

Sandwell Towns Fund Programme

Project RAG Ratings

1. West Bromwich Town Deal Projects

RAG	Commentary
	Digital Den – Financial drawdown is 100% complete. The project continues to report on outcomes and co-funding from Greets Green Community Enterprise.
	Central St Michaels Sandwell Science, Engineering & Manufacturing Centre – Financial drawdown is 100% complete. The project continues to report on outputs and outcomes. Sandwell College have been asked to collate case studies to promote successes following one year from opening.
	Town Hall Quarter – Financial drawdown is 100% complete. Restoration works completed November 2024. Project will begin to report on outcomes relating to usage of Town Hall.
	Retail Diversification Project – Financial drawdown is 56% complete. The delivery of new indoor market is progressing both on time and on budget. Target practical completion date remains July 2025 and anticipated opening date is August 2025. The demolition of former Wilko site has commenced. The practical completion target date remains April 2025. Acquisition of Former King Square cinema site is complete, resulting in acquisition of all sites within this project. Demolition surveys of this unit are being processed.
	Urban Greening – Financial drawdown is 93% complete (100% capital drawdown). The Cultural Programme led by Multistory continues with events planned throughout the Towns Fund delivery period, with a new contract for 2025/26 awarded.
	West Bromwich Connected – Financial drawdown is 34% complete. Phase 3: Bull Street and High Street Junction down to Roebuck Lane works continue. The anticipated completion date is April 2025. Phase 4: A review of the design has completed due to implications with a nearby bridge. A small scope of the scheme has been omitted with no impact on outputs or outcomes. RAG Rated Red due to the minor delays experienced for Phase 4 – Hilltop to Walsall Canal scheme and the project has more than 50% funding forecast between January 2025 and March 2026.

2. Smethwick Town Deal Projects

RAG	Commentary
	<p>Ron Davis Centre Expansion. Financial drawdown is 99% complete. An award ceremony was held on 22 November 2024 celebrating 150 learners across all SAFL sites. The project has enrolled 393 learners since January 2024 with 254 learners gaining certificates/ graduating/ completing courses.</p>
	<p>Midland Met Learning Campus. Financial drawdown is 52% complete. Construction commenced on-site in November 2024 with a completion date of November 2024 (Operational January 2026). A Topping out ceremony is planned for 25 March 2025.</p> <p>RAG Rated Amber due to slippage of funds against previous MHCLG return, following the revisions to the Pre-Construction Services Agreement (PCSA).</p>
	<p>Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration. Financial drawdown is 19% complete. A Heritage Impact Assessment and Feasibility Study has been undertaken and whilst buildings are not listed, the recommendation is for three of the nine buildings be retained including some of the facades fronting Rolfe Street due to being in a conservation area. High-level costs associated with the potential retention and conversion has been received. Discussions will be held with key stakeholders to agree the approach and to develop a planning application for the site.</p> <p>Although MHCLG have granted an additional 12-month delivery period for this project, it is RAG Rated Red due to the delay in receiving the Feasibility Study and subsequent impact to financial arrangements and the project has more than 50% funding forecast between January 2025 and March 2027.</p>
	<p>Grove Lane Regeneration. Financial drawdown is 1% complete. Project has experienced delay in submitting the Statement of Reasons due to further land referencing activities being required. As a result, the Statement of Reasons will now be submitted in March 2025 (previous target of January 2025). In the meantime, efforts have been made to engage with the landowner again.</p> <p>A planning application has been developed and is with internal colleagues for review/ agreement prior to submission.</p> <p>Although MHCLG have granted an additional 12-month delivery period for this project, it is RAG Rated Red due to the delay in completing the land referencing to support the Statement of Reasons, delaying this submission and subsequent spend. In addition, the project has more than 50% funding forecast between January 2025 and March 2027.</p>
	<p>Smethwick Connected. Financial drawdown is 84% complete. The Phase 5 works being completed by Sandwell Council is progressing well. The crossing facility is currently being designed and a</p>

	<p>topographical survey has been commissioned. It is expected to be delivered in March 2025.</p> <p>Project team has identified a shortfall of outputs as a result of descoping a section of works from Phase 4 Towns Fund scheme due to the complexity of the major junction improvements required. Although the works will still be complete, it will be funded via CRSTS as it is undeliverable within the Towns Fund timescales. Discussions on how to utilise the underspend of circa £240k is underway with the Smethwick Partnership Board.</p> <p>The project is RAG Rated Amber due to forecasting a shortfall out outputs.</p>
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3. Rowley Regis Town Deal Board

RAG	Progress Summary
	<p>Canal Network Connectivity – Financial drawdown is 92% complete. Works commenced in January 2025 to replace the deck of Wrights Bridge. This scope of works is funded by Towns fund with co-funding from Canal and River Trust.</p>
	<p>Cradley Heath Skills Campus – Financial drawdown is 12% complete. The project previously reported pressure on the project £9m budget. Since then, another Town Deal project had to reduce their budget to ensure a positive BCR. This presented the opportunity for this project to put forward an interest of additional funding. The Rowley Town Deal Board approved the allocation of an additional £300k to support the delivery of the project.</p> <p>Construction commenced on-site in November 2024 and is scheduled to complete in November 2025 to be operational in January 2026.</p> <p>Sandwell College are working on curriculum to meet the local communities need.</p> <p>Although the project is on-site and additional funding is secured, the project is RAG Rated Red due to the requirement to secure WMCA funding for the education operations of the campus and the project has more than 50% funding forecast between January 2025 and March 2026.</p>
	<p>Rowley Regis Park Improvements – Financial drawdown is 59% complete. A number of elements have completed since October 2024, including the completion of the new Changing Rooms, enlarged car park, tennis court refurbishment, MUGA upgrade and Phase 1 of landscaping. Procurement activities have commenced for the Pitch Drainage works and Sons of Rest refurbishment.</p> <p>Following the reduction in the budget for another Rowley Regis Town Deal project, the Rowley Town Deal Board agreed the reallocation of £414,000 to this project to further enhance improvements including the delivery of a Beech Tree Maze, improvements to Ross and Mackmillan entrance points, removal of trees deemed at risk, signage, new toddler</p>

RAG	Progress Summary
	<p>play area and a new play area at Haden Hill Park to replace the existing equipment near the car park. RAG Rated Amber due to the number of works.</p>
	<p>Blackheath Bus Interchange – The Project Adjustment Request to reduce the budget and update outputs/ outcomes was approved by MHCLG in November 2024. Financial drawdown will now commence.</p> <p>Works are expected to commence on-site at the end of March 2025. Monthly newsletters have been shared with traders/ businesses to keep them updated with plans.</p> <p>RAG Rated Red due to 0% spend to date. This RAG will reduce once works commence on-site and contractor payments are processed.</p>
	<p>Rowley Regis Connected – Financial drawdown is 34% complete. Phase 1 (Moor Lane) and Phase 2 (Oldbury Ringway) are complete.</p> <p>Phase 3 (Cradley Heath) final designs have been produced. Statutory consultation commenced January 2025. Works are expected to commence end of March/ early April 2025.</p> <p>RAG Rated Red as the project has more than 50% funding forecast between January 2025 and March 2026.</p>