

Minutes of Cabinet

Wednesday, 4 February 2026 at 3.30 pm at Council Chamber, Sandwell Council House, Freeth Street, Oldbury, B69 3DB

Present: Councillor Carmichael (Chair)

Councillors: Bhullar Hartwell Hughes Khatun	Councillors: Moore Smith Taylor Uddin
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In attendance: Councillors Fenton, Jeffcoat, Lewis, Randhawa. A Singh and J Singh.

Officers: Shokat Lal (Chief Executive), James McLaughlin (Assistant Chief Executive), Alex Thompson (Executive Director – Finance and Transformation), Alan Lunt (Executive Director – Place), Rashpal Bishop (Executive Director - Adult Social Care and Health), Sally Giles (Executive Director – Children and Education), Frances Howie (Interim Director of Public Health), Mike Jones (Monitoring Officer, Service Director – Governance), Matt More (Head of Communications), Maria Jardine (Policy Adviser), Sundeep Kalian (National Graduate Management Trainee), Suky Suthi-Nagra (Democratic and Member Services Manager) and Connor Robinson (Democratic Services Officer).

15/26 Apologies for Absence

An apology for absence was received from Councillor K Allcock.

16/26 Declarations of Interest

Councillor Hughes declared a personal interest in Minute No. 23/26 (The re-commissioning of Sandwell Community Dementia Service) on the basis that he accessed the service.

17/26 Minutes

Resolved that the minutes of the meeting held on 14 January 2026 are approved as a correct record.

18/26 Urgent Additional Items of Business

There were no additional items of business to consider as a matter of urgency.

19/26 Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Draft Budget 2026/27

Consideration was given to the medium term financial strategy and the draft budget 2026/27. The budget included £20m of income and expenditure changes which were achieving high levels of success. Any emerging issues had been identified quickly and mitigated. Performance was published via reports to senior leadership and the Cabinet, with ongoing reporting to the Council's Scrutiny Boards. This activity had meant that, at quarter two, the Council was forecasting an underspend within the revenue General Fund.

Cabinet Members welcomed the Draft Budget and emphasised how the Council had supported service areas across the Council to deliver for local people. The Council continued to invest in both places and people supporting the local economy and private sector, enabling job creation and inward investment to Sandwell businesses. The Council had established a large apprenticeship programme, supporting young people across Sandwell to develop the knowledge and skills the Council required for the future. It was further noted that the Council continued to support and invest into its social housing, supporting those most in need whilst maintaining a high quality service.

Across children's services and education, Cabinet Members recognised the positive outcome of the Ofsted inspection at the Sandwell Children's Trust which was now rated good. More local residents were now accessing the Family Hubs across Sandwell with a large increase in engagement. The Council also continued to move towards establishing Sandwell as a Child Friendly Borough. Attainment and attendance had improved across Sandwell schools, support had also increased for those accessing early years services.

Cabinet Members celebrated the huge levels of regeneration investment across Sandwell and the impact it was having on local residents. The regeneration pipeline had invested £67.5 million across Sandwell with Sandwell being the largest recipient of Towns Fund programme funding of any local authority. The Council continued to improve safety across Sandwell, as well as invest in improving green spaces and access to community facilities. Adult social care investment had also been a priority, with the Harvest View development acting as a flagship programme supporting residents out of hospital and back into their own home.

Reason for Decision

The Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) showed how the Council could deploy resources to achieve its strategic objectives, as set out in the Council Plan. It showed how expenditure and income budgets changed to ensure services were adequate to address local need and meet financial pressures from inflation and increasing demand.

The immediate objective of the updated MTFS was achieving a balanced budget for 2026/27, but the principal aim was to provide a comprehensive, forward-looking framework over the MTFS period that ensured long-term financial

sustainability, allowing the Council to deliver its key strategic priorities and statutory services within a balanced budget in future years.

Alternative Options Considered

The Council was legally required to set a balanced budget by March each year. As such, there was no alternative other than to set a balanced budget.

