

Appendix 1

Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Tracker 2025-2026				
Date	Item	Recommendation/Action	Responsible Person	Progress
9 October 2024	Grass Verge Parking Policy	<p>That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways is recommended to consider the development of a Grass Verge Parking Policy to include:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> – An equalities impact assessment in relation to the Grass Verge Parking Policy, with a particular focus on individuals with disabilities; – considerations of the impact of grass verge alterations on flooding prevention; – the utilisation of rewilding methods and tree planting to prevent grass verges being used for vehicle parking; and – clear guidance on what options should be used in each specific scenario to address grass verge parking issues. 	Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways	This item was due to be considered at a meeting of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Board at its meeting on 21 January 2026. However, following the publication of the agenda, guidance on grass verge parking had been released by central government. As such, the draft policy required a re-write and members agreed to defer the item to a future meeting.
5 November 2024	Litter Bin Strategy	That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways is recommended to:	Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways	A litter bin strategy has been drafted and recommendations will be incorporated into the final version of the strategy.

		<p>1.Consider establishing the Litter Bin Strategy as a formal policy to include:-</p> <p>a) A scoring Matrix for the implementation for new bins; and b) clear guidelines on the exact damage condition a bin will need to reach before it is replaced.</p> <p>2.present the completed Litter Bin Strategy/Policy to a future meeting of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board;</p> <p>3.consider continuous data analysis and monitoring of the Litter Bin Strategy/Policy to measure the impact of any changes made; 4.consider the implementation of a public litter bin colour scheme that replicates that of domestic waste bins to aid residents with disposing of waste appropriately;</p> <p>5.in relation to the Litter Bin Strategy/Policy, to ensure that all relevant communications are available in a variety of languages to maximise engagement with residents;</p> <p>6.ensure that maintenance of public bins in parks are adjusted to match the Litter Bin Strategy/Policy to maintain a holistic approach;</p>		<p>The Board reviewed progress against the strategy at its meeting on 26 February 2026. A further recommendation had been carried as follows:-</p> <p>“That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways reviews and rationalises who is responsible for the emptying of litter bins in our parks and green spaces to ensure the best use of resources.”</p> <p>A final version will be presented to ESTE at a future meeting.</p>
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30 July 2025	Sandwell Skills and Employment Strategy; Addressing Youth Employment	That the Cabinet Member for Business and skills is recommended to consider the introduction of specific schemes to ensure that young and older carers alike in the borough are prioritised for work placements and other forms of employment.	Cabinet Member for Business and Skills	<p>The Council provides several services and programmes to support residents into employment, education and training. While some of these programmes will be for specific cohorts of people i.e. care experienced young people, they are largely open to all. Sandwell’s Skills and Employment Strategy, published in 2024, recognises that there will be some individuals or groups that will need additional support or flexibility to allow them to access opportunities, carers are recognised as one such group.</p> <p>The Skills and Employability service can adapt service delivery to carers</p>

				<p>individualised needs. Carers often face barriers such as time constraints, gaps in employment, limited flexibility and emotional or physical stress. The service offered is flexible including offering flexible scheduling for appointments and remote/online access to support tools. Tailored information advice and guidance is offered to provide personalised career guidance for their situation. We provide employer engagement and advocacy including supporting with flexible working hours, hybrid/remote roles and carers leave policies. We ensure our services are inclusive to carers and are visible to them including sharing with online forums, community centres and GP surgeries.</p> <p>There is a commitment in the Council's Joint Carers Strategy to working with the Voluntary Sector to secure External Funding 'Improve the support for Carers to remain in, and return to, Employment Education and Training and Supporting Carers to improve their Financial Wellbeing'. The new Sandwell Carers Service which commenced operation in September 2025 and commissioned by Adult Social Care will provide information and advice to carers balancing their caring responsibilities with their employment.</p>
		<p>That the Cabinet Member for Business and skills is recommended to consider the introduction of specific schemes to ensure that young and older carers alike</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Business and Skills</p>	<p>The Sandwell Labour manifesto included a commitment to address youth unemployment. The Council's corporate plan 2024-27 includes an outcome within the</p>

