



**Nottinghamshire
County Council**

Building Schools for the Future

Proposals for improving secondary
education within Nottinghamshire



Version 1.8
November 2008

Consultation Paper

Building Schools for the Future Programme

The Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) is a Government initiative to transform education, so that the opportunities we provide for our young people are relevant and will enable them to be successful in the future. The environment in which our young people will operate within in terms of their employment, home life and leisure time will be vastly different in the future to the one which is currently familiar to us. It is important therefore that young people are prepared to maximise the opportunities that these changing environments will bring. This means that there is a need to transform the way in which young people learn in schools. Traditional approaches to learning and the current subjects being studied may not be appropriate to develop the skills that are required for the future.

Linking in with this need, Nottinghamshire County Council has a vision to:

“Transform the achievements and aspirations, and hence the life chances of all our children across the entire County”.

This vision is supported by the County’s Children and Young Peoples’ plan which is aimed at “providing a coherent, integrated service for children and young people from 0-19 years”.

The Building Schools for the Future Programme (BSF) provides the opportunity to plan and implement the radical changes that are required in education, as well as the ability to invest in school buildings. Every school in Nottinghamshire will benefit from the funding available which will help them to provide education that is relevant to the future needs of our young people and provide facilities within the schools to support the delivery of this change.

Over the next 15 years, Nottinghamshire is likely to have as much as £750 million available for educational transformation and investment in their secondary schools. Around £150 million of this will be invested in the next five years.

Opportunities and challenges

Progress has already been made in improving the educational achievements of the young people who attend the schools in the County. Since 2004, performance in Nottinghamshire has improved at a greater rate than that achieved nationally.

However, there are still challenges ahead of us, as we seek to improve educational standards even more:

- We want all children and young people in our schools to achieve highly.
- We want all children and young people to aim high and achieve to the best of their ability, regardless of their background.
- We want to ensure that all of our secondary schools have the best possible environments for learning and teaching.
- We want schools to review and, where necessary, change the subjects that they are teaching and the methods used to teach, so that the children and young people enjoy learning and achieve well.

The funding available through Building Schools for the Future (BSF) will provide the opportunities to educate children and young people in a way that is motivating and inspiring, as well as enable us to create new and exciting learning environments. We aim to ensure that our students can discover their real talents and reach their full potential. It also provides the opportunity to provide a range of additional “integrated” services based at our schools for all children and young people in Nottinghamshire, from the ages of 0 – 19 in a way that will improve their life chances and to help them achieve their full potential.

Have your say

The Council recognises the need to get these plans right. Improved educational opportunities matter to us all. That’s why your views on our plans for Nottinghamshire’s schools are so important.

On the following pages you will find information on our proposals. We need to know if you agree with our proposals and whether there are other areas that we should also be considering.

The future of our schools is important to us all. Whether you are a student, parent, carer, teacher or local resident – we value your contribution. You can let us know your views by responding online at:

www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/bsfnottinghamshire

or by completing the attached form and returning it to the address provided.

Your views will be considered as we move forward to our next detailed stage of planning.

Consultation is ongoing throughout the entire process.

Our priorities

The Council's vision for transformation in Nottinghamshire is to:

"Transform the achievements and aspirations, and hence the life chances of all our children and young people across the entire County."

In order to achieve this, a number of priorities have been identified:

Enable every child and young person to achieve their best:

The performance of Nottinghamshire's secondary schools is improving and in particular for the past three years, standards at Key Stage 4 (years 10 and 11) have improved at a faster rate than those nationally and those of similar Local Authorities. We will build on this success and through the opportunities that BSF provides, be able to offer our students higher levels of personal achievement than would have been previously possible.

Enable every child and young person to learn in a way that is appropriate to them and that will enable them to be successful in the future:

Within the County's schools there are many examples of excellent practice which we will build upon to ensure that every one of our students is challenged, supported and motivated to give their best. We will support schools to provide realistic and enjoyable learning experiences. Through the funding made available by BSF we will also take advantage of the many talents and resources within our communities to create and share relevant learning opportunities for our students.

Provide integrated services in schools:

Our schools will not only provide high-quality learning, they will act as a focus for a wide range of agencies, such as health, social care, police and housing, which will provide "wrap-round care" for students and their families. BSF will make it possible for all secondary schools to provide resources for these agencies to work sensitively with students and their families, to maximise their learning and attainment.

