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Agenda Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Thursday, 15 February 2024 at 6.00 pm In the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

1 Apologies for Absence

To receive any apologies for absence.

2 Declarations of Interest and Party Whip

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

3 **Minutes** 7 - 18

To confirm the minutes of the meetings held on 17 and 29 January 2024 as a correct record.

4 Additional Items of Business

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

5 Fishing Policy

19 - 28

To consider and comment upon the proposed Fishing Policy for Sandwell Councils waterbodies.

















6	Housing Regulatory Framework	29 - 48
	To consider and comment upon the changes to the Housing Regulatory Framework.	
7	Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Action Tracker	49 - 54
	To consider and note progress on the implementation of actions and recommendations.	
8	Cabinet Forward Plan and Work Programme	55 - 72
	To note and review the Cabinet Forward Plan and the Board's Work Programme 2023/ 24.	

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

Distribution

Councillor Fenton (Chair) Councillors Lewis, Davies, Dhatt, Fisher, Khan, Maycock, Shaeen, J Webb, Younis, Brown and Allcock (Co- opted Member).

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Agenda Item 3



Minutes of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Wednesday 17 January 2024 at 6.02pm In the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Fenton (Chair),

Councillors K Allcock, Dhatt, Lewis and Maycock.

Officers: Dawn Winter (Assistant Director - Libraries, Archives,

Information Services), Tessa Mitchell (Business

Manager – Community Safety and Resilience), Andrew Clarke (ASB Team Manager), John Swann (Democratic Services Officer) and Alex Goddard (Scrutiny Lead

Officer).

1/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Davies, Fisher, Khan, Shaeen, Webb and Younis and from Ms Brown (co-opted member).

2/24 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

3/24 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 18 December 2023 be confirmed as a correct record.

4/24 Additional Items of Business

There were no urgent additional items of business to consider.

5/24 Heritage Strategy Update

Further to Minute No. 22/23 the Board received an update on work around a strategy for heritage and culture in Sandwell.

Since the Board had originally considered the matter, national changes, including an increase in funding streams available to bid for, had led to the Council moving towards a broader Cultural Strategy.

Recently a Cultural Development Officer and Business Manager had joined the Council. This would allow the work on the Strategy to move forward, including bidding for funding and enhancing the cultural offer in Sandwell.

Members noted that Sandwell had been ranked second worst in the country for participation in cultural engagement. This meant that funders such as Arts Council England had identified the borough as a priority for funding.

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

- There was a lot of work being done at the grass roots level by a range of Council services including the Communities Team and the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion Team. Members suggested that those teams should be involved in developing the Cultural Strategy and it was confirmed that, by commissioning a consultant to develop the Strategy there would be capacity to engage with other Council services as well as community groups.
- It was vital to engage with the public to understand what they wanted from a cultural strategy and offer.

 Making use of existing facilities and sites was important, including libraries, town halls and museums.
 Members also highlighted the potential for linking up work with the Sandwell Valley Masterplan.

The Board supported the approach now proposed for a Cultural Strategy for Sandwell.

Resolved:-

- that the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board endorse the proposals for the development of a Cultural Strategy;
- (2) that the Director of Borough Economy work in partnership with the Community and Voluntary Sector and other Council services including the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team and Communities Team when developing the Cultural Strategy;
- (3) that the Director of Borough Economy ensure that the development of a Cultural Strategy is aligned with the Sandwell Valley Masterplan to further develop the Cultural portfolio of Sandwell;
- (4) that the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board include further updates on the Cultural Strategy on its future work programme.

6/24 Implementation of 3 Boroughwide Public Space Protection Orders relating to Alcohol Consumption, Dog Fouling and BBQs/Fires

The Board considered a report on the implementation of three boroughwide Public Space Protection Orders (PSPOs). Two of the PSPOs were renewals – one for Alcohol Consumption and one for Dog Fouling. The third was a proposed new PSPO relating to BBQs and Fires. The PSPOs were scheduled for consideration by the Cabinet in February 2024.

The PSPOs had been subject to a public consultation in line with national guidance. 230 responses had been received and they indicated support for the proposals as follows:-

- 97% supported the PSPO for alcohol consumption;
- 98% supported the PSPO for dog fouling;
- 92% supported the new PSPO element around dog owners being required to carry a suitable receptacle for their dog's waste;
- 91% supported the new PSPO element around dogs not being allowed in enclosed play or sport areas;
- 87% supported the new PSPO around BBQs and fires.

This indicated a strong public support for the three PSPOs. During the consultation the possibility of designated areas for BBQs was raised and this was being discussed with the Parks Service.

It was reported that the proposed PSPOs were also supported by the Safer Sandwell Partnership, which included representatives of West Midlands Police and West Midlands Fire Service as well as other partners.

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

- There would not be an obligation to enforce the PSPOs, but it would be an option where required.
 Previously the Council had employed an 'education first' approach.
- It was noted that different PSPOs would impact towns to different degrees. This was addressed through the town and borough tasking framework.
- A PSPO about begging was in place in West Bromwich. The order was in accordance with the European Court of Human Rights ruling around begging being a means of survival, as aggressive or persistent begging would still be actionable.
- A pilot around street drinking had been conducted in part of Great Bridge. This included working to educate and signpost street drinkers to appropriate services.
 Levels of street drinking in the vicinity had reduced.

- Training had been provided to enforcement officers around alcohol dependency so that education and enforcement could be done in a safe and sensitive manner.
- Numbers of outdoor fires was impacted by the weather, however there had been a national increase in fires and locally Sandwell Valley had experienced fires.
 Local Fire Service colleagues had confirmed that they were responding to more outdoor fires.
- The tasking framework in Sandwell was evidence driven and took intelligence from everywhere, including social media. There was a role for locality-based officers and ward members to identify and report issues as residents may not feel able to report themselves.

