

Sandwell Towns Fund Programme

Project RAG Ratings

1. West Bromwich Town Deal Projects

Project	Delivery RAG	Commentary
Digital Den	Low	<p>This project is complete.</p> <p>In recent reports, it shows there are changes to the usage needs for the building; external Delivery at the centre is predominately around ESOL and charitable usage, it has been advised that the need or ask for digital skills has consistently decreased and it not well utilised.</p> <p>A meeting has been scheduled with colleagues to discuss opportunities and reporting matters moving forward.</p>
Central St Michaels (MEC)	Low	<p>This project is complete and reporting on outputs only.</p> <p>Due to term time operations, no new learners are reported this period.</p> <p>The college has now confirmed completion of the Shaftsbury site development.</p>
Urban Greening	Low	<p>The capital works for this project are complete, with cultural programme ongoing.</p> <p>In recent months, a maintenance plan has been explored for the furniture and equipment and is yet to be finalised.</p> <p>The project has an outstanding requirement for 8 more plants, however unfortunately during summer some of the existing plants were stolen. The project and board are considering options for replanting and additional planting space.</p>
Town Hall Quarter	Low	<p>This project is complete and will now report on outputs / outcomes.</p> <p>The service area has secured funding for internal refurbishments and Arts Council funding to upgrade venue spaces.</p> <p>In the most recent quarter 806 educational classes were delivered from the Town Hall.</p>
Retail Diversification Programme	Low	<p>All acquisitions are complete.</p> <p>The West Bromwich Indoor Market was scheduled to complete in July 2025, whilst it did not officially open until 27 August, construction did complete in time and the delay in opening was to allow sufficient time for trader fit out.</p> <p>The demolition programme is now underway, with the Former Wilko site demolition complete and work is now ongoing for the proposed pop-up park. King Cinema and the Indoor Market demolition are currently subject to vigorous surveys and confirmation of target costs before commencing.</p>
West Bromwich Connected	Low	<p>There are two remaining phases of the West Bromwich Connected project.</p> <p>Unfortunately, due to utilities work, there has been a delay in allowing work to commence at Spon Lane however work has progressed, and this is now scheduled to start on site Winter 2025.</p> <p>Hill Top scheme has completed consultation and aims to complete before year end.</p> <p>This project has utilised all Towns Fund and will rely on Match Funding moving forward.</p>

2. Smethwick Town Deal Projects

Project	Delivery RAG	Commentary
Rolfe Street Canalside Regeneration	Medium	<p>Following the previous report of recommendations to retain three blocks and some of the facades fronting Rolfe St, and remainder of the site capable of being demolished, the project team met with Historic England to discuss the Heritage Impact Assessment and Feasibility Study results.</p> <p>A second structural survey has been completed and highlighted that an additional building requested by H.E is not in a particularly dangerous state, however, to bring it up to a reasonable standard, would require investment of at least £1m.</p> <p>It has now been agreed that a planning application for the demolition and retention of the buildings as set out in the Feasibility Study should be submitted. This includes the demolition of Block 200. The planning application will be submitted by the end of September 2025. Soft market testing with potential developers has commenced.</p>
Grove Lane Regeneration	Medium	<p>Negotiations to purchase the lands by agreement have continued, including undertaking valuations based on a residential scheme. However, no agreement has been reached. As such, steps have been taken to acquire using Compulsory Purchase powers, and a Statement of Reasons has been submitted.</p> <p>During designing a scheme for the planning application to support the CPO, it became apparent that the initial estimation of 145 units is not achievable and therefore a lower figure of 100 units is more likely to receive planning permission. A report was approved by Council Cabinet to make the CPO Based on the new information.</p> <p>A refresh on the land referencing was undertaken in July and the making of the CPO was made early September, and the relevant notices served, advert in the press and subsequent submission to SOS. Project awaits whether a public inquiry will be required.</p> <p>A planning Application is being prepared for submission.</p>
Midland Met Learning Campus	Low	<p>Construction is progressing well and is on track to complete in December 2025, for the building to be operational from January 2026.</p> <p>WMCA Grant conditions all met to allow drawdown of £5m grant when required in 2025/2026.</p>
Ron Davis Centre Expansion	Low	<p>This project is complete and reports on outputs and outcomes only. Due to summer term, there has been no additional learners to report this quarter.</p>
Smethwick Connected	Low	<p>The remaining phases, Health Lane and Black Patch Park are under construction and progressing as per programme.</p> <p>The fulfilment of these phases will close the Towns Fund scheme as completed.</p>

3. Rowley Regis Town Deal Board

Project	Delivery RAG	Commentary
Canal Network	Low	Following the replacement of Wrights Bridge Deck, this project is now complete and will report on outcomes and outputs moving forward.
Rowley Regis Park Improvements	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Sports Drainage Works completed in June 2025. Sons of Rest Works completed in early September. Britannia Park Toddler Play contractor appointed - expect works to start on site in September 25 to avoid the summer holidays. Haden Toddler Play procurement exercise complete, pending award letter. Skatepark Procurement exercise complete, this came in within budget at 199k. Consultation surveys and activities are now live. These have been partnered in with work from Sandwell's safer 6. Beech Maze procurement exercise commenced. Changing Rooms hard landscaping - Plan has been complete by landscape architects to devise a scheme for outside the changing rooms, now awaiting quotes.
Blackheath Bus Interchange and Public Realm	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Construction is progressing well with all milestones on track. Traffic Management is under supervision in case any changes are needed. Adaptions have been made to works programme keep current signals in place for as long as works will allow, before one way end closure is made. Key Progress - Drainage Installation Commenced m tree pit installed marking out of the paths, interchange and additional vegetation and curblines installed.
Rowley Connected	Low	<p>There are now two phases remaining in this project.</p> <p>Cradley Heath</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final designs and consultation is complete. Project commenced on site in August with aim to complete November 2025. <p>Wrights Lane</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Works commenced on site in the Summer to avoid disruption to the local school and has since completed.

Cradley Heath Skills Campus	Low	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Construction is on site and is 3 weeks ahead of programme, this will allow the College to access the building sooner for fit out before becoming operational in January 2026. <p>Interviews are scheduled to recruit a Head of Campus.</p> <p>As previously reported, the project secured additional funding from Towns Fund underspend and finances are now on track.</p> <p>The Campus will need a high-profile launch and sustained work locally to ensure awareness of the new facilities is successfully raised.</p>
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