd scheme is a more complex scheme with detailed designs due to be produced by March 2024 ahead of submitting for planning approval.

3.6 Following a capital appraisal undertaken by the Council as part of project assurance arrangements, the Council's S151 Officer has approved that



project spend can commence subject to a final review of cost estimates, which will be obtained through the tendering process.

- 3.7 Any actual or forecast overspend on the total project budget will be reported to the WLUP Board as part of ongoing monitoring.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 3.8 Consultation is being undertaken with Ward Members on 04/12 on the designs for the first round of schemes (Balls Hill Open Space, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Lakeside and Norbury Road Open Space). Input will be sought from the WLUP Board during the meeting.
- 3.9 The Hydes Road project will be undertaken in April 2024. Plans will be shared with ward members at the earliest opportunity and subsequently distributed to local community groups, residents and regular users following this.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 3.10 Project output measures were submitted to DLUHC as part of a return made prior to the Grant Funding agreement being issued. The measures were proposed but were not quantified.
- 3.9 Based on the designs produced for the first phase of schemes the expected outputs are from the first phase are:
- 500 M2 of improved green space
  - 200 M2 of improved play areas
- 3.10 The outputs from the Hydes Rd scheme will be added to these following the initial design phase.
- 3.11 The greenspaces projects are expected to contribute to the LUP Programme outcome measures of:
- Resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
  - Residents' perception of crime and antisocial behaviour
  - Quality score for greenspaces

## **9. Implications**



<b>Resources:</b>	<p>£1.65m has been granted for the greenspaces project. A capital appraisal has been undertaken and project spend approved by the Council's S151 Officer subject to a final review of costings.</p> <p>The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025.</p> <p>Based on appointing contractors by end 2023, all works for Norbury Road, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Balls Hill Playing fields are due to commence on site in early 2024 with completion by April 2024.</p> <p>All works on site for the Hydes Road project are due to be completed by end March 2025 in line with the grant conditions. 6 weeks of contingency has been included within the delivery plan.</p>
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	<p>Procurement for the greenspaces project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts. Landscape works will be procured via the Birmingham City Council Landscape Tender framework, with any additional procurement to be tendered via the open market.</p>
<b>Risk:</b>	<p>A project risk register is in place and this has been reviewed as part of the project capital appraisal.</p> <p>A significant project risk identified is of increased costs. An allowance for contingency of 5%, along with an allowance for 5% inflation have been included in the project costs.</p> <p>The Council's S151 Officer has approved that project spend can commence subject to a final review of cost estimates, which will be obtained through the tendering process.</p>
<b>Equality:</b>	<p>The planned improvements to pathways, lighting and new furniture at Balls Hill Open Space, Wyntor Lane Open Space and Lakeside and Norbury Road Open</p>



	<p>Space will make a positive impact on improving the accessibility of greenspaces. This will benefit all residents including those with disabilities and/or older people. The footpath network will be designed to DDA standards, and the new activities associated with the improvements will encourage new audiences to visit the Greenspaces for active and passive recreation.</p> <p>An EqIA screening will be undertaken as part of the design process for the Hydes Road project.</p>
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	<p>The underpinning objective of the LUP is to ‘level up’ and reduce inequalities. The proposed interventions focus on tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way and compliment public health programmes. Improvements to the quality of greenspaces provides further opportunities for health and wellbeing activities.</p>
<b>Social Value</b>	<p>The proposed interventions will be delivered in accordance with the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and will deliver social value in line with the council’s requirements.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<p>Improvements to the quality of green spaces in Wednesbury makes a contribution to biodiversity.</p> <p>Green Technology will also be utilised as part of Hydes Road Changing Room Refurbishment project. Further details of this is currently being designed.</p>
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	<p>Young peoples’ views and opinions (voice of the child) are captured through the annual Safer 6 campaign and SHAPE young people’s survey which informed the inclusion of this project within the LUP. These findings emphasised the need for activities for young people. This intervention will help address this by improving green spaces for the local community.</p> <p>Young people’s views and opinions (voice of the child) will be sought as part of the consultation on the Hydes Rd project and through WLUP Board oversight of all proposals.</p>





## Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	Wednesbury Town Centre Masterplan Project and Developing the Public Realm in Wednesbury Town Centre Project Overview
<b>Report Author</b>	Clinton Felicio Senior Planner  Rebecca Jenkins Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out the progress of the Wednesbury Town Centre Masterplan and Public Realm Projects

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the WLUP Board input into the proposals for consulting on the Masterplan

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Wednesbury Town Centre Masterplan and Developing the Public Realm in Wednesbury Town Centre (Public Realm) projects aim to conduct a strategic review of the Town Centre (including a review of its current uses and future opportunities) to provide a solid base for future intervention.



