

**Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard  
Smethwick Local Board Meeting Minutes**

Please note where the meeting notes make reference to commercially sensitive material this will be indicated next to the agenda item. A version of the minutes with commercially sensitive content redacted can be made available.

# Smethwick Town Deal Local Board Meeting Notes

Details: Thursday 22 June 2021 | 16:00 | Microsoft Teams Meeting

## Local Board Member/ Representative Attendees:

Alan Taylor - MI Glass (Chair)  
David Holden - Sandwell College  
John Wood - Liberty Engineering

Rob Lake – Albion Foundation  
Councillor Sukhbir Singh Gill – SMB Deputy Town Lead  
Councillor Farut Shaeen – SMBC Town Lead

## Attending in Support:

Andy Jukes - SMBC Procurement Services  
Andy Miller – Project Lead, Walking and Cycling Infrastructure  
Clinton Felicio - SMBC Regeneration  
Emma Parkes – SMBC Towns Fund Programme Office  
Erroll Blackwood - Project Lead for Ron Davis Centre Expansion  
Hayley Insley - SMBC Regeneration

Jane Lillystone - SMBC Neighbourhoods  
Kashmir Singh – Service Improvement Lead Officer  
Rebecca Jenkins - SMBC Town Funds Programme Manager  
Santokh Singh - SMBC Neighbourhood Engagement Manager  
Sian Breese – Children and Young People’s Services  
Tariq Karim - SMBC Area Manager Youth Service

## Superboard Members and SMBC Cabinet Members Attendees:

Jude Thompson, Chair of Sandwell Superboard

Councillor Zahoor Ahmed – SMBC Cabinet Member

## Apologies Received:

Chris Hilton - Interim Service Manager for Assets and Land  
Gareth Brown - Smethwick Church Action Network  
Kelly Thomas - SMBC Employment Strategy and Partnerships  
Leona Bird – SVCO

Lesley Hagger - Director of Children’s Services  
Omar Rashid - Business Representative  
Tammy Stokes - SMBC Interim Director - Regeneration and Growth

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Ref.	Description	Officer to Action
1.0	<b>Welcome and Opening Remarks</b> The Chair will welcome attendees to the meeting, make opening remarks, provide any feedback from Superboard and ask for declarations of interests.	Alan Taylor
1.1	The Chair welcomed local board members and additional attendees from Superboard to the virtual meeting. The Chair then described the outcomes for the meeting as per the agenda, of which focused on the Governance Review outcome, Town Level Equality Impact Assessment, Ron Davis Centre Expansion Full Business Case documentation, The Albion Family in the Park project and the discussions around Tranche 2 projects.	
1.2	Local Board members were reminded that the young person's representative remains vacant. The programme management office liaised with Sandwell Council officers to recruit, however a young person who is interested has not yet been identified. The chair expressed the importance of this. Moving forward, the programme management office will liaise with Sandwell College.	

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1.3	The Chair encouraged board members to use the 'chat' function within MS Teams. This function will help board members voice their thoughts, queries and contribute without board members feeling like they are disturbing the flow of discussion.	
1.4	<p>If at the end of the meeting there are additional queries or comments, or if local board members feel they did not have the opportunity to voice their comments within the timeframe, local board members can contact the Chair and the programme management office: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Chair of Smethwick Local Board: ataylor@miglass.com</li> <li>• Programme Management Office: town_deal@sandwell.gov.uk</li> </ul>	
1.5	<b>Action: Programme Management Office to liaise with Sandwell College to recruit a Young Persons representative for the Local Board.</b>	<b>PMO</b>
2.0	<p><b>Declarations of Interests</b> To receive any declarations of interest from board members relating to any item on the agenda.</p>	<b>All</b>
2.1	Alan Taylor (Chair) - Sandwell College Board of Governors	
3.0	<p><b>Minutes and Action Log</b> To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 13 May 2021 as a correct record and to review the outstanding actions recorded on the action log.</p>	<b>Alan Taylor</b>
3.1	<p><u>Minutes from the previous meeting held 13 May 2021</u> Board members agreed minutes are of a true record.</p>	
3.2	<p><u>Action Log</u> Updates have been recorded on the attached action log.</p>	
3.3	<p>A discussion took place around the accelerated funding scheme on Tollhouse Way in relation to the outstanding action: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Some local board members expressed there is an ongoing issue with traffic management in the area as a result of the scheme and has been a difficult issue throughout the duration of works.</li> <li>• A concern was raised with regard to the scheme being delayed by 3 months and that the volume of works when passing the construction site is low. A concern was raised that by the time Highways have monitored and implemented the temporary traffic lights, the scheme will be towards the final works. A suggestion was made that the council should be more dynamic in responding to issues such as this and implement changes that help the users and residents.</li> </ul>	
3.4	In response to traffic management, local board members were informed that by placing temporary traffic lights at one junction will impact on adjacent junctions, therefore requires detailed consideration of implications on the wider network.	
3.5	In response to a question around the Covid-19 isolation of contractors on this scheme and the management of this, all West Midlands Local Authorities are using the same pool of contractors to carry out a huge number of schemes, as a result of receiving Government funding where works should be completed within a timeframe. With contractors falling ill with COVID-19 or needing to isolate, it was	

