

Council/Committee:	Council
Report Title	Scrutiny Annual Update 2024-25
Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 4 November 2025
Report Author	Alexander Goddard, Stephnie Hancock
Lead Officer	Assistant Chief Executive
Wards Affected	All
Identify exempt information and exemption category	Open
Appendices (if any)	1. Scrutiny Annual Update 2024-2025

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 The attached annual update outlines work undertaken by Sandwell Council's scrutiny function in 2024-2025 and highlights a number of activities and outcomes that contributed towards the objectives of the Council Plan.
- 1.2 Scrutiny boards delivered the work programme using a variety of methodologies outlined in the update . Evidence was provided by a range of witnesses from the Council and partner organisations, and there was engagement with service users and providers.

Recommendation

- 1.1 The Council is recommended to receive the Scrutiny Annual Update 2024–2025 as set out in the Appendix.

Proposals – Reasons for the recommendations

- 3.1 In accordance with Statutory Guidance on Overview and Scrutiny (2024) – issued by the Department for Levelling Up, Housing & Communities, the scrutiny function reports annually to the Council on its work.
4. The focus of the scrutiny annual report has evolved into more of an annual update. Recognising that scrutiny recommendations may require time to be

fully embedded into practice and influence outcomes meaningfully. Rather than limiting itself to a snapshot of activity within a single year, the report will take a broader view, looking back as far as necessary to assess the impact of scrutiny work. This approach allows for a more accurate and meaningful reflection on how scrutiny has contributed to the delivery of the Council Plan.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 The Scrutiny Annual Update was considered by the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board at its meeting on 17 July 2025.

6. Financial Implications

- 6.1 There are no strategic resource implications arising directly from this report. Scrutiny boards are obliged to take into consideration the financial implications of the matters they consider.

7. Legal and Governance Implications

- 7.1 Scrutiny boards discharge the functions conferred by section 12 of the Local Government Act 2000 and the subsequent legislation.

8. Risks

- 8.1 There are no risks arising from this report.

9. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 9.1 Scrutiny boards recognise the importance of the equality, diversity and inclusion agenda and will support the Council to embed a positive EDI agenda..

10. Other Relevant Implications

10.1 Corporate parenting

Scrutiny plays an important role in ensuring that vulnerable children and young people have the right support and access to opportunities.

10.2 Health and Wellbeing

Scrutiny has specific responsibilities around health, established in the Health and Social Care Act 2001 and subsequent legislation.

10.3 Crime and Disorder

Scrutiny has specific responsibilities around crime and disorder, established in the Crime and Disorder (Overview and Scrutiny) Regulations 2009.

11. Background Documents

None.

12. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

Effective scrutiny and governance arrangements actively supports the delivery of all objectives and outcomes of the Council Plan:-

- Growing up in Sandwell
- Living in Sandwell
- Healthy in Sandwell
- Thriving Economy in Sandwell
- One Council One Team Approach.