- 3.2 Wednesbury Town Centre has recently benefitted from public realm improvements and the relocation of an outdoor market to the traditional Market Place. However, this investment (Heritage Lottery Fund) was geographically constrained to the Conservation Area, which is a small area around the Clock Tower on Market Place.
- 3.3 One of the key strategic benefits of Wednesbury Town Centre is its connectivity; with a Bus Station in the centre, and a Metro Station a few minutes' walk away. Some improvements have already been implemented to improve the quality of the access arrangements from the Town to the Metro, including a new cycle way.
- 3.4 Wednesbury Town Centre does not currently have a Masterplan in place. A strategic review of the Town Centre, to include a review of its current uses, constraints, and future opportunities would provide a solid base for future intervention. The Masterplan would also provide a public realm and urban greening strategy identifying the best locations for urban greening initiatives. Funding from the LUP would be used to implement some of the proposals in the masterplan.
- 3.5 A budget of £160K revenue has been allocated for the Masterplan and £4.5m capital has been allocated for the public realm improvements and intervention on key sites (where possible).
- 3.6 Project work to date has included commencement of the Masterplan with the appointment of consultants and initial engagement with members of the public on priorities for the Masterplan. In relation to the public realm project, topographical and utilities surveys are currently being undertaken to inform detailed design work and options analysis on key sites for intervention.
- 3.7 Following a capital appraisal undertaken by the Council as part of project assurance arrangements, the Council's S151 Officer has approved spend in relation to the masterplan. A further capital appraisal will be undertaken for the Public Realm Project (capital expenditure).

## Consultation and Engagement





- 3.8 Initial engagement around the masterplan has taken place through the Safer 6 campaign activities and a bespoke survey was hosted on the Consultation Hub.
- 3.9 The views from the WLUP Board are sought on the proposals for the next stage of consultation which will be set out during the meeting.

### Monitoring and Evaluation

- 3.10 Project output measures were submitted to DLUHC as part of a return made prior to the Grant Funding agreement being issued. The measures were proposed as follows:
  - Completion of masterplan for Wednesbury Town Centre
  - LUP Programme Management and Governance Arrangements in place
  - 14000m2 of improved pedestrian area
  - 3 problem sites improved
- 3.11 The outputs are on track for achievement.
- 3.12 The masterplan and public realm projects are expected to contribute to the LUP programme outcome measures of:
  - Resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
  - Business vacancy rate in Wednesbury Town Centre / Business Growth Measure / equiv.

### 4. Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	<p>£160,000 revenue has been granted for the Wednesbury Town Centre Masterplan project.</p> <p>£4.5m capital has been granted for the Developing the Public Realm in Wednesbury Town Centre project (this includes funding for public realm works and improving problem sites).</p>
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	<p>A capital appraisal has been undertaken for the Masterplan Project and project spend approved by the Council's S151 Officer. A further capital appraisal will be undertaken for the Public Realm Project.</p> <p>The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025. This is on track.</p>
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	<p>Procurement for the project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts.</p> <p>Procurement to produce the Masterplan was undertaken via a full tender process.</p>
<b>Risk:</b>	<p>A project risk register is in place and this has been reviewed as part of the project capital appraisal.</p> <p>A significant project risk is associated with delivery timescales by the March 2025 deadline. Any slippage in public consultation or the masterplan approval will limit the time available for delivery of the public realm improvements. The risk is being controlled through regular overview of progress, and producing a detailed and costed landscape plan to enable procurement to commence following the masterplan approval.</p>
<b>Equality:</b>	<p>An EqIA screening will be undertaken during the masterplanning process to identify potential impacts on groups with protected characteristics and an assessment undertaken as required.</p>
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	<p>The underpinning objective of the LUP is to 'level up' and reduce inequalities. The proposed interventions focus on tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way and compliment public health programmes.</p> <p>Improvements to the public realm are expected to lead to improvements in residents' satisfaction with their local areas as a place to live.</p>



