

# Appendix D – The Solihull Council Plan 2020-2025 – Scrutiny Position Statement for 2021/22

## Economy

Key Thing To Do	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions/Activity
<p>Revitalising our towns and local centres</p> <p>UK Central (UKC) and maximising the opportunities of HS2</p>	<p>8<sup>th</sup> November 2021</p>	<p><b>Refresh of the Borough Wide Economic Strategy– Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>The report informed the Scrutiny Board on the development of an Economic Strategy for Solihull and to provide the Board with the opportunity to scrutinise the proposed approach. The focus for the Board was that an Economic Strategy was being developed to cover the ten years to 2032. The new strategy will build on the strategic direction established by 2013’s M42 Gateway Masterplan so that ‘growth on a scale of national significance’ that positions Solihull as the ‘engine room of the West Midlands economy’ remains a central objective.</p> <p>The Board concluded that there were many varied and important aspects to be captured and addressed through the refreshed Borough Wide Economic Strategy, which included, but was not confined to, the use of data and driving the digital economy; benchmarking, performance review and measuring success and outcomes; all aspects of the Localism agenda in respect of economic growth and development; community buy-in, engagement and participation in respect of the economic strategy, including with schools and colleges, and the skills agenda incorporating re-training and up-skilling.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <p>The Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommended that an Economic Strategy Dashboard be developed and embedded within the refreshed Borough Wide Economic Strategy, incorporating benchmarking data and a Key Performance (KPI) Suite addressing progress and delivery of key milestones and objectives.</li> </ul> <p><b>Cabinet Portfolio Holders Priorities for the 2021/22 Municipal Year</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p>

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<p>Increase the supply of housing, especially affordable and social housing</p>	<p>7<sup>th</sup> June 2021</p>	<p>Cabinet Portfolio Holders were present at the Board meeting to detail their respective portfolio priorities for the 2021/22 municipal year.</p> <p>Councillor Courts (Leader of the Council and Cabinet Portfolio Holder for the Economy), raised a number of matters as key areas of policy and project delivery during the 2021/22 municipal year, including the on-going delivery of the HS2 scheme and realising the wider funding and investment opportunities available through HS2 delivery and the potential for the related development of a Health and Innovation Campus.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <p>The Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Noted the Cabinet Portfolio Holders verbal reports detailing their respective Portfolio priorities for the 2021/22 municipal year.</li> </ul> <p><b>Obstructions to New Housing Provision and Securing Land Supply in Solihull – Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>The report addressed ‘Obstructions to New Housing Provision and Securing Land Supply in Solihull’, which included consideration of Solihull’s land supply position and review of the Council’s investment of Housing Revenue Account finance for both asset maintenance and stock development.</p> <p><b>Decisions / Actions</b></p> <p>The Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Recommend to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Planning and Housing that any future Council owned development site that became available should be investigated with a view to maximising the supply of affordable housing;</li> <li>• Recommend to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Planning and Housing that when reviewing development proposals for housing sites across the borough the specific housing needs of the local area are fully taken into account as part of the wider development process; and,</li> <li>• Recommend to the Cabinet Portfolio Holder for Climate Change, Planning and Housing that when considering the delivery of affordable housing, consideration be given to using construction methods or materials leading to a lower build cost.</li> </ul>



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Reduce Solihull's net carbon emissions	13 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	<p><b>Solihull's Draft Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) - Economic Development and Managed Growth Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>The report provided the Scrutiny Board with an update on the progress of Solihull's Net Zero Action Plan (NZAP) particularly in relation to the contents of the NZAP, consultation approach and next steps towards implementation of the NZAP. Progress was last reported to the Scrutiny Board in November 2020.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Board recommended that a graph detailing the rates of change required to deliver the NZAP objectives be included and given prominence in the NZAP Executive Summary document, with an accompanying narrative detailing how the Council was seeking to achieve its NZAP objectives and, secondly, recommended that regular NZAP updates and bespoke Communication Strategies were developed to engage with all members of the public, detailing how they could support delivery of the NZAP.</p>
	4 <sup>th</sup> November 2021	<p><b>Residential Parking Displacement Task &amp; Finish Group - Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>The Board considered the recommendation from the Parking Displacement Programme Task &amp; Finish Group. The report outlined the background to the review, the work undertaken, a summary of the options considered and the Group's overall recommendation to tackle residential parking displacement across the Borough.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Board endorsed the Task &amp; Finish Groups recommendation; a ring-fenced allocation, and endorsed that submission to the Cabinet Member for Environment and Infrastructure to be considered in February 2022.</p>

