

10 September 2012**Agenda Item: 9****REPORT OF THE SERVICE DIRECTOR, EDUCATION STANDARDS AND
INCLUSION****IMPLEMENTATION OF THE BLOODHOUND PROJECT****Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to update Members on the implementation of the Bloodhound Project in Nottinghamshire and seek approval for the use of additional funding from the Support to Schools Service budget, if required, to address supplementary costs associated with the launch, business breakfasts and evening community events.
2. A separate report will also be taken to Administration Committee on 11 September 2012 to seek approval for hospitality costs for the evening launch event for up to 150 key invited guests, including Councillors, head teachers and business partners, to be held on 30 October 2012 at County Hall.

Information and Advice

3. The Bloodhound Project is an engineering challenge to design and build a supersonic car that will break the existing world land speed record. Britain currently holds the record and in 2014 engineering teams from Australia and America, who are building their own supersonic cars, will challenge Britain in a South African desert.
4. The educational aim of the project is to inspire the next generation of children and young people nationally to pursue careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) by showcasing how these disciplines can be harnessed to achieve something amazing. The project engages with children who are yet to make subject choices in relation to desired careers. It promotes the need to study mathematics, science and technology to ensure access to a wide range of career opportunities post 16, including the opportunities to access high level apprenticeships in engineering.
5. Nottinghamshire County Council (NCC) has agreed to directly fund up to 100 schools, ideally in families of schools, which will have the opportunity to learn more about the Bloodhound car and contribute to the thinking and problem solving involved in breaking the land speed record. The project is led and delivered by Bloodhound engineers, educationalists and ambassadors from local and national businesses and will create links between schools and businesses in localities.

6. The project also ensures that approximately ten business ambassadors will be identified and trained from local organisations and businesses. These business ambassadors will become key partners with Bloodhound Project schools beyond the initial roll out and could play a role in promoting regeneration partnerships, apprenticeships and workforce development programmes with local employers who may not have engaged with the County Council in the past. An important element of the Bloodhound Project will be four business breakfasts in the four designated project areas across the County.
7. The project will launch in Nottinghamshire with an evening event at County Hall on 30 October 2012, followed by two activity days on 31 Oct 2012 (National Water Sports Centre) and 1 November 2012 (Rufford Park). The prototype car will be a key feature at all these venues and events.
8. The programme includes:
 - an evening launch on Tuesday 30 October 2012 with key invited guests including Councillors, head teachers and business partners. This will be a significant and high profile event with Richard Noble, Director of the Bloodhound Project, providing a keynote speech
 - a business breakfast meeting (1 November 2012) with local businesses. This will be led by the Bloodhound Project Team in partnership with NCC officers
 - workshops on 31 October and 1 November 2012 when up to 400 children and young people from Years 5-8 will have the opportunity to see the car and to take part in a half day carousel of Bloodhound Experience events and activities
 - an afternoon community Bloodhound event on 31 October (National Water Sports Centre) and 1 November (Rufford Park)
 - an appropriate session aimed at pupils within special school settings will be offered during the four week Project
 - morning sessions focussed on pupils in Years 5-8
 - some sessions focussed particularly on girls with a view to extending the target age range to include Year 9 girls who may still be indecisive about subject choice and for whom mathematics and science could expand career routes.
9. Following the launch event, the Bloodhound Project will travel across the County to different locations, for a total of twenty days and work with up to 200 pupils each day. During each week, a CPD twilight session for teachers will also be provided by the Bloodhound Team to ensure that the project can be incorporated into the curriculum particularly in relation to the STEM curriculum, including ICT. Each location will also host a local business breakfast and evening community event.
10. Additional information about the Bloodhound Project can be accessed on the national web site at www.bloodhoundssc.com

Other Options Considered

11. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a national and international ground breaking project. County Hall offers an appropriate high profile venue to ensure the project is effectively launched.

Reasons for Recommendations

12. Detailed below:
 - the Bloodhound Project develops a strong focus on the STEM/ICT curriculum, and promotes employment opportunities within science and engineering to children who have not yet made subject choices and for whom mathematics and science subjects in particular could expand career choice
 - the Bloodhound Project provides an opportunity to support schools to use the Bloodhound Project to enrich curriculum planning
 - the Bloodhound Project provides the opportunity to enhance further partnerships between businesses and schools with the objective of improving employment and career opportunities for children and young people
 - additional funding to support the launch event, including business breakfasts and evening community events, will ensure that the project has wider reach and greater impact on the wider school community.

Statutory and Policy Implications

13. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation and discussion has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

14. The cost for the proposed project of £100,000 is to be funded by a carry forward of unspent budget provision from 2011-12. It is anticipated that this project budget will cover venue, refreshments and security costs related to the project's launch on 30 October 2012 and for any venue and refreshments related to the four business breakfasts. Any costs over and above the project budget of £100,000 will be met from the Support to Schools Service budget which amounts to £2,938,731.
15. It is estimated that the cost of the evening launch event, to include hot and cold drinks and a buffet, will be approximately £1,500. A separate report seeking approval for the hospitality costs for the evening launch event will be considered by Administration Committee on 11 September 2012.

Human Resources Implications

16. Participating project schools will be appropriately briefed and informed throughout the project.

RECOMMENDATION/S

That:

- 1) the information contained within the report be noted.
- 2) the use of additional funding from the Support to Schools Service budget, if required, to address supplementary costs associated with the launch, business breakfasts and evening community events, be approved.

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Constitutional Comments (LM 08/08/12)

17. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

Financial Comments (NDR 09/08/12)

18. The financial implications are set out in paragraphs 14 and 15 of the report.

Background Papers

None.

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

All.

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