Resolved:-

- (1) that the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and Draft Budget Report 2026/27, including the appendix and annexes set out in Appendix A, is endorsed and recommended to Full Council for approval, incorporating the following recommendations:
 - a) note the results of the consultation exercise at Annex 1;
 - b) approve the budget growth proposals detailed in Annex 2 for inclusion in the General Fund base budget for 2026/27 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan for the financial years 2026/27 to 2030/31;
 - c) approve the budget efficiency and income generation proposals, detailed in Annex 3 for inclusion in the General Fund base budget for 2026/27 and the Medium-Term Financial Plan Medium-Term Financial Plan for the financial years 2026/27 to 2030/31;
 - d) note the change log of financial movements in the Medium-Term Financial Plan at Annex 4;
 - e) approve the Fees and Charges Schedule for 2026/27, as set out within Annex 5;
 - f) approve the General Fund net budget of £457.802m for 2026/27, as detailed at Annex 6, including the financial implications of:
 - i) the directorate budget summaries at Annex 7;
 - ii) a proposed Council Tax increase of 4.99% for the Sandwell MBC element resulting in a Band D charge of £1,914.77, as set out in Annex 8;

- iii) the Local Council Tax Reduction Scheme Policy as approved by Full Council on 9th December 2025; and
- iv) an increased Council Taxbase of 81,818.4 as approved by the Cabinet on 10th December 2025.

- g) approve the General Fund Capital Programme budget allocation of £70.848m for 2026/27, and of £254.721m for the programme to 2030/31, as set out at Annex 9;

- h) note an assumption that the value of the 'pipeline' projects, as detailed in Annex 9B, is affordable, and that these projects will be included within the programme subject to successful completion of an appraisal and associated due process as prescribed by the Council's Financial Regulations.

- i) approve the Housing Revenue Account revenue budget for 2026/27 as set out in Table 2 of Annex 10 including the draw of £8.857m from Housing Revenue Account reserves in 2026/27 and including the implications of the 'Review of Council Housing Rents and Housing Related Property Charges Report' approved by Full Council on 9 December 2025;

- j) approve the Housing Revenue Account Capital Programme as set out at Annex 11, including the budget of £88.774m for 2026/27 as set out in Table 2 of the report;

- k) endorse the Housing Revenue Account 30 Year Business Plan, as set out at Annex 13;

- l) in respect of the 2026/27 schools funding formula for Sandwell schools, Approves adoption of the Dedicated Schools Grant allocation by block, as per Table 1 of Annex 12 and agrees the amount of funding available for distribution from the Schools Block at £387.046m, as set out at Table 2 of Annex 12 including:

- i) set aside of £0.450m as Pupil Growth contingency;
 - ii) set aside of £1.511m as Falling Rolls Funding contingency: and
 - iii) transfer of £0.522m to Central Schools Services Block to fund the attendance service.
- m) approve the Capital Strategy at Annex 14;
- n) approve the Capital Financing Strategy at Annex 15;
- o) approve the Flexible Use of Capital Receipts Strategy at Annex 16, and delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer to make any submissions to the Ministry of Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) for application;
- p) approve the Investment Strategy at Annex 17;
- q) approve the Treasury Management Strategy at Annex 18, including:
- i) the Borrowing and Investment Strategies (para 67 and 97);
 - ii) the Minimum Revenue Provision Policy Statement (para 43);
 - iii) the Treasury and Prudential Indicators as set out within the report and summarised at Annex 18F; and
 - iv) the forecast new borrowing requirement of £100m.
- r) approve the Reserves Strategy at Annex 19, including:
- i) the reallocation of earmarked reserves within 2025/26, as set out in Annex 19B;
 - ii) the transfers to/from earmarked reserves, with a total net value of £1.527m transfer from reserves, as set out in Annex 19B, be included within the General Fund revenue budget for 2026/27;

- iii) a contribution of £0.750m to the General Fund balance be included within the General Fund revenue budget for 2026/27.
- s) note the financial approval limits at Annex 20 that form part of the Section 151 Officer's scheme of financial delegation;
- t) endorse the Revenues and Benefits Policy Framework at Annex 21; and
- u) delegate authority to the Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the appropriate Cabinet Member to:
 - i) amend any of the fees and charges included within the schedule within the 2026/27 financial year;
 - ii) make any financial corrections or amendments to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and annexes as may be required in the final preparation of papers for Full Council on 24 February 2026.
 - iii) make any in-year financial corrections, technical adjustments or virements in the event of variations in indicated funding allocation made by Government and existing funding partners, subject to these being allocated in accordance with the principles set out in this report.
 - iv) adjust the funding sources applied to the Capital Programmes during the year to maximise flexibility in use of capital resources and minimise borrowing costs where possible.