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3.6	<p>difficult to replace contractors due to a decreased workforce across all areas and it can take a long time to train a skilled highway operative. Local board members were informed this that Local Authorities within the West Midlands are experiencing the same issues.</p> <p>The Chair confirmed it's important to review and understand how the works reflect the reputation of the council and Local Board members and the impact on the community.</p>	
3.7	<p><b>Action: A detailed query was raised by a Board Member on the chat function in relation to some statistics requested on the accelerated programme. Andy Miller offered to follow this up with the Highways Department to identify if this information is available.</b></p>	Andy Miller
3.8	<p><b>Action: Hayley to inform Highways that the traffic management remains an issue.</b></p>	Hayley Insley
4.0	<p><b>Governance Review Update</b>          To receive a verbal update on the Governance review for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the Towns Fund Programme following the circulation of the briefing paper.</p>	Alan Taylor and Rebecca Jenkins
4.1	<p>A briefing note had been circulated to Local Board members in May 2021. The briefing note outlined the proposals for the Towns Fund Governance Arrangements for Phase 2 and Phase 3 of the programme.</p>	
4.2	<p>The recommendations were in response to Government guidance around the Towns Fund Programme and to update arrangements as the programme enters Phase 2 - Full Business Case development stage. Further updates were included to reflect lessons learnt.</p>	
4.3	<p>The key points that were drawn out within the briefing paper were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensuring more people have the involvement in the formative stages of project development. The recommendation is to broaden the membership of the Local Board to include Superboard members, SMBC Cabinet Members and SMBC Deputy Town Lead Member.</li> <li>• Update around conflicts of interests. This is relevant where a Local Board member is a project lead delivering on a project within the Towns Fund.</li> </ul>	
4.4	<p>The Governance Review paper was presented and approved by SMBC Cabinet on 16 June 2021. The Chair expressed how great this is for Superboard members to have the opportunity to attend Local Board meetings and input into discussions. In addition, welcomed Cllr Ahmed - Cabinet Member, Cllr Shaeen - Town Lead Member and Cllr Gill - Deputy Town Lead Councillor who were in attendance, to the Local Board meeting.</p>	
4.5	<p>Jude Thompson, Chair of Sandwell Towns Fund Superboard, was invited to say a few words and informed board members he will be joining Local Board meetings across the three towns periodically to understand projects in more depth.</p>	
4.6	<p>Jude advised there were amendments made to the Governance originally which meant the decision-making authorities would sit at Superboard level and not Local Board. This was due to many of the Superboard members not realising they could attend Local Boards to help them understand what activities are taking place at local board level in order to make an informed decision at Superboard level.</p>	