<b>Social Value</b>	<p>The proposed interventions will be delivered in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules and will deliver social value in line with the council's requirements.</p> <p>The Council are working with the contractor to identify appropriate interventions.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	<p>Climate change impacts will be considered as part of the emerging proposals for the public realm improvements from the masterplanning work.</p> <p>The proposals will include an element of urban greening which will make a positive contribution to the natural environment.</p>
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	<p>Young peoples' views and opinions (voice of the child) will be considered through the proposed masterplan consultation through engagement with the Corporate Parenting Board and any other relevant groups.</p>



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## Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	Improving the Millennium Centre Project Overview
<b>Report Author</b>	Allison Blakeway Economic Development Project Manager  Rebecca Jenkins Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out the progress of the Improving the Millennium Centre Project

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the WLUP Board input into the design principles and proposals for consulting on the Friar Park Millennium Centre

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The Improving the Millennium Centre project aims to improve the Friar Park Millennium Centre to meet the demands from an extended community (as a result of the proposed Friar Park Urban Village) and enhance the skills delivery offer for residents including an improved library presence.
- 3.2 The Friar Park Millennium Centre currently provides a range of activities and facilities for local community use. As part of public consultation in relation to the Friar Park Urban Village development, residents raised a



key concern around the capacity of the centre. In addition, key service providers have identified the potential to extend the existing services to meet new and existing demands from the community.

- 3.3 £2m capital has been granted for the project via Levelling up Funds.
- 3.4 Project work to date has included formation of a project group to set out the project requirements and production of stage 1 designs.
- 3.5 A capital appraisal will be undertaken by the Council as part of project assurance arrangements once an initial cost assessment has been completed.

### **Consultation and Engagement**

- 3.6 The project was identified for inclusion within the LUP due to feedback from residents as part of the Friar Park Urban Village masterplan consultation. Residents expressed their concerns around the capacity of the centre.
- 3.7 Initial information about the project is planned to be shared at the Millennium Centre Christmas event and with Ward Members in early December.
- 3.8 Public consultation is due to commence from January 2024 once Stage 2 designs have been produced.
- 3.9 Views from the WLUP Board are sought on the design principles and proposals for public consultation which will be set out during the meeting.

### **Monitoring and Evaluation**

- 3.10 Project output measures were submitted to DLUHC as part of a return made prior to the Grant Funding agreement being issued. The measures were proposed as follows:
  - Improved library facility



- Extended meeting spaces
- Improved Kitchen / Storage facilities

3.11 The project is expected to contribute to the LUP programme outcome measures of:

- Resident satisfaction with their local area as a place to live
- Skills / qualifications gained (or equiv. measure)
- Numbers of participants in community activities (or equiv. measure)

#### 4. Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	<p>£2m capital has been granted for the Millennium Centre project</p> <p>A capital appraisal will be undertaken once the cost assessment is available.</p> <p>The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025. This is on track.</p>
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	<p>Procurement for the project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts.</p>
<b>Risk:</b>	<p>Key risks have been identified. The project risk register will reviewed as part of the project capital appraisal.</p> <p>Main risks are associated with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- design requirements exceeding budget costs. A cost assessment of the stage 2 design is being undertaken. Value engineering will be undertaken if required to ensure project is deliverable within budget</li> <li>- Delays to planning application and contractor appointment A 2 month contingency is allowed for in the project plan. Currently on track to submit for planning in Jan 24 and project completion by Jan 25.</li> </ul>



