

## Nottingham schools hit by Government's BSF announcement

Nottingham City Council is extremely disappointed by yesterday's decision by the Government to bring an end to the national Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme which has implications for some of Nottingham's schools.

Nottingham's BSF programme has already seen some new schools built or remodelled and has more in the pipeline – but yesterday's announcement sees £89 million of funding stopped.

Schools that have already been completed within Nottingham's BSF programme are Oak Field, Hadden Park High and Big Wood, representing an investment of approximately £38 million.

There are also a number of schools which are currently under construction representing an investment of approximately £111 million:

- The Bulwell Academy - due for completion in August 2010.
- Nottingham University Samworth Academy - due for completion in August 2010.
- Rosehill School - due for completion in April 2011.
- Nottingham Academy - two of the three sites are due for completion in September 2011.

Some schools are unaffected by the announcement and will still go ahead as planned, with construction beginning next year at:

- Ellis Guilford;
- Nethergate;
- Woodlands; and
- Farnborough.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "With three brand new schools already open and a fourth under construction, the Council has already done a great deal to improve the life chances of pupils, provide excellent facilities for local communities and support Nottingham's economy.

"We are disappointed that the funding to enable us to complete the rebuilding and remodelling of Nottingham's secondary and special schools is no longer being made available. A significant amount of visioning work has been undertaken with school staff, pupils and parents to ensure that the BSF funding is used as a catalyst to transform teaching and learning and improve local neighbourhoods. The BSF programme has created jobs and training opportunities and supported many local businesses in the construction and ICT sectors and so the withdrawal of this funding will have a much wider impact on Nottingham's economy.

"We remain committed to raising educational attainment across the city and over the coming weeks and months we will look at how we can ensure that current school facilities maximise opportunities for effective teaching and learning."

Schools cut from the programme in yesterday's announcement are Trinity, Top Valley, Fernwood and Westbury, along with four Learning Centres for vulnerable pupils. The impact on plans for Bluecoat School and Nottingham Academy for Girls is currently not clear.

Nottingham City Council's approach has ensured that the early stages of its multi million pound BSF programme have been turned into a reality. As a result, Nottingham's BSF programme has achieved a national and international reputation and is showcased as an exemplar to other local authorities across the country which have approached the council for advice and guidance throughout the process.

Some of the most respected and experienced professionals from the public and private sectors selected Nottingham's BSF programme as the winner of the 'Best Education Project' award, at the Public Private Finance Awards 2010. Nottingham's BSF programme also beat off stiff competition to scoop the prestigious 'Projects Grand Prix' award which recognises the best operational project that has delivered an outstanding improvement in public services for the benefit of the community that it serves. The awards also recognise the innovative thinking that has gone on to find new ways of getting projects done in such hostile conditions.



Nottingham's BSF programme is being delivered by Nottingham's Local Education Partnership (LEP) which comprises Nottingham City Council, inspiredspaces (private sector partner) and Building Schools for the Future Investments. Nottingham's LEP also has a national reputation and won the 'LEP of the year' award at the 2009 Excellence in BSF awards. This award recognises how projects in Nottingham have been taken from inception, into construction through to service availability on time and within budget.

The LEP emphasises the huge regeneration benefits to the city from the BSF programme and is committed to supporting the Council's 'Transforming Nottingham's Neighbourhoods' agenda which aims to ensure that Nottingham is a great place to live and work. All the new schools have been designed with the ethos "Not a community centre but at the centre of the community" and local residents are encouraged to use the new school facilities multi-use games areas, sports pitches and adult education facilities.

The LEP is also using local labour and suppliers to deliver the BSF programme which is boosting employment opportunities and strengthening Nottingham's economy. At present 35% of staff on site and within the LEP are local, with most of the sites averaging around 40%, with some peaking at around 90%. To date the LEP has spent about £26 million with companies from an NG postcode and a further £44 million with companies within a 50 mile radius of Nottingham City. This equates to 27% and 46% respectively and amounts to a 73% regional spend.

