



partnerships for schools

Nottingham City was named 2009 Local Education Partnership of the Year in the *Excellence in BSF Awards*. This case study looks at steps Nottingham has taken to achieve this status by regenerating the city's school estate.

Key project information

Local authority: Nottingham City Council

Private sector partner: inspiredspaces Limited, Carillion - construction and FM, Ramesys - ICT

LEP established: June 2008

BSF Waves: 2 and 5

Project cost: BSF Wave 2 - £90m, BSF Wave 5 - £88m, Academies - £100m, Primary Capital Programme - £18m

Project timescale: First new build school opened September 2009

Nottingham: tips from an award-winning Local Education Partnership

Project description

The Nottingham Local Education Partnership (LEP) - the partnership between Nottingham City Council, inspiredspaces and Building Schools for the Future Investments - was created in June 2008. The success of the Nottingham LEP was recognised at the 2009 Excellence in BSF Awards when Nottingham beat stiff competition to win the 'LEP of the Year' category.

This case study will examine the key strengths of the Nottingham LEP and aims to share best practice in terms of effective partnership working and use of the new Project Approval Procedure, in order to deliver projects on time and on budget.

Partnership working

The Nottingham LEP is a true partnership with trust at its heart. Partners have come together to form a single team working towards the same goals and objectives.

The LEP realises that they don't always get it right first time. Partners work together to jointly resolve issues and are prepared to take drastic steps such as fundamentally re-designing schools to ensure that the Council's and indeed school's vision for transforming teaching and learning can be achieved.

The LEP's approach to partnership working is proving to be a real success. In the first 14 months since it was established, the LEP has not only opened the three sample schools in Wave 2 (Hadden Park High, Big Wood and Oak Field), but also started on site at three Academies and an exemplar primary school. The first four primary schools benefiting from the Primary Capital Programme are also in the design phase.

Project Approval Procedure

The Nottingham LEP has created a New Project Development (NPD) routemap and Education Design Process to be used on all its new projects. The routemap identifies what work needs to be carried out, by when and by whom and covers all the stages and aspects of each project including visioning with the school, design development, planning consent and approvals processes.

The LEP has followed the Project Approval Procedure to ensure effective delivery of the £13 million Southwark Primary School, Nottingham's exemplar primary capital project and the £54 million Nottingham Academy which will be the largest school in Europe. The procedure enabled both projects to move from a blank piece of paper to start on site in just eight and nine months respectively.

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Mark Harding, LEP General Manager, said: “The LEP, working closely with the schools, Nottingham City Council and other key stakeholders, has enabled projects to be progressed efficiently through following its NPD process”.



Nottingham Academy

Good track record for delivery

Despite having only been operational for little over a year, the Nottingham LEP has a glowing track record for delivering projects on time and within budget which are to the quality and standard expected and which support the transformation of teaching and learning in Nottingham City schools.

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 that 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 a leisure centre and a public recreation ground.

Mark Harding, LEP General Manager, said: “Delivering promises is the most important thing in project delivery. The schools look to us as experts in the fields of design, construction, facilities management and ICT. If we promise something, whether it is a date for opening a school or a quality standard of material or workmanship then we should deliver that promise. We owe that to the schools.”



Southwark Primary

Top Tips

Work in Partnership

- Integrate project teams and work towards jointly agreed goals.
- Co-locate the Council, LEP and supply chain as far as possible.
- Understand the risks and where they sit.
- Resolve problems together.
- Shout about successes.

New Project Development

- Have early engagement with the schools (at Stage 0).
- Have a plan and stick to it.
- Ensure engagement from all in early design decisions (school, educationalists, facilities management - FM, ICT, builders and cost managers).
- Embed and integrate fully ICT and FM requirements.

- Take responsibility for your decisions.

ICT

- Integrate into design process.
- Impress on all the importance of ICT in the education work place.
- Manage delivery and meet promises.
- Understand the schools usage and experience of ICT.

Operations

- Minimise Research Design & Development.
- Continued involvement of all stakeholders in changes.
- Plan handover and decant early - circa 20 weeks before.
- LEP to manage and coordinate all aspects of the handover, i.e. council, school, builders, ICT and FM.
- Engage fully with the school, community and local businesses.

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Key contact

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Further information

To find out more visit www.nottinghambsf.co.uk