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4.7	A lot of work took place with the three Local Board Chairs to overcome any issues. This Governance review ensures Superboard and Local Board combined will be part of the decision-making processes and in line with recommendations by Jude and others key stakeholders including Towns Fund superboard members, local board members and the council's governance services.	
4.8	Jude concluded that the more people that have an understanding of what is going on and the communication that is needed, the better and more successful projects will be.	
4.9	Should any board members have any questions or concerns about the governance, please contact the programme management office.	
5.0	<p><b>Draft Town Level Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)</b> To consider draft Town Level Equality Impact Assessment <i>Attached: Draft EIA</i></p>	<b>Rebecca Jenkins and Kashmir Singh</b>
5.1	The draft Equality Impact Assessment (EIA) was circulated to board members ahead of the meeting. The assessment takes an overarching view across the six projects and has been conducted to help guide the process, considerations, development and details of consultation at project level.	
5.2	The purpose of this discussion is to share the draft assessment for comment and for Local Board members to input on any additional actions required or additional information that should be reflected within the assessment.	
5.3	<p>Kashmir Singh, Service Improvement Lead Officer, was invited to confirm what an EIA is and how this has been approached in the Towns Fund context. The discussions key points were: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Although many public sector bodies carry out EIAs, it is not a legal requirement to do so. There is precedent and case law that states as a public sector body the council should be able to demonstrate compliance of our Public Sector Equality Duty.</li> <li>• An EIA is a means of demonstrating that the council have given due regard to the public sector equality duty, eliminate discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Equality Act 2010, advanced equality of opportunity, foster good relations between persons who share relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not.</li> <li>• The Public Sector Equality Duty is discharged when making a final decision however regular review should be undertaken. For example, when projects are up and running the impact it's having on people with protected characteristics should be analysed.</li> <li>• The EIA relies on information, data and monitoring. If the impact has not been monitored and the data cannot be understood, there should be consideration of what data needs to be collected.</li> <li>• Guidance from Government have stated that an EIA is required at Town Level for the Towns Fund Programme.</li> </ul>	
5.4	<p>Based on the information to date, a summary of the Equality Impact assessment includes: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Across all projects there is an expectation for economic benefits to be achieved by all groups</li> </ul>	

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5.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There is an expectation to see improvements within the age groups (younger and working age) from the three projects that have a focus on skills development and housing proposals.</li> <li>• Specific improvements for people with disabilities via Walking and Cycling Infrastructure linking up to key transportation hubs</li> </ul> <p>Local Board members were asked to provide feedback and input into the draft EIA. The discussion included: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The Chair agreed that although not a legal requirement, it's good practice and really important to ensure impacts have been considered</li> <li>• The Town Level EIA looks comprehensive</li> <li>• It was asked if this is a standard process that is being applied across all projects in other towns. It was confirmed that each town will have a Town Level EIA (3 in total) and then each project across each town will complete an EIA (17 in total).</li> </ul>	
5.6	<p>The draft Town Level EIA will be presented to Superboard on 22 July 2021 for input and comment. Once agreed, the draft Town Level will be published.</p>	
5.7	<p>At the end of phase 2 - Full Business Case Development Stage, there will be a finalised Town Level EIA that will be published.</p>	
6.0	<p><b>Ron Davis Centre Expansion – Short Update</b></p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To receive an update on preparation of Ron Davis Centre Full Business Case; and</li> <li>for Local Board to receive and make any input in relation to the Project Environmental Impact Assessment and Equality Impact Assessment</li> </ol> <p><i>Attached: Ron Davis Centre Expansion Equality Impact Assessment and Environmental Impact Assessment</i></p>	<p><b>Sian Breese and Rebecca Jenkins</b></p>
6.1	<p>During the Local Board meeting held on 13 May 2021, local board members agreed the project progression to finalise the Full Business Case. Work on the Full Business Case documentation has been ongoing.</p>	
6.2	<p>Sian Breese, Senior Lead Officer for Learner Services with Sandwell Adult Family Learning (SAFL) is working with Erroll Blackwood to develop the Full Business Case documentation.</p>	
6.3	<p><u>Project Equality Impact Assessment (EIA)</u></p> <p>The project EIA was circulated to board members ahead of the meeting. Key points following the assessment include: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project does not disadvantage any groups of service users or general public</li> <li>• The project will provide significant opportunity for groups that were previously out of scope</li> <li>• Adult education is funded for 19+, however the vision for the Ron Davis Centre is to create a hub for the entire community, including young people, residents from disadvantage backgrounds, unemployed, low skills and low-level English skills</li> </ul>	
6.4	<p>Local Board members were asked if they had any comments. This included: -</p>	