Ensure that students aim high and achieve well despite any disadvantages they may face:

We have already made major improvements with a wide range of students who are disadvantaged. We will use the resources provided by BSF to help vulnerable groups to achieve well in their education.

To make schools the centres of each community:

The majority of our secondary schools are already used by local communities. We want to ensure that maximum use will be made of these facilities, so that the whole community can benefit from BSF investment. Most of our schools already have sports facilities, a smaller number have libraries and theatres. We will look to see what other facilities can be provided. Using BSF funding and effective management we will make greater community use of our schools' resources, to enrich community life.

Provide education which prepares each child for the next stage, enabling them to progress successfully from the ages of 0-19 and into adulthood:

Our aspiration is to provide a wealth of learning opportunities for every member of our community. Through BSF we will seek to provide resources to ensure that parents and carers are fully supported to provide the best possible education for their children from the earliest age. Nurseries, primary schools, secondary schools and special needs schools will form strong links so that children can progress confidently from one to the other, being prepared for the next stage and knowing what to expect.

Ensure students and families have a wide range of schools to choose from:

Many of our 46 secondary schools have either been awarded specialist school status, or are working towards this. In each of our seven community districts, we will seek to provide a range of schools which give children, parents and carers choice and ensure diversity. BSF will empower us to provide and support a wider range of schools (trusts, foundations, federations, and co-locations). A small number of our secondary schools will become academies, providing additional benefits for all other schools and communities.

Every young person effectively achieves the five outcomes of "Every Child Matters":

We want to ensure that all children and young people are safe and remain healthy. We also want to ensure that they enjoy their learning, achieve to their true potential, make an active contribution to their communities, and have the right skills to make the most of their future. In doing all of this, we shall have overcome the effects of poverty and disadvantage. This would mean that the potential of every child and young person would be fulfilled. This is the basis of the work of the Children and Young People's Services.

Ensure that the needs of every student and young person are met:

Building Schools for the Future will ensure that our schools are fully inclusive, so that every child and young person will be supported and challenged to give of their best. We will use resources to ensure that our young people leave our schools and colleges as well-balanced, confident and happy citizens; ready to make the most of the opportunities offered to them be it in learning, training or employment, regardless of their individual background or circumstances. The sentiment expressed here defines the additional benefit that we expect to result from BSF in Nottinghamshire.

Maximise the potential of ICT to support the priorities above:

We recognise that the appropriate use of ICT will help in achieving all of our priorities above. The latest range of technology available for schools will be used to develop the skills that our young people need for the future and to create learning experiences which are enjoyable and more accessible than ever before. BSF will also mean that enhanced ICT resources will also serve to connect communities, building better and stronger links within and between those communities.

For the future

We will look carefully at the growth projections of our communities across the County to ensure that provision matches need, while at the same time ensuring diversity, choice and access.

Have your say. We want to hear from you.

Please tick the proposals that are important to you and add any comments you have in the box below:

- Maximise the attainment of every student
- Deliver 21st century personalised learning
- Provide integrated services in schools
- Ensure that attainment is not limited by disadvantage
- Make schools the centre of each community
- Provide a coherent educational offer from 0-19
- Ensure choice, diversity and access
- Ensure every student achieves the five outcomes of Every Child Matters
- Ensure the needs of every student and young person are met
- Maximise the potential of ICT

Comments:

1. Do you agree with the Council's proposals?

2. What improvements would you like to see at your local secondary school?

3. Are there any additional services or activities you would like to see provided at your local secondary school?

Responses

Please post this reply slip to BSF Team, Children and Young People's Services, County Hall, Nottingham, NG2 7QP or alternatively reply online to:

BSFadmin@nottscc.gov.uk

There will be further opportunities to express your views as more detailed plans are developed for each school. This will include consultation with students, parents and carers, staff, governors, local community groups and other interested parties.

To assist in the analysis of your comments would you please supply the following information:

Name:

Address:

Post code:

School/organisation:

Please tick the most appropriate box:

<input type="checkbox"/> Student	<input type="checkbox"/> Parent/Carer	<input type="checkbox"/> Staff	<input type="checkbox"/> Headteacher
<input type="checkbox"/> Governor	<input type="checkbox"/> Councillor	<input type="checkbox"/> Other	



Contacting us:

email **BSFadmin@nottscc.gov.uk**
fax **0115 977 4149**
post **BSF Project Team, Children & Young People's Services, County Hall,
West Bridgford, Nottingham NG2 7QP**
internet **www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk**
published **November 2008**