

Building Schools for the Future - Nottingham **Second consultation paper**

Introduction

There are exciting times ahead for education in Nottingham. In November we received news that we will be getting millions of pounds to help transform secondary and special schools as part of the 'Building Schools for the Future' programme.

This money will transform our schools. It will mean better schools to learn in, to teach in and to work in. It will help us give our children the schools they deserve and raise standards across the city. It will also give us the opportunity to bring a range of services together in strategic locations across the city in order to better meet the needs of children and young people.

This paper summarises outcomes of the initial consultation process with head teachers and Chairs of Area Committees on the strategic framework within which the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) programme in Nottingham will be developed. This first phase consultation took place from November 2004 to January 2005.

It also sets out initial proposals for how secondary provision will be configured and how BSF capital funding will be used to support this.

Outcomes of initial consultation on strategic framework

It is recognized that the educational landscape has changed significantly since the original Private Finance Initiative (PFI) bid was submitted to DfES by Nottingham City Council in 2001. The consultation process was designed to identify a strategic framework for decision making with respect to the revised BSF bid should the City be successful in Wave 2 of the BSF programme.

Since the consultation process began DfES has confirmed that Nottingham City is part of wave 2 of the BSF programme and has invited us to submit a revised bid for capital expenditure. Guidance was published by DfES at the same time indicating the core elements that should be included in the LEA's business statement for its revised bid.

These elements are:

- Close links to the Council's corporate vision.
- School reorganization
- Specialist status
- Academies
- Children's Services
- Curriculum development
- 14-19 Development
- Workforce Reform
- Information and Communication Technology
- Access and inclusion
- Underperforming schools
- Behaviour and attendance

Most of these elements have been covered in the consultation process that has been carried out with head teachers.

Alongside this the LEA remains committed to its original vision statement to create

“a city-wide learning pathway leading to high achievement for all characterized by:

High quality resources for learning
Powerful partnerships
Stimulating curriculum opportunities
Inspirational leaders and teams
Successful teachers and learners
Commitment to continuous improvement
Everyone valued and included
High motivation and self esteem
Pride in achievement at all levels
High standards in key skills
High expectations of everyone
Entrepreneurial skills and attitudes

Issues in the consultation process.

The issues were grouped under the following headings:

1. Zones of development and collaboration.
2. Specialisms.
3. Extended and Full Service schools.
4. Academies.
5. Special educational needs.
6. 14-19 provision.
7. School size.
8. Leakage across the city/county boundary.

1. Zones of development and collaboration

It is proposed that 3 geographical 'zones' of development and collaboration be formed in order to develop educational provision and support collaboration.

There was broad agreement on the concept of 3 city-wide zones to support collaboration that would be co-terminus with zones used across the rest of the Council. However there was uncertainty about replacing quadrants with these zones and uncertainty about including adjacent County schools.

2. Specialisms.

It is proposed that there be a group of core specialisms within each zone to act as specialist 'hubs' and that where these were not provided by city schools they may be provided by adjacent county schools. These core specialisms to be:

Business and Enterprise – to provide opportunities for business and enterprise development including opportunities for business development of zones.

Technology/Engineering – to provide a link with industry/manufacturing for each zone and give further opportunity for development of ICT.

Sport – there will be an expectation from Sport England that there is a sports hub to support a 'sports pyramid' within each zone.

Arts – to provide a hub to develop expressive arts activities across each zone.

There was strong support for the notion of a core group of specialisms within each zone operating on a 'hub and spoke' model. However there was clear indication that a greater range of specialisms should be included e.g. core subjects, languages, maths and ICT.

3. Extended and Full Service schools

It is proposed that all secondary schools offer some form of extended provision beyond the 'normal' school day.

It is proposed that each zone should have at least one Full Service school that could act as a hub for other schools in the zone and that BSF be used to create facilities for some of the extra services.

There was strong support for all secondary schools becoming 'extended' schools giving some educational provision outside of the normal school day.

There was general agreement that a hub and spoke model within each zone should be adopted in order to provide 'full service' provision with the hub in the area of highest deprivation within each zone.

4. Academies.

It is proposed that there be at least one academy in each zone to act as a hub for other schools in the zone.

There was general support for introducing more academies, particularly as a means of reducing leakage of pupils into the County, but only as part of a wider strategic plan for the City. There was no firm view that a hub and spoke model within each zone would be the appropriate way of doing this and no clear view as to the number of academies we should have (where a preference was expressed most indicated that 2 or 3 more would be appropriate).

5. Special Educational Needs

It is proposed that each zone has an enhanced disability school.