<b>Equality:</b>	An EqIA screening will be undertaken during the Stage 2 design process to identify potential impacts on groups with protected characteristics and an assessment undertaken as required.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	<p>The underpinning objective of the LUP is to ‘level up’ and reduce inequalities. The proposed interventions focus on tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way and compliment public health programmes.</p> <p>Improvements to the Millennium Centre are expected to lead to improvements in residents’ satisfaction with their local areas as a place to live, through increasing access to community activities and skills development opportunities.</p>
<b>Social Value</b>	<p>The proposed interventions will be delivered in accordance with the Council’s Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.</p> <p>A social value target of 50% spend in the local economy through the contract has been identified along with identifying opportunities for work placements and work experience.</p>
<b>Climate Change</b>	Climate change impacts will be considered as part of the stage 2 designs which will include consideration of the heating system. The scope of works will improve the energy efficiency measures in the building.
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	<p>Young peoples’ views and opinions (voice of the child) will be considered through the public consultation process and through oversight from the WLUP Board.</p> <p>The project includes space that will enable additional youth service provision, an increase in advice and support around skills and employment, and an</p>





improved library presence at the Millennium Centre. For young people and their families who access this, positive impacts include emotional health benefits, and support with education and employment opportunities.



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## Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2023

<b>Subject:</b>	Friar Park Urban Village Project and WLUP Board Remit
<b>Report Author</b>	Allison Blakeway Economic Development Project Manager  Rebecca Jenkins Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 To set out background information around the Friar Park Urban Village Project including project governance arrangements and progress to date.
- 1.2 To set out the Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board role and remit in relation to the Friar Park Urban Village project.

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the WLUP Board note the information in this report and that regular progress updates will be provided to the WLUP Board for assurance purposes

### 3. Background



- 3.1 The creation of the Friar Park Urban Village anticipates the development of 630 units off Friar Park Road. The agreed masterplan (see Appendix 1), demonstrates how the scheme can be delivered to Garden City principles, which in addition to the incorporation of new family housing, of which 25% will be for affordable housing provision, the creation of 10ha of open space creating opportunities for sport, leisure, recreation and bio-diversity enhancement, together with a network of cycleways and footpaths to promote connectivity are key components.
- 3.2 The land is held in separate ownerships between SMBC and the West Midlands Combined Authority, who entered into a joint venture partnership agreement in 2018 to secure the comprehensive remediation and re-development of the site for residential purposes. Funding was secured from WMCA to acquire the site now in their ownership (formerly Severn Trent) and progress the remediation with the overall aim of completing all housing development by March 2031.
- 3.3 The partners have progressed the preparation of a masterplan, which indicates the development of the site for 630 units, of which 25% will be expected to be affordable, as well as the provision of circa 10ha of multi-functional open space, providing opportunities for sport, recreation and habitat mitigation. A series of associated surveys have also been undertaken which have helped to inform the masterplan development.
- 3.4 The overall project is governed by a Project Board comprising two designated officers from both the WMCA and SMBC. The Board is supported by the JV Forum, which comprises project officers from both authorities, working as necessary with appropriate advisors. When required to do so, each organisation is required to seek relevant approvals through its own governance arrangements. To date, the SMBC Cabinet has approved the masterplan and draft procurement strategy and will be required to authorise the disposal of the site and the ultimate financial offer that developers make.

## Project Outline



- 3.5 The Friar Park site comprises 26ha and is the largest brownfield regeneration site in the WMCA area, and one of the largest within the West Midlands region. The industrial legacy of use of large parts of the site as a sewage farm for approx. 100 years until the mid-late 1980's generates a significant remediation challenge with significant cost implications, resulting in viability challenges for the overall development.
- 3.6 A detailed Ground Investigation survey was undertaken in 2021 which provides a clear picture of the extent of works required to remediate the site. Associated with this, a draft remediation strategy was prepared which proposed the excavation, treatment and re-utilisation of the treated material on-site to be used for the creation of development platforms and a landscape buffer, incorporating 10ha of greenspace suitable for a range of purposes including public access, sport and recreation, and habitat mitigation.
- 3.7 The LUP funding (£11.5m) has been secured to assist with the progression of the site, and the remediation of 26ha of land has been identified as the key output. However, this will also require further investment utilising the remainder of the WMCA funds. It is currently expected that the total funding available will cover the identified costs of the works required. The basis of the LUP project relates to the SMBC investment in the remediation works, although this sits within the framework of the wider project.
- 3.8 Consideration has been given to the progression of the remediation works separately to other project activities in order that the requirements of the LUP programme can be met. However, there are significant risks to this approach, including:
- the potential for the remediated scheme to conflict with the developers aspirations for the site
  - liability for meeting any cost overruns in light of no further funds being available,



- ongoing and residual liabilities associated with undertaking the works
- obtaining warranties sufficient for developers to secure investment funding for later phases,
- a requirement for additional resources with appropriate expertise to support the project team as Client Agent.

