

Work Programme of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board 2025/26

30 June 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
EHCP Completion Rate	Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review the work around the completion of Education Health and Care Plans, to identify challenges facing the service and what work has been undertaken to mitigate ongoing pressures for the service. To understand current service pressures and how this has impacted service delivery. To understand the process around EHCPs completion and how timescales are communicated to parents / carers. To understand how the service works with those children and young people who are looked after / care experienced in being assessed / obtaining an EHCP. To understand the demographic breakdown of those with EHCPs and their placement across Sandwell (special / mainstream / out of borough). To understand the data around the number of EHCPs and the data around timeframes and meeting statutory / council deadlines. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What work has been undertaken to mitigate ongoing pressures for the service? How many EHCPs do we have at each stage of the process and what are the timescales. – what has been the impact of the increase in EHPCs on the service? The data around the number of EHCPs and the data around timeframes and meeting statutory / council deadlines? 	<p>Children, young people and their families receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.</p> <p>All children and young people have the same opportunities to achieve their full potential and are supported by adults, including parents and carers, to establish high aspirations.</p>	Judith Nash

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How many children / young people go to Special / Mainstream / Out of Borough? • What is the data around EHCP distribution across the borough – what is the demographic breakdown. • How many EHCP are for the children we care for/ care experienced and what are the completion rates for those children? 		
Agreement of Children and Families Strategic Plan	Policy Development/pre-Decision	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider the Children and Families Strategic Plan prior to it being considered by Cabinet in July.</p>	We want Sandwell to be a great place for children to grow up and to ensure a brighter future for children and young people, where every individual is valued and given access to the tools to succeed.	Samantha Harman
Transition to Adulthood	Scrutiny Review	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To establish a working group of the Children's Scrutiny Board to undertake a review into the transition to adulthood experience of those looked after and care experienced young people. • To set out the scope and parameters of the working group. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The timescales and deadlines for the working group. • The proposed scope and areas for consideration for the working group. • The scrutiny review scoping document. 	<p>Be a good Corporate Parent for the children we care for, ensuring that those children are fully a part of our 'family'.</p> <p>All children and young people have the same opportunities to</p>	Connor Robinson

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			achieve their full potential to establish high aspirations.	
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8 September 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Adoption@Heart Annual Report	Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive and comment upon the Adoption@Heart Annual Report. The annual report is presented on an annual basis to the Scrutiny Board. <u>Information required:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The annual report setting out the performance of the regional adoption agency over the last 12 months. The performance of the agency both at a regional and local level. 	Children and young people in Sandwell are able to grow up in a safe, stable loving home.	Simon Green (Head of Service Adoption@Heart)
SCT Annual Report/ Performance Update Focus – residential sufficiency update	Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the Sandwell Children's Trust Performance over the past 6 months. To receive a focused update on any update regarding the Residential Homes Sufficiency. To gain a knowledge and understanding of the Sandwell Children's Trust Performance over the past 6 months and to understand current priorities, challenges and successes. 	Work alongside community partners to ensure that all parents and carers in Sandwell are offered the right support, at the right time in an accessible way, so that problems and	Graham Archer Emma Taylor

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the recent work gone into the Residential Homes Sufficiency work and updates on progress 	<p>difficulties do not escalate.</p> <p>Children and young people in Sandwell are able to grow up in a safe, stable loving home.</p>	
Elective Home Education Action Plan	Policy development	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the current levels of children and young people who are Elective Home Educated (EHE). To understand the support provided by the local authority to those who are EHE. To understand what the EHE action plan. To understand what the local authority does to ensure safeguarding of children and young people, and the support provided to ensure they are not neglecting their education or SEND support provision. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of children and young people who are EHE in Sandwell and how these figures have changed over the last five years. Detail on what the action plan sets out and how this will impact and support children and young people who are EHE. The impact on legislation on EHE. Detail on the support provided by the local authority for those who are EHE. 	<p>Children, young people and their families receive the right support, in the right place, at the right time.</p>	Sue Moore

