

## Work Programme of the Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board 2025/26

30 July 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Economy, Skills, Transport and Environment Scrutiny Board Work Programme 2025-2026 Municipal Year		To establish the work programme for the 2025-2026 Municipal Year		Anthony Lloyd Alexander Goddard
Establishment of Working Group	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u> <p>To continue work on the development of the Local Plan as well as the Design Code. 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>	This underpins all objectives of the Council Plan	Andy Miller Joshua Singh
Skills and Employment Strategy	Holding to account/Seeking assurance	<u>Purpose of report:</u> <p>Sandwell experiences higher than average youth unemployment rates. Around 9,600 people aged 16 and over in Sandwell were unemployed in the year ending December 2023 (6% compared to a national average of 3.6% and a West Midlands average of 4.4%)</p>	Growing Up in Sandwell: Good opportunities in employment will encourage young adults to aspire to fill	Adele Smith

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			<p>the roles available to them.</p> <p>Living in Sandwell: Good employment opportunities can improve the standard of living.</p> <p>Healthy in Sandwell: More disposable income for adults can encourage active lifestyles</p>	
Greening of the Borough	Holding to account/Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>With growing pressure for Sandwell to meet house building targets, green spaces in the borough are under threat. By protecting and bolstering the green spaces we have, as well as encouraging “greening” in the borough’s built-up and urban areas, we can ensure that Sandwell is a place that people enjoy living in. There is strong evidence that green spaces can promote better mental health, boosting serotonin and dopamine levels in the brain.</p>	<p>Living in Sandwell: A greener borough encourages better mental health.</p>	<b>Deferred</b>

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15 October 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Levelling Up Fund	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u>  The Levelling Up fund is distributed to places across the UK on the basis of successful project selection.  By monitoring progress in relation to the Levelling Up Fund, the Board can be assured that targets are being met.	This underpins all of the Council Plan objectives	Rebecca Jenkins
Town Deal Update	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u>  Updates on the Town Fund Programme are presented to the Board every six months to provide assurance that the programme is proceeding in line with Government requirements.	Thriving in Sandwell	Rina Rahim
Tracking and Monitoring	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u>  To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	One Council One Team	Ant Lloyd

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12 November 2025				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Litter Bin Strategy	Policy Development	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>A meeting of the Board occurred on 5 November 2024. Members resolved to request that a formal litter bin strategy be established. A final version of the strategy is in development and is due to be presented to the ESTE Board.</p> <p>Ensuring that the correct facilities are in place across the borough will encourage good recycling and waste disposal habits, both in public and at home. A tidier borough will make Sandwell a more attractive place to live.</p>	Living in Sandwell Health in Sandwell	Deferred

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Street Cleanliness and Fly Tipping	Holding to account/Seeking Assurance	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>Street cleanliness and issues surrounding fly-tipping were key areas of interest raised by the Public.</p> <p>Both issues are usually front and centre of resident's concerns due to the visibility of both issues when compared to other matters. Ensuring that Sandwell remains clean and free of fly-tipping will improve the Public's perception of the Council and ultimately make the borough a better place to live.</p>	Living in Sandwell Healthy in Sandwell	Deferred
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21 January 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Grass Verge Parking Policy	Policy Development	<p><u>Purpose of report:</u></p> <p>A meeting of the Board occurred on 9 October 2024. Members resolved to request the Cabinet Member to consider the development of a grass verge parking policy. A policy is in development and is due to be presented to the ESTE Board. A comprehensive grass verge parking policy will protect some of Sandwell's grass verge's which will ultimately lead to reduced costs due to remediation works.</p> <p>A meeting of the Board occurred on 1 May 2025. Members resolved to request that an additional update be provided in relation parking in Sandwell following a data gathering exercise to obtain information on parking habits and occupancy rates at Sandwell Car Parks.</p> <p>The Council's car parks are a key asset which must balance income and the ever-increasing maintenance costs on public roads and car parks. Sufficient parking in the correct places could also encourage an increase in traffic for businesses in Sandwell.</p>	Living in Sandwell	Mervyn Bartlett

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EV Charging	Policy Development	<p><u>Purpose of Report:</u></p> <p>Cabinet members highlighted the increased need for EV charging in Sandwell. Due to the built-up nature of the borough, many homes do not have access to a private driveway to install EV charging equipment.</p> <p>A policy is required to ensure that Sandwell has a comprehensive solution in place in anticipation of the increase of EV vehicle ownership in the borough and how the public highway can be utilised to provide EV charging stations on a large scale. Promoting the use of EV vehicles will also enable the Council to achieve its climate goals.</p>	Healthy in Sandwell Living in Sandwell	
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18 March 2026				
Agenda Item	Scrutiny Objective	Purpose of Report and data Required	Alignment to Council Plan	Lead Officer/invitees
Town Fund Programme	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u>  Updates on the Town Fund Programme are presented to the Board every six months to provide assurance that the programme is proceeding in line with Government requirements.	Thriving in Sandwell	Rina Rahim
Bus Franchising	Holding to account	<u>Purpose of report:</u>  Good transport links encourage mobility within and outside of the borough. A reliable and efficient bus network will allow individuals to seek work opportunities, visit businesses and attend medical appointments faster and cheaper.	This item underpins all of the Council Plan objectives.	West Midlands Combined Authority Transport for West Midlands
Tracking and Monitoring	Monitoring	<u>Purpose of report:</u>  To obtain updates on progress made against recommendations made by the Board.	One Council One Team	Anthony Lloyd