


Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities 23/ 24				
Date	Item	Recommendation/ Action	Responsible Person	Notes
31 AUG 23	Additional Licensing and Article 4 – Options Appraisal	That the Directors of Housing; and Regeneration and Growth, aim for at least 1,000 responses per town from the planned Additional Licensing consultation in relation to Houses of Multiple Occupation.	Gillian Douglas/ Tony McGovern	Recommendations to be considered at Cabinet on 13 SEPT 23.
		That the Directors of Housing; and Regeneration and Growth work collaboratively with external partners including West Midlands Police, West Midlands Fire Service and Community Support Officers to identify un-regulated Houses of Multiple Occupation.	Gillian Douglas/ Tony McGovern	Recommendations to be considered at Cabinet on 13 SEPT 23.
11 JUL 2023	Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy	That the Director of Housing considers the feasibility of embedding ESOL tuition for asylum seekers and refugees into the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy.	Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb	
		That the Director of Housing considers the inclusion of the educational needs of asylum seekers and refugees under eighteen years old within the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy including SEND, transport and language needs.	Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb	
		That the Director of Housing explores the cascading of consultations via town based community teams to increase response rates and to all Members.	Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb	
		That the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy is publicised as part of the Windrush and 50 years of Sandwell celebrations.	Matthew More	
		That the Director of Housing explores the inclusion of female health care, including access to sexual health and period products within the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy.	Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb	
		That training is provided to Members to increase awareness and better inform decision making in relation to the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy.	Member Services	
		That the Director of Housing explores the adoption of a holistic approach when progressing the Borough of Sanctuary Sandwell Strategy.	Gillian Douglas/ Louis Bebb	
23 MAR 23	Implementation of the Sandwell Community Safety Strategy 2022- 26	That a breakdown of data relating to recorded sexual assault figures by each of Sandwell six towns is provided to the Board.	Tessa Mitchell	
	Homelessness and Rough Sleeper Strategy	That the Cabinet Member for Housing consider basing homelessness staff at Community Hubs and provide a presence at Sandwell libraries at suitable points throughout the week	ClIr Rollins/ Gillian Douglas	

		That an update on Homelessness be brought to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in 6 months' time.	Gillian Douglas	
		How long is the average response time after making contact with the Homelessness team and having been triaged?	Nigel Collumbell	
		What percentage of Homelessness service users are accommodated in Council housing?	Nigel Collumbell	
	Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group – Home Checks Review	That the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board be requested to consider looking at performance management around Home Checks.	Cllr Moore/ Cllr Fenton/ Democratic Services	
	Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing	That the Director of Housing explore the use of assistive smart technology to support disabled tenants.	Gillian Douglas/ Manny Sehmbi	
		That the Director of Housing investigate the feasibility of transferring applications to other individuals in the property with the same accessibility needs	Gillian Douglas/ Manny Sehmbi	
		That a working group be held in early June to further consider the Private Sector Housing Assistance Policy on Adaptations for Disabled Tenants in Council Housing prior to its consideration by Cabinet.	Democratic Services	Workshop established meeting on 01 JUN 23
23 FEB 23	Tree Strategy and Implementation Plan 2023- 2028	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	
		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	
26 JAN 23	Launch- Plan of the Sandwell Aquatic Centre	Working group to be established to meet via MS Teams, to support and guide both Operational and Business Planning areas.	Ben Percival/ Democratic Services	Established MAR 23
		What action is being taken to re- open Langley Swimming facilities to the public? (Currently only open for swimming lessons).	Ben Percival	Due to reduced demand and the ability to re- locate users to other pools in the Borough the centre closed permanently on 14 JUL 23

