

Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

The Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board is part of the scrutiny function in Sandwell. It has overall responsibility for the scrutiny of a range of matters including crime, anti-social behavior, housing, leisure, parks and community services. It is also the Council's designated crime and disorder committee as required by the Police and Justice Act 2006. The scrutiny board is an advisory body, and therefore does not engage in decision making.

RESTRICTIONS ON SITTING:

All Councillors, except members of the Cabinet, can sit on scrutiny boards.

NUMBER OF MEMBERS REQUIRED:

11 elected members and a co-opted member representing the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group. The quorum of the Board is three voting Members.

FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS:

Six Board meetings per year on average. Working groups and inquiry sessions may also be established by the Board.

USUAL TIME OF DAY / LENGTH:

Evening meetings – 5.45-7.45pm.

FURTHER DETAILS:

Can initiate working groups, inquiry sessions and site visits to carry out in-depth scrutiny of an issue. Helpful to have an interest or experience in matters considered by the board.

[Board page on modern.gov](#)



SCRUTINY AND THE CONSTITUTION:

[Article 6 - Scrutiny Boards](#) in the Sandwell Constitution briefly details the function of scrutiny at Sandwell

[Scrutiny Terms of Reference](#) sets out in detail the terms of reference for the Scrutiny Boards at Sandwell Council

[Scrutiny Procedure Rules](#) set out the function and processes around scrutiny and how the meetings are managed and the rules under which they operate.

MEETING ETIQUETTE AND WEBCASTING:

Meetings of this Board are webcast to allow members of the public to easily observe proceedings. You may find the [guide to Webcasting of Meetings](#) useful.

There is also a [Meeting Etiquette Quick Guide](#) that sets out some helpful pointers.

ADDITIONAL GUIDANCE:

[Scrutiny Protocol](#)

[Chief Officers and Scrutiny Protocol](#)

[Scrutiny Call-In Notice and Guidance](#)

[Scrutiny Councillor Call for Action Forms and Guidance](#)

TRAINING & DEVELOPMENT:

In addition to training and development included within the Member Development Strategy, there are also a number of training and development material that can be viewed below:

A wide [range of publications and resources](#) have been produced or co-produced by the Local Government Association.

[Suggested Questions](#) have been produced by the Local Government and Social Care Ombudsman to support councillors scrutinise their local services.



The LGA have an E-Learning portal that councillors may wish to access: [Councillor LGA E-Learning](#)

The LGA have a number of training sessions available to enhance leadership skills across committees and boards: [LGA Leadership Essentials](#)

OTHER RESOURCES:

Addition information is available from the following organisations:

[Local Government Association – A Councillors workbook on Scrutiny](#)

[Centre for Public Scrutiny – The good Scrutiny Guide](#)

[Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government – Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny in Local and Combined Authorities](#)

[Centre for Public Scrutiny – Taking on the Housing Challenge – A Scrutiny Councillors Guide](#)

[Local Government Association – A Councillors Guide to leading the homelessness sector](#)