## People and Communities

Key Thing To Do	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
<p>Take action to improve life chances in our most disadvantaged communities</p>	<p>11<sup>th</sup> January 2022</p>	<p><b>Careers Advice and Support for NEET young people – Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Members considered careers advice provided by local education and training providers. This included:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) Engagement with local employers.</li> <li>b) The ongoing impact of COVID-19 upon career and employment opportunities.</li> <li>c) Any potential changes stemming from the Skills and Post-16 Education Bill.</li> </ul> <p>The Scrutiny Board also considered how young people who are not in employment, education or training (NEET) are identified and supported with suitable education and training provision.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b> The Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Took into account the careers advice and support in place for NEET young people.</li> <li>• Supported the longstanding, close work undertaken with the Solihull Chambers of Commerce and the Solihull Tourism Forum and welcomed the exploration of any further opportunities to strengthen these links.</li> <li>• Supported the development of flowcharts and other visual representations of the employment, education and training opportunities that were available, which could be used by young people and career advisors.</li> </ul> <p>Health Inequalities Strategy – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> For the Scrutiny Board to consider and provide comments on the updated Health Inequalities Strategy, with a focus on the impact of COVID-19</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b> The Board the following <b>RECOMMENDATIONS</b> for the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To provide more clarity within the strategy over the steps taken to support adolescents.</li> <li>• To offer more focus within the strategy on public transport links in the Borough especially to assist those access work.</li> </ul>

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Enable communities to thrive	9 <sup>th</sup> June 2021	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To assess the language used in the strategy prior to public consultation to ensure that it would enable meaningful consultation.</li> <li>• To ensure that the priorities within the strategy were consistently referenced.</li> </ul> <p><b>Safer Solihull Partnership Review - Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>Members considered the outcomes of the Safer Solihull Community Safety Partnership (CSP) review. The review aimed to tackle the new challenges in partnership working for the community safety agenda by realigning the form and function of the CSP to allow it to be more forward thinking and responsive to emerging issues and to give better overall connectivity to other groups.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Board welcomed the review and highlighted the ongoing 2021/22 priorities (and lead agencies) for ongoing scrutiny:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Anti-social behaviour - Solihull Community Housing.</li> <li>• Hate Crime - Solihull MBC.</li> <li>• Violence involving people aged under-25 - West Midlands Police.</li> <li>• Violence involving women and girls - NHS Birmingham and Solihull CCG</li> </ul>
	8 <sup>th</sup> September 2021	<p><b>Supporting Cultural Recovery in Solihull - Stronger Communities and Neighbourhood Services Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose</b></p> <p>The Board considered how the Council was acting to support the recovery of the cultural sector in Solihull. The report covered two aspects for consideration. Firstly, the practical response to the post-Covid period and secondly, the Council's ongoing and future cultural activity.</p>

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Sustainable, quality, affordable provision for adults & children with complex needs	10th June 2021	<p>The Commonwealth Games also provided an opportunity for worldwide focus on Solihull and the proposed package of measures outlined in the report were intended to grow people’s confidence as the Borough continued to emerge from the pandemic, whilst supporting recovery and enhancing capacity.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Outcomes</b></p> <p>The Board endorsed the ongoing work to support the cultural and arts sector within Solihull.</p> <p><b>Supported employment for people with care needs – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> For the Scrutiny Board to consider the work taking place and planned to improve employment opportunities for people with care needs.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Outcomes:</b> The Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board agreed to support the ongoing work around supported employment for people with learning disabilities and provided feedback on the progress made and planned actions.</p> <p><b>OFSTED Action Plan Update – Inspection of Local Authority Childrens Services - – Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> In November 2019 Solihull MBC’s services for children in need of help and protection, children in care and care leavers were inspected by Ofsted. Following the outcome of this inspection and receipt of the inspection report in January 2020, a draft action plan was forwarded to Ofsted in April of last year. This report provided an update on the continuing progression to address the areas identified within the improvement plan.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p>The Scrutiny Board received and endorsed the updated action and progress made as at March 2021. The Scrutiny Board took into account how the action plan had been kept under regular review and had formed a part of a number of discussions during the intervening period with Ofsted, the most recent taking place in May 2021, this being the formal Annual Conversation as part of the Inspection of Local Authority Children’s Services (ILACS) statutory regulatory framework.</p>

