**Smethwick Partnership Board Recruitment**

The [Smethwick Partnership Board](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/Smethwick-LTP/documents/meet-board) is established to oversee the delivery of the Towns Fund Programme and Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme.

The Smethwick Partnership Board comprises a wide range of key stakeholders from community, business, voluntary, public-sector and faith organisations as well as the local MP. The Board is chaired by Alan Taylor, Sandwell Business Ambassador and Business Representative of MI Glass, Smethwick.

**Plan for Neighbourhoods Programme**

Smethwick has been named one of 75 towns across the UK set to receive up to £20 million in Government investment over a 10-year period as part of the newly launched Plan for Neighbourhoods programme. The funding, delivered in an endowment-style model, aims to empower local communities to take the lead in setting and delivering priorities that matter most to them.

The **Smethwick Partnership Board** and Sandwell Council as the Accountable Body of the fund, will work in partnership to ensure communities' voices are involved in shaping design and decision making and will help to harness collective powers to level up Smethwick. Together, we will develop a shared vision for Smethwick’s future, focusing on the following key themes: -

* Regeneration, High Streets and Heritage
* Housing
* Works, Productivity and Skills
* Cohesion
* Health and Wellbeing
* Transport
* Safety and Security
* Education and Opportunity

The Smethwick Partnership Board will be responsible for developing a 10-year Regeneration Plan and a 4-year Investment Plan, setting out activities and projects that will be pursued to achieve the three strategic objectives set by Government – **Thriving Places, Stronger Communities and Taking Back Control.** The Plans will be submitted to Government by 28 November 2025.

**Smethwick Town Deal Programme**

In September 2019, Smethwick was selected as one of 101 towns to benefit from the Government’s £3.6 billion Towns Fund, with up to £25 million available per town. The objective of the fund is to drive the economic regeneration in towns to deliver long term economic and productive growth through **Urban regeneration, planning and land use, Skills and enterprise infrastructure** and **Connectivity.**

In partnership with Smethwick Partnership Board, Sandwell Council submitted Smethwick’s Town Investment Plan in 2020, and in 2021 the Government offered £19.5 million following a successful bid. Five projects were approved after business cases were developed and delivery began in summer 2022. The projects are currently at various stages of progress which is reported on a quarterly basis to the Board. Find out more about the Towns Fund projects here.

**Board Vacancies**

The Smethwick Partnership Board is currently inviting applications for new members to join the Board and are particularly interested in individuals who have interests in the following areas: -

* Voluntary Organisations
* Health and Wellbeing
* Heritage, High Street and Town Centre
* Housing
* Education and Skills

This opportunity is aimed at community organisations/ leaders and businesses in Smethwick.

Board members will serve in a voluntary, strategic capacity and will not receive payment for their involvement.

Members are expected to attend in-person board meetings on a quarterly basis. However, during the initial development of the Plan for Neighbourhoods programme, meetings may be held more frequently, for example monthly, and could take place virtually. Active participation in community engagement events and activities is also strongly encouraged.

The Board recognise that people interested in board member positions may not have previous experience of participating in multi-agency boards and welcome applications from all interested people who meet the criteria below. An induction and ongoing support will be offered.

There are no further elected member vacancies as these are already represented. Expression of Interests from Council Officers Co-opted or independent members of any current council committees are not eligible to apply.

Applicants will be required to sign the Councillor [**Code of Conduct**](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/Smethwick-LTP/downloads/file/10/code-of-conduct-form-town-deal-and-plan-for-neighbourhoods-) which is based on the Seven Principles of Public Life (Nolan Principles) and will be required complete a [**Register of Interest**](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/Smethwick-LTP/downloads/file/11/register-of-interests-form-town-deal-and-plan-for-neighbourhoods-) setting out any private interests which may conflict, or may be perceived to conflict, with their board duties. Members will also be required to adhere to the Smethwick Partnership Board’s [**Terms of Reference**](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/Smethwick-LTP/downloads/file/5/smethwick-partnership-board-terms-of-reference-march-2025) and attend Board training sessions to support the programme requirements.

**Role Requirements and Criteria**

You will bring to the role: -

* An understanding and awareness of the issues, challenges and strengths of Smethwick based on your work in Smethwick
* An ability to work constructively with others from across sectors and provide critical friend challenge
* An ability to act as conduit between the Smethwick Partnership Board and other organisations and/ or residents in Smethwick to promote the work of the Board in a positive manner.
* A commitment to equalities, diversity and inclusion
* A passion for making a difference in Smethwick

**Applicants will be scored against the above criteria.**

To apply for this position, please complete the Smethwick Partnership Board Application Form, Code of Conduct and Declaration of Interest forms. You can view all documents as part of the application pack below.

[**Click here to view the Application Pack – Smethwick Partnership Board recruitment**](https://www.sandwell.gov.uk/Smethwick-LTP/downloads/download/5/application-pack---smethwick-partnership-board-recruitment)

The closing date for applications is **Thursday 4 July 2025.**

Please submit your completed and signed application form and necessary documents to Smethwick\_pfn@sandwell.gov.uk.

Applicants will be selected by a panel based on the criteria above and considering the Smethwick Partnership Board’s overall composition. Please note it may be necessary to conduct interviews.

For any queries, or an informal discussion, please contact Smethwick\_pfn@sandwell.gov.uk.

**Smethwick Partnership Board Application Form**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Full Name**  |  |
| **Organisation Name** |  |
| **Organisation Address** |  |
| **Job Title** |  |
| **Email Address** |  |
| **Contact Number** |  |

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| **Please provide a written statement to support your expression of interest and how you meet the role requirements criteria listed above. (No more than 400 words). Your application will be scored against the role criteria.**  |
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| **Which of the following areas do you have an interest in? Please mark X’ in all that apply.** |
| Voluntary Organisation |  |
| Health and Wellbeing |  |
| Heritage, High Street and Town Centre |  |
| Housing |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Please provide the footfall/ average numbers of residents your organisation engages with per year.** |  |

|  |
| --- |
| **Can you confirm your organisation is committed to supporting individuals with protected characteristics** *(Age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sec and sexual orientation).* |
| [ ]  My organisation is committed to supporting individuals with protected characteristics.[ ]  I cannot confirm my organisation is committed to supporting individuals with protected characteristics. |

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| **Please confirm you will provide a letter of support from your organisation you are representing, for you to become a board member.** |
| [ ]  I will provide a letter of support from my organisation alongside this application form.[ ]  I cannot provide a letter of support from my organisation. |

**Submission Checklist**

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| **Expression of Interest Form**Please confirm you have completed all sections of this application form.  |[ ]
| **Code of Conduct Form**Please confirm you have completed, signed and will return the required Code of Conduct Form with your application form. |[ ]
| **Register of Interest Form**Please confirm you have completed, signed and will return the required Register of Interest Form with your application form. |[ ]
| **Letter of Support**Please confirm you have provided a letter of support from your organisation. |[ ]

I confirm that I have the time, capacity and commitment needed to effectively carry out the voluntary responsibilities of a Smethwick Partnership Board member.

Signed:

Dated: