

**CAPITAL WORK GROUP
REPORT TO FORUM
FOR PRESENTATION AT FORUM
ON Wednesday, 12 December 2018**



Date of Work Group meeting: 9 October 2018

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

Draft School Asset Management Plan – Anthony Watson

- AWa spoke to a paper and PowerPoint presentation issued to the Group.
- The six aims remain the same, and are aligned with the Council plans.
- The Government is carrying-out a further national buildings' condition survey.
- Approximately one third of Solihull's buildings need significant investment. Rationalising assets is an option for moving forward and there are some opportunities to do this.
- There is greater focus in the AMP on the role of the Council as a Landlord and the requirement for Landlord approval when a school wishes to undertake work.

School Organisation Plan – Ann Pearson

- AP presented her detailed paper, circulated in advance of the meeting.
- A bulge class is put in at a school to cope with a particularly large influx in a single year.
- There are difficulties accommodating traveller and new family children moving into Solihull.
- Whilst the Government plans on overall capacity, Solihull plans on how schools are organised.

Early Years & Childcare Sufficiency Plan – Ann Pearson

- AP presented her detailed paper, circulated in advance of the meeting.
- Over-supply of 3- & 4-year olds is an issue, and so discussions are taking place with schools and SSSAB about achieving the best use of resources.
- A Task & Finish Group is looking at a proposal for schools to organise their own nursery admissions from 2020.

Draft SEND School Place Commissioning Strategy – Ann Pearson

- AP presented her paper, circulated in advance of the meeting.
- There is massive demand on growth and pressures on the budget; and so, a forecasting model has been developed which will support strategic planning.
- This has produced a "shopping list" for key priorities, and will try to operate a spend-to-save model with regular reviews.
- In the last 2 years, 20% of children have sought SEND education, which is unsustainable; therefore, things need to be done differently.
- All of this will be widely consulted on.
- The issue of some mainstream schools not accepting young people with SEN is being tackled through the Inclusion Strategy being led by Ann Lowe and Phil Leivers. A special meeting on this was planned for 13th November 2018. In my personal view, this is one of the most vital challenges requiring a solution, if we are to ever significantly reduce the very high costs of out of Borough placements.

The next meeting is on Tuesday 26th March 2019, unless a pressing matter requires us to meet earlier.

Andrew Wilkins
Chair, Capital Work Group
16th October 2018