



inspiredspaces

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Three years of success for Nottingham's Local Education Partnership

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

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

The LEP, an innovative joint venture between Nottingham City Council, inspiredspaces and Buildings Schools for the Future Investments (BSFi), has achieved a huge amount in a relatively short period of time and has turned the Council's ambitious school renewal plans into a reality.

Mark Harding, LEP General Manager, said: "In just three years, we have re-built five schools and completely re-modelled a further five. This represents over 52,000 m² of new or refurbished school facilities, which is benefiting more than 5000 children and young people. We are on course to complete the works on two more schools later this summer, which will benefit another 3000 pupils. We have five more school projects in the pipeline as well."

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. The successes continue and Nottingham won the award for 'Best Community Involvement' last month at the Partnerships Bulletin Awards 2011.

The LEP is playing a significant role in boosting Nottingham's economy and 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 80 apprentices giving people who want to learn skills such as joinery and bricklaying the opportunity to work on the new schools. 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 £30 million has been spent with companies with an NG postcode.

The LEP also has a strong focus on sustainability and all the new schools feature a raft of new sustainable features which are also used as educational devices to enable pupils to learn about renewable energy. Two schools in Nottingham (Big Wood and Oak Field) have become landmark institutions by delivering the highest level of carbon reduction seen to date, as part of the BSF programme in the UK. They use Combined Heat and Power (CHP) plants which run on pure vegetable oil to generate up to 70% of the schools' energy requirements. When running at full capacity, the plants also plug electricity back into the national grid at a rate of 150kw per hour. Other schools use recycled rainwater to flush toilets and feature 'green' roofs which encourage plants to grow and birds to visit and, of course, use carbon dioxide and produce oxygen.



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There are five more school projects in the pipeline and the LEP's successful delivery of new schools has led Nottingham City Council to invite the partnership to take on other major projects. The LEP has delivered improvements to the footpaths at Forest Recreation Ground, a new café and golf pavilion at Woodthorpe Grange Park and is rebuilding of Victoria Leisure which is on target to be completed in 2012.



Above: Oak Field and Big Wood Schools- part of Nottingham LEP's portfolio

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.