

News Release

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Contract signed for schools of the future

Bradford Council has today signed a contract to kick off a major £400 million programme to transform secondary education across the district.

Consortium Integrated Bradford, which is led by Amey in partnership with Costain, will carry out the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) scheme.

Main construction work of Phase One will now begin to rebuild Buttershaw High, Tong and Salt Grammar schools and work is expected to finish in August 2008.

These schools will provide state-of-the-art accommodation and will include a hi-tech ICT system.

Partnerships for Schools, the government agency in charge of delivering the national BSF programme, has also signed the contract to form the Integrated Bradford Local Education Partnership (LEP).

Phase Two will involve revamping Beckfoot, Grange Technology College, Greenhead and Hanson, plus the creation of six new special schools co-located on mainstream sites.

Funding has also now been confirmed for Phase Three which will see the rest of the secondary estate refurbished in the next five years, excluding recently completed buildings and those in the Academies programme.

Councillor Colin Gill, Executive Member for Children's Services, said: "This is fantastic news and is the first step towards new buildings and facilities for every secondary school across the district.

"Within five years, pupils will be learning in up-to-date environments that give them access to the modern technology and skills they will need in the 21st century.

"We have also had recent confirmation that our bid to be included in the pilot Primary Capital programme was successful.

"This means that we have secured £6.5 million to develop primary school provision on our primary special school sites, again putting Bradford at the forefront of educational improvements.

"Bradford Council is whole-heartedly committed to long-term investment in our schools and every aspect of our education system so that we can increase opportunity, pupil attainment and the life chances for young people throughout the district."

"Bradford has therefore established a long-term partnership to invest in our schools which will help boost educational attainment and the life chances for young people in the district."

Mel Ewell, Chief Executive of Amey, said: "We are delighted to have achieved Financial Close of this prestigious contract and to be embarking on a long-term partnership with the people of Bradford to transform secondary education throughout the district."

Helen Aston, General Manager of Integrated Bradford added: "We are very excited about getting down to work. We fully support the council's vision of transforming the educational facilities of the district and the opportunities for learning and enterprise for the whole community."

Tim Byles, Chief Executive of Partnerships for Schools, said: "It is excellent news for the schools of Bradford that the Council and Integrated Bradford have reached financial close on their Local Education Partnership."

"It is also great news for the national BSF programme - five local authorities are now in the delivery stage of BSF, and the programme's momentum is building up."

Alistair Handford, Costain PFI Director, said: "This is tremendous news for local people and now gives us the 'green light' to deliver a quality service. At Costain we have targeted Education as one of our key sectors and this prestigious project underlines the progress we are making."

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Notes for Editors

1 Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the largest single schools capital investment programme for more than 50 years. The aim is to rebuild or renew every one of England's 3,500 state secondary schools during the 15-year lifetime of the £45 billion programme.

2 Partnerships for Schools (Pfs) is the delivery agency for Building Schools for the Future. Pfs was established in April 2004 as a Non-Departmental Public Body (NDPB), and is operated and funded under a joint venture between DfES and Partnerships UK.

3. LEP members: Bradford Council, Integrated Bradford and Partnerships for Schools.

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