

Nottingham shortlisted for three 'Best of BSF' awards

Nottingham City Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme has been shortlisted for three categories in the annual Excellence in BSF awards celebrating achievement in all areas of the national programme to transform education.

Expert judges have selected Nottingham to compete with top BSF projects for 'Best design for a new school', 'Best design for a re-modelled school' and 'Local Education Partnership of the Year'. The judges included national representatives from the design community, construction industry, educationalists, students and BSF delivery partners.

Big Wood School, in Warren Hill, is being completely rebuilt as part of the council's multi-million pound BSF programme and is shortlisted for the 'Best design for a new school' award. Big Wood is the first new build BSF school to open in Nottingham. Last month, Vernon Coaker, Minister of State for Schools and Learners, officially opened the new 'English and expressive arts', 'science and world studies' and 'maths, IT and design' blocks. Each of the teaching blocks opens out onto a curriculum garden, outdoor learning spaces with unique features. For example, the 'English and expressive arts' garden has an amphitheatre, the 'maths, IT and design' garden features a giant chess board and the 'science and world studies' garden features an area of natural habitat. In the centre of each block is a 'heart space' which can be used for learning or as social space for pupils. Work is now underway on the completion of the construction programme which involves building a new entrance and sports hall. This final phase is due to be completed in June 2010.

Hadden Park High School in Bilborough is being completely remodelled as part of the council's BSF programme and is the school shortlisted for the 'Best design for a re-modelled school' award. Construction work started in July 2008 and the first phase of work was completed in February 2009 when teachers and pupils moved into the newly built Year 7 base. The second phase of work was completed in the summer of 2009 and last month, teachers and pupils started making use of re-modelled science, English and modern foreign languages areas. Work is now underway on the final phase of the construction programme that will re-model the humanities, business, ICT and main entrance areas.

Nottingham's BSF programme is being delivered by the Local Education Partnership (LEP) which is a partnership between Nottingham City Council, inspiredspaces and Buildings Schools for the Future Investments. The LEP's main suppliers are Carillion, providing construction and facilities management, and Ramesys providing ICT expertise. The Nottingham LEP is a true partnership, with trust at its heart, where partner organisations work as one towards the same goals. The LEP is designing sustainable schools which contribute to the council's objective of becoming a carbon neutral Council by 2016 and also uses local labour and suppliers to boost Nottingham's economy.

Jim Mason, Nottingham City Council's BSF Programme Director, said: "The LEP has turned the BSF proposals into reality. The reputation that the LEP is establishing means that corporately the council now has a partner than can deliver schemes for the citizens of Nottingham".

The LEP has been so successful in delivering Nottingham's BSF programme that the council has invited the partnership to take on other capital projects including the re-development of Victoria Leisure Centre and the Forest Recreation Ground.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio holder for Children's Services, said: "I am delighted that we have made the final stage of these national awards. It represents the innovative approaches being taken to deliver excellence for children and young people in Nottingham, through our transformational BSF programme. I look forward to seeing the exciting programme take shape over the coming months and would like to take the opportunity to offer everyone involved my best wishes for continued success in these awards."

