



Leader of the Council - Councillor Ray Nock

Accountable to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board.

Has political responsibility for Sandwell Metropolitan Borough Council, overseeing implementation of the Administration’s manifesto commitments and core Council strategies across multiple service themes and holding the Chief Executive to account.

Is the main ambassador and principal spokesperson for the Council, representing Sandwell on the regional and national stage. Manages relations with key partners and stakeholders and serves on the Board of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

<p>Functions</p> <p>Communications Service Improvement – Strategy, Policy, Insight and Partnerships Transformation</p>
<p>Priorities</p> <p>Strong and consistent political leadership. Financial strategy. Long term plan for deprivation. Clear and transparent decision making and effective governance. Regional partnerships (West Midlands Combined Authority). Housing Improvement and Transformation.</p>
<p>Strategies</p> <p><i>Core Council strategies across multiple service themes</i> <i>Council Plan 2024-27</i> <i>Corporate Transformation Plan</i> <i>Medium Term Financial Strategy</i> <i>Housing Improvement and Transformation</i> <i>Workforce Strategy</i></p> <p><i>Portfolio related</i> <i>Communications Strategy</i> <i>Sandwell Story</i> <i>Sandwell Aspirations (tackling deprivation)</i></p>



Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Economic Growth - Councillor Ray Nock (Leader)

Accountable to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board.

Responsible for economic development, growth, attracting inward investment and funding that creates jobs, skills and opportunities for Sandwell residents. Includes Sandwell’s Business Growth Plan, which is focused on ensuring businesses have the skills, knowledge, and resources they need to thrive and grow.

Represents the Council on the Investment Board of the West Midlands Combined Authority.

Oversees regeneration schemes across the borough as well as highways and transport infrastructure and the Council’s property assets transferred from service departments to the corporate landlord.

Leads on planning policy and the Sandwell Local Plan, which serves as the blueprint for future development and ensuring housing needs are met.

<p>Functions</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regeneration and Growth Strategic Assets and Land Strategic Planning and Transportation Growth and Spatial Planning (Local Plan). Business Growth (Spatial Planning and Growth) Strategic Assets and Land Facilities Management Strategic Planning and Transportation
<p>Priorities</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Business Growth Plan Outcomes. Spending more of the Council’s money with local business. Attracting inward investment. The regeneration pipeline. Implementing major road improvement schemes. Guiding housing growth. Effective management of Council property assets. Improving energy efficiency.
<p>Strategies</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sandwell Local Plan Regeneration Pipeline Highway Infrastructure Asset Management Plan Sandwell Business Growth Plan



**Statutory Deputy Leader, Cabinet Member for Finance and Corporate Services -
Councillor Gary Dale**

Accountable to the Budget and Corporate Scrutiny Management Board.

Will exercise the functions of the Leader where the position is vacant or where the Leader is absent or is otherwise unable to act.

Responsible for the Council’s financial strategy and internal infrastructure including human resources, health and safety, IT, finance, audit and legal services. Leads on budget setting, budget monitoring, financial policy, financial performance and delivering value for money through procurement. Also, revenue collection, business rates, council tax and benefits, council tax support and management of the Housing Revenue Account.

Oversees progress towards implementing a high-quality, modern council services and the strategy for increasing digital inclusion.

Functions
Financial reporting and strategies Business Partnering Business Management Human Resources and Organisational Development (including EDI) Legal Services – includes Registrars and Bereavement Services) Procurement Risk Management Audit ICT Digital Fleet Management Health and Safety
Priorities
Development of the Medium-Term Financial Strategy. Align resources to increase finance resilience. Valuing the Voluntary and Community Sector (governance processes and funding). Improving access to digital services. People Strategy and EDI Strategy (& Action Plans).
Strategies
Medium Term Financial Strategy People Strategy EDI Strategy Risk Management Strategy Digital Strategy Social Value Policy



Cabinet Member for Customer Services and Neighbourhoods– Councillor Michael Cooper

Accountable to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.

Responsible for improving outcomes for people on local issues through effective neighbourhood work and collaboration. Meets regularly with the Town Leads, responsible for guiding community infrastructure.

Portfolio includes Customer, Democracy and Neighbourhood functions and oversees leisure provision, libraries, museums and archives. Also, the delivery of Council events, cultural enrichment activities and community cohesion.

Functions
Customer Services Neighbourhood Services Democratic and Member Services Events Libraries, Archives and Museums Visitor Services Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise Sector
Priorities
Embedding an effective Neighbourhood Service. Ensuring all residents are active participants in influencing change. Local leadership of place: Sandwell story. Customer Service. Aligning funding allocated to support community and voluntary organisations with strategic priorities and the needs of communities. Improving the leisure and culture offer.
Strategies
Neighbourhood Strategy Customer Experience Strategy Cultural Strategy



Cabinet Member for Children and Families – Councillor Mona Khurana

Accountable to Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board

Statutory Lead Member for children’s services who chairs the Council’s Corporate Parenting Board. Responsible for child protection and support for children and young people with special educational needs and disabilities (SEND).

