

**Minutes of the Capital Work Group meeting held on  
Tuesday, 13 June 2017 2016 in the Lecture Room, Sans Souci**

**Present:**

Andrew Wilkins (Chair)	Governor, Hazel Oak
Julie McCarthy	Coppice Juniors
David Lewis	TU Representative
Lorna Bosley	Governor, Blossomfield Infants
Antoinette Fisher	Governor, Dorridge Primary
Lynda Mackay	Governor, Knowle CofE Primary
Rachel Prince	John Henry Newman
Jacque Nicholls	Dickens Heath
Jane Loughran	Governor, St Peters
Janet Marsh	Governor, Sharmans Cross
Pauline Scrivener	Lode Heath
Anthony Watson	Capital Development
Steve Fenton	Business & Performance
Brenda Hancox	Building Services
Liz Greenwood	Capital Development
Ann Pearson	School Place Planning

Minutes - Alison McWilliam, Senior Forum Administrator

Item		Action
1	<p><b>Apologies for Absence</b> Apologies were received from Toni Guest, Peter French, Stuart McHale, Deb Wilson and David Miller.</p>	
2	<p><b>Minutes of Previous Meeting and Matters Arising (6.3.17)</b> The minutes were accepted as a true and accurate record of the meeting.</p>	
3	<p><b>Nomination of Chair and Vice Chair for 2017/18</b> Andrew Wilkins and David Lewis were elected as Chair and Vice Chair for a further term.</p>	
4	<p><b>Meeting Dates and Membership for 2017/18</b> 2017/18 meeting dates have been circulated to members, further copy attached to minutes. Following a few amendments for 2017/18, an updated membership list is attached to the minutes. AWi took the opportunity to thank Julie McCarthy for her involvement in the group over the past few years and members wished her well for the future.</p>	Att. Att.
5	<p><b>Update on School's Asset Management Plan – Anthony Watson</b> <i>Reference 'Solihull Schools' Asset Management Plan 2017/18'.</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>We continue to maintain a 3-year rolling programme and the report highlights expenditure and income streams up to 31 March 2020. The trend continues to be downwards and is this year reporting on £28m of activity to March 2020; a £6m decline.</li> <li>Two successful bids (£450k) have been secured to support Yew Tree and Ulverley with the the 30 'free' hours of EY care offer for working parents.</li> <li>The LA will be publishing details of what provision Solihull's EY providers will have available, however it is unknown at present how many places each provider will have to offer. There has been very little publicity for providers and it is hard to predict how the first 12 months will go.</li> <li>Solihull will receive £835k of national funding (over 3 years) to support strategic work around specialist provision. An external company - First Planner - is working with the LA to build a strategy. Ann Lowe and SEND groups are already involved in the work.</li> </ul>	

- Section 106 contributions are becoming more significant and the Capital Programme will attach greater visibility to what can be achieved from this funding as it is used to bolster the 3-year programme.
- Planning permission is now in place for a new school building at Yorkswood, with work set to commence in Autumn 2017 and completion by the end of 2018.
- School expansions at Greswold and Blossomfield linked to the SOP are now being finalised. LB thanked AP and AWa for the work at Blossomfield, the school is very pleased with the result, concerns around loss of outside space have been unfounded and additional pupils will come on-board from September 2017.
- Expansion discussions are on-going with stakeholders at Sharmans Cross and Shirley Heath and planning applications will be submitted shortly.
- 450 additional secondary places are required in central Solihull (Tudor Grange, St Peters and Alderbrook) and plans are underway to add 150 places at Tudor Grange for 2018/19 as a contribution towards the 450 places.
- Work is taking place at Dickens Heath and Tidbury Green to increase pupil numbers.
- BH is undertaking feasibility work for affected maintained schools around the issue of school kitchen ventilation, linked to health and safety regulatory requirements. This could be a priority for maintenance funding next year.

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#### **Verbal Update on the Schools' Organisation Plan – Ann Pearson**

- In response to housing developments at Cheswick Green and Blythe Valley and using Section 106 funding, an additional 1FE expansion is scheduled for Cheswick Green.
- The next draft of the Council's Local Plan has been delayed until around Christmas and the final housing development sites are unknown until this is published.
- AP and Phil Leivers attended Full Cabinet and CLT meetings to provide an update on the impact of the Local Plan on school places. Cabinet members made it clear that the focus should be on investment in the creation of new schools, rather than expansions and on 'future-proofing' schools to cope with additional demands for expansions later on. However, additional places will not be added unless there is a clear need for them.
- An interim SOP will go to CM in September which will be further updated once the Local Plan has been published.
- The Solihull AP Academy is now likely to open at Easter 2018, possibly earlier. The Principal, Stephen Steinhaus is in place and the EFA are delivering the building
- Solihull's bid to open an ASD Free school was unsuccessful. Feedback confirmed that we only just missed out (only 20 of the 140 bids submitted were approved). Solihull was praised for its planned collaboration with Birmingham, the fact we had a site and a borough-wide Autism Strategy, with Autism training in mainstream schools and ARCs. However, there was negative feedback around Post-16 and limited engagement with other FE providers. The outcome of the Review will demonstrate that the need in this area has not diminished and we are encouraged to submit a future bid when the opportunity arises.

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#### **Verbal Update on Strategy for Solihull's Specialist Provision – Ann Pearson**

- First Planner work will conclude this term. An internal feedback meeting around data has already taken place and a meeting with special heads is planned for later this term.
- Data will give us a clear view of what our greatest needs are, where the gaps are in capacity, project the impact and cost of these gaps on out-of-borough placements if we do not increase our own provision and will help us to model some alternative options and inform a future strategy.
- Nationally no-one will be in a position to build new provision, instead we will need to look at our existing sites and premises to see what we can do there, linking our approach to ARCs and adapting sites, including the possibility of forming separate

<p>8</p>	<p>hubs on secondary school sites, managed by special schools.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• This is the start of a creative process which will provide a secure grounding for any available bidding opportunities.</li> <li>• There will need to be collaboration with other authorities and AP is already in discussions with neighbouring colleagues with that in mind.</li> </ul> <p><b>Any Other Business</b></p> <p><u>Property Condition Survey</u></p> <p>The new Property Condition Survey seems to be underway, with EFA representatives at Coppice Junior School today. This is a follow-up to the previous Property Data Survey spoken about by AWa at the March meeting and is likely to be on-going for around 18 months for maintained schools and academies. There is a guidance statement on the EFA web portal, however AWa agreed to email all schools to alert them to expect a visit and offer support to any schools that require it from himself and BH.</p> <p><u>Schools' Security Fencing</u></p> <p>Security fencing, linked to pupil safeguarding was picked up by Ofsted as part of the recent inspection at Coppice Juniors. Concern was raised around the significant cost implications if schools were to be expected to erect security fencing in order to meet Ofsted requirements. AWa agreed to talk to Phil Leivers to establish whether this was an 'Ofsted trend', whether there was any potential impact on judgements if not rectified and obtain general advice for schools.</p>	<p>AWa</p> <p>AWa</p>
<p>9</p>	<p><b>Date of Next Meeting</b> - 9.30am Monday, 25 September 2017 in the Room 102 (Lecture Room), Sans Souci</p>	