

Sandwell State of Borough

Vision Refresh: August 2023

Context

Vision 2030 was adopted in 2017 and now, in 2023, there are seven years to go to 2030. Much has changed since 2017 – the scale and impact of climate change is now more acutely felt, we have experienced the impact of a global pandemic and now face a burgeoning cost of living crisis.

There is a need for a renewed sense of drive to achieve the ambitions for the borough. The time is right for a mid-term review of the progress made, to refocus partners' activity to get us to 2030 and to bring Vision 2030 to the forefront of partnership effort in Sandwell – maximising and releasing the potential in the borough and jointly addressing the things that are holding us back.

This report examines how key measures have changed between 2017 and 2023 under each of the 10 ambitions. It will provide the basis for further partner conversations to consider the scale of Vision refresh that is required and the priorities for action.

*Working with Sandwell Council, The Economic Intelligence Unit (EIU) have set the following report out in 11 sections – an overview and the 10 ambitions. A selection of key indicators across each section have been **RAG** rated based on change since 2017 (when Vision 2030 was adopted) and relative to national change. **Red indicates a decline in performance since 2017**. **Amber indicates either no change or a change in a positive direction but at a slower rate than national**. **Green indicates a change in a positive direction and at a greater rate than nationally**.*

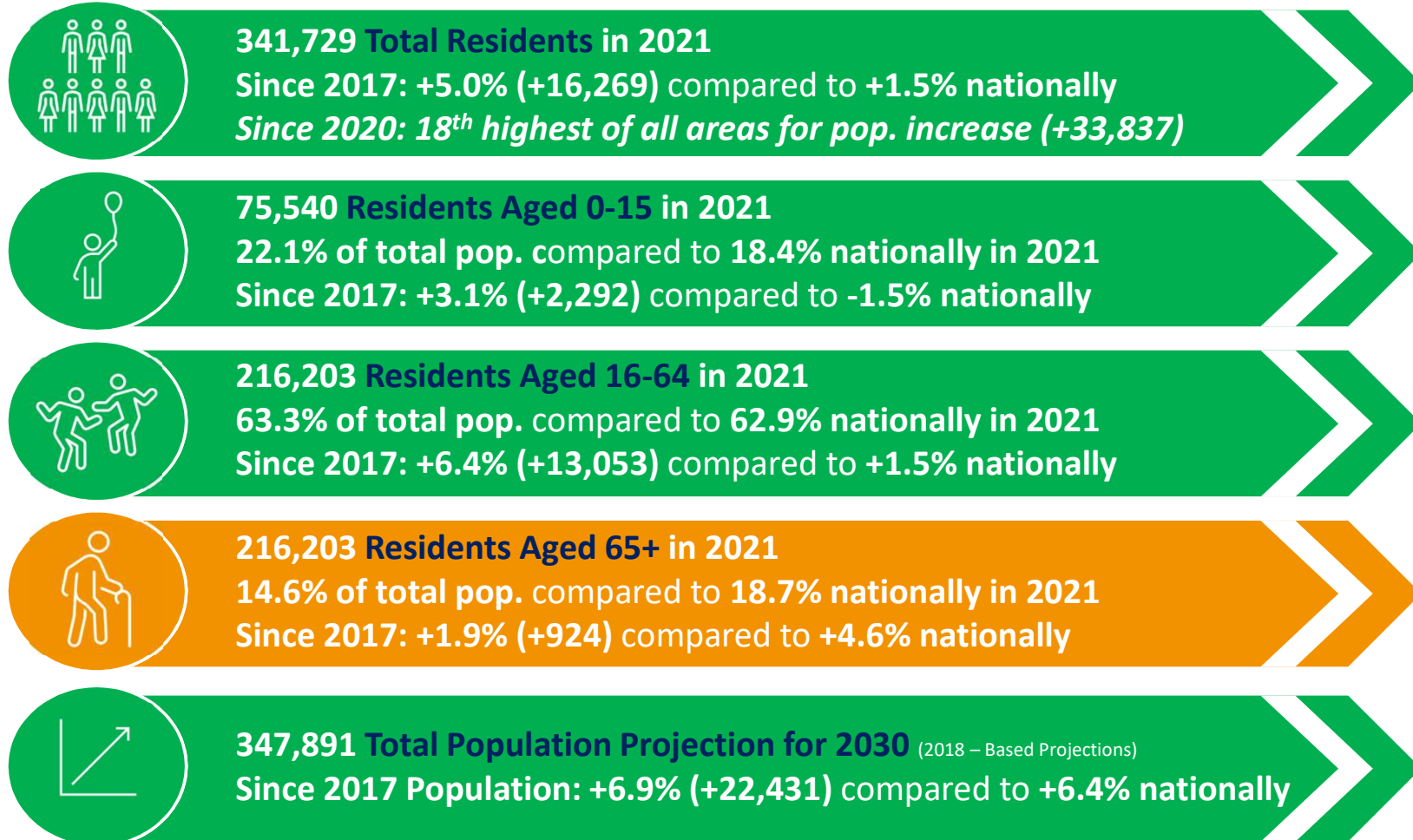
Vision: In 2030, Sandwell is a thriving, optimistic and resilient community.

Glossary – Acronyms / Definitions and Caveats

- **FT** – Full-Time.
 - **Low Pay Earnings** – Gross weekly pay at the 20th percentile.
 - **Children in Low Income Families** – A family must have claimed Child Benefit and at least one other household benefit (Universal Credit, tax credits or Housing Benefit) at any point in the year to be classed as low income. Relative low income measures families in low income in the reference year, whereas Absolute low income measures families in low income based on what low income looked like in Financial Year Ending (FYE) 2011. Income is Before Housing Costs (BHC) and is equivalised to adjust for family size and composition.
 - **Claimants** – the number of people claiming Jobseeker's Allowance plus those who claim Universal Credit and are required to seek work and be available for work.
 - **Fuel Poverty** – The indicator considers a household to be fuel poor if: it is living in a property with an energy efficiency rating of band D, E, F or G as determined by the most up-to-date Fuel Poverty Energy Efficiency Rating (FPEER) Methodology; and its disposable income (income after housing costs (AHC) and energy needs) would be below the poverty line.
 - **Persistent Absence** – Attendance below 90%.
 - **National Referral Mechanism** – (NRM) is a framework for identifying and referring potential victims of modern slavery and ensuring they receive the appropriate support.
 - **GVA** – Gross Value Added.
 - **MNO** – Mobile Network Operator.
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- **Education Statistics (primarily in Ambition 4)** – 2020/21 and 2021/22 are not standard years as the Covid-19 pandemic had huge impacts on the educational system. Although, life has started to return more to normal and some 2021/22 data is starting to be published, impacts are still seen in these results. The Department of Education did not publish results for 2019/20, 2020/21 and for some of 2021/22 as schools are not accountable for results and in this section, caution should be used with the data due to awarding and grading differences.

Overview

Overview

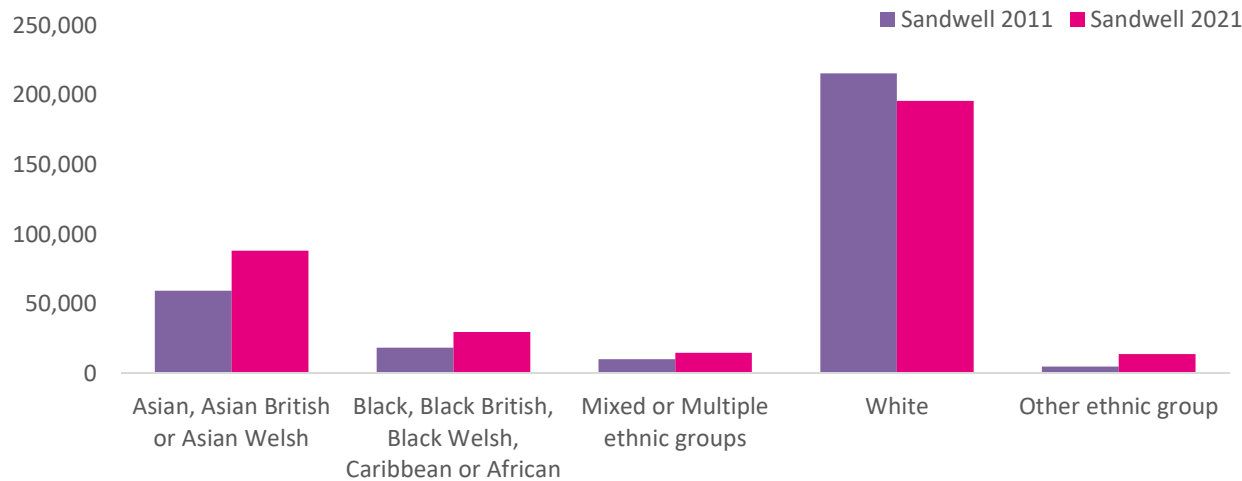


Sources: ONS, population estimates (for 2017 to 2021 population figures), released 2023 and population projections (for 2022 to 2030 population), released 2020. Please note, population projections are based on 2018 population figures which when comparing the 2021 population figures to the 2021 projection figures shows an additional 7,998 residents.

Overview

Ethnicity

Sandwell Residents by Ethnicity in 2011 and 2021



Proportion of residents in ethnic minority groups in 2011 and 2021

	Sandwell 2011	England 2011	Sandwell 2021	England 2021
Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh	19.2%	7.8%	25.8%	9.6%
Black, Black British, Black Welsh, Caribbean or African	6.0%	3.5%	8.7%	4.2%
Mixed or Multiple ethnic groups	3.3%	2.3%	4.3%	3.0%
White	69.9%	85.4%	57.2%	81.0%
Other ethnic group	1.6%	1.0%	4.0%	2.2%

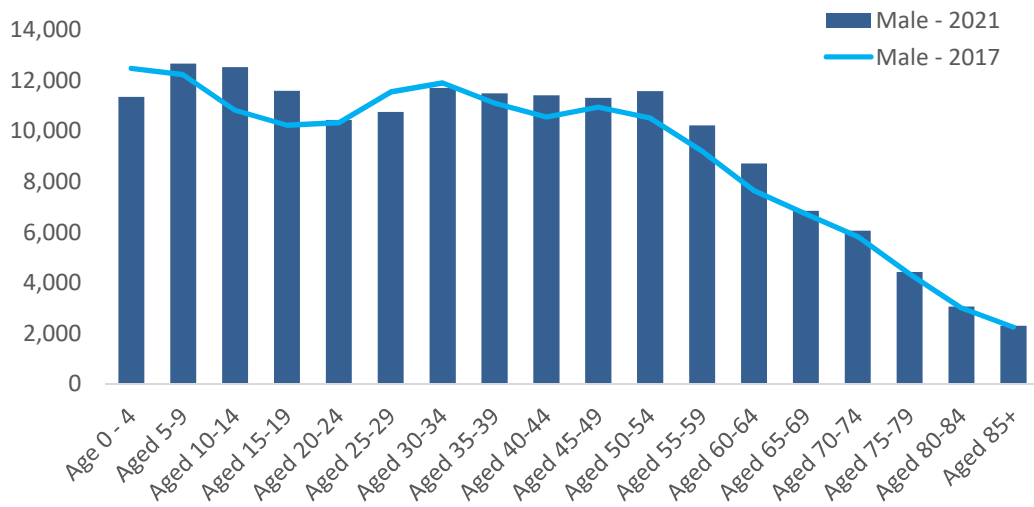
Analysis from the Census 2021 shows that 42.8% of Sandwell residents are from ethnic minority groups, significantly above England at 19.0%. The proportion of residents from ethnic minority groups in Sandwell has increased from 30.1% in 2011 (England was at 14.6%).

The highest ethnic minority group (for 2021) at 25.8% (88,024) is Asian, Asian British or Asian Welsh and this has increased by 28,766 residents since 2011. While, White accounted for 57.2% (195,624) of the total in 2021 and was the only group to decrease when compared to 2011 (-19,857).

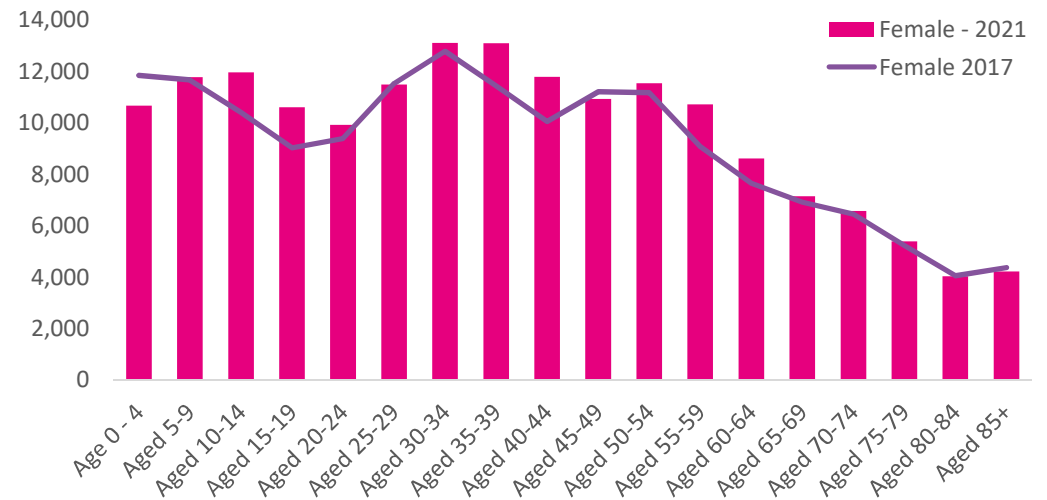
Overview

Population

Male Population



Female Population



- Since 2017, total male population has increased by 6,850 (+4.2%) to reach 168,272 in 2021.
- In 2021, the highest age bracket was for those aged 5-9 years old at 7.5%. This has shifted from those aged 0-4 years old in 2017 (7.7% of total).
- The age bracket with the highest number increase when compared to 2017 is those aged 10-14 years (+1,706).
- There are 3 age brackets that have decreased when compared to 2017, these are:
 - Aged 0-4 years, by 1,120 (to 11,341)
 - Aged 25-29 years, by 792 (to 10,742)
 - Aged 30-34 years, by 181 (to 11,697)

- Since 2017, total female population has increased by 9,419 (+5.7%) to reach 173,457 in 2021.
- In 2021, the highest age bracket was for those aged 30-34 years old at 7.6%. This was also the case in 2017 but the proportion was slightly higher at 7.8% of total.
- The age bracket with the highest number increase when compared to 2017 is those aged 40-44 years (+1,735).
- There are 4 age brackets that have decreased when compared to 2017, these are:
 - Aged 0-4 years, by 1,161 (to 10,664)
 - Aged 25-29 years, by 36 (to 11,478)
 - Aged 45-49 years, by 272 (to 10,927)
 - Aged 80-84 years, by 14 (to 4,029)

In Summary

Sandwell has a growing diverse population and is home to relatively young residents. The overall population has continued to grow since 2017 – with significant growth noted between 2020 and 2021 alone. However, delving into the age brackets highlights an overall decline for those aged 0-4 years, 25-29 years and 85 years and over since 2017.

The latest population projections are positive for Sandwell, with the population predicted to grow at a faster rate than nationally.

More detailed analysis of Sandwell's demographics can be found on [Sandwell Trends in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

Ambition 1

Sandwell is a community where our families have high aspirations and where we pride ourselves on equality of opportunity and on our adaptability and resilience



Ambition 1



£419.5 Resident FT Weekly Low Pay Earnings in 2022 (UK: £454.6)
Since 2017: **+25.6% (+£85.6)** compared to **+22.1% nationally**



£409.9 Workplace FT Weekly Low Pay Earnings in 2022 (UK: £454.6)
Since 2017: **+17.2% (+£60.1)** compared to **+22.1% nationally**



13,905 Claimants in April 2023 (of which 18.6% aged 16-24)
Since April 2017: **+90.2% (+6,595)** compared to **+93.2% nationally**
Claimants as percentage of 16-64 years old: **6.4% (UK: 3.8%)** Apr 23



44,425 People on Universal Credit in April 2023
Since April 2017: **+1446.8% (+41,553)** compared to **+1081.6% nationally**



28.1% (21,239) Children (0-15) in Low-Income Families in 2021/22
(Eng. 15.3%)
Since 2016/17: **+17.9% (+3,225)** compared to **+3.4% nationally**



Ambition 1

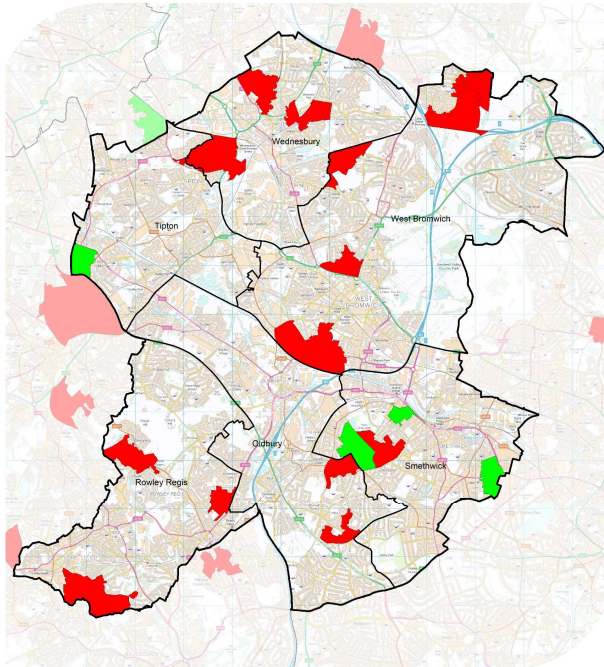
Movement in Deprivation and by Domains

Overall Deprivation

Overall deprivation is high in Sandwell; the proportion of LSOA's within the top 20% and top 10% most deprived areas in England stands at 60% and 20% respectively.

Domain: Income Deprivation

Income deprivation is high in Sandwell; 48% of Sandwell areas are in the 20% most deprived for income and 26% are in the top 10%.