Oversees services provided by the Sandwell Children’s Trust that include early years and childcare, children’s social care, adoption and fostering, safeguarding and targeted services.

Leads on strategies to address childhood obesity and increasing access for school children to mental health services.

Works with the Cabinet Member for Education and Skills who lead on strategies for reducing youth unemployment.

Functions
Children’s Commissioning, Partnership and Improvement Sandwell Children’s Trust SEND Youth Service Youth Justice
Priorities
Sandwell Child Friendly Status. Keeping children and young people safe. Transforming SEND services. Increasing access for school children to mental health services. Addressing Childhood Obesity.
Strategies
SEND and Alternative Provision Transformation Plan Health and Wellbeing Strategy Play Sufficiency Assessment



Cabinet Member for Education and Skills – Councillor Jack Sabharwal

Accountable to Children’s Services and Education Scrutiny Board and to Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board

Leads on improving educational and employment outcomes in the borough and strategies aimed at ensuring residents the skills and tools to enter job markets and benefit from regeneration opportunities.

Responsible for most statutory functions relating to maintained schools including admissions and sufficiency of places, pupil attainment and progress, improving attendance and promoting inclusion. Also, collaboration and engagement with school leaders, governors and trustees in the maintained and academy sector.

Works with the Statutory Lead Member for Children’s Services to ensure their portfolios are aligned, and with the Cabinet Member for Regeneration and Growth to align the Education and Skills Strategy with the Sandwell Growth Plan.

Functions
Admissions and Appeals Inclusion Service School Attendance and Support School Improvement School Place Planning SHAPE Programme Employment, Strategy and Partnership (including Connexions)
Priorities
School readiness. Improving attendance. Improving educational outcomes. Promoting inclusion. Employment and Skills Strategy outcomes. Reducing youth unemployment.
Strategies
School Improvement Strategy Skills and Employment Strategy



Deputy Leader (Political), Cabinet Member for Housing – Councillor Ken Parsons

Accountable to the Safer Neighbourhoods and Active Communities Scrutiny Board.

Responsible for housing services and the improvement and transformation programme that will deliver better and decent homes for all tenants. Also, meeting housing needs and tackling homelessness by building new homes.

Functions
Asset Management and Maintenance Homes and Communities Housing and Partnerships Housing Management Housing Policy and Strategy Housing solutions
Priorities
Housing improvement and Transformation. Compliance & Building Safety. Improvement. Repairs Backlog & Improvement Plan. Capital Improvement Plan. Customer Journey & Consumers. Standards Improvement Plan. Contract Process Review IT / Systems Transformation Workforce Development / Resource Management / Culture Change. Climate Change Response Plan Best Use of resources and stock. Communications plan. Building new Council Houses - the housing pipeline.
Strategies
Housing Improvement and Transformation



Cabinet Member for Environment and Enforcement - Councillor Bob Jones
Accountable to the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board.

Responsible for services that support the local environment, including waste collection, recycling and fly tipping. Also, services that ensure public protection, community safety and the maintenance of Sandwell’s highways network, so residents have good travel experiences.

Functions
Waste Contracts and Operations Anti-Social Behaviour Citizen and Consumer Protection Community Safety Highway Services Parks and Green Spaces Public Protection (enforcement)
Priorities
Keeping public spaces clean and well maintained. Transition to alternate weekly waste collection. Improving recycling rates. Addressing fly tipping. Transport links/highways maintenance/ road safety/ sustainable modes of transport. Improving energy efficiency and air quality and transitioning to a net zero borough by 2041. Addressing crime and antisocial behaviour. Increasing allotments across the borough.
Strategies
Strategic Road Safety Plan



Cabinet Member for Adult Services, Health and Wellbeing - Councillor Ritchie Massey
Accountable to the Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board.

Statutory Lead Member for adult social care of older people, people with disabilities and those with mental health issues. Oversees public health and adult social services, ensuring they are safe, efficient and integrated with the local NHS.

Leads on developing policies and strategies aimed at helping people to live well for longer by addressing health inequalities, improving health outcomes for the most vulnerable, reducing/preventing the need for care and support and help for carers.

Works with the Cabinet Member for Children and Families, who leads on strategies to address childhood obesity and increasing access for school children to mental health services.

Functions
Adult Social Care Commissioning Adult Social Care Direct Services Public Health Consultancy Public Health Programmes Social Work
Priorities
Transforming Adult Social Care Services. Care Quality Commission (CQC) Assurance. Policies and strategies that help residents lead healthy lives and live well for longer. Policies and strategies to reduce/prevent the need for care and support. Implementing effective reablement services. Implementing effective support for carers. Policies and strategies that protect residents from harm to their health and wellbeing. Policies and strategies that reduce health inequalities. Policies and strategies aimed at improving the mental health and wellbeing of residents.
Strategies
Adult Social Care Strategy Carers Strategy Technology Enabled Care Strategy Sandwell Better Mental Health Strategy Suicide Prevention Strategy Air Quality Strategy