The Board supported the proposed PSPOs and thanked officers for attending the meeting.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Director of Borough Economy considers the feasibility of providing fixed and fire-safe designated BBQ areas in Sandwell's green spaces and that the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board is consulted as part of the consideration.
- (2) that the following be provided to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:-
 - (a) data of complaints received related to dog fouling both before and after the introduction of the Boroughwide PSPOs relating to dogs and dog fouling to assess the effectiveness of the PSPO introduction:
 - (b) data detailing the distribution of enforcement personnel and resources by each of the Borough's six towns.

7/24 Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Action Tracker

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

8/24 Work Programme 2023 - 24 and Cabinet Forward Plan

The Board noted its Work Programme for 2023 - 24 and received the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Meeting ended at 6:58pm

Contact: <u>democratic_services@sandwell.gov.uk</u>



Minutes of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

Monday 29 January 2024 at 6.00pm In the Council Chamber - Sandwell Council House, Oldbury

Present: Councillor Fenton (Chair),

Councillors K Allcock, Dhatt, Fisher, Lewis, Maycock

and Webb.

In Attendance: Sue Smith (Sandwell Tenants and Leaseholders

Scrutiny Group).

Officers: Nigel Collumbell (Assistant Director – Housing

Management), Tom Hogan (Head of Customer

Experience) and Alex Goddard (Scrutiny Lead Officer).

9/24 Apologies for Absence

Apologies for absence were received from Councillors Khan, Shaeen and Younis and from Ms Brown (co-opted member).

10/24 **Declarations of Interest**

There were no declarations of interest.

11/24 Additional Items of Business

There were no urgent additional items of business to consider.

12/24 Tenant Satisfaction Survey Outcomes

The Board received the outcomes of the Tenant Satisfaction Survey. These surveys were an annual requirement by the Regulator for Social Housing. The Regulator determines the questions and their wording, however the Council was able, and had chosen, to include additional questions to better understand tenant satisfaction in Sandwell. The results of the survey had to be submitted to the Regulator who compiled the national data.

Sandwell had conducted a trial survey last year to provide a baseline. The latest results were largely unchanged from the previous year other than overall satisfaction which had increased from 68% to 74%. Compared to other landlords taking part in the survey Sandwell's results were average and compared with landlords with larger portfolios of properties Sandwell compared favourably against landlords with larger portfolios of properties.

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

- The research had been conducted by a specialist consultant, who also worked with other housing providers.
- The Council was on an improvement journey and tenant satisfaction was part of that.
- The Regulator had confirmed that they would not just be considering the statistics but would look at how the Council would address issues that arose from the survey.
- It was acknowledged that Housing Directorate was going through a period of culture change around accepting learning from mistakes and making better use of customer data – not just from the survey, but also from complaints and enquiries from elected representatives.

- There was no holistic software system that captured information on assets such as components or when they would be due for renewal. This was instead held on various databases that could be difficult to access and analyse.
- An independent complaints resolution team was being assembled. This would be independent from other housing service areas to investigate complaints and what led to them being made whilst acting to champion the tenant and their needs. The team would also gather learning from complaints to determine what needed to be done differently in the future. This approach had been developed through discussions with landlords whose customers were happier with their complaints process.
- Waiting times for repairs was a key area. Delays were caused by various factors including availability of materials or staff resources.
- It was important to recognise that complaints were not a negative thing as low numbers of complaints could suggest the Council was not open to listening and learning from its tenants.
- Increased complaints around gas checks was due to a contractor failure, however this had been addressed.
- There was an increasing demand for social housing with more presentations for homelessness and increasing numbers of households on the housing register.
- All proposals for additional services had been included in the proposed Housing Revenue Account budget for 2024-25.
- Repair works had incurred delays since the Covid-19 pandemic, with the ability to catch up being impaired by availability of labour and some materials. Procurement processes were being reviewed and refreshed.

- A rolling five-year programme of stock condition surveys was underway in line with the Regulator's expectations that the Council knows and understands its housing stock.
- A proactive programme of home check visits had been introduced which provided an opportunity to meet with tenants, discuss areas of concern or issues they might have and undertake a visual check of the property. At the time of the meeting over 20% of tenants had received a home check visit.
- The Housing Hub provided additional capacity to the contact centre, with housing related queries able to be routed to the Hub to resolve them in a more timely way.
- The Council would be implementing a refreshed telephony system which would further help to improve the service provided by the Contact Centre and the Housing Hub.
- The Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group had carried out a review of the Housing Hub and made several recommendations, some were still outstanding but there had been an improvement in call abandonment rates and average call wait times.
- The difference in satisfaction between Tipton and Wednesbury compared to other towns had been replicated in other Council services. Work was being carried out to investigate this to identify causes and what can be done to address it.

Members thanked officers for attending the meeting and answering questions.

Resolved:-

(1) that the Director of Housing ensure that when reviewing and procuring an Asset Management System it links with other systems including procurement and operational systems to help build intelligence;

- (2) that the following topics be included on the work programme for the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board:-
 - (a) response plan to the Tenant Satisfaction Survey;
 - (b) transformational Plan for Housing;
 - (c) the differences between performance and satisfaction in different towns;
 - (d) the Housing Hub.
- (3) that the Director of Housing provide an update on stock condition surveys and any issues experienced around them to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.

