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Four years of success for Nottingham's Local Education Partnership

Today, Nottingham's award winning Local Education Partnership (LEP) celebrates its fourth anniversary.

Established in June 2008, the ten year partnership was set up to deliver Nottingham City Council's ambitious plans to transform schools in Nottingham through the former Government's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme. Four years on, the LEP is delivering much more than new schools for the city.

The LEP, an innovative joint venture between Nottingham City Council and inspiredspaces, has achieved a huge amount in a relatively short period of time and delivered a number of major capital build projects for the Council.

Mark Harding, LEP General Manager, said: "In just four years, we have renewed 15 schools. This represents over 67,500 m2 of new or refurbished school facilities, which is benefiting more than 8,850 children and young people. We are on course to complete the works on three more schools this summer which will benefit another 4,400 pupils."

To mark the occasion, the LEP has sent a hydrangea plant, a traditional fourth year wedding anniversary gift, to all the schools that it has renewed over the past four years.

The LEP's success in the delivery of new schools has led the Council to invite the partnership to take on other major projects. These include building a new café kiosk at Woodthorpe Grange Park and rebuilding the Victoria Leisure Centre in Sneinton. The LEP will also be delivering the £5.1m project at the Forest Recreation Ground helping to restore the park to its former glory. The project will revitalise the park by restoring the historic entrances and the Grade II listed lodge as well as upgrading the infrastructure and facilities so that it can be enjoyed by more people from across the community. Alongside bringing the lodge into productive community use, a new café, toilets and community hall will be created in the pavilion, whilst new play facilities, football pitches and cricket pitch will be created. Work is due to start this summer.

The LEP is playing a significant role in boosting Nottingham's economy and through its projects it has created hundreds of jobs for both skilled and unskilled workers. At present, over 40 per cent of the people working on the various construction sites are citizens with an NG (Nottingham City and Nottinghamshire) postcode and work placements have been provided for over 100 apprentices giving people who want to learn skills such as joinery and bricklaying the opportunity to work on construction sites and achieve National Vocational Qualifications. In addition, as much work as possible is given to local companies rather than relying on bringing in expertise from other towns and cities. Sub-contractors have been selected on their locality and whether



they employ a local labour force. To date over £43 million has been spent with companies with an NG postcode.

The LEP is providing lots of 'added' value' to both the City Council and Nottingham by supporting the Business Action on Homelessness (BAOH) programme. This is a fantastic programme is run by Business in the Community (BiTC) and supports those affected by homelessness into a sustainable return to work. The LEP provides fortnightly work experience for this programme, spread throughout the year and to date has supported 62 placements. The LEP also supports other schemes that BiTC run. For example, through its construction delivery partner, Carillion Building, the LEP pledged to support BiTC's flagship educational engagement programme 'Business Class'. This is a three year commitment providing a £30,000 financial contribution alongside the donation of staff time. This innovative programme is helping to shape the future of many schools in Nottingham.

ENDS

Notes to editors:

- The LEP's main suppliers are Carillion, who provide construction and facilities management services, and Capita who provide ICT expertise.
- The LEP is based at Nottingham City Council's headquarters at Loxley House. The team is located next to the Council's Major Programmes Team.
- The LEP's vision is to be Nottingham City Council's strategic partner in delivering integrated solutions to make Nottingham a city we're proud of. In order to achieve this vision, the LEP has aligned its objectives with the Council's strategic priorities in order to develop a clear business plan which has been communicated widely within each partner organisation.
- Since it's formation, the LEP has gained a national and international reputation for the innovative and ambitious ways in which it effectively uses public and private sector resources and was recognised as 'LEP of the Year' in 2009 and won the award for 'Best Education Project' at Public Private Finance (PPF) Awards in 2010 and the award for 'Best Community Involvement' at the Partnerships Bulletin Awards 2011.