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	<p data-bbox="405 213 568 316">22nd September 2021</p> <p data-bbox="405 842 562 944">3rd November 2021</p>	<p data-bbox="618 177 2121 245"><b>Delivery of the Placements and Sufficiency Strategy for Children Looked After and Care Experienced Young People 2020-2024 - – Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 285 757 320"><b>Purpose:</b></p> <ul data-bbox="667 327 2105 512" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="667 327 2105 400">• The Board received an update on the delivery of the Placements and Sufficiency Strategy for children looked after and care experienced young people.</li><li data-bbox="667 405 2105 477">• Members considered the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic upon the delivery of the Strategy and resulting revised timescales.</li><li data-bbox="667 481 2105 512">• The Board considered progress on the delivery plan for 2020-21 and the four key priorities of work.</li></ul> <p data-bbox="618 552 904 587"><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 592 1485 622">The Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board:</p> <ul data-bbox="618 628 2009 775" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="618 628 2009 700">• Confirmed that the strategy remains relevant and four key areas of work identified within the strategy continue to be the priority areas for focused activity.</li><li data-bbox="618 705 2009 775">• Confirmed that the Board was in agreement with the updated timescales for delivery of key elements of the strategy.</li></ul> <p data-bbox="618 815 2074 887"><b>Support for Children and Young People (aged 0-25 years) with additional needs, special educational needs and/or disabilities – Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 927 2110 1112"><b>Purpose:</b> the report updated members of the Board on strategic developments and improvements to date across the council’s Special Educational Needs &amp; Disability (SEND) services. It also sought Member feedback on the proposed Solihull Additional Needs Strategy 2022-2025 co-authored by Solihull Council, Birmingham &amp; Solihull CCG, Solihull Parent Carer Voice and Our Voice’s Heard (the new children and young people’s forum).</p> <p data-bbox="618 1152 904 1187"><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 1192 2065 1289">The Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board received the proposed Solihull Additional Needs Strategy 2022-25 and agreed for a minute extract for this agenda item to be shared with Full Cabinet. Points raised included:</p> <ul data-bbox="667 1295 2092 1367" style="list-style-type: none"><li data-bbox="667 1295 2092 1367">• That clear, measurable outcomes be identified for the aims in the Strategy, to monitor the delivery and impact upon children and young people.</li></ul>



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	<p>3rd November 2021</p> <p>14th September 2021</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Members requested the development of an Easy to Read version of the Strategy, as well as an explanatory video.</li> <li>• That a brief outline of the key strategies that supported the delivery of the Additional Needs Strategy be included as part of an accompanying explanatory note.</li> </ul> <p><b>Development of New Alternative and Specialist Provision in Solihull – Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To update Scrutiny Board on the development of new alternative and specialist provision in Solihull. As part of this, the report outlined the development of the SEND School Place Commissioning Strategy 2021/24. The strategy provides information regarding the current and future SEND population in Solihull, compares with national and regional data and draws conclusions regarding the potential need to make changes to specialist provision.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b> The Children’s Services, Education and Skills Scrutiny Board took into account the work being undertaken to develop new alternative and specialist provision in Borough. This included the future key priorities for provision development, Phase 3, as identified within the updated commissioning strategy.</p> <p><b>Delivery of a Social Care Workforce Strategy – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> Delivery of a Social Care Workforce Strategy</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b> The Board noted the progress on the Adult Social Care external workforce strategy.</p> <p>The Board provided the following key comments which they asked to help inform the development of the strategy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To ensure that care staff are supported in their development or maximising their potential in their current role.</li> <li>• To consider alternative methods of transport such as mopeds, electric bikes and electric pool cars.</li> </ul>

