

Nottingham City Council to investigate legal action against decision to axe BSF

Earlier today, Councillors at Nottingham City Council met to discuss an emergency report which assesses the impact of the Government's decision last Monday (5 July 2010) to bring an end to the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

After outlining Nottingham's current position, Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, announced that the Council will explore a number of options, including court action, in order to secure funding to carry out the planned remodelling of Trinity and Top Valley schools which were stopped last week.

On 15 February 2010, Nottingham City Council received a letter from Partnerships for Schools (PFS) which approved Nottingham's Outline Business Case (OBC) for the Wave 5 programme and confirmed that £33 million of funding had been approved for Trinity and Top Valley which were identified as sample schools within the OBC. The Council is now challenging the DfE's decision to stop these two schemes.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "DfE and PFS are aware of the letter we received earlier this year and are investigating the issue as part of the revaluation of the list of schools which are 'stopped'. Work has been carried out on Trinity and Top Valley as we believed that funding for both schools had been approved. We were shocked to see these schools stopped last week and are committed to taking whatever actions are necessary to over-turn the decision".

The Council is actively seeking Counsel's advice on whether to take legal action to resolve this dispute.