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10 November 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
SEND Transport	Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To review and consider the impact of the changes to the SEND Transport provided by the local authority. To consider how the new purchasing system has impacted the local authority in terms of both finance and service delivery. To understand the impact of changes to SEND Transport to delivery and impact on children, young people and parent / carers. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detail on the changes made to SEND Transport in Sandwell. Information on the money saved through the new purchasing system. Information on how the service has changed, following the introduction of the new system. How the change has been received by children, young people and parent / carers. 	Continue to improve home to school transport, providing a cost effective, quality service.	Sue Moore
The impact of permanency plans for those children and young people who access the service	Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the services provided by SCT in relation to those who access SCT services. The number of children and young people who access SCT services. How permanency plans are delivered and impact children and young people. 	Work alongside community partners to ensure that all parents and carers in Sandwell are offered the right support, at the right time in an	Emma Taylor

Work Programme of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board 2025/26

		<u>Information required:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> The number of permanency plans that are administered by SCT. Impact of permanency plans and how they are assessed and outcomes monitored. The demographic breakdown of those who access services. 	accessible way, so that problems and difficulties do not escalate.	
Educational Attainment	Seeking Assurance / Policy development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand how schools / academies will be supported following the end of the Priority Education Investment Area (PEIA) programme in schools. To understand results and how the PEIA had impacted attainment across subjects. To consider options available to the local authority to continue to support schools / academies in boosting / maintaining attainment. <u>Information required:</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Attainment levels across schools and how these have been impacted by PEIA. What has the local authority done to support KS2 and KS4 in maintaining any progress in their educational attainment. 	Children and young people make good progress at school from preschool to when they leave school age 16 – ambition to reach national standard.	Julie Andrews
Tracking and Monitoring	Holding to account	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	One Council One Team	Cabinet Member Sally Giles

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5 January 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
SCSP Annual Report	Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To understand the work of the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership. To receive and comment upon the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership Annual Report. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership and how it is constituted. The performance of the Sandwell Children's Safeguarding Partnership and detail on any serious case reviews. 	<p>Children and young people in Sandwell are able to grow up in a safe, stable loving home.</p> <p>Work alongside community partners to ensure that all parents and carers in Sandwell are offered the right support, at the right time in an accessible way, so that problems and difficulties do not escalate.</p>	Carol Bodenham
SEND Transformation	Seeking Assurance / Policy development	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the progress made with regards to the SEND Transformation programme. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What changes have been implemented Detail on the various programmes of work currently being undertaken and a timeframe for their completion. The progress made on enhancing the partnership approach. 	All children and young people have the same opportunities to achieve their full potential and are supported by adults, including parents and carers, to establish high aspirations.	Sally Giles

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Impact of workstream delivery plans and effective reporting mechanisms. How the improvement plan is being delivered. How have the changes been received by service users. 	Children and young people have the right skills and support to take the next step in their life and are well prepared for adulthood.	
Child Friendly Sandwell	Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive a progress update on Child-friendly Sandwell process and implementation. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What has been achieved so far in attaining the Child-friendly Sandwell status? What challenges have been encountered so far? What will be achieved over the next 12 months? 	Achieve UNICEF UK Child Friendly status	Samantha Harman

23 March 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
SCT Performance Update	Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive an update on the Sandwell Children's Trust Performance over the past 6 months. To gain a knowledge and understanding of the Sandwell Children's Trust Performance over the past 6 months and to understand current priorities, challenges and successes. 	Work alongside community partners to ensure that all parents and carers in Sandwell are offered the right support, at	Graham Archer Emma Taylor

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			the right time in an accessible way, so that problems and difficulties do not escalate.	
Transition to Adulthood	Policy development	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To receive the findings of the Transition to Adulthood working group and consider any recommendations to Cabinet. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Detailed breakdown and report into the findings of the Transition to Adulthood working group. 	<p>Be a good Corporate Parent for the children we care for, ensuring that those children are fully a part of our 'family'.</p> <p>All children and young people have the same opportunities to achieve their full potential to establish high aspirations.</p>	Connor Robinson
Protected Characteristics / Corporate Parenting	Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To assess the impact of Corporate Parenting being designated a Protected Characteristic and how this has impacted local authority services. <p><u>Information required:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Information on how Corporate Parenting as a Protected Characteristic has been received. What has the take up been across services. 	Be a good Corporate Parent for the children we care for, ensuring that those children are fully a part of our 'family'.	Rosa DaSilva

Work Programme of the Children's Services and Education Scrutiny Board 2025/26

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What raining has been undertaken to ensure the local authority was aware of the change. • What has the impact been on service users. 		
Tracking and Monitoring	Holding to account	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	One Council One Team	Cabinet Member Sally Giles

Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

30 July 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2025-2026 Municipal Year		To establish the work programme for the 2025-2026 Municipal Year		Anthony Lloyd Alexander Goddard
Establishment of Working Group	Monitoring	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>To continue work on the development of the Local Plan as well as the Design Code. The Local Plan is the key planning document for the Borough. It sets out how the development needs for the Borough will be addressed through site allocations, identifying the infrastructure needed to support this, addressing climate change and protection for green spaces. The Local Plan contains the policies against which all planning applications are assessed as well as being the framework that supports bids for Government funding for regeneration.</p>	This underpins all objectives of the Council Plan	Andy Miller Joshua Singh
Skills and Employment Strategy	Holding to account/Seeking assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>Sandwell experiences higher than average youth unemployment rates. Around 9,600 people aged 16 and over in Sandwell were unemployed in the year ending December 2023 (6% compared to a national average of 3.6% and a West Midlands average of 4.4%)</p>	Growing Up in Sandwell: Good opportunities in employment will encourage young adults to aspire to fill	Adele Smith

Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

			<p>the roles available to them.</p> <p>Living in Sandwell: Good employment opportunities can improve the standard of living.</p> <p>Healthy in Sandwell: More disposable income for adults can encourage active lifestyles</p>	
Greening of the Borough	Holding to account/Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>With growing pressure for Sandwell to meet house building targets, green spaces in the borough are under threat. By protecting and bolstering the green spaces we have, as well as encouraging “greening” in the borough’s built-up and urban areas, we can ensure that Sandwell is a place that people enjoy living in. There is strong evidence that green spaces can promote better mental health, boosting serotonin and dopamine levels in the brain.</p>	<p>Living in Sandwell: A greener borough encourages better mental health.</p>	

Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

15 October 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Litter Bin Strategy	Policy Development	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>A meeting of the Board occurred on 5 November 2024. Members resolved to request that a formal litter bin strategy be established. A final version of the strategy is in development and is due to be presented to the ESTE Board.</p> <p>Ensuring that the correct facilities are in place across the borough will encourage good recycling and waste disposal habits, both in public and at home. A tidier borough will make Sandwell a more attractive place to live.</p>	Living in Sandwell Health in Sandwell	Ben Percival

Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

Street Cleanliness and Fly Tipping	Holding to account/Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>Street cleanliness and issues surrounding fly-tipping were key areas of interest raised by the Public.</p> <p>Both issues are usually front and centre of resident's concerns due to the visibility of both issues when compared to other matters. Ensuring that Sandwell remains clean and free of fly-tipping will improve the Public's perception of the Council and ultimately make the borough a better place to live.</p>	Living in Sandwell Healthy in Sandwell	Ben Percival
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12 November 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Levelling Up Fund	Monitoring	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>The Levelling Up fund is distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection.</p> <p>By monitoring progress in relation to the Levelling Up Fund, the Board can be assured that targets are being met.</p>	This underpins all of the Council Plan objectives	Rebecca Jenkins

Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

Town Deal Update	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u> Updates on the Town Fund Programme are presented to the Board every six months to provide assurance that the programme is proceeding in line with Government requirements.	Thriving in Sandwell	Rina Rahim
Tracking and Monitoring	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	One Council One Team	Ant Lloyd

Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

21 January 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Grass Verge Parking Policy and Parking Review Update	Policy Development	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>A meeting of the Board occurred on 9 October 2024. Members resolved to request the Cabinet Member to consider the development of a grass verge parking policy. A policy is in development and is due to be presented to the ESTE Board. A comprehensive grass verge parking policy will protect some of Sandwell's grass verge's which will ultimately lead to reduced costs due to remediation works.</p> <p>A meeting of the Board occurred on 1 May 2025. Members resolved to request that an additional update be provided in relation parking in Sandwell following a data gathering exercise to obtain information on parking habits and occupancy rates at Sandwell Car Parks.</p> <p>The Council's car parks are a key asset which must balance income and the ever-increasing maintenance costs on public roads and car parks. Sufficient parking in the correct places could also encourage an increase in traffic for businesses in Sandwell.</p>	Living in Sandwell	Mervyn Bartlett

Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

EV Charging	Policy Development	<p><u>Purpose of Report:</u></p> <p>Cabinet members highlighted the increased need for EV charging in Sandwell. Due to the built-up nature of the borough, many homes do not have access to a private driveway to install EV charging equipment.</p> <p>A policy is required to ensure that Sandwell has a comprehensive solution in place in anticipation of the increase of EV vehicle ownership in the borough and how the public highway can be utilised to provide EV charging stations on a large scale. Promoting the use of EV vehicles will also enable the Council to achieve its climate goals.</p>	Healthy in Sandwell Living in Sandwell	
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Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

18 March 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Town Fund Programme	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u> Updates on the Town Fund Programme are presented to the Board every six months to provide assurance that the programme is proceeding in line with Government requirements.	Thriving in Sandwell	Rina Rahim
Bus Franchising	Holding to account	<u>Purpose of report:</u> Good transport links encourage mobility within and outside of the borough. A reliable and efficient bus network will allow individuals to seek work opportunities, visit businesses and attend medical appointments faster and cheaper.	This item underpins all of the Council Plan objectives.	West Midlands Combined Authority Transport for West Midlands
Tracking and Monitoring	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	One Council One Team	Anthony Lloyd

Work Programme of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 2025/26

14 July 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Establishment of Joint Health Overview Scrutiny Committee	To meet statutory requirements and collaborate with health agencies on the planning, provision and operation of health services in the area affecting both local authorities.	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To establish joint health overview scrutiny committee arrangements with Birmingham City Council and the Black Country authorities.	People's needs for care and support are reduced or prevented through early intervention and prevention programmes. Residents are protected from harms to their health and wellbeing.	Stephnie Hancock/Rhys Attwell
Developments in Mental Health (MH) and Learning Disabilities & Autism (LDA)	Policy Development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider proposed changes to ADHD service.	Health outcomes for Sandwell's most vulnerable groups are improved, and health inequalities are reduced. People remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and lead fulfilled lives (re-abolishment).	Laura Brookes (NHS)

Work Programme of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 2025/26

1 September 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
End of Life Care Provision in Sandwell	Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To receive an overview of Connected Palliative Care service.	People remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and lead fulfilled lives.	Suni Patel
Men's Mental Health	Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To receive an overview of the men's mental health services.	People to lead healthy lives in their community and live well for longer. Health outcomes for Sandwell's most vulnerable groups are improved, and health inequalities are reduced.	TBA

Work Programme of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 2025/26

17 November 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Adult Statutory Complaints Report	Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To receive a report due to regulatory compliance, performance monitoring and public accountability.	Higher quality inclusive services for all of our customers.	Trudie Morris/ Rashpal Bishop
Sandwell Safeguarding Adults Board Annual Report	Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To receive a report due to regulatory compliance, performance monitoring and public accountability	Residents feel safe in their communities during the day and at night.	Deb Ward
Tracking and monitoring of scrutiny recommendations.	Holding to Account/ Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	Clear and transparent decision making and effective governance (data driven).	Cabinet Member Relevant directors
CQC Inspection Findings	Holding to Account/ Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> Findings of CQC inspection and way forward.	People to lead healthy lives in their community and live well for longer.	Cabinet Member and relevant Director

Work Programme of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 2025/26

19 January 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Sandwell's Dementia Strategy	Policy Development and Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> A progress update on the implementation and key objectives of the 2019–2025 Dementia Strategy, with a critical evaluation of its impact and areas for improvement.	People remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and lead fulfilled lives. Carers feel supported in carrying out their caring role.	Maxine Groves
Tackling Obesity	Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To obtain a comprehensive overview of obesity data and trends in Sandwell, and to critically assess all available information with the aim of improving health outcomes	Residents are protected from harms to their health and wellbeing. People needs for care and support are reduced or prevented through early intervention and prevention programmes. People to lead Healthy Lives in their community and live well for longer.	TBA

Work Programme of the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board 2025/26

9 March 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Adult Social Care Improvement Plan	Policy Development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To support the formulation of Adult Social Care Improvement Plan.	People's needs for care and support are reduced or prevented through early intervention and prevention programmes. People remain as independent as possible for as long as possible and lead fulfilled lives (reablement).	DASS&CM
Carers' Offer	Policy Development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To support the formulation of a new carers offer.	Peoples to lead healthy lives in their community and live well for longer. Carers feel supported in carrying out their caring role.	Director of Adult Social Care
Tracking and Monitoring Impact of Scrutiny Recommendations	Holding to Account/ Seeking Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	Clear and transparent decision making and effective governance (data driven).	Cabinet Member and relevant director