		<p>in the borough are prioritised for work placements and other forms of employment.</p>	<p>growing up in Sandwell section in respect of ensuring that young people 'have the right skills and support to take the next step in their life and are well prepared for adulthood. To achieve this outcome significant work is being done to provide employment and work experience opportunities for young people. Additionally, the Skills and Employment service work with all residents to provide them with support to access employment. The following are an example of initiatives currently being delivered to address unemployment:</p> <p>Youth employment trailblazer – targeted at 18-21 year olds providing additional support with the transition from mandatory education to further destinations, including education, employment and training. This project is also offering paid work placements. Connect to work (Launching this month) – targeted at people with health conditions and or disabilities using the Supported Employment Quality framework (SEQF) or the Individual Placement Support model (IPS). The programme provides bespoke intensive support to individuals who are unemployed or employed. This year funding is also targeted at 18-24 year olds.</p> <p>UKSPF – offering employment support interventions to economically inactive residents in Sandwell, delivered by Connexions, Employment and Skills and a</p>
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				<p>range of Voluntary and Community Sector organisations.</p> <p>Workwell – available to Sandwell residents aged 16 plus facing health-related employment challenges, offering support to find, retain or return to work. Provides work and health coaches addressing employment barriers.</p> <p>Council directorates will be embarking on their business planning for 2026/27 shortly, we will ensure they consider how they are able to support addressing unemployment in their plans.</p> <p>The Sandwell Together Partnership (STP) Board - chaired by the Leader of the Council and consisting of strategic leaders from key organisations across the borough - is currently developing a new vision under the Sandwell Story. During October and November 2025 the Board will meet to agree a collective vision for Sandwell, confirming priority actions and measures of success moving forward. Addressing employment deprivation and focusing on improving skills are emerging priorities which will be considered by the Board as part of the intelligence provided. Following development of the vision, the council plans to review its Council Plan in 2026 which will consider focusing on reducing unemployment.</p>
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		<p>That, in collaboration with partners, including those in the private and voluntary sectors, the Cabinet Member for Business and Skills is recommended to consider the creation of a focus group to address concerns around unemployment in the borough.</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Business and Skills</p>	<p>There is an existing partnership group, chaired by Sandwell Council, that includes key stakeholders such as the job centre, colleges, training providers and the VCS, that oversees the Skills and Employment Strategy which has a key focus on reducing youth unemployment.</p> <p>There also exist other forums for discussion with local Business, more formally via the monthly Sandwell Business Ambassadors forum who are all Business Leaders and employers in Sandwell, and with employers directly, via account managed relationships the business growth team have with our local SME's</p>
<p>15 October 2025</p>	<p>Town Deal Update</p>	<p>that the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Infrastructure is requested to consider contacting the Smethwick Plan for Neighbourhoods Board to request that they explore measures to ensure that the Board's membership covers a broad and diverse age-range with a revolving and ever-changing membership so that the views</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Infrastructure</p>	<p>The Board welcomed the recommendation made by Scrutiny and discussed the age range at length. They felt that having a Youth Forum would be the best approach rather than select 2 people to join the Board. They did consider that a broad age range may deter those above 18 in getting involved and also those in the younger age bracket may not feel confident in the same group. To</p>

		of younger people are captured appropriately		<p>move forward the Board felt it was best to ask the young people who submitted their interest. The first introduction meeting is taking place this evening with the expectation that at the next meeting, the Youth Forum will be tasked to determine what their scope is, how they expand membership, how future engagement with young people should like like etc.</p> <p>This Youth Forum is being supported by the Neighbourhoods Team and 4 Board members.</p>
26 February 2026	Street Cleanliness and Fly Tipping	That the Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways introduces a "re-use" facility at Sandwell Council's household recycling centre so that furniture and other household goods can be recycled, upholstered or re-used by members of the public.	Cabinet Member for Environment and Highways	Awaiting response.