There was strong support for each zone having at least one designated school site with enhanced disability provision. A wide range of views were expressed as to how the BSF programme could support SEN provision in mainstream schools

including developing centres of excellence in zones and co-location of Special Schools with mainstream schools.

6. 14-19 provision

There was broad support for a hub and spoke model for developing 14-19 courses but no clear support for basing this around transport routes as opposed to geographical proximity of schools. Reservations were expressed about ability to coordinate timetables across schools and who would 'own' attainment results.

7. School size

There was strong support for the proposal that the optimum size for secondary schools should be 800-1000 (excluding sixth form). A small minority said that schools of around 600 on-roll are sustainable. The responses to the question about how many secondary schools Nottingham should have indicated a strong recognition that there should be fewer secondary schools though suggestions varied from 14 schools to 17 schools. There was limited support for the notion of allowing successful schools to expand further.

There was no clear view on how we should manage schools where projected numbers are set to fall below 600 though the range of suggestions covered federations, consideration of local needs/consultation and early action.

8. Leakage across the City/County boundary.

There was very strong support for aiming to reduce leakage of secondary age pupils across the City/County boundary to zero. There was no clear view as whether there should be co-ordinated movement of pupils across the boundary through shared curriculum development between city and county schools – some expressed the view that this would be against the interests of the city.

Proposals for the configuration of secondary provision and how the BSF programme will be used to support this.

As stated above, DfES has indicated that Nottingham City has been successful in wave 2 of the BSF programme and has been invited to submit revised proposals for the expenditure of approximately £84 million plus the funding for two academies in order to transform secondary education.

We have also been invited to formulate a second bid to complete the BSF programme in Nottingham. This will be included in waves 4-6 (there will be 15 waves in total, to be announced annually).

There is clear guidance that our revised bid will only be accepted if it considers each of the following elements:

- School organization (inc. viability of schools)
- Specialist status (inc. links to the community)
- Academies (to be considered for all schools below 30% 5+A*-C)
- Children's Services (inc. integration of social services)
- Curriculum development (inc. provision for sport, arts, MFL)
- 14-19 Development (inc. vocational pathways linked to specialism)
- Workforce Reform (inc. space for PPA and support staff)
- Information and Communication Technology (inc. on-line curriculum)
- Access and inclusion (inc. disabled access and co-location)
- Underperforming schools (inc. assertive action to tackle low attainment)
- Behaviour and attendance (inc. safe place to be).

In presenting options for consideration the following data and information has been reviewed:

- Current numbers on roll
- Projected numbers on roll
- Budget position
- Sufficiency of buildings
- Suitability of buildings
- Conditions survey
- Alternative site options
- Proposed building work across the City to 2009
- Scatter graph showing year 7 pupil destinations
- Location of 14-19 vocational centres
- Capital funding received by schools 1996-2004
- Discussion with individual head teachers

Critical issues

There is clear indication from DfES/P4S that schools below 800 will not be supported as part of the BSF programme unless there are robust plans to increase the number on-roll. Guidance also indicates that there must be consideration given to the future of schools where attainment has remained below 30% 5+ A*-C including making these schools into academies.

Schools where number on-roll is projected to fall below 800 by 2009 (as currently known, subject to further variation):

Bulwell

- Henry Mellish School – 425
- River Leen School – 599

North-East

- Big Wood School – 627
- Elliott Durham School – 559
- Haywood School – 370

Clifton

- Fairham Community College – 289
- Farnborough School Technology College – 704

West

- Manning Girls School – 449
- William Sharp School – 605

Schools where attainment has remained below 30% 5+ A*-C and thus could qualify for academy status if pupil numbers are sufficiently high:

- Elliott Durham School.
- Fairham Community College.
- Henry Mellish School.
- Hadden Park High School.
- River Leen School.
- William Sharp School.

We continue to lose around 18% of City pupils to County schools at transfer each year. Areas where this loss is most acute are:

- Sherwood .
- St. Ann's.
- Meadows.
- Bilborough/Broxtowe.

Full Service schools options

If full service sites are situated in areas of high social deprivation acting as 'hubs' for integration of services in an area the options for siting full service provision are:

1. North zone - Top Valley, River Leen and Henry Mellish schools.
2. South zone - Elliott Durham or Greenwood Dale School, a DfES designated Technology College..
3. West zone - Hadden Park High School (already designated).

If a school is currently low in the BSF priority order then adopting it as a full service school may require its priority ranking to increase.