- (2) that delegated authority is given to the Section 151 Officer in conjunction with the relevant Cabinet Member and Monitoring Officer to make any necessary financial corrections or amendments to the Medium-Term Financial Strategy and annexes as may be required in the final preparation of papers for Full Council on 24 February 2026.

Sandwell Local Plan - Approval of Main Modifications

Approval was sought for the list of main modifications, amendments to plan diagrams and plans within the Sandwell Local Plan which would be circulated for public consultation. It was a statutory requirement of every Local Planning Authority to have an up-to-date Local Plan. The revised National Planning Policy Framework (NPPF), released in December 2024, contained transitional arrangements that required local planning authorities to submit local plans by March 2025 for them to be considered under the previous NPPF (2023) and regulations. The Sandwell's Local Plan was submitted to the Secretary of State in December 2024.

The timetable for producing the Plan was set out in the Local Development Scheme (LDS), the latest version of which was approved by Cabinet on 5 February 2025 and which was published on the Council's website. The LDS set out the timetable for the current Draft Sandwell Local Plan as well as an indicative timetable for reviewing the Plan under the new NPPF and regulations. The LDS would be reviewed early 2026.

Reason for Decision

The Examination in Public of the Draft Plan commenced when the Council submitted the Draft Plan to the Secretary of State via the Planning Inspectorate. A Planning Inspector had then been appointed to examine the Draft Plan.

Following the hearing sessions, the Inspector suggested a number of main modifications that would resolve any legal compliance issues for the DSLP. These modifications ranged in scope from redrafting parts of an individual policy or reasoned justification to the deletion or amalgamation of whole policies and rearranging the format of the document. There were also proposed changes to the Policies Map, which was the geographical representation of the policies in the SLP.

Alternative Options Considered

Option 1 – Consult on the proposed main modifications to comply with legislative requirements to allow adoption of a Local Plan.

The Planning Inspector was likely to recommend that the plan as submitted (without the main modifications) should not be adopted, before recommending main modifications to make the submitted plan legally compliant. The Town and Country Planning (Local Planning)(England) Regulations 2012 required the Council to consult on any main modifications to the Local Plan before incorporating them into the Local Plan.

Section 20 of the Planning and Compulsory Purchase Act required that the Council should then make the recommended main modifications, together with any additional modifications at their discretion, if they wished to adopt the plan. The Council would not be able to adopt the Sandwell Local Plan if the main modifications were not made to it. Therefore, there was no other option but to consult on the main modifications if the Council wished to adopt the Draft Plan.

Resolved:-

- (1) that approval is given to the list of main modifications, amendments to plan diagrams and plans within the Sandwell Local Plan for public consultation, to commence on 16 February 2026 for a period of 6 weeks to 30 March 2026;
- (2) that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director for Place, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Housing and Planning:
 - a) to agree any necessary amendments to supporting documentation for consultation and any other typographical, presentational, and consequential wording changes to the Local Plan prior to publication;
 - b) following public consultation on the Proposed Main Modifications, consider and summarise the responses received and forward to the Inspectors for their consideration in producing their Report. That following the receipt of the Report from the Inspector recommending adoption of the Local Plan, that the Plan be brought back to Cabinet and Full Council for adoption.

21/26

Tenant Engagement Strategy

Approval was sought for the Tenant Engagement Strategy which set out how the Council would listen to, involve, and work alongside tenants to shape the homes and communities where they live. It provided a clear framework for partnership working, designed to empower tenants, enhance satisfaction, and build trust. This meant providing meaningful opportunities for residents to influence decisions, improve services, and contribute to community wellbeing.

The key aims of the Strategy was to:

- strengthen the tenant voice in decision-making and service design;
- improve communication and transparency across all housing services;
- make it easy and accessible for everyone to get involved;
- promote accountability through regular feedback and performance monitoring;
- build trust and stronger partnerships between tenants and the council;
- ensure engagement is inclusive and reaches underrepresented communities; and
- use tenant feedback and lived experiences to shape continuous improvement.