	Playing Pitch Strategy	Short- life Working group to be established to meet via MS Teams, to support the completion, adoption and implementation of the Playing Pitch Strategy.	Ben Percival/ Democratic Services	Established MAR 23
	Update of Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to Tackle the Cost of Living Crisis	The Director of Public Health provide a dedicated contact officer to answer queries, share information and support councillors in relation to foodbank coordination as part of the Cost of Living Crisis.	Lisa McNally/ Liann Brookes-Smith	
		That the Director of Public Health explores providing financial support to foodbanks. List of foodbanks to be sent to Directorate of Public Health.	Lisa McNally/ Liann Brookes Smith	List sent 27 JAN 23
		That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board refer poverty proofing and financial support provision for schools to the Children's Services and education Scrutiny Board.	Democratic Services (Connor Robinson)	
		That the Director of Borough Economy arrange for letter's to be sent to library staff operating warm banks in recognition for their hard work.	Alice Davey	Confirmed as sent 01 FEB 23 
		Data on schools accessing financial support for school trips and poverty proofing exercises is cascaded to the board.	Liann Brookes-Smith	
		That the distribution of the Sandwell Herald to 'all households in Sandwell' is looked into as part of the corporate contract.	Communications (Matt More)	
		That a list of warm space usage by town is cascaded to the board, providing a statistical breakdown.	Liann Brookes Smith	
10 JAN 23		Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan	That the Directors of Housing and Regeneration and Growth investigate the feasibility of turning Council owned non- residential properties into residential units.	Gillian Douglas/ Tony McGovern
	What proactive action, prior to mould being discovered, does the Directorate of Housing take to mould- proof Council owned housing stock?		Gillian Douglas	
24 NOV 22	Draft Housing Strategy 2023- 2028	That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board supports the implementation of Service Level agreements (SLAs) between the Council and temporary accommodation providers.	Gillian Douglas	Send to Cllr Padda
		That the Director of Housing explores the feasibility of a standardised response time for complaints.	Gillian Douglas	Send to Cllr Padda

		That the Directors of Housing, Borough Economy, and Regeneration and Growth work in collaboration to shape policy around neighbourhood development.	Gillian Douglas/ Alice Davey/ Tony McGovern	Send to Cllr Padda
		The Director of Housing considers Minute No. 47/22 (24 November 2022) as part of any formation of housing strategy and policy.	Gillian Douglas	Send to Cllr Padda
	Asset Management and Investment Programme for Housing 2023- 2024	That the Director of Law and Governance arranges training related to procurement exercises and local authority contracts to be offered to all councillors.	Surjit Tour	Update Cllr Allcock
		The Director of Housing reviews the robustness of the repairs triage process by the service with consideration for household and resident characteristics.	Gillian Douglas	
	Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group – Housing Hub Review	That the Director of Housing investigates means to reduce the cost of telephone calls to the Housing Hub, including the viability of a call-back service.	Gillian Douglas/ Nigel Collumbell	
		That the customer satisfaction levels of tenants receiving a service from the Housing Hub be monitored by the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.	Gillian Douglas/ Nigel Collumbell	
		What is the difference in costs between telephone service via Housing Hub and face- to- face service via Neighbourhood Office? Breakdown of costs to be provided.	Nigel Collumbell	Estimated average cost of transactions last year: Locals: £109 per transaction Telephone: £15 per transaction My Sandwell: £0.63 per transaction
01 NOV 22	Working with the Voluntary and Community Sector to Tackle the Cost of Living Crisis.	That Directors ensure that the marketing of support services is strengthened; including making use of multi-media, billboards, communications to parents via schools and a roadshow event.	Lisa McNally/ Leadership team	
		That Directors produce a map of support services via location and geographical coverage and share this through a range of media including print and online.	Lisa McNally/ Leadership team	
		That the Cabinet Member for Children and Education be asked to conduct a review of demand and funding pressures on Youth Services across the borough.	Cllr Hackett/ Michael Jarratt	
		That the Directors of Borough Economy and Regeneration and Growth investigate the options for working with the Six Towns Credit Union to relocate into an empty property in West Bromwich, more central to the town centre and transport links.	Alice Davey/ Tony McGovern	

		That Directors investigate ways to better coordinate the existing foodbank network in Sandwell to ensure best use of available food resources.	Lisa McNally/ Leadership team	
		That the Chair of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board hold discussions with representatives from the Directorate of Public Health to discuss period poverty and access to sanitary products.	Lisa McNally/ Liann Brookes Smith	
30 SEPT 22	Update on Review of Voluntary and Community Sector Grants	The Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board supports the development and introduction of an open and transparent Council funding process.	Gillian Douglas	
		The Director of Housing considers Minute No. 29/22 (30 September 2022) as part of any redesign of grant making processes.	Gillian Douglas	
		Working Group comprised of the members of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board be established to support and review the Council's approach to the cost of living crisis.		