## Enablers

Enabler	Date Scrutinised	Scrutiny Decisions / Activity
Use of digital	<p>23<sup>rd</sup> February 2022</p> <p>7<sup>th</sup> September 2021</p>	<p><b>Digital and Technology in Healthcare – Health and Adult Social Care Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> To receive a report on digital and technology solutions being utilised to improve care across patient pathways.</p> <p><b>Update on the Council's Digital Strategy – Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b> The report updated Members on progress with the Council’s Digital Strategy and the impact of COVID-19 upon the implementation of the Strategy.</p> <p>Members were informed that the report before them was an annual report, with a refresh scheduled for 2022. The Digital Strategy set out three categories of activity for the Council, entailing the Digital Citizen, Digital Organisation and Digital Community/Solihull. The Board enquired further across a number of areas pertaining to delivery of the Digital Strategy, including project life cycle planning, hybrid meeting technology, license allocation practices for Microsoft 365 and remote working arrangements.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p>Having considered the report the Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board noted the progress made to date in delivering the Digital Strategy and agreed to support the current 2021/22 Digital priorities for implementation.</p>
Employee journey	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	<p><b>Smarter Ways of Working (SWoW) – Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>The purpose of this report was to update Members on progress with the Council’s key programme, Smarter Ways of Working (SWOW). On 12 October 2020, Scrutiny received a report regarding the Covid-19 pandemic, its impact on office workers and how the Wider Corporate Leadership Team had developed an approach to reset the organisation through a Recovery and Reset Plan. 3.2 The Plan recognised the interdependency</p>

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		<p>between our service recovery and our people, facilities and technology and this formed the basis of a proposed Smarter Ways of Working Strategy. The Smarter Ways of Working (SWOW) programme has subsequently been identified as a key programme within the 2021/22 Council Plan and as such forms part of the Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny workplan.</p> <p>The SWOW programme challenges what was the status quo and old assumptions around traditional working practices by developing flexible and modern working practices which enable employees to maximise their performance whilst maintaining a work/life balance.</p> <p>The SWoW programme has entailed the creation of a Smarter Working Wellbeing Board and review across a range of Council policies to ensure they are appropriate. Area subject to review include a review of existing agile, homeworking and dress codes policies, Smarter Working principles, meeting principles, new development offers have been designed and launched to support Managers in the implementation of SWOW, a Hybrid leadership course and individual and Team Wellbeing Action Plans that also have an emphasis on remote working; the completion of a SWOW, Fair Treatment Assessment to ensure a considered approach from all perspectives to new ways of working; establishment of Workforce Champions Groups to understand how SWOW is working for people; employee newsletters have featured many supporting resources to enable our workforce to prepare for a return to all work places in a Covid and SWOW context and will continue to do so, particularly focusing on mental health and enabling managers to have good conversations with their teams.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p>Having considered the report, the Board agreed to note the progress made so far in delivering the Smarter Ways of Working (SWoW) programme; to agree that the progress with implementation of the programme was satisfactory; and, to agree to receive a Smarter Ways of Working (SWoW) update report at the Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board meeting scheduled for 31st March 2022.</p>
Financial strategy	2 <sup>nd</sup> November 2021	<p><b>Review of the Council's Financial Position – To the End of September 2021 (Period 6) - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>The report outlined the Medium-Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) latest financial position as at 30 September 2021 (Period 6) including the latest Covid-19 financial impact as at the same date. To report on the latest Red,</p>

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	<p data-bbox="405 549 568 616">4<sup>th</sup> January 2022</p> <p data-bbox="405 1118 568 1185">1<sup>st</sup> February 2022</p>	<p data-bbox="618 180 2152 284">Amber and Green (RAG) ratings for the delivery of the (MTFS) savings 2021/22 to 2023/24, and to provide a summary of the additional Covid-19 funding allocations (including carry forwards from previous years) for 2021/22 for which the Council received notification of at 30 September 2021.</p> <p data-bbox="618 316 887 344"><b>Decision/Actions:</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 376 2168 480">The Board agreed to note the current financial position and the actions being taken to address budget variances; to note the latest Red, Amber, Green (RAG) ratings for the delivery of the (MTFS) savings 2021/22 to 2023/24, and to note the Covid-19 financial position and funding sources as outlined in the report.</p> <p data-bbox="618 564 2123 593"><b>MTFS Update – Budget Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25: Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 641 757 670"><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 716 2152 820">The report sought comments on the budget proposals identified for 2022/23 to 2024/25 within the Resources Cabinet Portfolio, to go forward to the next meeting of this Scrutiny Board and the Full Cabinet in February 2022.</p> <p data-bbox="618 868 904 896"><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 943 2152 1007">The Board agreed to note the pressures and mitigating actions set out the report and to note the schedule of fees and charges proposed for 2022/23, as attached at Appendix B to the report.</p> <p data-bbox="618 1091 2078 1155"><b>Budget and Medium Term Financial Strategy 2022/23 – 2024/25: Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 1203 757 1232"><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p data-bbox="618 1262 2168 1366">The report provided an update on the budget position for 2022/23 and subsequent years, sought feedback on the budget proposals for Full Cabinet, update the Medium Term Financial Strategy and the Capital Strategy, and to recommend any amendments for approval by Full Cabinet.</p>