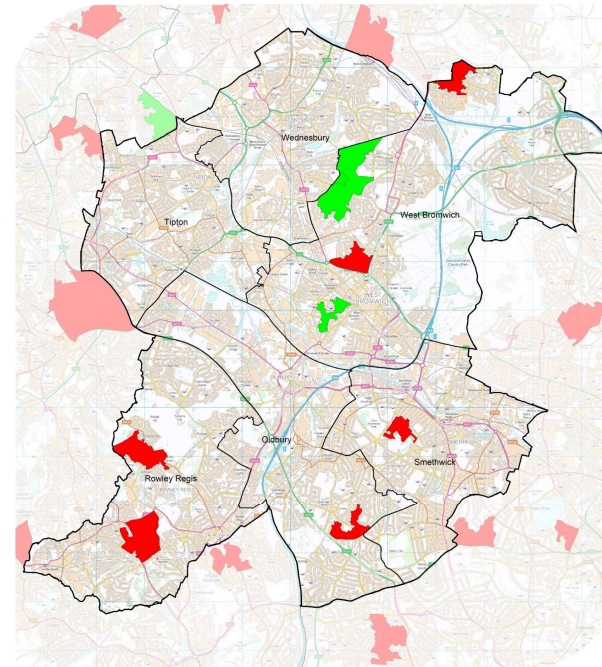


Sandwell is more deprived in 2019 compared with 2015 – moving from 13th place to 12th (1 most deprived and 317 least deprived).

The map highlights areas that moved into the top 20% most deprived areas and those areas that moved out.

Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.



The map to the left highlights the 6 areas that moved into income deprivation – with the south of the area more impacted. On the other hand, 2 areas moved out the top 20%.

Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

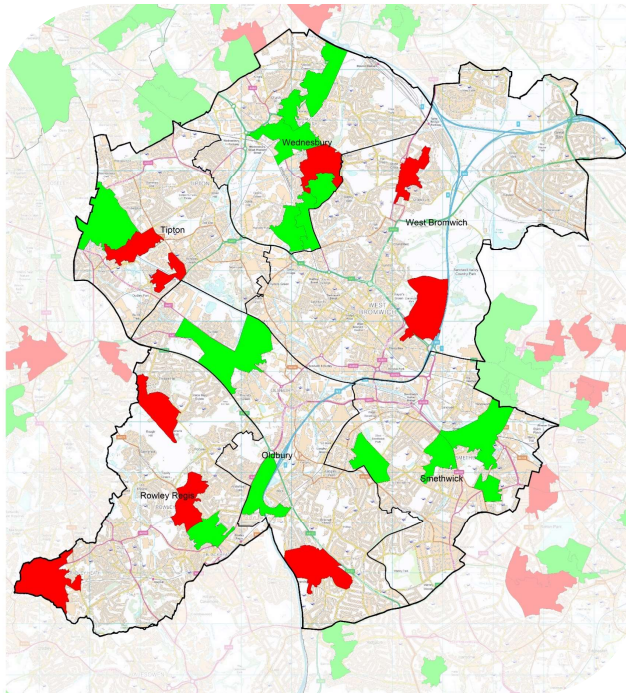
Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.



Ambition 1

Domain: Crime Deprivation

Crime deprivation in Sandwell has improved since 2015 (by 3pp) meaning 14% of LSOA's are in the 20% most deprived areas in England and just 3% in the 10% most deprived.



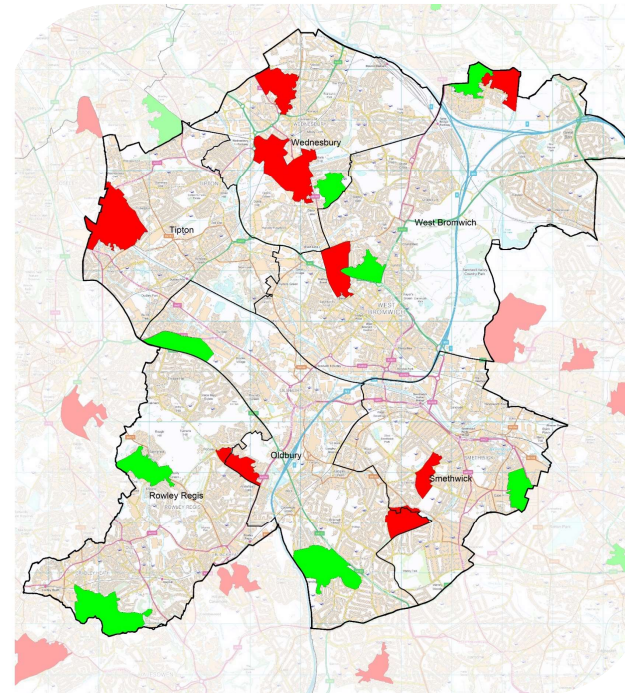
The map to the left highlights the 9 areas that moved into crime deprivation. On the other hand, 10 areas moved out the top 20%.

Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.

Domain: Education Deprivation

Education, Skills and Training deprivation remains high in Sandwell with 52% of LSOA's within the 20% most deprived areas in England whilst 21% were also in the 10% most deprived areas too.



The map to the left highlights the 8 areas that moved into education deprivation. On the other hand, 8 areas moved out the top 20%.

Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.



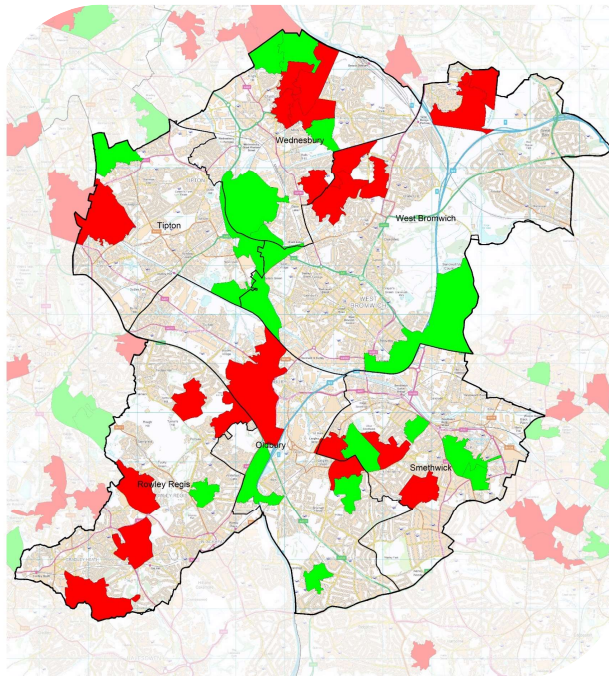
Ambition 1

Domain: Health Deprivation

Health Deprivation and Disability is high as 52% of areas are in the 20% most deprived nationally, this figure has increased by 3pp since 2015 – the smallest increase within the Black Country but still remains the highest proportion.

Domain: Barriers to Housing & Services Deprivation

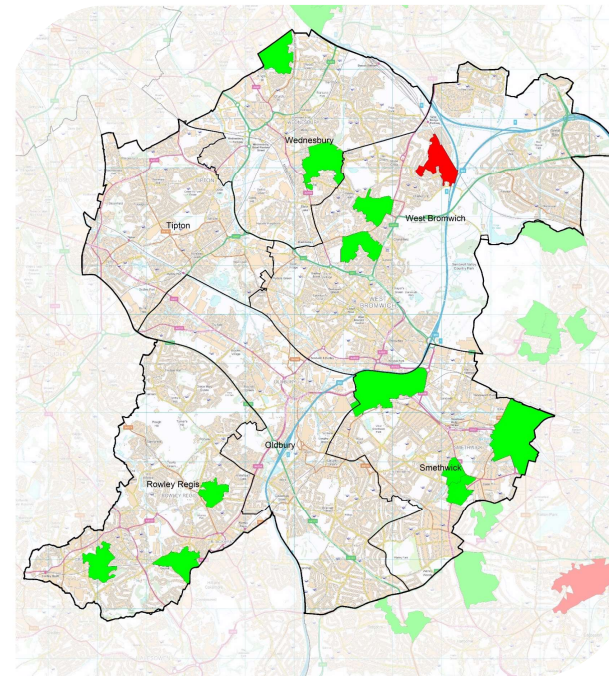
Sandwell have low levels in terms of barriers to housing and services with just 4% of LSOA's in the 20% most deprived areas in England and reduced by 6pp since 2015.



The map to the left highlights a real mixture of areas moving in and out of the top 20% most deprived for health.

Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.



No areas within Sandwell were in the top 10% most deprived in 2019.

The map to the left highlights many areas moved out of barriers to housing & serviced deprivation. Only 1 area moved into the top 20%.

Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

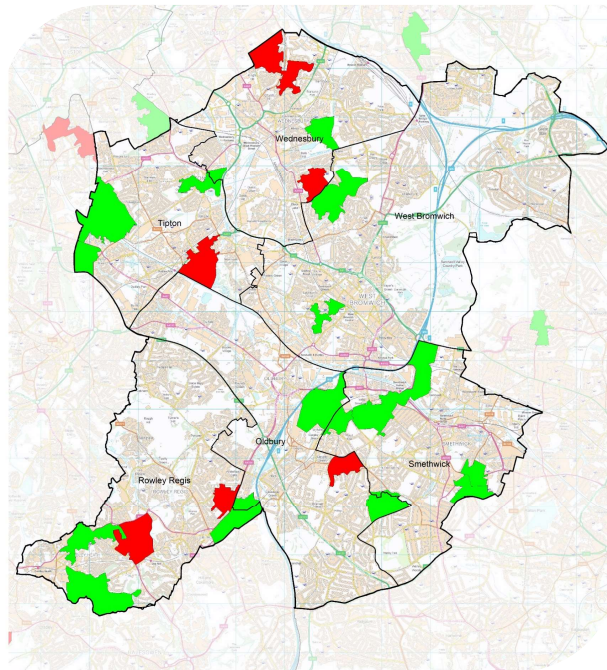
Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.



Ambition 1

Domain: Employment Deprivation

Employment deprivation is high in Sandwell with 51% of LSOA's in the 20% most deprived in England and 20% within the worst 10% most deprived nationally.



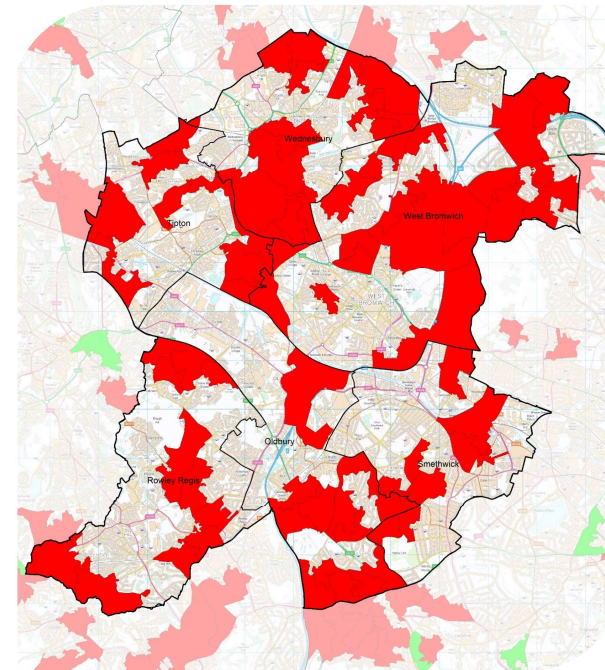
The map to the left highlights the 7 areas that moved into crime deprivation. Positively, more areas moved out the top 20%.

Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.

Domain: Living Environment Deprivation

The Living Environment deprivation has got worse within Sandwell since 2015 with increases of 16pp and 37pp in terms of proportion of areas in 10% and 20% most deprived nationally - meaning that 62% of LSOA's in Sandwell are now in the 20% most deprived areas and 23% in the top 10%.



The map to the left highlights wide-spread across the whole of Sandwell, many areas moved into the top 20% most deprived.

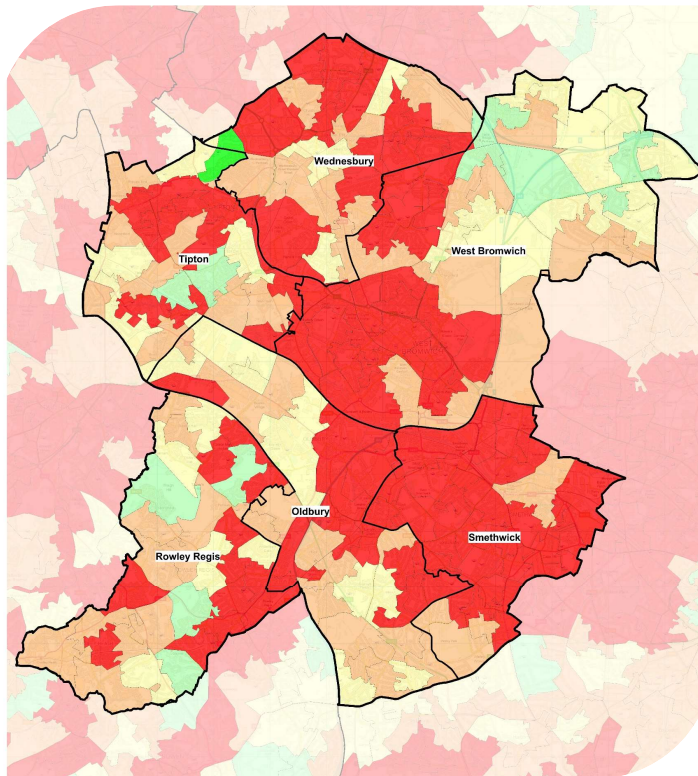
Green indicates an area that was in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was not in 2019.

Red indicates an area that was not in the top 20% most deprived in 2015 but was in 2019.



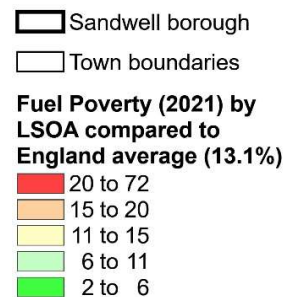
Ambition 1

Fuel Poverty



20.6% (27,389) of Households in Sandwell were Fuel Poor in 2021.

Across all local areas, Sandwell ranked 5th highest for Fuel Poverty and above the national level (13.1%).

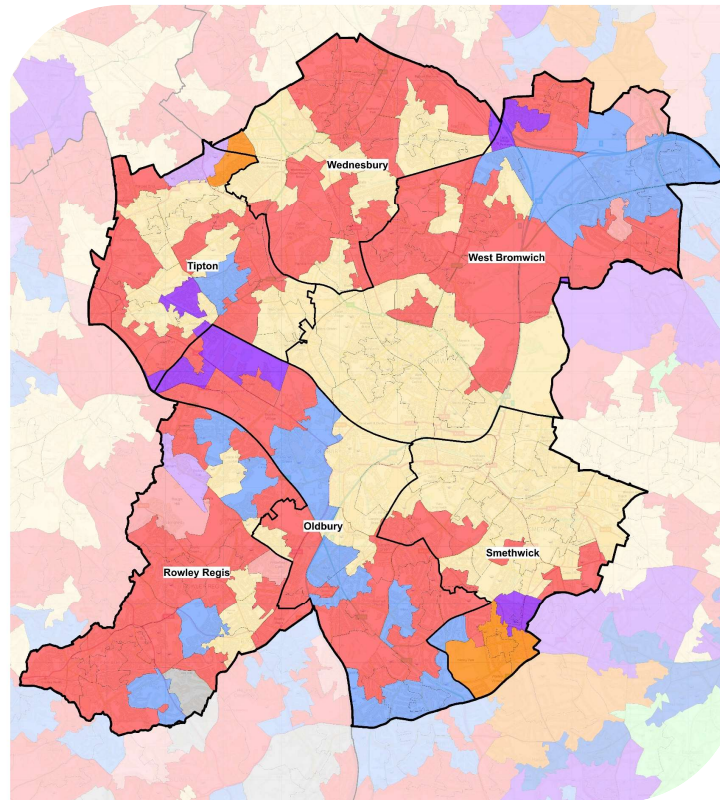


Due to methodology change, data is only comparable to 2019, where the proportion was 20.9% (27,216). The proportion has declined due to a faster increase in the total number of households. (England in 2019 was 13.4%).



Ambition 1

Digital Exclusion



The internet user classification map to the left highlights many residents fall into **e-withdrawn** and **passive & uncommitted** user categories but with distinct pockets of e-mainstream.

- Sandwell borough
- Town boundaries
- Internet User Classification Profile (2018)**
- Digital Seniors
- e-Cultural Creators
- e-Mainstream
- e-Professionals
- e-Rational Utilitarians
- e-Veterans
- e-Withdrawn
- Passive and Uncommitted Users
- Settled Offline Communities
- Youthful Urban Fringe



Ambition 1

In Summary

Ambition 1 highlights residents in Sandwell are living in highly deprived areas (60% in top 20% most deprived) – with 4 of the deprivation indices (education, employment, living environment and health) showing that over 50% of the area is in top 20% most deprived and a further 1 nearly at 50% (income). Analysis also shows that deprivation is getting worse in Sandwell. Along with deprivation, fuel poverty is significantly high for the area which will only worsen from the Cost-of-Living crisis.

More positively, low pay earnings are increasing in the right direction.

However, challenges remain with people claiming benefits historically high (primarily due to being heavily impacted from Covid-19), meaning rates are significantly above the national rate and more worryingly, nearly 20% of claimants are youths. Along with more children than ever are in low-income families.

There is also a risk of digital exclusion as before Covid-19 hit there were many areas withdrawn or passive/not committed internet users.

Ambition 2

Sandwell is a place where we live healthy lives and live them for longer, and where those of us who are vulnerable feel respected and cared for



Ambition 2



61.6 years Male Healthy Life Expectancy in 2018-20 (UK: 62.8 years)
Since 2015-17: +4.5 years compared to -0.3 years nationally



60.5 years Female Healthy Life Expectancy in 2018-20 (UK: 63.6 years)
Since 2015-17: +1.5 years compared to no change nationally



95,185 Hospital Admissions (Sandwell & West Birmingham Hospitals NHS Trust) in 2021-22
Since 2016/17: -4.4% (-4,380) compared to -3.4% England



12.4 Crude Birth Rate (all births per 1,000 pop. all ages) in 2021 (UK: 10.3 per 1,000 pop.)
Since 2017: Down from 14.4 per 1,000 pop. (UK: 11.4 per 1,000 pop.)



60.4 General Fertility Rate (live births per 1,000 woman aged 15-44) in 2021 (UK: 53.6)
Since 2017: Down from 73.2 per 1,000 woman aged 15-44 (UK: 60.3)



Ambition 2



69.7% of Adults Classed as Overweight or Obese in 2021/22
(Eng.: 63.8%)
Since 2016/17: **-0.8pp** compared to **-2.5pp** nationally



49.0% (2,280) in Year 6 Classed as Overweight (inc. Obesity) in 2021/22 (Eng.: 37.8%)
Since 2016/17: **+5.9pp** compared to **+3.6pp** nationally

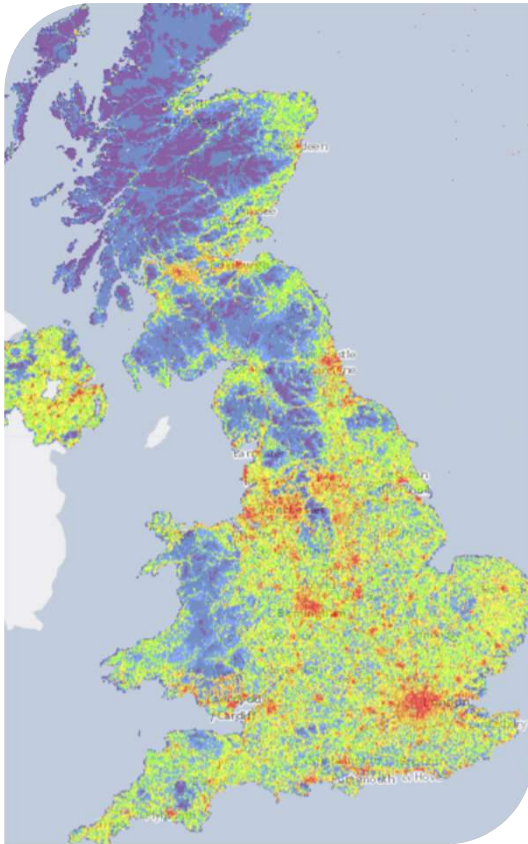


27.3% (1,155) in Reception Classed as Overweight (inc. Obesity) in 2021/22 (Eng.: 22.3%)
Since 2016/17: **+3.3pp** compared to **-0.3pp** nationally

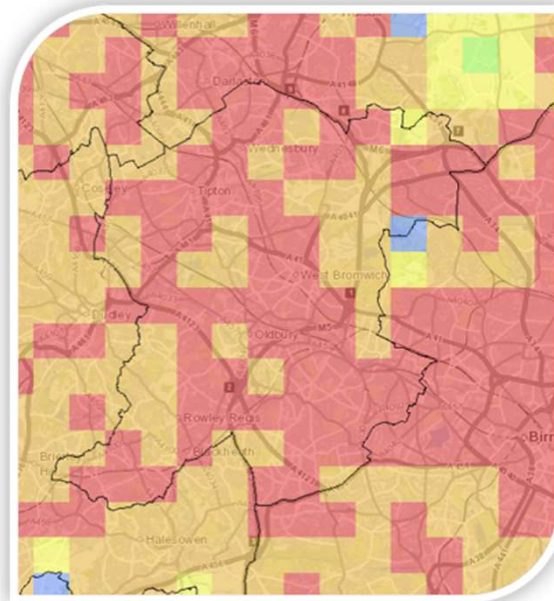


Ambition 2

Air Quality



Sandwell Focus



As seen in the Sandwell focused map, concentrations of the air pollutant PM10 is on the higher end of the scale throughout the area – although as highlighted by a blue square, there is a lower concentration where Sandwell Valley is located.

PM10 (Particulate Matter < 10µm)

Units tonnes/1x1km

- < 0.003
- 0.003-0.03
- 0.03-0.1
- 0.1-0.2
- 0.2-1
- 1-4
- > 4

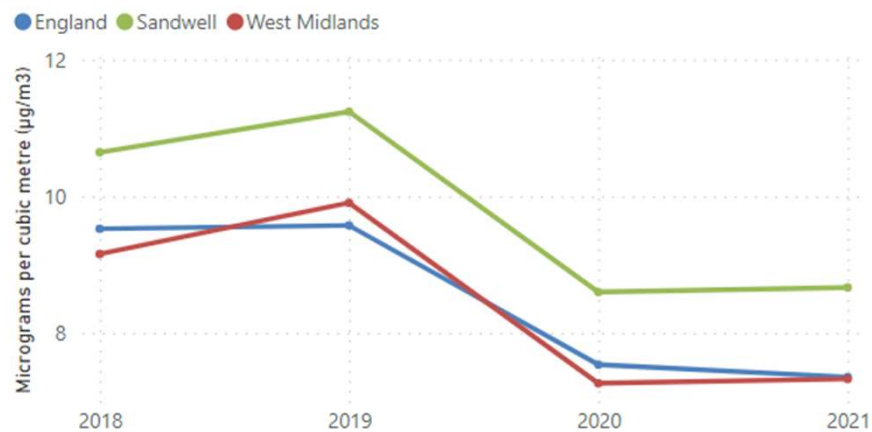


Ambition 2

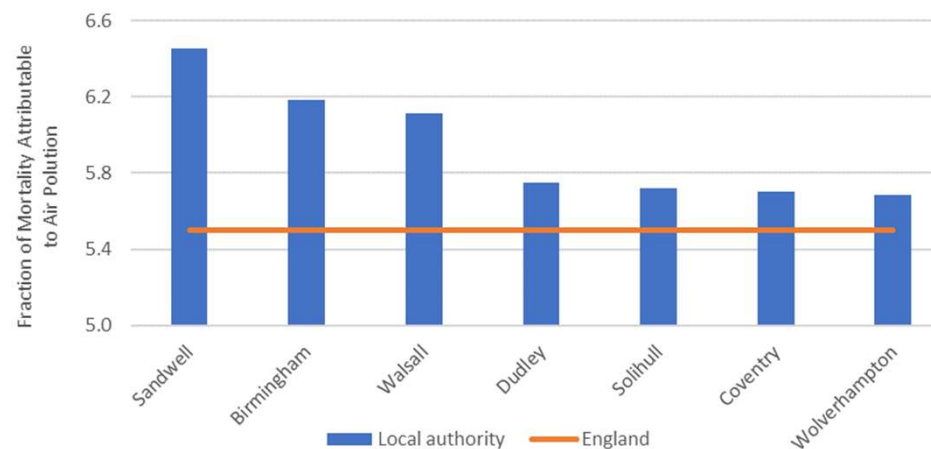
Air Pollution and Health

Sandwell has consistently higher levels of PM2.5 than regional and national levels. However, the pandemic and lockdowns resulted in a substantial decrease in emissions between 2019 and 2020. A comparison of mortality attributable to fine particulate matter shows that proportions in Sandwell are higher than those in the West Midlands County and England. [Further information concerning air quality in Sandwell](#)

Air pollution: Annual average concentrations of fine particulate matter (PM2.5)



Comparison of the fraction of mortality attributable to fine particulate matter (PM2.5) air pollution across the West Midlands' Local Authorities (2021)





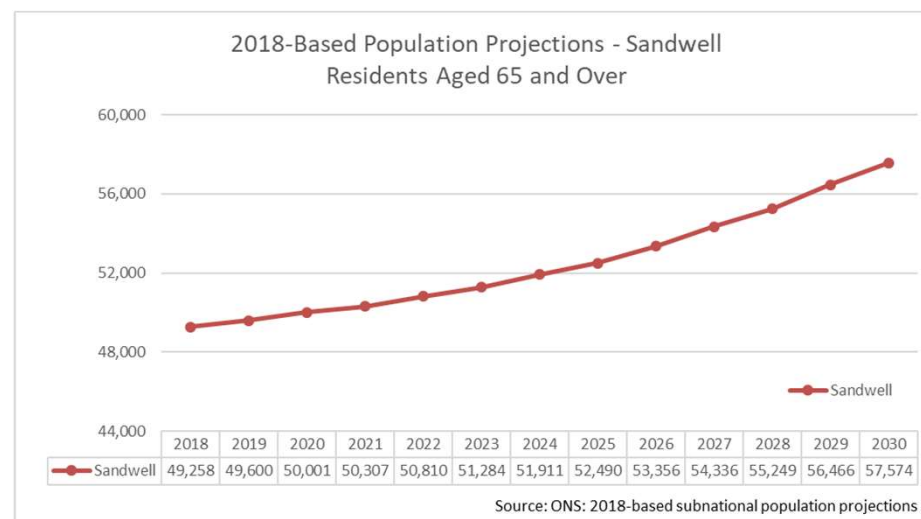
Ambition 2

Population Change – Residents Aged 65 Plus

In 2021 Sandwell had an estimated population of 49,704 residents, aged 65 and over (2021 Census). This age group increased by 5.8%, 2,863 persons, between the 2011 and 2021 Censuses.

The National Office for Statistics', 2018-based Subnational Population Projections indicate that Sandwell's 65 plus population will continue to rise to reach 57,574 by 2030. Although, these figures are to be rebased, using the 2021 Census figures and are likely to change.

These projected increases in older people are likely to have an impact on service provision and public health activity.





Ambition 2

In Summary

Ambition 2 highlights that overall healthy life expectancy is improving for residents in Sandwell, although the gap to national remains. Also more positively, hospital admissions have decreased since 2017. However, air quality (based on PM10) in Sandwell is poor which has the potential to impact resident health.

Weight is a key challenge in the area, as many children (nearly 50% in year 6) are at least overweight. For later years, despite the proportion of overweight adults falling since 2017, there is still a significant issue at nearly 70% being classed as at least overweight.

Along with potential issues of birth rates and fertility rates decreasing when compared to 2017 – as seen in the overview section, males and females aged 0-4 years have fallen (and for females aged 25-29).

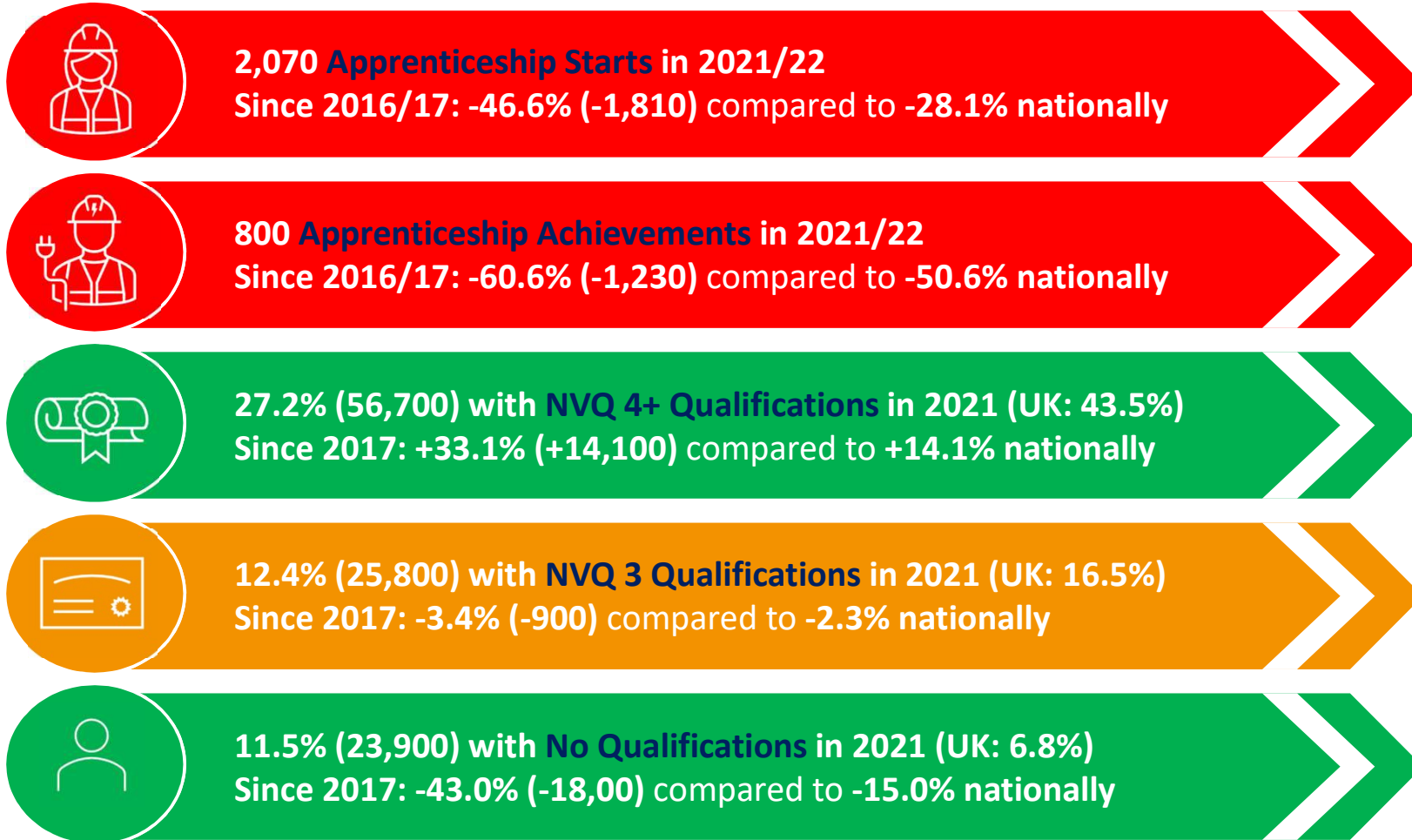
More detailed analysis of the health of Sandwell can be found on [Sandwell Trends in the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment](#)

Ambition 3

Our workforce and young people are skilled and talented, geared up to respond to changing business needs and to win rewarding jobs in a growing economy



Ambition 3

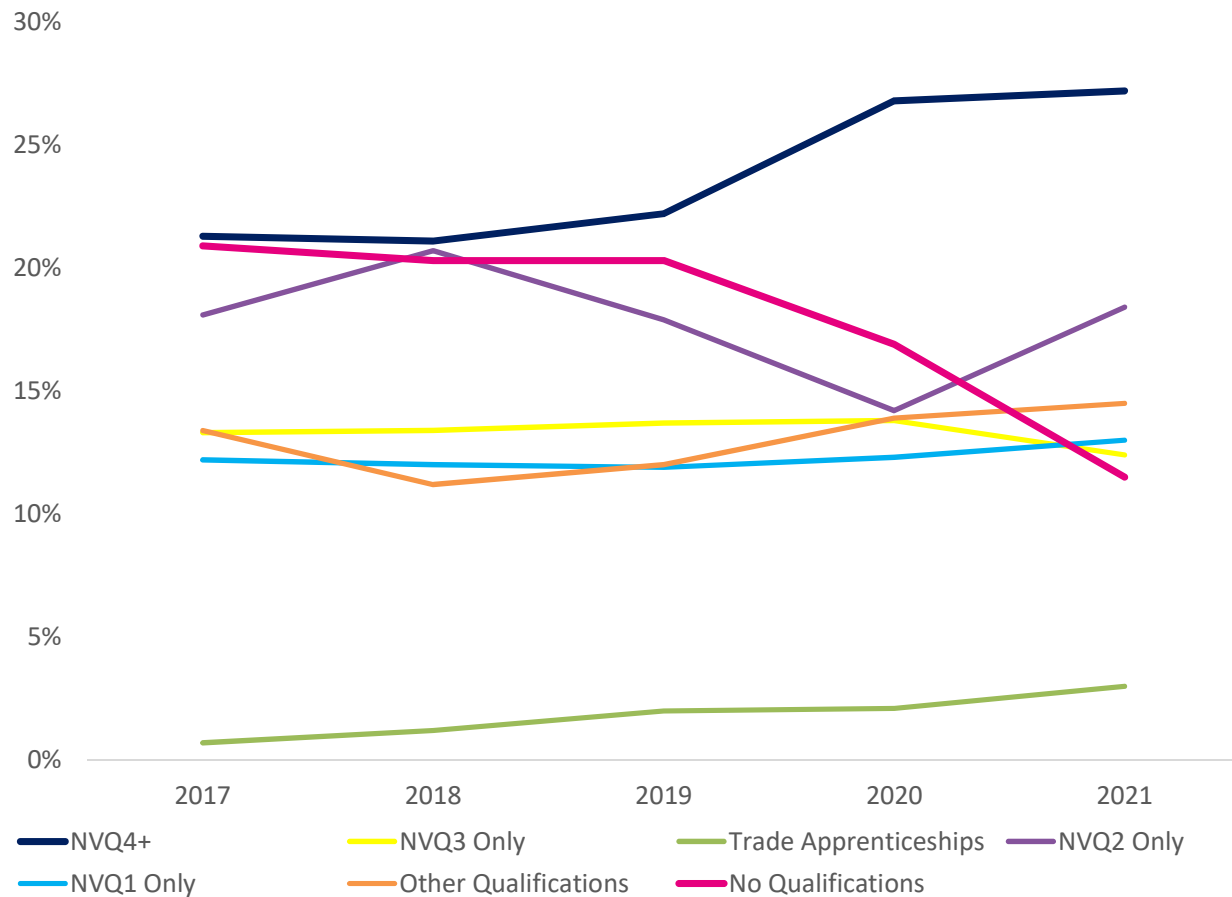


Sources: Department for Education, released 2022 and ONS, APS, released 2023
*NVQ3 qualification has been rated amber as it may not be negative to lose people in this grouping.



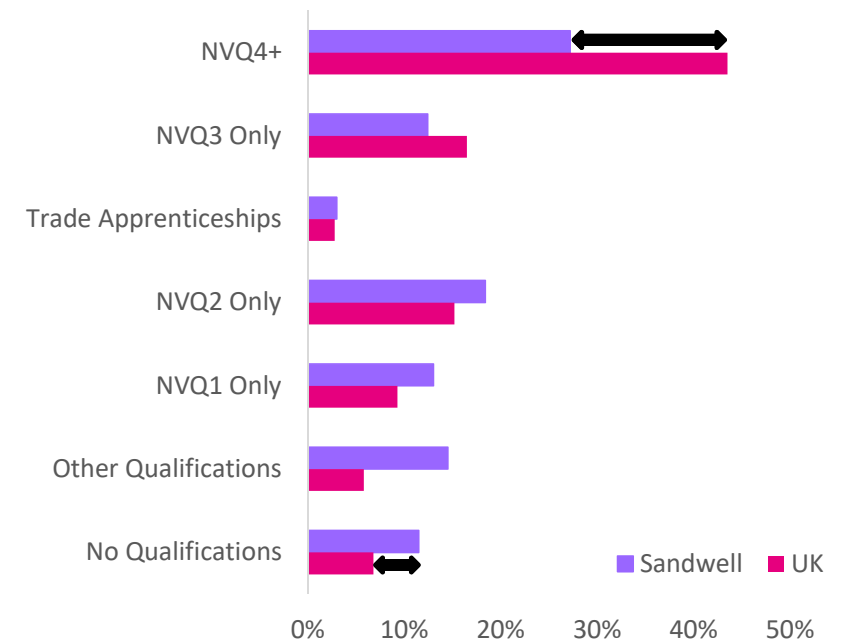
Ambition 3

Qualification Level Trends for Sandwell



The trend chart to the left highlights the significant positive changes for residents with NVQ 4+ qualifications and those with no qualifications – especially since 2019. Although the bar chart below shows a gap to national remains.