13/24 Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Action Tracker

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

14/24 Work Programme 2023 - 24 and Cabinet Forward Plan

The Board noted its Work Programme for 2023 - 24 and received the Cabinet Forward Plan.

Members indicated that they wished to scrutinise the proposals for the New Archives Centre for the Borough.

Meeting ended at 7:51pm

Contact: <u>democratic services@sandwell.gov.uk</u>





Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

15 February 2024

Subject:	Fishing Policy
Director:	Director of Borough Economy
	Alice Davey
Contact Officer:	Matthew Huggins
	Assistant Director (Borough Economy): Green
	Spaces, Green Services, Visitor Services,
	Events;

1 Recommendation

1.1 To consider and comment upon the proposed Fishing Policy for all Sandwell Councils waterbodies within the Green Spaces portfolio.

2 Background

- 2.1 Sandwell Council has 25 water bodies within the borough that are accessible by the public. Many of these sites are popular for Angling.
- 2.2 There are often discrepancies and confusion in the understanding of rules and regulations for fishing on these sites. Fishing with a permit issued by Sandwell Council is included in our parks and open space bylaws.
- 2.3 To fish in one of the designated locations in Sandwell (4.1), a fishing permit must be obtained and produced on demand, which can be purchased online at www.sandwell.gov.uk or through one of the physical locations. A photo ID must also be produced identifying the correct owner of the fishing permit, and identifying any concession.

















- 2.4 This policy will remove any previous confusion regarding the rules and regulations and identify what locations angling is permitted.
- 2.5 This policy will identify the cost of fishing and where permits can be purchased.
- 2.6 Angling has been a popular pastime within Sandwell's Green Spaces for many years. This policy will look to balance this, whilst also ensuring future use, other Park users, wildlife and ecology flourish.
- 2.7 In the development of this policy a six week public consultation was conducted using Citizen Space and advertised online and through the Council's social media channels:
 - 20 responses were received, split by 7 respondents who fish, and 13 who do not.
 - 10 respondents disagree with the proposed policy, and 10 respondents agree.
 - The respondents who disagree cited the main reason as fishing causing a negative impact on other wildlife and causing unnecessary pain to the fish.
- 2.8 The policy development approach has been to review national best practice on Angling and other Local Authorities approach to fishing. The policy focusses on introducing specific criteria for fishing in Sandwell, which is intended to address the concerns of those that do not fish and feel this causes harm to other wildlife and fish and provide a safe environment. Swan Pool as also been removed as fishing site, because of the impacts experienced by swimming clubs and water sports clubs using this pool.
- 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

**	Best start in life for children and young people Children are able to learn to fish and enjoy time in nature.
XXX XXX	People live well and age well People are able to fish, which they do for their mental health and wellbeing

4 Context and Key Issues

Angling Locations

- 4.1 The following sites listed below are where angling is permitted:
 - a) West Smethwick Park boating pool, Smethwick
 - b) Victoria Park Pool, Tipton
 - c) Dartmouth Park Boating Pool, West Bromwich
 - d) Dartmouth Park Fishing Pond, West Bromwich
 - e) Warrens Hall Nature Reserve, Rowley Regis
 - f) Hydes Road Pool, Wednesbury
 - g) Swan Pool (excluding Saturdays and Sundays)
 - h) Sheepwash Nature Reserve, Tipton (excluding Pump House Pool)
- 4.2 Fishing is not permitted at any other location or waterbody that is not identified in the list above.

Fees and Charges

4.3 The fishing fees are as follows, which are subject to annual budget setting (these figures are correct for the financial year 24/25):

Item	Cost
Day/Part Day max 2 rods - all	£7.50
Sandwell waters	
Day/Part Day max 2 rods - all	£4.40
Sandwell waters - Concessionary Charge	
Charge	
Season Ticket - All Sandwell waters	£62.60
Season Ticket - All Sandwell waters -	£31.40
Concessionary Charge	

- 4.4 Fishing permits will be available to purchase from the following locations:
 - Sandwell Council website (www.sandwell.gov.uk)
 - Sandwell Valley Visitor Centre
 - West Smethwick Park Pavilion
 - Forge Mill Farm Visitor Centre

Future Pools and Waterbody Development

- 4.5 We will undertake the following to maintain good fishing practices and seek to encourage new participants to use to these sites by committing to the following:
 - a) Maintaining clear access to identified fishing locations
 - b) Identify and mark suitable fishing locations where practically possible
 - c) Work with community groups and other organisations to develop strategies and projects for improved facilities including Fish stock, infrastructure, ecology, wildlife and partnership arrangements
 - d) Work with community groups and other organisations in hosting events and activities that encourage Angling on our Waterbodies
 - e) Work with organisations and community groups to develop volunteer lead activities and events to improve the ecology, waterbody and green space aesthetics.
 - f) Erect signage around fishing pools highlighting the rules and regulations of the fishing policy (Appendix A)
 - g) Make this policy available for download via the Sandwell website
 - h) Identify any improvements or highlight works that will improve Angling as part of the wider programme of works for Green Spaces. As per the following website:
 - i. <a href="https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/parks-green-spaces/green-space

Enforcement

- 4.6 Enforcement and periodic permit checks will be undertaken via various Council Officers, including but not limited to the following:
 - a) Green Spaces Officers
 - b) Countryside Rangers
 - c) Environmental Protection Officers

- d) Green Service Operatives and Officers
- e) Private Security (when procured for spot checks)
- 4.7 Enforcement or requests for the sight of permits from members of the public, Friends groups or other community groups / clubs is not permitted.
- 4.8 Any suspected breach of rules identified in Appendix One should be reported via the mysandwell portal.
- 4.9 Any breaking of the law or local byelaws should be reported to the Police, ASB team or Environment Agency.

