

CORPORATE SERVICES SCRUTINY PANEL

7 October 2010

UPDATE ON BETTER SCHOOLS FOR ALL

1. BACKGROUND

- 1.1. Following approval of the Better Schools for All Strategy by the Department for Education (formerly DCSF) at the end of 2008 the Authority received significant additional capital to transform learning across all primary schools in the county. A range of key strategic themes themes underpin the aims of the Strategy
- o Safety and security;
 - o Inclusion;
 - o Health and well-being;
 - o Extended services;
 - o Outdoor learning environments;
 - o Environmental sustainability;
 - o Harnessing technology.

2. VISION & BRIEFS

- 2.1. The Learning team in Children and Young People Services have worked with each school to develop their Vision for how they see learning taking place and transformed in the next 3-5 years within their school. Two workshop days were held to encourage schools to really explore the changes the need to make to transform learning.
- 2.2. These Visions embrace the strategic themes and from them has developed each of the schools briefs for changes. Together with premises condition information a high level strategic brief has been prepared from which the contractor has been commissioned to undertake a series of improvements to both the indoor and the outdoor spaces,
- 2.3. The contractor was procured through the East Midlands Property Alliance Intermediate Framework and commissioned to manage the whole programme across all schools (excluded VA and foundation). With a sub-contracted design and building team from the high levels briefs more detailed works plans, specifications and costings were prepared.

3. PROGRAMME & CONSTRUCTION

- 3.1. In assessing the scope of works at each school and the limited period in which to complete them a programme was agreed that split schools in 3 phases up to end Aug 2011.

Phase 1 Summer-Oct 2010	Phase 2 Oct 2010 -	Phase 3 Summer 2011
Ryhall Edith Weston Brooke Hill	Empingham Exton Southfield Langham Whissendine	Great Casterton Uppingham Ketton Cottesmore

- 3.2. The final stages of work in phase 1 schools are being completed during October half term. Phase 2 briefs and plans are being completed ready for a start on site at half term or after.
- 3.3. Overspends are expected at Edith Weston and Ryhall as two of the schools identified as requiring additional capital beyond their allocation due to poor condition. Work will be done to balance this out with savings in others schools where possible but the option of approved borrowing being taken up may be required.