

FIRMS SHORTLISTED FOR NOTTINGHAM SCHOOLS' PROGRAMME

Three private-sector organisations have been shortlisted to join Nottingham City Council in the transformation of secondary and special school education in the city.

Inspired Spaces, Miller Construction (UK) Ltd, and Transform Schools have been announced as the preferred bidders for the £89 million project, part of the Building Schools for the Future programme in Nottingham. They will now go through to the next stage which involves liaising with schools to produce final bids for September 2007.

One of the three potential partners 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. It is the biggest single government investment in improving school buildings for over 50 years.

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

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

The remaining schemes are to rebuild and expand Farnborough Technology College, and provide purpose-designed buildings for Rosehill Special School as a Centre of Excellence for children with autism and Woodlands and Nethergate School Centre of Excellence for pupils with moderate to complex learning difficulties, the phased rebuilding of Nottingham Bluecoat School, Wollaton site, and the phased rebuild of Ellis Guilford School. The likely completion dates of the remaining schools are to be between 2010 and 2012.

Jim Mason, Nottingham City Council's Building Schools for the Future programme director, said: "The selection of the shortlisted bidders is a major milestone in the process to transform education in Nottingham. We are delighted by the high standard of the bids received from the bidders and this bodes well for the future of the Building Schools for the Future Programme".

