

Scrutiny Board :	Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board
Report Title	Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2025/26
Date of Meeting	Wednesday 21 January 2026
Report Author	Anthony Lloyd Democratic Services Officer Ant_Lloyd@sandwell.gov.uk
Lead Officer	James McLaughlin Assistant Chief Executive
Appendices (if any)	1. Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Work Programme

1. Executive Summary

1.1 Each municipal year the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board will produce a work programme which will set out what items the Board will consider. The Board will also consider what Scrutiny Review to undertake during the same period.

2. Recommendation

The Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board is recommended to:-

2.1 notes its work programme, which sets out matters to be considered by the Board in 2025/26;

2.2 that, the Board considers whether any changes or additions are required to its work programme and in doing so, has regard to the Prioritisation Tool.

3. Background and Context

Work Programme

3.1 A strong and effective work programme underpins the work and approach of Scrutiny. However, it is good practice for work programmes to remain fluid, to allow for scrutiny of new and emerging issues in a timely manner.

3.2 Scrutiny is a member led and driven function, driven by members' commitment to improve services and thereby people's lives.

- 3.3 A work programming event for the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board took place on 18 June 2025.
- 3.4 Scrutiny Procedure Rules allow any member to request that an item is added to a scrutiny board's work programme. Each request should be carefully assessed, using the agreed process, to ensure that resources can be prioritised and that the scrutiny activity will add value.

4. Consultation

- 4.1 None required.

5. Financial Implications

- 5.1 The Scrutiny function is directly supported by the Council's Statutory Scrutiny Officer and Democratic Services Officers within the Council's Assistant Chief Executive directorate. Additional technical expertise and evidence on specific matters will be provided by officers within the various directorates of the authority.
- 5.2 The strategic resource implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.

6. Legal and Governance Implications

- 6.1 Local Government Act 2000 states that Councils operating executive arrangements must also make provision for the appointment of overview and scrutiny committees.
- 6.2 Further powers relating to overview and scrutiny are set out in the Police and Justice Act 2006, the Localism Act 2011, the Police Reform and Social Responsibility Act 2011 and the Health and Social Care Act 2012.
- 6.3 Any legal and governance implications of topics selected for scrutiny will be identified and reported to the Board at future meetings.
- 6.4 The Board under its terms of reference had the responsibility to scrutinise corporate parenting, including services and support to care leavers.

7. Risks

- 7.1 There were no direct Risks Implications associated with the report.

8. Equality and Diversity Implications (including the public sector equality duty)

- 8.1 There are no direct equality and diversity implications arising from this report.

9. Other Relevant Implications

- 9.1 No other implications arising from this report.

10. Background Documents

10.1 None.

11. How does this deliver the objectives of the Strategic Themes?

11.1 The Scrutiny function supports all of the objectives of the Council Plan by seeking to improve services for the people of Sandwell. It does this by influencing policies and decisions made by the Council and other organisations involved in delivering public services.