

City Council signs contract worth £13 million

Financial Close has been reached today on the multi million pound primary exemplar project which will revolutionise primary education in Old Basford by introducing cutting edge technology to the classroom and creating 21st century buildings.

Nottingham City Council has reached an important milestone in its plans to develop a new exemplar primary school in Old Basford by signing of legal contracts worth £13 million with the Local Education Partnership (*inspiredspaces* Limited, a partnership with leading UK construction company, Carillion PLC) which has been procured through the Nottingham City Council's Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme.

The new school will be built on the infant and nursery site on Bulwell Lane and will cater for 630 children aged 5 to 11 and 90 children aged 3 to 5.

Councillor David Mellen, Nottingham City Council's Portfolio Holder for Children's Services, said: "This is excellent news for children, their families and the wider community in Old Basford. This project is about more than bricks and mortar – it is about transforming education and improving the life chances for children and their families. Reaching financial close is an important milestone and means that construction work on this exciting project will begin soon. The project is gathering real momentum and we will continue to work closely with the whole school community throughout the construction programme."

Carillion chief executive, John McDonough, said: "We are delighted to have achieved Financial Close on this project, which is leading the way in providing first class facilities for primary education under the BSF programme. Education is a strong growth area for Carillion and we are particularly pleased to have been chosen by Nottingham City Council for this important contract and look forward to working with the council to support the delivery of its vision for sustainable, state of the art, community focused schools."

Michaela Saunders, Head Teacher of Southwark Primary School, said: "Basford's children deserve the very best education that we can provide and it has been a fantastic privilege to work so closely with the community, the children themselves, architects and the council to design a building to provide state of the art education. Our school has worked very hard to achieve great standards in its existing buildings and it is wonderful to know that soon the school will have the quality of accommodation it needs and deserves".

Construction work is due to begin in January 2009 and the new school is due to open in March 2010.

