

**CAPITAL WORK GROUP
REPORT TO FORUM
FOR PRESENTATION AT FORUM
ON Wednesday, 7 October 2020**



Date of Work Group meeting: 5 October 2020

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

Children's Services Capital Programme Update – Anthony Watson

- Under Schools Asset Management Plan 2020/23, AW reported on the capital position.
- Cabinet Minister approved the Plan on 7th July 2020; an investment of £21.506m for three years.
- This is allocated for Basic Need to provide school places; for buildings maintenance, and devolved formula capital for individual schools.
- Diocesan Authorities now receive their monies directly.
- Additional funding streams contribute to SEN; Nursery Capital Fund & S106 Agreements.
- Relating to the High Needs Recovery Plan approved by Cabinet Minister in October 2019, a new section appears, to meet needs of ASD, MLD and SEMH. £2.675m is allocated.
- In north Solihull, Yorkswood Primary School is now complete. Also, expansion of Kingshurst Primary is due to complete by Christmas 2020.
- Olton Primary School expansion is due to complete September 2021, and Cheswick Green Primary School is being reviewed and will be consulted on.
- Alderbrook Academy will expand, is being consulted on & is due 2022.
- Valley Primary School is due to merge on its junior campus; the aim is 2021.
- In the High Needs Block, the main project is a new ASD special school in north Solihull.
- Summerfield PRU has decanted into The Auckland Education Centre, enabling the demolition of Jensen House to allow the site for the new ASD school.
- Reynolds Cross is to be expanded, and this ties in with the expansion of Green Lane Nursery.
- New projects include expansion for Hazel Oak School to provide for the urgent intake of pupils from September 2020; also, at Tudor Grange Academy, to provide full-time secondary places for SEMH provision.
- In addition, there are plans for an ARP in north Solihull and a further Primary ARP in the South.
- On schools maintenance, current projects are approved by Cabinet Member, with a core budget of £909,000.
- It was noted that the Diocesan Schools are all academising.

School Place Planning Update - Ann Pearson

- This was a verbal report from AP, who said the School Organisation Plan was being reviewed for Cabinet Member.
- Four new Primary schools are planned; plus, extra Secondary places have to be found in Balsall Common.

- Note S106 monies cannot be used for Primaries, but only for Secondaries.
- Projects include St. Augustine's, which is a challenge because of issues with roads and parking and Solihull LA has no budget for these road inadequacies! They also include Cheswick Green, with the Blythe Valley housing development - this goes before Cabinet Member October 2020.
- A Primary solution is essential and there is to be a consultation.
- Extensions at Alderbrook School; hopefully to be completed 2022 if not before then.
- High Needs Recovery is taking almost the entire effort! The January 2020 data is now being used; to result in a review of commissioning strategy and a 3 year plan.
- Other projects include a ASD Special Free School, for which Forward Education Trust is in place as the Multi-Academy Trust. FET is a SEND specialist and this is moving forward for 2023 with a hope of 2022.
- An early intervention ARP at Tudor Grange will open after this half-term, once the building is organised, offering 8 places.
- Two proposals are out for consultation; an extension at Reynolds Cross and the Coronation Youth Centre - consultation ends 23rd October 2020. These will go to Cabinet Member in November, with a published plan January 2021 and a completion aim of September 2021.
- These will offer 12 places, increasing to 20 places.
- At Mill Lodge, the building will change to provide an ARP, with a focus on Primary autism - this will help the out-of-Borough placements which are so expensive. The costings show 2 places for 1 place if education is within Borough. Open 2021.
- There is a project for SEMH provision in the North.
- Work has begun on further Special School expansion to cater for Post-16.
- It was noted that a good working relationship has been struck between Solihull LA and a new Diocesan School in Yardley, Birmingham; Christchurch Church of England Secondary Academy. This means "joined-up planning".

Andrew Wilkins
5th October 2020