3.9 As a result, the JV Project Board have confirmed a strategy which seeks to procure a developer to undertake the remediation works, following which they will progress the development of the site. It is currently anticipated that the procurement process will be completed by Summer 2024.

3.10 The timescales for ensuring the LUP funding is secured are such that requiring a developer to obtain the relevant consents following appointment will not be possible. As a result, the partners will be progressing approvals for a detailed planning application for remediation, together with relevant approvals from the Environment Agency concurrently with the developer procurement process. It is anticipated that these approvals will also be in place by Summer 2024, which will then permit a start on site towards the end of 2024. LUP funding will be utilised to assist the progression of relevant consents and obtain appropriate legal advice which assist with the progression of the scheme as proposed.

3.11 Work undertaken to date includes:

- The appointment of consultants to assist with the preparation of the applications for Environmental Agency permits
- Obtaining relevant legal advice to ensure the incorporation of the remediation works as part of the overall contract and associated regulatory compliance

3.12 Further works are required to be undertaken, which will include:



- The appointment of a planning consultant to prepare a planning application for the remediation works
- The appointment of ecologists to assist with establishing a baseline for Bio-Diversity Net Gain compliance, and ensuring appropriate actions relating to identified protected species are properly incorporated into the works programme.

### **Project Governance Arrangements - WLUP Board Remit**

3.13 As the LUP funding is contributing to a broader project which has a range of funding streams and existing governance arrangements in place, the WLUP Board remit will focus on the component that is funded through the Levelling Up Partnership Grant to ensure the achievement of the agreed output of 27ha land remediated.

3.14 The WLUP Board will receive regular updates on progress of the project for assurance purposes.

3.15 In line with the WLUP Board schedule of delegations, circumstances where a specific steer and/or advice would be sought from the WLUP Board include:

- Actual / projected project overspend / underspend of the Levelling Up Grant (£11.5m)
- Actual / projected slippage in agreed output of 27ha land remediated
- Actual / projected slippage of milestones relating to the land remediation phase with an impact on grant claim

### **4. Implications**

<b>Resources:</b>	<p>£11.5m capital has been granted for the Friar Park Urban Village project</p> <p>A capital appraisal will be undertaken as part of project assurance ahead of remediation contractor appointment.</p>
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	The LUP Grant includes the requirement for all spend to be made by March 2025. This is currently on track but presents a significant risk.
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	Procurement for the project will be in accordance with Sandwell MBC's Financial Regulations and Standing Orders for Contracts.
<b>Risk:</b>	Key risks have been identified. The project risk register will be reviewed as part of the project capital appraisal.  A significant risk is due to delays in obtaining EA licenses impacting on project deliverability by March 2025. Early engagement has taken place with the EA and consultants have been procured to support the engagement process. Contingency arrangements are being explored in the event that the March 2025 deadline cannot be met.
<b>Equality:</b>	The LUP funding is associated with the land remediation component of the project. There are no equality impacts identified with this phase.  Equality considerations associated with the house building phase will be fully explored as part of the Cabinet disposal consideration.
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	The underpinning objective of the LUP is to 'level up' and reduce inequalities. The proposed interventions focus on tackling health inequalities in a multi-faceted way and compliment public health programmes.  This project will enable 630 new homes - a substantial contribution to addressing housing needs.
<b>Social Value</b>	The proposed interventions will be delivered in accordance with the Council's Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules.





	A social value target has been set of 40% spend on the project achieved in the local area and the creation of construction jobs/ training opportunities.
<b>Climate Change</b>	<p>The remediation strategy seeks to retain and reuse as much material on site as possible in order to minimise the disposal of waste to landfill, and to minimise traffic movement to reduce impacts of carbon emissions from HGV's.</p> <p>The proposed houses will be built to meet WMCA Technical Standards, which look to ensure high levels of sustainability and energy efficiency.</p> <p>The creation of open space on the site will provide opportunities to mitigate against climate change through limiting the effects of the urban heat island. In addition, the provision of footpaths and cycleways providing connectivity into/out of the site will encourage active travel modes to be utilised.</p>
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	<p>This project will enable 630 new homes - a substantial contribution to addressing housing needs.</p> <p>Jobs created during the construction period for the remediation phase and house building phase will benefit Sandwell families and young people</p>

