

**Mr Nigel Jupp**  
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills

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**Mr David Barling**  
**Chairman of the Children and Young People's Services Scrutiny**  
**Committee**

14 February 2020

Dear David,

Thank you for your letter containing the recommendations of the Committee made at the meeting on 4 December 2019 in relation to Woodlands Meed.

I addressed these recommendations verbally at the meeting on 4 January 2020 and my response can be viewed via the [webcast](#) of the meeting, but for completeness am confirming the points I made.

Following the review of existing specialist provision and the projected numbers for Woodlands Meed undertaken to inform the new SEND and Inclusion Strategy 2019-24, it has been ascertained that there is no requirement to expand provision on the College site for Key Stages 4 and above. Therefore it is not considered necessary to expand the College to create additional places.

I could not support the Committee's recommendation that there was no need for a further independent survey as I do believe it was important for a review to be undertaken to assess the condition and suitability of the existing College building and site. The report from this survey has recently been received and being reviewed.

I felt confident that the Cabinet Member for Finance and Resources was striving to ensure that adequate funds would be made available for suitable new investment at the site. This has since been confirmed by the allocation of £20m for Woodlands Meed set out in the Capital Programme recently agreed by County Council.

In relation to any potential problems of access for construction work; this would be for officers in the Capital Projects team to address in developing any scheme, but are likely to require discussions with the various parties involved in order to be resolved.

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nigel". The signature is written in a cursive style and is underlined with a single horizontal line.

Nigel Jupp  
Cabinet Member for Education and Skills