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		<p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p>The Board agreed to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To note the updated budget position as outlined in the report and pressures and mitigations detailed in Appendix A;</li> <li>• To note the comments arising from the Scrutiny Boards as detailed in Appendix B;</li> <li>• To note the proposal to create a new Economy and Infrastructure general reserve as outlined in paragraph 3.13 of the report;</li> <li>• To note the draft updated Medium Term Financial Strategy (MTFS) and Capital Strategy as attached at Appendices C and D;</li> <li>• To note the fees and charges proposed within each portfolio and detailed at Appendix F (available online only);</li> <li>• To note the recommendation to roll forward the management agreement with Solihull Community Housing (SCH) as outlined in paragraph 3.26 of the report;</li> <li>• To note the recommendation to Full Council in respect of the Council’s carbon budget, as outlined at paragraph 3.27 of the report and detailed in the report to the Members’ Budget Seminar attached at Appendix G; and,</li> <li>• To note the strategic Fair Treatment Assessment attached at Appendix H.</li> </ul>
Use of our physical assets	7 <sup>th</sup> October 2021	<p><b>Update on Corporate Approach to Delivering an Asset Masterplan - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>The report was presented to the Scrutiny Board for the purpose of updating Members on progress with the Council’s key programme, A Corporate Approach to Delivering an Asset Masterplan (CADAM). Members were informed that the programme had been initiated and developed in recent years, with the programme having been reviewed by this Scrutiny Board in February 2021. A number of outcomes had been identified arising from the programme to date, which included:</p>

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	2 <sup>nd</sup> December 2021	<p>Delivery of a Corporate Landlord model:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Availability of data, from which to base decisions on</li> <li>• Developing a corporate business plan for the Council's assets</li> <li>• Future planning of the Council's accommodation requirements</li> <li>• Communication and engagement with all Council employees to support future ways of working</li> </ul> <p>Board Members sought further information across a number of issues, including potential legal implications, particularly in relation to future use of Council assets, whether the Corporate Landlord Model entailed the creation of a separate, Council owned company subject to VAT, how the programme could support the Council's digital and intellectual property programmes and whether the data warehouse would also incorporate data from partner organisations leading to data sharing options across organisations.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p>In conclusion, the Board noted the progress made to date in delivering the programme, agreed that the progress made with programme implementation was satisfactory; and agreed to include a Corporate Approach to Delivering an Asset Masterplan (CADAM) Update Report in the Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board Work Programme for 2022/23.</p> <p><b>Follow Up Report: Building Safety - Resources and Delivering Value Scrutiny Board</b></p> <p><b>Purpose:</b></p> <p>The report provided the Scrutiny Board with an update on current Building Safety legislation and activities undertaken for the Council's Housing Stock and other Council owned buildings. In December 2020, the Board received a report to provide an update on the implications arising from the Draft Building Safety Bill to Cabinet. Since that report, the Council and Solihull Community Housing (SCH) have taken a number of steps to work towards meeting the demands of the new Building Safety regulatory regime, as detailed in the report to the Board.</p> <p><b>Decisions/Actions:</b></p> <p>The Board agreed that the implications arising from the Fire Safety Act, Building Safety Bill and associated legislation be noted and that a further report be received as part of the Boards work programme for 2022/23 in relation to Building Safety and compliance.</p>