



**REPORT OF THE GROUP MANAGER, SUPPORT TO SCHOOLS SERVICE**

**BLOODHOUND PROJECT LAUNCH EVENT AT COUNTY HALL**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. The purpose of this report is to seek approval of hospitality costs at an evening launch event for the Bloodhound Project on 30 October 2012 at County Hall. It is expected there will be approximately 120 people attending, including head teachers, business leaders and local authority representatives.

**Information and Advice**

2. 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 'cars', will challenge Britain in a South African desert.
3. 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.
4. Nottinghamshire County Council has agreed to directly fund 100 schools, ideally in families of schools, who 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 both 'Bloodhound' engineers, educationalists and ambassadors from local and national businesses and will create links between schools and businesses in localities.
5. The project will launch in Nottinghamshire over a two day period at the end of October when the prototype car will arrive in the County. The launch event will take place at County Hall with the car on display.
6. The launch event programme includes:
  - an evening launch with key invited guests, head teachers and business partners
  - a business breakfast meeting with local businesses. Richard Noble, the current record holder and leader of the Bloodhound Project, will deliver an address alongside a local business leader

- on the first full day of the launch, 250 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
  - in the evening there will be a community presentation. On Day 2 another 250 pupils will take part in Bloodhound Experience events.
7. Following the launch events the Bloodhound Project will travel across the county to four different locations, five days in each, for a total of twenty days and work with up to 300 pupils each day and a teacher CPD twilight session to promote the opportunities provided by Bloodhound to support the STEM curriculum and a local business breakfast to further develop school and business links.
  8. Additional information about the Bloodhound Project can be accessed on the national web site at [www.bloodhoundssc.com](http://www.bloodhoundssc.com)

### **Other Options Considered**

9. This is a unique opportunity to be part of a national and international ground breaking project and County Hall is the best venue for the profile of this launch event.

### **Reasons for Recommendation**

10. The promotion of interest early in education with pupils in primary and early secondary phases of education in a positive view of future careers in science, engineering and associated disciplines will lead to an improved skilled workforce locally and leadership in innovation nationally. This project presents an opportunity for Nottinghamshire schools to engage with the STEM agenda with local business leaders and the evening launch event is a key part of the project.

### **Statutory and Policy Implications**

11. 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 has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

### **Financial Implications**

12. It is estimated that the cost of this evening launch event, to include hot and cold drinks and a buffet, will be approximately £1,500. The costs for this event will be met from the project budget which amounts to £100,000.

### **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That hospitality be approved for a launch event for the Bloodhound Project on 30 October 2012 at County Hall.

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**Constitutional Comments (SG 05/07/12)**

13. The Committee is responsible for authorising hospitality to be offered by the County Council (paragraph 55(d) of Part 4(A) (Terms of Reference) of the Constitution). The Committee is the appropriate body to decide on the issue referred to in this report.

**Financial Comments (NDR 06/07/12)**

14. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 12 of the report.

**Background Papers**

None.

**Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All.

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