## Appendices

### Appendix 1 Friar Park Masterplan

#### Background papers

WLUP Board Terms of Reference



# Appendix One – Friar Park Masterplan

- LEGEND**
- Site boundary
  - Illustrative built form
  - Private gardens
  - Primary street
  - Secondary street
  - Mews streets
  - Proposed nature reserve planting
  - Proposed nature trail
  - Proposed play
  - Proposed attenuation basin water body
  - Proposed swale
  - Proposed primary path
  - Proposed secondary path
  - Proposed art / sculpture
  - Proposed community growing beds
  - Proposed open space
  - Proposed open space meadow

**READ THIS FIRST**

**Note for Contractors**  
 The drawing should be considered along with the information combined in the CDU. The Construction Information. This information will include details of the site/contractor also within LDA Design has been provided. This information is for the contractor's use only. It is the contractor's responsibility to ensure that the work is carried out in accordance with the legal requirements associated with this work.

**Note for Workers**  
 Do not use any machinery or heavy lifting equipment on the site without the permission of the contractor. The contractor is responsible for the safety of all workers on the site. Do not use any machinery or heavy lifting equipment on the site without the permission of the contractor. The contractor is responsible for the safety of all workers on the site.

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REV.	DESCRIPTION	DATE
1	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
2	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
3	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
4	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
5	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
6	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
7	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
8	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
9	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22
10	ISSUED FOR TENDER	10/11/22

**LDÄ DESIGN**

**PROJECT TITLE**  
 FRIAR PARK

**DRAWING TITLE**  
 Urban Village Illustrative Masterplan

**ISSUED BY** Manchester T: 0161 355 5584  
**DATE** Jan. 2023 DR:AWN KRA  
**SCALE** 1:4000 CHECKED PHS  
**STATUS** Draft APPROVED MGR

**DWG. NO.** 7642-LDA-XX-XX-03R-JUD-1101-rw08



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v2022.0

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## Report to Wednesbury Levelling Up Partnership Board

18 December 2024

<b>Subject:</b>	WLUP Board Forward Plan
<b>Report Author</b>	Rebecca Jenkins Levelling Up Partnership Programme Manager

### 1. Purpose of Report

To set out the forward plan for WLUP Board Meetings

### 2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the WLUP Board note the forward plan and the proposed frequency of the WLUP Board meetings as every other month.
- 2.2 That the WLUP Board consider preferences for meeting times and in-person / virtual meetings.

### 3. Background

- 3.1 The WLUP Board indicative forward plan is included as appendix 1. It will be updated regularly to reflect changes.



## Appendix 1 - WLUP Board Indicative Forward Plan as at November 2023

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Project	18 December 2023	February 2024 (date tbc)	April 2024 (date tbc)	June 2024 (date tbc)
<b>Programme</b>	Programme Overview and deep dive information	Introduction to Social Value  Programme Overview report	Programme Overview Report	Programme Overview Report
<b>Masterplan</b>	Input to draft public realm and urban greening strategy  Input to consultation plans	Outcomes from public consultation and recommendation to Cabinet	Masterplan project close down	
<b>Community Safety</b>	Proposals for CCTV and crime reduction partnership and agreement to proceed to delivery	Update on nuisance bike measures	Agreement to proceed to delivery for nuisance bike measures	Progress update



Project	18 December 2023	February 2024 (date tbc)	April 2024 (date tbc)	June 2024 (date tbc)
<b>Public Realm</b>	Project Overview	Progress update	Update on Site Acquisition /improvements and delivery	Update on Site Acquisition /improvements and delivery
<b>Friar Park Urban Village</b>	Project Overview	Progress update	Progress update	Progress update
<b>Millennium Centre</b>	Input into design principles and proposals for public consultation	Progress update	Public consultation outcomes Agreement to proceed to delivery	Progress update
<b>Greenspaces</b>	Agreement to proceed to delivery for 3 schemes  Introduction to Hydes Rd project	Input to designs for Hydes Road & input to consultation plans for Hydes Rd  Progress update on delivery of first 3 schemes	Progress update	Agreement to proceed to delivery for Hydes Rd



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