

Nottingham City Council assesses impact of BSF announcement

On Monday, 12 July 2010, Councillors at Nottingham City Council will meet to discuss an emergency report which assesses the impact of the Government's decision to bring an end to the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

Nottingham's BSF programme has already seen some new schools built or remodelled and has more in the pipeline – but Monday's announcement sees £89 million of funding stopped which could have been worth as much as £178 million to the region's economy through the multiplier effect.

The report will see Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, outline Nottingham's current position and note that the cut will not only disappoint school staff, governors, pupils and their families and hamper school improvement in Nottingham, but will also have a detrimental effect on the Nottingham economy.

The report will also make a number of recommendations including that:

- the Council continues to have detailed discussions with Partnerships for Schools in order to maximise the opportunity to access funding for the schools classified as 'stopped' and gets clarity on those categorised as 'for discussion'.
- the Council will campaign against the funding cut and take legal action if possible.
- the Council continues to work on those schemes that are unaffected.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "It is still too early for a full impact assessment of the Government's BSF announcement. The cost of the work on the schools that have been stopped is still being calculated, however the report aims to provide an overall summary of where we are now and secure commitment from Councillors to the recommended next steps."

