

## Re-modelling of Bluecoat and Woodlands schools to go ahead

Yesterday, the list which outlines the impact on individual schools following the Government's decision to bring an end to the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme was updated for the fifth time.

The Department for Education (DfE) applied a set of criteria consistently to all BSF projects across the country and the list intended to describe the result of applying these criteria to individual schools as simply as possible. However, there are a wide variety of complicated local circumstances which were not taken into account and led to confusion and mistakes in relation to the list of Nottingham's schools.

Bluecoat School and Technology College still appears in the list as 'stopped' however the supporting guidance from the DfE confirms that the refurbishment of the Wollaton Park campus, which was included in Wave 2 of the national BSF programme, is 'unaffected'. This will mean approximately £11 million of funding.

The refurbishment of the Aspley Lane campus was included in Wave 5 which has been 'stopped' because the Wave 5 Outline Business Case (OBC) wasn't approved until after 1 January 2010, the cut-off date that the Government set.

The Governing Body at Bluecoat School has recently completed a city-wide consultation regarding the closure of the Wollaton Park campus however the Council will work with the school Senior Management Team and Governing Body to review this proposal and understand what can be achieved with the funding available.

Woodlands Special School, which had been included in the first list as 'unaffected' but then missed off subsequently published lists, now appears back in the latest version of the list as 'unaffected'. The Council is liaising with Partnerships for Schools (PFS) and the DfE to clarify how much funding is being made available for this school.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "Since the DfE published the list of schools affected by the cuts last Monday, we have been discussing with them a number of Nottingham-specific issues such as the fact that Bluecoat is a single school in more than one Wave of investment. It has been frustrating for the staff, governors, parents and pupils of those schools for whom we have been unable to clarify a position but we are extremely pleased to see Bluecoat and Woodlands back in the programme."