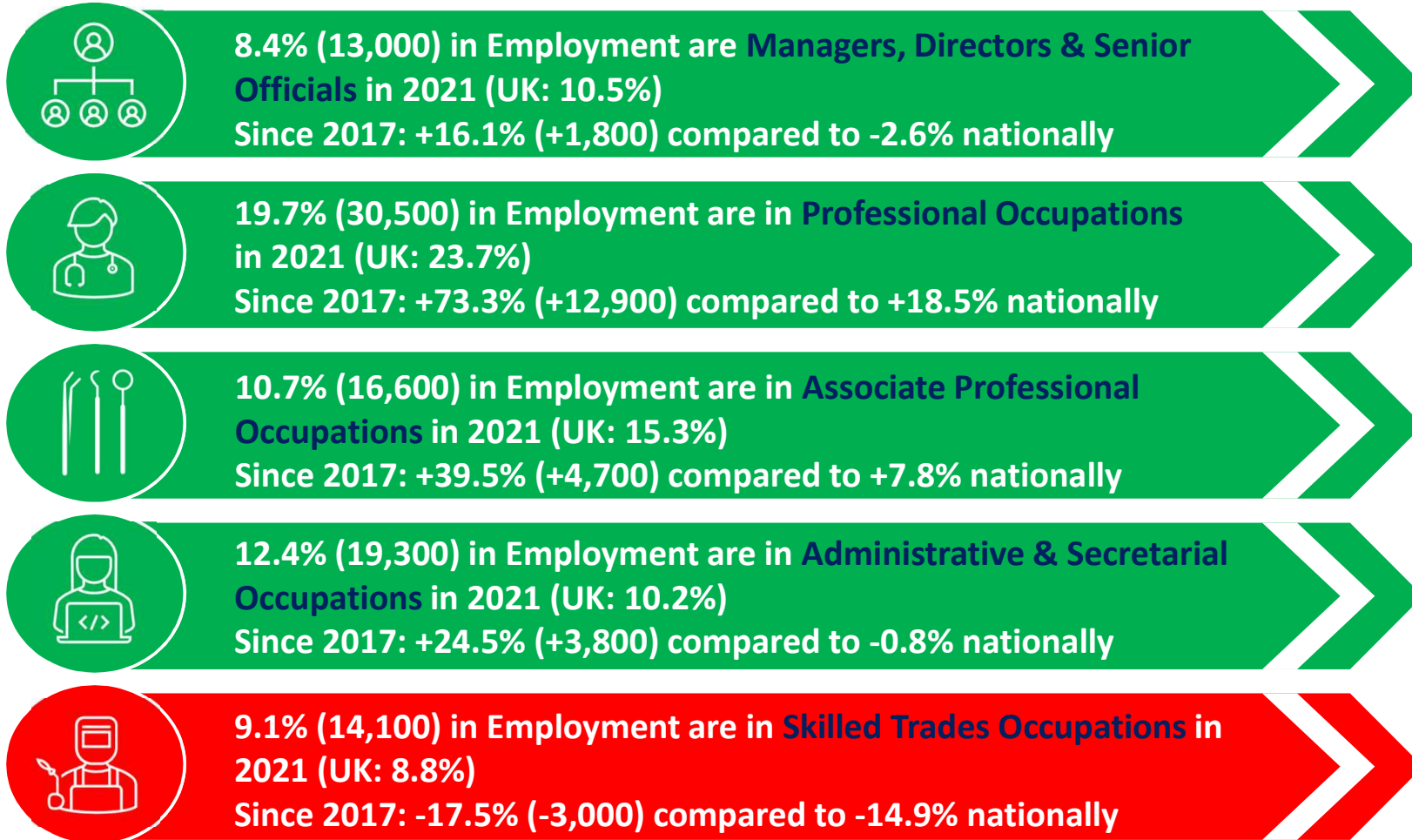
Qualification Profile, 2021



Source: ONS, APS, released 2023



Ambition 3





Ambition 3



13.0% (20,100) in Employment are in Caring, Leisure & Other Service Occupations in 2021 (UK: 9.2%)
Since 2017: +45.7% (+6,300) compared to +1.3% nationally



5.7% (8,800) in Employment are in Sales and Customer Service Occupations in 2021 (UK: 7.0%)
Since 2017: -20.0% (-2,200) compared to -6.6% nationally



8.3% (12,800) in Employment are Process, Plant & Machine Operatives in 2021 (UK: 5.5%)
Since 2017: -15.2% (-2,300) compared to -13.4% nationally



12.8% (19,900) in Employment are in Elementary Occupations in 2021 (UK: 9.5%)
Since 2017: +11.8% (+2,100) compared to -8.4% nationally

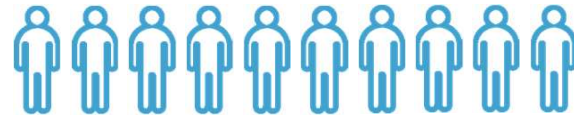


1.9% (181) 16-17 Year Olds Not in Education, Education or Training (NEET) in 2023 (Eng. 5.2%)
Since 2017: -3.7pp compared to -0.8 nationally

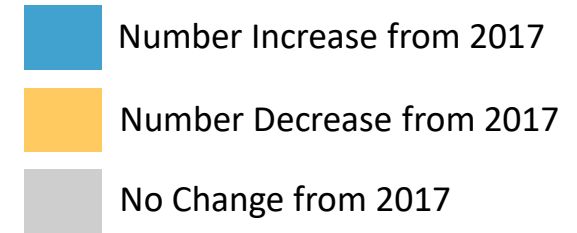


Ambition 3

2022 Labour Market Trends when compared to 2017

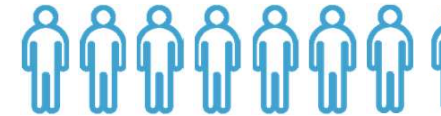


Sandwell
Working Age Population
208,800



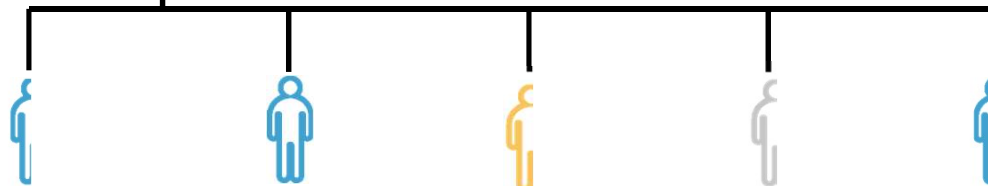
Inactive

66,900 (32.0%)



Active

141,900 (68.0%)



Family/Home

20,200
(17.8%)

Sick

19,800
(29.5%)

Student

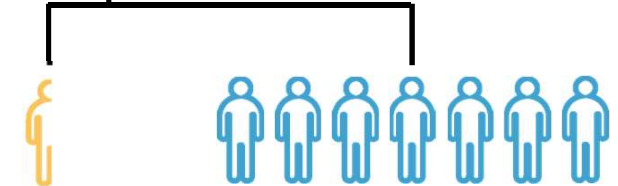
11,900
(17.8%)

Retired

3,800
(5.6%)

Other

8,800
(13.2%)



Unemployed

8,500
(6.0%)

Employed

133,400
(63.9%)

Source: ONS, APS, released 2023. Figures will not sum due to within the 'sick' category – temporary sick has been suppressed and within the 'other' category – discouraged has been suppressed



Ambition 3



Source: ONS, APS, released 2023 – please note, for employment rate and economically activity rate, the proportion of working age residents in employment/economically active has decreased but the actual number of people employed/economically active has increased due to an increase in population

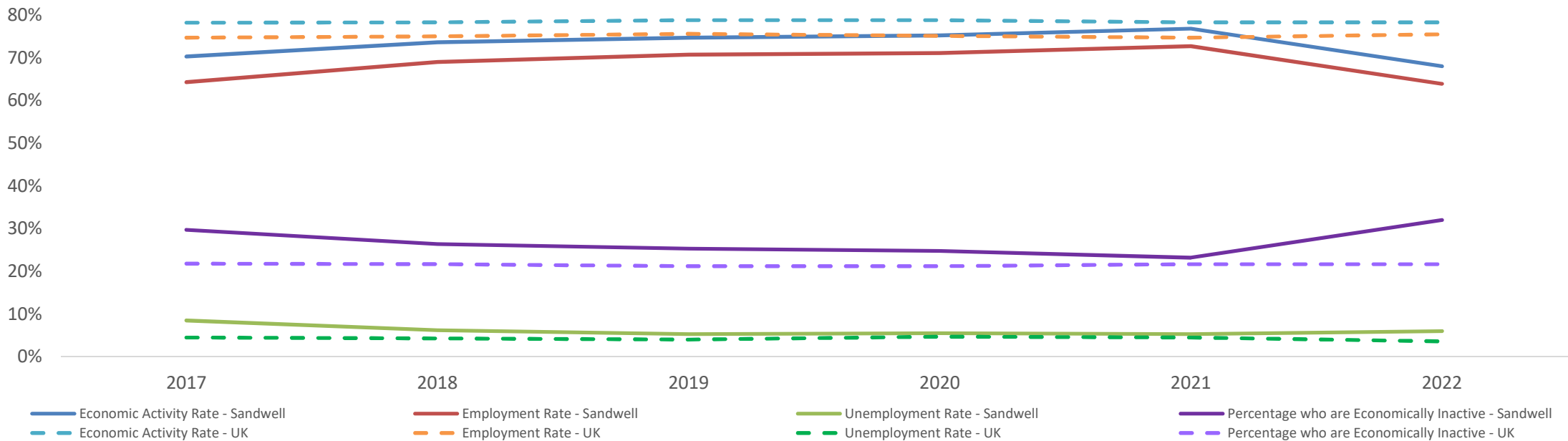


Ambition 3

Despite the positive progression when compared directly to 2017, the latest data suggests that there is likely to be a continuation of the participation/worklessness issues identified nationally since the pandemic - with people (either in work or looking for work) leaving the labour market and not returning. In Sandwell there are c.15,000 fewer people in employment since March 2021, whilst conversely unemployment has nominally decreased by under 1,000 people. However, what has changed significantly, is the number of people inactive. Over the same period there are now 21,800 more people inactive in Sandwell, mainly driven by those long-term sick which has increased by 7,700 and those looking after the family or home - up c.6,000.

This participation issue can also be linked to higher worklessness due to poor health (particularly mental health) which suggests a need to improve access and the way in which health services and employment services work together. Around a third of those with a long-term illness in Sandwell report 'Depression, Learning Problems, Mental Problems and Nervous Disorders' as a barrier to work, an increase of 5,200 people in the last year. This narrative is also evidenced when analysing Universal Credit data which shows there are now over 44,000 people claiming Universal Credit in Sandwell. This has increased by c.3,000 people over the last year but more than doubled by 22,786 people since March 2020.

Labour Market Trends



Source: ONS, APS, released 2023



Ambition 3

In Summary

Ambition 3 highlights that more residents than ever have NVQ 4+ qualifications and at the other end of the scale residents with no qualifications is at an all-time low, (although further work is still required to close the gap to national proportions, as no qualifications was still nearly double that of national). This can be reflected in occupations, where many categories saw an increase since 2017 and notably in the higher-level skilled ones. Along with the number of 16–17-year-old NEET remaining low and below the national average proportion.

Compared to 2017 alone, the number of apprenticeship starts and achievements has declined, and this can be linked to changes in the Apprenticeship Levy. Youth unemployment (primarily aged 20-24 years) also stubbornly remains in Sandwell.

The overall labour market does perform well when compared to 2017, however more recent trends are more worrying with a continuation of participation/workless issues since Covid-19, with more of the workforce leaving early. One of the main reasons for leaving the workforce early is poor health and in particular mental health, suggests a need to improve access and the way in which health services and employment services work together.

Ambition 4

Our children benefit from the best start in life and a high-quality education throughout their school careers with outstanding support from their teachers and families

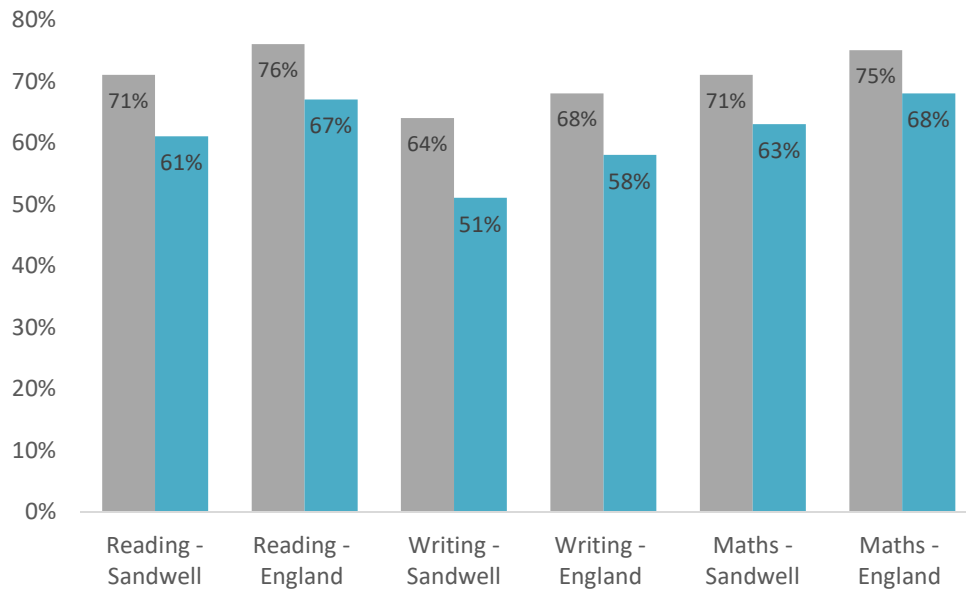


Ambition 4

Educational Journey

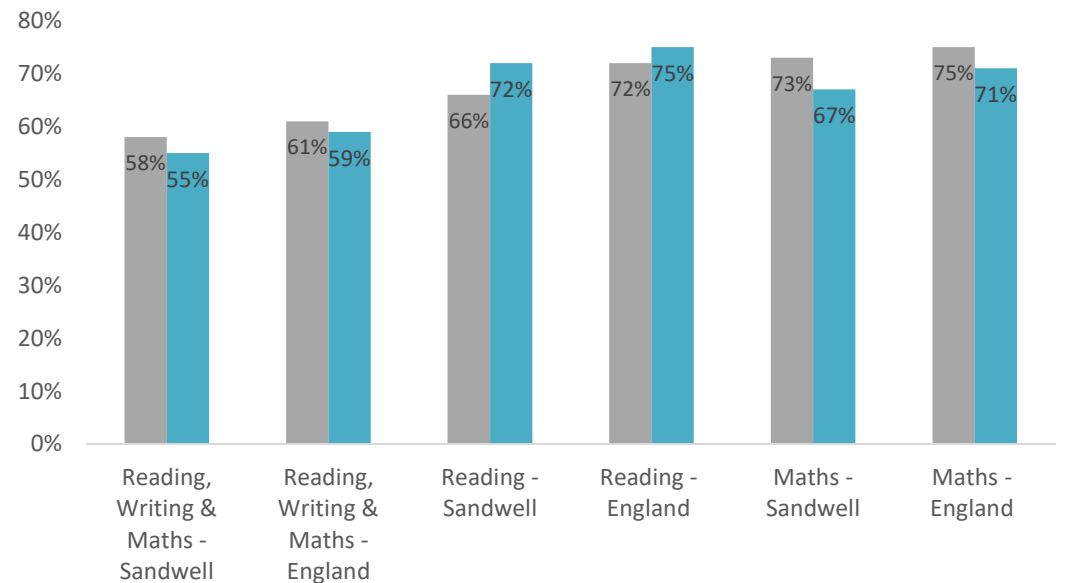
Percentage of Pupils Achieving Expected Standards in KS1

Metrics 2016/17 2021/22



Percentage of Pupils Achieving Expected Standards in KS2

Metrics 2016/17 2021/22



The educational system was heavily impacted from the Covid-19 pandemic, meaning comparisons should be used with caution as there were various changes to learning and exams. The latest available data is the first year of results being available again, but impacts can still be seen. Comparisons and data has still been included as these can be used in reflection in the future. Results are not reflective of school performance.

The above charts show that following the national trends, Sandwell performance across the majority of KS1 and KS2 metrics has declined when compared to 2016/17 (as mentioned above due the pandemic) – however, there are some positives, where in KS2 reading, Sandwell increased by 6pp compared to only a 3pp increase nationally.



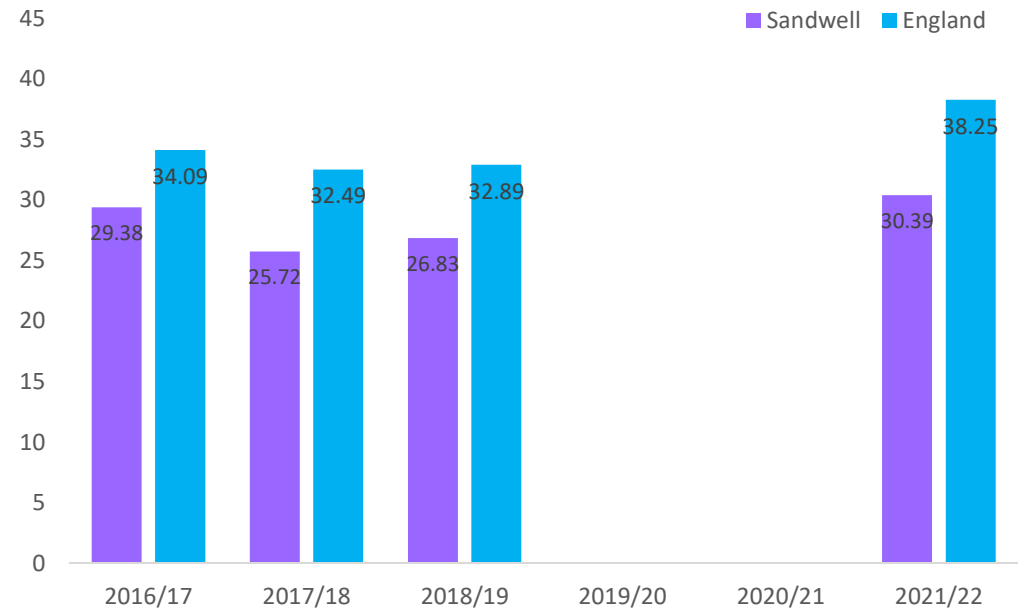
Ambition 4

Educational Journey

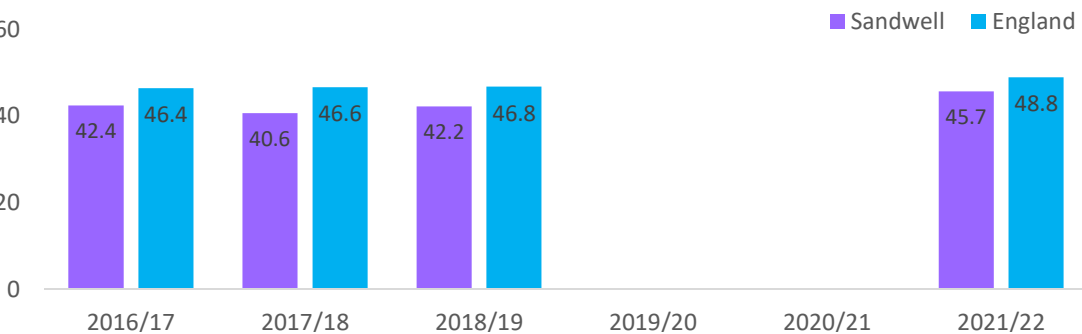
KS4 - Average Progress 8 Score per Pupil



KS5 - Average Point Score per Entry - Best 3 A Levels



KS4 - Average Attainment 8 Score



The educational system was heavily impacted from the Covid-19 pandemic, meaning comparisons should be used with caution as there were various changes to learning and exams. The latest available data is the first year of results being available again, but impacts can still be seen. Comparisons and data has still been included as these can be used in reflection in the future. Results are not reflective of school performance.

