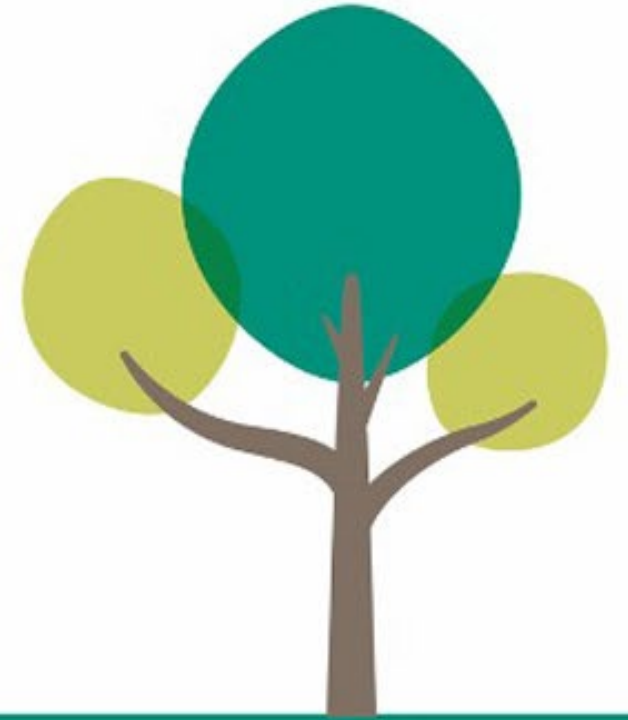




Towns Fund Programme Update



Jul – Sep 2022





Project Title	Sandwell Civil and Mechanical Engineering Centre (Sandwell MEC)
Project Description	<p>The Centre is a new technical campus for Sandwell College and will deliver opportunities in engineering, advanced manufacturing, civil engineering, construction and hybrid electric vehicles for adults and young people. The new facility will provide programmes for the unemployed as well as reskilling the workforce through Apprenticeships Standards and other technical & professional qualifications.</p> <p>Progress: Planning application approved in June 2022</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Acquisition of land completed in September 2022• Building design completed to RIBA stage 3.• Two-stage Contract Approach Agreed - one Contractor for Ground Works and another for Construction• Construction build programmed to commence in November - The build will be an MMC (Modern Method of Construction) approach and will consist of groundworks followed by a modular superstructure build• The MMC delivery, required to achieve the budget, requires greater coordination and phasing to be progressed between the groundwork contractor and superstructure modular contractor.• Inflation and continuous material and market cost increases. Less so, now tenders and awards have been completed.
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	September 2023





Project Title	Urban Greening
Project Description	<p>The West Bromwich Urban Greening project has planned to deliver a number of initiatives over a 5-year programme, to enhance the existing greenspace and improve the appearance of West Bromwich Town Centre. This will include the introduction of new trees, parklets and play space, complementing planned infrastructure works to establish better links from the Town Centre to Sandwell Valley.</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Phase 1 works commenced August 2022 and are due to complete in December 2022. • Restoration works commenced on Farley Fountain and Dartmouth Clock Tower including scaffolding, removal of heritage features for repair, shot blasting, colour scheme approvals. • Paving repairs along High Street commenced and new paving slabs delivered • Old Market stall removed • Lighting review took place in September 2022 and a sub contractor has been appointed to deliver this element • Parklets design approved and are currently being built by local supplier • Landscape plan in development including procurement of landscaping team and materials • Multistory appointed to deliver the Cultural Programme. • Trees will be in next fortnight, fountain by end of October and Clock towards end of November which completed Phase 1 for Xmas lights switch on • Issues with Serco being dealt with internally re: litter, street clean due for the Town Centre soon
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	March 2026

Project Title	Ron Davis Centre Expansion
Project Description	<p>The Towns Fund funding will expand the Sandwell Adult and Family Learning Service (SAFL) Ron Davis Centre by providing two additional specialised digital classrooms.</p> <p>Progress</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Project design finalised to inform project scope • Procurement exercise complete and construction contractor appointed in September 2022 • On-site works will commence on 3 October 2022 and contractors will work to 23 week delivery plan • Estimated completion is w/c 6th March 2022
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	May 2023





