We recognise that improving the lives of Sandwell residents is about more than just refurbishing homes; it’s about investing in neighbourhoods. Sandwell Council and its construction partners, working on the housing investment programme, want to have a long-lasting impact on the communities we are working in. The Hands-on Help Scheme allows us to do just that by improving and refurbishing community buildings throughout the borough.

Our day-to-day refurbishment work in people’s homes includes painting, decorating, kitchen and bathroom replacement, rewiring, heating installation, environmental and external work. It is work of this nature that we are looking to support through this scheme. Our construction partners are some of the most experienced and skilful in the business and we want to use their expertise, labour and materials to transform your community buildings.

Who can apply?

The scheme is open to any voluntary, community or not for profit organisations (including schools, charities and faith organisations) that are based in and work to serve the communities of Sandwell.

Who cannot apply?

- Services directly delivered by the council
- Academies
- Businesses and profit making organisations

What can be applied for?

The Hands-on Help Scheme invites applications from community groups or projects that can benefit from materials and labour that can be used by the council and its partners to deliver a range of improvements to community buildings.

Examples of works that can be provided:

- Painting and decorating works
- Roofing and repair works
- Carpentry and plumbing works
- Refitting or repairing bathrooms and kitchens

What cannot be applied for?

No monetary grants will be made by this Scheme. The offer is purely labour and materials.

Version: February 2016
How are decisions made?

All applications will be considered by a partnership panel made up of staff from Sandwell Council and its construction partners. The panel will select one or more successful projects every four months depending on the scale of the work to be carried out.

The outcome of all applications will be made known to the applicant by email or phone.

Any application which is provisionally successful through this process will require a site visit by our officers to fully consider the scope of the work before a final decision is made.

What do the Partnership Panel look for in an application?

- A clear description of the work being requested
- Evidence of need and details of sections of the community that will benefit
- Projects that bring the community together and/or promote health and wellbeing
- Geographical location of project and proximity to areas where our contractors are operating
- That the completed work will benefit tenants and have a wider impact on our communities.

How do I get an application form?

Download online at www.sandwell.gov.uk/handsonhelp

Request via email from: investment_division@sandwell.gov.uk

By phone: 0121 569 2924