Ecology, Wildlife and Waterfowl

- 4.10 The rules highlighted within Appendix seek to enforce good practices in Angling, to ensure no detrimental impact to the fish or accompanying waterfowl.
- 4.11 No Angler is permitted to make alterations, remove or interfere with wildlife, waterfowl or the sites habitat including reed, shrubbery or tree growth.

5 Implications

Resources:	The policy will be dependent on staff able to conduct spot checks on fishing and fishing permits.
Legal and Governance:	The bylaws will be relied upon to enforce permits.
Risk:	The risk to wildlife is mitigated by the measures outlined within this policy and the Sandwell Angling Code of Conduct.
Equality:	There are no specific equality implications as a result of this report.
Health and Wellbeing:	Some people use fishing to maintain their health and wellbeing. This policy supports that objective.
Social Value:	There are no specific social value implications as a result of this report.
Climate Change:	There are no specific climate change implications as a result of this report.

Corporate	There are no specific corporate parenting implications
Parenting:	as a result of this report.

6 Appendices

Appendix One – Draft Sandwell Angling Code of Conduct.

7 Background Papers

None.

Draft Sandwell Angling Code of Conduct

- There are national regulations and governing rules relating to where, when and how an angler can carry out their pursuit, and these regulations carry heavy penalties if broken. https://www.gov.uk/guidance/national-rod-fishing-byelaws-for-england-freshwater-fishing-with-a-rod-and-line
- Prior to fishing any water whether private or public, an angler must be in possession of a National Rod Licence from the age of 12 years. This can be purchased via the following link: https://www.gov.uk/fishing-licences
- 3. Fishing is only permitted during daylight hours.
- 4. Anglers must not hold fish with a cloth or stand up and walk whilst holding a fish.
- 5. Anglers must not abandon line and other fishing equipment.
- 6. All equipment and litter should be removed when anglers leave. If a line has become entangled in trees or other, and cannot be safely removed, it should be reported immediately to 0121 569 3069 (9am till 4pm all week).
- 7. Injuries to wildlife or signs of disease in fish should be reported immediately to the relevant agency and via www.sandwell.gov.uk
- 8. A maximum of two rods can be used to fish at any one time, other rods may be set and not baited or in the water.
- 9. Fishing is only permitted in the designated areas. Anyone fishing in non-designated areas will be removed from the site.
- 10. The use of remote controlled boats or bait boats is not allowed.
- 11. No dinghies or other boats in conjunction with fishing activities shall be allowed onto the water.

- 12. The use of surface baits or "live" baits (e.g. small fish) is not permitted.
- 13. Rods shall be attended at all times, and no rods left unattended. Persons leaving rods unattended will be required to leave the water.
- 14. All anglers must remove litter and discarded line from the peg failure to co-operate will result in offenders being removed from the site.
- 15. Only barbless or micro barb hooks may be used. Failure to observe this rule will result in removal from the site.
- 16. Fires and barbeques are not allowed.
- 17. Anyone who appears to be under the influence of drink and or drugs shall, at the discretion of Sandwell Council will be removed from the site.
- 18. All anglers must be in possession of a current permit or day ticket and must show his/her permit when asked by the Council representatives.
- 19. Fish care is paramount. Unhooking mats, landing nets and keep nets must be of regulated Environment Agency recommendations.
- 20. Leads of any description is not allowed.
- 21. Tin cans that provide bait for fishing is not allowed.
- 22. All fish must, without exception, be returned to the water. The unauthorised removal of fish will be regarded as theft.
- 23. No poly ball inserts to be used in pop up baits, cork ball only.
- 24. No uncooked nut or seed baits will be permitted.
- 25. Anglers are requested not to obstruct footpaths or restrict access to other park users, poles must be broken down.
- 26. No bivvys, tents or shelters are to be used at any site unless prior written permission has been granted.

- 27. When fishing for pike 12lb minimum line and 20lb trace must be used.
- 28. Night fishing is not allowed on any Council water
- 29. Anglers over 14 years of age can fish unaccompanied from dawn to dusk.
- 30. Anglers under the age of 14 years must be accompanied by an authorised adult. The Council cannot accept responsibility for the safety and conduct of anglers under 18. Children remain the responsibility of their parent/guardians at all times.
- 31. The Council reserves the right to remove any person for inappropriate behaviour, for example, causing a nuisance or annoyance to other anglers or behaving in such a way which may endanger themselves or others.





Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

15 February 2024

Subject:	Housing Regulatory Framework
Director:	Interim Director of Housing
	Dean Epton
Contact Officer:	Interim Director of Housing
	Dean Epton

1 Recommendations

1.1 To consider and comment upon the changes to the Housing Regulatory Framework.

2 Reasons for Recommendations

2.1 Changes are being made to the regulatory framework that governs the provision of Social Housing.

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

0	People live well and age well
XXX	Meeting the regulatory requirements ensures a safe home
	for tenants to live well and age well, free from hazards.
10.10	Strong resilient communities
	Some of the new requirements places significant
	responsibilities on landlords to ensure that they play a key
	role on the quality and safety of the neighbourhoods and
	communities that they have homes.

















Quality homes in thriving neighbourhoods

The new standards set minimum requirements for the quality and affordability of the homes covered by the regulations.