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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>At previous meetings there were concerns regarding the 6% cost reduction that has been applied to the project. In addition, there is a lot of inflation in materials and building materials. It was asked if this is still a concern and how difficult this has been. This is a great project and wouldn't want it to fail due to the budget pressures.</li> <li>It was asked if the extension of the building will be located on the green fields next to the centre. The extension will remain on the Ron Davis Centre grounds, within the wooded area and not impact the playing fields.</li> <li>A query was raised regarding working with other partners e.g. ethnicity groups, groups with learning difficulties etc. Currently there is a really good record of working with partners and the community with cohesion and English Language. The intention is to expand this.</li> </ul>	
6.5	<p>To date, the focus has been on Adult Education and the additional classrooms will allow the adult learning to expand, however the vision is to open the centre to act as a community hub, introducing out of hours, weekend accessibility for all community groups, to allow them to use the hub and make it a fully inclusive centre.</p>	
6.6	<p><u>Environmental Impact Assessment</u> An Environmental Impact Assessment applies to certain types of developments that seek planning permission, under the Town and Country Planning Act 1990. The process is governed by Town and Country Planning EIA regulations 2017 and allows planning authorities to make decisions by having the full knowledge on any significant environmental effects.</p>	
6.7	<p>There are two schedules under the regulations which project leads will look at to see if their project falls within either schedule. Schedule 1 includes major developments such as Crude-oil refineries, Thermal Power Stations, Nuclear Power Stations, smelting works, construction on motorways and express roads. Schedule 2 includes major project works such as major project works for agriculture, quarries, extraction of minerals, food production and regeneration builds.</p>	
6.8	<p>An initial screening report is carried out to check if the project proposals fall within either schedule. If it doesn't, an Environmental Impact Assessment isn't required. If an assessment is required, a scoping report is completed that sets out the potential impacts of the development and the methodology to undertake the assessment. This looks at the potential issues and mitigations that would avoid or reduce the environmental effects. Findings are set out within an Environmental Statement. The statement is then used when a decision on a proposed development is being made. It considers the loss or improvement of environmental issues have been addressed and are satisfactory. This is then monitored throughout the development of the project.</p>	
6.9	<p>In regard to the Ron Davis Centre Expansion Project, due to the minor extension of the existing premises, the screening undertaken established that proposals didn't fall within either of the two schedules.</p>	
6.10	<p>A query was raised regarding the construction activities and how this might affect service delivery. At the moment the amount of impact is unknown. There will be some disruption but aim to keep this minimal. With the extension located on the back of the building, the aim is to have the knock through into the existing building as the last construction activity. If there is disruption, other venues will be looked at to temporarily move classes in whilst work takes place.</p>	

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7.0	<p><b>Short Project Update - Albion Family in the Park.</b> Update on options appraisal and next steps</p>	<p><b>Rob Lake and Jane Lillystone</b></p>
7.1	<p>The Chair summarised the discussion topic before inviting Rob Lake, Project Lead for Albion Family in the Park, to provide an update on the project. Rob has been working closely with Jane Lillystone, Sandwell Council Service Manager for Tourism, Culture and Leisure and thanked Jane for her ongoing support.</p>	
7.2	<p>At the time of project ideas generation stage, The Albion Foundation were encouraged to put forward the proposal to build an alternative education school, 3G pitch and restoration of changing rooms in West Smethwick Park, where the Heritage Lottery Fund (HLF) have granted funding for a pavilion and restoration works.</p>	
7.3	<p>The Albion Family in the Park project proposal was submitted to Government in October 2020 and has been agreed by Government for funding.</p>	
7.4	<p>When presenting the project progress to HLF in March 2021, HLF objected to the project being located in West Smethwick Park, concerned the project does not align with the parks vision and would consider drawing back funding if the project goes ahead. HLF advised they were not adequately consulted and have requested that the council carry out an impact assessment to allow HLF decide if the project would impact on the heritage within the park. The impact assessment is currently being reviewed by Procurement and will take between 4 to 6 weeks, costing approx. £15k+.</p>	
7.5	<p>The current situation has resulted in not having an clear agreement for the project proceeding at West Smethwick Park. Other options are being considered including Lewisham Park.</p>	
7.6	<p>Lewisham Park is close to the stadium and currently has low usage, therefore the project would increase footfall and improve this area. There is a covenant on the park of which details of this are yet to be clarified. The covenant owner has been identified and conversations will need to take place. Brasshouse Community Centre have been consulted and fully support the proposal. The Old Heritage Museum Building and car park on Great Arthur Street could be utilised and developed.</p>	
7.7	<p>In 2020, the Premier League advised they would match the fund by £1.25m, however there are risks of losing match funding whilst delays and further options are being considered.</p>	
7.8	<p>The Albion Foundation Board are concerned that West Smethwick Park is challenging with the number of issues that have surfaced e.g. changing rooms and play park relocation and can see Lewisham Park as a great alternative. The Albion Foundation would like to progress the Lewisham Park site subject to the covenant discussions, planning permission and Towns Fund agreement.</p>	
7.9	<p>The chair acknowledged how disheartening and disappointing this setback is and asked Local Board members for their input. The discussion included: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The project is a great idea for the young people and community in Smethwick. The location of West Smethwick Park would be beneficial as young people need these types of facilities.</li> <li>• For the local community, it would be a shame if this project does not progress.</li> </ul>	