The top left chart shows since 2016/17, the average Progress 8 Score has significantly improved and in 2021/22 was performing better than the national average. For the average Attainment 8 Score and the average point score per entry charts, these show performance has improved when compared to 2016/17 directly.

Source: Department for Education, released 2023

Data gaps due Covid-19, Progress 8 data has been suppressed for previous two academic years. While for Attainment 8 and KS5, these have been excluded from analysis.



Ambition 4



8.3% of Live Births Under 2.5kg Birthweight in 2021 (Eng.: 6.4%)
Since 2017: Up from 8.2% (Eng.: Down from 7.0%)



31.7% Eligible for Free School Meals (FSM) in 2022/23
Since 2016/17: +42.5% compared to +60.7% nationally



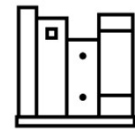
41.0 Attainment Achievement of KS2 (RWM) pupils Eligible for FSM
(Expected Level) in 2021/22 (Eng. 42.0)
Since 2016/17: -3.0 compared to -1.0 nationally



61.0 Attainment Achievement of KS2 (RWM) pupils Not Eligible for FSM
(Expected Level) in 2021/22 (Eng. 64.0)
Since 2016/17: -1.0 compared to no change nationally



25.5% Persistent Absentees (10% of more missed) in 2022/23
(Eng.: 24.2%)
Since 2016/17: +13.5pp compared to +12.6pp nationally



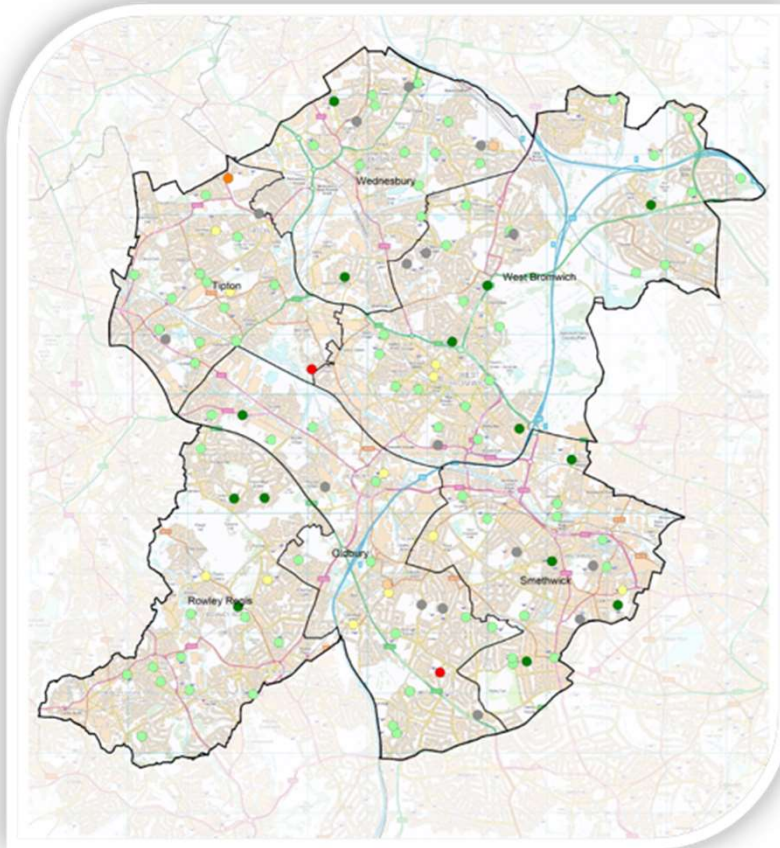
Due to reforms, data cannot be directly compared to 2017, meaning a comparison has not been included.

59.1% of Children Achieving Good Level of Development at End of Reception in 2021/22 (Eng. 65.2%)



Ambition 4

Ofsted Rating



Ratings for 143 Sandwell schools/colleges in 2021/22 –

- Outstanding = 17
- Good = 84
- Requires Improvement = 13
- Inadequate = 2
- Serious Weaknesses = 2
- Special Measures = 6
- Not Available = 19

- Sandwell borough
- Town boundaries
- Ofsted Rating (2021/22)**
- Outstanding
- Good
- Requires improvement
- Inadequate
- Serious Weaknesses
- Special Measures
- N/A



Ambition 4

In Summary

Ambition 4 highlights some troubling issues for children and young people when compared to 2017 and outcomes for children have been heavily impacted by the disruption of the pandemic.

Educational attainment is behind the national rate and has generally been heavily impacted from the disruption caused from the pandemic – although behind the national rate, for many indicators the difference between Sandwell and national has not significantly changed. This shows the impact of the pandemic both locally and Nationally. On a positive note, the average Progress 8 Score has significantly improved and in 2021/22 was performing better than the national average.

The number of children eligible for Free School Meals has increased and above the national rate – however the increase as a percentage is less for Sandwell when compared to national. Persistent absentees reflect the national trend and have more than doubled since 2016/17 – reaching over a quarter in the Autumn term 2022/23 – this is an issue in both primary and secondary schools.

However, over 80% of schools were rated by Ofsted as ‘Good’ or ‘Outstanding’, showing the opportunity is available for children.

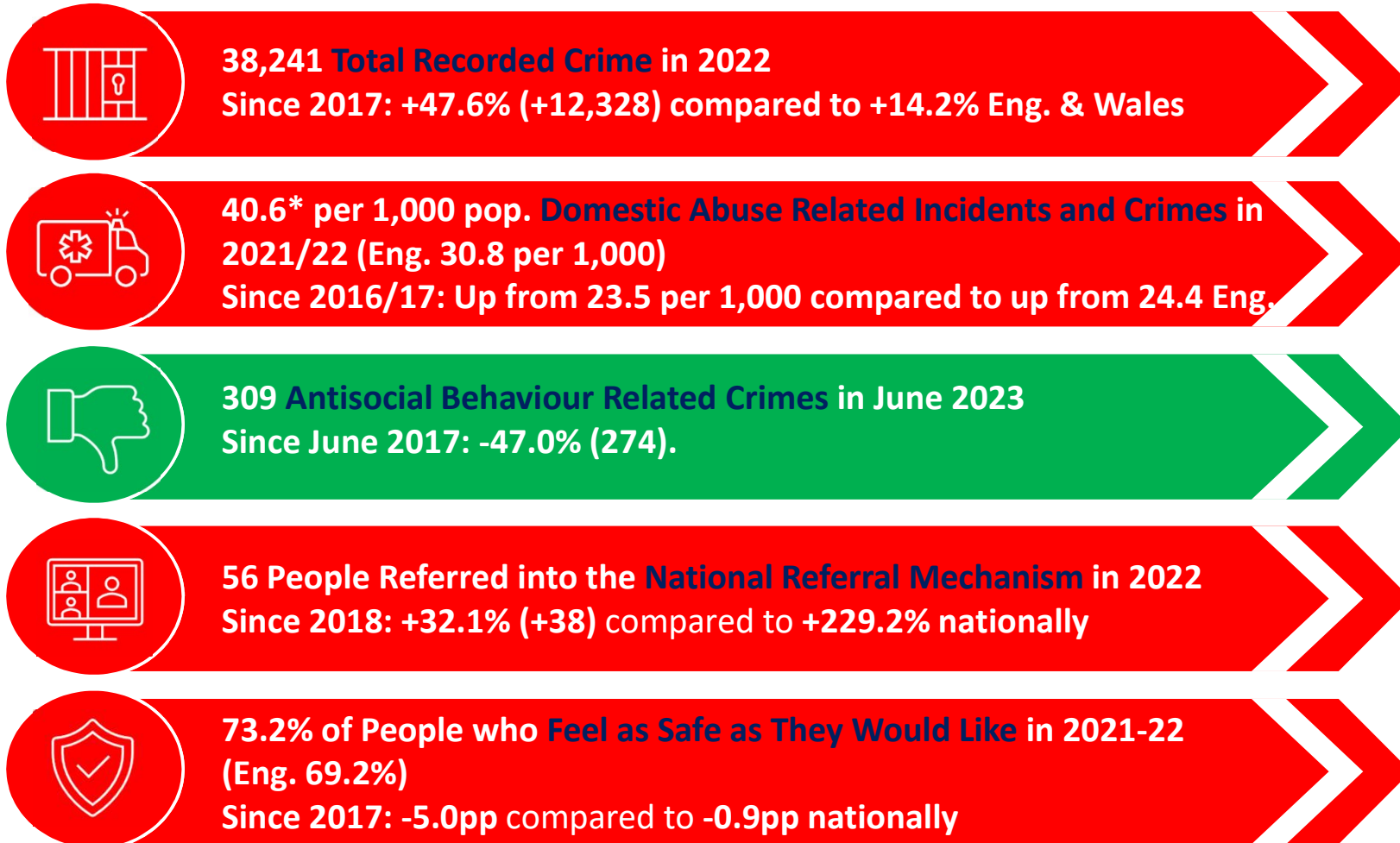
Further information on outcomes for children can be found on [Sandwell Trends in the Joint strategic Needs Assessment](#)

Ambition 5

Our communities are built on mutual respect and taking care of each other, supported by all the agencies that ensure we feel safe and protected in our homes and local neighbourhoods



Ambition 5





Ambition 5

In Summary

Ambition 5 shows a mixed picture, on the one hand total crime is rising, but snapshot data shows a fall in Antisocial Behaviour. Referrals for Modern Day Slavery have also increased

An impressive proportion (nearly 75%) of adults who use adult social care services feel as safe as they want to – above the overall England average. Conversely, the proportion is lower when compared to 2016/17.

Ambition 6

We have excellent and affordable public transport that connects us to all local centres and to jobs in Birmingham, Wolverhampton, the airport and the wider West Midlands



Ambition 6



8.7 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ Air Pollution: Fine Particulate Matter (PM2.5) in 2021
(Eng.: 7.4 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)
Since 2018: Down from 10.6 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$ (Eng.: 9.5 $\mu\text{g}/\text{m}^3$)



3.2% of Adults Cycled at Least Once per Week in 2021 (Eng.: 9.1%)
Since 2017: -1.8pp compared to -2.7pp nationally



53.5% of Adults Walked at Least Once per Week in 2021 (Eng.: 69.7%)
Since 2017: -4.1pp compared to +0.3pp nationally



49 Electric Vehicle Charging Devices As of April 2023
(14.3 per 100,000 pop, UK: 59.9 per 100,000 pop.)
Since Oct 2019: +113.0% (+26) compared to +165.6%



14,600 Ring & Ride Bus Journeys in 2021/22
Since 2017/18: -86.5% (-93,300)



Ambition 6

Modal Split – West Bromwich Town Centre

Total Trips into West Bromwich Town Centre AM Peak (07:30-09:30)

	2016	2018	2020
Bus	3,788	3,868	3,397
Tram	385	608	564
Car	7,978	7,751	5,204
Light Vehicle	927	783	332
Heavy Vehicle	162	253	298
Cycle	30	27	10

Transport for West Midlands report from the latest West Bromwich cordon survey which was undertaken in March 2020 (2 weeks ahead of the first national lockdown due to Covid-19) that the AM peak public transport mode share increased in 2020 to 40.4% (bus 34.6%, tram 5.8%) from 33.7% in 2018. This is because the decrease in private vehicle trips was far greater than the decrease in trips undertaken using public transport.

Bus trips have decreased by 12.2% and tram trips by 7.2%. Tram trips undertaken in 2018 increased by 57.9% and despite the threat of Covid-19 there was only a reduction of 44 trips (7.2%) in 2020. Car trips have decreased by 32.9%. Light vehicle trips decreased by 57.6% and cycle trips by 62.5% (17 trips). Heavy vehicle trips increased by 17.6% but by a small number of trips (45).

Overall trips into West Bromwich have decreased by 26.2%.



Ambition 6

In Summary

Ambition 6 highlights that the number of adults walking/cycling is decreasing – there is a potential link to Ambition 2 where it can be seen overweight/obese levels are high.

Following regional trends, the number/rates of electric vehicle charging points lags behind the national average and even though it is increasing it is at a much slower rate.

Prior to the real impacts of Covid-19, AM peak public transport mode share increased in 2020 to 40.4% (from 33.7% in 2018). This is because the decrease in private vehicle trips was far greater than the decrease in trips undertaken using public transport. Further data is still required to understand modal share into West Bromwich town since lockdown ended and life returned to more normality.

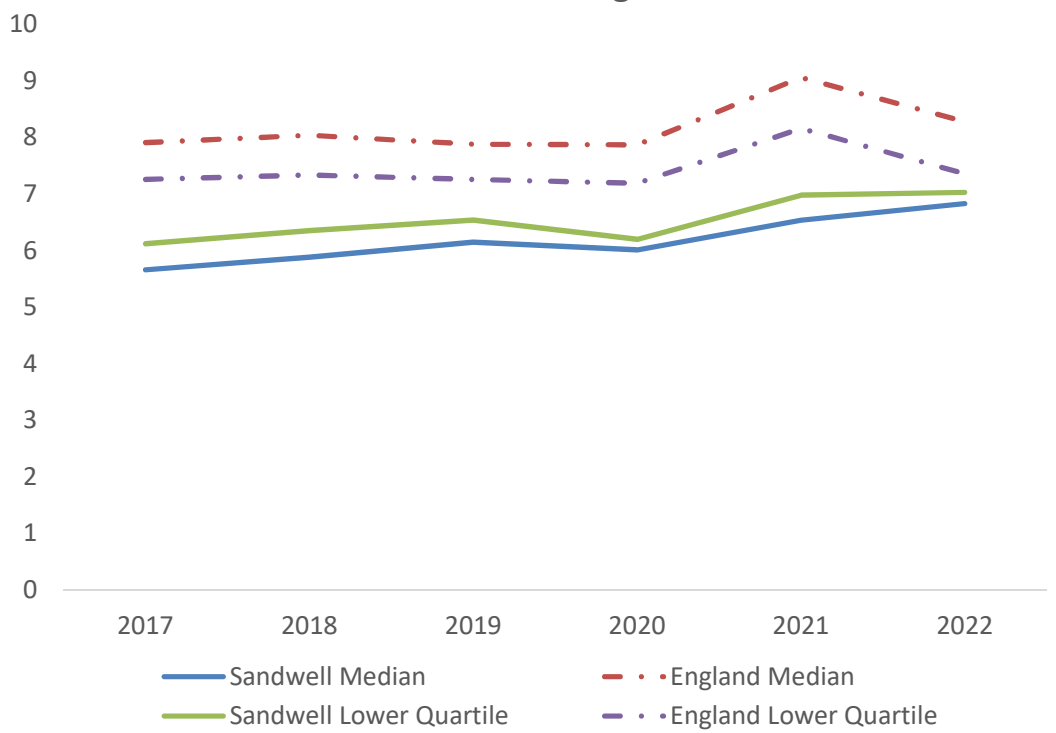
Ambition 7

We now have many new homes to meet a full range of housing needs in attractive neighbourhoods and close to key transport routes



Ambition 7

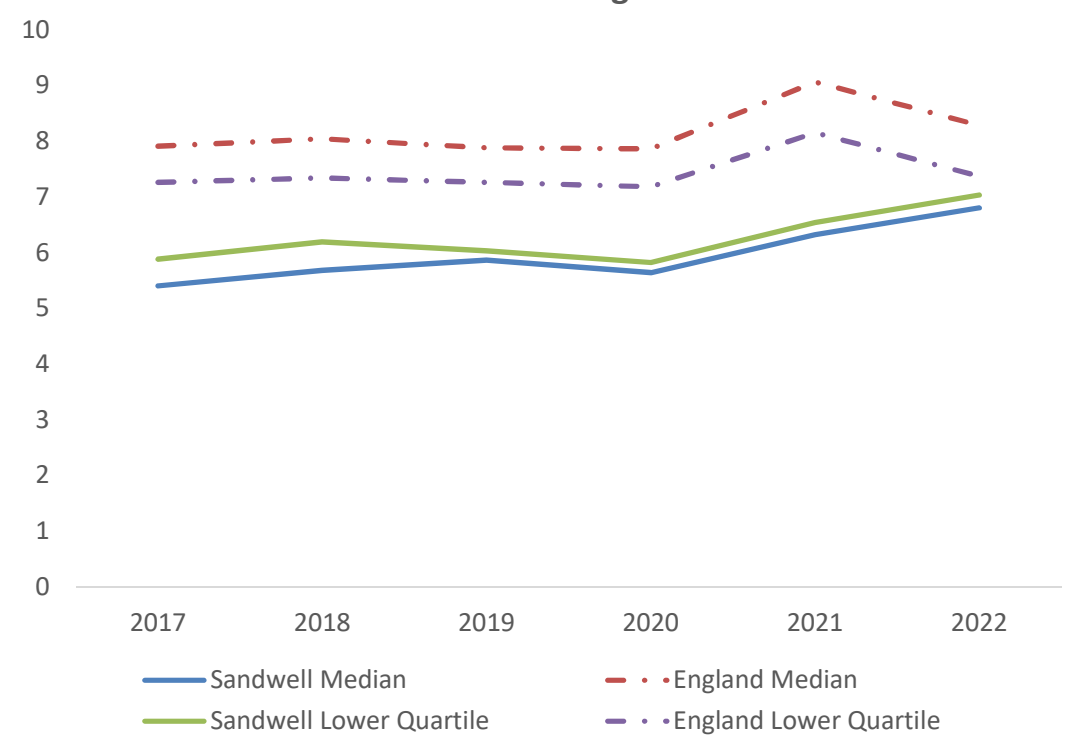
Ratio of House Prices to Gross Annual Residence-Based Earnings



Compared to 2017, the ratio for median house prices to resident income ratio has increased by 1.17 to 6.83 in 2022 (Eng. +0.37 to 8.28). While the ratio for the lower quartile house prices to income has increased by 0.91 to 7.03 (Eng. +0.10 to 7.36).