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Following Grenfell and the tragic death of Awaab Ishak there has been a major shake-up in the regulations and law the governs the provision of rental property within England. This has led to the creation of two new Regulators and a raft of legislation changes that have and are being introduced in stages that both enhance the controls placed on Landlords and increases the powers held by the Regulator to make an intervention. It also widens the scope of the legislation to cover Local Authorities as well as Housing Associations.
- 4.2 The Building Safety Regulator has a remit to ensure the safety of all buildings that have more than one domestic property within the same building. There is a particular focus initially on taller buildings over 18m but have amended existing legislation and introduced new laws for all buildings with more than one dwelling even a maisonette. Some of these requirements came in on 1 October 2023 and the remainder take effect 1 April 2024. This presentation gives an overview of those new requirements for Sandwell.
- 4.3 The Regulator of Social Housing is in the process of introducing new standards for Landlords following the Social Housing (Regulation) Act 2023 and these take effect on 1 April 2024. This will be in the form of 4 Consumer Standards containing 20 specific requirements that will be published in February 2024 and an in-depth inspection regime that will commence in April 2024. This presentation gives an overview of those new requirements for Sandwell.

















5 **Implications**

Resources:	The Housing Medium Term Financial Strategy has been written to include the additional resources believed to be needed to meet the new requirements.
Legal and	As the legislation is introduced, we are taking legal
Governance:	advice on what changes we need to make to ensure
	we meet the requirements going forward.
Risk:	Not meeting the new requirements is a significant risk and so changes are being made to the systems and processes within Housing to ensure those risks are mitigated.
Equality:	All changes will be assessed for equality as they are introduced.
Health and Wellbeing:	There are specific requirements in the legislation that must be met with regards to the Health and Wellbeing of the communities that we serve as a Landlord.
Social Value:	All contracts placed and activities undertaken within Housing are assessed for Social Value and have specific clauses in them regarding the employment of local resources and apprenticeship opportunities.
Climate	There are specific climate change and fuel poverty
Change:	requirements in the legislation that must be met.
Corporate	All changes will be assessed to ensure we meet our
Parenting:	Corporate Parent responsibilities as they are
	introduced.

Appendices 6

Appendix One – Presentation

7 **Background Papers**

None



















Two Regulators

Dean Epton



Two Regulators - Why?

≅ Building Safety Regulator

Has the responsibility for safety in all buildings, with a particular focus at the moment on high risk residential properties.

- Building Safety Act
- Fire Safety Legislation
- Building Safety Case from Oct 23 (Apr 2024)
- New Regime for High Risk Buildings from Oct 23
- Tenant Engagement
- Transparent and accurate reporting a legal duty
 - Blind mans eye
 - Reasonable to expect

Regulator of Social Housing

It is the responsibility of the Governing Body of Local Authorities to assure themselves that they are compliant and providing accurate and up to date data to the regulator and tenants.

- Social Housing Act Law 20 July 2023
- Tenant Satisfaction Measures now in place
- Competency Levels to be set by the regulator
- Economic Standards Rent only applies to SMBC
- Consumer Standards Homes, Tenancy, Neighbourhood and Tenant Engagement

Under consultation – Apr 2024

"The legislative landscape for a landlord has changed"



Implications for Sandwell – What?

- Key dates that must be met
- Need to create a "Competent" Team within Housing
- Building Safety Cases must be developed and put in place asap
- Tenant engagement model put in place individual for each HRRP
- Tenant Satisfaction Measures
- A structure and systems that assures 'competence' and compliance
- Get the data and systems for one digital version of the truth not one system
- Put contracts/SLA in place with partners and manage them
- Dashboard and reporting to Cabinet, Tenants and Regulator
- Must maintain data accurately and audit regularly
- Culture change needed to drive transparency legal duty
- Accountability clarified and delegated authorities meetings structure and hierarchy

"If you can't evidence it, you cannot claim it"



Two Scenarios

Properties within the Housing stock do not meet regulatory standards so are noncompliant

Compliance data should be digital, up to date, accurate and available for anyone who needs to see it. Cabinet (Principal Accountable Person) should have assurance all properties are compliant and have regular and timely stats and are informed of all non compliance. Tenants in High Risk Buildings should have digital access to how compliant their home and the building it is in are. The Tenant Engagement model for those buildings should be telling residents there what the issue is, when it is being resolved and any mitigation actions that should be in place in the meantime.

A smoke detector fails to go off in a flat when there is a kitchen fire?

That's a Mandatory Occurrence if in High Risk Building. Need to be able to show, digitally, what detector was installed, when, to what standard, who installed it, has it been maintained, repaired, checked, when, by who, were they competent.



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General Observations

- Biggest risk is the readiness of building owners
- How have you "assured" yourself you understand the building risk
- How can you evidence the claims that you make
- Regime will be in place for October 2023
- You must know your buildings and the risks and document it
- Risk hierarchy Eliminate, Mitigate, Manage



DATA



sandwell.gov.uk

What do we hold data on?

