

Scrutiny Review – Scoping Document

Review Title:	Sandwell Local Plan and Associated Policies
Scrutiny Board:	Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board
Date of Review:	July 2025 – May 2026
<p>Reasons for undertaking the review:</p> <p>Following a request from Planning officers, the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board agreed to assist and review the development of the Sandwell Local Plan in the 2024/2025 Municipal Year.</p> <p>It is a statutory requirement of every Local Planning Authority to have an up-to-date Local Plan. Following the demise of the Black Country Plan in 2022, Sandwell was required to produce its own plan – the Sandwell Local Plan. As part of its reforms to the planning system, the previous Government had expressed a desire to see full Local Plan coverage across England.</p> <p>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> <p>The Sandwell Local Plan continues to progress and further work is required to consider the remaining elements alongside any associated policies such as the Design Code.</p>	
<p>Intended Outcomes:</p> <p>To provide officers producing the Sandwell Local Plan with regular feedback and monitoring to ensure that the Sandwell Local Plan, as the key planning document for the Borough,</p>	
<p>Methodology</p> <p>The Board will utilise a working group to monitor the Sandwell Local Plan. Additional sessions will also take place to consider associated policies.</p>	
Links to Council Plan:	The Sandwell Local Plan is overarching and has a direct impact on all aspects of the Council Plan
Links to Terms of Reference:	The Sandwell Local Plan is overarching and has a direct impact on all aspects of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Terms of Reference.

Scoping undertaken by:	Anthony Lloyd (Democratic Services Officer)
Council Chief Officer (or partner equivalent):	Alan Lunt (Director of Place)
Existing data available for consideration:	
National Planning Policy Framework; Current adopted local plan for the borough including the Black Country Core Strategy 2011, Sandwell Site Allocations and Delivery Plan 2012 and Area Actions Plans for Smethwick (2008), Tipton (2008) and West Bromwich (2012); and Now redundant Black Country Plan	
Potential witnesses	Senior Officers – Sandwell Council

Review Work Programme:			
Task	Method	Lead person(s)	Completion by:
Working Group Meeting to discuss key elements of the Sandwell Local Plan.	Working Group	Andy Miller	Completed August 2024
Working Group Meeting to discuss key elements of the Sandwell Design Code	Working Group	Joshua Singh	August 2025
Meeting to discuss the West Midlands Spatial Development Strategy	Spotlight Session/Formal Meeting of the Board	Andy Miller	Autumn 2025
Working Group Meeting to discuss the Sandwell Local Plan following examination in Public (If required)	Working Group	Andy Miller	November/December 2025
Working Group Meeting to discuss Government's new	Working Group	Andy Miller	TBC

Planning Bill (If required)			