

## City Council signs BSF contract worth £8.6 million

Financial Close has been reached today on the multi-million pound project which will transform Rosehill School into a 'Centre of Excellence' for the education of children with autism.

Nottingham City Council has reached an important milestone in its plans to develop a 'Centre of Excellence' at Rosehill School by signing legal contracts worth £8.6 million with Nottingham's award-winning Local Education Partnership (LEP) which has been procured through Nottingham City Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) project.

The improvements to Rosehill School are part of Nottingham's BSF project which aims to improve the facilities of secondary and special schools in the City. The transformed Rosehill School will become a 'Centre of Excellence' for the education of children with autism\*.

Rosehill School's capacity will increase from 70 to 110 places with effect from 1 September 2011, helping to meet the specific needs of the increasing number of pupils with autism and easing the pressure on mainstream schools.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "This is excellent news for children with autism, their families and the local community in St Ann's. This project is about more than bricks and mortar – it is about providing 21<sup>st</sup> century facilities and transforming Rosehill School into a 'Centre of Excellence' for the city. The expansion and refurbishment of Rosehill School supports the Council's strategy to ensure that children with special educational needs get the most out of their school life and reach their full potential. Reaching Financial Close is an important milestone and means that construction work on this exciting project can begin."

He added, "Every attempt will be made to ensure that there is minimum disruption to pupils, their families and staff during the construction work."

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, the organisation responsible for delivering the full suite of national schools capital programmes, said: "Provision for pupils with special educational needs is integral to the BSF programme and plans for Rosehill School underline Nottingham City's commitment to providing first class facilities for all. With 146 schools and over 125,000 pupils benefiting from BSF investment across the country, I look forward to monitoring the progress of Rosehill School as it sets out on its journey to improve the lives of pupils in the area."

Mark Harding, inspiredspaces LEP General Manager, said: "The challenge is to provide an environment where the pupils can feel safe, where they can develop and progress but not be overprotected. I believe this facility through its design, layout and use of space provides the ideal environment for the pupils to learn to live with and cope with their autism, giving them an ideal foundation for life. This scheme being the thirteenth to reach financial close in twenty months demonstrates the success of the LEP and its ability to work with stakeholders and deliver schemes that meet and exceed expectations, deliver on time and within budget. To reach financial close on this project is a tribute to the teamwork, commitment, hardwork and determination of all involved".

John Pearson, Headteacher at Rosehill School, said: "Rosehill's children deserve the very best facilities and we are delighted that the school will be transformed so that it is equipped for the 21<sup>st</sup> century in order to meet the needs of our pupils".

Construction work on Rosehill School will start in March 2010 and be completed in April 2011. To ensure standards of education are maintained and the continued health and safety of pupils who have additional needs, Rosehill will relocate to the site of the former Shepherd School on Harvey Road in Bilborough during the time in which the construction work is being undertaken.

The new school will be delivered by the LEP which is a public private partnership between Nottingham City Council, *inspiredspaces* and Building Schools for the Future Investments.