Reason for Decision

The Council recognised that tenants, leaseholders, and residents were key partners in shaping how the housing services were delivered and improved. The housing stock comprised of over 27,700 homes across Sandwell—including low- and high-rise flats, houses, bungalows, and maisonettes—serving a diverse community. The Council wanted every tenant, regardless of background or location, to feel heard, respected, and supported.

Alternative Options Considered

An alternative approach would be not to adopt the Tenant Engagement Strategy. However, without this strategy in place, the Council would be unable to fully deliver the objectives of the Housing Strategy 2023–2028, the Asset Management Strategy 2024–2029, Resident Engagement Strategies and the Regulatory Housing Standards introduced in April 2024. Tenant engagement is fundamental to meeting these requirements and ensuring services were responsive, transparent, and accountable. Failure to adopt the strategy would therefore lead to weaker governance, reduced tenant influence, and less effective management of housing services.

Resolved that the Tenant Engagement Strategy is approved.

22/26

Delegation of powers to approve major transport schemes to the Black Country Joint Executive Committee

Approval was sought to delegate powers to the Black Country Joint Executive Committee to approve major transport schemes, which would enable the Joint Committee to oversee and approve transport and highways infrastructure schemes across the four Black Country authorities of Sandwell, Dudley, Walsall, and Wolverhampton, to allow for collective decision-making and coordination on major infrastructure investment, support regional connectivity, growth, and efficient governance across the Black Country.

Reason for Decision

The four Black Country Councils collaborated extensively on regional transport and infrastructure matters through the Black Country Transport Officers Group and the West Midlands Combined Authority (WMCA) frameworks. There was currently no single governance body with delegated authority to take joint executive decisions on transport infrastructure projects of shared significance.

The lack of regional delegation arrangements for transport projects required decisions to be taken by each executive whose local authority was involved in the transport project concerned. Major transport projects by their nature, often covered two or more local authority areas. If a scheme required approval at each key stage by each of the four Black Country Authorities, this would require sixteen separate approvals across four key project stages.

Furthermore, the calendars for meetings of the executive rarely aligned, meaning a potential delay of more than two months while awaiting all executives to make the necessary resolutions.

Delegating decision making to the formal Joint Committee would streamline approvals, enhance accountability, and ensure consistent decision-making while retaining local democratic oversight.

Alternative Options Considered

Option 1: Maintain existing arrangements. This option would not deliver efficient strategic transport decision-making and would limit the effective co-ordination of the delivery of key strategic highways and transport infrastructure schemes within the Black Country. This option was dismissed.

Option 2: Create a non-decision-making joint committee. This option would not deliver efficiencies in strategic transport decision-making and limit the effective co-ordination of the delivery of key strategic highways and transport infrastructure schemes within the Black Country. This option was dismissed.

Resolved:-

- (1) that delegated authority is given to the Black Country Joint Executive Committee to allow for approval and delivery of transport and highways infrastructure schemes that fall within the Council's executive functions and are identified as strategic Black Country infrastructure priorities;
- (2) that approval is given to amend the Terms of Reference for the Black Country Joint Executive Committee set out at Appendix 1;
- (3) that delegated authority is given to the Monitoring Officer and Service Director of Governance to make any necessary and consequential changes to Part 2.3: Responsibilities for Functions in the Constitution and to finalise these in consultation with the other Black Country authorities for inclusion within the Constitutions of each authority;
- (4) that approval is given so that existing scrutiny arrangements for decisions of the Black Country Joint Executive Committee be retained and be undertaken by each Council's relevant Scrutiny Committee/Board;
- (5) that delegated authority is given to the Monitoring Officer and Service Director of Governance to make any consequential constitutional or procedural amendments required to give effect to these arrangements.

The re-commissioning of Sandwell Community Dementia Service

Approval was sought to commence a procurement exercise to re-commission the Sandwell Community Dementia Service. Dementia was a major contributor to long-term support needs. Community post-diagnosis support improved understanding, planning, carer resilience and connection to local services. It supported system resilience by reducing avoidable escalation to crisis responses and higher-cost care.

Reason for Decision

The Sandwell Community Dementia Service provided a single point of access and a tiered support offer delivered with Voluntary and Community Sector partners. The contract expired on 28 September 2026 with no remaining extension options, requiring procurement to maintain continuity.