Project Title	Retail Diversification Programme
Project Description	<p>The Retail Diversification Programme project aims to deliver comprehensive regeneration and transformation of the West Bromwich retail submarket through major site assembly and demolition works. It involves the potential acquisition and demolition of underperforming town centre sites and the relocation and refurbishment of a new indoor market.</p> <p>Schemes originally Planned – Kings Square, Kings Square Cinema and Shelter Units, 151-165 High St, Queens Square.</p> <p>Progress:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acquisition of King Square site completed • Feasibility study completed for new Indoor Market • Procurement of contractor commenced August 2022 to deliver the new Indoor Market element on High Street. • Comprehensive strategy for acquisition of remaining interests is in development with Savills • Acquisition of Queen Square is underway, however landowner is yet to engage in meaningful negotiation • Negotiation by agreement, mainly due to inflated value expectations. Also complicated by identified interests obtaining planning permission for redevelopment and/ or having been acquired recently (and therefore increasing their value against the original valuations undertaken at FBC stage).
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	September 2025
Project Title	West Bromwich Connected
Project Description	<p>The key aim for the West Bromwich Connected project is to encourage a greater proportion of trips to be undertaken by non-car modes and achieve an uplift in the number of people using active travel modes within West Bromwich but also the wider borough and region to assist in reducing congestion, poor air quality, and other health inequalities.</p> <p>The project is organised into phases and schemes have been identified from the Sandwell Cycling and Walking Infrastructure Plan (SCWIP): -</p> <p>Works is currently underway to complete the pedestrian link from Sandwell College to the junction of Bull St/High St to link into the Town Centre this current financial year.</p> <p>The following phases are to be delivered in future years:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Linking Parkway to Europa Avenue & West Bromwich Town Centre • Cycle route linking Birmingham Canal to West Bromwich Town Centre via Spon Lane. • Create a cycle route from Hill Top to Walsall Canal & Eagle Lane via Havills Hawthorn & Bagnall Street.
Project Start Date	April 2021
Project End Date	March 2026





Project Title	Town Hall Quarter
Project Description	<p>The project will restore and renovate the Grade II listed West Bromwich Town Hall and Central Library buildings, internally and externally and provide a new Equalities Act compliant entrance from West Bromwich High Street. The investment will transform the Town Hall and Central Library (built in 1907) into a modern and vibrant facility to benefit local people and community groups and third sector organisations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Bell Tower Works almost complete (expected completion date of November 2022). • Procurement exercise completed to appoint a contractor for restoration works via the CWM Tender Framework. Project team are expecting to appoint contractor early November 2022. • Ongoing consultation with Town Hall tenants to ensure they're aware of project plans and timescales • Planning to relocate some tenants have commenced to ensure they have alternative officers prior to construction works.
Project Start Date	Sept 2021
Project End Date	July 2024
Project Title	Digital Den
Project Description	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Works commenced towards the end of February 2022 following receipt of the Towns Fund grant and completed in March 2022. • The Towns Fund investment has enabled the center to provide an improved training room with 2 new computers, 12 new laptops, 6 tables, 12 desk chairs, 3 tub chairs and 3 new interactive screens • Works included an upgrade to hospitality facilities by establishing a newly refurbished kitchenette • A well attended launch event was held on 16 August 2022. • Digital Skills/ educational classes have commenced (early September 2022).
Project Start Date	Feb 2022
Project End Date	March 2022





Project Title	Midland Met Learning Campus
Project Description	<p>The Midland Met Learning Campus project will deliver a major new skills resource providing training in healthcare and healthcare related positions from entry level to level 7 skills and will be situated on site next to the Midland Metropolitan University Hospital (MMUH) being developed in Smethwick.</p> <p>The new building will bring together multiple facilities, providing a single centre for the community promoting access to training, development, and employment opportunities within the NHS. The largest growth in education provision will be in three areas: Additional Clinical Services, Allied Health Professionals and Nursing and Midwifery.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• RIBA 2 design completed• Design issues leading to a change of architect, impacting programme and practical completion date by one quarter• Architect replaced in September• RIBA 3 design about to commence• Planning application to be submitted during January – March 2023
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	September 2024





Project Title	Grove Lane Regeneration
Project Description	<p>The Grove Lane and Regeneration Project will regenerate the Grove Lane development site at the centre of Smethwick, a largescale mixed-use and housing development on the industrial site directly adjacent to the hospital.</p> <p>Investment will assist the acquisition and remediation of a selected site within the Grove Lane area to accelerate regeneration for housing delivery, the first phase of a comprehensive major regeneration project to deliver new homes and associated infrastructure.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Significant delays regarding delivery and spend due to the delay in acquiring the site required within this financial year • A different route to acquire is being sought via a CPO resulting in slippage of 12+ months
Project Start Date	September 2022
Project End Date	Towns Fund: March 2023 / Housing Delivery: January 2026

Project Title	Smethwick Connected
Project Description	<p>The Smethwick Connected project will create cycle and pedestrian links from two railway stations to the town centre and local hospital and aims to achieve uplift in the number of people using active travel modes within Smethwick, the wider borough and region to assist in reducing congestion, poor air quality and other health inequalities.</p> <p>The location of interventions includes Smethwick High Street, A457Transport Corridor including Oldbury Road, Tollhouse Way, Soho Way, Grove Lane and B41236 Cranford Street situated within the St Pauls, Smethwick and Soho and Victoria Wards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Delivery of Phase 3 complete on time and on budget: • Phase 2 has entered primary design stage: • Phases 4 and 5 entered development planning stage
Project Start Date	April 2021
Project End Date	March 2025





Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration

Project Title	Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration
Project Description	<p>The Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration project will demolish existing structures located at Smethwick Enterprise Centre, Rolfe Street and remediate the land to provide a stand-alone development ready site.</p> <p>The development ready site will then provide much needed housing and potential space for small enterprises, to support the wider regeneration of the town and link to the opportunities around the Midland Met University Hospital and the Towns Fund Midland Met Learning Campus project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Desk top survey completed and highlighted no significant issues.• Engagement with current occupiers commenced to discuss relocation opportunities.• Preliminary Ecology report underway• Minor delays experienced due to timing of Ecology surveys but still within allocated timescales.
Project Start Date	May 2022
Project End Date	Towns Fund: March 2023 / Housing Delivery: June 2026





Project Title	Britannia Park Greenspace and Community Hub
Project Description	<p>The project will develop a new low-carbon community building to provide changing rooms, create new allotment plots, widen the main entrance and driveway to make access safer for pedestrians and drivers, provide enlarged car park, construct new footpaths to provide a perimeter route for park users, reconstruct the skate park, replace all play and fitness equipment to meet modern day play and fitness needs and plant new trees, in part as replacement (2:1) for trees that need removing.</p> <p>Progress</p> <p>The project has developed scheme of works with internal Urban Design team and Highways. Highways have started trial holes for civils works, which are due to start in Jan 23. Tender specs going out to purchase play equipment and Skatepark via a design, supply and build contract. Tree surveys have been undertaken with any works/replanting to be undertaken following public consultations.</p>
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	March 2024
Project Title	Canal Network Connectivity
Project Description	<p>The strategic aim of the project is to improve active travel connectivity within and across Rowley Regis. The project will focus on two areas of canal within Rowley Regis – Old Main Line Canal & Dudley No.2 Canal. Although both areas appear to be separate, they are in fact connected by the Netherton Tunnel and part of the “Birmingham Canal Navigations” (BCN) which provides connections to the UK’s inland waterway network.</p> <p>Contractor on sight from October, earlier than expected which will assist towards mitigating increase in costs. The project aims to bring spend forward from next financial year and complete by May 2023.</p>
Project Start Date	October 2022
Project End Date	May 2023





Project Title	Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm
Project Description	<p>The Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm project will create a central bus interchange around Blackheath Market Place, improve arrangements for pedestrians and cyclists, create new public realm and focal point to town centre, rationalise delivery arrangements and exclude through traffic.</p> <p>Progress:</p> <p>Detailed design works commended in June 2022 with all the topographical surveys and investigations completed in September. Face to face public consultation is planned over the next quarter with procurement exercise to commence in December.</p>
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	March 2025
Project Title	Rowley Regis Connected
Project Description	<p>The Rowley Regis Connected project will generate a multi phased set of multi-modal infrastructure improvements to link transport (rail, bus) and employment hubs in Blackheath, Cradley Heath and Oldbury.</p> <p>The project will deliver new pedestrian and cycle routes including segregated cycle routes, resurface and widen footpaths, upgrade crossing facilities, introduce traffic calming, upgrade lighting, improve signage and road markings.</p> <p>Phase 1 (Blackheath Town Centre & Railway Station) works due to start in February 2023. Works to include: Sign and use road markings/surface logo's along Park St to identify it as a Quietway leading into the Town Centre Remove pedestrian refuges and replace with a Zebra and Tiger Crossing over Archer Way to improve severance on either side of Park Street Resurface & widen (4m) footways on Oldbury Road between Cardale St and the town centre to create a segregated pedestrian and cycle route. Upgrade the pedestrian crossings over Archer Way and Henderson Way to create a cycle link into the town centre and new cycle parking.</p>
Project Start Date	April 2021
Project End Date	March 2025





Project Title	Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub
Project Description	<p>The Rowley Regis Satellite Education Hub will provide a new, dedicated education and training centre to enable the engagement of young people and adults in Cradley Heath, Rowley Regis and will work in conjunction with local community groups to provide access to social, medical and other education advice and services – providing a ‘resource centre’ with Sandwell College as the anchor institution.</p> <p>Building planning application scheduled for October 2022. Building design completed to RIBA stage 2 and approved. Stage 3 design now in progress. Construction contractor procurement will be via a 2 stage process utilising a construction framework, namely Pagabo, to ensure contractor engagement. Stage 1 Invitation To Tender issued 12th September 22. Returns due October 22. Contractor appointment for stage 1 scheduled for December 22 under a Pre Contract Sum Agreement. With a view to full construction contractor, contract appointment being by April 2023.</p>
Project Start Date	June 2022
Project End Date	May 2024





22/23 Apr-Sep Spend

Project	21/22 Actual(£)	22/23 Approved Profile	April –Sept Actual	Oct –Mar Forecast	22/23 Revised Forecast
TOTAL WEST BROMWICH	318,327	15,342,712.00	5,173,272	10,258,713.51	15,431,985.34
TOTAL SMETHWICK	0	7,417,450.00	861,920.12	3,711,528.29	4,573,448.41
TOTAL ROWLEY REGIS	0	4,670,440.00	345,184.26	3,465,596.74	3,810,781.00