Compared to 2017, the ratio for median house prices to workplace income ratio has increased by 1.40 to 6.80 in 2022 (Eng. +0.37 to 8.28). While the ratio for the lower quartile house prices to income has increased by 1.15 to 7.03 (Eng. +0.11 to 7.37).

Ratio of House Prices to Gross Annual Workplace-Based Earnings

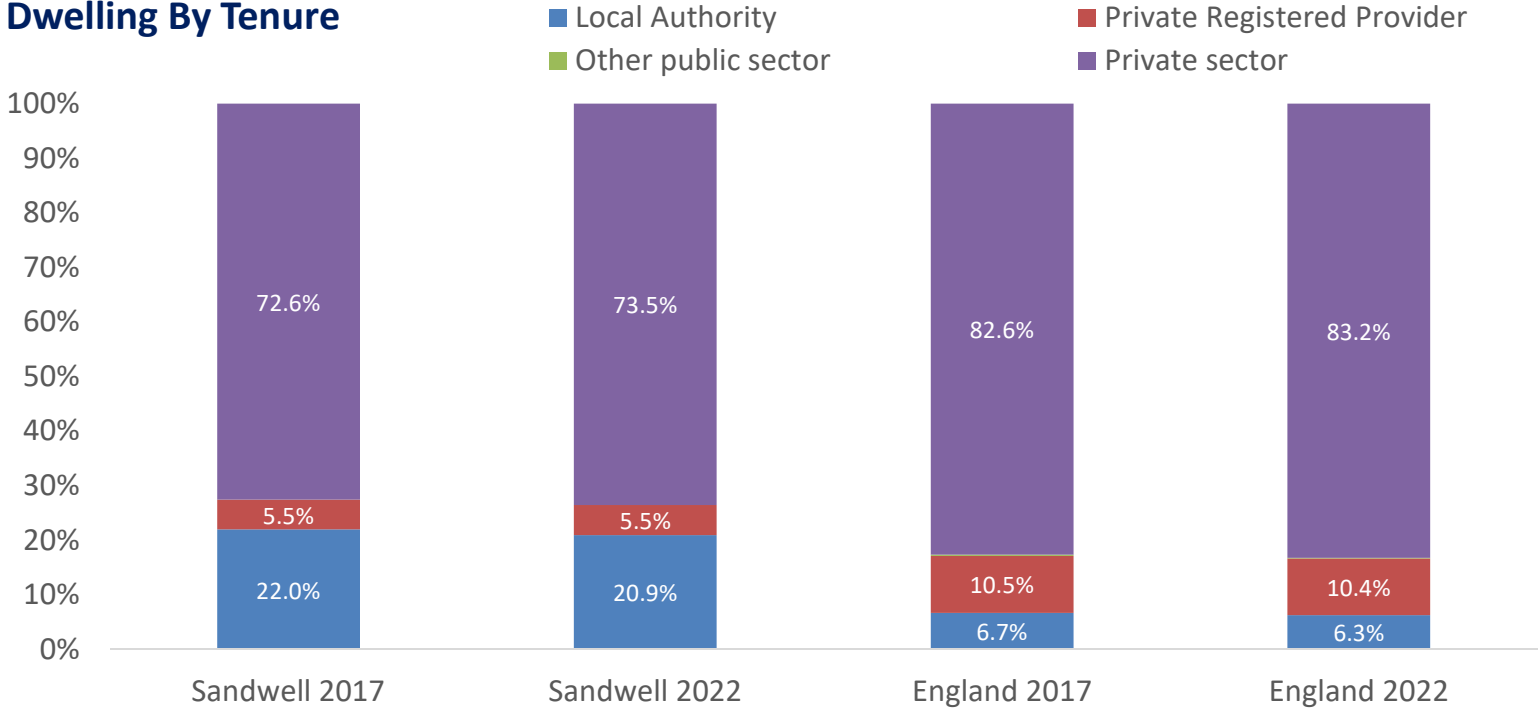


Source: ONS, Housing affordability in England and Wales, released 2023



Ambition 7

Dwelling By Tenure



In 2022 nearly 75% of dwellings in Sandwell are private sector owned. The proportion has increased since 2017, as local authority owned dwellings has decreased.

However, as the table to the left highlights, homes are being brought from local authorities from the Right to Buy scheme.

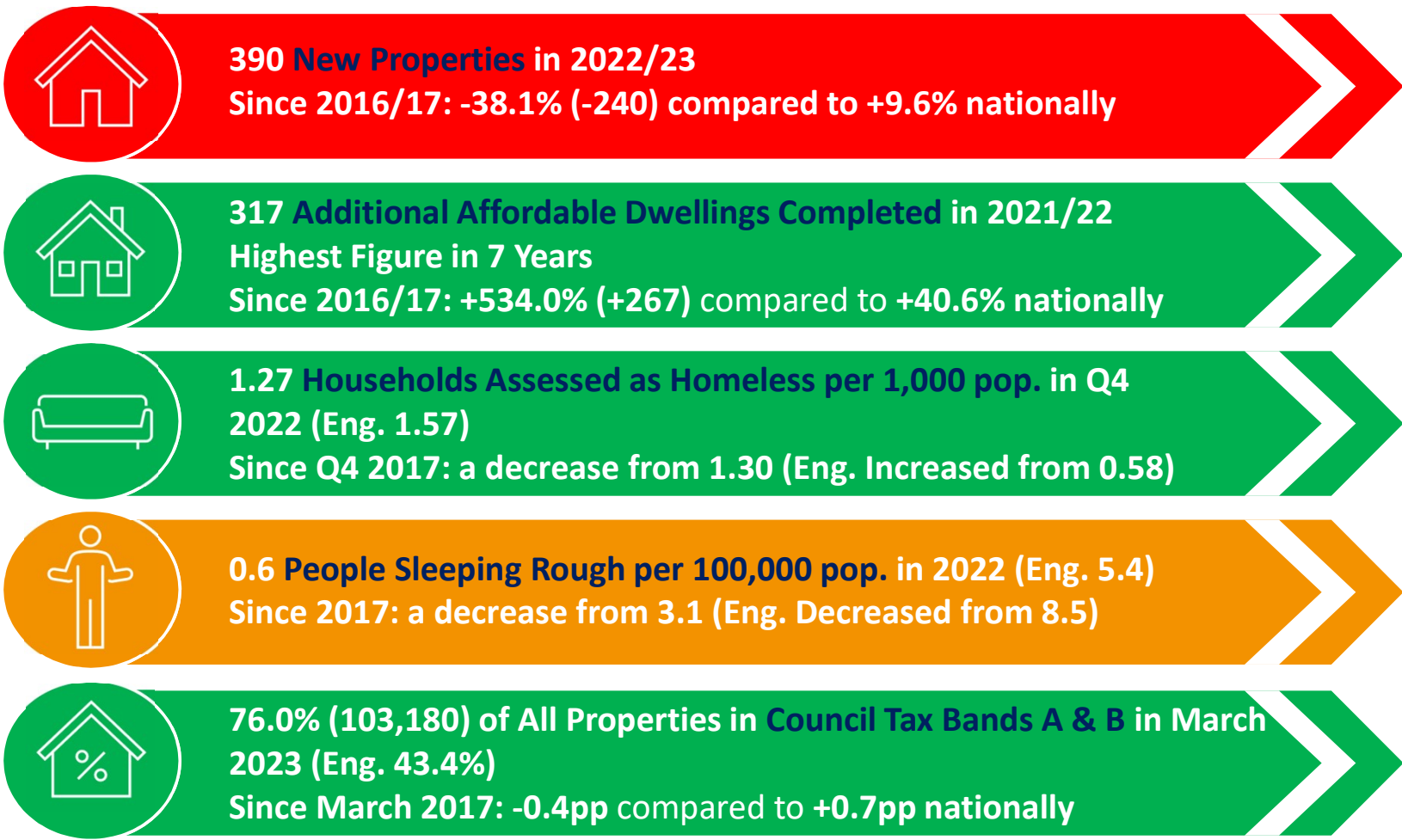
Right to Buy Sales

	2016-17	2017-18	2018-19	2019-20	2020-21	2021-22
Sandwell	264	296	283	281	176	288
England	13,433	12,750	10,926	10,568	6,913	10,978

Sources: Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Live tables on dwelling stock (including vacants), released 2023, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government, Live tables on social housing sales, released 2023



Ambition 7



Source: Valuation Office Agency - Council Tax: stock of properties, released 2023, Department for Levelling Up, Housing and Communities and Ministry of Housing, Communities & Local Government - Live tables on affordable housing supply, released 2022 and Homeless Statistics, released 2023 and Rough sleeping snapshot in England, released 2023



Ambition 7

In Summary

Ambition 7 highlights that when compared to 2017, the number of new dwellings and dwellings in Council Tax band A and B have declined.

There are more additional affordable dwellings completed and figures are at a 7-year high, with 75% of dwellings are private sector owned. However, many homes are being brought under the Right To Buy Scheme.

For both median and lower quartile (and by resident and workplace-based) house price to income ratio has increased at a quicker rate than national (remaining below the national ratio). However, the last few years have shown a varied picture.

There has been declines in sleeping rough rates and households assessed as homeless when compared to 2017 with rates also notably below the national average.

Ambition 8

Our distinctive towns and neighbourhoods are successful centres of community life, leisure and entertainment where people increasingly choose to bring up their families



Ambition 8



7.29 Life Satisfaction Score in Year Ending March 2022 (UK: 7.54)
Since Year Ending March 2017: -0.28 points compared to -0.14 points nationally



7.58 Worthwhile Score in Year Ending March 2022 (UK: 7.77)
Since Year Ending March 2017: -0.02 points compared to -0.09 points nationally



7.25 Mean Happiness Score in Year Ending March 2022 (UK: 7.51)
Since Year Ending March 2017: same mean score compared to -0.06 points nationally

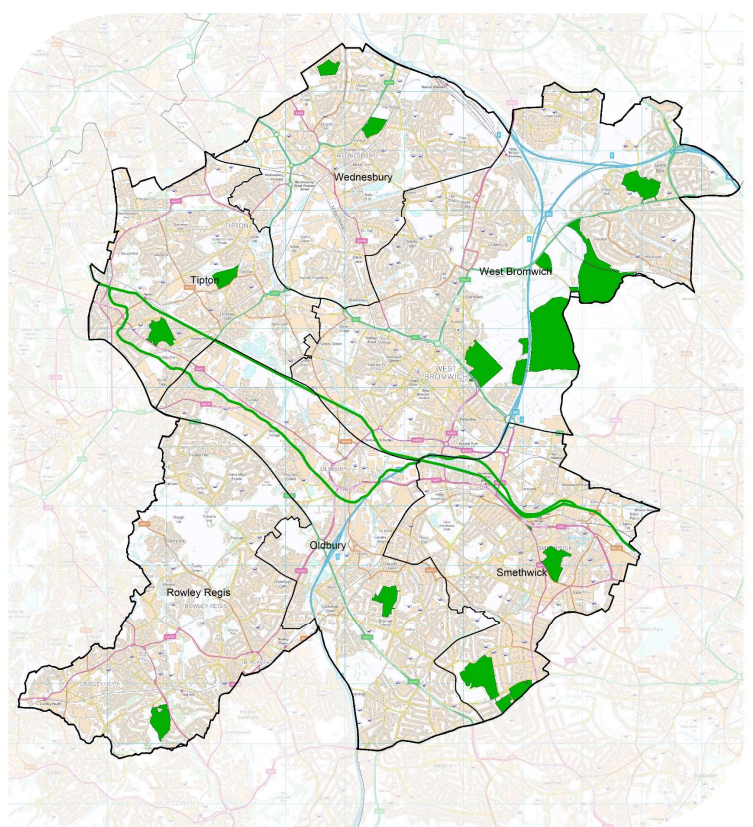


2.88 Feeling Anxious Score in Year Ending March 2022 (UK: 3.12)
Since Year Ending March 2017: +0.18 points compared to +0.22 points nationally



Ambition 8

Green Flags in Parks



- Sandwell borough
- Town boundaries
- Sandwell Green Flag
- Awarded Parks & Green Spaces

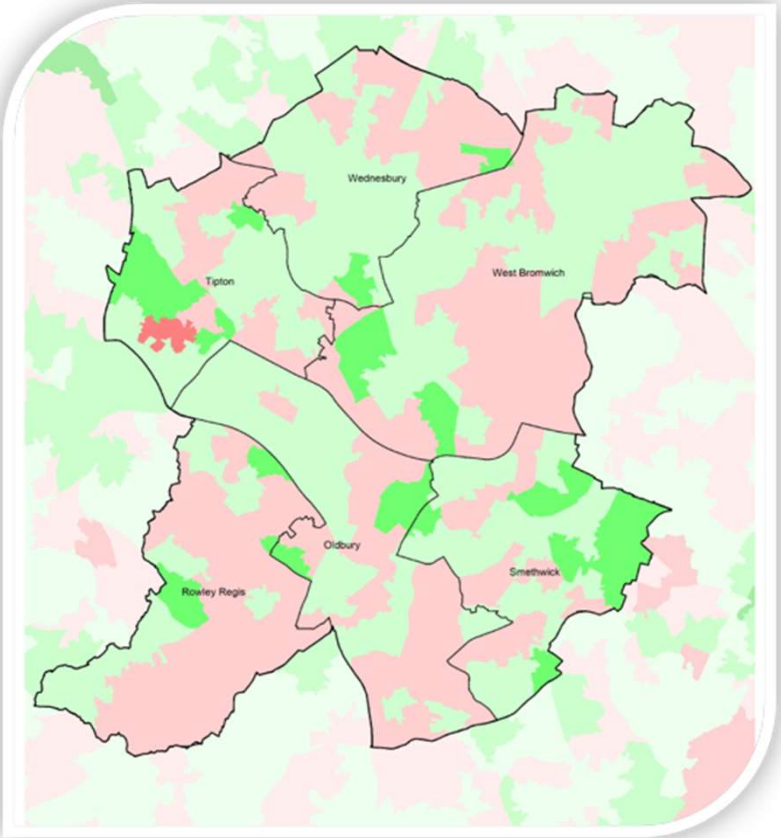
There are a now record-breaking 15 parks and green spaces in Sandwell included in the Green Flag Awards.

This is now the highest number of Green Flags that Sandwell has ever received in the annual awards (since they were first awarded in 1997).



Ambition 8

Population Changes in Towns



□ Sandwell borough
□ Town boundaries
Population estimate change between 2017-20 by LSOA
■ 500 to 1,300
■ 100 to 500
■ 0 to 100
■ -100 to 0
■ -500 to -100
■ -800 to -500

The map to the left shows the change within Sandwell towns, with a mixture of population gains and loses throughout.

Small area-based comparisons in mid-year population estimates show that Rowley Regis was the only town in Sandwell to lose residents (-12). While at the other end of the scale Smethwick’s population increased by 1,553.

Source: ONS, Mid-year population estimates, released 2022

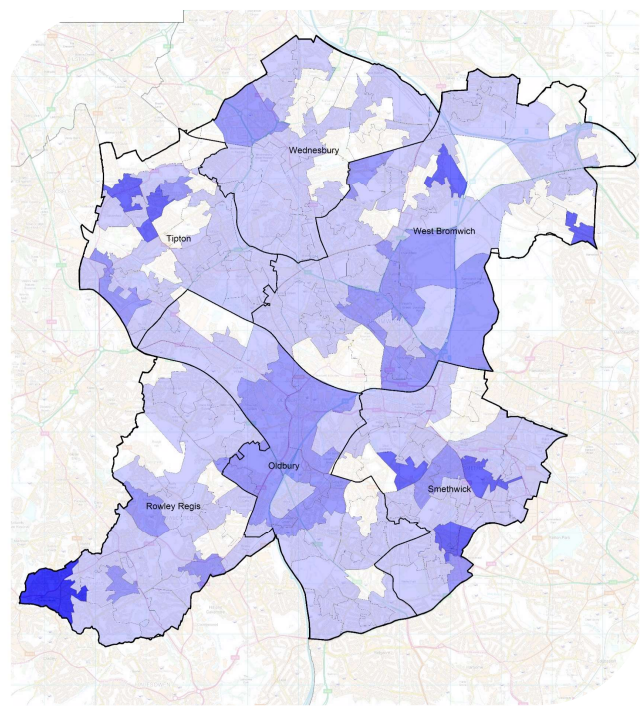


Ambition 8

Migration

Within the UK

Census 2021 shows that 6.5% (21,985) of migration into Sandwell was from within the UK.

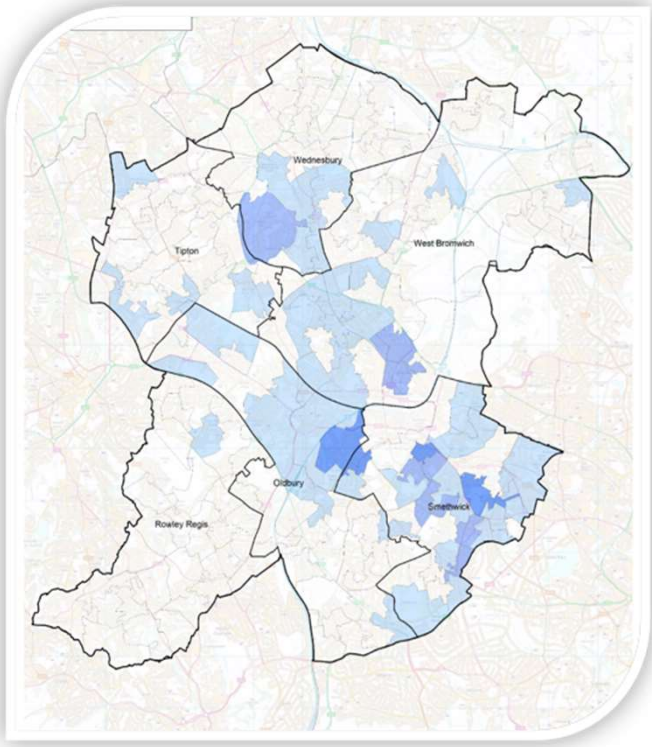


The map to the left shows that migration from within the UK into Sandwell was more generally spread across the area with pockets of higher concentrations.