- People
 - Tenants
 - Employees
 - Contractors
- Buildings
 - Assets
 - Floors
 - Rooms
 - Homes

- Equipment
 - Component
- Transactions
 - Repairs
 - Service/Check
 - Payments
 - Events
- Space
 - Boundaries



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Golden Thread

- Single source of the truth not single system
- For each data item source of truth must be identified and maintained
- Not prescribed but what you need to manage the building safely
- Building Safety Case part of Golden Thread
- Right people with the right data at the right time
- Justify the data you need and why you don't to manage the building safety



Building Safety Case – HRRP (ATM)

- Specifically for spread of fire, heat, smoke and structural integrity
- BSC Report includes tenant profile, engagement details
- BSC Report a snap shot of BSC
- Must include the complaints process for Safety matters
- Must include engagement model
- Must include Mandatory Occurrence Reporting System
 - Fire that's spread
 - Unauthorised building work
 - Unexpected failure of component
 - PAP must report to BSR
- Names PAP and Aps



Consumer Regulations Overview (Consultation)

RSH



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How the RSH will Regulate

- RSH Set outcome based Consumer Standards not prescriptive
- Responsibility of Councillors to make sure standards are met
- Landlords must show tenants, and RSH, how they meet the standards
- Must help tenants understand performance to hold them to account
- Proactive from April 2024 with inspections in a four year cycle
- Standards published February 2024 but not many changes tweaks
- Order driven by TSM results, ombudsman, referrals etc.
- Six week notice and six weeks process, specific to you not standard
- Unlimited fines (unlikely to be used) order to remediate
- Sector has had six years to prepare so no leeway given after April



Landlords accountabilities and four Standards

- Providing tenants with safe and good quality homes
- Good standard of housing services
- Treating tenants with respect, openness and honesty engaged
- Safety and Quality Standard 5 Requirements
- Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard 7 Requirements
- Neighbourhood and Community Standard 4 Requirements
- Tenancy Standard 4 Requirements



Safety and Quality Standard

- Requirement 1: Quality of Homes
 Accurate up to date information and evidenced understanding
- Requirement 2: Decent Homes
 Must meet the standard and be maintained at it
- Requirement 3: Health & Safety
 Ensure the safety of tenants in homes and common areas, remedials!
- Requirement 4: Repairs, Maintenance and Planned Improvements
 Effective, efficient and timely service agreed with tenants
- Requirement 5: Adaptions
 Assist tenants needing adaptions to access appropriate services



Transparency, Influence and Accountability Standard

- Requirement 1: Fairness and Respect
- Requirement 2: Diverse Needs
- Requirement 3: Engagement with Tenants
 Take tenants views on board when making decisions about services
- Requirement 4: Information about Landlord Services Clear and timely communications
- Requirement 5: Performance Information
 Collect and provide stats to allow tenants scrutiny, including spend
- Requirement 6: Complaints
 Addressed fairly, effectively and promptly
- Requirement 7: Self-referral
 Timely communication with RSH on non or potential non-compliance



Neighbourhood and Community Standard

- Requirement 1: Maintenance of Shared Spaces
 Collaborate with others on the upkeep and safety of shared spaces
- Requirement 2: Local Cooperation
 Cooperate with partners to promote social, environmental and economic wellbeing in the areas they provide social housing
- Requirement 3: Domestic Abuse
 Cooperate with agencies tackling domestic abuse and tenants access to services
- Requirement 4: Safer Neighbourhoods
 Work in partnership with LA, Police and other agencies to deter and tackle
 ASB in the neighbourhoods they provide social housing



Tenancy Standard

- Requirement 1: Allocation and Lettings
 Allocate and let their homes in a fair and transparent way, taking the needs of tenants and prospective tenants into account.
- Requirement 2: Tenure
 Terms of Occupation that suit the property, efficient use of the stock, the needs of the individual household and sustainability of the community.
- Requirement 3: Tenancy Sustainment and Evictions
 Support tenants to maintain tenancy and if they end it give advice and assistance to tenants.
- Requirement 4: Mutual Exchange
 Must support relevant tenants in eligible homes to mutually exchange





Report to Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

15 February 2024

Subject:	Tracking and Monitoring of Scrutiny Recommendations				
Director:	Assistant Chief Executive				
	James McLaughlin				
	James Mclaughlin@Sandwell.gov.uk				
Contact Officer:	Alex Goddard				
	Scrutiny Lead Officer				
	Alexander_Goddard@sandwell.gov.uk				

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board notes the responses on recommendations referred since the Board's last meeting.
- 1.2 That the Board notes the progress on implementation recommendations made.
- 1.3 That the Board determines what action it wishes to take where progress is unsatisfactory.
- 1.4 That the Board determines which actions/recommendations no longer require monitoring.

















2 Reasons for Recommendations

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

3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

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

4 Context and Key Issues

4.1 The attached Appendix details the responses to actions identified and/or recommendations made by the scrutiny function and progress on the implementation of those previously approved.

















Implications 5

Resources:	Any resources implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
	Any specific resources implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Legal and	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out
Governance:	in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on the Executive to respond to Scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them.
	NHS service commissioners and providers have a duty to respond in writing to a report or recommendation where health scrutiny requests this, within 28 days of the request. This applies to requests from individual health scrutiny committees or subcommittees, from local authorities and from joint health scrutiny committees or sub-committees.
Risk:	Any risk implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
	Any specific risk implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.
Equality:	Any equality implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
	Any specific equality implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.



















Health and Wellbeing:	Any health and wellbeing implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
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Social Value:	Any social value implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
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Climate Change:	Any climate change implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
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Corporate Parenting	Any corporate parenting implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
	Any specific corporate parenting implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1– Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Action Tracker

7. Background Papers

None.



