Academies options

At present DfES/Partnerships for Schools has indicated that we will receive funding for two academies in wave 2 and may receive funding for a third academy. Options for siting these academies in order to raise standards and to increase numbers on roll/reduce leakage to the County are:

1. Elliott Durham School.
2. William Sharp School.
3. River Leen/Henry Mellish schools.

BSF funding reorganisation and priority proposals.

Our funding will be received in two phases. Our first phase of funding will be received in national wave 2. We know that we will be included in waves 4-6 to receive the second phase of funding needed to complete the transformation of all of our secondary schools. In addition to this there will be an expectation that our capital proposals fall within the following proportions – 50% new-build, 35% refurbishment and 15% minor works.

It has already been agreed by Council that funding for the Special School Reorganisation will be funded through the BSF programme.

At this stage we do not have sufficient detailed financial information about costs in 2008-09 to be able to say precisely how many schemes we will develop in the first phase. We currently anticipate that we will have funding to complete up to priority 11 in the list below.

Proposed order of priority is:

1. Build a new Special school Centre of Excellence on Harvey Hadden Campus in Bilborough to replace Shepherd and Aspley Wood Special Schools.
2. Build a new Haywood Secondary School or bring Haywood and Big Wood Secondary Schools together on the Big Wood site.
3. Build a new school or academy on the William Sharp Secondary School site in Bilborough.
4. Build a new school or academy on the Elliott Durham Secondary School site in Mapperley.
5. Implement the Special School Reorganisation plans.
6. Bring River Leen and Henry Mellish Secondary Schools together.
7. Bring together secondary education in Clifton on the Farnborough School and Technology College site.
8. Consider the viability of Manning Secondary School in Aspley.
9. Complete the second half of Ellis Guilford School and Sports College rebuild in Old Basford.
10. Complete the refurbishment of the Hadden Park High School.
11. Refurbish The Nottingham Bluecoat School & Technology College Wollaton site.
12. Complete the refurbishment of Fernwood Comprehensive School site in Wollaton.
13. Relocate and rebuild Greenwood Dale Technology College.
14. Locate The Trinity School in Aspley on one site and refurbish.
15. Refurbish Top Valley Secondary School.
16. Refurbish our pupil referral units.

17. Complete the refurbishment of The Nottingham Bluecoat School & Technology College (Aspley site).

Note: The Nottingham Emmanuel CofE (VA) School is already proposed for re-build as part of the Partnership for Church Schools programme.

APPENDIX 1

The range of reorganisation options that have been considered.

Taking all of the above information into consideration the following options were considered for consultation in this second phase:

1. Bulwell

Projected pupil numbers will only support one school where there are currently two and Henry Mellish school buildings are in poor condition. Options considered:

- Amalgamate River Leen and Henry Mellish on the River Leen site (1024 pupils).
- Amalgamate River Leen and Henry Mellish on the Henry Mellish site.
- Operate a split upper-lower school between the two sites.
- Make the new school in Bulwell into an academy.

2. North-East of City

Projected pupil numbers will only support three schools where there are currently four. Haywood site and Top Valley site are not large enough for further expansion. Haywood and Elliott Durham school buildings are in poor condition. Options considered:

- Amalgamate Big Wood and Haywood schools on a new site (997 pupils).
- Amalgamate Big Wood and Haywood schools on the Big Wood site.
- Amalgamate Haywood and Elliott Durham schools on the Elliott Durham site (884 pupils).
- Amalgamate Haywood and Elliott Durham schools on a new site.
- Rebuild Haywood School on a new site.
- Operate a single school split-site between Haywood-Big Wood or Haywood-Elliott Durham schools.
- Operate a single school split-site between Big Wood and Top Valley schools.
- Rebuild Elliott Durham School as an academy.

New school sites in the north-east that are being reviewed:

- High School playing fields.
- City Hospital car-park.
- Land-swap options with City Hospital.
- Oxclose Lane.
- Padstow School site.

3. Clifton

Projected numbers will only support one school where there are currently two. Options considered:

- Close Fairham Community College and expand Farnborough School Technology College.
- Amalgamate both schools on the Farnborough School Technology College site (993 pupils).
- Amalgamate both schools on the Fairham Community College site.

4. West Area

Projected pupil numbers show that Manning Girls in its present state is unviable and William Sharp will be at a low number in 2009. Approximately half of current Manning pupils are from the West Area. William Sharp and Manning school buildings are in poor condition. Options considered:

- Close Manning Girls School.
- Re-site and rebuild Manning Girls.
- Close William Sharp School.
- Rebuild William Sharp School as an academy.