Sandwell borough
 Town boundaries
Migrants from within the UK as % of residents (2021)
 14 to 16
 11 to 14
 8 to 11
 5 to 8
 2 to 5

Outside the UK

Census 2021 shows that 0.8% (2,622) of migration into Sandwell was from outside the UK.



The map to the left highlights a more North-West to South-East strip where migration from outside the UK moved in Sandwell.

Sandwell borough
 Town boundaries
Migrants from outside the UK as % of residents (2021)
 3 to 4
 2 to 3
 1 to 2
 0 to 1



Ambition 8

In Summary

Ambition 8 highlights that the average ratings of three personal wellbeing indicators have got worse since 2017 with the fourth (happiness) at the same level, latest trends do show improvement but again still not above pre-Covid-19 times.

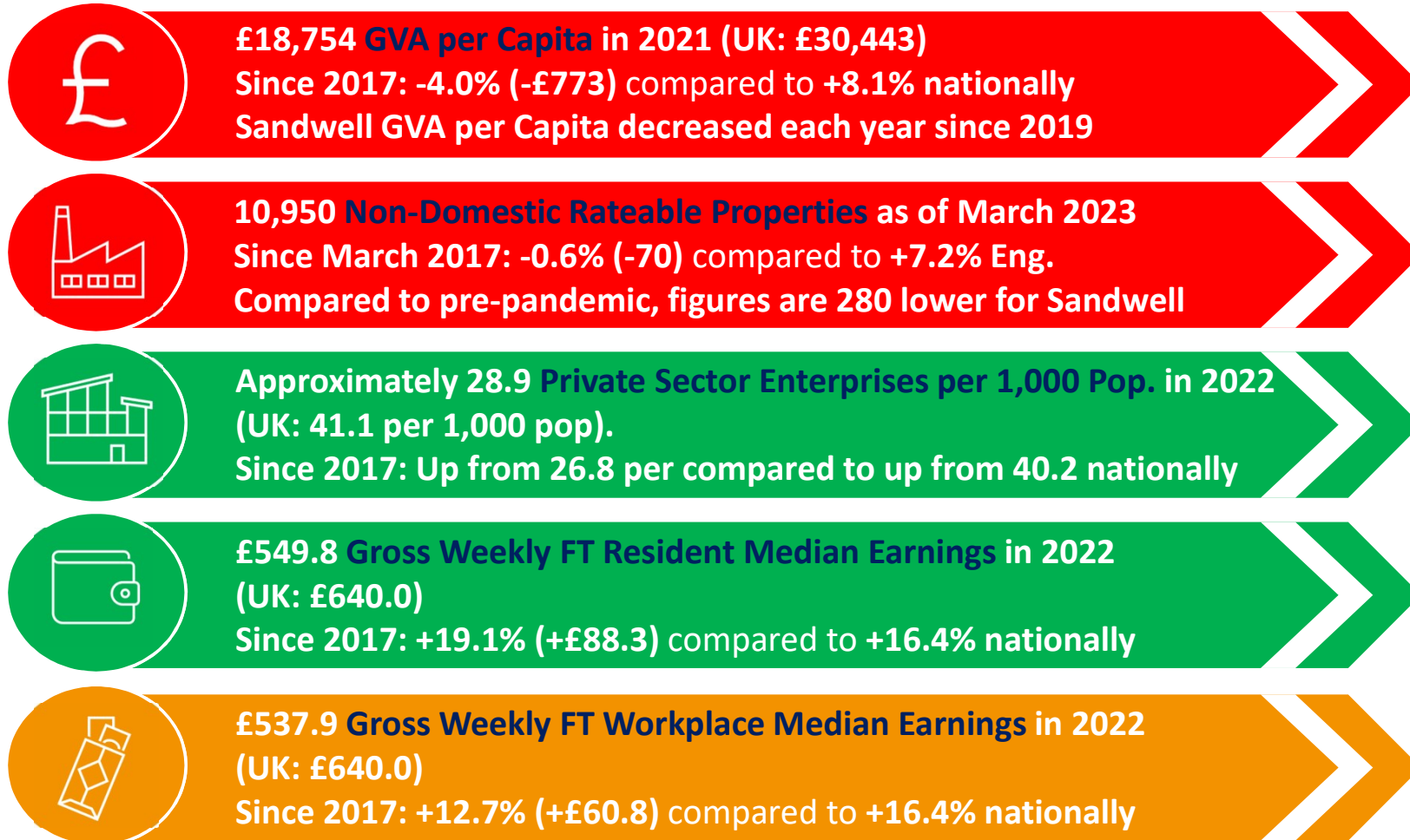
In terms of migration patterns, only Rowley Regis lost a few residents. Whereas, Smethwick grew by the most amount. Migration patterns also show us that Sandwell's growth has mostly come from people coming in from within the UK.

Ambition 9

Sandwell has become a location of choice for industries of future where the local economy and high performing companies continue to grow



Ambition 9

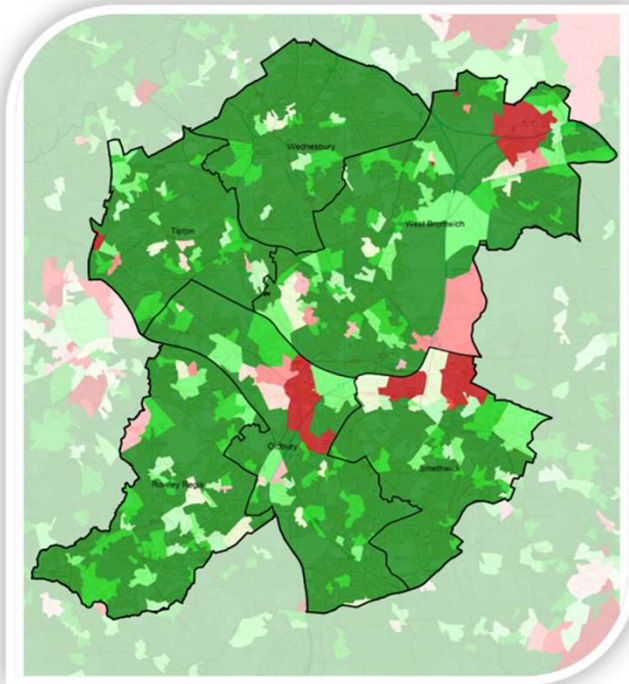




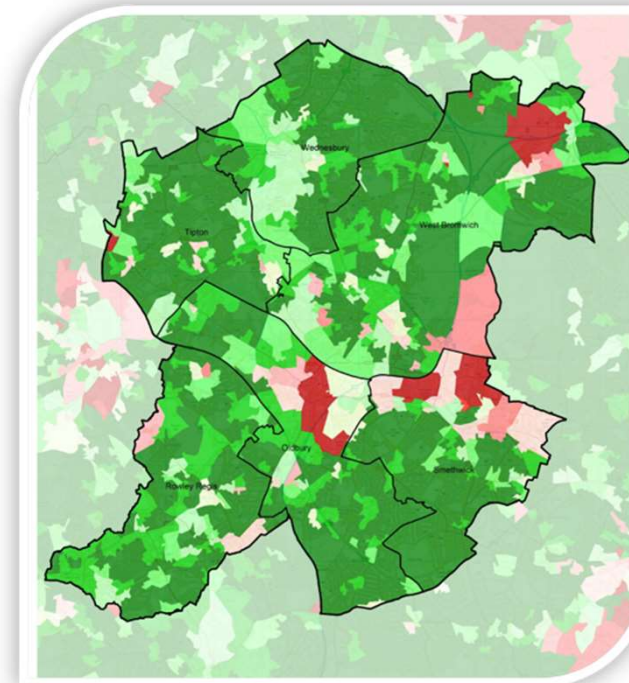
Ambition 9

Gigabit Connectivity

Residential Premises Connectivity



All Premises Connectivity



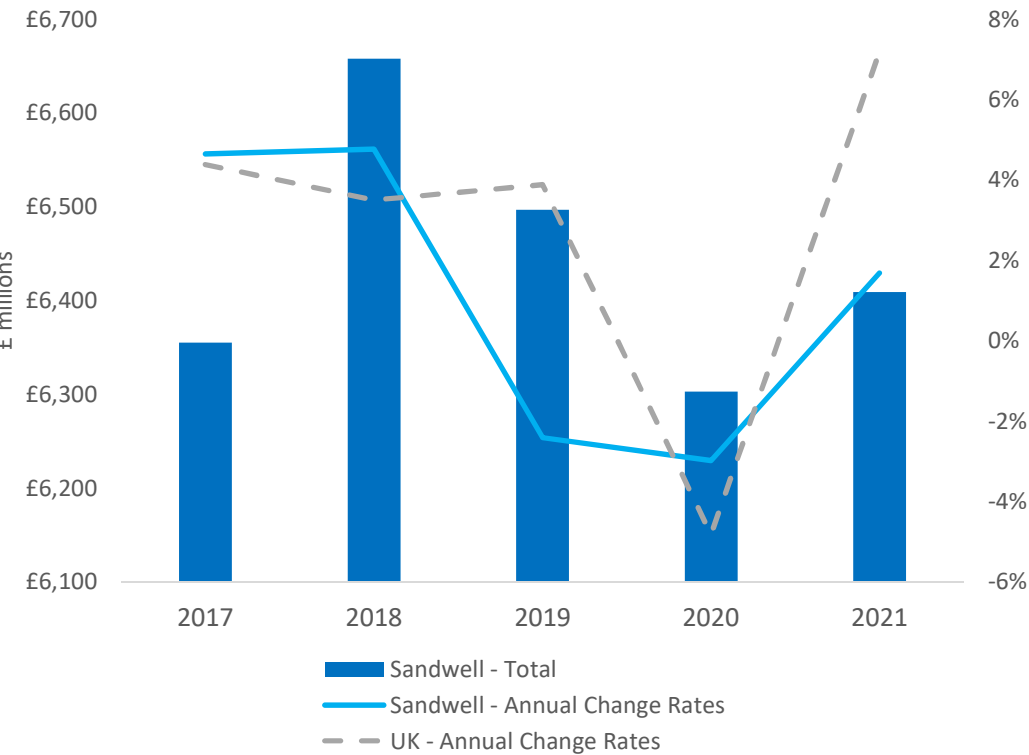
5G coverage

As of January 2023, 5G coverage (outdoors premises) for Sandwell from 'At least one MNO' ranges from 99.02% (very high confidence) to 99.98% (high confidence). The ranges drop to between 17.61% (very high confidence) to 38.14 (high confidence) for 'All MNOs'.



Ambition 9

Total Balanced GVA Trends



Compared to 2017, Sandwell's GVA per head was £773 lower (-4.0%, UK: +8.1%) and in 2021 stood at £18,754. Trend analysis shows GVA was decreasing prior to Covid-19 (-2.7%) which was then further impacted from Covid-19 (-3.2%). The latest annual change shows a decrease of 2.1% while the UK grew by 7.3%.

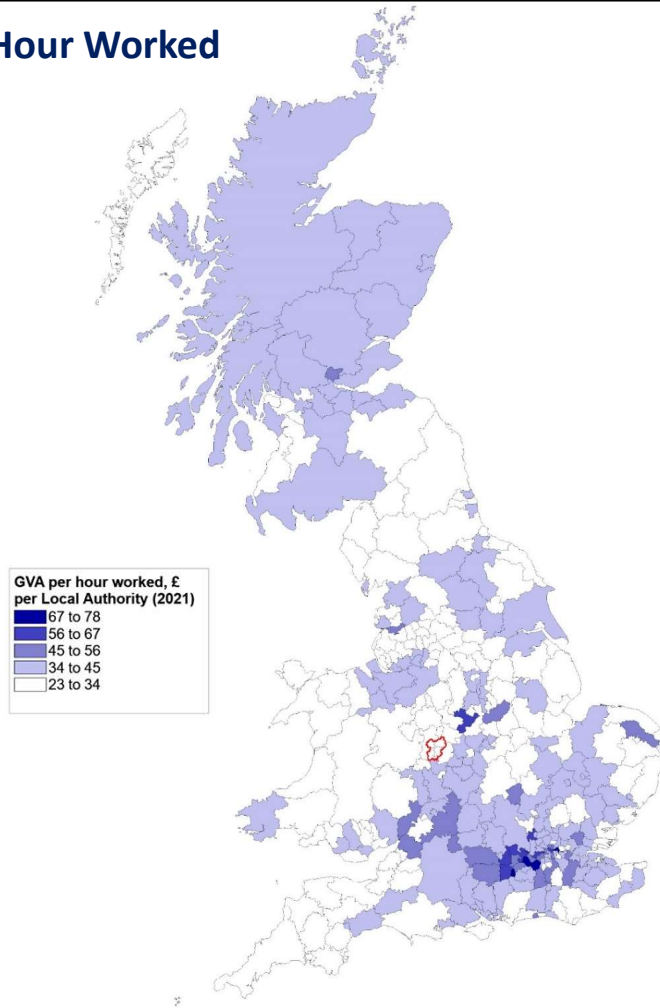
Balanced GVA per Capita Trends



Compared to 2017, Sandwell's GVA has increased by £54m (+0.8%, UK: +9.7%) and in 2021 stood at £6.4bn. Trend analysis shows that total GVA was decreasing prior to Covid-19 (-2.4%) but was still highly impacted from Covid-19 (-3.0%). There are signs of recovery in 2021, although year-on-year change was slower (+1.7%) than the national growth (+7.2%).

Productivity/Output Gap

GVA per Hour Worked



£31.68 GVA per Hour Worked in 2021
Since 2017: +13.5% (+£3.77) compared to +11.4% UK
In 2021: productivity gap of £6.65 to UK (£38.33 per hour worked)

Although there was greater than national average growth when compared directly to the year 2017, productivity is an issue for Sandwell as GVA per hour continuously remains under the national average and the is gap widening (especially again in the last few years).



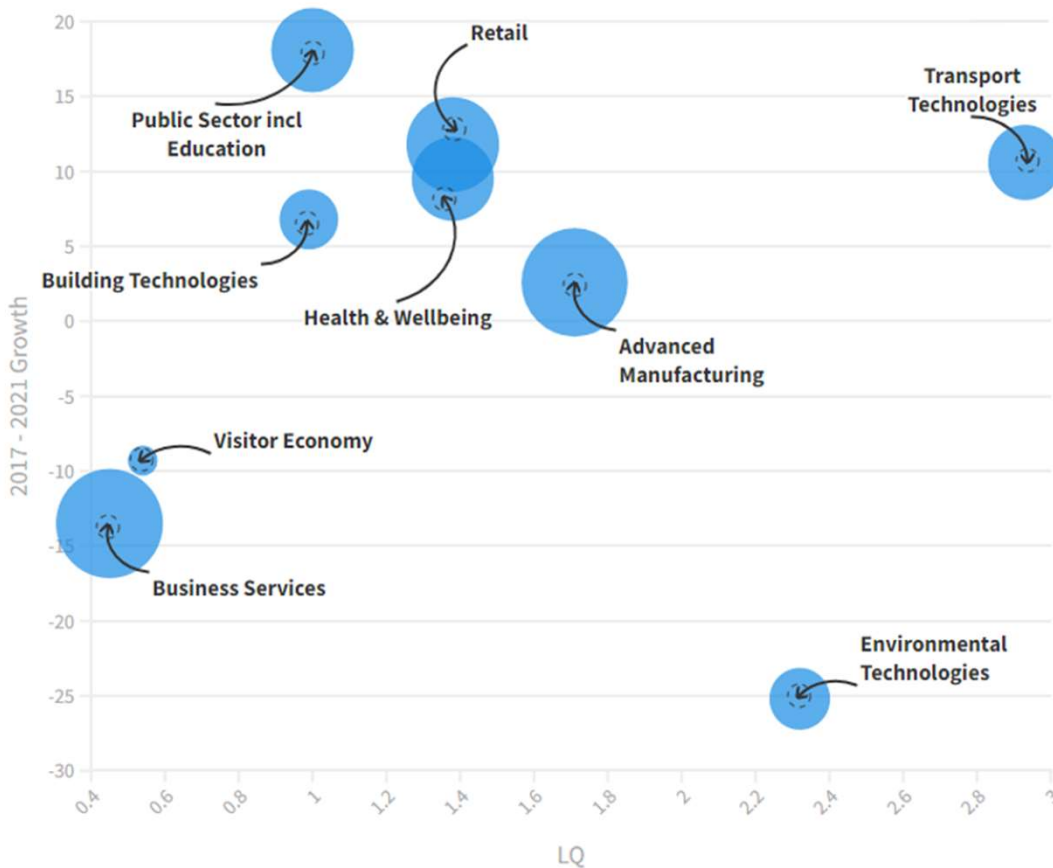
£4.2bn Output Gap in 2021
Since 2017: +40.1% (+£1.2bn)

The output gap continues to grow due to shortfall in components such as insufficient skills levels, too few in employment and the economy lacking in dynamism.



Ambition 9

GVA by Sector Location Quotient (LQ)



LQ analysis helps us understand specialisation patterns in the sectors in a local economy. LQs are ratios for each sector between the local share of GVA and share of GVA in the UK. Higher LQs correspond to higher levels of specialisation, with an LQ above 1 indicating that the area is more specialised in that sector than the UK as a whole. This is a key piece of analysis as building on existing sectoral strengths is likely to increase the chances of economic success.

The chart illustrates the results of the LQ analysis for SIC02 sub-sectors. On the y-axis are the LQs for 2022 with a higher value indicating a higher degree of specialisation. The x-axis denotes growths or declines in the value of GVA in Sandwell over the period 2017 - 2021. The size of the bubbles indicates the total value of GVA of the subsector, with larger bubbles indicating larger numbers. The black circles and the arrows help identify the bubbles sector, as for example, retail and health & wellbeing overlap.