On 18 December 2025, the Sandwell Joint Partnership Board considered the future commissioning arrangements for the service and agreed that recommissioning should proceed within the existing Better Care Fund allocation, subject to an inflationary uplift, which for the present time would be estimated at 5%.

The estimated costs for the first year of the new contract would be £416,948. Over a three year period and assuming a 5% annual uplift each year, this would equate to a contract value of £1,314,428.

Alternative Options Considered

Option 1 – Do nothing: allowing the contract to expire would remove a key element of the dementia pathway and was rejected due to the significant impact on residents and partner organisations.

Option 2 – Recommission with growth funding: this option was considered but not approved by the Joint Partnership Board due to affordability concerns.

Resolved:-

- (1) that approval is given for the recommissioning of the Sandwell Community Dementia Service through a competitive procurement process for a period of three years with the option to extend for up to a further two years;
- (2) that approval is given that the service will operate within the existing Better Care Fund budget subject only to annual inflationary uplifts;
- (3) that approval is given for the inclusion of a contract modification provision, in accordance with the Procurement Act 2023, to allow for a cumulative increase of up to 50% of the initial contract value, where required to address a known and evidenced risk relating to sustained increases in demand that cannot be safely or effectively managed within the original contract value;

- (4) that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director – Adult Social Care and Health, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Well-being, to approve the final service specification and award the contract; and
- (5) that approval is given for an exemption to rule 8.7 of Procurement and Contract Procedure Rules 2018-19, or subsequent amendment, to allow the Executive Director – Adult Social Care and Health to award contracts to the successful tenderer(s) if the required minimum number of tenders are not received.

(Councillor Hughes left the room during consideration of the matter and did not take part in the decision).

24/26 Drug Strategy Grant: Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant (DATRIG)

Approval was sought for the distribution of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant for substance misuse treatment and recovery and for Individual Placement and Support. Sandwell had received the allocated Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant budget for 2026/27, with further indicative amounts for 2027/28 and 2028/29.

Reason for Decision

The Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant / Supplemental Substance Misuse Treatment Funding was governed by a nationally defined Menu of Interventions produced by the Office for Health Improvement and Disparities. Local authorities were required to attribute every element of spend to one or more intervention categories. The Menu of Interventions was structured to reflect the 10-Year Drug Strategy and system-wide aims to:

- Increase treatment capacity
- Reduce drug- and alcohol-related harm
- Improve recovery outcomes
- Strengthen the workforce
- Embed prevention and early intervention
- Strengthen criminal justice and community safety links

The funding was required to be spent on interventions that aimed to achieve the Drug Strategy ambition to reduce drug and alcohol related deaths and harms and was to be additional to existing Public Health grant expenditure on substance misuse treatment services.

The Strategy therefore required that local areas rebuild and reinvest into local support systems towards “a world class drug treatment and recovery system” Monies can only be spent on provisions that fit within Office for Health Improvement and Disparities Menu of Interventions.

It had been announced that Sandwell would receive three further years of funding for 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29. The funding was to be additional to existing Public Health grant expenditure on substance misuse treatment services.

Alternative Options Considered

Do not approve distribution of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant as required by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities and not utilise the additional funding but simply return the monies to government. This would mean that the local treatment population would not benefit from the quality and capacity improvements that the monies could afford.

Resolved:-

- (1) that approval is given to distribute the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant for substance misuse treatment and recovery and for Individual Placement and Support (IPS) as required by Office for Health Improvement and Disparities grant conditions;
- (2) that in connection with Resolution (1) above, approval is given for the years 2026/27, 2027/28 and 2028/29 based on the Indicative amount still subject to Department of Health and Social Care (DHSC) and Treasury approvals, even though the final allocation could vary;
- (3) that approval is given for the variation to the current Adult Alcohol and Drug Service Contract to fund additional enhanced provision for the period 2026/27, in line with cost increases, and that delegated authority is given to the Interim Director of Public Health to approve the variation, in consultation with the Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing;
- (4) that delegated authority is given to the Interim Director of Public Health to determine the distribution of the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant over the grant period covering the financial year 2026/27, 27/28 and 28/209, in agreement with Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing;
- (5) that delegated authority is given to the Interim Director of Public Health, in consultation with the Service Director - Governance and Monitoring Officer, to authorise variations to the existing Adult Alcohol and Drug Service contract allowing the additional enhanced provision for the remaining period of the contract term which will end 31 January 2028;

