

Report to Council

25 July 2023

Subject:	Written Questions
Director:	Surjit Tour – Director of Law and Governance and Monitoring Officer

The following written questions have been received: -

7(a) From Councillor Kaur to the Cabinet Member for Public Health and Communities

I am very concerned that over 5,000 bank branches have closed nationally since 2015 and others have announced that they will close for good in 2023, for example a branch has recently closed in Blackheath and it is believed that many other Towns will be affected. This will have an impact on many people in Sandwell – those with vulnerabilities, disabilities, the elderly and many other general users. Some of our residents cannot afford broadband and especially in the in the cost of living crisis meaning they are digitally excluded from online banking, others are afraid to use the internet for their finances. I would therefore like to ask the Cabinet member to outline what the Council offers in libraries to support those residents who may need help or access to digital equipment.

7(b) From Councillor Trumpeter to the Cabinet Member for Housing and Build Environment

In June 2022 a local press report announced that 1,245 houses in Sandwell were discovered not to have electrical safety certificates. Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Built Environment please update us on the current position regarding the status of these checks.



7(c) From Councillor Dunn to the Cabinet Member Housing and Built Environment

Can the Cabinet Member for Housing and Built Environment please provide the figure of the number of Sandwell MBC residential properties that are currently suffering from serious damp and mould in Sandwell?

7(d) From Councillor Gill to Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways

Will the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways use his office to facilitate a road safety review on Powis Avenue, to help deal with speeding cars and bikes particularly around the junction with Cupfields Avenue and take any necessary steps to tackle this issue?

7(e) From Councillor Chapman to the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and WMCA

Could the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and WMCA please provide me with an update on the Friar Park Urban Village development.

7(f) From Councillor Wilkes to Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways

Can I ask the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways if this council will consider using CCTV cameras around schools in Sandwell to tackle the ongoing issue of dangerous parking?

7(g) From Councillor Fisher to Cabinet member for Regeneration and WMCA

Can the cabinet member for Regeneration and WMCA provide us with an update on the current situation regarding the right of way maps in West Bromwich.