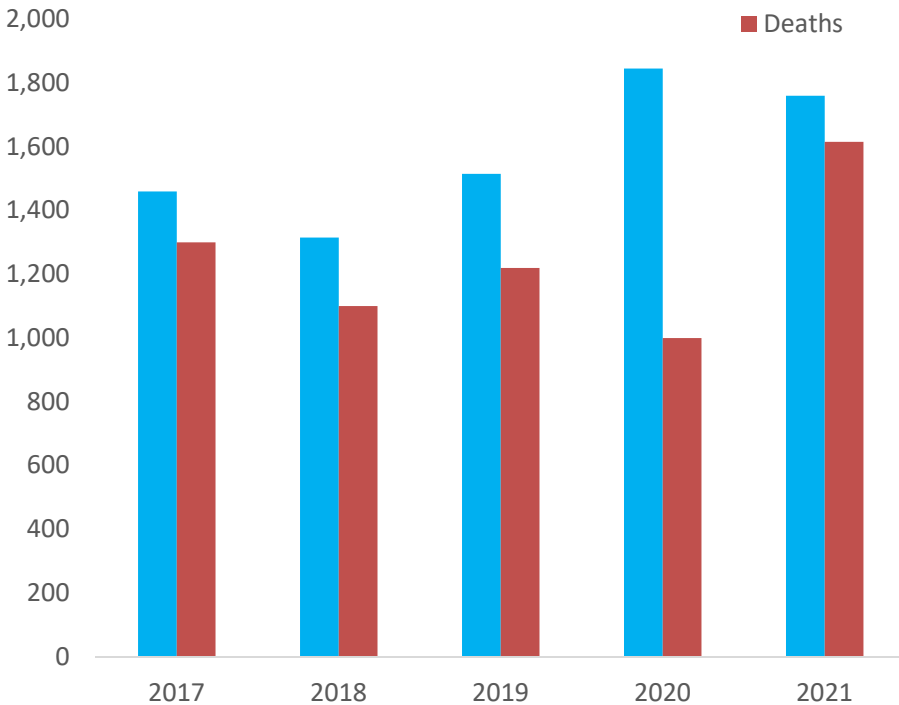
6 sectors have an LQ above 1 in terms of sectoral GVA, including transport technologies (2.93), environmental technologies (2.32), advanced manufacturing (1.71), retail (1.38), health & wellbeing (1.38) and public sector including education (1.00). Business services is the largest sector in terms of sheer size, however it is not specialised with an LQ of 0.45 and a decline in GVA by 13.5% since 2017 it is underperforming as a sector in Sandwell.



Ambition 9

Enterprise Births and Deaths Trends

■ Births
■ Deaths



More experimental data from ONS suggests that after the impact of the pandemic, enterprise deaths in Sandwell have fallen back in recent quarters, following highs in 2021 and the early part of 2022. Enterprise deaths remain comparatively high though, and only slightly below enterprise births. Births were very high in 2021, particularly in the first half of the year, but they have also decreased in recent quarters.



11,545 Enterprises in 2021

Since 2017: +15.9% (+1,585) compared to +3.3% UK
Despite the pandemic, enterprises increased from 2020 (+6.1%, nationally +1.4%)



1,760 Enterprise Births in 2021

Since 2017: +20.5% (+300) compared to +2.0% UK
In 2021: 52 enterprise births per 10,000 pop. compared to 54 UK (+201 P.A to close the gap)



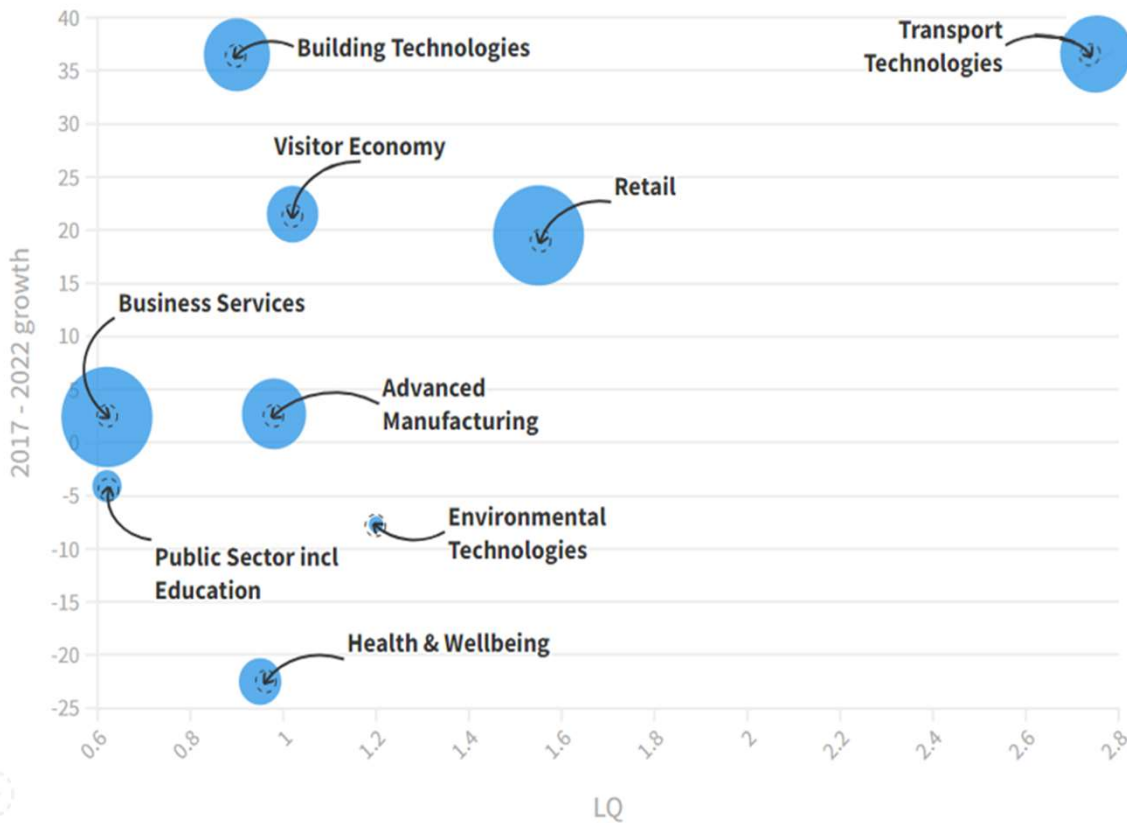
1,615 Enterprise Deaths in 2021

Since 2017: +24.2% (+315) compared to -1.2% UK
In 2021: 47 enterprise deaths per 10,000 pop. compared to 49 UK



Ambition 9

Enterprises by Sector LQ



LQ analysis helps us understand specialisation patterns in the sectors in a local economy. LQs are ratios for each sector between the local share of the business base and share of the business base in the UK. Higher LQs correspond to higher levels of specialisation, with an LQ above 1 indicating that the area is more specialised in that sector than the UK as a whole. This is a key piece of analysis as building on existing sectoral strengths is likely to increase the chances of economic success.

The chart illustrates the results of the LQ analysis for SIC02 sub-sectors. On the y-axis are the LQs for 2022 with a higher value indicating a higher degree of specialisation. The x-axis denotes growths or declines in the number of businesses in Sandwell over the period 2017 - 2022. The size of the bubbles indicates the total number of businesses in the subsector, with larger bubbles indicating larger numbers. The black circles and the arrows help to identify the bubbles sector.

4 sectors have an LQ above 1 in terms of business numbers, including transport technologies (2.75), retail (1.55), environmental technologies (1.20) and visitor economy (1.02). Business Services is the largest sector in terms of sheer size, however it has no local specialism with an LQ of 0.62 and growth of 2.4% since 2017.



Ambition 9

Future Trends of Employee Skills

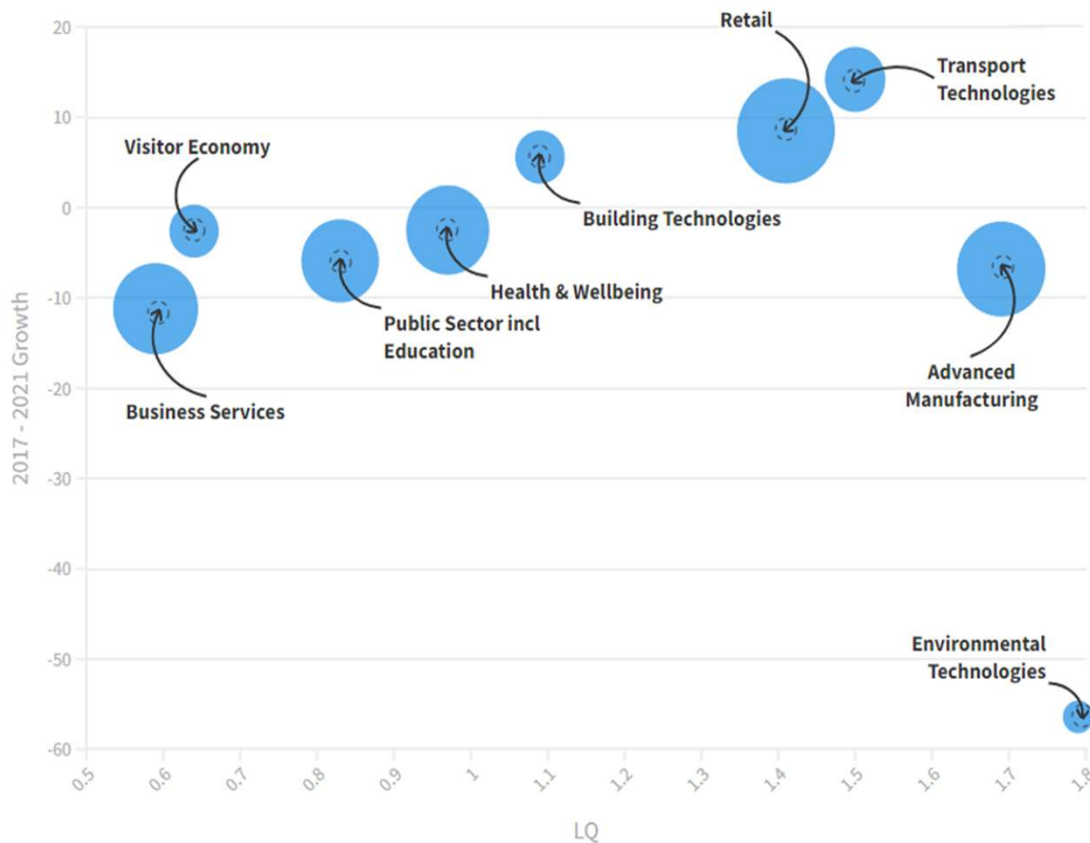
SOC	Description	2022 Jobs Projection	2030 Jobs Projection	2022 - 2030 Change	2022 - 2030 % Change	2030 Employment Concentration	Avg. Annual Openings	Automation Index
1	Managers, Directors and Senior Officials	11,801	11,812	12	0%	0.96	416	9.1%
2	Professional Occupations	16,578	16,122	-457	-3%	0.67	515	6.6%
3	Associate Professional and Technical Occupations	13,885	13,969	83	1%	0.82	441	13.5%
4	Administrative and Secretarial Occupations	14,467	14,531	64	0%	0.96	426	34.0%
5	Skilled Trades Occupations	13,435	13,486	51	0%	1.40	342	46.6%
6	Caring, Leisure and Other Service Occupations	11,124	10,899	-225	-2%	0.99	406	29.0%
7	Sales and Customer Service Occupations	10,636	10,929	293	3%	1.01	343	29.9%
8	Process, Plant and Machine Operatives	13,874	14,045	171	1%	1.85	409	55.1%
9	Elementary Occupations	18,563	18,948	385	2%	1.11	625	69.1%

Projections show for 2030 high employment concentrations in process, plant & machine operatives (1.85) and skilled trade occupations (1.40). At the other end of the scale, employment concentration is estimated to be low (0.67) for professional occupations and is expected to drop - although average annual openings are set to be the second highest. There is also a drop expected to be seen in care, leisure & other service occupations by 2030.



Ambition 9

Jobs by Sector LQ



LQ analysis helps us understand specialisation patterns in the sectors in a local economy. LQs are ratios for each sector between the local share of employment and share of employment in England. Higher LQs correspond to higher levels of specialisation, with an LQ above 1 indicating that the area is more specialised in that sector than England as a whole. This is a key piece of analysis as building on existing sectoral strengths is likely to increase the chances of economic success.

The chart illustrates the results of the LQ analysis for SIC02 sub-sectors. On the y-axis are the LQs for 2021 with a higher value indicating a higher degree of specialisation. The x-axis denotes growths or declines in the number of employees in Sandwell over the period 2017 - 2021. The size of the bubbles indicates the total number of employees in the subsector, with larger bubbles indicating larger numbers. The black circles and the arrows help to identify the bubbles sector.

5 sectors have an LQ above 1 in terms of employee numbers, including environmental technologies (1.79), advanced manufacturing (1.69), transport technologies (1.50), retail (1.41), and building technologies (1.09). Retail is the largest sector in terms of sheer size, and with an LQ of 1.41 and growth of 8.5% since 2017 it is highly specialised in Sandwell.



Ambition 9

Jobs (employees) by Sector/Sub-Sector

Sector/Sub-Sector	Sandwell 2017	Sandwell 2022	Sandwell Percentage Change	Sandwell Number Change	Sandwell Percentage of 2021	England 2017-2021 Percentage Change	England Percentage of 2021
Advanced Manufacturing	22,320	20,810	-6.8%	-1,510	16.6%	-2.1%	9.8%
Agriculture & Agri-Tech	10	50	400.0%	40	0.0%	-2.9%	0.6%
Automotive	1,750	3,000	71.4%	1,250	2.4%	6.5%	0.6%
Food & Drink Manufacturing	3,535	3,045	-13.9%	-490	2.4%	1.5%	1.3%
Metals & Materials	7,750	6,750	-12.9%	-1,000	5.4%	-11.8%	1.1%
Metals and Materials	1,150	1,500	30.4%	350	1.2%	-10.9%	0.7%
Rail and Aerospace	45	75	66.7%	30	0.1%	0.0%	0.4%
Wider Advanced Manufacturing	8,080	6,390	-20.9%	-1,690	5.1%	-0.3%	5.2%
Building Technologies	6,200	6,550	5.6%	350	5.2%	4.0%	4.8%
Business Services	21,625	19,205	-11.2%	-2,420	15.3%	4.3%	26.0%
Creative & Digital	1,370	1,425	4.0%	55	1.1%	6.4%	4.6%
Financial Services	1,255	1,175	-6.4%	-80	0.9%	6.1%	3.6%
Legal and Accounting	2,500	2,250	-10.0%	-250	1.8%	16.4%	2.6%
Other Service Activities	11,800	9,805	-16.9%	-1,995	7.8%	-1.0%	8.6%
Real Estate and Associated Consultancy	2,500	2,500	0.0%	0	2.0%	11.4%	1.8%
Support Services	2,200	2,050	-6.8%	-150	1.6%	2.4%	4.6%
Environmental Technologies	5,635	2,455	-56.4%	-3,180	2.0%	2.5%	1.1%
Health & Wellbeing	18,950	18,475	-2.5%	-475	14.8%	4.5%	15.2%
Public Sector inc. Education	17,000	16,000	-5.9%	-1,000	12.8%	4.6%	15.4%
Education	10,000	10,000	0.0%	0	8.0%	0.5%	8.7%
Public Sector	7,000	6,000	-14.3%	-1,000	4.8%	10.5%	6.7%
Retail	23,500	25,500	8.5%	2,000	20.4%	-2.5%	14.4%
Transport Technologies	8,540	9,755	14.2%	1,215	7.8%	10.9%	5.2%
Visitor Economy	6,650	6,475	-2.6%	-175	5.2%	4.7%	8.1%
Accommodation	400	300	-25.0%	-100	0.2%	-13.8%	1.2%
Hospitality	6,000	6,000	0.0%	0	4.8%	8.8%	6.3%
Visitor Economy	250	175	-30.0%	-75	0.1%	8.5%	0.6%
Total	132,000	124,000	-6.1%	-8,000	100%	3.0%	100%

Since 2017, for Sandwell, retail and transport technologies has had the strongest growth and sub sector analysis shows jobs are mainly increasing in automotive, metals & materials. While environmental technologies and business services saw the overall largest declines with the other service activities and wider advanced manufacturing sub sectors having the highest falls.

Source: ONS, Business Register Employment Survey, released 2022, please note the EIU defined sectors/sub-sectors.



Ambition 9

In Summary

Ambition 9 highlights Sandwell's economy is struggling, even prior to Covid-19, total GVA and GVA per head were declining and has been impacted further from the pandemic. There are signs of recovery in total GVA but more worryingly GVA per head is still struggling and the gap to national is widening.

The business base shows a mixed picture with less rateable properties available - although, this is not impacting private sector enterprises as that is on the up along with more enterprise births and stock. However, concerningly, enterprise deaths are also increasing and are catching up to the number of enterprise births.

The number of jobs has fallen since 2017 as many key sectors and subsectors saw declines, although, jobs in retail and transport technologies increased.

Sandwell has some real sector specialisms for GVA, jobs and enterprises, these include transport technologies, environmental technologies, retail and advanced manufacturing.

Overall, Sandwell has a good broadband coverage of gigabit connectivity along with high confidence in 5G coverage. However, there are pockets of areas where coverage is particularly poor.

Looking at job occupations projections for 2030, there are expected to be high concentration of process, plant & machine operatives and skilled trade occupations. Although, the more skilled occupations such as professional occupations is currently set to fall.

Ambition 10

Sandwell now has a national reputation for getting things done, where all local partners are focused on what really matters in people's lives and communities



Ambition 10

Nationally Recognised Regeneration Initiatives

- Regeneration Pipeline of activity in progress (2022-27). Delivering a potential investment value of £2.5bn across 66 live projects. Including:
 - Midland Metropolitan University Hospital in Smethwick (£700m)
 - Wednesbury to Dudley metro extension (£450m)
 - Enfinium Waste to energy plant (£500m)
 - Sandwell Aquatic Centre (£92.25m)
- Delivering Harvest View – an integrated care facility
- Securing and implementing £67.5m Towns Fund programme
- Securing funding to regenerate Tipton Town Centre (£20m)
- One of 20 areas identified to enter a Levelling Up Partnership with government





Ambition 10

Variety of Awards/ Recognition Achieved

- Municipal Journal Article - A winning Voter ID campaign
- Municipal Journal Awards - Sandwell's Emotional Wellbeing Programme
- Green Flag Awards - Record breaking 15 parks and green spaces in Sandwell
- LGC Awards - Sandwell Language Network
- Sandwell won a national public health award for its Covid-19 vaccination programme in 2021
- The Royal Town Planning Institute (RTPI) West Midlands Awards for Planning Excellence 2022 was honoured to Sandwell Council's planners for shaping the regeneration of Smethwick.
- National Planning Awards 2023 – Award for Plan Making West Bromwich Masterplan
- Royal Town Planning Institute Awards – Joshua Singh, Young Planner of the Year (West Midlands) winner 2023
- Tipton Leisure Centre – ‘Very Good’ by Sport England's leading national quality programme, Quest
- Horizons partnership (Sandwell Children's Trust) - Children & Young People Now Awards 2023 Finalists

END