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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It's disappointing if this isn't located in West Smethwick Park.</li> <li>• The longer the delays, the less likely other sources of income would materialise.</li> <li>• Lewisham Park may be small for the scale of the project. Victoria Park may be a better option with lots more space and pitches. In response to this comment, it was noted that compound plans for Lewisham Park would suit the environment well, however options need to be set out and assessed visually in order to make a decision.</li> <li>• In regard to the heritage impact assessment, it was asked if a positive outcome is likely. If the cost to carry out an assessment is £15k and the likelihood of not progressing is high, this is a lot of money and time wasted.</li> <li>• It was asked if the option for Victoria Park would support the current timescales and if there are any restrictions. Clarity is required.</li> <li>• There are very unclear guidelines as to whether either option (West Smethwick Park and Lewisham Park) are achievable. Clarity is required if either of these can go ahead or if further work needs to be done to look at another location e.g. Victoria Park</li> </ul>	
7.10	<p>Local Board members were informed an appointment has been made for Community First Partnership to undertake the impact assessment who have been asked to collate a summary of recommendations by the end of July/ Early August 2021, due to the timescales of the full assessment. The Chair asked for confirmation if this is the £15k+ assessment and if this is a sensible decision to go ahead with this, if it's highly likely to be a negative outcome. Local Board members were advised the HLF have asked for the impact assessment to go ahead, and funding would come from the HLF project budget.</p>	
7.11	<p>Moving forwards the proposal is for a twin-track approach, to look at alternative sites whilst the impact assessment takes place, to ensure that there is a contingency in place if West Smethwick Park cannot proceed. Conversations are taking place with Legal Services regarding the convent on Lewisham Park.</p>	
7.12	<p>It was asked if the final decision of the location is made by HLF or Local Board and Superboard. The decision around potential impact on the West Smethwick Park will reside with HLF as they are the main funder for the park going forward.</p>	
7.13	<p>A further query was raised in regard to if there is any advantage of having the project split across two locations and spread the potential for improving the area across two sites.</p>	
7.14	<p>It was asked if plans, visual proposals and cost implications could be prepared within the next few weeks for Local Board members to review and help inform the recommendation.</p>	
7.15	<p><u>Towns Fund Timeline</u>  November 2021 - Submission of Tranche 3 Project Full Business Case documentation  March 2022 - Full Business Case Sign Off and Summary Document submitted back to Government</p>	
7.16	<p>The timeline provides sufficient time for conversations to take place with HLF and allows the impact assessment to take place.</p>	

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7.17	The Chair acknowledged that further conversations at Local Board will need to take place and encouraged Rob and Jane to prepare a summary of the plans for circulation ahead of the next discussion.	
7.18	<b>Action: Rob Lake and Jane Lillystone to prepare and present visual plans, proposals and cost implications for alternative project location options.</b>	<b>Rob Lake and Jane Lillystone</b>
8.0	<p><b>Tranche 2 Project Focus Session</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Walking and Cycling Infrastructure <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. The purpose of this item is for Local Board to receive an update from the project lead(s) and to make input and comment on the direction of the project; and</li> <li>ii. input to draft proposals for consultation and engagement.</li> </ul> </li> </ul> <p><i>Attached: Project background information and draft consultation and engagement plans</i></p>	
8.1	<p>Project Lead, Andy Miller, provided Local Board members with a recap on project details. The five Walking and Cycle routes were previously identified via the Sandwell Cycle and Walking Infrastructure Plan. The five routes are: -</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Galton Bridge Station to Rolfe Street Station</li> <li>2. Tollhouse Way/ Rolfe Street Junction</li> <li>3. Rolfe Street Station to Midland Met University Hospital walking route</li> <li>4. Rolfe Street to Grove Lane</li> <li>5. Midland Met University Hospital to Birmingham Canal5</li> </ol>	
8.2	<p><u>Phase 1</u></p> <p>This phase is underway as part of the Accelerated Funding Programme. Delays have occurred due to the issues around material deliveries. The remaining civil works include laying the final surface of the cycle route. This is scheduled to be laid on Monday 28 June. In addition, the team are still experiencing issues with delivery of Belisha Beacons. This is a national issue and once received these will be installed.</p>	
8.3	<p><u>Phase 2</u></p> <p>This scheme initially intended to provide bus priority for X7 bus service and a new entrance to the railway station directly from Tollhouse Way. Network Rail have been delayed with moving this forward and have not yet submitted a planning application. The council have agreed to implement the proposal and Network Rail will need to interface with the council. Another component that has changed is the bus priority lane, however National Express have withdrawn this service. Whilst enquiring if this service will be reinstated, this decision by National Express is yet to be confirmed. As a result, the council have agreed to put provisions in for bus stops but not a dedicated bus priority lane. The public realm area in front of the station will include parking for cyclists and cycle hire docks.</p>	
8.4	<p><u>Phase 3</u></p> <p>This will provide a safe and quiet route for pedestrians to get from Rolfe Street Station to the Midland Met University Hospital. The scheme includes way finding, crossing facilities and upgrades to walking routes. The aim is to have this scheme completed in line with the opening of the Hospital.</p>	
8.5	<p><u>Phase 4</u></p> <p>This scheme is currently in the early stage of design and scheduled to be delivered during 2024/2025. This scheme will continue the route that is being</p>	

