

# Report to safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board

**10 September 2024**

<b>Subject:</b>	Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2024/ 25
<b>Director:</b>	Mike Jones Monitoring Officer and Assistant Director of Law and Governance
<b>Contact Officer:</b>	Alex Goddard Scrutiny Lead Officer John Swann Democratic Services Officer

## 1 Recommendations

- 1.1 That the DRAFT Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2024/ 25 (Appendix 1) be approved.
- 1.2 That the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board establish a working group(s) and the membership thereof.
- 1.43 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 2).

## 2 Reasons for Recommendations

- 2.1 The Board is asked to approve its work programme for 2025 /25 taking into account where scrutiny can add value, strengthen decision making to enhance services that the Council delivers and aligns to the Vision 2030 and objectives of the Corporate Plan.



### 3 How does this deliver objectives of the Council Plan?

One Council One Team	The scrutiny function supports all of the objectives of the Corporate Plan by seeking to improve services for the people of Sandwell. It does this by influencing the policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services.
Growing Up in Sandwell	
Living in Sandwell	
Healthy in Sandwell	
Thriving Economy in Sandwell	Effective governance arrangements support the delivery of all corporate objectives

### 4 Context and Key Issues

- 4.1 The relevant Directors were invited to attend a training and work programming session on 9 July 2024 for overview and scrutiny members. This included an overview of the services, key issues and priorities relevant to the Board’s terms of reference.
- 4.2 A list of items identified during the year for scrutiny, pre-decision items and any suggestions received from the public were considered during the work programming events by the individual Scrutiny Boards.

### 5 Alternative Options

- 5.1 If the Scrutiny Board does not determine a work programme, the opportunity to review policies and services will not be realised meaning that improvements, savings and income generation possibilities may be missed.

### 6 Implications

<b>Resources:</b>	The Scrutiny function is directly supported by the Council’s Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officers within the Council’s Law and Governance directorate. Additional technical expertise and evidence on specific matters will be
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	<p>provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.</p> <p>The strategic resource implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.</p>
<b>Legal and Governance:</b>	<p>Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees.</p> <p>Further powers relating to overview and scrutiny are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Localism Act 2011, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Acts 2012 and 2022.</p> <p>Any legal and governance implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.</p>
<b>Risk:</b>	<p>Any implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.</p>
<b>Equality:</b>	
<b>Health and Wellbeing:</b>	
<b>Social Value:</b>	
<b>Climate Change:</b>	
<b>Corporate Parenting:</b>	

## 7. Appendices

Appendix 1 – DRAFT Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2024/ 25

Appendix 2 – Scrutiny Prioritisation tool

Appendix 3 – Scrutiny suggestions from the Public

## 8. Background Papers

None.

