

CITY INVITES PRIVATE SECTOR TO JOIN SCHOOLS' TRANSFORMATION PROGRAMME

A key milestone in Nottingham's transformation of secondary and special school education takes place next week. The City Council has been given the go-ahead to procure over £89 million pounds worth of work to transform seven schools across the city as part of the national Building Schools for the Future programme.

On Tuesday, November 7, an event for interested potential private-sector partners will be held at the Crowne Plaza Hotel in Wollaton Street, following a Notice in the Official Journal of the European Union (OJEU) advertising the work to the private sector market. The event will provide an opportunity for possible bidders to find out more about the programme and the City Council's vision for schools and education in the city before a detailed procurement exercise is carried out next year.

The successful bidders will join with the City Council and the Government's Partnership for Schools to form the Local Education Partnership for Nottingham.

Building Schools for the Future is a national multi-billion pound Government programme to rebuild and renew school facilities and is the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years. The aim is to rebuild or renew every secondary school in England over a 10-15 year period.

In Nottingham, this ambitious programme will see secondary schools and special education transformed, and create inspiring schools fit for the 21st Century. The programme is aimed at improving every aspect of teaching and learning, as well as providing integrated services to families and pupils so they can take full advantage of the educational opportunities available.

Construction work should start in Spring 2008 on the first phase, which will see the rebuilding of Big Wood School, the building of a new special school (Centre of Excellence) on the Harvey Hadden site to replace Aspley Wood and Shepherd Special Schools, along with the refurbishment of Hadden Park High School.

Councillor Graham Chapman, Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, says: "Building Schools for the Future is a hugely exciting programme for the City area. It is about more than simply new school buildings, it is about transforming education in the widest sense, as well as regenerating local communities. The City Council will work hard to ensure all the opportunities of BSF are achieved and the new schools are also sustainable buildings for the future."

This investment is only the start, as Nottingham City Council have a further bid in place with the Department for Skills and Education for additional funding to complete the development and transformation of the City's remaining secondary and special schools.