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	<p>implemented on Tollhouse Way and link up with a scheme that has been funded by Intercity Transport Settlement to support the Grove Lane housing area. The junction will be designed with the cycle route in mind, continuing down to the Hospital. Birmingham City Council have a cycle route coming out along Dudley Road up towards City Hospital. Sandwell Council are working with Birmingham to join these routes.</p>	
8.6	<p><u>Phase 5</u>            This scheme focuses on the cycle links between the Hospital and National Cycle Network that runs along the Canal in Smethwick. Working collaboratively with Canal and River Trust, there are several options that have been identified; a route through the new housing estate or along the canal. There are challenges regarding the canal route due to canal feeders, however discussions to overcome this are underway.</p>	
8.7	<p>Local Board members were asked for their feedback, questions, comments and ideas. The discussion included: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• It was asked how the 6% reduction of funding had affected the project and its 5 phases. Prior to the 6% application, all phases had contingency built in. Following the 6% application contingency has reduced and the scope of some phases have altered at a low scale e.g. high street pedestrian improvement. There is an annual allocation for Cycling and Walking projects that is paid to the Local Authority which is a potential fall back should the 6% application present a shortfall.</li> </ul>	
8.8	<p><u>Draft Consultation and Engagement Plan</u>            Andy presented the draft consultation and engagement plan to Local Board members, providing details of the key stakeholders including Local Board members, cabinet members, public health, residents, cycle and walking groups, Network Rail, Police.</p>	
8.9	<p>In regard to methods of engagement, there usual activities have been recorded (e.g. leaflets, letter drops, advertisements in bus shelters). The use of online consultation and social media is key for consultation particularly whilst lockdown restrictions remain. Online workshops would be a great way to engage with all key stakeholders on particular routes with Local Board Member and Councillor facilitation support.</p>	
8.10	<p>Local Board members were asked for their feedback on the consultation and engagement plan and if they had any questions. The discussion included: -</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• There are a number of cycle routes that have been implemented in Birmingham, however the usage has been small. There are concerns that a lot of money will be spend and the usage is low. It was asked if there will be assessments on the usage of the routes. Local Board members were advised this is planned. Currently, the usage is low which may be a result of the lack of facilities. The aim of the project is to improve the connectivity within towns and grow the usage of walking and cycling.</li> <li>• Previously, Local Board members have shown keen interests regarding Social Value. It was asked what this looks like for this project. In regard to construction contractors, companies that are used are based within West Midlands but not directly located in Sandwell. This is due to not having suppliers located in Sandwell, but the vast majority of employees are local (Sandwell, Walsall, Dudley, Wolverhampton, Netherton, Aston).</li> </ul>	

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8.11	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• A suggestion was raised regarding joint engagement sessions; holding open days to showcase plans, workshops and carry out consultation on all projects to create opportunities at town level. Erroll Blackwood suggested the Ron Davis Centre could support this activity.</li> <li>• The discussion has been very informative, and requests were made for the presentation to be circulated to Local Board members.</li> </ul> <p>The Chair summarised the discussion and advised Local Board members can contact Andy Miller directly, or the Programme Management Office should they have any queries or further comments.</p>	
9.0	<p><b>Any Other Business</b></p>	<b>All</b>
9.1	<p><u>Social Value</u> The Chair acknowledged that discussions around Social Value had not taken place. Andy Jukes, Sandwell Procurement Services, will be invited to the next Local Board meeting to present a Social Value agenda item.</p>	
10.0	<p><b>Date of next meeting</b> Tuesday 22 June 2021, 16:00 hours</p>	<b>N/A - Information</b>