- (6) that delegated authority is given to the Interim Director of Public Health to award and enter into any contract(s), on terms to be agreed by the Interim Director of Public Health, for the provision of services funded by the Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant funds; and
- (7) that delegated authority is given to the Service Director - Governance and Monitoring Officer to take any actions as may be required to give effect to the proposals in these recommendations for the provision of Drug and Alcohol Treatment and Recovery Improvement Grant funded provisions.

25/26

Determination of Admission Arrangements for Sandwell's Community and Voluntary controlled schools 2027/2028

Approval was sought to publish the Council's Admission Arrangements for 2027/28 academic year for places in all community and voluntary controlled schools in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

The Admissions Code published in September 2021 required the Council to formally agree admission arrangements for those schools every year even if the arrangements had not changed from previous years. Admission authorities were required to determine admission arrangements for entry in September 2027 by 28 February 2026.

Reason for Decision

The Council was required to abide by the requirements of the School Admissions Code and associated regulations and determine admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools each year. The proposed determined arrangements were in line with the requirements of the Admissions Code.

Alternative Options Considered

No other options had been considered. The Council was legally required to determine the admission arrangements for community and voluntary controlled schools, to determine a co-ordinated scheme which explained the co-ordination of arrangements for all publicly funded schools in the Sandwell area, and to consult as appropriate.

Resolved that delegated authority is given to the Executive Director of Children and Education to publish the Local Authority's Admission Arrangements for 2027/28 academic year for places in all community and voluntary controlled schools, in accordance with the School Admissions Code 2021.

Scrutiny Review - Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board - Recommendations

Consideration was given to the recommendations of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in respect of the scrutiny review of Communities in our Borough.

The Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board commenced the scrutiny review of the Communities in our Borough in the 2023/ 24 municipal year.

The Board had established a working group to conduct the review which undertook substantial research and efforts to understand the matter and produce recommendations to the Cabinet.

There was a strong evidence base demonstrating that cohesive, well-connected communities experience better outcomes across health, safety, education, and economic participation. Following the 2024 national riots, members identified a need to examine how Sandwell could strengthen cohesion, improve communication, and support residents to feel part of their local area.

The review sought to understand these issues through a combination of quantitative data, qualitative engagement, site visits, and comparative research.

Through the evidence gathered, members found that cohesion was strengthened when residents could communicate effectively with services, when trusted messengers help bridge gaps in engagement, and when local assets were visible, accessible and easy to navigate. Opportunities for communities to mix, celebrate and collaborate also play a vital role, as did ensuring that information was clear, consistent and available in multiple languages.

At the meeting of the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in January 2026, the Board agreed a range of recommendations based on the research and findings of the working group. These recommendations were now presented to Cabinet for consideration.

Having considered the recommendations of the Scrutiny Board, with the exception of the recommendation that the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods promote and support inclusive community events and cultural celebration days in public spaces, with family friendly activities provided free of charge which was approved in part, the Cabinet were minded to approve the remaining recommendations in full.

Reason for Decision

The Cabinet may approve all, some, or none of the recommendations of Scrutiny.

Alternative Options Considered

There were no alternative options to consider.

Resolved:-

- (1) that approval is given in full to the recommendations of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in respect of the Scrutiny Review of the Communities in our Borough as follows:-
 - a) that the Cabinet Member for Business and Skills create a publicly accessible comprehensive directory of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses;
 - b) that the Statutory Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Finances and Resources conduct a coordinated campaign to increase the profile and awareness of English for Speakers of Other Languages courses across the borough;
 - c) that the Deputy Leader and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods produce and develop a borough wide Community Asset Map of organisations, services, and resources by ward;

- (2) that approval is given in part to the recommendation of Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board in respect of the Scrutiny Review of the Communities in our Borough as follows:-
 - a) that the Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Communities and Neighbourhoods promote and support inclusive community events and cultural celebration days in public spaces, with family friendly activities provided free of charge.

Meeting ended at 4.18pm