

## Report to Forum from Capital Work Group – Meeting Held Monday 13<sup>th</sup> June 2022

### School Place Planning/Commissioning Strategy Update - Ann Pearson

- Solihull significant challenge to manage children from migrating families. Solihull is the 3rd highest in the UK for the numbers of families coming from Hong Kong.
- 2 completely new classes have been created and these are almost fully taken.
- Solihull has come-up with creative solutions to this constantly evolving pressure, however, from September 2022, we could yet be short of the necessary places despite schools being very cooperative.
- There is already concern about September 2023 which will see the largest secondary transfer year ever.
- 2024-2025 there is an expected decrease in reception places projected to be needed, and so there is a mixed picture.
- Demography is being thoroughly analysed over the Summer, and a new places plan will result from this.
- Families from the Ukraine are not presenting much immediate pressure, although this is expected to build in the coming months.
- There's no additional funding for Hong Kong youngsters, and Solihull is campaigning for this to be put in place.
- SEND youngsters' needs continue to be a pressure and, in the DfE's Free School Wave, Solihull will bid for an additional special school.
- Summerfield on track to become an AP academy, current site deemed unfit for purpose, seeking relocation to Daylesford site. There will be a revised AP commissioning plan coming soon.
- With Early Years, the response to Solihull LA's parents' survey has yielded more than 500 responses, and this will enable focussed planning to be put in place, with SEND for EY taking priority.

### Capital Programme Update - Peter Carroll - Verbal Report

- Peter's department is about to go to Cabinet Portfolio Holder with a revised plan for capital; hence this was only a verbal report.
- No additional capital is available, and so there was no update on this. However, there is an additional £3.7m capital sum being made available for SEND purposes.
- There were two main topics which were covered by Peter Carroll's verbal report:  
**Alderbrook School:** Contractors are now on site and the £3.1m project has increased to be £4.61m, an enormous increase.
- A £300,000 contribution from Alderbrook School has been agreed.
- **Cheswick Green:** a hugely challenging project, mainly in getting this through the planning approval stage.
- Traffic Regulation Orders are the major problem as planning imposed to be prior to commencing works but highways, struggling to deliver these.
- Difficulties have added to the costs - an initial £3.93m cost has become £4.73m.
- The existing capital budget is now exhausted (apart from the additional SEND capital).
- Peter Carroll's final point was that the Summerfield relocation should be completed by Christmas 2022.

Andrew Wilkins  
Chair, Capital Work Group  
21<sup>st</sup> June 2022