Work Programme of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board 2025/26

3 July 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2025-2026 Municipal Year		<u>Purpose of report:</u> To establish the work programme for the 2025-2026 Municipal Year.	Supports all objectives of the Council Plan	John Swann
Housing Improvement and Transformation Plan	Holding to account/ watching brief	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To receive reports by exception and key workstreams/performance indicators relating to Housing Improvement and the associated Transformation Plan.	Living in Sandwell	Alan Lunt/ Nigel Collumbell/ Sarah Ager
Council House New Builds Programme Update	Pre-decision/ Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider the indicative medium term programme and resource allocation for Council House New Builds.	Living in Sandwell	Alan Martin/ Tammy Stokes/ Alan Lunt

Work Programme of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board 2025/26

4 September 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Scrutiny Tracking and Monitoring	Supports all scrutiny objectives	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider responses and updates to previous recommendations made by the Board.	Supports all objectives of the Council Plan	Councillor Vicki Smith/ Councillor Suzanne Hartwell/ John Swann
Antisocial behaviour and low-level crime	Holding to account	<u>Purpose of report:</u> Focus upon drug dealing and resource deployment.	Thriving in Sandwell	Ch. Supt. Kim Madill/ Nicola Plant
Violence against Women and Girls Strategy	Policy development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider the draft Strategy. Joint item with Children Services and Education Scrutiny Board.	Thriving in Sandwell	Alan Lunt/ Nicola Plant/ Wendy Simms/ Jo Sailsman/ Councillor Nicky Hinchliff/ Third Sector

4 December 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Play Area Strategy	Policy development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider resource allocation and cost of maintenance against investment in new play spaces.	Thriving in Sandwell	Ben Percival
Council and Voluntary/ Community Sector Relationship	Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider value for money implications and the Voluntary Sector Strategy	One Council, One Team	James McLaughlin/ Kate Ashley

Work Programme of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board 2025/26

8 January 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Housing Allocations Policy	Policy Development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To review the housing need categorisation and the housing needs waiting list.	Living in Sandwell	Alan Lunt/ Nigel Collumbell
Housing Improvement and Transformation Plan	Holding to account/ watching brief	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To receive reports by exception and key workstreams/performance indicators relating to Housing Improvement and the associated Transformation Plan.	Living in Sandwell	Alan Lunt/ Nigel Collumbell/ Sarah Ager

5 February 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Visitor Services Review	Assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider Heritage Assets, Sandwell Valley Masterplan (Commercial Performance) and Retail and Confectionary Stands (including associated revenues).	Thriving in Sandwell	Ben Percival
Marketing and Promotion Strategy for Events	Policy Development	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To review the marketing and promotion strategy for Council-ran events to improve their financial viability.	Thriving in Sandwell	Ben Percival/ Matt More

Work Programme of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board 2025/26

12 March 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Report of the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group	Supports all scrutiny objectives	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider the Tenant and Leaseholder Scrutiny Group Annual Report and any other provided information.	Thriving in Sandwell	Phillippe Brown/ Christine Davis
Scrutiny Tracking and Monitoring	Supports all scrutiny objectives	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider responses and updates to previous recommendations made by the Board.	Supports all objectives of the Council Plan	Councillor Vicki Smith/ Councillor Suzanne Hartwell/ John Swann
New Neighbourhood Working Model – One year on	Holding to account/ assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> To consider data and feedback from stakeholders and concerned parties.	One Council, One Team	James McLaughlin

Briefing Notes

Housing Cooperative - Nigel Collumbell

Trading Standards and associated challenges (to incorporate illicit vapes, tobacco/ alcohol and underage sales) – Alan Lunt/ Nicola Plant/ Liz Nembhard

New Neighbourhood Working Model – James McLaughlin – NOV 25

Emergency Planning Strategy – Alan Lunt

Briefing Sessions

Crime Trends - Ch. Supt. Kim Maddil/ Nicola Plant/ Wendy Simms – 20 October 2025

CCTV Deployment Strategy – Alan Lunt/ Nicola Plant

Work Programme of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board 2025/26