

High Hopes for High Storrs

AMBITIOUS plans to rebuild a popular Sheffield secondary school are to take the next step forward, it has been revealed.

Work has already started on getting High Storrs school, in the south west of the city, ready for a complete overhaul.

Now city leaders have signed the latest deal, which will see building work begin on site as part of the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) scheme.

Earlier this year pupils, parents, staff and residents were invited to see a display of the plans to transform the building through the multi-million pound project.

Because the building is Grade II listed, it has been one of the more complex challenges thrown up by the city-wide improvement scheme. As a result the protected areas will be completely remodelled while unlisted parts of the school will be demolished and rebuilt.

A planning application was approved for the scheme by Sheffield City Council last month.

Cllr Andrew Sangar, Sheffield City Council's Cabinet Member for Children's Services and Lifelong Learning said:

"This is an excellent school already and the work to improve it can only enhance what is already there."

"We want all Sheffield schools to be some of the best in the country which is why we are committed to this scheme and it is great news that the next phase is about to begin at High Storrs."

Head teacher Roisin Paul added: "The start of our main building works is a landmark in the transformation of High Storrs School.

"High Storrs is now well on its way to being a learning community of the 21st Century."

She added a lot of work had been done on minimising any adverse impact on the school's pupils

"We are looking forward to next February when we are able to move into the first part of the remodelled building," added Mrs Paul.

"We are equally excited about the development of the new build elements of our scheme, and construction of the new north block will continue alongside the remodelling programme for the existing building."

Sheffield's BSF work is being carried out by construction firm VINCI Construction UK – formerly Taylor Woodrow, on behalf of the Council.

Three schemes have been completed by VINCI Construction UK already at Silverdale, Newfield/Talbot and Yewlands. High Storrs is the next project to be undertaken in the programme.

Preparatory work has already been carried out at the school in order to minimise disruption to pupils and staff in advance of the main works commencing.

The scheme is complex and involves a number of phases of new build and remodelling. There are to be two areas of new build and four phases of remodelling.

Work will begin this summer on the first of these phases with this expected to be completed by February 2010 with all work completed by September 2011.

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Notes for Editors:

- The Sheffield Local Education Partnership (LEP) is a partnership between Sheffield City Council, Taylor Woodrow, part of VINCI PLC, and Partnerships for Schools (BSF Investments). It is leading the delivery of the BSF programme in Sheffield, and is working with HLM and BDP architect practices, Civica UK Limited, Mott Macdonald, Rotary Engineering and NG Bailey.
- Sheffield has 27 mainstream secondary schools and 3 special educational needs secondary schools. Through the BSF programme, PFI initiative and Academies investment, all secondary schools in Sheffield will have been rebuilt or refurbished by 2013.
- Sheffield City Council (SCC) was selected as a BSF Pathfinder Authority alongside Bristol, Bradford and Greenwich therefore developing benchmarks for the future progression of BSF nationally.
- Partnerships for Schools (Pfs) is the delivery agency for Building Schools for the Future, and is operated and funded under a joint venture between DfES and Partnerships UK.
- Building Schools for the Future (BSF) is the largest single schools capital investment programme for over 50 years. The aim is to rebuild or renew England's state secondary schools estate during the lifetime of the programme.
- VINCI Construction UK Limited, the operating company of VINCI PLC, forms part of VINCI, the world's leading concessions and construction group. VINCI has a turnover of €33.5 billion and employs 164,000 people in more than 90 countries around the world. For further information on VINCI PLC visit www.vinci.plc.uk
- For more information on the Sheffield BSF scheme visit www.sheffieldbsfschools.com

E-mail: emma.hollingworth@sheffield.gov.uk. For out of hours media enquiries please ring 07711 153995.