

**CAPITAL WORK GROUP
REPORT TO FORUM
FOR PRESENTATION AT FORUM
ON Tuesday, 12 November 2019**



Date of Work Group meeting: 25 September 2019

Items discussed (brief summary of key items):

Capital Programme Update – Anthony Watson

- Anthony gave a verbal update, and confirmed that the capital programme remains aligned to the Education Authority's priorities.
- There had been no new capital funding announcements, and an update on how things are going would be presented to Cabinet Member Ken Meeson in December 2019.
- On programmes and projects progress, Anthony reported the completion of Yorkswood, although the old building was yet to be demolished.
- Expansion work at Kingshurst is planned to complete at the end of 2020.
- The new block at Tudor Grange is complete, and the next major project at Olton costing circa £4m is starting soon.
- Looking ahead, St. Augustine's and Cheswick Green developments are being planned.
- For SEND, a package of monies available through the capital programme, concentrating on the free school, is being led by the DfE.
- Solar panels and lighting systems are the two specific targets now for carbon reductions.

School Place Planning Update – Ann Pearson

- Ann spoke to a paper, and confirmed The School Organisation Plan is under review.
- 525 primary & 300 secondary places are needed and are planned for Kingshurst, St. Augustine's, Cheswick Green, and Alderbrook.
- Consultation is completed and the plans are before Cabinet Member.
- For SEND place planning, the model of data is now coming on stream but requires more work.
- Mainstream inclusion is a vital part of SEND planning, and its progress is encouraging thanks to the co-operation of mainstream schools.
- Plans for SEND place planning include: - a 100 place ASD Free School, developing Autism provision, developing Post-16 Autism & SEMH provision, expansion at Reynolds Cross and Merstone, developing SEMH ARPs especially in north Solihull, a review of MLD places in SEND schools and the provision of additional ARPs to target out-of-Borough places.
- The new Special ASD Free School is moving forward.
- The data analysis shows on-going increases in Autism and SEMH in the secondary phase and discussions with some academy trusts are underway to develop provision from September 2020.
- One of the most important pieces of work centres on the desperate need to reduce the enormous costs of out-of-Borough placements.
- This is a very brief summary of an immense amount of work which is being completed.

The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday 10th March 2020.

Andrew Wilkins
Chair, Capital Work Group
25.9.19