



## Sandwell MBC

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Sandwell metropolitan borough council has introduced a leader and cabinet model. Under the new structure the importance of sustainable development is underlined by the fact that it is referred to in the leader of the council's portfolio:

*"To provide political leadership and policy direction including policy formulation, responsibility for the Sandwell community plan and the leadership of the Sandwell civic partnership, and the development and promotion of Local Agenda 21 within the Borough and the council's sustainable development strategy".*

This recognises that development and implementation of the Local Agenda 21 Strategy must be closely tied to the community plan and the local strategic partnership.

Sandwell recognises that the leader has a very broad span of responsibilities, so the cabinet member for regeneration, community planning and neighbourhood management *takes the lead on sustainable development*. In addition Sandwell have now added the following into each cabinet member's portfolio so that the responsibility is spread throughout the services.

*To ensure continuous improvement in service delivery and the implementation of best practice within the borough through the application of Council Policy and the principles, practices, regulations, directions and statutory requirements in relation to:*

- best value and performance management;
- equality
- sustainable development
- the community plan
- crime and disorder
- e-governance
- any other initiative as from time to time adopted by or imposed on the council.



Sandwell has an environmental stewardship and urban form scrutiny committee. Its remit is:

*Scrutiny of Cabinet recommendations and review of and advice on the Council's policies, practices and services in respect of Local Agenda 21 and sustainable development, environment and energy (including the Environmental Management and Audit Scheme (EMAS), housing strategy and physical regeneration, transport and public infrastructure, strategic town planning and development control, property management and genetically modified food.*

The Council has also introduced 6 town committees that meet in their respective localities and provide an opportunity for local communities to influence their councillors. Included in their remit is a duty 'to contribute to and promote the council's commitment to LA21.'

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