Safer I	Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities 22/23						
Date	Item	Recommendation/ Action	Responsible Person	Notes			
1023 00 FEB 0023	Tree Strategy and Implementati	Checkpoint reports throughout the first 18 months of the Tree Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023- 2028 are provided to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board	Matt Huggins	Briefing note to be circulated September 2023			
53	on Plan 2023- 2028	Feedback from the survey of trees, to include impact on light to habitable rooms is provided to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board	Matt Huggins	Briefing note to be circulated September 2023			
18 DEC 23	Sandwell Valley Master Plan and 10-	That the Director of Borough Economy considers the expansion of the existing sailing club building, located in Sandwell Valley, into a multi-use facility to accommodate all users.	Alice Davey Matt Huggins	Noted to feed into the Sandwell Valley consultation.			
	Year Business Plan	That the Director of Borough Economy considers the provision of additional seating areas throughout Sandwell Valley, especially in the proximity of play areas.	Alice Davey Matt Huggins	Noted for consideration as part of the service planning 2024/ 25 and Sandwell Valley master planning.			
17 JAN 24	Heritage Strategy Update	That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board endorse the proposals for the development of a Cultural Strategy.	Alice Davey Dawn Winter	Noted – the cultural strategy will move into the development stage now			
		That the Director of Borough Economy work in partnership with the Community and Voluntary Sector and other Council services including the Equality, Diversity and Inclusion team and Communities Team when developing the Cultural Strategy.	Alice Davey Dawn Winter	Noted this engagement will form a part of the development of the cultural strategy along with other partners and stakeholders			
		That the Director of Borough Economy ensure that the development of a Cultural Strategy is aligned with the Sandwell Valley Masterplan to further develop the Cultural portfolio of Sandwell.	Alice Davey Dawn Winter	Noted this alignment will be considered within the scope of the cultural strategy development			
	Implementati on of 3 Boroughwide Public Space Protection	That the Director of Borough Economy considers the feasibility of providing, fixed and fire-safe designated BBQ areas in Sandwell's green spaces and that the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board is consulted as part of the consideration.	Alice Davey Matt Huggins				

l age J	29 JAN 24	Orders relating to Alcohol Consumption, Dog Fouling and BBQs/ Fires Tenant Satisfaction Survey Outcomes	That the Director of Housing ensure that when reviewing and procuring an Asset Management System it links with other systems including procurement and operational systems to help build intelligence.	Dean Epton	
			That the Director of Housing provide an update on stock condition surveys and any issues experienced around them to the Safer	Dean Epton	
			Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.		



Report to Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board

15 February 2024

Subject:	Cabinet Forward Plan and Board Work Programme				
Director:	James McLaughlin				
	Assistant Chief Executive				
	James McLaughlin@sandwell.gov.uk				
Contact Officer:	Alex Goddard				
	Scrutiny Lead Officer				
	Alexander Goddard@sandwell.gov.uk				

1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the Board notes the Cabinet Forward Plan (Appendix 1), which sets out the matters programmed to be considered by the Cabinet;
- 1.2 that the Board notes its work programme (Appendix 2), which sets out matters to be considered by the Board in 2023/24;
- 1.3 that, the Board considers whether any changes or additions are required to its work programme and in doing so, has regard to the Prioritisation Tool (Appendix 3).

2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 A strong and effective work programme underpins the work and approach of Scrutiny.
- 2.2 It is good practice for work programmes to remain fluid, to allow for scrutiny of new and emerging issues in a timely manner.
- 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Corporate Plan?

















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

4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 Scrutiny is a member led and driven function, driven by members' commitment to improve services and thereby people's lives.
- 4.2 An annual work programming event, involving chief officers, executive members and key partners, was held in June 2023 and all boards approved their work programmes for 2023/ 24 at their first meeting of the municipal year.
- 4.3 Boards have responsibility for their own work programmes, and it is good practice to keep them under review, to allow for new and emerging issues to be scrutinised in a timely manner.
- 4.4 Scrutiny Procedure Rules allow any member of the Council to request that an item is added to a scrutiny board's work programme, subject to certain provisions.
- 4.5 Before including an item on its work programme the Board must have regard to the Prioritisation Tool attached at Appendix 3, to ensure that the scrutiny activity will add value and work programmes are manageable.

















5 **Implications**

Resources:	Any resources implications arising from scrutiny activity are considered as required by the appropriate director or cabinet member/cabinet.
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Legal and Governance:	The duty to undertake overview and scrutiny is set out in Part 1A Section 9 of the Local Government Act 2000.
	The Local Government and Public Involvement in Health Act 2007 places a duty on the Executive to respond to Scrutiny recommendations within two months of receiving them.
	NHS service commissioners and providers have a duty to respond in writing to a report or recommendation where health scrutiny requests this, within 28 days of the request. This applies to requests from individual health scrutiny committees or subcommittees, from local authorities and from joint health scrutiny committees or sub-committees.
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	Any specific health and wellbeing implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.

















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	Any specific corporate parenting implications for the Board's attention are detailed in the Appendix.

6 Appendices

Appendix 1 – Cabinet Forward Plan

Appendix 2 – Board Work Programme

Appendix 3 – Prioritisation Tool

7. Background Papers

None.



















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

Title/Subject		Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
11	Regional Speed Enforcement Contact Officer: Mervyn Bartlett	Cabinet - Environment & Highways (Cllr Millard)		13 March 2024		
	Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy					



















rage 60	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
12	Supported Accommodation Tender 2024 Approval to go out to tender for Supported Accommodation provision from 1 August 2024 Contact Officer: Karl Robinson Director: Dean Epton	Cabinet Councillor Rollins (Housing and Built Environment)	Public	13 March 2024	Post	Cabinet Report







Page 61		Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
13	Events Governance and Safety Advisory Group Terms of Reference	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		13 March 2024		
	Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy					



















1	Title/Subject	Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
14	Sandwell Valley Master Plan and 10 Year Business Plan	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		13 March 2024		
	Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins					
	Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy					



















Page 63		Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
15	Fishing Policy Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		13 March 2024		



















	Page 64		Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
2	24	Bid to Arts Council England – Libraries Improvement Fund Round 3 (depending on amount)	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		June 2024		
		Contact Officer: Dawn Winter Director: Alice					
		Davey – Director of Borough Economy					



















