

# Report to Council

**25 February 2025**

<b>Subject:</b>	Written Questions
<b>Director:</b>	Mike Jones – Assistant Director Legal and Assurance

The following written questions have been received: -

**5(a) From Councillor Millard to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families:**

I believe that young people are our future and that youth workers provide invaluable support to young people, especially in those more deprived areas.

The neighbouring Dudley Borough Council has proposed a decision to cut the last remnants of the youth service in their borough leaving the young people of Dudley with nothing.

Can the Cabinet Member give reassurance that the young people of Sandwell are a priority and as a Council we will continue to employ Youth Workers and deliver open access youth work across the borough?

**5(b) From Councillor Amardeep Singh to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways:**

During the months of November and December last year, there were 124 reports of fly-tipping in Hateley Heath Ward.

My colleagues and I have seen evidence to suggest some of the most egregious incidents were caused by commercial waste disposal outfits. This is a crime being caused by organised opportunists.



Which steps is the council taking to catch and prosecute perpetrators as well as prevent further incidents?

**5(c) From Councillor Kaur to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways:**

There seems to have been a lot of high-profile road incidents lately involving dangerous driving and accidents. Can I ask the cabinet member what the council is doing to encourage road safety in the borough.

**5(d) From Councillor Pall to the Cabinet Member for Children and Families:**

Given the recent national attention on the grooming and exploitation of children and young people, can the council clarify:

Whether Sandwell has identified any specific concerns or cases related to grooming gangs operating within the borough and if so, what are the numbers?

What measures and resources are in place to protect vulnerable children and young people from such exploitation including any prevention and early intervention strategies?

**5(e) From Councillor Jeffcoat to the Leader of the Council:**

As the new municipal year approaches, would the Leader consider new arrangements for Town Chair and Vice-Chair roles, so that they may be elected by each town's Councillors?

At a time when levels of democratic engagement are troublingly low, both locally and nationally, it is good for our residents to know that local leadership is subject to democratic procedures too. These important roles should be determined by vote from the elected members of each town at their first meeting of the municipal year.