Page 65		Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
25	Sandwell Cultural Compact Contact Officer: Dawn Winter Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		June 2024		
26	Cultural Development Fund Bid Contact Officer: Dawn Winter Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		June 2024		

ONE COUNCIL ONE TEAM



rage 66		Decision Maker	Public or exempt report? If exempt - state reason for exemption	Decision Date	Pre or post decision Scrutiny to be carried out? (Board and date)	List of documents to be considered
27	Allotments Review and Strategy Contact Officer: Matthew Huggins Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet - Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		June 2024		
28	Funding for Heritage – Oak House Contact Officer: Dawn Winter Director: Alice Davey – Director of Borough Economy	Cabinet – Leisure and Tourism (Cllr Padda)		June 2024		





Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2023/24





Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities

Standing Items:-

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

Meeting Date	Item	Presented by
11 July 2023	Borough of Sanctuary	Louis Bebb/ Jennifer Collins
	Approval of 2023/24 Municipal Year Work Programme	Alex Goddard/ John Swann
31 August 2023	HMOs – Additional Licensing and Article 4 Direction	John Baker/ Alison Bishop/ Carl Mercer
12 September 2023	Neighbourhood Partnerships Team Update	Manny Sehmbi/ Marcia Sandel- Massey
	Future Provision of Leisure Services Update	Ben Percival
	Haden Hill Leisure Centre Rebuild	Ben Percival
26 September 2023	Asset Management Strategy	Sarah Ager
12 October 2023	Programme of Works 22/23 Annual Review	Matt Huggins
	Playing Pitch Strategy Actions and Implementation – Establishment of Working Group	Democratic Services/Rob Marlow



















	07 Na		T
	27 November		
	2023 - Cancelled		
	7 December		
7	2023 - Cancelled		
age	18 December	Sandwell Valley Masterplan	Matt Huggins
	2023	SLT Fees & Charges for January 2024 Implementation	Ben Percival
68	17 January 2024	Heritage Strategy Journey Update	Dawn Winter
		Boroughwide Public Spaces Protection Order	Tessa Mitchell
	29 January 2024	Tenant Satisfaction Survey Outcomes	Nigel Collumbell
	15 February	Safer Green Spaces Strategy	Matt Huggins
	2024	Housing Regulation Changes	Phil Deary
	14 March 2024	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy and Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing	Nigel Collumbell
		Fees & Charges (inc concessions) for LATC / Sandwell Aquatic Centre Update	Ben Percival
		Safer Sandwell Partnership	Chief Supt. Maria Fox/Tessa Mitchell
		Green Spaces Strategy 2024/25 and Programme of Works 2024/25	Matt Huggins

















To be Scheduled

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

- Building Safety Review
- Responsive Repairs & Customer Satisfaction Review

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

Working Group:

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

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

Housing Repairs Update - Sarah Ager

Leisure Service Provision Update – 2026 – Ben Percival

Haden Hill Project Update - TBC - Ben Percival

Rewilding Strategy – to be added to the work programme for the 2024/2025 municipal year. Allotments Review and Strategy – to be added to the work programme for the 2024/2025 municipal year.

Utilisation of confectionary stands in Sandwell Parks including associated revenues

Heritage Strategy Update - Dawn Winter

Home Improvement Programme - Dean Epton/ Phil Deery

















Social Housing Decarbonisation Fund (SHDF) – Dean Epton/ Phil Deery

Transformational Plan for Housing - Tom Hogan/ Nigel Collumbell
The differences between performance and satisfaction in differences.
The Housing Hub - Tom III Response plan to the Tenant Satisfaction Survey - Tom Hogan/ Nigel Collumbell The differences between performance and satisfaction in different towns - Tom Hogan/ Nigel Collumbell









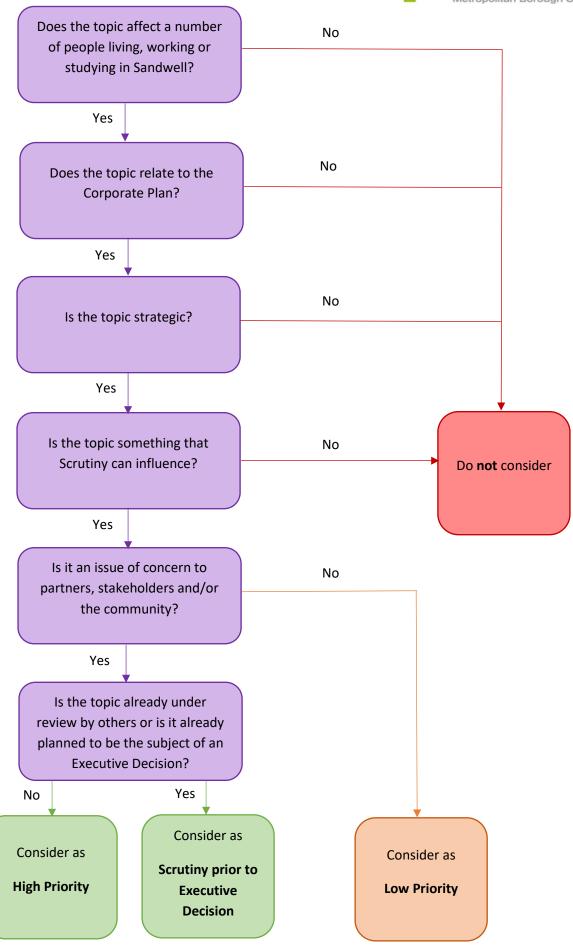












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